



Martin Truex Jr. 2016 Media Guide

Birthdate:

June 29, 1980

Hometown:

Mayetta, N.J.

Resides:

Mooresville, N.C.

Height/Weight:

5' 11" / 180 lbs.

Hobbies:

Fishing, hunting, building/racing radio-control boats, riding four-wheelers

Twitter Accounts:

@martintruex_jr

@FR78Racing

Websites:

Martintruexjr.com (Truex web site)

FurnitureRowRacing.com (race team)

FurnitureRow.com (Furniture Row Companies)

Best Sprint Cup Points Finish:

4th, 2015

First Sprint Cup Full season:

2006

First Sprint Cup Start:

Oct. 31, 2004 (Atlanta)

First Sprint Cup Win:

June 4, 2007 (Dover)

First Sprint Cup Pole:

Nov. 2, 2007 (Texas)

Chase Appearances (3)

2007, 2012, 2015

Team Base:

Denver, Colo.

Car:

No. 78 Furniture Row Toyota Camry

No. 78 Bass Pro Shops/TRACKER Boats

Toyota Camry

Engine Builder:

Toyota Racing Development (TRD)

Owner:

Barney Visser

President/General Manager:

Joe Garone

Crew Chief:

Cole Pearn

Competition Director:

Pete Rondeau

Shop Address:

Furniture Row Racing

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YEAR-BY-YEAR NASCAR SPRINT CUP SERIES RECAP

2015: Finished career-best fourth in series points...Earned spot in Championship 4 at Homestead-Miami Speedway. ... Scored third-career victory (Pocono-1). ... Set career-highs in top fives (8) and top 10s (22). ... Average finish of 12.2. ... Average start of 12.5...Led the most laps in four consecutive races (Race Nos. 11-14 at Kansas, Charlotte, Dover and Pocono). ... Opened season with seven consecutive top-10 finishes and scored top 10s in 14 of the first 15 races. ... Furniture Row Racing announced late in the season that it will be switching manufacturers from Chevrolet to Toyota in 2016 along with having a technical alliance with Joe Gibbs Racing.

2014: Finished 24th in series points. ... First season driving for Furniture Row Racing. ... Scored one top-five and five top-10 finishes. ... After slow start with performance and racing misfortunes, picked up pace during the latter part of season. ... Best finish of fourth came in the fall race at Kansas. ... Average start for the 36 point races was 20.1 and average finish was 20.2.

2013: Finished 16th in series points. ... With a win at Sonoma Raceway, ended 218-race winless drought. ... Matched career-high with seven top-five finishes. ... 50-point team-wide penalty to Michael Waltrip Racing after Richmond-2 knocked Truex out of the Wild Card spot for the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup. ... Equaled season best of seven top-five finishes. ... Led series in quality passes with 2,027. ... Announced move to Furniture Row Racing on Nov. 1, 2013 during race weekend at Texas Motor Speedway.

2012: Finished 11th in series points, tied for career best. ... 13.2-point Loop Data driver rating increase over 2011. ... In best statistical season maintained qualified position for Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup throughout regular season and entered second career Chase as the 10th seed. ... Career bests for top-10 finishes (19). ... Seven top-five finishes tied career best. ... Won pole in fourth consecutive season (at Texas-1). ... Career-best average start 12.1. ... Best finish, second in both Kansas races, where he led 173 laps in the spring. ... Career-best average finish 12.1. ... Completed career-best 96.7 percent of laps attempted.

2011: Finished 18th in series points. ... Won pole at Dover-2. ... Average start, 16.9. ... Best finish, second at Bristol-2. ... Average finish, 17.7. ... Most top fives (three) since 2008 and most top 10s (12) since 2007. ... Finished season on a roll with four top 10s in last five races. ... Started season with veteran crew chief Pat Tryson but switched after 13 races to Chad Johnston. ... Completed 95.6 percent of laps attempted. ... Led 153 laps.

