

Famous First Facts

About Sports

A

AIRPLANE RACING

1001. International airplane races were at the eight-day International Air Meet, held on August 22–29, 1909, near Rheims, France. Flying a Voisin biplane, Henry Farnam won the Grand Prix de Champagne for the longest flight; he covered almost 112 miles, remaining in the air for nearly 3 hours 5 minutes, setting both distance and air-time records. Hubert Letham of France won the altitude contest, flying up to 503 feet (153 meters). The other important race was on August 28 for the Bennett Cup, offered by James Gordon Bennett, publisher of New York City's *Herald*, who also offered a Bennett Cup for an annual hot-air balloon race. The inaugural winner was Glenn Curtis, the lone competitor from the United States, in his *Golden Flyer*, edging out France's Louis Bleriot with an average speed of 47.7 miles per hour.

1002. International air race in the United States was the second Bennett Cup race, held in 1910 at Belmont Park, Long Island, New York. Claude Grahame-White of Great Britain led the international field with an average speed of 66.2 miles per hour in his Bleriot plane. The Bennett Cup races would be held four more times.

1003. Woman pilot to fly across the English Channel was Harriet Quimby of the United States, who did so in 1912. Also a magazine journalist, she would be killed later that year in a flying exhibition in Boston, Massachusetts.

1004. Schneider Cup international seaplane (hydro-aeroplane) race was held in Monaco on April 6, 1913, sponsored by the Aero Club de France. Maurice Prevost of France won what became an annual race in his Deperdussin plane.

1005. Pulitzer Trophy airplane race was held on November 27, 1920, at Mitchel Field, Long Island, New York. Corliss Moseley, an Army captain from the United States, led a field of 37 starters and 25 finishers to win with an average speed of 156.5 miles per hour in his Verville-Packard airplane. The race would be held through 1925.

1006. National Air Races were held in September 1926 at Model Farms Field, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Among 19 events, the featured race was for the Kansas City Rotary Club Trophy, won by Navy lieutenant George Cuddihy, flying a Boeing fighter, who set a speed record for his class at 180.5 miles per hour (290.4 kilometers per hour).

1007. Women's Air Derby was held on August 18, 1929. Twenty women pilots competed in the 2350-mile race from Santa Monica, California, to Cleveland, Ohio, which some derisively called the Powder Puff Derby. The winner of the heavy airplane division was Louise Thaden, who would be the first woman to win the Bendix Trophy airplane race, in 1936. Phoebe Fairgrave Omlie won the race for lighter planes.

1008. Thompson Trophy airplane race was held as part of the National Air Races in Chicago, Illinois, in 1930. The inaugural winner was Charles Holman, flying a Laird Solution plane at an average speed of 201.91 miles per hour.

1009. Bendix Trophy airplane race also called the Transcontinental Speed Classic, was held in 1931. Racing against the clock from Los Angeles, California, to Cleveland, Ohio, the first winner was Jimmy Doolittle, flying a Laird Super-Solution plane at an average speed of 223.038 miles per hour.

1010. Pilot to win both the Thompson Trophy and Bendix Trophy airplane races was Roscoe Turner. After winning the Bendix Trophy in a New York City-to-Los Angeles race in 1933, he won his first of three Thompson Trophy races in 1934, the others coming in 1938 and 1939, all in Cleveland, Ohio.

1011. Woman to fly in the Bendix Trophy airplane race was Jacqueline Cochran in 1935, when the 2043-mile race was from Burbank, California, to Cleveland, Ohio. She would win the event in 1938. During World War II, she headed the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), and in 1953 became the first woman to break the sound barrier.

1012—1028

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

AIRPLANE RACING—*continued*

1012. Woman to win the Bendix Trophy airplane race was Louise Thaden, who won the 2450-mile New York City–Los Angeles race in 1936, flying a Beechcraft plane at an average speed of 165.346 miles per hour.

1013. Pilot to win the Thompson Trophy airplane race twice, and then three times was Roscoe Turner. After winning it first in 1934, he won it again in 1938 and 1939, both times in Cleveland, Ohio, flying a Laird-Turner plane at an average speed of 283.49 miles per hour in 1938 and 282.536 in 1939.

1014. Pilot to win the Bendix Trophy–Jet Division airplane race was Colonel Leon Grey, who won the 2048-mile race from Van Nuys, California, to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1946, flying a Lockheed jet at an average speed of 494.779 miles per hour.

