

# AUTOISTS SET NEW MARKS DESPITE COLD

Aitken Drives Remarkable Exhibition in Twenty-Mile Event; Others Do Well.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM CHANGED

Regular Events Cancelled and Short Trials with Free Gate Substituted  
—Cold Mars Sport.

Racing against time in the coldest December weather that Indiana has known in many years, drivers at the Indianapolis motor speedway yesterday swept aside records for distance in a manner that marks the rededication of the great Hoosier course as the most remarkable event in the annals of motor history. Such adverse conditions were never before encountered in any similar event, yet these were overcome. Daring drivers, their hands benumbed almost beyond the point of feeling, fairly clung to their steering wheels as the grim greyhounds of wood and steel swept over the smooth brick course at a speed greater than that attained by the fastest railroad train. Several records were broken.

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No. 1, 61 to 60 and placement, a title of Aitken and Kirtland record for race in which victory was 61 to 60. Kirtland, who had 61 to 60, drove a mile in 47. Aitken, in a National drive, a mile in 47 and for the race.

### Governor Key

One of the features of the afternoon's program was a ceremony in which took the prizes presented gold-plated by presented in place of exactly opposite the error Marshall made a few approval race drivers.

New records were created in the face of weather that placed the lives of the drivers in jeopardy. The extreme cold also seriously affected the mechanism of the cars, making it impossible for them to show the highest speed of which they are capable. Frozen radiators for the cars and frozen hands for the drivers were common. These were the conditions that brought the speedway officials to a realization that a further continuation of the trials would be impracticable and, following a conference, Carl C. Fisher, president of the speedway company, announced that the events scheduled for today would be canceled.

### Short Distance Trials Today.

While all events on the regular program were declared off, Walter Christie, in his Christie racer, Louis Strang, in his 30-horse-power Fiat, and Johnny Aitken, in his National, were to appear on the course today in attempts to establish new records for short distances. Strang froze his face in his final attempt at the mile record yesterday and was anxious to make another trial today under more favorable conditions. In the last event on the program he drove his Fiat a mile in :40:01, the half being in :18:51 and the quarter in :9:10. This was the fastest time of the day.

Strang's time for the mile broke the track record of :43:6, established by Barney Oldfield last fall in a Benz. Although his face was swollen and covered with blue spots, Strang expected to be in good condition today. No admission was to be charged this afternoon.

### Aitken Lowers Twenty-Mile Record.

The most spectacular event of the afternoon came with the free-for-all time trials for all distances up to and including twenty miles. Of the seven cars that competed regardless of restrictions as to piston displacement, weight or price, Johnny Aitken, driving a National Four, proved to be the lion. His time of 15:11.4, an average of 75.4 miles an hour, establishes a new American record for the distance. The former record was made by Chevrolet in a Buick, on the Atlanta course, and was 16:24.17.

Howard Marmon, in a Marmon, drove the twenty miles in 17:52.87.

Stillman, in a Marmon, covered the distance in 17:03.75.

Endicott, in a Cole 30, finished in 21:22.11.

Metsinger's time in an Empire was 21:40.45.

Doubelley, in a Packard, drove twenty miles in 18:43.52.

Kincaid, in a National Four, started in this event, but was forced to abandon his car on the back side of the course when

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Chevrolet in a Buick, on the Atlanta course, and was 16:24.17.

Howard Marmon, in a Marmon, drove the twenty miles in 17:62.87.

Stillman, in a Marmon, covered the distance in 17:03.75.

Endicott, in a Cole 20, finished in 21:22.11.

Motsinger's time in an Empire was 25:50.45.

Donnelley, in a Packard, drove twenty miles in 18:43.82.

Kincaid, in a National Four, started in this event, but was forced to abandon his car on the back side of the course when his oil supply gave out.

A new mark for cars in its class was established in this event by the Empire, which was entered in the division of 100 cubic inches or less in piston displacement. Newell Motsinger's performance in the Indianapolis-made car was one of the best of the afternoon.

### Marmon Drives Own Car.

Howard Marmon, one of the makers of the car which bears his name, caused his friends to stand aside in awe by appearing on the course in the twenty-mile event. It was his first experience in track driving and when his friends and acquaintances learned that the form hidden from sight and appearing only as a bundle of humanity crouched low over the steering wheel of the big car was none other than Marmon they were seized with considerable fear. Marmon drove the car with which Ray Harroun established a name for both the car and himself last fall, and his performance was one of the best of the day.

Another car that did well in the twenty-mile event in the face of odds was the Packard. An eleventh-hour entry, it was driven by Walter Donnelley, of Cincinnati. Donnelley had never appeared on the course previous to yesterday. The car is owned by David Besuden, a wealthy motor enthusiast of Cincinnati, whose advent in the racing game merely grew out of his love for the sport. The Packard company is strongly opposed to racing, but Besuden disregarded these wishes and fitted out the car himself. He also owns a Buick car which he enters in race events in the same manner.

### Remarkable Time by Christie.

Walter Christie, in his Christie racer, gave a remarkable exhibition of speed, when he drove a quarter of a mile in 12 and 78-100 seconds. Christie's time for the mile was 47:06 seconds.

In a second attempt, Christie covered a kilometer in 23:01 seconds. The kilometer record is 17:76, held by Hemery and established by him in a Benz on the Brook-



WALTER CHRISTIE

THOMPSON &  
HYLAND

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