

= 2001 American Memorial =

The 2001 American Memorial was a Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) motor race held on September 15 , 2001 , at the EuroSpeedway Lausitz in Klettwitz , Germany . It was the 16th round of the 2001 CART season and the first race in the series to be held in Europe . Originally known as the German 500 , the race 's name was changed by CART in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks . Kenny Bräck won the race for Team Rahal ; his teammate Max Papis finished in second place , and Patrick Carpentier was third .

The season points leader entering the race , Gil de Ferran , was awarded the pole position when qualifying was cancelled after a practice session was rained out . Bräck took the lead early in the race , and built a seven @-@ second advantage before going off course while trying to lap another car . Carpentier took his place after the lap 64 incident , and held the lead until Tony Kanaan passed him on lap 95 . After passing Carpentier for second , Alex Zanardi moved ahead of Kanaan after a series of pit stops between laps 121 to 123 . Zanardi held the top spot entering his final scheduled pit stop with 12 laps remaining .

Upon leaving the pits , Zanardi lost control of his car , which turned sideways onto the circuit . Alex Tagliani crashed into Zanardi 's car , splitting the chassis into two pieces . The crash led to the amputation of both of Zanardi 's legs . The rest of the race was run under a caution flag , and Bräck , who had moved into second place before Zanardi 's pit stop , secured the victory . Zanardi and Tagliani were taken to a Berlin hospital ; Zanardi had a fractured pelvis and a concussion in addition to his amputations , while Tagliani was not severely injured .

= = Report = =

= = = Background = = =

The German 500 was the first CART race ever to be held in Europe . It was the beginning of a two @-@ week European stretch for the series ; the Rockingham 500 was held at Rockingham Motor Speedway in Corby , England one week later . EuroSpeedway chairman Hans Joerg Fischer hoped for a crowd of 70 @,@ 000 at the track , which had a capacity of 90 @,@ 000 .

Entering the German 500 , Gil de Ferran held the lead in the season 's points standings with 115 points . Bräck and Hélio Castroneves were joint second on 110 points , and Michael Andretti was fourth , seven points further back .

Four days before the race , the September 11 attacks took place , causing most major American sporting events scheduled on the same weekend as the German 500 to be postponed , including National Football League (NFL) and Major League Baseball games , and a NASCAR Winston Cup Series race , the New Hampshire 300 , at New Hampshire Motor Speedway . The Italian Grand Prix , a Formula One race , was held that weekend . According to Ronald Richards , the vice president of CART , the series decided to continue with the race prior to the cancellation of that week 's NFL games , a decision followed by other American leagues . Richards acknowledged that " We wish we would have had the input regarding the NFL 's decision prior to making our decision . "

In remembrance of the September 11 attacks ' victims , and in a desire to avoid criticism for holding the German 500 so soon afterward , CART changed the race 's name to the American Memorial . The series also held tributes on the day of the race , and made a \$ 500 @,@ 000 donation to the World Trade Center Relief Fund , matching the event 's prize fund .

= = = Practice and qualifying = = =

The first day of practice for the American Memorial was scheduled on September 13 , but was cancelled because of rain . Practice was held the following day , and Tony Kanaan of Mo Nunn Racing recorded the fastest lap of 34 @.@ 624 seconds . Teammate Zanardi had a lap of 34 @.@ 991 seconds for the second @-@ fastest time ; he was followed by Carpentier , Bräck , and Bruno

Junqueira .

As of September 13 , Andretti was unable to travel to Germany from his Nazareth , Pennsylvania residence , since his planned September 11 flight had been grounded . Andretti was able to arrange a charter flight to Germany and landed in Dresden the next day .

Due to the rainout and the racers ' lack of familiarity with the EuroSpeedway , CART cancelled qualifying for the American Memorial . The starting grid was determined by drivers ' order in the season points standings . The pole position went to de Ferran , though due to the lack of qualifying , he was not awarded a point in the standings as was customary for pole winners . Bräck earned second position since he held a tie @-@ breaker over Castroneves , who started third , and Andretti began the race in fourth .