1015. Pilot to win the Thompson Trophy–Jet Division airplane race was Lieutenant Gus Lundquist in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1946, flying a Lockheed jet at an average speed of 515.853 miles per hour.

1016. Pilot to win the Bendix Trophy race three times in a row was Paul Mantz. After earlier wins in 1947 and 1948, he won for the third time on September 4, 1948, after a 2080-mile race from Long Beach, California, to Cleveland, Ohio, flying a North American plane at an average speed of 447.980 miles per hour.

ARCHERY

1017. Law relating to archery on record dates from the 12th century in England, where archery was deemed so important that archers who accidentally killed someone while practicing were not subject to charges of murder or manslaughter. Literary references to archery are much older, dating back to Egypt, Greece, and Rome, while bows and arrows date back to at least 20,000 BC.

1018. Oyakazu archery contest was held in Kyoto, Japan, in 1606. It would be held until 1842.

1019. Scorton Arrow Contest was held in 1673 in Yorkshire, England. It would become the oldest continuing archery tournament on record.

1020. Organization for archery as a sport was the Toxophilite Society of London, founded in England in 1781, long after archery had ceased to have military uses.

1021. Archery organization to admit women as members was the Royal British Bowmen, founded in England in 1787, as the sport became widely popular in the upper classes.

1022. Archery club in the United States was the United Bowmen of Philadelphia, founded in 1828 in Pennsylvania.

1023. National organization for archery in the United States was the National Archery Association (NAA), founded in Crawfordsville, Indiana, on January 23, 1879, believed to be the oldest continuing amateur sports organization in the country.

1024. National archery tournament in the United States was on August 12–14, 1879, in Chicago, Illinois, sponsored by the National Archery Association, founded earlier that year. Of the 69 men and 20 women participating, Will Thompson emerged as victor in the men's division, the first of his six consecutive wins, and Mrs. S. Brown in the women's division.

1025. Archery events held in the Olympic Games all for men only, were in 1900 in Paris, France. Of the six events, all on May 28 and all now discontinued, four were won by archers from France: Henri Hérouin won the *au cordon doré*–50 meters event, Eugène Mougin the *au chapelet*–50 meters, Emmanuel Foulon the *sur la perche à la herse*, and Emile Grumiaux the *sur la perche à la pyramide*. Hubert van Innis of Belgium won the other two: the *au chapelet*–33 meters and the *au cordon doré*–33 meters.

1026. Archer to win four Olympic gold medals in a single Olympic Games, and six overall was Hubert van Innis of Belgium. After winning the *au chapelet* and *au cordon doré* events, both at 33 meters, in 1900, he won four more in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium: the individual and team moving bird target competitions, each at both 33 and 50 meters, all on August 5.

1027. Archery events for women held in the Olympic Games were two types of archery competitions at varying lengths held on September 19 and 20, 1904, in St. Louis, Missouri. Lida Howell, Emma Cooke, and Jessie Pollock, all of the United States, finished in that order in both events.

1028. Team archery event held in the Olympic Games was in 1904 in St. Louis, Missouri. The competition at 60 yards was won on September 21 by the Potomac Archers of Washington, D.C.: William Thompson, Robert Williams, Louis Maxson, and Galen Spencer.

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

1029—1047

1029. International governing body for archery was the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc (FITA), founded in 1931.

1030. World championships in target archery were held in Lvov, Poland, in 1931, under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc (FITA), the just-founded governing body in the sport. Polish archers won both individual events, Michal Sawicki the men's and Janina Kurkowska the women's. Archers from France won the men's team event. The first women's team event was not held until 1933, when the Polish team won. The championships would be held annually until 1959, then biennially.

1031. Archer to win two, and then up to seven, women's individual world championships was Janina Kurkowska of Poland. After winning the inaugural event in 1931, she would win again in 1932–1934, 1936, 1939, and 1947.

1032. Archer to win two, three, and four men's individual world championships was Hans Deutgen of Sweden, who won from 1947 through 1950.

1033. World championships in archery involving FITA rounds a format established by the sport's governing body, the Fédération Internationale de Tir à l'Arc (FITA), were in 1957.

1034. World field archery championships were held in 1959, originally for bare bow only, with recurve being added in 1969 and compound in 1990, when the competitions became biennial.

