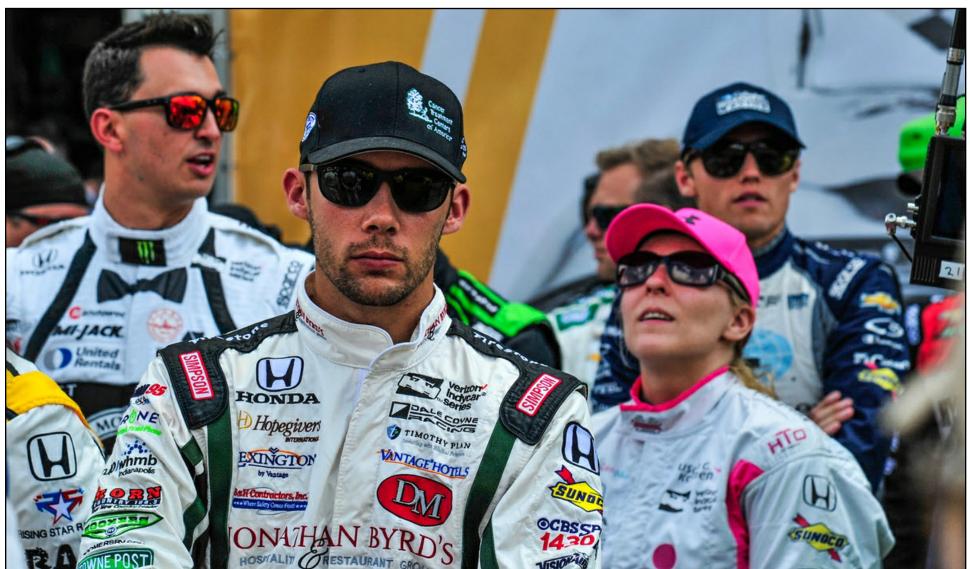
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Hamillton County Reporter



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Noblesville's Bryan Clauson (center) had his focus on the Indianapolis 500 Sunday afternoon, where he was running in the Greatest Spectacle in Racing for the third time. Clauson finished 23rd, then once done at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, went to Kokomo Speedway to compete - and win - a feature race there. Clauson is pictured with his Dale Coyne Racing teammate Pippa Mann at right, with Graham Rahal in the background at left.

Finish at the Indy 500, win at Kokomo...

Double the fun for Bryan Clauson

By RICHIE HALL

Reporter Sports Editor

You just spent your Sunday afternoon racing at the 59. Indianapolis 500. What do you do that evening?

If you're Bryan Clauson, you race some more. And you

Just a few hours after finishing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Noblesville's Clauson took some of his fans up to the Kokomo Speedway, where he participated in the Kokomo Klassic Sprint Car Feature race. Clauson won the 30-lap event, improving upon a second-place finish

The race-day double is also part of another adventure for Clauson. He is attempting to compete in 200 races this

year - #CircularInsanity, for those of you on Twitter. The 2015, but was unable to finish both times. Clauson, running

"It wasn't so much about 200 races at the time, I just 99. wanted to be able to travel the country and race anything and everything, anytime," said Clauson earlier this month after qualifying for the Indy 500. "We were able to come up with this platform that allowed us to kind of do that."

Clauson and his team looked through schedules, and "200 seemed to be the number that we kind of kept stumbling upon that seemed attainable, but seemed tough to get

At the 500, Clauson finished 23rd in what was his most successful run yet at Indy. He also competed in 2012 and

500 was race No. 58, with his Kokomo trip being race No. for Dale Coyne Racing, also will go in the record books as leading three laps - he paced the field on Laps 97, 98 and

Once he finished the 500, it was off to Kokomo with some of his fans.

"We did it last year and had a lot of great response and cool stories come from it," said Clauson last week. "It was able to expose some people that had never been to the Speedway and only been to dirt track racing to the Greatest Spectacle in Racing. It took some people that had only been here, show them what we do on a weekly basis."

See Clauson...Page 2

Just enough fuel to get the trophy...

Rookie Rossi wins 100th Running

By RICHIE HALL

Reporter Sports Editor

Fuel strategy has come into play many times at the Indianapolis 500.

