



May 2011

FACT SHEET:

Fastest Rookie of the Year Award Program

THE AWARD:

...for 37 consecutive years has honored the first-year driver who achieves the fastest four-lap average speed from among fellow rookie competitors during qualifications for the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.

SPONSORED BY:

American Dairy Association of Indiana and the Hoosier dairy farm families represented by the organization.

FASTEST ROOKIE RECEIVES:

\$5000 cash award, plaque, and name engraved on trophy on permanent display in the Speedway's Hall of Fame Museum. The winning driver is guest of honor at a by-invitation luncheon held annually on Tuesday of Race Week at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's Plaza Pavilion.

FASTEST-EVER FASTEST ROOKIE:

Tony Stewart (1996), 233.100 mph

SLOWEST FASTEST ROOKIE:

Billy Scott (1976), 183.383 mph

LAST YEAR'S FASTEST ROOKIE:

Mario Romancini, 224.641 mph

GREATEST INDY SUCCESSES BY FASTEST ROOKIE RECIPIENTS:

- **Rick Mears** (1978), who won Fastest Rookie honors by posting the first 200+ mph rookie qualifying speed (200.078), went on to win four 500-Mile Races during his driving career.
- **Jacques Villeneuve** (1994), who won the Fastest Rookie title in '94 with a four-lap average speed of 226.259, went on to finish second in the 500-Mile Race that year, then won at Indy the following year. He went on to compete in Formula One, where he was World Driving Champion in '97.
- **Eddie Cheever, Jr.** (1990), who won the 500-Mile Race in '98.
- **Juan Pablo Montoya** (2000), who received Fastest Rookie honors on a Tuesday, and became Indy 500 champion the following Sunday. Following several years in Formula One, he now competes in NASCAR Sprint Cup.
- **Scott Dixon** (2003), the 2008 500-Mile Race champion, and first driver from New Zealand to win the race.

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- **Chip Ganassi** (1982), who heads Target/Chip Ganassi Racing and was car owner for Montoya's winning effort in 2000, Dixon's in 2008 and **Dario Franchitti's** last year.
- **Michael Andretti** (1984), the Indy racing great who won the "500" as an owner in 2005 (with Dan Wheldon at the wheel). Son **Marco Andretti** was the 2006 Fastest Rookie award recipient, driving for his father's team – and Andretti Autosport's **Danica Patrick** (2005) also has been honored as "Fastest Rookie."
- **Tony Stewart** (1996), who now competes in NASCAR Sprint Cup and is a two-time champion of that series.

ADDITIONAL 500-MILE RACE ACTIVITY BY ADA:

The Victory Circle Bottle of Milk Tradition was launched more than 70 years ago by legendary three-time Indy winner **Louis Meyer** when he requested a cold drink of buttermilk following his victory in '33. Three years later, after his third 500-Mile Race win, Meyer was photographed in Victory Lane drinking milk. Milk was presented off and on during the next several years until, in 1956, the Bottle of Milk was made a permanent part of the post-race celebration by Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner **Anton "Tony" Hulman**. 2011 marks the 56th consecutive year for the Bottle of Milk Tradition.