2010: Finished 22nd in series points. ... First year with Michael Waltrip Racing. ... Started with sixth-place finish in Daytona 500. ... Average start, 17.1. ... Best finish, fifth (Martinsville-1), average finish 18.8. ... Won Sprint Showdown qualifying race for NASCAR Sprint All-Star Challenge.

2009: Finished 23rd in series points. ... Began season winning pole for Daytona 500. ... Two more poles (Atlanta-2, Phoenix-2). ... Best finish, fifth, at Phoenix-2. ... Announced he was leaving Earnhardt Ganassi Racing with Felix Sabates and signed with Michael Waltrip Racing.

2008: Finished 15th in series points. ... Three top fives, 11 top 10s. ... Suffered a disappointing season a year after participating in his first Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup. ... Inconsistency and five DNFs (did not finish) played a role. ... Best finish, fourth, at New Hampshire-1. ... Best start, second, Texas-2.

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2007: Finished 11th in series points. ... Seven top fives, 14 top 10s. ... Earned his first career series win and pole, the former at Dover-1, the latter at Texas-2. ... Made the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup in only his second full series season. ... Won Sprint Showdown qualifying race for NASCAR Sprint All-Star Challenge.

2006: Finished 19th in series points in first full season in Sprint Cup competition. ... Two top fives, five top 10s in his first NASCAR Sprint Cup season. ... Finished third in final standings for Rookie of the Year Award. ... Best finish, second, at Homestead.

2005: Finished 47th in series points. ... Competed in seven NASCAR Sprint Cup events. ... Best finish, seventh, at Charlotte.

2004: Finished 70th in series points. ... Ran two races for Dale Earnhardt, Inc. (Atlanta-2, Homestead). ... Best finish, 32nd, at Homestead.

OTHER RACING HISTORY

Won back-to-back Xfinity Series championships in 2004-2005, his only two full seasons of Nationwide Series competition. ... Has won 13 Nationwide Series races. ... Named to 2004 All-America Auto Racing Team by members of the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association (AARWBA). ... Finished 11th in NASCAR K&N Pro Series East points in 2002, after posting six top fives, 11 top 10s and a series-leading six poles. ... Scored two wins, two poles and finished eighth in East points in 2001. ... Finished 12th in East standings in 2000 and runner-up to Mike Johnson for East Rookie of the Year honors. ... Began racing karts in 1991 and moved to modifieds in 1998. ... Turkey Derby Classic champion in 1999 for modifieds at Wall (N.J.) Township Speedway.

NOTEWORTHY

Martin Truex Jr. Foundation

Martin Truex Jr. and his longtime partner Sherry Pollex created the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation (MTJF) in 2007. The foundation has raised more than \$2 million since its inception and exists through the generosity of donors, partners and corporate sponsors passionate about our mission to help support underfunded cancer initiatives specific to ovarian and childhood cancers, and assist the individuals and families affected by them. Sherry Pollex was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in August, 2014. Through this experience, Martin and Sherry found purpose and focus in their mission to raise awareness, boost advocacy, and generate financial support for adding ovarian cancer to the already passionate fundraising around childhood cancers. The foundation's signature event is Catwalk for a Cause, which happens each spring on the Wednesday prior to the Charlotte All-Star Race. This annual event includes a runway fashion show and auction with drivers and wives modeling the latest spring fashions as well as featuring children currently undergoing cancer treatment. The event is attended by more of NASCAR drivers, wives, owners and industry professionals than any other event of its kind. Proceeds benefit Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, N.C. and other childhood cancer initiatives that are supported by the Rare Cancer Coalition of which MTJF is a member. The MTJF is also a strong advocate of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance to bring about national awareness to ovarian cancer symptoms and early diagnosis and treatment. In 2012 the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation took a leading role among racers seeking relief for victims of Hurricane Sandy, which devastated Truex's home area in New Jersey, donating more than \$150,000. More information can be found on the foundation website at www.MartinTruexJrFoundation.org

Personal Notes

Ardent Philadelphia pro sports fan. ... Formerly worked on a clam boat for father's seafood business, Sea Watch International.