1035. Men's individual archery event in the modern format held in the Olympic Games was in 1972 in Munich, West Germany. John Williams of the United States broke his own world record with a total of 2528 points on September 10.

1036. Women's individual archery event in the modern format held in the Olympic Games was in 1972 in Munich, West Germany. The winner was Doreen Wilber of the United States, who had a world record total of 2424 points on September 10.

1037. Men's team archery event held in the Olympic Games was in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea. The South Korean team of Chun In-soo, Lee Han-sup, and Park Sung-soo won the inaugural event on October 1.

1038. Archer to win two titles in women's events in a single Olympic Games was Kim Soo-nyung of South Korea in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea. On September 30, she won the women's individual title, leading a South Korean medal sweep, and then on October 1 earned another championship in the team event. She would win another team gold in 1992.

1039. Archer from the United States to win the men's individual gold medal in the Olympic Games was Justin Huish, who won on August 1, 1996, in Atlanta, Georgia. He also helped win the first United States team title the next day.

1040. Archers from the United States to win a gold medal in the team event in the Olympic Games were Justin Huish, Richard Johnson, and Rod White on August 2, 1996, in Atlanta, Georgia. Huish had taken the individual gold medal the day before.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (BEFORE 1900)

1041. Automobile race on record was held in 1878 on a route between Green Bay and Madison, Wisconsin. The winning car was an Oshkosh steamer.

1042. Automobile race on record in Europe was probably the La Vélocipède race held in Paris, France, on April 20, 1887. Covering a distance of 19.3 miles (31 kilometers), it was won by Count Jules Felix Philippe Albert de Dion de Malfiance of France, who drove a de Dion steam quadricycle.

1043. Organized automobile race in the United States was held in November 1893 on a route between Chicago and Evanston, Illinois, sponsored by Chicago's *Times Herald*.

1044. Automobile track race on record was run at the Rhode Island State Fair in 1894.

1045. Organized long-distance automobile race was held on June 11–14, 1895, on a round-trip course between Paris and Bordeaux, France, a distance of 732 miles (1178 kilometers).

1046. Woman automobile racer was Madame Laumaille (her first name is unrecorded), who drove in a two-day race between Marseilles and Nice, France, in 1898. She finished fourth and her husband sixth.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1900-1919)

1047. Woman driver to win an automobile race was Dorothy Levitt, who had her first win in 1903 in Cowes, England. Her 1906 book, *The Woman and the Car*, would help popularize driving among women.

1048—1066

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

AUTOMOBILE RACING—(1900-1919)—
continued

1048. International automobile racing organization was the Association Internationale des Automobiles Clubs Reconnus, founded in 1904. In 1946, it would become the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

1049. Grand Prix automobile race was the French Grand Prix, first held in Le Mans in 1906. It would be one of the inaugural races in the Formula One Grand Prix circuit, beginning in 1950.

1050. International and transcontinental automobile race was held in 1907. Leaving Peking (now Beijing), China, on June 10 and arriving in Paris, France, on August 10, the winner was Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy.

1051. National championship in Indy Car racing then called the American Automobile Association National Championship, was held in 1909, when the winner was George Robertson. It became the United States Auto Club National Championship in 1955 and the CART (Championship Auto Racing Teams) World Series in 1998.

1052. Paved automobile racing track was the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was built in 1909 of several million bricks, and so was nicknamed "the brickyard."

1053. Monte Carlo Rally was held in 1911, when the long-distance event centered on Monaco was won by Henri Rougier of France, driving a Turcat-Mery.

1054. Indianapolis 500 was held on May 30, 1911, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and would be held on Memorial Day weekend annually from then. The first winner was Ray Harroun, driving a Marmon Wasp, with an average speed of 74.590 miles per hour.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1920-1929)

1055. Italian Grand Prix automobile race was held in Brescia in 1921, thereafter being run at Monza. It would be one of the initial races in the Formula One Grand Prix circuit, starting in 1950.

1056. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 twice was Tommy Milton. Racing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana, he won it first in 1921 and then again in 1923, when he averaged 90.950 miles per hour in his H. C. S. Special.

1057. Le Mans 24-hours sports car race was held on May 26–27, 1923, at Sarthe, France, following a circuit of 10.73 miles (17.26 kilometers). The winners were André Lagache and René Leonard of France, driving a Chenard & Walcker automobile.

