

1956 Championship Results

Indianapolis, IN 500 Mile Race - May 30, 1956

Track Type: Paved Oval
Race Distance: 500 miles
Promoter: Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Lap Distance: 2.5 miles
Margin of Victory: 20.460 sec

Ave Qual Speed: 142.529 mph
Sanction Num: USAC # 56CH1
Total Purse: \$282,022

| FP | # | SP | Driver | Car Name | Chassis | Eng | Laps | Time/Speed | Pts |
|----|----|----|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------|------|---------------------|-------|
| 1 | 8 | 1 | Pat Flaherty | John Zink | Watson | Offy | 200 | 3:53:28.84 128.490 | 1,000 |
| 2 | 4 | 13 | Sam Hanks | Jones & Maley | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 200 | 3:53:49.30 128.303 | 800 |
| 3 | 16 | 26 | Don Freeland | Bob Estes | Phillips | Offy | 200 | 3:54:59.07 127.668 | 700 |
| 4 | 98 | 6 | Johnnie Parsons | Agajanian | Kuzma | Offy | 200 | 3:56:54.48 126.631 | 600 |
| 5 | 73 | 4 | Dick Rathmann | McNamara | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 200 | 3:57:50.65 126.133 | 500 |
| 6 | 1 | 10 | Bob Sweikert | D-A Lubricants | Kuzma | Offy | 200 | 3:59:03.83 125.489 | 400 |
| 7 | 14 | 23 | Bob Veith | Federal Engineering | Kurtis 500E | Offy | 200 | 3:59:54.50 125.048 | 300 |
| 8 | 19 | 15 | Rodger Ward | Filter Queen | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 200 | 4:00:01.11 124.990 | 250 |
| 9 | 26 | 21 | Jimmy Reece | Massaglia Hotel | Lesovsky | Offy | 200 | 4:00:07.11 124.938 | 200 |
| 10 | 27 | 30 | Cliff Griffith | Jim Robbins | Stevens D | Offy | 200 | 4:01:45.48 123.471 | 150 |
| 11 | 82 | 22 | Gene Hartley | Central Excavating | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 196 | Flagged 122.961 | 100 |
| 12 | 42 | 7 | Fred Agabashian | Federal Engineering | Kurtis 500D | Offy | 196 | Flagged 122.507 | 50 |
| 13 | 57 | 25 | Bob Christie | Helse | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 196 | Flagged 122.317 | |
| 14 | 55 | 28 | Al Keller | Traylor | Kurtis 4000D | Offy | 195 | Flagged 121.895 | |
| 15 | 81 | 32 | Eddie Johnson | Central Excavating | Kuzma D | Offy | 195 | Flagged 121.456 | |
| 16 | 41 | 29 | Billy Garrett | Greenman-Casale | Kuzma D | Offy | 194 | Flagged 120.085 | |
| 17 | 64 | 33 | Duke Dinsmore | Shannon Bros. | Kurtis 500A | Offy | 191 | Flagged 118.941 | |
| 18 | 7 | 3 | Pat O'Connor | Ansted Rotary | Kurtis 500D | Offy | 187 | Magneto | |
| 19 | 2 | 19 | Jimmy Bryan | Dean Van Lines | Kuzma | Offy | 185 | Flagged | |
| 20 | 24 | 2 | Jim Rathmann | Hopkins | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 175 | Oil trouble | |
| 21 | 34 | 31 | Johnny Tolan | Trio Brass | Kurtis 500D | Offy | 173 | Flagged | |
| 22 | 99 | 5 | Tony Bettenhausen | Belanger | Kurtis 500D | Offy | 160 | Wrecked SW | |
| 23 | 10 | 14 | Ed Elisian | Hoyt Machine | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 160 | Lost brakes | |
| 24 | 48 | 16 | Jimmy Daywalt | Sumar | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 134 | Wrecked SE | |
| 25 | 54 | 24 | Jack Turner | Travelon Trailer | Kurtis 500B | Offy | 131 | Engine | |
| 26 | 89 | 20 | Keith Andrews | Dunn Engineering | Kurtis 500B | Offy | 94 | Broken transmission | |
| 27 | 5 | 9 | Andy Linden | Chapman | Kurtis 500C | Offy | 90 | Oil leak | |
| 28 | 12 | 27 | Al Herman | Bardahl/Clancy | Kurtis 500B | Offy | 74 | Wrecked MS | |
| 29 | 49 | 17 | Ray Crawford | Crawford | Kurtis 500B | Offy | 49 | Wrecked NW | |
| 30 | 15 | 12 | Johnny Boyd | Bowes Seal Fast | Kurtis 500G | Offy | 35 | Oil leak | |
| 31 | 53 | 11 | Troy Ruttman | John Zink | Kurtis 500D | Offy | 22 | Spun out SW | |
| 32 | 88 | 18 | Johnny Thomson | Peter Schmidt | Kuzma | Offy | 22 | Spun out SW | |
| 33 | 29 | 8 | Paul Russo | Novi Vespa | Kurtis 500F | NoviSc | 21 | Wrecked SW | |