Martin Truex Jr. NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Record

Yr.	Team	Car	Starts	Wins	Top 5	Top 10	DNF	Poles	Laps Led	Prize Money*	Driver Rank**
2004	Dale Earnhardt, Inc.	#1 Chevrolet	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	116,150	
2005	Dale Earnhardt, Inc.	#1 Chevrolet	7	0	0	1	5	0	4	929,028	
2006	Dale Earnhardt, Inc.	#1 Chevrolet	36	0	2	5	5	0	34	4,759,248	19
2007	Dale Earnhardt, Inc.	#1 Chevrolet	36	1	7	14	4	1	581	5,979,549	11
2008	Dale Earnhardt, Inc.	#1 Chevrolet	36	0	3	11	5	0	58	5,388,847	15
2009	Earnhardt-Ganassi Racing	#1 Chevrolet	36	0	1	6	5	3	184	5,053,597	23
2010	Michael Waltrip Racing	#56 Toyota	36	0	1	7	3	1	88	3,978,849	22
2011	Michael Waltrip Racing	#56 Toyota	36	0	3	12	3	1	153	4,474,438	18
2012	Michael Waltrip Racing	#56 Toyota	36	0	7	19	2	1	434	6,159,590	11
2013	Michael Waltrip Racing	#56 Toyota	36	1	7	15	3	0	353	5,988,634	16
2014	Furniture Row Racing	#78 Chevrolet	36	0	1	5	3	0	1	4,876,987	24
2015	Furniture Row Racing	#78 Chevrolet	36	1	8	22	2	0	567	6,751,609	4
Total			369	3	40	117	42	7	2,457	\$54,456,526	

Career Avg. Start: 16.3 Career Avg. Finish: 17.6

*includes non-point races and post-season bonus

**driver ranking listed only when running full schedule

First Sprint Cup Start

Oct. 31, 2004 at Atlanta Motor Speedway – Started: 33 Finished: 37

First Sprint Cup Win

June 4, 2007 at Dover International Speedway – Career Start No. 58

First Sprint Cup Pole

Nov. 2, 2007 at Texas Motor Speedway – Career Start No. 79

Chase Appearances (3)

2007, 2012, 2015

Sprint Cup Wins:

2007: Dover-1

2013: Sonoma

2015: Pocono 1

Sprint Cup Poles:

2007: Texas-2

2009: Daytona 500, Atlanta-2, Phoenix-2

2010: Dover-1

2011: Dover-2

2012: Texas-1

Martin Truex Jr. NASCAR Xfinity Series Record

Yr.	Team	Car	Starts	Wins	Top 5	Top 10	DNF	Poles	Laps Led	Prize Money*	Driver Rank**
2001	Martin Truex Sr.	#56 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9,670	
2002	James Finch	#1 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,900	
	Martin Truex Sr.	#56 Chevrolet	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,537	
2003	Martin Truex Sr.	#58 Chevrolet	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,635	
	Chance2 Motorsports	#81 Chevrolet	3	0	0	1	1	0	11	40,930	
	Stanton Barrett	#91 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,150	
	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	#8 Chevrolet	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	93,185	
2004	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	#8 Chevrolet	34	6	17	26	0	7	953	2,537,171	1
2005	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	#8 Chevrolet	35	6	15	22	3	3	705	3,143,692	1
2006	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	#8 Chevrolet	3	1	2	2	0	0	113	89,425	
	JR Motorsports	#88 Chevrolet	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	69,515	
2007	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	#11 Chevrolet	2	0	0	1	1	0	5	71,255	
		#8 Chevrolet	1	0	1	1	0	0	21	25,025	
2008	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	#8 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	0	0	20	47,175	
	JR Motorsports	#5 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,905	
2009	James Finch	#1 Chevrolet	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	41,851	
2010	Michael Waltrip Racing	#00 Toyota	3	0	2	2	1	0	33	106,715	
		#99 Toyota	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	70,425	
			103	13	40	61	8	10	1862	\$6,470,161	