1058. Automobile race at the Circuit Pescara in Italy was in 1924. It would become a popular test track for new models, and would be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit in 1957.

1059. Pescara Grand Prix automobile race was held in Italy in 1924. It would become part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit in 1957.

1060. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 100 miles per hour was Peter DePaolo in 1925, who averaged 101.130 in his Duesenberg Special.

1061. Belgian Grand Prix automobile race was held in 1925. It would become one of the original races in the Formula One Grand Prix, starting in 1950.

1062. British Grand Prix automobile race called the RAC Grand Prix until 1948, was held at Brooklands, near Weybridge, Surrey, England, in 1926. It would be one of the inaugural races on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit in 1950.

1063. German Grand Prix automobile race was held in Avus in 1926. It would become part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit in 1951.

1064. Monaco Grand Prix automobile race was held in Monte Carlo in 1929 and was won by a driver named Williams (first name unknown) in a Bugatti. It would be one of the first races included in the Formula One Grand Prix circuit, starting in 1950.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1930-1949)

1065. Swiss Grand Prix automobile race was held in 1934 at Bremgarten, in Berne. It would be one of the races in the first Formula One Grand Prix circuit in 1950.

1066. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 110 miles per hour was Wilbur Shaw in 1937, when he averaged 113.580 mph in his Shaw-Gilmore Special, for the first of his three Indy wins.

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

1067—1084

1067. Officially timed drag races were held in California in 1937, under the auspices of the Southern California Timing Association (SCTA). These drag races were often held on dry lake beds in desert country or on airstrips, as an alternative to illegal drag racing on streets and highways.

1068. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 three times, and to win it twice in a row was Wilbur Shaw. Racing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana, he won it in 1937 and 1939 before notching his third win in 1940, when he averaged 114.277 miles per hour in his Boyle Special.

1069. Formula Two automobile racing circuit was established in 1947 in Europe, for younger drivers. It would be replaced in 1985 by the European Formula 3000 Championship.

1070. Automobile race sponsored by the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) was held in Daytona Beach, Florida, on February 15, 1948. The winner was Red Byron of the United States, driving a Ford Modified.

1071. National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) was established in Daytona Beach, Florida, on February 15, 1948, after a preliminary organizational meeting in December 1947, sparked by Bill France, Sr.

1072. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 120 miles per hour was Bill Holland, who averaged 121.327 mph in his Blue Crown Spark Plug Special in 1949.

1073. National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup (Grand National) Series was in 1949. The first winner of an official Winston Cup event was Jim Roper at Charlotte, North Carolina, and the season's first champion was Red Byron.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1950-1959)

1074. Governing body for drag racing was the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), founded in 1950 in the United States, where the sport had been developed in the 1930s.

1075. Southern 500 automobile race was held at Darlington, South Carolina, in 1950, the first asphalt superspeedway in the United States. The inaugural winner was Johnny Mantz, who averaged 76.260 miles per hour in his Plymouth.

1076. World championship for automobile racers was established in 1950, by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), with drivers gaining points toward the championship from a series of Formula One Grand Prix races held around the world. The first world champion was Nino (Giuseppe) Farina of Italy, who that year won the British, Italian, and Swiss Grand Prix races.

1077. British Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on May 13, 1950, at Silverstone, near Brackley, England. The inaugural winner was Nino (Giuseppe) Farina of Italy, driving an Alfa Romeo.

1078. Monaco Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on May 21, 1950, at Monte Carlo. The winner was Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina, driving an Alfa Romeo.

1079. Indianapolis 500 automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was on May 30, 1950, in the circuit's inaugural year. The winner was Johnnie Parsons of the United States, driving a Kurtis Kraft that carried him to victory despite having a cracked block.

1080. Swiss Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on June 4, 1950, at Bremgarten, in Berne. Nino (Giuseppe) Farina of Italy won, driving an Alfa Romeo.

1081. Belgian Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on June 18, 1950, in Spa-Francorchamps. The winner was Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina, driving an Alfa Romeo.

1082. French Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on July 2, 1950, at Rheims. The first winner was Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina, driving an Alfa Romeo. He would win again in 1951 (sharing the title with Luigi Fagioli of Italy), 1954, and 1957.

1083. Italian Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on September 3, 1950, at Monza. The winner was Nino (Giuseppe) Farina of Italy, driving an Alfa Romeo.