Never before did it make such a difference than at the end of Sunday's 100th Run-

Rookie Alexander Rossi was literally running out of gas during the last few laps of the race, but was able to hang on to take the checkered flag of an exciting race that was run in front of a sold out Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Rossi thus became the 10th rookie to win the Borg-Warner trophy and the first rookie since 2001, when a Brazilian named Hélio Castroneves began his legendary career.

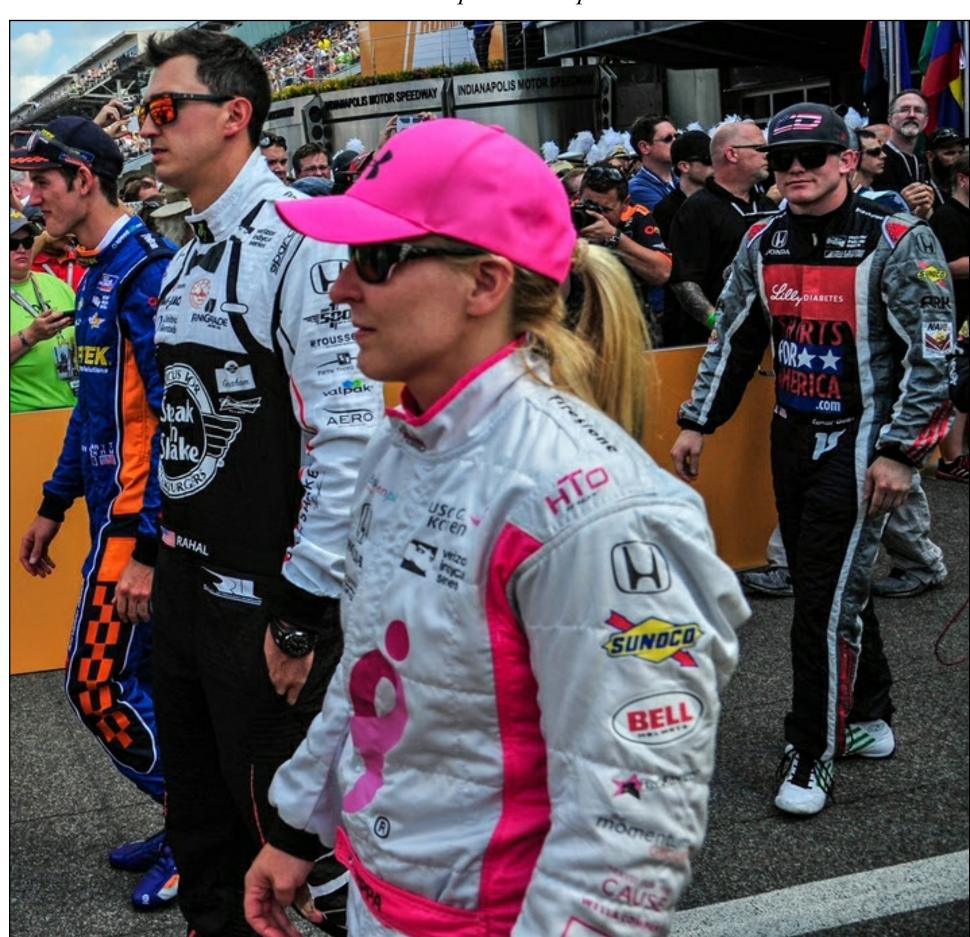
Rossi made his last pit stop with 36 laps left in the race. It seemed like a long way to go, but the gamble paid off for a driver from Nevada City, Calif.

It also seemed like Rossi was the only driver not to pit in the last few laps. That included several of his challengers. Carlos Muñoz led Laps 194 to 196, but came in to pit for fuel after Lap 196, which moved Rossi up to the lead. One lap prior, polesitter James Hinchcliffe and No. 2 starter Josef Newgarden both came in for a splash

Once he assumed the lead, Rossi had to deal with Sebastian Bourdais, the French



Reporter photo by Kent Graham



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Matt Brabham, Graham Rahal and Pippa Mann walk to their cars before the driver introudctions. At right is Noblesville's Conor Daly, who finished 29th at the race.