*includes non-point races and post-season bonus

**driver ranking listed only when running full schedule

Xfinity Series Wins:

2004 (6)

Bristol-1
Talladega-1
St. Louis
Nazareth
Memphis
Dover-2

2005 (6)

Mexico City
Talladega-1
Dover-1
Daytona-2
New Hampshire-1
Indianapolis (IRP)

2006 (1)

Talladega-1

Martin Truex Jr. NASCAR Camping World Truck Series Record

Yr.	Team	Truck	Starts	Wins	Top 5	Top 10	DNF	Poles	Laps Led	Prize Money	Driver Rank
2005	Billy Ballew	#15 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,740	
2006	Billy Ballew	#51 Chevrolet	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	9,890	



About Furniture Row / Furniture Row Racing

Website Addresses:

FurnitureRowRacing.com (Race Team)
FurnitureRow.com (Furniture Row)

Twitter Address:

@FR78Racing

Facebook Address:

Facebook.com/furniturerowracing

Furniture Row

The Furniture Row Companies (“Furniture Row”) is the owner and main sponsor of the No. 78 Furniture Row Racing team.

By owning and operating more than 330 stores in 30 states, Furniture Row has established itself as one of the largest family-owned specialty home furnishings and bedding retailers in the United States.

With headquarters in Denver, Colorado. Furniture Row is comprised of four specialized home furnishings and bedding retailers, including Sofa Mart, Oak Express, Bedroom Expressions and Denver Mattress.

Furniture Row is dedicated to donating to charitable organizations such as World Vision, The Salvation Army and the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions.

The success of Furniture Row has provided the opportunity to participate in the exciting, high-profile sport of NASCAR.

Furniture Row Racing – Year-by-Year Recap

2005

Furniture Row Racing began its journey into NASCAR in 2005 by participating in the Xfinity Series in addition to running two races in the elite Cup division. Jerry Robertson entered 15 Xfinity races for Furniture Row Racing and qualified in 10. Robertson also qualified in one Cup race as did Kenny Wallace.

2006

The team’s focus in 2006 shifted to Cup. With veteran driver and motorsport personality, Kenny Wallace, the program competed against multicar teams. Despite the challenges, the No. 78 Denver, Colo.-based, single-car team successfully achieved its goals for the season. Furniture Row Racing also participated in nine Nationwide races with driver Jerry Robertson.

2007

NASCAR implemented some dramatic changes in 2007, and in order to adjust to the evolving field, Furniture Row Racing made dynamic enhancements to its program in the off season by adding key hires and purchasing additional new equipment.

2008

Furniture Row Racing had its best season to date in 2008 with Joe Nemechek handling the controls of the team's No. 78 Chevrolet. The team qualified for 32 of 36 Cup races, shattering its previous best mark of 21 starts. The team also recorded its best-career finish of 11th – at the fall Cup race in Talladega. The No. 78 team also captured its first career pole when Nemechek qualified No. 1 at the Talladega spring race.

2009

Due to the national and global economic downturn in late 2008, Furniture Row Racing ran a limited schedule in 2009 with its new driver Regan Smith, the 2008 NASCAR Sprint Cup Rookie of the Year. Smith entered 20 races under the Furniture Row Racing banner and qualified in 18. He had two top-15 finishes – 12th at the July Daytona race and 15th at the April Talladega race.

2010

Following the 2009 season, Furniture Row Racing made an even stronger commitment to the future of the program. The team announced that it would run the full 36-race Sprint Cup schedule in 2010 and also made key personnel moves. Driver Regan Smith and the Furniture Row Racing team continued its improvement in 2010, qualifying in all 36 Cup races for the first time in the franchise history. Smith came on strong during the second half of the season, scoring a number of top-20 finishes, including three top-13s in the final seven races.

