The winning path: Linus Lundqvist’s road to Indy Lights glory

In clinching the 2022 Indy Lights Presented by Cooper Tires championship, Linus Lundqvist became the first Swede in history to seal the coveted INDYCAR support series title. In a season lined with success, we look back at the journey that led to his fourth single-seater title – and the most important yet.

Rd. 1: St. Petersburg

Qualifying:  
Race:

The opening race of the season saw Lundqvist battle against the odds on the streets of St. Petersburg. A down-on-power engine left him with a costly deficit down the straights, but he still managed to qualify on the front row and take third in the race. It was a decent start to the campaign, especially given the circumstances – but the best was certainly yet to come…

Rd. 2 – Barber Motorsports Park

Qualifying:  
Race:

The power issues now resolved, Lundqvist demonstrated his full potential at Barber Motorsports Park to clinch his first victory of the season, winning from pole.

It was not as straightforward as it may sound, however, as a mid-race transition from wet to increasingly dry conditions made life hard on the Cooper rain tyres.

Having pulled away from the field in the wet in the first half of the race, a safety car intervention saw Lundqvist’s lead untimely vanish, leaving him vulnerable on heavily worn wets in the closing stages.

He ultimately managed to defend from HMD team-mate Benjamin Pedersen in a dramatic battle for victory, however, treading the fine balance between maintaining just enough pace to stay ahead and keep his tyres alive to the flag. It was a memorable win under immense pressure, and the real catalyst to his title charge.

Rd. 3&4 – Indianapolis Motor Speedway (road course)

Race 1  
Qualifying:  
Race:

Race 2

Qualifying:  
Race:

Much like at Barber, the weather played a pivotal role again in Indianapolis a few weeks later. In the first double-header meeting of the year, the opening race played out in stable and dry conditions, with Linus leading the way from pole until tangling with Christian Rasmussen and dropping down the order. He later recovered to finish fifth.

For Race 2, however, the skies burst open – and this time a thunderstorm even caused the race to be red-flagged at halfway. A lengthy five-hour wait ensued before racing could finally resume, with Lundqvist – who had led the opening segment comfortably before the storm arrived – carrying on to an undeterred victory.

Rd. 5&6 – Detroit

Race 1  
Qualifying:  
Race:

Race 2

Qualifying:  
Race:

An utterly crushing double win in Detroit strengthened the grip on the title and took Lundqvist to four victories in the opening six races.

In dominant form throughout the meeting, Lundqvist swept the double-header weekend on Detroit’s Belle Isle street course, leading every single lap of both races from a pair of pole positions. He also set the fastest lap in both encounters, completing a perfect “Grand Chelem” weekend.

It was an emphatic showing by all means, and one that ranks as arguably the greatest to date in Lundqvist’s career.

Rd. 7 – Road America

Qualifying:  
Race:

On the pace once again at the beautiful Wisconsin road course, this time it was the rare occurrence of an own mistake that cost Lundqvist a shot at victory.

A brief off-track moment in qualifying was enough to derail a run of five consecutive pole positions and leave Lundqvist in the midfield for Sunday’s race. Once there, however, he regrouped to finish fourth, limiting the damage done the day before.

Rd. 8 – Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

Qualifying:  
Race:

On a track known to historically favor the rival Andretti Autosport squad, Lundqvist was up for the fight – taking a podium as he split a quartet of Andretti cars up front. Third place at Mid-Ohio was a welcome result in the greater context, keeping him firmly in the championship lead.

Det gyllene stråket: Linus Lundqvists väg till Indy Lights-titeln

Linus Lundqvist has formally wrapped up the 2022 Indy Lights Presented by Cooper Tires championship title, making him the first Swedish driver in history to win INDYCAR’s premier feeder series.

Lundqvist bagged the title with ????? in Sunday’s race at Portland International Raceway, where he steered his HMD Motorsports car to ??????.

In doing so, 23-year-old Lundqvist puts the title officially beyond reach for his rivals with one round (two races) still to go.

“Yes! We did it! Absolutely incredible,” an elated Linus Lundqvist shouts out. “This has been the main goal for me all season, and it’s hard to grasp that we’ve actually done it. It’s such an amazing feeling right now.”

The Indy Lights title triumph marks a significant moment in Lundqvist’s rise towards motorsport’s highest echelons. Since its inception in 1986, more than 90 % of Indy Lights champions have progressed into the top-tier INDYCAR series.

“This is the most important moment of my life to date,” says Linus Lundqvist. “I’m immensely proud of what we’ve achieved, and extremely grateful to everyone who has made it possible. That obviously includes all the guys and girls at HMD Motorsports, as well as my sponsors, investors and my family who all have a big part in this success. Thank you!”

In clinching his latest title, Lundqvist upholds a trend of winning a single-seater championship every second year. He has previously won Sweden’s Formula STCC Nordic series (2016), British Formula 3 (2018) and USA-based F3-level championship Formula Regional Americas (2020).