Reporter photos by Kent Graham

Conor Daly (18, above) and Bryan Clauson (88, below) became teammates on the Dale Coyne Racing team this year. Daly picked up a sponsor with Indianapolis Colts punter Pat McAfee's "Shirts For America," which helps veteran's causes. Clauson is sponsored by Jonathan Byrd's.



CLAUSON

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Clauson's Kokomo victory may actually be historic in nature as well. One may have another track and won a race there. Of course, there is the vaunted "Double Duty" at the Coca-Cola 600 in Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina but of the 10 drivers that have competed in both the 500 and the 600, none have ever won at least one of those events.

DALY FINISHES 29TH

Noblesville's other driver had to endure a frustrating day at the 500. Conor Daly was to leave the race.

Russian driver Mikhail Aleshin spun out during that lap and hit the wall, which to look back in the history books to see if any other Indy 500 participants have traveled to created a large smoke field. Daly got into the smoke, started spinning and eventually tapped into Aleshin's car. Daly was able to keep driving back into pit lane, but he would soon be out of the car.

It was the second year in a row Daly's race ended early. In 2015, Daly's car caught fire during the pre-race laps, so he didn't even get to start. Daly had been making his way up prior to the incident, at one point as high as 13th.

Still, it was a good month for the young American. Daly was coming off a sixthracing well at the Speedway, but got caught in an incident on Lap 115 that forced him place finish at the Angie's List Grand Prix, and also picked up a sponsor in Indianapolis Colts punter Pat McAfee, who is teaming with Daly for his "Shirts For America" company, which helps veteran's causes.



Reporter photos by Kent Graham

Alexaner Rossi, his team and his friends were all smiles (top) after he won the Indianapolis 500, then did the traditional kissing of the famed bricks (below).



ROSSI

veteran. Rossi led Bourdais by three and a quarter seconds, but then Bourdais went into the pit for fuel.

So, Muñoz was now back in second place with two laps to go, but Rossi was ahead of him by 16 and two-thirds 500. seconds. The Colombian cut Rossi's lead to 13.4 seconds by the final lap, but Rossi's crew was telling him to save fuel as he entered the white flag lap.

Rossi was indeed slowing down - his Lap 200 speed was 179.784 mph - but the half-lap lead he had on Muñoz at the white flag was enough to get him to the checkered flag. Rossi finished the race in 3 hours and 2 seconds, holding off Muñoz by 4.4975 seconds. It marked Muñoz's second runner-up finish; he was also the runner-up in 2013.

coasting it down the back straight," said Rossi immediately placed seventh.

after the race. victory lap, and had to have assistance to get into Victory Lane. But he didn't mind having to wait a couple more minutes - he got there. It was the second win at the 500 in the past three years for Andretti Autosport; Ryan Hunter-Reay won in 2014.

"I really was focused on taking it one lap at a time," said Rossi. He referred to the race as an "emotional rollercoaster," with "moments where I was really stoked, moments where I was heartbroken, moments where I was stoked again, then heartbroken, and I was like, 'Wow, I need to see a psychiatrist after this."

While it was elation for Rossi, it was disappointment though he worked his way back up to 21st by the finish. for his Andretti teammate Muñoz, who again had come close to winning only to finish second.

"I was really disappointed when it comes with fuel and you lose the race because of that," said Muñoz.

Newgarden placed third, by far his best finish at the the fastest lap of the day at 225.288 mph.

"Man, I was really feeling it at the end," said Newgarden, one of four Americans to place in the top six. "If we get a race going, we're going to be good, we're going to be able to beat these guys. The way the fuel played out, we

didn't have an opportunity to do that." place, with Californians Charlie Kimball and JR Hildeb-"We ran out in Turn 4 and we were clutching it and return back to the 500 after last year's terrible accident,

Hinchcliffe was a major factor in the beginning of the Rossi finally ran drifted to a stop while taking his race, as he and Hunter-Reay were involved in 12 lead Bless America" this year. Beloved actress and native Hoochanges in the first 24 laps. The two would have another battle towards the midpoint of the race and were in contention for most of the way.

