

GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG



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A complete look at the 26 drivers in the field, from veterans to rookies.
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A preview of the ALMS and Indy Lights races.
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A fan guide to the track, including where to watch.

Coming up in the Times

Saturday
Britain's Lord Paul Drayson gave up his seat in Parliament to drive in the American Le Mans Series.

Sunday
Will the reunification of open-wheel racing allow it to challenge NASCAR's dominant position in popularity?

Monday
Can Helio Castroneves make it three in a row? Live coverage of the IndyCar race.

Credits

This preview section was produced by the sports department as a supplement to the Times.

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- Photo editing:** Stefanie Boyar
- Contributing departments:** Circulation, page management, copy services, imaging, newsart, platemaking, photography and press.

Be prepared

What you can't bring

- Food and (alcoholic) beverages
- Glass bottles and cans
- Coolers
- Stadium seats
- Firearms and weapons
- Fireworks
- Commercial signs and banners
- Signs and banners that impair spectator vision or safety
- Lawn furniture, folding chairs (except in RV park)
- Pets (except certified service animals)
- Scaffolding, ladders, stepstool or other structures
- Noise makers, horns, helium balloons, beach balls
- Bicycles and scooters
- Skates, skateboards, roller-blades
- Motorcycles, off-road vehicles
- Handbills and pamphlets

What you should bring

- Ear plugs
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat/visor
- Walking shoes
- A notepad for autographs
- Binoculars
- Camera or videocamera
- Money for concessions and souvenirs

Concessions & souvenirs

- Adult T-shirt \$22
- Event coffee mug \$10
- Baseball cap \$22-24
- Keychain \$3

To order online, hondagrandprixstore.com

About hearing protection

Permanent hearing loss occurs from prolonged exposure to sound levels higher than 85 dB (It is 115 dB about 10 feet from a race car). Earplugs are available at the track for \$2. Or you can wear sound-blocking earmuffs, available at hardware or sporting goods stores.

Ticket information

How to purchase

- Honda Grand Prix box office (25 2nd St. N, Suite 160, St. Petersburg) until 5 p.m. today. Call (727) 898-INDY (898-4639), ext. 225.
- E-mail tickets@gpstpete.com
- Ticketmaster.com

General admission

- Today and Saturday: \$25 for adult, \$10 for junior
- Sunday: \$40 for adult, \$15 for junior
- Three-day: \$45 for adult, \$20 for junior

Reserved grandstand

- Three-day: \$110 or \$85 for adult, \$80 or \$55 for junior (upper and lower row prices)
- Sunday reserved: \$80 or \$60 for adult, \$55 or \$35 for junior

IndyCar series paddock pass (requires admission ticket)

- One-day unlimited: \$30 for adult, \$25 for junior
- Three-day unlimited: \$55 for adult, \$50 for junior

Hospitality suites

Contact (727) 898-INDY, ext. 228, or e-mail tramsberger@gpstpete.com

Acura Yacht Club

For information, visit acurayachtclub.com or call (239) 246-6810.

RV club

Reservations (for \$1,000) sold out. Call Craig Campbell at (727) 824-7223, ext. 227 or e-mail CCcampbell@gpstpete.com to be put on the waiting list.

The cars | What you'll see

Indy Racing League IndyCar series

The drivers who run in the Indianapolis 500 take over downtown streets. These cars have normally aspirated, 3.5-liter V-8 engines and speeds can top more than 180 on the frontstretch. It will be loud and fast.

Indy Lights Series

Prospects race in slightly less powerful versions of IndyCars. They also run V8s but these produce about 450 horsepower to 650 for IndyCars. At Homestead the IndyCar pole speed was 213.341 mph; in Indy Lights it was 186.899.

American LeMans Series

Arguably more like stock car racing than NASCAR, at least in the GT classes, ALMS features four classes of cars. The 12 Hours of Sebring is the glamor event for this series; this is the second race of the season.

Media and coverage information

Tampabay.com

See sports.tampabay.com for continued news and updates throughout the weekend.

Where to see it

The IndyCar race airs live on ESPN. The ALMS race airs live on ABC (Ch. 28).

Where to hear it

The IndyCar race plus other programming devoted to the series can be heard on XM Ch. 145.

TV announcers for IndyCar:

Marty Reid, commentator: A veteran broadcaster who is in his third season doing play-by-play on ESPN and ABC's IndyCar telecasts.

Scott Goodyear, analyst: Joined ESPN/ABC in 2003 after his driving career, which included five wins in CART and IRL combined.

Pit reporters

Jack Arute: He has been with the networks since 1984 and has received an American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association Award for television four times.

Brienne Pedigo: The Indianapolis native joined the network's team last year. She has a degree in theater and a minor in journalism from NYU and has done acting and dancing.

Vince Welsh: He graduated from Ball State in Muncie, Ind., and has worked for the network since 1996. He also has worked as a college football sideline reporter (as has Arute).

On the Indianapolis Motor Speedway radio network:

Mike King, play-by-play: King has called Indy races on the radio since 1995, starting as a pit reporter, and became chief announcer for the series in 1999.

Davey Hamilton, analyst: The former IndyCar driver was hurt badly in a 2001 wreck. After enduring 20-plus operations, he returned to race in last year's Indy 500 and finished ninth.

Other announcers: Dave Wilson, analyst; Bob Jenkins and Kevin Lee, pit reporters; Mark Jaynes, turn reporter; Kevin Olson, special assignments.

Weekend schedule

IndyCar	ALMS
Indy Lights	Misc.

FRIDAY

8:00		Gates open
8:05	9:05	ALMS practice
9:25	10:25	Indy Lights practice
10:45	12:15	IndyCar practice
12:20	12:45	Drifting exhibition
12:45	1:05	Air show
1:05	3:05	ALMS practice and qualifying
3:25	4:25	IndyCar practice
4:30	5:30	ALMS autograph session
4:45	5:45	Indy Lights practice
5:45	6:00	Drifting exhibition

SATURDAY

8:00		Gates open
8:05	9:05	IndyCar practice
9:25	9:50	ALMS warmup
10:05	10:35	Indy Lights qualifying
10:55	12:25	IndyCar qualifying and Firestone Fast 6
12:45	1:25	ALMS pre-race
1:25	3:20	ALMS Sports Car Challenge (timed race, 1 hour 55 min.)
3:45	4:15	Air show
3:45	4:45	IRL autograph session
4:15	4:45	Indy Lights pre-race
4:45	5:45	Indy Lights race 1 (40 laps/72 miles)

SUNDAY

8:00		Gates open
8:05	8:15	Indy Lights warmup
8:30	9:00	IndyCar warmup
9:15	9:45	Drifting exhibition
10:15	10:45	Indy Lights pre-race
10:45		Indy Lights race 2 (40 laps/72 miles)
12:00	1:30	Pre-race concert, Gym Class Heroes
1:30	2:00	Air show
2:00	2:45	IndyCar pre-race
2:45	5:00	IndyCar Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (100 laps/181 miles)

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