1084. German Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on July 29, 1951, in Nürburgring. The first winner was Alberto Ascari of Italy, driving a Ferrari; he would win again in 1952.

1085—1101

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

AUTOMOBILE RACING—(1950-1959)—
continued

1085. Spanish Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on October 28, 1951, in Pedralbes. The winner was Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina, driving an Alfa Romeo, en route to his first world championship.

1086. Automobile racer to be named Rookie of the Year in the Indianapolis 500 was Art Cross in 1952.

1087. Automobile racer to have six wins in a single season on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Alberto Ascari of Italy in 1952, when he won the first of two consecutive world championships.

1088. Dutch Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on August 17, 1952, in Zandvoort. The inaugural winner was Alberto Ascari of Italy, driving a Ferrari; he would win again in 1953.

1089. Automobile racer to have nine consecutive wins over two seasons on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Alberto Ascari of Italy in 1952 and 1953. He was world champion both years, after being runner-up in 1951.

1090. Automobile racer to win more than 10 races in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series was Herb Thomas in 1953, when he won 11 races driving his Hudson.

1091. Argentine Grand Prix automobile race was held on January 18, 1953, as part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit. The inaugural winner was Alberto Ascari of Italy, driving a Ferrari. The Buenos Aires Grand Prix had been held at the site from 1947.

1092. Automobile racer to be world champion on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit two, three, four, and five times; the first to win the title three and four times consecutively; and the first from Argentina to be world champion was Juan Manuel Fangio. Runner-up for the first world championship in 1950, he won the title in 1951 and then again four times in a row, 1954–1957.

1093. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 130 miles per hour was Bill Vukovich of the United States in 1954, when he averaged 130.840 mph in his second consecutive win, driving a Kurtis Kraft–Offenhauser.

1094. Automobile racer to win two consecutive championships on the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup circuit was Buck Baker of the United States, who won in 1956 and 1957.

1095. Automobile racer to win two, three, and four Argentine Grand Prix races was Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina, who won four times in a row, 1954–1957, in 1956 having shared the drive with Luigi Musso.

1096. Automobile racer to have more than 20 wins on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina, with 24 wins between 1950 and 1958. During that period, he was five times world champion (1951 and 1954–1957) and twice runner-up (1950 and 1953).

1097. Woman automobile racer to compete in a Grand Prix race eligible for world-championship points was Maria Teresa de Filippis of Italy. Driving a Maserati in the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps on June 15, 1958, she placed tenth.

1098. Daytona 500 automobile race was held in 1959 in Daytona Beach, Florida. After a photo finish between Lee Petty and Johnny Beauchamp, officials took three days of examination before declaring Petty the winner, with an average speed of 135.520 miles per hour in his Oldsmobile. The Daytona 500 would become the traditional opening race of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) season.

1099. United States Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was held on December 12, 1959, at Sebring, Florida. Driving a Cooper, Bruce McLaren of New Zealand won the event. Other United States Grand Prix races would be established later.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1960-1969)

1100. Automobile racer to have five consecutive wins in a single season on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Jack Brabham of Australia in 1960, when he won the second of his three world championships, the others being in 1959 and 1966.

1101. World 600 automobile race was held in 1960 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Joe Lee Johnson won with an average speed of 107.752 miles per hour in his Chevrolet, in what became one of the top National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) races.

