

AMERICAN CARS FAST

HOPE TO BEAT FOREIGNERS

LIGHTNING SPEED IS ATTAINED BY MACHINES IN PRACTICE FOR GRAND PRIZE CUP EVENT AT SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Nov. 23.—Although the fourteen foreign cars in the Grand Prize race to be run here on Thursday are still the favorites over their six American rivals, the honors of the final practice spins over the twenty-five-mile course today went to one of the American entrants and the automobile enthusiasts who are anxious for an American victory over the flower of the foreign makes have grown decidedly more hopeful.

Willie Haupt, a young American driver who began his racing career not more than two years ago, and who has amazed some of the older men at the wheel by his seemingly reckless speeding around the turns, made one round of the course today at an average speed of approximately seventy-one miles an hour. The unofficial timers caught the lap at 21:06.

To gain this average over a course which has eighteen banked turns and twenty-six flat curves it was necessary for the young driver of the Chadwick car to attain a speed of more than ninety miles in the straight stretches.

Haupt's car seems to be more sensitive to the uneven places in the road than any of the others, and today, when he was setting this new record for the course, the big six-cylinder racing machine appeared constantly to leave the ground. Haupt reported later that because of excessive oil on the course at one turn his car sped along on two wheels for forty feet or more.

Haupt Loses Tire.

On his second tour of the course Haupt threw a tire from one of the rear wheels. His speed was so great that when the car was brought to a standstill and the mechanic sent back, no trace of the tire, which evidently had been hurled off into the dense undergrowth along the Ferguson avenue stretch, could be found.

Louis Strang, a member of the Renault French team, made three laps of the course in remarkably fast and consistent

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His speed was so great that when the car was brought to a standstill and the mechanic sent back, no trace of the tire, which evidently had been hurled off into the dense undergrowth along the Ferguson avenue stretch, could be found. Louis Strang, a member of the Renault French team, made three laps of the course in remarkably fast and consistent time. The first lap was accomplished in 22:04 and the third in 22:05. This meant an average speed of about sixty-eight miles an hour.

Erle of the Benz team, the German entrants, made one lap in 22.03, or a shade better than Strang. Strang stopped in front of the grand stand after his third lap, and when he went to crank up again the engine refused to start. The driver and the mechanic worked for an hour or more, but the sullen racer could not be coaxed to anything more exciting than an occasional loud explosion in the muffler pipes. In the last Vanderbilt Cup race Strang was put out of the running right at the start because of the failure of his engine to respond to the initial cranking.

The speed attained by the foreign and American drivers in the preliminary trials have lent renewed assurance of a new American record for road racing on their next. In the Vanderbilt Cup this year Robertson's winning time was 64.3 miles an hour. In the Grand Prix race of the Automobile Club of France the average speed of the winner in 1906 was 62.8, and this year the winner's mark was sixty-nine miles an hour. Szisz, who won the Grand Prix in 1906; Nazzaro, who won the same classic in 1907, and Hemery, who ran second among the forty-nine starters this year, are all entered in the race to be run here on Thursday.

"Baby Racers" on Course.

The "baby racers" entered in the international light car race to be run on Wednesday as a preliminary to the American grand prize were all out on the course today and succeeded in setting new marks for the perfect rectangle, which comprises the 9.8-mile course. This course, which is part of the larger grand prize route, has but four turns, all left-handed.

Burman, the driver who has smashed up two cars and one mechanic and who had to go it alone in many of his trial spins thereafter, made one circuit today in his little Buick in 10:19, or an average of between 57 and 58 miles. The best average the promoters of the race have dared to hope for for the more than 200 miles is forty-five miles an hour. F. T. Cameron, driving a Cameron car, made a circuit of the short course in 10:23, the second best time of the day for the light cars.

More than 7,000 persons crowded the grand stands today to witness the last of the tryouts for the big race and the interest taken in the event here is intense.

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