

1925

PETE DEPAOLO, NEPHEW OF 1915 winner Ralph DePalma, started out as a riding mechanic. By 1922 he was a driver and in 1924 came in sixth. In 1925, driving a car made at Fred Duesenberg's Indianapolis factory, DePaolo came in first.

He set an average speed record of 101.127 mph that would stand for seven years and was the first 500 winner to

average more than 100 mph.

Norm Batten was DePaolo's relief driver and took the wheel while DePaolo had his blistered hands treated and bandaged. Batten was not as aggressive and when DePaolo returned to the race he had to work his way back to the front. When Dave Lewis wasted a pit stop, DePaolo regained the lead and took the win.



INDIANAPOLIS SUNDAY STAR.

SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1925
FIFTEEN CENTS

WINNER AT FINISH OF GREAT RACE.



DEPAOLO WINS SWEEPSTAKES IN INDIANAPOLIS-MADE CAR AT DAZZLING SPEED OF 101.13

HOW THE CARS FINISHED

| Driver | Time | Average Speed |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| DePaolo (Duesenberg) | 1:10:13.0 | 101.13 |
| Batten (Duesenberg) | 1:10:13.0 | 101.13 |
| Lewis (Duesenberg) | 1:10:13.0 | 101.13 |
| ... (other drivers) | ... | ... |

Consistent Little Driver
Gives in Victory His
Duesenberg, Which
Has Second Consistent
Time Captain's Goodwin
Ducky—Dave Lewis
Finishes Fast in Miller

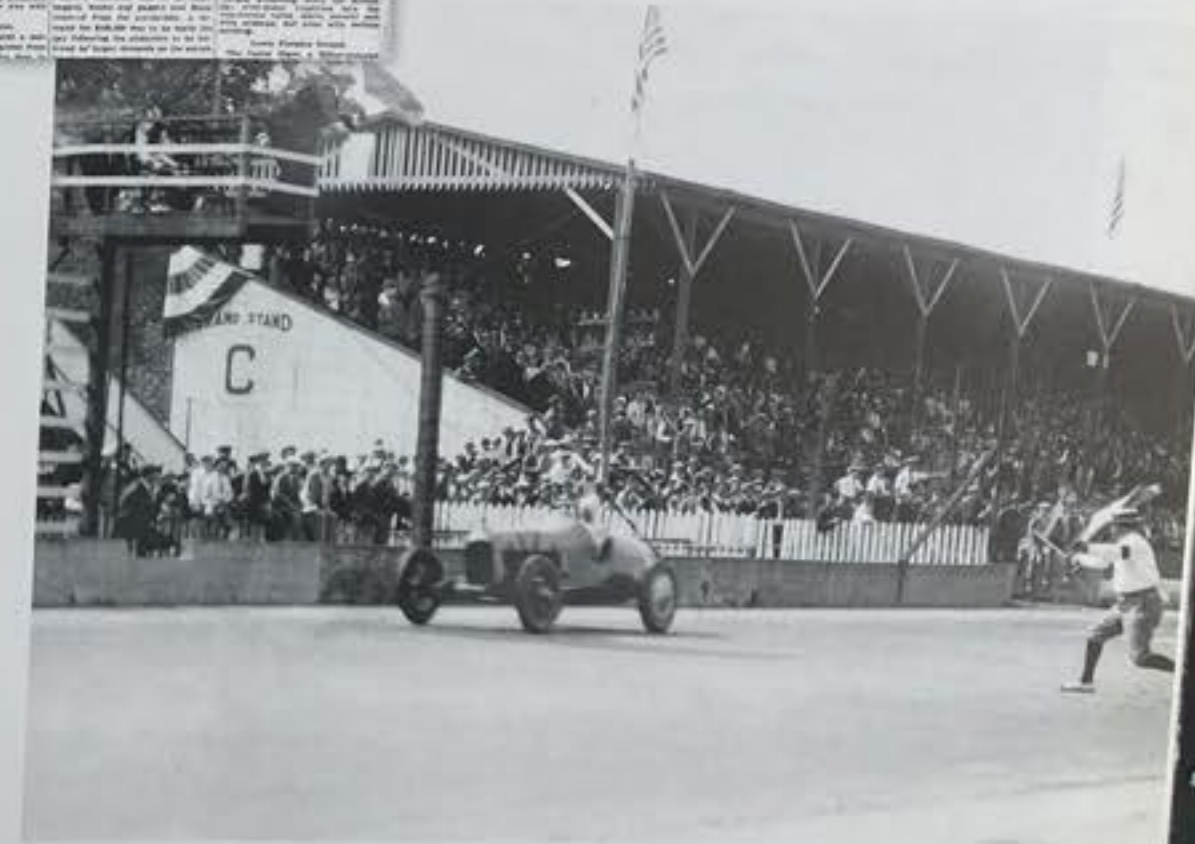
In winning, DePaolo always was well to the front. At fifty and 100 miles he occupied first, at 150 miles, second; at 200 and 250 miles, first; at 300 miles, fourth; at 350 miles, third; at 400 miles, second, and first at 450 and 500 miles.

DEPAOLO CONFIDENT FROM RACE'S START

Worst, in starting, DePaolo's car—while it was the best in the world—was not the best in the world.

MOVIE

Plan to show the race on the screen.



OPPOSITE TOP: Pete DePaolo won the 1925 Indianapolis 500 after starting second. *StarNews Archives*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Drivers line up for the traditional prerace photo before the start. *StarNews Archives*

BELOW LEFT: Future track president Eddie Rickenbacker is at the wheel of the Rickenbacker Vertical 8, the 1925 pace car. The car carried the hat-in-ring insignia that Rickenbacker made famous as a World War I flying ace. *StarNews Archives*

BELOW: Pete DePaolo gets a flag signal while driving his winning Duesenberg. DePaolo became the first driver to average more than 100 mph for the 500 miles. His record average of 101.127 mph wasn't surpassed until 1932. *StarNews Archives*