

1926

THE VICTOR, FRANK LOCKHART, WASN'T EVEN supposed to be in the race. When owner-driver Pete Kreis was hospitalized with a bad case of the flu, he picked "the kid" to take his place.

Lockhart was 23, boyishly handsome and seemed to have rocketed to fame out of nowhere. He also was a brilliant, self-taught engineer with an innate understanding of machinery.

He started 20th but worked his way to the front of the pack to challenge Harry Hartz. It was a rainy Memorial Day in Indianapolis and the race was halted in the middle for more than an hour, and then stopped for good at 400 miles with Lockhart's Miller in front.



OPPOSITE TOP: Frank Lockhart, who won the 1926 Indianapolis 500, with his wife, Ella. *Star/News Archives*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Frank Lockhart holds up a soda handed to him after his victory. Lockhart, a dirt-track racer from California, filled in for owner-driver Pete Kreis, who was ill with the flu. *Star/News Archives*

BELOW: Spectators stand on their cars at the Speedway trying to get a better look at the race action. *Star/News Archives*

