



# **JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK**

## **Monday - 5/28/2007**

### **HOW DID THE "INDIANAPOLIS 500" ORIGINATE?**

**The 91<sup>st</sup> running of the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race (Indy 500) is being held over the Memorial Day weekend at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Speedway, Indiana. It is one of the oldest and richest motor-sport events in existence - it has the largest audience (live/radio/television) of any single-day sporting event worldwide.**

**Origin: The Indianapolis Motor Speedway complex was built in 1909 and was known as "The Yard of Bricks," because the track's original surface of crushed rock and tar was abandoned after only a few days of use in August and was replaced during that fall by 3.2 million street-paving bricks, trucked in from western Indiana.**

**May 30, 1911 – 80,000 people paid \$1 each to watch the first race, known as the International 500-Mile Sweepstakes Race. When 40 cars qualified for the race, Carl G. Fisher, track founder, replaced the typical standing start with the innovative practice of using a pace car for one lap. Ray Harroun won the race using a radical new approach – a side-view mirror and alone, no riding mechanic.**

**1936 – The new \$10,000 sterling silver Borg-Warner Trophy proclaims the event as the "Indianapolis 500-Mile Race."**

**Conventional Wisdom: Indy 500 = The Greatest Spectacle in Racing**

**M of Z: Indy 500 = A hot, yet heavenly, horsepower haven for fans**