



Trumpdate: Sue-Happy Donald Booted from Indy 500

By [Elspeth Reeve](#) May 05, 2011

When pixie gymnast Olga Korbut won a gold medal--and Americans' hearts!--at the 1976 Olympics, ABC announcer Jim McKay warned, "She's learned a lot today but she's going to learn one more thing: When you climb up the side of a mountain, everyone's cheering you on. But when you get there, and you're standing on top, they all wanna knock you off." This is the painful lesson Donald Trump is learning right now. After weeks of breath-taking [political ascent](#), he began to [stumble](#). He faced a few more a few more setbacks Thursday, most crucially polls showing that Americans don't really like him. This is [Trumpdate](#).

- **No One Loves You When You're Down** Two-thirds of Americans have an unfavorable view of Trump, while 28 percent "have even a somewhat favorable opinion" of him, according to a new poll from [Rasmussen](#). That's down from 39 percent viewing him positively three weeks ago. *The Hill's* [Christian Heinze](#) observes, however, "Some conservatives thought that Obama's release of the birth certificate was a triumph for Trump."

- **Fired by Indy 500** Trump was set to drive the pace car at the 100th anniversary of the Indianapolis 500, but enough race fans complained about his birther antics that Indy folks thought had to ask him to cancel, Jalopnik's [Justin Hyde](#) reports. The official Trump reason for pulling out of the event due to "time and business constraints" and a [conflict with his potential presidential campaign](#). But Hyde is skeptical of that excuse: "You know, because getting yourself in front of millions of voters in an important swing state for free is a big interference," he writes.
- **Too Many Suits for Tort Reformers** A pet issue for conservatives is tort reform-rewriting laws to curb frivolous law suits. But Trump has a history of being as sue-happy as Scientology, the Center for Public Integrity's [Peter H. Stone](#) reports. Trump has been involved in about 100 federal lawsuits, and five of his companies have been parties in more than 200 federal civil suits. Trump's sued over airport noise levels, sued his former law firm for naming him as a client on its website, sued a company for creating business cards called "Trump Cards." Stone explains, "For decades, Trump has used the courts to punish and pressure adversaries. No cause is too trivial..." Cato's Walter Olson warned that Republicans would be examining his record of litigation to see "how consistent is with the Republican idea that litigation should be a last resort and not a weapon for tactical advantage."

Photo by Reuters

Sources

- [Trump Favorable Rating Plummets to -38 Percent](#), Christian Heinze, The Hill
- [Indy 500 to Trump: You're Fired](#), Justin Hyde, Jalopnik
- [Does Trump Sue Too Much for Conservatives?](#), Peter H. Stone, Center for Public Integrity