

2000 Indianapolis pole starter still tops speed list

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — If this is what Greg Ray calls a “happy medium,” watch out on race day.

The Indianapolis 500 pole-starter a year ago, Ray is still the quickest in practice this year. In his backup car, no less.

Not only that, but after a top lap of 222.976 mph on Monday, he went back out in a spare Team Menard entry and posted a speed of 221.130, the third-fastest lap among the 39 cars on the track.

“We’re working to get a balance on things,” Ray said. “At Indy, the balance on your qualifying car is one way, and the balance on your race car is a little bit the other way. We’re just working on a happy medium.”

A heavy rain cut Monday’s practice short by about three hours.

Ray, whose top lap on Sunday was 224.301, said that speed should not be used as the target for everyone else in

practice leading up to the start of qualifications on Saturday.

“We’re here for the biggest race in the world and conditions were good,” Ray said of his quick speeds. “But I think you’re going to see some guys with laps of 225, 226 and if conditions are right, maybe 227.”

Ray, the 1999 Indy Racing League series champion, started from the pole and led 26 laps at Indianapolis last year. But he was the first out, finishing 33rd after a crash on the 68th lap. A victory at Atlanta on April 28 vaulted him from 23rd to ninth in the IRL standings this season.

“We’ve been competitive all year long. We’ve been one of the frontrunners in qualifying and the race,” he said. “But we needed Atlanta to get right, to get that momentum.”

“Having a good result there, getting us the momentum, getting us in the points chase, is a big, big key.”

Former winner Arie Luyendyk, coming out of a one-year retirement, was between the two Ray speeds on Monday with a top lap of 221.340. Eliseo Salazar, driving for A.J. Foyt, was next at 220.634, followed by Scott Sharp at 220.340, former winner Eddie Cheever at 220.037 and Robby Gordon, another Foyt driver, at 220.028.

Michael Andretti, who hasn’t raced at Indianapolis since the year before the IRL-CART split in 1996, took his first practice laps and had a top speed of 217.636.

The first crash of practice involved rookie Cory Witherill, whose right rear tire started going flat coming out of the fourth turn. The car spun 360 degrees through the first turn and the nose of the car tapped the wall. He did another quarter-spin before stopping between the first and second turns.

Witherill was not injured and there was only light damage to the car.

Also taking their first laps were Tony Stewart and Jimmy Vasser, who shortly before practice began were selected by car owner Chip Ganassi to replace rookies Bruno Junqueira and Nicolas Minassian.

Vasser was 10th quickest for the day at 219.381 mph; Stewart, who used both his primary and backup cars, had a top speed of 215.474 in the abbreviated practice session.

“We just knocked the cobwebs off,” Stewart said. “We didn’t set the world on fire, and we didn’t get too many laps in.”

Stewart plans to drive in both the Indy 500 on May 27 and, as he did in 1999, fly immediately to Charlotte, N.C., for NASCAR’s Coca-Cola 600 the same day.

“We’re trying to do everything we can off of what we learned in ’99 to try to do this,” he said. “We felt like we did it the right way, but we felt like we

made a lot of mistakes at the same time, and we’re making sure that we don’t make those same mistakes this year.”

Stewart, who started from the pole as an Indy rookie in 1996 and was the IRL series champion in 1997, now drives fulltime in the NASCAR Winston Cup series.

After finishing ninth in his last race at Indianapolis in 1999, Stewart took a helicopter from the track to the airport, then a private jet for a 50-minute flight to North Carolina. Fighting sickness and exhaustion, he finished fourth in the Coca-Cola 600 that night, completing 596 of a possible 600 laps in the two races.

“We learned a lot from our first experience doing this,” Stewart said. “So we’ve got a physical trainer with us that’s going to make sure that I’m eating properly, stay off the pizzas and sodas all month.”

“If they can keep me off the sodas,

that will be a major accomplishment,” he said.

Ganassi announced the driver switch before Monday’s practice.

He said Junqueira and Minassian, who have never raced on ovals, have not had enough experience for Indy. CART canceled the Rio 200 in Brazil in March due to problems with the promoter, and postponed the inaugural Firestone Firehawk 600 in Texas in April when drivers complained about dizzying G forces on the high-banked track.

