

The Borg-Warner Trophy®

In 1935, Borg-Warner Corporation (an ancestor of BorgWarner Inc.) commissioned the creation of a commemorative trophy honoring the winner of the Indianapolis 500. The Art Deco design included “wings” on the side that symbolized the speed of flight. But, the most unique feature was the sculpted faces representing each of the 24 drivers who had already won the race when the trophy debuted in 1936. Since then, every race winner has had his face added to this iconic trophy which has become the symbol for reaching the pinnacle of performance.



Will Power
Team Penske

Trophy Height

5' 4- $\frac{3}{4}$ " (with base)

Trophy Value

\$10,000 in 1935
\$3.5 million today

Trophy Weight

110 lbs. (with base)
80 lbs. sterling silver

The 105th Face

In December 2018, Will Power became the 105th face on the trophy.

The “Baby Borg”



Winners do not get to take the Borg-Warner Trophy home. It stays on permanent display at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. Instead, winners receive a sterling silver replica of the trophy which is fondly referred to as the “Baby Borg.” After the winner’s sculpted face is attached to the main trophy, a copy is then adhered to the “Baby Borg” marble base.

The Team Owner’s Trophy

In 1998, the company established the BorgWarner Championship Team Owner’s Trophy as a companion to the driver’s trophy. The team owner’s trophy is presented to the owner(s) of the winning Indianapolis 500 race team. Like the driver’s trophy, the team owner’s trophy is a replica of the Borg-Warner Trophy but features a band of Art Deco racing cars accented in gold to symbolize the importance of teamwork in the automotive business.



Roger Penske, winningest team owner in Indianapolis 500 history

The Borg-Warner Trophy® – did you know?

The Age Old Question

The youngest driver to win the race is Troy Ruttman (1952), who was 22 years, 80 days old.



The oldest is Al Unser (1987) 47 years, 360 days.

Miles and Miles and Miles

In 35 starts, A.J. Foyt has completed 4,909 laps and an astounding 12,272.5 miles, a record that will likely remain unbroken. The closest active driver is Helio Castroneves with 3,399 laps and 8,497.5 miles.



There are 12 countries and 21 U.S. states represented on the trophy.



Australia



Brazil



Canada



Colombia



England



France



Italy



Japan



Netherlands



Scotland



Sweden



United States

First and Last

In 102 Indianapolis 500 races, 20 drivers have led the opening lap and then gone on to win the race, the most recent being Dario Franchitti in 2010.



Seeing Double

There are two sets of two drivers' faces for one year on the trophy – cowinners (not two-headed drivers).

L. L. Corum / Joe Boyer (1924)



Floyd Davis / Mauri Rose (1941)



Triple Crown

Louis Meyer was the first driver to be added to the trophy - when he won his third Indy 500 in May of 1936.



The Gold Standard

There is only one 24-karat gold head on the trophy, Tony Hulman, who purchased the track in 1945 and was the owner until he passed away in 1977.



13 Minutes

The largest margin of victory in the race was 13:08.4 by Jules Goux of Paris, France in 1913. At the winning average speed of 75.93 mph that's nearly 7 laps!



A Family Tradition

There are nine, yes nine, Unser faces on the trophy.

Bobby Unser: 1968, 1975, and 1981



Al Unser: 1970, 1971, 1978, and 1987



Al Unser Jr.: 1992 and 1994



Double, Triple, and Four Times the Fun

4X
winners

A.J. Foyt, Al Unser, Rick Mears

3X
winners

Louis Meyer, Wilbur Shaw, Mauri Rose, Bobby Unser, Johnny Rutherford, Helio Castroneves, Dario Franchitti

2X
winners

Tommy Milton
Bill Vukovich
Rodger Ward
Gordon Johncock
Emerson Fittipaldi
Al Unser Jr.
Arie Luyendyk
Dan Wheldon
Juan Pablo Montoya

The Wreath Lady



The BorgWarner Victory Lane wreath made its debut in 1960, joining the Borg-Warner Trophy® being awarded to the winner of the race. The wreath was created by famed Indianapolis florist Bill Cronin. Bill continued with his role of wreath-maker until his death in 1989. Since 1992, Julie Harman Vance, known to thousands of people as "The Wreath Lady" has created every wreath. She standardized the appearance of the wreath, including adding 33 orchids to represent every driver in the race. Today, Vance assembles the wreath at her shop, Buck Creek in Bloom, near Muncie, Indiana. She special orders flowers across the country and only the very best are selected to be a part of the wreath. It takes Julie seven hours of careful, painstaking work to create the wreath. "It's truly a labor of love and an honor each year to make the BorgWarner Wreath," said Vance. "I want the wreath to be perfect for the winning driver."



Wreath Facts

The BorgWarner Victory Lane Wreath is constructed using:

- A round 24-inch styrofoam base
- 30 feet of red, white and blue-striped wire ribbon
- 70 feet of light green floral tape
- 33 small water tubes
- 60 small checkered flags
- 250 steel picks
- 1.5 lbs. of hot glue
- 3-inch handcrafted cedar letters spelling "BorgWarner"

The wreath's foliage includes:

- 33 white Cymbidium orchids (one for each driver) grown in Oregon
- Coccullus leaves grown in Florida
- Variegated pittosporum leaves grown in Florida
- Salal leaves grown in Washington State

The wreath weighs 30 pounds and takes seven hours to assemble.

The Man Behind the Faces

William Behrends has been sculpting the faces of the Indy 500 winners since 1990. 2018 winner Will Power was the 29th face he has sculpted for the trophy. Behrends, who began sculpting when he was 26 years old, has been commissioned to immortalize a wide variety of subjects. Those subjects include: Baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays, automotive pioneer Henry Ford II, golf legend Bobby Jones, and Supreme Court Justice John Marshall, who was Chief Justice of the United States from 1801 - 1835. Behrends, who grew up in Wisconsin, has always had a special place in his heart for the Greatest Spectacle in Racing. "Growing up in the Midwest, I was always aware of the Indianapolis 500," said Behrends. "The first race I really noticed was 1963 when Parnelli (Jones) won. I was really fascinated by him and that win stuck in my memory. Everyone in the Midwest grew up knowing about the Indy 500. Each year I look forward to working with the Indy 500 winner to capture his emotions and spirit so they can be part of the Borg-Warner Trophy for years and years to come."

