



My First INDY 500

WHO **LYN ST. JAMES, 58**
WHERE **INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

"Boys start racing young, driving go-karts and competing in soapbox derbies. I, on the other hand, went to an all-girl school, took piano lessons and worked in a steno pool. I was fascinated with cars, but the first time I went to Indy as a fan, women weren't even allowed into Gasoline Alley.

"I started amateur racing with my husband in my twenties. When my marriage fell apart in 1979, I couldn't afford to race without turning pro, so I spent three years corresponding with the Ford Motor Company, who, I had read, 'wanted to employ women in nontraditional areas.' But sponsoring women drivers wasn't what they had in mind. In 1981, around the time I set NASCAR records, Ford finally signed me, and I got big ideas about the Indy 500 at an age most male drivers retire.

"In 1992, I showed up at the Indy and finished in eleventh place. The second woman ever to compete there, I was also named Rookie of the Year and fans were on their feet chanting my name. They were still chanting eight years later when I drove Indy as the oldest competitor in its history. Now I race vintage cars. My love of the sport—the car, the road and speed—has only increased with age."

—MARION WINIK



"I SHOWED UP AT INDY AS A 45-YEAR-OLD WOMAN IN A SPORT THAT LIKES 20-SOMETHING MEN. FORTUNATELY, THE CAR DOESN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE."

PHOTO: MARK SHAFER, HAIR AND MAKEUP: DIANE AIELLO