

1979 Championship Results

Indianapolis, IN 500 Mile Race - May 28, 1979

Track Type: Paved Oval Lap Distance: 2.5 miles Ave Qual Speed: 186.768 mph Total Purse: \$1,269,741
 Race Distance: 500 miles Margin of Victory: 45.690 sec
 Promoter: Indianapolis Motor Speedway

| FP | # | SP | Driver | Car Name | Chassis | Eng | Laps | Time/Speed | Pts |
|----|----|----|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------|------|---------------------|-------|
| 1 | 9 | 1 | Rick Mears | Gould Charge | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | 200 | 3:08:47.97 158.889 | 1,000 |
| 2 | 14 | 6 | A.J. Foyt | Gilmore Racing | Parnelli | CoswTC | 200 | 3:09:33.66 158.260 | 800 |
| 3 | 36 | 12 | Mike Mosley | Theodore Racing | Eagle | CoswTC | 200 | 3:09:36.00 158.228 | 700 |
| 4 | 25 | 27 | Danny Ongais | Interscope/Panasonic | Parnelli | CoswTC | 199 | Flagged 158.086 | 600 |
| 5 | 12 | 4 | Bobby Unser | Norton Spirit | PC-7/79 | CoswTC | 199 | Flagged 158.023 | 500 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | Gordon Johncock | North American Van Lines | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | 197 | Flagged 156.449 | 400 |
| 7 | 46 | 13 | Howdy Holmes | Armstrong Molding | Wildcat | OffyTC | 195 | Flagged 154.619 | 300 |
| 8 | 22 | 34 | Billy Vukovich | Hubler/WNDE | Watson | OffyTC | 193 | Flagged 153.253 | 250 |
| 9 | 11 | 15 | Tom Bagley | Dairy Queen-Kent | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | 193 | Flagged 153.233 | 200 |
| 10 | 19 | 31 | Spike Gehlhausen | Sta-On Car Glaze | Wildcat | CoswTC | 192 | Flagged 152.453 | 150 |
| 11 | 7 | 28 | Steve Krisloff | Frosty Acres | Lightning | CoswTC | 192 | Flagged 152.425 | 100 |
| 12 | 77 | 16 | Salt Walther | Dayton-Walther | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | 191 | Flagged 151.640 | 50 |
| 13 | 72 | 25 | Roger McCluskey | National Engineering | McLaren | CoswTC | 191 | Flagged 151.616 | 25 |
| 14 | 44 | 30 | Tom Bigelow | Armstrong Molding | Lola 79 | CoswTC | 190 | Flagged 150.813 | 25 |
| 15 | 1 | 2 | Tom Sneva | Sugaripe Prune | McLaren | CoswTC | 188 | Wrecked NW | 25 |
| 16 | 69 | 26 | Joe Saldana | KBHL-FM | Eagle | CoswTC | 186 | Flagged 147.463 | 25 |
| 17 | 97 | 29 | Phil Threshie | Guiffre Bros. | King 76 | Chevy | 172 | Flagged 136.319 | 20 |
| 18 | 4 | 8 | Johnny Rutherford | Budweiser | McLaren | CoswTC | 168 | Flagged 133.411 | 20 |
| 19 | 31 | 23 | Larry Rice | S&M Electric | Lightning | OffyTC | 142 | Wrecked SE | 20 |
| 20 | 10 | 17 | Pancho Carter | Alex XLNT Foods | Lightning | CoswTC | 129 | Wheel bearing | 20 |
| 21 | 34 | 22 | Vern Schuppan | Wysard Motors | Wildcat | DGS | 111 | Transmission | 15 |
| 22 | 2 | 3 | Al Unser | Penzoil | Chaparral | CoswTC | 104 | Transmission seal | 15 |
| 23 | 50 | 33 | Eldon Rasmussen | Bivouac Vans | Antares | OffyTC | 89 | Broken header | 15 |
| 24 | 80 | 24 | Larry Dickson | Polak Construction | PC-5 77 | CoswTC | 86 | Broken fuel pump | 15 |
| 25 | 92 | 32 | John Mahler | Sport Magazine | Eagle | OffyTC | 66 | Broken fuel pump | 10 |
| 26 | 17 | 20 | Dick Simon | Sanyo | Vollstedt | OffyTC | 57 | Clutch | 10 |
| 27 | 6 | 7 | Wally Dallenbach | Foreman Industries | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | 43 | Lost wheel | 10 |
| 28 | 24 | 10 | Sheldon Kinser | Genesee Beer | Watson | OffyTC | 40 | Burned piston | 10 |
| 29 | 29 | 18 | Cliff Hucul | Hucul Racing | McLaren | OffyTC | 22 | Broken valve | 5 |
| 30 | 89 | 11 | Lee Kunzman | Vetter-Windjammer | Parnelli | CoswTC | 18 | Brkn scavanger pump | 5 |
| 31 | 73 | 21 | Jerry Sneva | National Engineering | Spirit 78 | AMC V8 | 16 | Burned piston | 5 |
| 32 | 15 | 9 | Johnny Parsons | Hopkins-Goodyear | Lightning | DGS | 16 | Burned piston | 5 |
| 33 | 59 | 35 | George Snider | KBHL | Lightning | OffyTC | 7 | Burned valve | 5 |
| 34 | 45 | 14 | Janet Guthrie | Texaco Star | Lola 79 | CoswTC | 3 | Burned piston | 5 |
| 35 | 23 | 19 | Jim McElreath | AMAX Coalar | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | 0 | Bent valve | 5 |