Lap Leaders

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|------------------------|
| Pat Flaherty | 127 | 41,45,76-200 |
| Pat O'Connor | 39 | 4-10,22-40,42-44,46-55 |
| Johnnie Parsons | 16 | 56-71 |
| Paul Russo | 11 | 11-21 |
| Don Freeland | 4 | 72-75 |
| Jim Rathmann | 3 | 1-3 |

Relief Drivers

10 Eddie Russo Hoyt Machine Kurtis 500C Offy 37 Rel Elisian 124-160

Non-Qualifiers

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------|----------------------|
| 58 | Eddie Sachs | Ray Brady | Schroeder D | Offy | DNS, too slow |
| 3 | Marshall Teague | Dean Van Lines | Kuzma D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 9 | Nino Farina | Bardahl-Ferrari | Kurtis 500D | Ferrari | Did not qualify |
| 22 | Dempsey Wilson | Martin Brothers | Curtis | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 25 | Tony Bonadies | Donaldson | Kurtis 3000D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 31 | Jimmy Davies | Novi Air Conditioning | Kurtis 500F | NoviSc | Did not qualify |
| 33 | Eddie Russo | Belond Miracle Power | Epperly | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 35 | Johnny Kay | Peter Wales | Kurtis 4000D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 46 | Shorty Templeman | Glessner | HillegassD | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 47 | Marshall Teague | Sumar | Kurtis | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 51 | Len Duncan | Ray Brady | Kurtis 4000D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 62 | Len Sutton | Wolcott | Lesovsky D | Offy | Wrecked practice, NE |
| 74 | Mike Magill | Chesty Foods | Templeton D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 75 | Marvin Pifer | Commercial Motor Freight | Ewing D | Offy | Wrecked practice, NW |
| 77 | Jim McWithey | Dayton Steel Foundry | Schroeder D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 78 | Dick Rathmann | Hopkins | Lesovsky D | StudV8 | Did not qualify |
| 79 | Dempsey Wilson | Marquette Tool | Silnes D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 84 | Bill Cheesbourg | H. B. T. | Lesovsky D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 85 | Gig Stephens | Slick Airway | Kurtis 2000D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 87 | Dick Reese | McDonald | Kurtis 4000D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 87 | Bill Cheesbourg | McDonald | Kurtis 4000D | Offy | Did not qualify |
| 91 | Johnny Baldwin | Bardahl-Ferrari | Ferrari | Ferrari | Did not qualify |
| 93 | LeRoy Warriner | McKay's Bulldog | Kurtis 3000D | Offy | Did not qualify |

Pole Position: Pat Flaherty Pole Speed: 145.596 mph

Data Source: Floyd Clymer Yearbook, Indpls Star

- Race Notes
- 1) Dick Rathmann wrecked SW turn after taking checkered flag.
 - 2) Pat Flaherty set 1 and 4 lap qualifying records (146.056 and 145.596), breaking Jack McGarth's records of 1954 (141.088 and 141.033).
 - 3) Yellow flags totalled 1:11:15.
 - 4) Bob Veith named Rookie-Of-The-Year.
 - 5) L. I. Woodson drove DeSoto pace car.