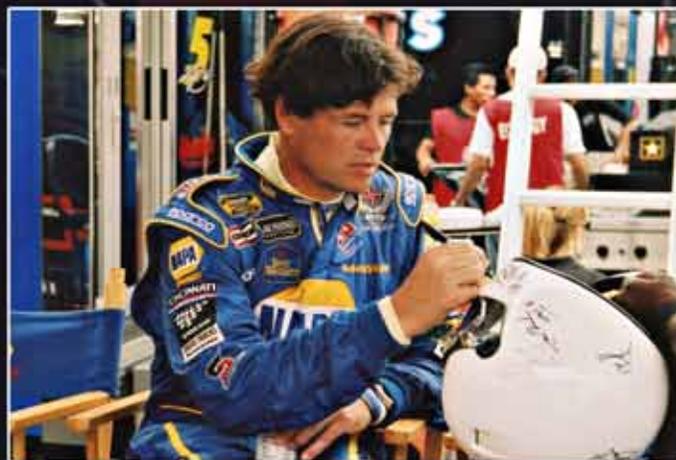


THE FASTEST DRIVERS IN THE WORLD



Cindy Estes and Eddie Estes



Michael Waltrip signing an autograph.

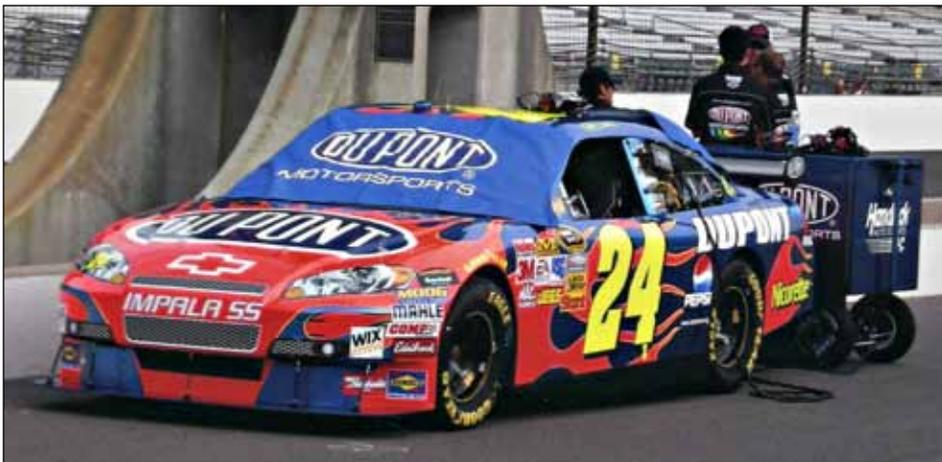


Ryan Newman makes the Chase!!

2013 has been quite an interesting year for all forms of motorsports in the United States. From some major shocks in NASCAR to venue changes in Indy Racing, it has been a year that might change the face of racing forever.

MICHAEL WALTRIP RACING

The first shock heard around the NASCAR world happened during the last race before the Chase at the Richmond International Speedway in Richmond, VA. With just a few laps to go, a call was made from the pit area for



Jeff Gordon enters the Chase as the 13th driver.

