

DE PALMA SETS NEW TRACK RECORD 5-MILES ONLY TO SEE OLDFIELD

Ralph Drives Fiat Around Course in 4:41, Beating Mrs. Cuneo's Mark, But Barney Comes Along With a New Competition Five-Mile Record of 4:33 4-5.

The first day's automobile racing at the Fair Grounds Saturday was brought to a sensational close Saturday afternoon when Barney Oldfield wound up the day's racing by driving five miles in competition in 4:33 4-5, breaking the world's competition mark of 4:35, made by himself at Los Angeles, September 26.

Ralph De Palma carried off the honors in the five-mile open race, beating Ben Kirscher in the splendid time of 4:41. This was the second best performance of the afternoon, setting a new track record. The old track record was 5:05, set by Mrs. Cuneo.

Only one accident happened to mar the afternoon's pastime, and that was not of a serious nature. Leigh Lynch, driving the fast Jackson car, broke a steering knuckle in the last quarter turn of the fourteenth mile in the twenty-five mile sweepstake event. The right front wheel of his car crashed beneath the weight of the flying machine and curled it into the outer fence, but no damage resulted to either Lynch or his mechanic, as the car stopped before it turned over.

The winner of the race in which Lynch met with his mishap was Barney Oldfield, who piloted his big sixty horse power Knox to victory over a fast field. The Knox made the best time of the day in stock cars, covering the twenty-five miles in 26 minutes and 46 seconds.

ABOUT 5000 SEE RACES.

The crowd that attended the races numbering about 5000, was probably the most enthusiastic of any that has ever attended a local auto meet, and the cars swept by with a roar and a hiss, the hundreds of fans that sat or stood in the dense mass of automobiles that were parked along the fence of the infield, and also in the enclosure at the entrance side of the grand stand, gave vent to cheers which were intermingled with the sounding of sirens and the dull roar of the tremendous applause from the packed grand stand.

Ralph DePalma and Barney Oldfield were the two big favorites with the crowd, and everytime they flashed past they were encouraged with cheers. When Oldfield had trouble with his transmission in the second race many hundreds of the crowd were under the impression that he had crashed through the fence and there was general excitement until it was learned the trouble was slight, and that Barney was unhurt.

The two Jackson cars in the first race put up the prettiest speed battle of the day, and round after round they fought it out, many times being driven to a dead heat, finally Leigh Lynch in Jackson No. 5 shot ahead, and E. J. Delaney, who was at the wheel of No. 4, dropped behind. Lynch finally won the race with W. J. Fritsch in a Packard, coming in for second place.

WHEEL MARVELS ARRANGE MATCH.

Much interest was aroused about the mysterious Fiat, that DePalma was to drive, and when she came out of the paddock to warm up, the dark horse was the center of attraction. DePalma did not let his car out to its full extent, but it was pretty generally agreed that it could give the fastest thing on wheels the closest run on record. An air of depression took hold of the enthusiastic throng when it was rumored that Oldfield's big Benz would not be in the running for the rest of the day after his break down, but these fears were turned to applause when the popular pilot was seen coming out to meet Ben Kirscher. It was at once observed that Barney would not try for any close finishes, but went right at it to break a record. It was in this event which was the last on the program that DePalma declined to race with Barney, and a match was made for Sunday afternoon.

JACKSON CAR PROTESTED.

David Bessuden, the Cincinnati sportsman, who entered his Buick car and finished second in the race, entered a protest against Bragg's car and claiming that it was a racing car, and did not comply with the stock car requirements in a race of this description.

In the ten mile handicap Ralph DePalma, driving his Fiat racing car from scratch, beat Barney Oldfield, after a sensational race. King Barney, however, piloted his 60 horse power car in this race, as his big Benz was being repaired at this time. A bad piece of handicapping was done in this race, but it was due largely to the deceptive showing that the cars had made in former events.