2011

Furniture Row Racing enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2011. Smith's seventh-place finish in the season-opening Daytona 500 was Furniture Row Racing's first career top-10 result.

Two months after Daytona, Smith scored the organization's first career victory on May 7 at the prestigious Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway.

In total, the 2011 season saw the Furniture Row Chevrolet claim one win, two top-fives and five top-10s. Four of the top-10s were in NASCAR's four biggest races – Daytona 500 (7th), Southern 500 (1st), Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway (8th) and the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway (3rd).

2012

2012 was a year of major change for Furniture Row Racing. In mid July the team hired veteran Todd Berrier, who took over the crew chief role, starting with the Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

In late September Furniture Row Racing announced a driver change with former NASCAR champion Kurt Busch replacing Regan Smith.

Busch took over the driving duties with six races remaining. He closed out the season with three consecutive top-10s, marking the first time a Furniture Row Racing driver strung together three straight top-10s. Furniture Row Racing ended the 2012 season with one top-five and six top-10s.

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2013

It was a historical, record-breaking season for Furniture Row Racing, which became the first single-car team to ever qualify for NASCAR's postseason Chase playoffs. The team's driver, Kurt Busch, finished 10th in points and set team season records for top fives (11), top-10s (16), laps led (448) and front row starts (9). Busch scored two runner-up finishes – at the September Richmond race and the October Kansas race.

After Busch announced in August that he would be joining Stewart-Haas Racing in 2014, Furniture Row Racing signed two-time Chase driver Martin Truex Jr. to a multiyear contract, beginning with the 2014 season.

2014

With new driver Martin Truex Jr. the season kicked off with an impressive outside pole qualifying effort at the season opening Daytona 500. But an oil pump issue during the Great American race forced Truex to take an early exit. From that point it seemed that Truex was plagued with bad luck until the second half of the season when the pace and finishes picked up. Truex notched his best finish at the fall race in Kansas where he posted a fourth-place result. He also claimed a pair of top-10s at his home track – Dover International Speedway. Following the 2014 campaign, Furniture Row Racing announced that lead race engineer Cole Pearn was being promoted to crew chief. The single-car team also announced new hires to strengthen its engineering staff.

2015

Furniture Row Racing, celebrating its 10 anniversary in NASCAR, was the Cinderella Story of the 2015 season. Driver Martin Truex Jr. started the season with seven-straight top-10 finishes, 14 top 10s in the first 15 races, a victory at the June Pocono race and a berth in the Chase playoffs. Truex marched through the first three rounds of the Chase and qualified for the Championship 4 in the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. He finished fourth in the point standings and was the highest gainer from the previous season when he finished 24th in points. Truex's eight top-fives, 22 top-10s and finishing fourth in final points were all career highs. He led 567 laps in 2015 compared to only one lap led in 2014. The team announced in September that it would switch from Chevrolet to Toyota in 2016 and also form a technical alliance with Joe Gibbs Racing.

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Furniture Row Racing Sprint Cup Record, 2005-2015
Car: No. 78 Toyota

Year	Driver	Races Entered	Races Qualified	Wins	Top 5s	Top 10s	Poles	Owner Ranking	Prize Money
2005	Kenny Wallace	1	1	0	0	0	0	n/a	63,275
	Jerry Robertson	1	1	0	0	0	0		60,035
2006	Kenny Wallace	31	17	0	0	0	0	41	1,331,550
	Jimmy Spencer	3	2	0	0	0	0		122,275
	Travis Kvapil	1	0	0	0	0	0		-
	Max Papis	1	0	0	0	0	0		-
2007	Kenny Wallace	22	10	0	0	0	0	42	764,690
	Scott Wimmer	1	0	0	0	0	0		-
	Sterling Marlin	1	0	0	0	0	0		-
	Joe Nemechek	12	9	0	0	0	0		681,451
2008	Joe Nemechek	36	32	0	0	0	1	42	2,645,832
	Kenny Wallace	1	1	0	0	0	0		256,735
2009	Regan Smith	20	18	0	0	0	0	--*	1,751,751
2010	Regan Smith	36	36	0	0	0	0	28	3,441,814
2011	Regan Smith	36	36	1	2	5	0	26	4,478,983
2012	Regan Smith	30	30	0	1	3	0		3,516,531
	Kurt Busch	6	6	0	0	3	0	24	688,628
2013	Kurt Busch	36	36	0	11	16	1	10	4,941,538
2014	Martin Truex Jr.	36	36	0	1	5	0	24	4,876,987
2015	Martin Truex Jr.	36	36	1	8	22	0	4	6,751,609
	Totals	347	307	2	23	54	2		\$36,373,684

