1927

IT LOOKED LIKE FRANK Lockhart would win for the second year in a row. His Miller was the fastest car in the race, qualifying at more than 120 mph. For the first 120 laps he seemed unbeatable, but then a connecting rod broke and he ended up 18th. The win went to rookie George Souders driving a second-hand Duesenberg.

Norm Batten won praise for his heroics after his car caught fire in the pits and he stayed with it long enough to steer it out of danger before leaping out.

This would be Lockhart's final 500. A month before the 1928 race, he would die in a crash at Daytona Beach, Fla., while attempting to set a speed record in the futuristic-looking Stutz Black Hawk Special.

ABOVE: The area of the infield along the main straightaway is filled with fans and their cars as the field races past. *Star/News Archives*

NORMAN BATTEN.

With Car Afire, Batten Stops Racer and Jumps —Awarded Heroism Trophies.

The pluck, iron nerve and presence of mind of Norman Batten, pilot of a little Miller racer, doubtless saved the lives of several of his fellow drivers in the big 500-mile automobile race yesterday.

With his car a roaring mass of flames and stifling smoke, Batten, thinking of the safety of others, locked his emergency brake, clambered to the hood of the machine and, with his face as far as possible from the heat, guided the car with one foot.

He piloted the flaming machine along the track's edge, until it almost stopped. Then he tumbled to the track, critically burned, but the hero of the race.

BELOW: Norm Batten stands to drive his flaming Miller through the pit area to reach a safe spot before jumping out of the car during the 24th lap of the 1927 Indianapolis 500. *Star/News Archives*

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR.

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SOUDERS, IN DUESENBERG, IS RACE VICTOR

Lindbergh May Sail on Thursday

HERO ROLE PALLS; FLIER'S DECISION EXPECTED TODAY

Cables Assure Him Warm Welcome Awaits at New York—Would Take Plane on Ship.

GUEST AT PRESS DINNER

THREE DRIVERS BADLY INJURED

Seven Other Racers, Five Spectators and Official Are Also Hurt.

(Distance on Page 18.)

An accident toll of ten drivers injured, three seriously, was exacted in the 500-mile automobile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway yesterday. Five spectators and one race official also were hurt.

-drivers are.

INGOK, Mooseheart, injured, internal injuries, hospital.

EAWY, St. Charles, motors of the shell, by horses; Methodist

TEN, head, face, arm Methodist hospital.

EWY, leg burns, leg burns.

burns.

by burns.

SERS, burns on lateral lobule, wrenched neck.

EOM, 1003 North Arsenal; leg cut.

ER, 40 years old, two hip and legs Hilbert; some

EAN, 600 East Ames left ankle. Jeff Parker wrist with a sinker. Salvage; bruises right; it was earlier were coming I was unconscious. Concussion injured ear broken. ear extremely injured. Left side of the head of the Amers, was being greatly for recovery of Dunn and Kelsey according to

INJURED.

of the most drivers by ear surgeon. when his car, crashed into th turn. He rushed racer 201 the car picked up the Souders

A burning pace was maintained up to the fifty-mile mark, which found Lockhart, first, warming the course at an average of 106.93 miles an hour for an elapsed time of 42 minutes 28.87 seconds. Close on his rear axles was Dursy, with Bauman third. Hepburn's Boyle Valve was fourth, DePaolo's Perfect Circle Miller fifth, McDonogh's Cooper sixth, Hartz's Erskine-Miller seventh, Kreis's Cooper eighth, Ellingboe's Cooper ninth and Woodbury's Boyle Valve tenth.

The grind between the half and century proved disastrous, with the falling out of many of the "big time" boys who were rated as having the best chance for a big slice of the $100,000 pot of gold.

The front-drive Miller piloted by Dave Lewis came to grief on the twenty-first lap (fifty-two and one-half miles) when it hit the wall; Duray went out with a broken gas tank on his twenty-seventh lap; Jules Ellingboe took the count with his Cooper in the twenty-sixth lap when he skidded into the wall; Batten's Miller, in a cloud of smoke and flames, pulled in on the twenty-fourth lap; Petticord's Boyle Valve was out in the twenty-third with a broken supercharger; Hartz hit the wall in the thirty-eighth, and Stapp's Duesenberg was knocked for a row of castor fumes in the twenty-fourth lap with a broken universal drive.

RACE WINNER AT THE FINISH.

(Photos of Star Staff Photographer.)

ABOVE, GEORGE SOUDERS, WINNER OF THE 500-MILE SPEEDWAY RACE, AT THE END OF THE GRIND. A PIT ATTENDANT (RIGHT) HURRIED TO HELP HIM OUT OF THE CAR. BELOW, SOUDERS DRIVING THE CHECKERED FLAG AS HE CROSSED THE WIRE A WINNER.

HOOSIER AVERAGES 97.45 MILES AN HOUR IN 500-MILE GRIND

Devore Places Miller in Second When Shoaf Is Forced Out Five Miles From Goal—Speed Is New Mark for 91½-Inch Motors—Several Favorites Eliminated Between Fifty and 100-Mile Posts.

CROWD OF 135,000 WITNESSES CLASSIC

Race Officials Complete Report on Time and Speed of Winners

Race officials last night completed the following report on the finish of the drivers, time, speed and lap prizes:

Finish	Car and Driver	Time	M. P. H.
1—	Duesenberg, Souders	5:07:33.06	97.451
2—	Miller, Devore	5:19:33.95	93.867
3—	Miller, Galeota	5:32:05.88	90.159
4—	Lyon, Shaw	5:36:12.05	89.169
5—	Duesenberg, Evans	5:50:27.71	86.782
6—	Cooper, McDonogh	5:51:49.24	86.592
7—	Miller, Meerse	5:53:05.74	86.363
8—	Detroit, Miller	5:55:36.41	85.981
9—	Miller, Burgess	6:18:20.07	79.848
10—	Junior Eight, Bibbs	6:25:23.69	78.041

FLAGGED AFTER FINISH OF TENTH.

Finish	Car and Driver	Time	M. P. H.	No.
11—	Miller, Fernic	6:33:30	77.441	49714
12—	Nickel Plate, Jimmie Bell	6:48:38	76.048	49834

LAP PRIZE WINNERS—TOTAL OF $20,000.

Lockhart—1 to 81 inclusive and 84 to 110, total of 110 laps: $11,000.

Bauman—82 to 83, total of 2 laps: $200.

McDonogh—120 to 149, total of 30 laps: $3,000.

Souders—150 to 200, total of 51 laps: $5,100.

Signed:

CHARLES F. KETTERING, Referee.

CHESTER S. ENGLISH, Director of Timing and Scoring.

OTIS A. FORTER, Chief Timer.

W. D. EDENBURN, Representative Contest Board, A. A. A.

BY W. BLAINE PATTON, Sports Editor The Star.

The Hoosier state is about to send out the S O S to the fairies of the air. The top button, cloth and all, covering the chest of Indiana's highbrow, was ripped asunder as a result of the 500-mile gasoline derby at the running of the fifteenth annual automobile classic at the local Speedway yesterday afternoon. A crowd estimated at 135,000 witnessed a startling upset, probably the most spectacular in the history of the famous two-and-a-half-mile brick course, when George Souders, 27-year-old Lafayette (Ind.) man, fresh