

# MSR: MONTGOMERYSPORTSREPORT

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# MSR: SPORTS TALK

## Speedway delivers again

You'd think that after all these years, I'd be used to it. Once more, The Indianapolis Motor Speedway crammed a year's worth of edge-of-the-seat action into the thirty-one days allotted to the month of May ... and then left us salivating for more.

The action touched every aspect of human emotion. Sometimes, I don't think I appreciate how spectacular the 'Greatest Spectacle in Racing' really is.

My favorite moment came on race day itself. It had little to do with Simon Pagenaud winning a thrilling race, but everything to do with speed.

True to the IMS tradition of maintaining Memorial Day reverence — the US Air Force Heritage Flight team performed a fly-



**JOHN O. MARLOWE**  
The Good Sport

over during the National Anthem. This year, the "squadron" was composed of four diverse aircraft — a P-40 Warhawk, a P-51 Mustang, an A-10 Warthog, and an F-16 Viper.

As superstar singer Kelly Clarkson sang " ...

and the rockets' red glare," the four warplanes descended from a broken sky on the north end of the facility, and performed a "slow" procession over the entire mile or so length

of the speedway. That in itself was no small feat, I thought, primarily because the top airspeeds of the ultramodern F-16 (1,500 mph) to the WWII vintage Warhawk (453 mph) vary so widely.

Fly-by complete, the two vintage aircraft flew away as I expected. Then as race fans acknowledged Clarkston's performance, the two modern aircraft circled back.

The A-10 performed a

*John O. Marlowe spent most of his career as a "pine-time" player, and was football's first DH (dummy holder) for Wabash College in the late 1970's. New to the art of the sports beat writer, Marlowe has spent forty years — and nearly \$11,000 — following Indiana high school sports.*

series of barrel rolls, and the F-16 completed a bunch of "wing tips" to the delight of the crowd below. The two show-offs, now northbound, were about to exit the facility, when the F-16 circled

back once more, did a tight turn, then seemed to hover in preparation for its parting shot.

You could literally sense the power emanating from the General Electric F110-GE-129 turbofan engine (thanks internet) as the pilot throttled up. He pointed the airship skyward, and literally rocketed out of the arena. In a matter of seconds Lockheed Martin's latest was lost into the ether.

Coincidentally, 10,000 music fans in the infield also reached oblivion at the Skrillex Race Day Snake Pit concert.

Jim Cornelison sang 'Back Home Again in Indiana,' three ambulances loaded up the first of the over-indulgents, beachballs were launched into the massive stands of spectators, the giant electronic video boards scrolled through the starting lineup, and a tiny House Sparrow returned to its usually quiet nest atop the catch fence with a french fry in its mouth.

Now, THAT's how to create a spectacle, folks. **NOTEWORTHY MOMENT**

Less spectacular, perhaps, but just as special, Crawfordsville resident

Bob Jenkins was elected to The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame, in the 2019 class that includes the late champion Dan Wheldon.

Bob's contributions to motorsports, and the '500 in particular, make the Liberty, Indiana native truly a deserving choice. Bob served as the "Voice of the 500" from 1990-98.

He served alongside my father, Chuck Marlowe, for most of dad's 41 years on the IMS Radio Network. Upon dad's passing in 2016, Bob paid my father the kindest tribute on the race broadcast, for which I will always be grateful.

It's always great when the highest honors are bestowed on the finest people.

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# Crawfordsville finds Bean's replacement

## The Paper

The Crawfordsville girls' basketball program has found their next head coach in Tyler Smith pending board approval on June 13. Smith will replace Tony Bean who resigned in early March after a 4-20 season.

"We are excited about the addition of Tyler to the Athenian coaching staff," Director of Athletics Bryce Barton said. "The hiring committee was pleased with the vision that Tyler has for our girls' basketball program. He stressed continuous improvement of his players, his staff, and himself throughout the interview; which is key to any high school program."

Smith graduated from Southmont in 2003 who during his time played basketball and baseball. Upon graduating from Lincoln Christian University in 2008,

Smith served in several different coaching roles at Brownsburg and Southmont. Since 2017 Smith has served as the seventh and eighth grade coach at Crawfordsville Middle School (CMS).

Smith says the familiarity with the program will definitely help the transition.

"I have been around this program for many years now and have gotten to know the culture of Crawfordsville Athletics, he said. "I know some of the girls from when I helped coach the softball team so that I believe will help the girls and I both with this transition to the high school level."

Smith knows there will be some differences between coaching at the middle school level, and now coaching at the high school level. Smith sees these differences as an opportunity.

"Here at the high school level,

the staff and I will have the opportunity to grow and develop these kids over the course of four years instead of only having them for around three months like I did while at CMS, he said. "That is one of the biggest challenges that the staff and I are looking forward to."

When asked about the goal for year one, Smith spoke about building and developing a winning culture not only on the court, but off it as well.

"Culture matters in this game," he said. "We want to take the lessons that Coach Bean brought to this program and build off that. A goal of mine and the staffs is to teach these girls how to attack the game in all aspects, mental and physical. Building that winning culture will be a big step in the right direction for this program."



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