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

1102—1118

- 1102. National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) race to be televised** was the 1961 Firecracker 400 in Daytona Beach, Florida, won by David Pearson driving a Pontiac, which was shown on the ABC television network.
- 1103. 24 Hours of Daytona automobile race** was held in 1962, in Daytona Beach, Florida. The inaugural winner was Dan Gurney, who averaged 104.101 miles per hour in his Lotus.
- 1104. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 140 miles per hour** was Rodger Ward in 1962, when he averaged 140.293 mph in his Leader Card Roadster, for his second Indy win.
- 1105. Automobile racer to have seven wins in a single season on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit** was Jim Clark of Scotland in 1963, when he won the first of his two world championships, the other being in 1965. He would be killed in a racing accident in 1968.
- 1106. Mexican Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit** was held on October 27, 1963, at the Hermanos Rodriguez circuit near Mexico City. Jim Clark of Scotland won the event, driving a Lotus. The race had been held for the first time in 1962.
- 1107. Austrian Grand Prix automobile race to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit** was held on August 23, 1964, at the Zeltweg circuit. Driving a Ferrari, Lorenzo Bandini of Italy won the inaugural event.
- 1108. Drag racer to reach a speed of over 200, and then 250, miles per hour** was Don Garlits. He hit 201.34 on August 1, 1964, in Great Meadows, New Jersey, and 250.69 on October 11, 1975, in Ontario, Canada. By 1986 he would top 270 miles per hour.
- 1109. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of over 150 miles per hour** was Jim Clark of Scotland, who averaged 150.686 when he won with a Lotus-Ford on Memorial Day weekend in 1965.
- 1110. Automobile racer to earn more than \$100,000 in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series** was Richard Petty of the United States, who won \$130,275 for 27 wins in 1967.
- 1111. Automobile racer to win more than 20 races in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series** was Richard Petty of the United States in 1967, when he won an astonishing 27 races. He would have 21 wins in 1971, but no one else in the century would top 20 wins in a season.
- 1112. Canadian Grand Prix automobile race** part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit, was held on August 27, 1967, at Mosport, near Bowmanville, Ontario. The inaugural winner was Jack Brabham of Australia, driving a Brabham car of his own construction.
- 1113. Automobile racer to have 25 wins on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit** was Jim Clark of Scotland, who had 25 wins between 1960 and 1968, when he died in a racing accident.
- 1114. Automobile racer to win the Winston \$1 million bonus for winning three of the top four National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) races in a single season** was LeeRoy Yarbrough of the United States in 1969, when he won the Daytona 500 at Daytona Beach, Florida; the World 600 at Charlotte, North Carolina; and the Southern 500 at Darlington, South Carolina.
- 1115. Talladega 500 automobile race** was held in 1969 in Talladega, Alabama. The inaugural race was won by Richard Brickhouse, who averaged 153.778 miles per hour in his Dodge.
- AUTOMOBILE RACING (1970-1979)**
- 1116. Automobile racer to win three, four, five, six, and seven championships on the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup circuit** was Richard Petty of the United States. Known as "the King," he won the titles in 1964, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, and 1979, ending his career in 1992 with 200 wins (95 more than his closest challenger) on the NASCAR circuit.
- 1117. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 160 miles per hour** was Mark Donohue of the United States in 1972, when he averaged 162.962 mph driving a McLaren-Offenhauser. He had been Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year in 1969.
- 1118. Automobile racer to be named *Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year*** was Jackie Stewart of Great Britain in 1973, the year he won six Formula One Grand Prix races and his second world championship.

1119—1135

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

AUTOMOBILE RACING—(1970-1979)—
continued

1119. Woman automobile racer to win world-championship points in a Grand Prix race was Lelia Lombardi of Italy in the Spanish Grand Prix at Barcelona in 1975. She was in sixth place when the race was halted because of an accident.

1120. Woman automobile racer to win a national tournament of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) was Shirley Muldowney of the United States, who won the spring nationals in 1976 and again in 1977, when she also set a women's speed record of 252.10 miles per hour on January 15, which she later upped even more.

1121. Woman automobile racer to compete in a major stock car race was Janet Guthrie of the United States in May 1976, when she placed 15th in the World 600 at Charlotte, North Carolina. Earlier that month she had been the first woman to qualify for the Indianapolis 500, but had had to withdraw because of mechanical problems with her car.

1122. Japanese Grand Prix automobile race part of the Formula One Grand Prix circuit, was held on October 24, 1976, at Mount Fuji. It was won by Mario Andretti of the United States, driving a Lotus 77.

1123. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 four times was A. J. Foyt. Racing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana, he had his first wins in 1961, 1964, and 1967, and then came back a decade later to win again in 1977, when he averaged 161.331 miles per hour in his Gilmore Racing Team car.

1124. Woman automobile racer to race in the Indianapolis 500 was Janet Guthrie of the United States in May 1977, though she had to withdraw after nine laps due to mechanical problems with her car. She had been the first woman to qualify for the race in 1976, but had been unable to race because of car troubles. She would place ninth in 1978.

1125. World rally championship for drivers was established in 1977, when the inaugural winner was Sandro Munari of Italy. This became the World Drivers' Championship from 1979.

