

1959 Championship Results

Indianapolis, IN 500 Mile Race - May 30, 1959

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

Lap Distance: 2.5 miles
Margin of Victory: 23.270 sec

Ave Qual Speed: 143.013 mph
Total Purse: \$337,600
Sanction Num: USAC # 59CH1

FP	#	SP	Driver	Car Name	Chassis	Eng	Laps	Time/Speed	Pts
1	5	6	Rodger Ward	Leader Card 500	Watson	Offy	200	3:40:49.20 135.857	1,000
2	16	3	Jim Rathmann	Simoniz	Watson	Offy	200	3:41:12.47 135.619	800
3	3	1	Johnny Thomson	Racing Associates	Lesovsky	Offy	200	3:41:39.85 135.340	700
4	1	15	Tony Bettenhausen	Hoover Motor Express	Epperly	Offy	200	3:42:36.25 134.768	600
5	99	16	Paul Goldsmith	Demler	Epperly	Offy	200	3:42:55.60 134.573	500
6	33	11	Johnny Boyd	Bowes Seal Fast	Epperly	Offy	200	3:44:06.23 133.867	400
7	37	12	Duane Carter	Smokey's Reverse Torque	Kurtis	Offy	200	3:44:59.15 133.342	300
8	19	8	Eddie Johnson	Bryant Heating & Air Cond	Kurtis 500G	Offy	200	3:44:59.69 133.336	250
9	45	27	Paul Russo	Bardahl/Gerhardt	Kurtis 500G	Offy	200	3:45:00.24 133.331	200
10	10	17	A.J. Foyt	Dean Van Lines	Kuzma	Offy	200	3:45:03.65 133.297	150
11	88	9	Gene Hartley	Drewry's	Kuzma	Offy	200	3:46:31.64 132.434	100
12	74	7	Bob Veith	John Zink	Moore	Offy	200	3:46:58.91 132.169	50
13	89	23	Al Herman	Dunn Engineering	Dunn	Offy	200	3:47:29.57 131.872	
14	66	13	Jimmy Daywalt	Federal Engineering	Kurtis 500E	Offy	200	3:47:30.72 131.861	
15	71	21	Chuck Arnold	Hall-Mar	Curtis	Offy	200	3:49:09.05 130.918	
16	58	33	Jim McWithey	Ray Brady	Kurtis 500C	Offy	200	3:52:30.93 129.204	
17	44	2	Eddie Sachs	Peter Schmidt	Kuzma	Offy	182	Broken gear train	
18	57	28	Al Keller	Helse	Kuzma	Offy	163	Burned piston	
19	64	18	Pat Flaherty	John Zink	Watson	Offy	162	Wrecked MS	
20	73	4	Dick Rathmann	McNamara	Watson	Offy	150	Car on fire in pits	
21	53	30	Bill Cheesbourg	Greenman-Casale	Kuzma	Offy	147	Magneto	
22	15	25	Don Freeland	Jim Robbins	Kurtis 500G	Offy	136	Broken valve spring	
23	49	32	Ray Crawford	Meguiar's Mirror Glaze	Elder	Offy	115	Spun out, NE	
24	9	10	Don Branson	Bob Estes	Phillips	Offy	112	Broken torsion bar	
25	65	24	Bob Christie	Federal Engineering	Kurtis 500D	Offy	109	Broken rod bolt	
26	48	5	Bobby Grim	Sumar	Kurtis 500G	Offy	85	Burned piston	
27	24	14	Jack Turner	Travelon Trailer	Christain	Offy	47	Broken fuel tank	
28	47	29	Chuck Weyant	McKay	Kurtis 500J	Offy	45	Wrecked NE	
29	7	19	Jud Larson	Bowes Seal Fast	Kurtis 500J	Offy	45	Wrecked NE	
30	77	31	Mike Magill	Dayton Steel Foundry	Sutton	Offy	45	Wrecked NE	
31	87	26	Red Amick	Wheeler-Foutch	Kurtis 500C	Offy	45	Wrecked NE	
32	8	22	Len Sutton	Wolcott	Lesovsky	Offy	34	Spun out, SW	
33	6	20	Jimmy Bryan	Belond AP	Salih	Offy	1	Broken cam housing	