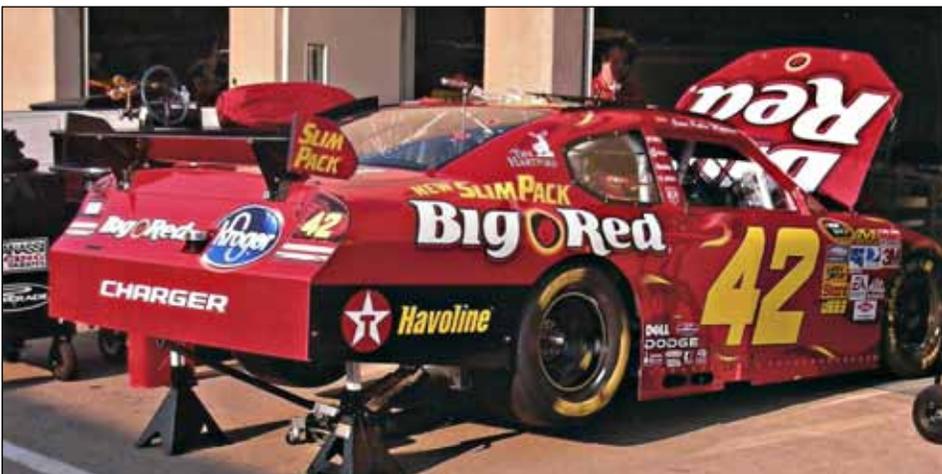
Clint Bowyer to spin on the track on purpose, at least, this was what NASCAR officials said happened. Bowyer denies it, and the result was that Martin Truex made the chase. Truex is a teammate of Bowyer. The call also had an affect on Ryan Newman, as he was leading the race at the time and he had to pit, handing the victory to Carl Edwards. What a mess. Also Brian Vickers was called into the pits for a stop which allowed another shift in the points. As a result of this, on the following Tuesday, Waltrip Racing was fined \$300,000, one of the staff was suspended for the rest of the season and maybe even longer. Truex was taken out of the chase, Newman was put back in and Jeff Gordon was added as a 13th driver for the first time in Chase history.

This was called the shock heard around the entire garage area. NAPA notified Waltrip that they were can-

celling their sponsorship at the conclusion of this season. The estimates for the two years left on the contract were around \$38 million. Arrons has indicated that it would continue sponsorship; however, as of this publication date, 5 Hour Energy has made no public comment regarding its intentions. Waltrip has told Martin Truex that he is free to look for another ride. Rumor has Truex leaving and NAPA following him to Joe Gibbs Racing. Only time will tell. Needless to say, this could be the biggest story in many years in NASCAR land, but not one that anyone wanted told.

ROGER PENSKE AND JUAN PABLO MONTOYA

Roger Penske, the owner with the most victories at the Indy 500, had a casual conversation with Juan Pablo Montoya leading to his hiring to drive Indy cars for the upcoming 2014 sea-



Montoya leaves the 42 car for Penske IndyCar

son. Montoya was informed by Chip Ganassi, his NASCAR team owner, that he would not be driving for the Target team in NASCAR next year, and he jumped at the chance to become a Penske Indy driver. Montoya is being replaced in the NASCAR Target car by Kyle Larson, an up-and-coming super star, who can and does drive everything, much in the style of A. J. Foyt and Tony Stewart. What is most interesting about this is the fact that Penske and Ganassi are rivals on the Indy car scene, and have been for many years. When Ganassi found out, he seemed very pleased for Montoya and wished him the best. They have been friends for years. Montoya joins Will Power and 'Dancing with the Stars' champion Helio Castroneves on the Penske team. Montoya won the Indy 500 in 2000 as a rookie. This could be a match made in heaven, even though Montoya hasn't driven the new Indy car yet. He will bring a lot of fans to the Indy racing series.

TEXAS RACERS REUNION, Special Event

Photos speak louder than words. In this case, at the recent Texas Racers reunion, a very special event occurred. Max Estes and Fred Stewart were asked if they would bring the #11 Jimmy Harkness super-modified to be on display. The beautiful car,



Johnny Rutherford, three time Indy winner, (front left) and Fred Stewart (behind Rutherford), Max Estes (back right) and Al Unser Sr., four time Indy winner, pose after the car signing session.

restored by Max and Fred, was featured at the reunion. Needless to say it was a hit as it always is wherever it is shown, and is always one

of the features at the 3i Show Vintage Saturday. This year's reunion honored Johnny Rutherford for his motorsports accomplishments, and Al Unser Sr. also was in attendance. Both Johnny and Al could not believe the workmanship and the beauty of this car. Al even commented that he would like to have it in the Unser museum in New Mexico. After they viewed the car, they both signed the wind deflector on the front of the window area. These two drivers have won seven Indianapolis 500s! Just wonder how many cars have these famous Indy Drivers autographs?

GRAND PRIX OF INDIANAPOLIS, GO FAST Turn Right? Then Left!

The headline is correct: the Grand Prix of Indianapolis, the newest IndyCar Series event is to be held May 8-10, 2014 on the reconfigured Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course, and this event will jumpstart the Month of May activities at IMS and build toward the 98th Indianapolis 500 later in the month.

