

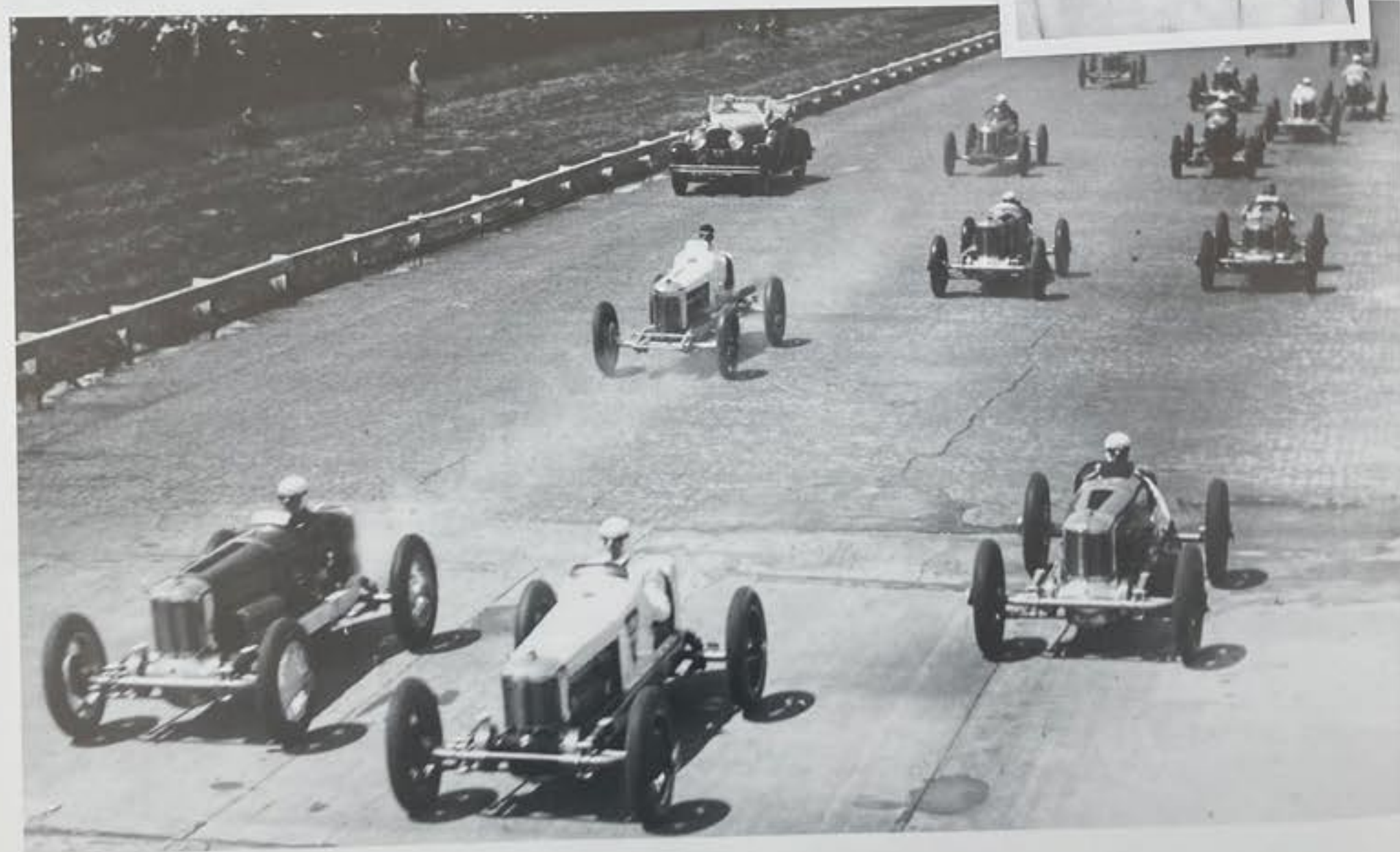
1928

LOUIS MEYER WON THE FIRST OF WHAT WOULD BE THREE 500 VICTORIES THE first year the Speedway was owned by Eddie Rickenbacker.

Meyer barely got a ride at all and got the win after mechanical troubles befell others who were leading the race.

Leon Duray was in the lead when his engine overheated. Jimmy Gleason took the lead, but when he made a pit stop a crewman filling his radiator accidentally poured water over the magneto. That put Tony Gulotta in front until his fuel line clogged. Meyer had been dogging them all and went on to finish first.