Lap Leaders

Rodger Ward	130	5-12,14-16,46-48,85-200
Johnny Thomson	40	1-4,49-84
Jim Rathmann	19	13,17-30,32-33,41-42
Pat Flaherty	11	31,34-40,43-45

Non-Qualifiers

39	Rex Easton	Massaglia Hotel	Lesovsky	Offy	DNS, too slow
76	Shorty Templeman	Braund Plywood	Epperly	Offy	DNS, too slow
12	Ralph Liguori	El Dorado Italia	Maserati	Maserati	DNS, too slow
98	Eddie Russo	Agajanian	Kuzma	Offy	DNS, too slow
62	Bill Homeier	Rusco Battery Cable	Kurtis 500G	Offy	DNS, too slow
1	Tony Bettenhausen	Ansted Rotary	Epperly	Offy	Wrecked practice SE
1	Eddie Russo	Turner	Epperly	Offy	Did not qualify
17	Johnny Kay	Safety Auto Glass	Kurtis 500C	Offy	Did not qualify
21	Earl Motter	Dean Van Lines	Kuzma	Offy	Wrecked practice, SW
25	Bill Cheesbourg	Hardwood Door	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Did not qualify
34	Dempsey Wilson	Novi Diesel	Kurtis 500F	NoviSc	Did not qualify
38	Paul Russo	Novi Diesel	Kurtis 500F	NoviSc	Did not qualify
41	Ralph Liguori	Sumar	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Did not qualify
41	Jimmy Davies	Sumar	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Did not qualify
42	Bill Homeier	Go Kart	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Did not qualify
43	Johnny Tolan	Chapman	Lesovsky	Offy	Did not qualify
51	Bob Cortner	Cornis Engineering	Cornis	Offy	Wrecked NE - fatal
52	Jud Larson	Leader Card Duo	Watson D	Offy	Did not qualify
54	Don Edmunds	Bill Forbes Racing	Kuzma	Offy	Did not qualify
55	Jim Packard	Sclavi & Amos	Kuzma	Offy	Wrecked practice, SW
55	Gene Force	Sclavi & Amos	Kuzma	Offy	Did not qualify
57	Jerry Unser	Helse	Kuzma	Offy	Wrecked NW - fatal
69	Shorty Templeman	Frank Arciero	Kurtis 500C	Maser	Did not qualify
72	Chuck Arnold	Speed Enterprise	Kurtis 500C	Offy	Did not qualify
78	Bob Schroeder	Midwest Manufacturing	Kurtis 500D	Offy	Did not qualify
78	Gene Force	Midwest Manufacturing	Kurtis 500D	Offy	Did not qualify
78	Eddie Russo	Midwest Manufacturing	Kurtis 500D	Offy	Did not qualify
82	Chuck Rodee	Central Excavating	Kuzma	Offy	Did not qualify
82	Dempsey Wilson	Central Excavating	Kuzma	Offy	Did not qualify
91	Johnny Moorehouse	Binter	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Wrecked practice
92	Jack Ensley	McKay	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Did not qualify
93	Eddie Russo	McKay	Kurtis 500G	Offy	Did not qualify
98	Chuck Daigh	Agajanian	Kuzma	Offy	Did not qualify

1959 Championship Results

Pole Position: Johnny Thomson

Pole Speed: 145.908 mph

Data Source: 1959 Clymer Yearbook

Race Notes

- 1) Engine requirements: 256.3 unsupercharged, 170.4 supercharged
- 2) Rollbars and fireproof uniforms mandatory.
- 3) Rookie-Of-The-Year Bobby Grim.
- 4) Yellow flag displayed for 43:17.