*2009 was a part-time schedule for Furniture Row Racing

First Sprint Cup Race

June 5, 2005, Dover (Del.) International Speedway

Driver: Kenny Wallace (Qualified: 43, Finished: 34)

First Pole

April 26, 2008, Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway

Driver: Joe Nemechek

First Win

May 7, 2011

Southern 500 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway

Driver: Regan Smith

Chase Appearances

2013 (Kurt Busch)

2015 (Martin Truex Jr.)

**Cole Pearn
Crew Chief
Furniture Row Racing**

Birthdate:	Oct. 13, 1982	Spouse:	Carrie
Hometown:	London, Ontario, CANADA	Children:	Callum (11/27/2012)
Residence:	Golden, Colo.		Freya (7/15/2014)

After multiple years as the lead race engineer for Furniture Row Racing, Cole Pearn was named crew chief of the No. 78 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series team following the 2014 season.

Pearn joined the Denver, Colo.-based Furniture Row Racing at the start of the 2010 season and led the engineering staff through the middle of the 2011 campaign. He returned to the single-car team a year later after a brief stint with JTG Daugherty Racing.

Considered as one of the leading young crew chiefs in NASCAR, Pearn's talents were showcased on a weekly basis during the 2015 season. The team's driver Martin Truex Jr. posted seven straight top 10s, 14 top 10s in the first 15 races, a victory at Pocono (June) and a Chase playoff berth.

With Pearn overseeing the racing operation and team strategy at the track, Truex earned a spot in the Championship 4 at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Truex finished the 2015 season fourth in points and was the biggest gainer in the standings from 2014 when he finished 24th. It was the best season finish for Truex in 10 seasons competing in NASCAR's elite series and also the best career finish for Furniture Row Racing.

Prior to joining Furniture Row Racing, Pearn worked two seasons (2008 & 2009) at Richard Childress Racing (RCR) as an engineer for Kevin Harvick's No. 29 Chevrolet.

Pearn, an avid Toronto Maple Leafs hockey fan who hails from London, Ontario, has been involved in auto racing since his early childhood while being raised in the Canadian province.

His father (Ron) was a super late model racer in Canada, and Cole flashed his talents early by winning three national Canadian go-kart championships.

Cole later drove in the CASCAR Super Series (now known as the NASCAR Canadian Tire Series) from 2001-2003 and also drove late models from 2004 – 2007.

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After graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering from the prestigious University of Waterloo in London, Ont. (April, 2006), Pearn worked with Toyota Manufacturing Canada before heading south to North Carolina in late 2007 to join the RCR engineering team.

Pearn says it was strictly racing that motivated him to enroll at the University of Waterloo. "The main reason I went to college was to learn more about engineering so I could become a better racer."

For hobbies, Pearn plays in a hockey league in the Denver area and also enjoys snow skiing in the Colorado mountains.

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Cole Pearn's Sprint Cup Crew Chief Record

Year	Driver	Team	Races	Wins	T5s	T10s	Poles	Driver Rank
2015	Martin Truex Jr.	Furniture Row Racing	36	1	8	22	0	4

Barney Visser

Furniture Row Racing Team Owner

Barney Visser (born April 21, 1949) is the owner of Furniture Row. The Furniture Row concept houses the four-store brands: Denver Mattress, Sofa Mart, Bedroom Expressions and Oak Express all under one roof. Furniture Row companies make up one of the largest family-owned specialty home furnishings and bedding retailers in the country operating more than 330 stores in 30 states.