This was Meyer's first 500 as a starting driver (he'd been a relief driver the previous year), and he stayed behind the wheel for the full race.



Meyer Wins 500-Mile Speedway Classic

LOS ANGELES DRIVER THRILLS HUGE CROWD WITH DARING FINISH

Race Is Decided in Last Few Laps - Contenders Ignore Rain Caution Signals - Gleason, Duray, Stapp and Gulotta Win Lap Money - Only Serious Injury at Track Occurs When Spectator's Legs Are Broken as Auto Runs Over Him in Midfield.

MOORE, SOUDERS ARE SECOND AND THIRD

How They Finished.

Position	Driver	Car	(Official) Time	M. F. H.
1	L. Meyer	Miller Special	5:01:33.75	99.482
2	L. Moore	Miller Special	5:02:13.84	99.341
3	G. Souders	S. A. I. Special	5:06:01.94	98.030
4	R. Keesh	S. P. R. Special	5:21:28.35	98.320
5	N. Batten	Miller Special	5:21:47.31	98.238
6	R. Stapp	Miller Special	5:23:16.40	97.638
7	B. Arnold	Boyle Valve Special	5:23:16.00	91.111
8	F. Frame	S. A. M. I. Special	5:23:02.38	90.079
9	F. Omer	Boyle Valve Special	5:27:29.89	88.889
10	T. Gulotta	Stutz Special	5:27:30.11	88.888
11	L. Schneider	Armstrong Special	5:41:02.84	87.964
12	D. Evans	Boyle Valve Special	5:43:14.81	87.401

*Front-drive cars.
Lawrence P. Fisher, referee; W. D. Edenshaw, A. A. A. representative; Chester S. Ricker, director of timing and scoring, and Olla Porter, chief timer.

BY W. BLAINE PATTON,
Sports Editor The Star.

A new genuine huggy hero flashed from obscurity to international fame at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway yesterday when Louis Meyer, 22-year-old Los Angeles entrant, electrified a crowd of more than one hundred and forty thousand speed-delirious fans by coming from behind to win the strenuous annual event in the late stages

CROSSING WIRE TO FAME AND FORTUNE.



LOUIS MEYER RECEIVING CHECKERED FLAG AT WINNING WIRE IN 500-MILE RACE. INSET IS CLOSE-UP

"Boy, I'm Happy," Speedway Victor Says After Race

"Boy I'm happy." Louis Meyer, the determined 22-year-old driver and owner of the Miller special which flashed to victory in the 500-mile race yesterday, grinned through the grease and grime picked up along the way and accepted the plaudits of his competitors nonchalantly.

"Give all the credit to Frank Elliott," Meyer said. "He taught me what I know about race driving. I worked for him two years as a mechanic, you see."

"Just Sat Tight."

Meyer was only moderately hopeful of attaining the peak of Speedway driving when the race opened, he indicated.

"I thought I would win after 100 laps," he said. "I had worked pretty well into the race then, although I did not hope to overtake No. 32 (Jimmy Gleason in a Duesenberg) or No. 5 (Tony Gulotta in a Stutz Special). I just sat tight and hoped for something to happen."

As the youthful, lean driver was whisked to the Speedway hospital for a bath and a rubdown, he remarked: "I feel good now—a lot better than I did at the start of the race."

Drove Entire Race.

Meyer's victory yesterday was achieved after only sixty laps of previous race experience on the Indianapolis Speedway. He relieved Frank Shaw in the race last year for that length of time. Yesterday he drove the entire race himself, making only one stop to replenish his gasoline, oil and water and change a tire. Meyer gained his racing experience on the Ascutt Speedway in California. His home is in Southgate, Cal.

Meyer purchased the Miller Special he drove from the A. C. Spark Plug Company a week ago and has spent much time since then working on it. Among those to congratulate him was George Souders, Lafayette youth who won the race last year and finished third this year.

"A good boy was it," Souders said. "I was going good myself until tire trouble put me back. But I was glad to see Louis win."

OPPOSITE TOP: The first of Louis Meyer's three Indianapolis 500 victories came in 1928. It was his first start, too. Star/News Archives

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Cliff Woodbury (center) got the jump on pole sitter and track record holder Leon Duray (right) at the start of the 1928 Indianapolis 500. But Woodbury couldn't hold the lead for the full lap and neither challenged for the victory. Duray finished 19th, Woodbury 23rd. Star/News Archives