Lap Leaders

| | | |
|-------------|----|---------------------|
| Al Unser | 85 | 1-24,29-69,77-96 |
| Rick Mears | 25 | 25-27,74-76,182-200 |
| A.J. Foyt | 1 | 28 |
| Bobby Unser | 89 | 70-73,97-181 |

Non-Qualifiers

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|--------|----------------------|
| 68 | Bill Alsop | Penske | PC-6/78 | CoswTC | Disqualified |
| 81 | Dick Ferguson | Aero Electronics | Eagle | OffyTC | Disqualified |
| 22 | Billy Vukovich | Hubler | Watson | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 30 | Dana Carter | Molly-Mate | McLaren | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 19 | Spike Gehlhausen | Sta-On/WIRE | McLaren | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 38 | Jerry Karl | Tonco Trailer | McLaren | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 69 | Joe Saldana | WBHL | Lightning | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 39 | Al Loquasto | American Rustproof | Eagle | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 30 | Dana Carter | Molly-Mate | McLaren | OffyTC | Did not qualify |
| 7 | Steve Krisloff | Frosty Acres | Lightning | CoswTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 20 | John Martin | Scientific Drilling | McLaren | OffyTC | Did not qualify |
| 20 | John Martin | Scientific Drilling | McLaren | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 43 | Tom Bigelow | Armstrong Molding | Lola 79 | CoswTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 95 | Larry Cannon | That's My Racer | Wildcat | OffyTC | DNQ, too slow |
| 16 | Tom Frantz | Freight Train | Wildcat | DGS | Did not qualify |
| 19 | Bill Alsop | Hubler/Sta-On | Eagle | OffyTC | Wrecked qualifying |
| 23 | Jim McElreath | McElreath | Eagle | OffyTC | Did not qualify |
| 23 | Tony, Jr Bettenhausen | McElreath | Eagle | OffyTC | Did not qualify |
| 51 | Hurley Haywood | Hopkins | Lightning | OffyTC | Blew engine practice |
| 58 | Eldon Rasmussen | Bivouac/WFMS | Rascal | FoytTC | Wrecked NE |
| 75 | Todd Gibson | Gibson Racing | Eagle | OffyTC | Wrecked NW |
| 83 | Bill Engelhart | Beaudoin Racing | Wildcat | DGS | Wrecked SW twice |
| 93 | Larry McCoy | O'Hanlon Racing | March-f178 | Chevy | Did not qualify |
| 98 | Gary Bettenhausen | Oberdorfer | King | OffyTC | Running too slow |

Pole Position: Rick Mears **Pole Speed:** 193.736 mph

Data Source: Indianapolis Star, NSSN

Race Notes

- 1) Vukovich & Snider qualified in special session
- 2) Fastest race lap -- Mosley, 193.216, lap 184
- 3) Fastest leading lap -- A Unser, 192.143, lap 3
- 4) USAC Race #3, CART/SCCA Race #4
- 5) Yellow Flags: 28-31, Hucul tow-in; 43-48, Kinser tow-in; 93-99, Dickson tow-in; 103-107, Threshie tow-in; 156-162, Rice wreck; 192-196, Tom Sneva wreck.