

Larry Stroman

Larry Stroman is a long-time engine and car builder in the area, and his impact on many of the cars that have raced at Huset's is undeniable.

A native of Chancellor, S.D., Stroman began his motorsports career in drag racing in 1962 where he ran a 1962 hardtop and 1963 Plymouth. One of those early dragsters later evolved into a Huset's Late Model, the first of many cars he'd help create.

Stroman is the owner of Stroman Motorsports, where he's built countless race cars and motors for more than 57 years. For nearly six decades, his influence has run deep as he's claimed the following accolades: Mechanic of the Year at Interstates Speedway (modified) in 1968, Mechanic of the Year at Huset's (late model) in 1970, Mechanic of the Year at I90 Speedway in Hartford (sprint car) in 1978, Race Team of the Year at I90 with grandson Casey Abbas in 2004. Other honors with Abbas behind the wheel includes Team of the Year in the NMRA sprint car division at Rapid Speedway in Rock Rapids in 2006, and Huset's IMCA RaceSaver Team of the Year in 2015.

Stroman's engines have powered modifieds, super modifieds, stock cars, sprint cars, and today's IMCA RaceSaver sprint cars. His skill in tuning 6-cylinders became legendary. Many have said that Stroman could build a 6-cylinder that would "blow away any V8."

For more than 60 years, Stroman has worked with and supported several drivers including Lee (Francis) Miller, John Hustlebus, and Ape Hansen. Stroman also built in his Chancellor garage the first modified raced by Bill Mellenberndt (Huset's Hall of Fame Class of 1999) in the iconic No. 77 at Huset's. He also built the famous No. 25 owned by him and Ron Wulf for another Hall-of-Famer, Jerry Ross (2004). Stroman built, owned, or helped maintain stock cars, modifieds and multiple versions of the Ross No. 25.

His relationship with Mellenberndt was longstanding as the two traveled in the 1970s and 80s across the country including stops at Knoxville, Jackson, Grand Forks, Rapid City, Albuquerque and Eldora Speedway in Ohio. Stroman served as engine builder and key crew member, contributing to a highly successful sprint car program.

Most recently, Stroman's racing attention has turned to Abbas. In 2003, his grandson began racing sprint cars and Stroman once again built all the engines for a 360 sprint car and later 305 RaceSaver sprint car.

The two have combined to win the 2005 360 championship at I90 Speedway in Hartford, 2006 360 championship at Rapid Speedway, 2015 RaceSaver championship at Huset's, and 2015 IMCA RaceSaver Team of the Year. Abbas has competed at the following tracks with his grandfather as his crew chief, mentor and engine builder: Rock Rapids, Huset's, Hartford, Park Jefferson, Jackson, Watertown, Wagner, Madison Interlakes and Huron.

It doesn't end with Abbas. Stroman is now cheering on and supporting his great grandchildren, Kenlee and Karson Hansen, who compete in Cage Karts.

At age 84, Stroman continues to work in the race shop where for the last six decades he's been a builder, owner, mechanic, mentor, and lifelong ambassador of local racing. Many meals were shared in the shop over the years surrounded by race cars and engine parts with his family.

His passion, craftsmanship, family legacy, and unwavering commitment to Huset's and surrounding tracks is unmistakable.