Visser is also the team owner of Furniture Row Racing in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. His single-car NASCAR team is based in Denver, Colorado and is the only Sprint Cup organization with its race shop located west of the Carolinas.

Visser, who grew up in the Denver area, served in the Vietnam war for 11 months as a parachute rigger in the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Following his Army service, Visser returned home and enrolled at Northern Colorado University where he played football for one season as a defensive lineman.

The entrepreneurial Visser started manufacturing big pouf pillows and owned eight stores called Pillow Kingdom in 1977, the same year he decided to start his first waterbed store called Big Sur Waterbeds.

Big Sur Waterbeds was so successful that Visser changed the whole company into waterbed stores, owning approximately 85 stores by the mid-1980s. He currently owns stores under the Denver Mattress, Sofa Mart, Oak Express and Bedroom Expressions names.

When Visser decided to semi-retire from his businesses, he took up auto racing as a driver and competed in local events at Colorado National Speedway. His passion for motorsports and the marketing potential that the sport provided eventually led Visser to NASCAR's premier division.

His first Sprint Cup Series season as an owner was in 2005 when Furniture Row Racing entered and qualified in two races with drivers Kenny Wallace at the spring Dover race and Jerry Robertson at the fall Phoenix race.

Since 2005 Furniture Row Racing has competed full time in the Cup series with the exception of 2009 when the team ran a 20-race part-time schedule due to the global economic downturn.

The 2015 season was a banner year for Visser and his Furniture Row Racing team. His driver Martin Truex Jr. finished fourth in the final point standings. His season included a victory at the June Pocono race, eight top fives and 22 top 10s.

Other career highlights for Visser's single-car team include the first pole at the 2008 spring race at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway with Joe Nemechek as the driver. The first Cup win -- 2011 at Darlington (S.C.) Raceway with Regan Smith driving the No. 78 Chevrolet. And in 2013 with Kurt Busch as the driver, Furniture Row Racing made NASCAR history by becoming the first single-car team to qualify for NASCAR's Chase playoffs.

Visser and his wife Carolyn reside in the Denver area. They have seven children and five grandchildren.

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Joe Garone
President

Birthdate: July 17, 1960

Resides: Denver

Spouse: Leann

Children: Daughters - Ashlie, Jordan, Carey

The catalyst behind the successful growth of Furniture Row Racing in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series has been Joe Garone, who has directed the team's efforts since its inception in late 2004.

Garone, who was inducted into the Colorado Motor Sports Hall of Fame in 2015, carries many duties as the team's president. He oversees team operations in the various departments, acting as the liaison between the Denver-based Furniture Row Racing and its partners and directing the growth and development of the overall program.

Before transitioning to a motorsports executive role, Garone, a Denver, Colo. native, worked as a crewmember in many key areas of an auto racing organization.

He spent six successful seasons (1989-1994) as crew chief for Arvada, Colo. driver Rick Carelli in NASCAR's Southwest and Winston West Tour circuits and the Craftsman Truck Series. Garone's tuning talents played a vital role in Carelli's success, which totaled more than 100 victories during the six-year period.

In 1995 Garone joined NASCAR's elite Cup series as a suspension specialist and an over-the-wall front-tire changer for Bill Elliott Racing. He later advanced to the crew chief role for the legendary Bill Elliott.

After spending four seasons with Bill Elliott Racing (1995-1998), Garone joined PPI Motorsports in 1999. He played an instrumental role in PPI's new venture into NASCAR, working as a program manager and crew chief for the team's two-car Cup effort, which included the No. 32 Tide Ford and the No. 96 McDonald's Ford.

From 2001 through 2003, Garone worked directly for NASCAR. He was responsible for developing and implementing a business-plan structure for the Research and Development Center in Concord, N.C. as well as hiring the staff and starting the initial safety programs. He was later named NASCAR's director of officiating.

