

# 1912

RALPH DEPALMA DOMINATED the race until the last few laps when his engine began to give out. With a four-lap lead, he tried to nurse the crippled Mercedes along and when it would no longer move on its own, he and mechanic Rupert Jeffkins got out and pushed.

Lap after lap Indianapolis native Joe Dawson's National gradually caught up and on lap 199 he took the lead and won the race.

In those days, a driver shared in

the purse only if he passed the finish line, but DePalma eventually gave up. Another driver, Ralph Mulford, also had engine trouble but his car could still go at slow speed. Long after the other drivers and the audience went home, Mulford puttered around the track to earn his payday.

It also was the first 500 for a young driver named Eddie Rickenbacker, who completed only 44 laps before a bearing went out. He finished 21st in the 24-car field.



When Dawson departed from the race course, after permitting admiring friends to squeeze his blistered hands and beat his sore and sunburned back for sheer joy for about an hour, he sought some water and soap, and after washing the grime and grease of the long speed battle from his face and hands, he went directly to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chase F. Dawson, 2828 North Illinois street.

There he was met by his mother, who, after the fashion of mothers, showed more interest in his safe return than she did on the outcome of the race.

"Mother, I won!" exclaimed the young pilot.

His mother showed the really maternal instinct by almost ignoring the announcement of her son's success and expressed her joy that he had returned home uninjured after the contest in which death or a cot in the emergency hospital awaited at almost every turn of the groaning, grinding motors. His mother forgot that her son had come home with a check in his pocket; that he was the idol of the hour. That he was safe and sound was her only thought.

## THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR.

INDIANAPOLIS, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1912.

PRICE—TWO CENTS

### WEATHER FORECAST

For next 24 hours, including today, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 48 hours, including tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 72 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 96 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 120 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 144 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 168 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 192 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 216 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 240 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 264 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

For next 288 hours, including the day after tomorrow, fair, with occasional showers, and a few showers. Wind, light to moderate. Temperature, 60 to 70.

### WINNER OF RECORD RACE AT SPEEDWAY.



JOE DAWSON WINNING THE NATIONAL.

### MOTOR MAD THROG SEES INDIANA BOY WIN \$35,000

**PATHOS LOST IN WILD DELIGHT AT DAWSON'S GLORY**

Speed-Loving Army of 75,000 Forgets DePalma's Fate to Cheer Native Hero.

PATRICIAN MASSESEVEL IN GAY DISPLAY OF SPIRIT

Magnificent Cars Bring Throng Greater and Weather Than Assemblage of 1911.

BY WALTER S. GREENOUGH.

The throng here to-day held with a pathos that seemed to the eye and ear that of a great battle. The air was filled with the roar of motors, and the ground was covered with a sea of humanity. The scene was a picture of wild delight and pathos.

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### PASTOR, TRAPPED IN HOTEL, QUILTS

The Rev. C. C. Cissell of Kokomo Resigns After Escape With Indianapolis Woman.

MINISTER ADMITS HIS QUILT

Mosier Delegates to Minneapolis Conference Arrested While in That City.

Special to the Indianapolis Star.

The Rev. C. C. Cissell, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and one of the best known ministers of that denomination in this city, yesterday admitted that he had committed a grave sin.

He was arrested while in Minneapolis, Minn., on charges of adultery with a woman.

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**RIGHT:** After leading the 1912 Indianapolis 500 since the third lap, Ralph DePalma's Mercedes cracked a piston. With only two laps remaining, he and mechanic Rupert Jeffkins (behind car) had to push the car across the finish line, taking 12th place.

Star/News Archives

**OPPOSITE TOP:** Joe Dawson, 1912 winner of the Indianapolis 500. Star/News Archives

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Driver Charles Merz races past the judge's stand in his Stutz during the 500 in 1912. Joe Dawson won the race that year, with Merz finishing fourth.

The Indianapolis News

