Andretti dominates qualifying

Associated Press

Mario Andretti stole the show Saturday in time trials for today's <u>Marlboro 500</u>, turning the fastest qualifying lap in motorsports history.

Auto racing round-up

The 53-year-old Andretti took the pole position for the 500-mile race with a blazing lap of 234.275 mph on a virtually perfect day at Michigan International Speedway.

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Andretti's effort knocked Newman-Haas Racing teammate Nigel Mansell's 233.462 out of the top spot and was considerably quicker than the 232.618 lap by Roberto Guerrero in 1992 at 'adianapolis that had stood as the fastest official qualifying lap until Saturday.

The record-smashing lap on the bumpy 2-mile, high-banked oval was not quite as quick as the hand-timed unofficial Indy-car closed-course record of 234.5 set by Jeff Andretti, the younger of Mario's two racing sons, during a test session on Feb. 23 at Texas World Speedway.

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"I was a little worried about how things were dragging today," Andretti said. "Things weren't going off on time and I was afraid the track conditions would deteriorate if we waited too much longer."