== Race ==

On race day , a 30 @-@ minute warm @-@ up session was held before the event began ; Kanaan again posted the fastest time (35 @. @ 288) , followed by Zanardi and Paul Tracy . The 154 @-@ lap race began at 1 : 56 p.m. local time ; Bräck immediately took the lead , and Andretti went into second coming out of the first turn . They remained the top two in lap 20 , with Dario Franchitti in third . Six laps later , Andretti passed Franchitti to reclaim second when the latter was unable to pass a slower car . Drivers near the lead begin making their first round of pit stops on lap 35 , and continued doing so through lap 40 . By lap 60 , Bräck had built a lead of more than seven seconds . Carpentier had moved into second place , and Andretti , Tagliani , and Franchitti rounded out the top five . Bräck relinquished his lead on lap 64 , when he went off course while attempting to lap Junqueira . The first caution flag of the day came out , but not before Carpentier took the lead as Bräck regained control of his car and re @-@ entered the track in second place . Pit stops took place during the caution , with Carpentier , Bräck , and Andretti still in the top three positions .

Green flag racing resumed on lap 70 , and Kanaan began moving toward the front of the field ; he passed Andretti for third place on lap 73 , and took second from Bräck four laps later . The second caution of the race occurred on lap 80 , when Junqueira and Tora Takagi collided ; Tagaki spun off the track , but was able to continue . Andretti and Franchitti pitted during the caution , and the green flag came out on lap 85 . Kanaan passed Carpentier on lap 95 , and Zanardi went into second shortly afterward , as Carpentier tried conserving fuel to complete the race with one fewer pit stop than the other contenders . Kanaan , Zanardi , and Bräck pitted from laps 105 to 113 , and Andretti inherited the lead . Franchitti suffered a " mechanical problem " on lap 116 , becoming the first driver to retire from the race . More pit stops occurred from laps 121 to 123 , and Zanardi claimed the lead over Kanaan . The two contested the lead , and Kanaan was two @-@ tenths of a second behind Zanardi when he pitted for the final time on lap 141 . Bräck moved up to second , and was followed by Carpentier and Tagliani .

Zanardi went onto pit road for his last stop on lap 142 . When attempting to re @-@ enter the track , " he seemed to accelerate too early " , according to the Associated Press ' recap . Zanardi could not control his vehicle 's rear end , and the car slid sideways onto the track , after having gone through grass . After Carpentier veered up the track to narrowly miss Zanardi 's car , Tagliani drove straight into it at an estimated speed of 200 miles per hour . The impact split Zanardi 's chassis into two pieces and littered the circuit with debris . The drivers were taken by airlift to the Klinikum Berlin @-@ Marzahn hospital . Following the accident , the last 12 laps were run under a caution flag . There was one further retirement , on lap 153 ; Christian Fittipaldi pitted due to a fire in the back of his car and dropped out . Bräck won the race , finishing ahead of Papis and Carpentier , who were second and third respectively . Andretti took fourth place , followed by Oriol Servia in fifth , Takagi in sixth , and Kanaan in seventh . De Ferran , Scott Dixon , and Tracy rounded out the top ten .

== Post @-@ race ==

According to CART physician Dr. Steve Olvey , Zanardi 's diagnosis when he left the track was " extremely critical " . His life had been endangered by the crash ; last rites were given to him

afterward . Upon arriving at Klinikum Berlin @-@ Marzahn , Zanardi underwent a three @-@ hour operation in which his legs were both amputated above his knees . He also fractured his pelvis and suffered a concussion , and lost over 75 percent of his blood . Tagliani had a sore back as a result of the accident , and was released from the hospital after one day . On September 17 , one of Zanardi 's doctors said that his life was not in danger , although he had been placed under an induced coma in an attempt to prevent trauma shock . Doctors took Zanardi off the coma three days later , and left Klinikum Berlin @-@ Marzahn on October 30 .

Johnny Herbert , who had previously been Zanardi 's teammate in Formula One , said of the incident , " It 's a big shock to everybody . You have accidents , yes , but you don 't expect something this gruesome . " Laz Denes , a spokesman for Zanardi 's Mo Nunn Racing team , said the impact was " immense , almost harder than anything I 've ever seen . " According to Denes , the point of contact " was about 12 inches past the cockpit , " and he called Zanardi 's survival a " miracle " . Tagliani commented several days after the crash that Zanardi was constantly in his thoughts . During his hospital stay , Zanardi contacted Tagliani and told him that he was not at fault .

With his victory , Bräck claimed the lead in the points competition ; with five races left in the season , he had 131 points . De Ferran was in second , 11 points behind Bräck , and Andretti was five points further back .

In 2002 , the German 500 was not held after the EuroSpeedway filed for insolvency . The race returned to EuroSpeedway the following year , as did Zanardi , who ran 13 laps to represent those that he never completed in 2001 .

= = Classification = =

= = = Race = = =

= = Standings after the race = =

Note : Only the top five positions are included for the drivers ' standings .