1126. Automobile racer to earn more than \$500,000 in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series was Cale Yarborough, who earned \$530,751 with 10 wins in 1978, in his third straight Winston Cup championship.

1127. Automobile racer to win two Austrian Grand Prix races was Alan Jones of Australia, who won in 1977 at Zeltweg and then again in 1979 at Österreichring.

1128. National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) automobile race of 500 miles to be televised live from start to finish was the 1979 Daytona 500, from Daytona Beach, Florida, won by Richard Petty, who averaged 143.977 miles per hour in his Oldsmobile.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1980-1989)

1129. Automobile racer to win more than \$1 million in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series was Darrell Waltrip in 1985, when he earned \$1,318,735 with three wins.

1130. Automobile racer to win the Brazilian Grand Prix three, four, five, and six times was Alain Prost of France. His wins were in 1982, 1984, 1985, 1987, and 1988 in Rio de Janeiro, and in 1990 in São Paulo.

1131. European Formula 3000 automobile racing circuit was established in 1985, replacing some earlier circuits for younger drivers. Christian Danner of West Germany was the first winner on the circuit.

1132. Australian Grand Prix automobile race was held on November 3, 1985, in Adelaide, Australia, where the inaugural winner was Keke Rosberg of Finland, driving a Williams car.

1133. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 170 miles per hour was Bobby Rahal of the United States in 1986, when he averaged 170.722 mph in his March-Cosworth.

1134. Automobile racer to win three Austrian Grand Prix races was Alain Prost of France. His three wins all came at Österreichring, in Austria, in 1983, 1985, and 1986.

1135. Automobile racer to win more than \$2 million, and then \$3 million, in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series was Dale Earnhardt. In 1987, when he won the third of his seven Winston Cup titles, he earned \$2,099,243 in 11 wins on the circuit. In 1990, he earned \$3,083,056 with nine wins and his fourth title.

FAMOUS FIRST FACTS ABOUT SPORTS

1136—1154

1136. Automobile racer to have eight wins in a single season on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Ayrton Senna of Brazil in 1988, when he won the first of his three world championships, the others being in 1990 and 1991. He would die in a car crash in 1994.

1137. Automobile racer to win two Australian Grand Prix races was Alain Prost of France. After winning in 1986, he returned to win again on November 13, 1988, both times driving a McLaren car at Adelaide.

AUTOMOBILE RACING (1990-1999)

1138. Drag racer to reach a speed over 290 miles per hour was Connie Kalitta, who hit 291.54 on February 11, 1989, in Pomona, California. She had broken the 180 mph barrier in 1962.

1139. Automobile racer to win the Indianapolis 500 with an average speed of more than 180 miles per hour was Arie Luyendyk of the Netherlands in 1990, when he averaged 185.981 in his Lola-Chevrolet.

1140. Automobile racer to win five Belgian Grand Prix races was Ayrton Senna of Brazil. After winning first in 1985, he came back to win four times in a row, 1988–1991, all at Spa-Francorchamps.

1141. Automobile racer to have nine wins in a single season on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Nigel Mansell of Great Britain in 1992, including five in a row. He would win only once more, in 1994, before retiring in 1995.

1142. Drag racer to reach a speed over 300 miles per hour was Kenny Bernstein, who notched 301.70 on March 20, 1992, in a qualifying round of a race at Gainesville, Florida.

1143. Automobile racer to have more than 50 wins on the Formula One Grand Prix circuit was Alain Prost of France, who won 51 times between 1980 and 1993, en route to four world championships: 1985, 1986, 1989, and 1993.

1144. Automobile racer to earn more than \$4 million in a single season in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup series was Jeff Gordon of the United States in 1995, in his first championship season, when he won \$4,347,343 with seven wins.

1145. Drag racer to reach a speed over 320 miles per hour was Joe Amato. He hit 323.50 on May 17, 1998, in Englishtown, New Jersey. He had earlier broken the 280-mile barrier in 1987 and the 310 in March 1998.

AWARDS, GENERAL

1146. Silver trophy known to be awarded at a sporting event in North America was a silver bowl presented at a horse race in Hempstead (then Hansted Plains), Long Island, in the colony of New York, in 1668. The trophy was donated by British governor Richard Nicolls, who had established a race track there a few years earlier. The winner is unclear, but may have been horse owner Sylvester Salisbury, a British army captain.

