



'New IRL Scheme at Indy Makes Impact'

In the past few years, driver and team tension has greatly increased as Indy cars were limited to just three qualifying attempts. For the first time, the two Indy races will be held the last weekend of May. The added thriller is a new qualifying format that is likely to change everything from pole strategy to solidifying starting spots. Indy drivers have routinely waited hours for the track to cool and the winds to calm down before making a late run at the pole. This has changed as the number of entries has decreased and so has the suspense of drivers bumping each other from the field. When qualifying for the May 29 race begins, all drivers will be allowed up to three attempts on each of four qualifying days - with as many as 12 attempts overall to make the 33-car field. The top eleven spots will be qualified on the first day; the next eleven on the second and the rest of the field on the third day - allowing for bumping each day. On the fourth day, any driver who turns in a faster time than anyone on the field, bumps the slowest qualifier and automatically claims the 33rd spot. Indy race organizers hope this new format will renew interest in the IRL premier event.

NASCAR Auto Racing Events (June 2005) - Nextel Cup (NC), Busch Series (B), Craftsman Truck (CT), Formula 1 (F1), CART (C) & IRL (I)

June 3 - MBNA 200, Dover International Speedway, Dover, DE (CT)

June 4 - Time Warner Cable Road Runner 225, The Milwaukee Mile, West Allis, WI (C)

June 4 - MBNA 200, Dover International Speedway, Dover, DE (B)

June 5 - MBNA 400, Dover International Speedway, Dover, DE (NC)

June 10 - Chex 400K, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, TX (CT)

June 11 - Bombardier Learjet Texas 500, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, TX (I)

June 11 - Federated Auto Parts 300, Nashville Superspeedway, Lebanon, TN (B)

June 12 - Pocono 500, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, PA (NC)

June 19 - Champ Car Grand Prix of Portland, Portland International Raceway, Portland, OR (C)

June 12 - ASN Canada FIA Grand Prix, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve - Parc Jean Drapeau, Montréal, Canada (F1)

June 19 - United States Grand Prix, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis, IN (F1)

June 25 - Suntrust Indy Challenge, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, VA (I)