Many officials and dignitaries unveiled details about the first IndyCar Series road race at IMS, during a media conference at the Speedway including legendary IndyCar Series team owner Roger Penske, 2013 500 winner Tony Kanaan and IndyCar Series race winner Graham Rahal.

ABC television will televise the Grand Prix of Indianapolis live, building toward its 50th consecutive telecast of the Indianapolis 500. The race will feature a standing start and will run clockwise, the opposite of the Indy 500, creating even more diverse competition during the month. All series in the Mazda Road to Indy will compete during the event, placing a singular spotlight on all levels of North American open-wheel racing throughout May at the 'Racing Capital of the World'.



A. J. Foyt and his 1961 winning crew at the Indy 500.

A VISIT WITH A. J. FOYT

In late September, prior to the IndyCar Series returning to Houston, the Series conducted a media interview with A. J. Foyt. Here are some of his selected quotes:



Talk a little about IndyCar coming to Houston and the show cast for your hometown.

A. J. FOYT: You always like to run in your hometown. I wish I was still young and still driving, because before we came back here I was fortunate enough to win right here in my hometown. But I'm not driving anymore. I think we will run fast because our driver is very quick on street courses. You know, if we don't get penalized on something, we'll be in good shape.

Could you have imagined that it would be 50 years before you got back even though you're not driving, at least got back to run a race in Houston?

Foyt: Well, everybody said when I started I was never going to live to be 22, so I don't know if that's good or bad. I wasn't even supposed to be around this long. They showed me pictures of my earlier days up on two wheels and one wheel. That's when you didn't have all of the roll cages. I guess I'm lucky to still be here. It's been a good life. It's been a fun life. Life is very short. People don't realize if you cannot do what you want to do in life, you have a miserable life. So far I've been able to do what I want to do and had a lot of fun. I've been able to feed my wife and the children. I'm no big, big, multi-multi-millionaire, but at least I know where my next meal's coming from now. You have to remember when I first started driving, if I didn't win, I didn't eat. There were no fancy motorhomes or long-term contracts then; it was a lot different story.

How special would it be to race in your hometown again?

Foyt: Well, I wish I wasn't so damn old that I could run myself. But time passes on. There comes a time when you have to quit. I felt like it was there, the day I quit it at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. That was it. I crawled out and I haven't crawled back in one since. Even though we go testing, a lot of people say why don't you get in one, and that would be like an alcoholic. You take to hearing all that and have a beer or something and then you're right back on it. I know I'm too old to even try. But there is no way you could hog-tie me in one anymore.



As you can see, there is only one A. J. Foyt, the first four time winner of the Indianapolis 500; and by the way, the last race he won as a driver in Houston was in 1970, in a Midget at the Houston Astro Dome.

Foyt won two 50 lap sprint car features, two nights before starting the Indy 500 from the pole in 1974 in this car.



Highlights of the new, 14-turn, 2.434-mile road course include: A hard braking area and 90-degree right into Turn 1, exiting the historic front straightaway of the oval; a new infield chicane that will comprise Turns 5 and 6 and lead to the back straightaway, and revision of Turns 7-8-9 complex that will create more speed and passing.

The reconfiguration plan also includes new spectator mounds in Turn 1 of the road course, and new grandstands adjacent to Turns 5 and 6 in the infield. Expanded grandstands in Turn 7 – at the end of the back straightaway – also will be available.

The Grand Prix of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis 500, The Super Weekend at The Brickyard 400 and all its special events comprise the schedule for auto racing never seen before at the Speedway. What a year this will be at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway!

TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY A Very Special Place

Everything is bigger in Texas. The world's largest high def television screen is going to be built. Next year at TMS, the April NASCAR Sprint Cup race will move back to Sunday, so sports fans will have a better opportunity to enjoy races and the NCAA tournament schedule. Also, the IndyCar race in June will add additional laps and will become the Firestone 600. This will be terrific and a great move on the Speedway's part. The IndyCars put on a terrific and unbelievable show at the track, TMS is known as the second home of the IndyCar Series. The November NASCAR event will be the eighth race in the 2014 Chase schedule. Texas Motor Speedway is the place to be for some of the finest motorsports events on this planet. Check out the specifics on their web site. Eddie Gossage and his staff are waiting to see you.

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