

## Harry Thomas Martin

Martin, Harry Thomas

Born: September 12th, 1888, Fulton County, Indiana

Death: June 26th, 1913, aged 24, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

In 1912 Harry Martin was the riding mechanic for Joe Dawson, helping him win the Indy 500. Ralph DePalma led the first 198 laps and Dawson, the last two, a record that would be held for the fewest led laps in history until 2011.

Martin garnered further attention at the 1913 Indy 500 when he was the riding mechanic for Charlie Merz. The Stutz they were racing caught fire toward the end of the race and Martin climbed precariously onto the hood and tried to beat the flames out with his coat. He untied the straps too, so that the pit crew could get the engine hood open to help extinguish the flames. They finished the race in 3rd place!

Martin had hopes of driving in the following year's 500-mile race for Stutz. He showed up at the speedway a few months after the 500 to test the new Stutz racer with Frank Agan, another riding mechanic.

Near the completion of the 5th lap, their tire blew off the car and they careened into the retaining wall, then bounced away and began flipping, landing upside down. Martin was killed instantly and Agan was severely injured, but survived.

submitted by Tom Vandemerkt