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MARK HALL

Being a true champion requires far more than just being able to win races. It takes a very special individual – a person who not only has an unbelievable desire to win, but one who also possesses the knowledge and savvy to interface with sponsors and media – a person who cares about the fans and truly enjoys the challenges of his chosen sport. **Mark Hall** is this type of individual.

Born and raised in and around Champaign, Illinois, Hall has been involved in racing from the word go. "My dad was a race announcer," explains Hall. "In fact, he was known as the "Voice of Racing" all over the country. And on weekends, Mom would just pack us kids up and off we would go to the races. It was great and we loved every minute of it. It also made me realize that I definitely want to race."

In 1978, Hall along with his brother Tim, began to make that very dream come true. Deciding to race four wheels, the brothers turned their attention to trucks and started out running mud races with a stock truck and very little cash. Working out of their parents' two-car garage, they began the task of working their way up through the ranks moving into the world of Monster Trucks in 1987.

"We struggled a lot in those days," says Hall. "But we were definitely determined. Running on weekends and working during the week, we amassed every dollar possible and in 1988, we decided we were ready to go racing on a full time basis. One of the things that made it possible was the help and support we got from our parents. Our Dad and Mom were definitely our biggest fans and Mom still is today. They certainly made a tremendous amount of sacrifices for us and our one regret is that Dad isn't around to see just how well we have done."

With Tim handling all the building and tuning and Mark doing the fabricating, welding and driving, this stand out duo continued their climb to the top. Winning numerous events and accolades along the way, Hall began to make a name for himself as one of the foremost competitors in Monster Truck Racing.

Today, as the pilot of the famed Dodge Raminator, Hall not only races in a number of series and special events, but travels the country doing dealer appearances and charity functions.

"Racing has changed radically over the years," says Hall who has won 16 national series championships. "Years ago, you could just show up and race. Today, it is very different. You have to be able to continually interface with sponsors, media and fans. Truck set-up, marketing, public relations, mechanics, research and development, sponsor relations and more are all important in becoming a champion. In short, racing today is a business and it is one that I thrive on. I'm pretty much like a kid at Christmas all year round," smiles the 6'2" Illinois native. "I consider myself extremely lucky. I love what I do and I really feel blessed to be able to do it. Not many of us get to do what we truly love."

A hard-charger from beginning to end, Hall's friends say "he is driven". And if you add up all the awards he has won, it is easy to see why they say this. "I believe if you are going to do something, you have to give it your all," continues Hall. "And, that is what I try to always do."

When not racing, Hall and his wife June spend as much time of their free time getting together with their family...going out to eat, getting together for games, going to movies and listening to bands. "We really are a very close family," says Hall, who also enjoys playing the guitar. "It's a busy life, but definitely one that we love."