“When we originally put our plans together, our thinking was the experience they would have gained at the beginning of the season would have been sufficient when we arrived here at Indianapolis,” Ganassi said. “We wanted to make sure these guys had the right amount of miles under their belts, and we weren’t able to do that before May this year.”

Director ready for K-State

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Kansas State’s new athletics director has never been in charge of this much money before.

Tim Weiser, named Monday to replace the retired Max Urick, takes over a program with a \$23 million annual budget. That’s almost twice the amount he oversaw at Colorado State University, where Weiser was able to increase the budget from \$9 million to \$13 million in his three-year tenure.

But Weiser, who has also been AD at Eastern Michigan and Austin Peay, said he’s not intimidated by the size of Kansas State’s budget or the big-money atmosphere in the Big 12 Conference.

“It’s all relative,” Weiser said Monday at a news conference announcing his hiring. “You’re dealing with a few more zeros at the end, but you’re competing against schools that also have more zeros at the end.”

In the end, Weiser said, it wasn’t the bigger budget or the \$250,000 annual salary that brought him to

Kansas State — it was a chance to return to his native state.

“It was very difficult to leave Colorado State,” said Weiser, a native of Great Bend and a graduate of Emporia State University. “But yet, when you look at all the factors, the bottom line is that a chance to come home probably won’t present itself but once.”

Monday’s announcement was the first public development in the search for a replacement for Urick, who announced his retirement March 18 after eight years as Kansas State’s AD. That’s just the way Kansas State wanted it, said school president Jon Wefald.

“When word gets out that you have your top four or five candidates, by the next day four of them will be gone,” said Wefald, who introduced Weiser at Monday’s news conference. “When you’re a sitting AD at a successful program, you don’t want your name in the media because that leads to pressure to just say, ‘You know, I’ve got a good job here and I don’t want to do anything to

put that in jeopardy.’”

Weiser heard about Urick’s resignation in March while on a trip to Storrs, Conn., for Colorado State’s games in the NCAA women’s basketball tournament. But until he spoke with Wefald, Weiser said, he had only a passing interest in the Kansas State job.

“It was only on my radar screen because it was a surprise,” Weiser said. “I don’t know that in my mind, it was, ‘Boy, that is an opportunity that I want to get involved in.’”

The school considered four candidates before quickly settling on Weiser, Wefald said.

Weiser, who has been in athletic administration for 18 years, will be at his second Division I school in his home state.

He worked for five years in Wichita State’s athletic department after earning his bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s in counseling.

“I guess this is coming full circle for me,” he said.

Olympian sanctioned for medicine

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Olympian Hazel Clark, America’s top 800-meter runner at the 2000 Summer Games, has been sanctioned for taking cold medicine that contained a prohibited substance, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency announced.

Clark, 23, tested positive for pseudoephedrine at the Pontiac Grand Prix

USA Indoor Track & Field Championships on March 3 in Atlanta. She was given a public warning and stripped of her second-place finish at the championships.

Pseudoephedrine is commonly found in over-the-counter cold medi-

cine. Clark’s punishment was the maximum allowed for a first-time offender under International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rules. She faces a two-year ban if she tests positive for pseudoephedrine a second time.

Rain interrupts Italian Open

ROME (AP) — One year after winning the biggest title of his career, Magnus Norman was a first-day upset victim in the rain-interrupted Italian Open.

The 24-year-old Swede lost 6-4, 6-3 to Italy’s Vincenzo Santopadre, ranked 180th in the world.

Pete Sampras, still seeking a major clay-court title, had his match against Israel’s Harel Levy suspended until Tuesday. Levy led 7-5, 1-3 when play was halted by rain.

In other opening day matches, ninth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain beat Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands 6-3, 7-5; Fabrice Santoro of France downed Adrian Panata of Romania 6-3, 6-4.

BUSINESS FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

Our Oberlin, Kansas auto parts store and auto repair shop is offered for sale. We have had a very good business over the past twelve years and want to find and help the right person or persons to continue the auto business. Anyone looking for an opportunity in parts or service or both please CALL today. The current facility could be bought or rented and has potential to handle six or more technicians. We will consider ALL options but will do something in the next 30 days.