After spending a year as the director of competition for Michael Waltrip Racing in 2004, Garone returned to his native Colorado where he accepted the position as crew chief for Furniture Row Racing. He was promoted to general manager in 2007.

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Garone grew up in a racing family, and at 3-years-old was already playing with carburetors and automatic transmission valve bodies rather than wooden blocks and toys.

His parents raced at the local Colorado circuits. His dad (Joe Sr.) competed for years in the modified series, and his mom (Beverly), took home several powder puff championships.

Before a full-time career in professional motorsports, Garone also raced in Colorado for several years while managing his father's automotive repair shop.

Garone and his wife Leann reside in Denver. They have three daughters – Ashlie, Jordan and Carey and one granddaughter.

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Pete Rondeau

Competition Director

Birthdate: Nov. 5, 1965
Hometown: Saco, Maine
Resides: Denver, Colo.
Spouse: Carrie
Children: Sons -- Seth, Alec

Pete Rondeau, who has been affiliated with Furniture Row Racing since the 2010 season, was elevated to the competition director position prior to the start of the 2013 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season.

Rondeau initially joined the Denver-based Furniture Row Racing as the team's car chief. He assumed the crew chief role in May 2010 and served in that capacity until July 2012. He directed Furniture Row's first career Sprint Cup victory at the 2011 Darlington, S.C. race with Regan Smith as the driver.

In his position as competition director, Rondeau is the point person at the Denver race shop with the building and preparation of the team's No. 78 Chevrolets.

A native of New England, Rondeau grew up in Saco, Maine, approximately 90-miles north from New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon.

Prior to joining Furniture Row Racing, Rondeau worked at Evernham Motorsports where he served as the team's director of research and development from July 2005 to the end of the 2009 season.

He also worked at Dale Earnhardt Inc. (DEI) from 2001 to May 2005 and Jasper Motorsports from 1998-2001. During his three-plus years at DEI, Rondeau's positions included the crew chief role for both Michael Waltrip and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Rondeau has also had experience behind the wheel of a race car. Before he traveled south to North Carolina in 1998 to work in NASCAR, he raced for many years on the New England short tracks, including super late model cars in the American Canadian Tour. He also drove in NASCAR's Pro Series East and the Whelen Modified Tour Series.

Furniture Row Racing Traveling Crew, 2016

No. 78 Over-the-Wall Crew

Front-tire changer	Brian Eastlund, New Bern, N.C.
Front-tire carrier	Chris Hall, Springfield, Mo.
Rear-tire changer	Lee Cunningham, Lake River, IL
Rear-tire carrier	Adam Mosher, Fort Mill, S.C.
Jackman	Bailey Walker, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Gasman	Brian Dheel, Norton, Ohio

No. 78 Road Crew

President	Joe Garone, Denver, Colo.
Crew Chief	Cole Pearn, London, Ontario, Canada
Car Chief	Blake Harris, Maypearl, Texas
Race Engineers	Jeff Curtis, Fairfax Station, Va. Pete Craik, Melbourne, Australia
Data/IT/Engineer	Ryan Kelly, London, Ontario, Canada
Engine Tuner	Greg Huls, Beatrice, Neb.
Engine Engineer	Jon Grove, Mandurah, Australia
Engine Builder	Toyota Racing Development (TRD)
Spotter	Clayton Hughes, Thomasville, N.C.
Shock Specialist	Nick Kerlin, Old Fort, Ohio
Tire Specialist	Tommy DiBlasi, Annapolis, Md.
Front-End Mechanic	Gary Frost, Romeo, Mich.,
Rear-End Mechanic	Nino Venezia, Philadelphia
Floater Mechanic	Todd Carmichael, Redding, Calif.
Transportation	Chuck Lemay, DeKalb, IL, Barry Huston, Bloomington, Mich., Roy Miller, Elkridge, Md., Roger Pritchard, Hutchinson, Kan., Henry Benfield, Statesville, N.C.