

FAST AUTO RACERS FLIRT WITH DEATH

MANY ACCIDENTS AT RECORD
BREAKING CONTEST AT BRIGH-
TON BEACH RACE TRACK

SIX CARS SOON LAID OUT

Prudence Cast to Winds and No Chance
is Considered Too Great in Effort to
Improve Past Performances—Leaders
Already Fifty Miles Ahead of Best
Former Records.

BRIGHTON BEACH RACE TRACK,
N. Y., Oct. 3.—With a trail of injured
and dying men and hopelessly wrecked
machines behind them, six of the twelve
automobiles that started in the 24 hour
race at the Brighton Beach race track
last evening were still in the mad whirl
at 8 o'clock today. Apparently pru-
dence had been cast to the winds and no
chance was considered too great, no
danger too menacing to the drivers of
the flying machines. As a result all pre-
vious records had been eclipsed, and it
was apparent that if the terrific speed
of the leaders was maintained to the
end nearly, if not quite, 100 miles would
be added to the 24 hour figures.

Many in Collisions.

The four leaders at the end of the
tenth hour were in advance of the best
previous mark from three to forty-three
miles. This was not accomplished, how-
ever, without a fearful demolition of
cars and collisions and spills, in which
driver and mechanic escaped death by
the narrowest margin.

Officer Fatally Hurt.

In the third hour a piling up of racing
machines going at better than 55 miles
hour was averted as by a miracle, four
cars grouped closely together being
thrown into confusion by the crossing
directly in their path of M. G. Fickett,
special patrol officer. Three of the cars
managed to avoid the dodging figure on
the track but Robertson's machine
struck him with fearful force and hurled
him sixty feet. He was picked up un-
conscious and is now in a critical condi-
tion at a hospital. All the other injured
are drivers and mechanics on the racing
cars. None of them is seriously hurt.

Car on Fire.

The mishaps crowded fast upon one
another through the night, the French
car No. 14, catching fire in the seventh
hour and the Italian entry in 15 crash-
ing into the fence soon afterward, re-
tiring both for the remainder of the con-
test. No. 4, which had been smashed in
the mixup resulting from the running
down of Fickett, remained off the track
six hours undergoing repairs, but reen-
tered the contest in the ninth hour. The
Italian entry, driven by De Palma and
the American car, driven by Chervolet,
were next to come to grief, the former
cracking two cylinders and the latter
freezing its bearings. Later the Ameri-
can entry, No. 9, had been sufficiently
repaired to reenter the contest but was
forced to retire again after going only
three miles.

Only Six Cars Left.

At 8 o'clock the field had been reduced
to 6 cars by the careening of No. 17 in
the eleventh hour, and of those only the
first four were keeping up the lightning
pace. It was a pretty race, between
these, however, and the early morning
crowd was brought to its feet again and
again as first one and then the other
shot by the grand stand at a mile a
minute speed. At the end of the ele-
venth hour the standing of the surviv-
ors was as follows:

- No. 6—359 miles.
- No. 7—358 miles.
- No. 8—316 miles.
- No. 2—315 miles.
- No. 11—372 miles.
- No. 4—254 miles.

Best previous record—510 miles.

Both the driver and mechanic of Car
No. 7 escaped with bruises when it over-
turned. The accident was caused by the
explosion of the front tire. The car was
hopelessly wrecked, its rear wheel brok-
en and the driving gear and frame twist-
ed.

When the race was resumed after the
two hours' intermission, the American
car No. 10, driven by Young and Doly,
which had been prevented from starting
by a collision with Mitchener's car early
last night, appeared as a fresh contest-
ant. Mitchener who also had been tem-
porarily out of the race reappeared at
this time in No. 2, replacing Cobe, who
had been injured. Cobe's hurts are said
to be not serious.

Escape From Death.

From stories told by some of the driv-
ers who witnessed the accident to Bloch,
the driver of a French car, in the seventh
hour, it appears that his escape from
death was almost miraculous. When
his car, ablaze and going at a fifty mile
clip, overturned, he was caught under it
and held there. A blow of the drive
wheel against his chin knocked him un-
conscious and had it not been for the

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driver and mechanic of No. 15, who
stopped their car and jumped out to pull
him from under the blazing wreck, he
would have been burned to death.

The score at the end of the sixteenth
hour: No. 6, 810 miles; No. 5, 802; No.
2, 742; No. 8, 738; No. 11, 579; No. 0,
361; No. 15, 292.

Previous record 755 miles.