Anyone interested or knows of someone with interest please call Perry Case at 308-345-2730 daytime or 308-345-1242 nighttime.

Goodland All-Star Booster Club

WILKENS TRUCK & TRAILER
1016 W. Hwy 24, Suite 2
Goodland, KS 67735
Toll free: 888/613-1121
Office: 785/899-5454
Fax: 785/899-6411
Chuck: 785/821-1234

Linda & Walt Linthacum/
Peggy Schleppe
Insurance PLUS Service
L & W/Andrist Insurance Agency
(785) 899-5678 or (785) 332-2121
102 E. 8th Goodland, Kan. 107 S. Quincy St. Francis, Kan.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Tuesday, May 8 - Golf @ Oakley 2:00 p.m.
G-Club Banquet
North Site Council Mtg. 7:00 p.m.
West Site Council Mtg. 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9 - Central Site Council Mtg. 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 10 - JH League Track @ Quinter 2:00 p.m.
FCCLA Banquet HS Gym 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 11 - NWKL Track @ Atwood 2:00 p.m.
NWKL Golf @ Oakley 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 12 - Tennis @ Colby 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 14 - Regional Golf @ Goodland
Regional Tennis @ Pratt HS
Tuesday, May 15 - Band Concert - Gulick Park 6:00 p.m.
May 14-17 - Regional Softball @ Colby

You’re GEMS to us,
Cowboys & Cowgirls!
Mann's Jewelry
“The distinctive difference”
1007 Main
Goodland
785/899-6100

Koons Funeral Chapel Koons
Monuments
211 N. Main
Goodland
785/899-3900

Rasure Lumber, Inc.
Do-it center
785/899-7149
605 Caldwell
Goodland
Complete line of hardware and building supplies plus prompt, personal service.

SHORT & SON INC.
SINCE 1934
Hwy. 24
GOODLAND, KAN.
(785) 899-2592

Quality Care
Ford Mercury
“Where Service is an Affair of the Heart”
DAN BRENNER
FORD-MERCURY, INC.
222 W. Hwy. 24 • I-70 BUSINESS LOOP
GOODLAND, KS 67735
(Toll Free)—800-636-8770
(Business)—785-899-2316
(Fax)—785-899-2317

First National Bank
Member FDIC
Colby • Goodland • Kirk • Quinter
• Sharon Springs • St. Francis
www.fnb.com

Goodland Activities Center
808 Main
785/899-7242

SCHIELDS BDS ENTERPRISES
GOODLAND, KS
785-899-2269
801 Main
Walker & Traeger
Snapper Mowers Outdoor
& Equipment Grills
New & used
Western
Mobile: 785-899-2121 Golf Carts

McB's Corner
Full Service Fuel
• Tire Repair • Oil Change
• Exhaust Systems
• U-Haul Rental • Tire Sales
• Trailer Sales
COMPLETE VEHICLE REPAIR
785-899-7375
17th & Cherry • Goodland

Tom Harrison
Branch Broker/
Auctioneer
HomeLand REAL ESTATE
785/852-4200 — after hours
114 West 12th • Goodland
785/899-3060
Fax: 785/899-3100
E-mail: homelandg@aol.com
www.goodlandnet.com/homeland

Help us support the local teams this winter season.
Julie's INTERIORS & GIFTS
1005 Main Street
Goodland, KS
67735
785-899-7231

ME&M Sales
Authorized Merritt Sales Center
Dealer for DMF & Wheeler Steel Trailers
New & Used Trailers
1840 W. Hwy. 24
Goodland, KS
785/899-6636
Eve: 785/899-2610
Toll Free: 888/221-7409

SHORES BROS Auto Supply
1609 Main Goodland, KS
785/899-3647 • 800/246-4036
Count on us for all your hardware & auto parts needs

Lonny's Quality Auto Body, Inc.
Collision Specialists • Since 1975
1933 Caldwell • Goodland
785/899-6311

WESTERN STATE BANK
815 Center Goodland 785/899-2393
Member FDIC

McClure Plumbing & Heating
“Since 1930”
Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning • Residential • Commercial • Farm • Ranch • Repairs & Remodeling
Goodland 899-6229 • Colby 462-7314