> leaving the pits, Hunter-Reay got involved in contact with Castroneves and Townsend Bell. Castroneves got out of the incident unscathed, but Hunter-Reay and Bell were stopped at the pit out. That knocked both men out of contention, and Hunter-Reay eventually finished 24th, two laps down from the leaders after being in front for 52 laps. Bell, meanwhile, was assessed a stop-and-go penalty, al-

> Last year's winner, Juan Pablo Montoya, finished last as he was the first car out of the race after making contact with the wall in Turn 2 on Lap 63.

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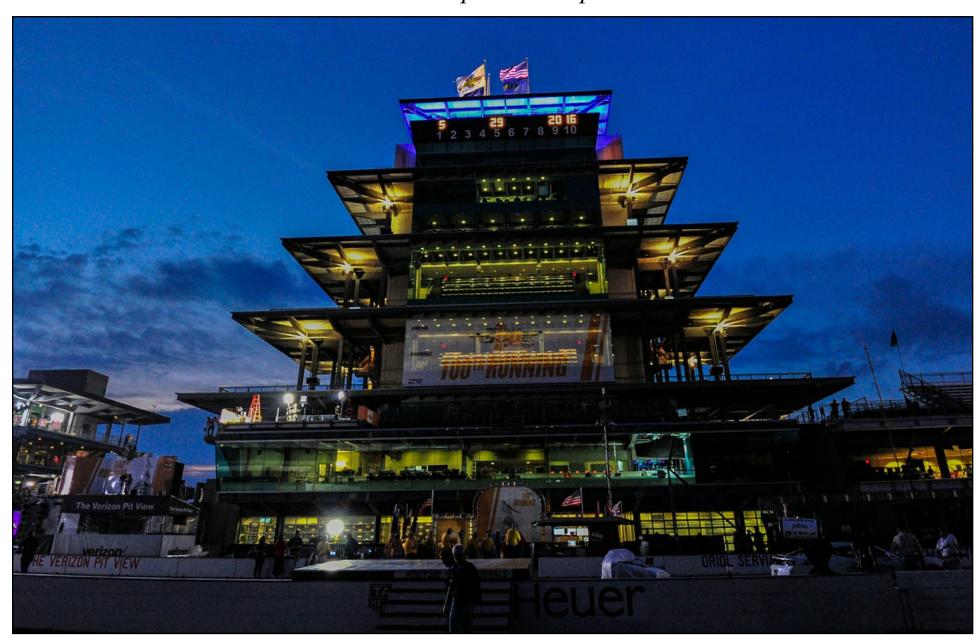
In all, there were 13 different leaders and 54 lead changes, the second-most ever in 500 history. Rossi turned

And finally, there was the crowd. Over 350,000 people packed the Speedway, which was already crowded by 6:15 a.m. Race fans had been warned to get to the Speedway early to avoid any traffic hassles, and everyone took that advice, for the most part.

The race festivities kept fans occupied during the morn-Tony Kanaan, the 2013 winner, finished in fourth ing, and there was plenty to do. The Snake Pit had concerts rocking throughout the day, even well into the race. The rand helping the American cause by finishing fifth and Parade of Bands performed for the crowd, and many forsixth respectively. Hinchcliffe, who made a triumphant mer Indy 500 winners took laps in historic race cars, including the three four-time champions, Rick Mears, Al Unser and A.J. Foyt, still as active as ever at age 81.

The Indianapolis Children's Choir performed "God sier Florence Henderson gave the "Drivers to your cars!" announcement. Former Hootie and the Blowfish front man turned country music star Darius Rucker performed a great That all changed for Hunter-Reay on Lap 117. While rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the Children's Choir returned to back up "The Voice" winner and Indy native Josh Kaufman for "Back Home Again in Indiana."

> Oh, and there was an appearance by Lady Gaga. The fashionable pop superstar didn't sing, but led the cars on to the track in the two-seater with 1969 Indy 500 champion Mario Andretti - two icons sharing the same car and an appropriate way to begin the 100th running of the most iconic race in the world.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

The Pagoda at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway was a sight to behold at sunrise. Fans were encouraged to get to the sold-out race early, and many of them took that advice.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Over 350,000 people attended the Indianapolis 500 this year. Pictured on the track from left are Helio Castroneves, Tony Kanaan, Josef Newgarden and James Hinchcliffe.



Reporter photo by Kent Graham