100 MEN ARE RUSHING WORK ON THE BIG MOTOR DROME

Base Construction to Be Completed This Week; More Lumber Due Soon

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Effort Being Made to Match Oldfield and De Palma in

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George Robertson will have his enter the five-mile match race, will be for a stake of \$1000.

This event will be the star feature attraction that will draw many hundreds at least three speed kings entered pushed to the very limit.

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Two disappointments detracted from the afternoon's programme, which, though, had so many good features that the few short-comings were overlooked. In the morning while working out his big 100 horse power Simplex, George Robertson broke the crank shaft of his car and was unable to start in any of the events. He started his mechanics to work immediately and kept them busy all night in an endeavor to patch up his disabled machine. He will positively start this afternoon in one or more of the big events.

BARNEY'S BENZ BREAKS DOWN.

Barney Oldfield met with a severe setback in the five mile open race, which looked a sure victory for him from the way he started out. He had traveled around the third turn of the track and was leading DePalma by 10 lengths, when he jammed the transmission of his big 120 horse power Benz, putting it out of commission. He was thus forced to retire from the race.

The Jackson car carried off the honors in the first event of the afternoon, when it finished several lengths ahead of all competitors in the twenty mile race for stock chassis cars of 301 to 450 cubic inches piston displacement. In the remarkable time of 21:44, C. S. Bragg, the young millionaire of New York, carried off the handsome Mabel McCane amateur championship trophy, with his big 80 horse power Fiat Grand Prix

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Base Construction to Be Completed This Week; More Lumber Due Soon

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Opening Event

With more than 100 men working every day, the big automobile saucer track near Playa del Rey is fast taking shape and within the next seven days much of the base construction will have been completed.

Already sheds are being built for the housing of the fifty teams which are on the work and a regular military camp will soon be established to take care of Jack Prince and his small army of workmen.

More than a million feet of lumber is on the ground as well as a hundred tons of spikes and nails. Each piece of lumber is sawed according to plans and all the work necessary at this end is to spike it together. Three more shiploads, each carrying something like 350,000 feet are en route to Port Los Angeles. They were expected to dock early last week, but storms in the north have held them up. The steamer Tamalpais is bar bound in the northern harbor with 350,000 feet of material on board.

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Match Oldfield and DePalma

Arrangements for the opening meet April 8 are fast taking form and in addition the management hopes to arrange a match race between Barney Oldfield and his new 200 horse power Benz and Ralph DePalma who is now under the guidance of E. A. C. Arnold. The fact that DePalma has been placed on the big Fiat belonging to Mr. Arnold comes as a surprise here, but a telegram received yesterday by Mr. Moskovics, the manager of the new motordrome says that Le Strang has given up the big car and DePalma, whose injuries last fall were thought to be of such a serious nature as to put him out of running has been placed on the car.

Just what car Strang will drive in the future is not known, but considering the fact that he is one of the world's greatest racing drivers, he doubtless has planned well laid for some new record breaking stunt.

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OLDFIELD AND DE PALMA PROMISE DEMOLITION OF RECORDS IN MATCH RACE

In declining to race Barney Oldfield in the five-mile competition event Saturday, Ralph DePalma announced that he would be more than willing to meet Barney and his big Benz to-day and promised some of the most sensational driving that has ever been witnessed in any part of the country. Although DePalma's Fiat is not especially built for racing it is a well known fact that with its tremendous horsepower it can give Barney Oldfield or any other pilot in this country the hardest race for the money that it could be possible to see.

George Robertson will have his Simplex ready for this afternoon, and will enter the five-mile match race, the fourth crack racer to enter. This race will be for a stake of \$1000.

This event will be the star feature of to-day's racing, and will be the attraction that will draw many hundreds to the track side, especially as there are at least three speed kings entered with cars that have never been really pushed to the very limit.

