

# 1978 Championship Results

## Indianapolis, IN 500 Mile Race - May 28, 1978

Track Type: Paved Oval

Lap Distance: 2.5 miles

Ave Qual Speed: 192.673 mph

Total Purse: \$1,135,887

Race Distance: 500 miles

Promoter: Indianapolis Motor Speedway

FP	#	SP	Driver	Car Name	Chassis	Eng	Laps	Time/Speed	Pts
1	2	5	Al Unser	1st National	Lola 78	CoswTC	200	3:05:54.99 161.363	1,000
2	1	1	Tom Sneva	Norton Spirit	PC-6/78	CoswTC	200	Finished	800
3	20	6	Gordon Johncock	North American Van Lines	Wildcat 78	DGS	199	Flagged	700
4	40	13	Steve Krisiloff	Foreman Industries	Wildcat	DGS	198	Flagged	600
5	6	7	Wally Dallenbach	Sugaripe Prune	McLaren 77	CoswTC	195	Out of fuel	500
6	48	19	Bobby Unser	ARC Ographite	Eagle 78	CoswTC	195	Flagged	400
7	14	20	A.J. Foyt	Gilmore/Citicorp	Coyote 78	FoytTC	191	Flagged	300
8	84	23	George Snider	Gilmore/Citicorp	Coyote	FoytTC	191	Flagged	250
9	51	15	Janet Guthrie	Texaco Star	Wildcat	DGS	190	Flagged	
10	16	8	Johnny Parsons	1st National Travel Check	Lightning	OffyTC	186	Flagged	150
11	35	30	Larry Rice	Bryant/WIBC	Lightning	OffyTC	186	Engine	100
12	7	33	Mario Andretti	Gould Charge	PC-6/78	CoswTC	185	Flagged	50
13	4	4	Johnny Rutherford	1st National Travel Check	McLaren 77	CoswTC	180	Flagged	25
14	88	28	Jerry Karl	Machinist Union	McLaren	OffyTC	176	Flagged	25
15	69	24	Joe Saldana	Wize-Guy Carpet	Eagle 73	OffyTC	173	Flagged	25
16	98	31	Gary Bettenhausen	Oberdorfer	King 76	OffyTC	147	Piston	25
17	78	25	Mike Mosley	Alex Foods	Lightning	OffyTC	146	Broken gear	20
18	25	2	Danny Ongais	Interscope Racing	Parnelli	CoswTC	145	Piston	20
19	17	10	Dick Simon	La Machine	Vollsted	OffyTC	138	Wheel bearing	20
20	26	26	Jim McElreath	Circle City Coal	Eagle 74	OffyTC	132	Engine	20
21	43	18	Tom Bigelow	Armstrong Mold	Wildcat 76	DGS	107	Brkn connecting rod	15
22	80	9	Larry Dickson	Polak Construction	PC-5 77	CoswTC	104	Lost oil pressure	15
23	71	3	Rick Mears	CAM2 Motor Oil	PC-6/78	CoswTC	103	Engine	15
24	8	21	Pancho Carter	Budweiser	Lightning	CoswTC	92	Brkn exhaust header	15
25	11	11	Roger McCluskey	National Auto Engineering	Eagle 76	AMC	82	Clutch	10
26	39	17	John Mahler	Tibon	Eagle	OffyTC	58	Brkn timing gear	10
27	22	14	Tom Bagley	Kent Oil	Watson 77	OffyTC	25	Overheated	10
28	77	22	Salt Walther	Dayton-Walther	McLaren	CoswTC	24	Transmission	10
29	19	16	Spike Gehlhausen	Hubler/WIRE	Eagle 74	OffyTC	23	Wrecked SE	5
30	87	29	Phil Threshie	Tutwiler	Lightning	OffyTC	22	Lost oil pressure	5
31	30	32	Jerry Sneva	Smock Material	McLaren	OffyTC	18	Brkn rear end	5
32	24	12	Sheldon Kinser	Thermo-King	Watson	OffyTC	15	Lost oil pressure	5
33	29	27	Cliff Hucul	Wendy's Hamberger	McLaren	OffyTC	4	Broken oil line	5

### Lap Leaders

Danny Ongais	71	1-11,13-25,32-75,108-110
Tom Sneva	3	12,31,180
Steve Krisiloff	5	26-30
Al Unser	121	76-107,111-179,181-200

### Non-Qualifiers

7	Mike Hiss	Gould Charge	PC-6/78	CoswTC	Driven by Andretti
33	Graham McRae	Dayton-Walther	McLaren	OffyTC	Did not qualify
4	Bob Harkey		Eagle	OffyTC	Did not qualify
8	Al Loquasto	Frostie Root Beer	McLaren	OffyTC	Did not qualify
85	Larry Cannon	Dayton-Walther	Wildcat		Did not qualify
18	Billy Vukovich	Longhorn Racing			Did not qualify
	Jim Hurtubise		Mallard	OffyTC	Did not qualify
2	John Martin	Wheel Center	Eagle	OffyTC	Did not qualify
6	Larry Rice	Bryant/WIBC	Eagle	OffyTC	Did not qualify
9	Gary Irwin	Tassi Vatis			Did not qualify
9	Roger Rager	Daily Queen	Dragon	OffyTC	Wrecked qualifying
18	Bubby Jones	Simon Shopping Centers	Wildcat 2	OffyTC	Did not qualify
58	Eldon Rasmussen	Rent-A-Racer			Did not qualify
90	Lee Kunzman	Sugai	Fox	OffyTC	Did not qualify

Pole Position: Tom Sneva

Pole Speed: 202.156 mph

Data Source: USAC News, 1978 Hungness Ybook

- Race Notes
- 1) Yellow Flags: 2-4, Kinser tow-in; 9-11, Kinser tow-in; 26-31, Gehlhausen wreck; 48-51, Debris on track; 84-85, Debris on track; 114-118, Mears & Bigelow tow-in
  - 2) Car #7 qualified by Mike Hiss
  - 3) Johncock and Rutherford penalized 1 lap for pit violation
  - 4) Krisiloff and Dickson were penalized 1 lap, yellow light procedure violation
  - 5) Andretti's car was qualified by Mike Hiss for 8th position. Andretti was driving in Monaco GP.
  - 6) Weather: hot and sunny