1147. Athlete to be named an All-American in both basketball and football was Bennie Oosterbaan. Playing for the University of Michigan, he was named for football in 1925 and 1927, and for basketball in 1927 and 1928.

1148. Sullivan Award the James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy honoring amateur athletes of the United States, was given in 1930. It was named after the longtime president of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), which gives the award. The inaugural winner was golfer Bobby Jones, who that year won the first (and so far only) grand slam in golf.

1149. Woman to win the Sullivan Award was swimmer Ann Curtis in 1944. Only 18, she had already won eight U.S. national titles, that year winning every women's freestyle event at the National Outdoor Swimming Championships and setting two world records.

1150. African-American athlete to win the Sullivan Award was Malvin G. Whitfield in 1954. A middle-distance runner, Whitfield had been gold medalist at the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games.

1151. Athlete to be named *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year was runner Roger Bannister of Great Britain in 1954, the year he broke the four-minute barrier in the mile.

1152. African-American athlete to be named *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year was decathlon champion Rafer Johnson of the United States in 1958.

1153. African-American woman to win the Sullivan Award was Wilma Rudolph in 1961. At the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Italy, she had won three gold medals, in the 100- and 200-meter events and the 4 x 400-meter relay.

1154. Sports commissioner to be named *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year was Pete Rozelle of the United States, commissioner of the National Football League, in 1963.

AWARDS, GENERAL—*continued*

1155. Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year award to be given to a woman and to be shared was in 1972. Tennis star Billie Jean King shared the award with John Wooden, basketball coach at the University of California at Los Angeles.

1156. Team to be named Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year was the U.S. Olympic ice hockey team in 1980, which had been the upset winner over the Soviet team in the Olympic Games that year.

1157. Athlete to win the Jesse Owens International Award presented to international athletes in Olympic sports, was Olympic and world champion speed skater Eric Heiden of the United States in 1981.

1158. Woman to win the Jesse Owens International Award was champion long-distance runner Mary Decker Slaney of the United States in 1983.

1159. African-American to win the Jesse Owens International Award was hurdler Edwin Moses of the United States in 1984, in the midst of a winning streak of more than 100 races that would stretch from 1977 to 1987.

1160. African-American woman to win the Jesse Owens International Award was champion sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner of the United States in 1989.

1161. Athlete of Asian or Native American descent to be named Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year was Tiger (Eldrick) Woods of the United States in 1996, the year that he made his remarkable debut as a professional golfer. Woods is of African-American, Native-American, and Chinese-Thai descent.

1162. Athlete to win two Jesse Owens International Awards was runner Michael Johnson of the United States, who won in 1995 and again in 1996, when he won both the men's 200- and 400-meter titles in the Olympic Games.

1163. Women's team to be named Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year was the United States soccer team whose 20 members won the women's soccer world cup on July 10, 1999.

B**BADMINTON**

1164. Standardized rules for badminton were written in the 1870s in India, where British army officers played the game. It was derived from the children's game battledore shuttlecock, which had neither nets nor boundaries, but similar games were played perhaps 2000 years ago in China. It was named for Badminton House, the home of the Beaufort family, in Gloucestershire, England, where the game was popular in the 19th century.

1165. National governing body for badminton was the Badminton Association founded in 1893 in England.

1166. All-England Championships in badminton were held in 1899, for doubles only. D. Oakes and Stewart Massey won the men's title, Meriel Lucas and Miss Graeme (first name unknown) the women's, and D. Oakes and Miss St. John (first name unknown) the mixed doubles. The inaugural winners were all from England, but this would become the main international badminton tournament until the foundation of the world championships.

1167. All-England Championships in badminton to include individual competitions were in 1900. Sydney Smith won the inaugural men's individual title and Ethel Thomson (later Larcombe) the women's. Both were noted tennis players who took titles at Wimbledon.

1168. International governing body for badminton was the International Badminton Federation (IBF), founded in 1934, and headquartered in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

1169. World team Thomas Cup badminton championships for men involving both singles and doubles play, were held in 1949. The team from Malaya won the event and received the Thomas Cup, donated by England's Sir George Thomas. At first held triennially, the competition would become biennial from 1982.

1170. World team Uber Cup badminton championships for women modeled after the men's competition, were held in 1957. The United States team won the inaugural event and the Uber Cup, donated by Betty Uber, a longtime badminton player from England. Initially held triennially, it became biennial from 1984.