Making a flying start Oldfield forced his big Benz car to the front from the drop of the flag, and although Kirscher in his little Darracq threw his machine wide open and took big chances at cutting the corners, he was unable to overhaul Oldfield. As the laps were reeled off, Barney was still in the lead and gaining at every mile, while the "Dutchman" hung doggedly. The track was getting rather dry, and the pair of racing machines always came down the stretch in a cloud of dust, passing the stand with a roar to be swallowed up in another cloud at the curves and reappear, as if with double speed, on the far side of the track. When Barney shot by Starter Wagner at the finish he was cheered wildly, and more cheering followed when it was announced that he had made the wonderful time of 4:33 4-5 for the five miles on a circular track.

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PROGRAM FOR TODAY

Five mile, free for all.
Ten mile, free for all.
Five mile, handicap.
Twenty-five mile race, open.

THE DRIVERS

Ray Harroun, Indianapolis.
Joe Matson, Detroit.
William Endecott, Indianapolis.
Bruno Selbel, Los Angeles.
Morris O'Donnell, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
Al Livingston, Los Angeles.
Frank Free, San Francisco.
First race at 2:30.

With star drivers from all parts of the country the race meet which opens at Ascot Park this afternoon will be very much of a national affair. With three California drivers, one driving a local car and three Eastern stars, the struggle for honors will be a bitter one.

The cars were given their final tests yesterday afternoon and the many miles reeled off under the minute mark promises well for the contests this afternoon. The first event today will be called at 2:30 and there will be special street car service on all lines going to the park.

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Twenty mile for s
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Ten mile Handicap
Won by Ralph De I
Time—9:42.

New Orleans Swee
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Five mile match
Barney Oldfield. Time

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PREDICTS 150 MI AN HOUR

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Los Angeles will be well represented and the many races will be no walkaway for the Eastern drivers. Barney Oldfield was given a surprise when he came and found cars which could make the circuit under a minute with men nerry enough to drive the cars, and Harroun, Matson and Endecott, while they are the class of the meet, they will have to work to win the cash prizes and the cups.

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CHAS FIAT.

PREDICTS 150 MILES AN HOUR IN AUTO

DAYTONA, Fla., March 5.—One hundred and fifty miles an hour is the speed which will be attained by the winner of one mile world's straightaway championship on the Daytona beach during the 1910 speed carnival, to be held March 22, 23 and 24, according to a startling prediction made by Hemmery, the great French driver.

In a letter to Barney Oldfield, the noted automobilist, who is the new owner of the 200-horsepower Benz, with which Hemmery drove a mile over the Brooklands track in England at the rate of 128 miles an hour, the intrepid Frenchman tells Oldfield that 150 miles an hour speed can be made if his instructions as to gearing and adjusting the carburetor are followed.

Hemmery knows the Daytona beach well and the big Benz was built for him to eclipse the record of Nazzarro, the Italian who had previously attained a speed of 121 miles an hour on Brooklands.

Hemmery cautioned Oldfield to work out on the beach with the car for at least two weeks and to have wind shields for his head and body before he attempted to open the monster to its limit. Oldfield will arrive in Florida on March 1, ready for early practice.

Following are the events which will constitute the racing program:

One mile for world's straightaway championship against time.
Two miles a minute speed king race.
Five miles free for all.
Twenty miles free for all.
Fifty miles stock chassis, 160 to 239 cubic inches.
One hundred miles stock chassis 231 to 450 cubic inches.
One hundred miles stock chassis, 451 to 600 cubic inches.
Ten miles southern championship.
Ten miles Florida championship.
Twenty miles handicap, free for all.
Twenty miles handicap, stock chassis, all classes.

OLDFIELD TO RACE FIAT

Matched for Three Heats on Daytona
Beach March 15

The biggest automobile speed event of the year is now on. According to advices received last night, Barney Oldfield in his new Benz was yesterday matched with Ralph De Palma in the big Fiat with which Louis Strang made all his records at Atlanta for a three-heat race of one, two and five miles at Daytona for March 15. The report also states that Oldfield has wagered \$5000 against \$3000 put up by the Fiat Company.