The 2022 Indy Lights season comes to a close next weekend (September 10-11) at Laguna Seca, California.

*Further information and materials relating to Lundqvist’s championship-winning campaign will be made available in the coming days. For interview requests, please contact Mattias Persson.*

Linus Lundqvist har säkrat 2022 års Indy Lights-titel och blir därmed den förste svensken genom tiderna att ta hem den amerikanska INDYCAR-seriens främsta supportklass.

Lundqvist bärgade titeln med en ???? i söndagens race på Portland International Raceway, där han bakom ratten på sin HMD Motorsports-bil ????? .

Därmed läggs guldet bortom räckhåll för Tyresö-förarens konkurrenter med en deltävling (två race) fortfarande kvar att köra.

- Helt galet och helt, helt underbart, utbrister Linus Lundqvist. Det här har varit mitt stora mål den här säsongen. Det är nästan svårt att greppa att vi faktiskt har gjort det; att det är klart. En enorm känsla!

Framgången i Indy Lights är av stor vikt i Lundqvists fortsatta klättring mot den internationella racingtoppen. Över 90 % av de förare som vunnit Indy Lights-titeln sedan premiärupplagan 1986 har sedermera avancerat till kungaklassen INDYCAR.

- Det här är det största och viktigaste som hänt i mitt liv. Jag är otroligt glad, stolt och tacksam, särskilt gentemot mitt team som hela tiden ställt en konkurrenskraftig bil till mitt förfogande, och förstås till alla mina sponsorer, samarbetspartners och min familj som har en stor del i den här framgången. Tack!

I och med slutsegern i Indy Lights upprätthåller Linus Lundqvist den trend som givit honom en formelbilstitel vartannat år sedan debuten 2015. Tyresö-sonen har sedan tidigare utropats till mästare i svenska Formula STCC Nordic (2016), brittiska Formel 3 (2018) och amerikanska F3-serien Formula Regional Americas (2020).

Indy Lights-säsongen avslutas om en vecka (10-11 september) på Laguna Seca-banan i Kalifornien.

*Mer information och material med anledning av Linus Lundqvist titelseger kommer att tillhandahållas under de närmste dagarna. För intervjuförfrågningar, kontakta pressansvarig Mattias Persson.*

Dino Beganovic återvänder till rampljuset i helgen när Formula Regional European Championship återupptas efter sommaruppehållet och äntrar en avgörande fas av säsongen.

Den svenske Ferrari-junioren leder mästerskapet i kraft av fyra segrar så här långt, inklusive en senast det begav sig på belgiska Spa-Francorchamps i slutet av juli. I helgen är det dags för nästa slag när österrikiska Formel 1-banan Red Bull Ring står värd för den åttonde av säsongens totalt tio deltävlingar.

Beganovic har en ledning på 41 poäng inför helgens sammandrabbningar, och siktet ställt på att försöka utöka försprånget i ett viktigt läge i titelfighten.

- Det ska bli kul att komma igång igen efter semestern, och jag är laddad inför avslutningen på den här säsongen, säger Dino Beganovic. Vi hade en väldigt bra helg på Spa innan uppehållet och målet är förstås att fortsätta så på Red Bull Ring. Det är en bana jag kan väl vid det här laget – jag har tävlat där tidigare i både Formel 4 och Formula Regional – och jag gillar den väldigt mycket. Vi måste fortsätta att fokusera på jobbet, se till att vi kommer in i en bra rytm nu under hösten, och ge allt för att försvara ledningen i mästerskapet.

Formula Regional-tävlingarna på Red Bull Ring inleds med fri träning på fredag. På lördag körs det första kvalet och racet, följt på söndag av ytterligare en kval/race-dubbel på söndag.

Dino Beganovic returns to racing this weekend as the Formula Regional European Championship resumes after the summer break to kick off the decisive last stage of the season.

Beganovic leads the standings on the back of four wins so far, including one last time out at Spa-Francorchamps in late July, as the paddock descends on Austria’s picturesque F1 venue Red Bull Ring for round eight of the ten-round campaign.

Beganovic sits 41 points clear of the opposition at the head of the rankings, and the Ferrari Driver Academy youngster is keen to try to add to his advantage as the title fight enters a crucial phase in the Styrian Alps.

“It’ll be fun to get going again, and I’m ready for the last part of the season,” says Dino Beganovic. “We had a very strong weekend at Spa before the break and of course we’ll be aiming to keep that up at Red Bull Ring. It’s a track I know well, having raced there in both F4 and Formula Regional, and I like it a lot.

“We have to keep up the hard work, make sure we get into a good rhythm after the break, and take every opportunity to defend our championship lead.”

The Formula Regional European Championship field, which consistently sports more than 30 drivers, will hit the Red Bull Ring on ???? for an opening day of practice. The first qualifying session and race of the weekend then take place on Saturday, followed by another qualifying/race double on Sunday.