

RESEARCH QUARTERLY

editions of the *National Hockey Guide*.⁵ The players whose names are listed during a given year in the "Who's Who" roster of the *National Hockey Guide* are probably the most skillful hockey players on the North American continent.

Figure 5 sets forth cross-sectional data for a five-year period, the total number of player-years being 823. Ice hockey players are most frequently at their best from ages 24 to 25, and the most successful five-year interval is that from ages 24 to 28 inclusive. It should be understood of course that this statement applies to the hockey players as a group. It does not apply to every individual player.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

Figure 6 presents the ages of professional football players. The names of the players and their chronological ages were obtained from *Who's Who in Major League Football*.⁶ Figure 6 reveals that professional football players are rarely less than 22 years of age, a finding which is explained by the following quotation:

"The National League made peace with the college critics when it decreed that no university player can be signed until his class has been graduated. . . Professional football is reserved for those who have completed their college courses."^{6a}

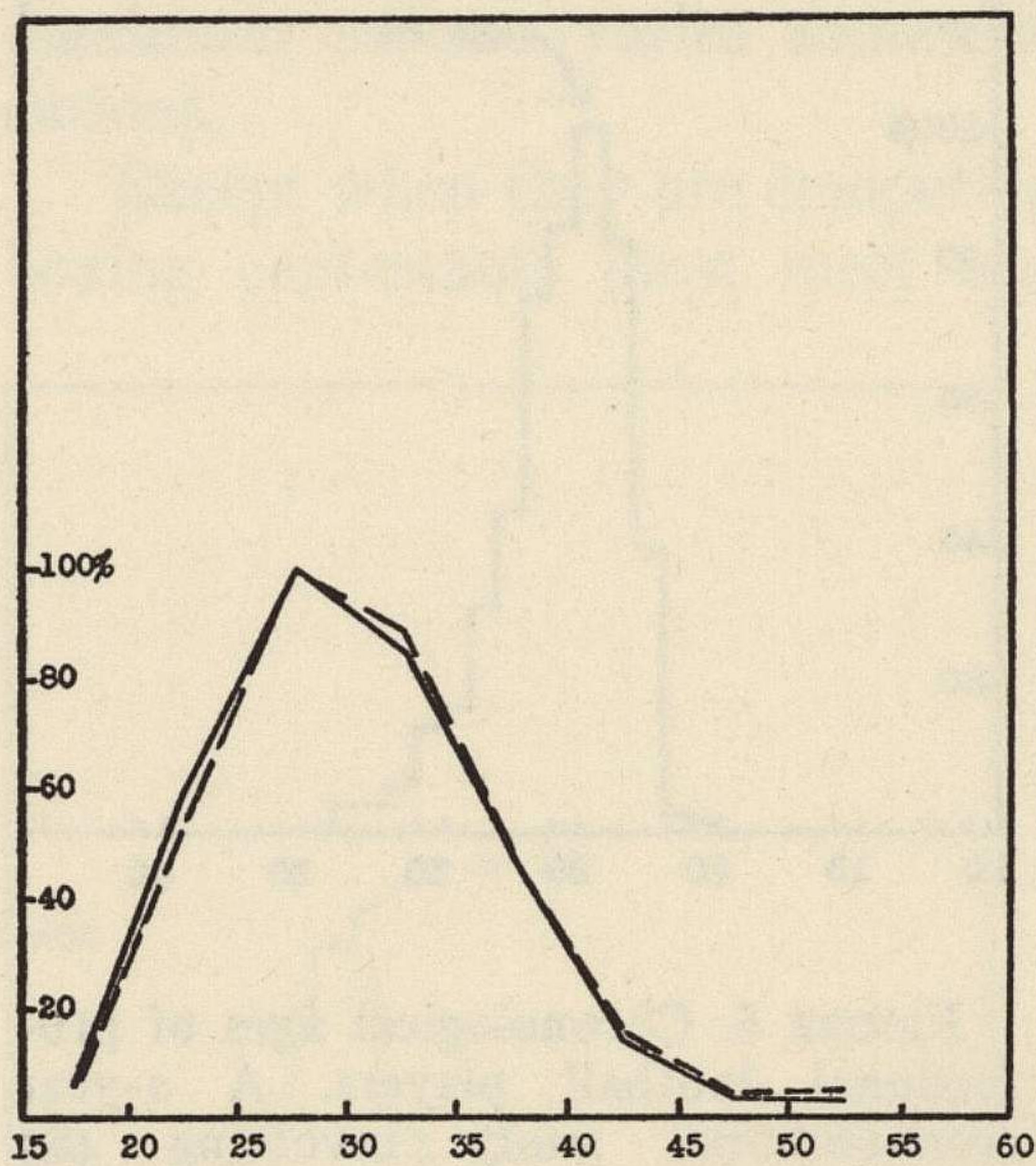


FIGURE 7. Chronological ages at which 87 state corn-husking championships were won or retained. The broken line makes allowances for the population differences at the various age levels.

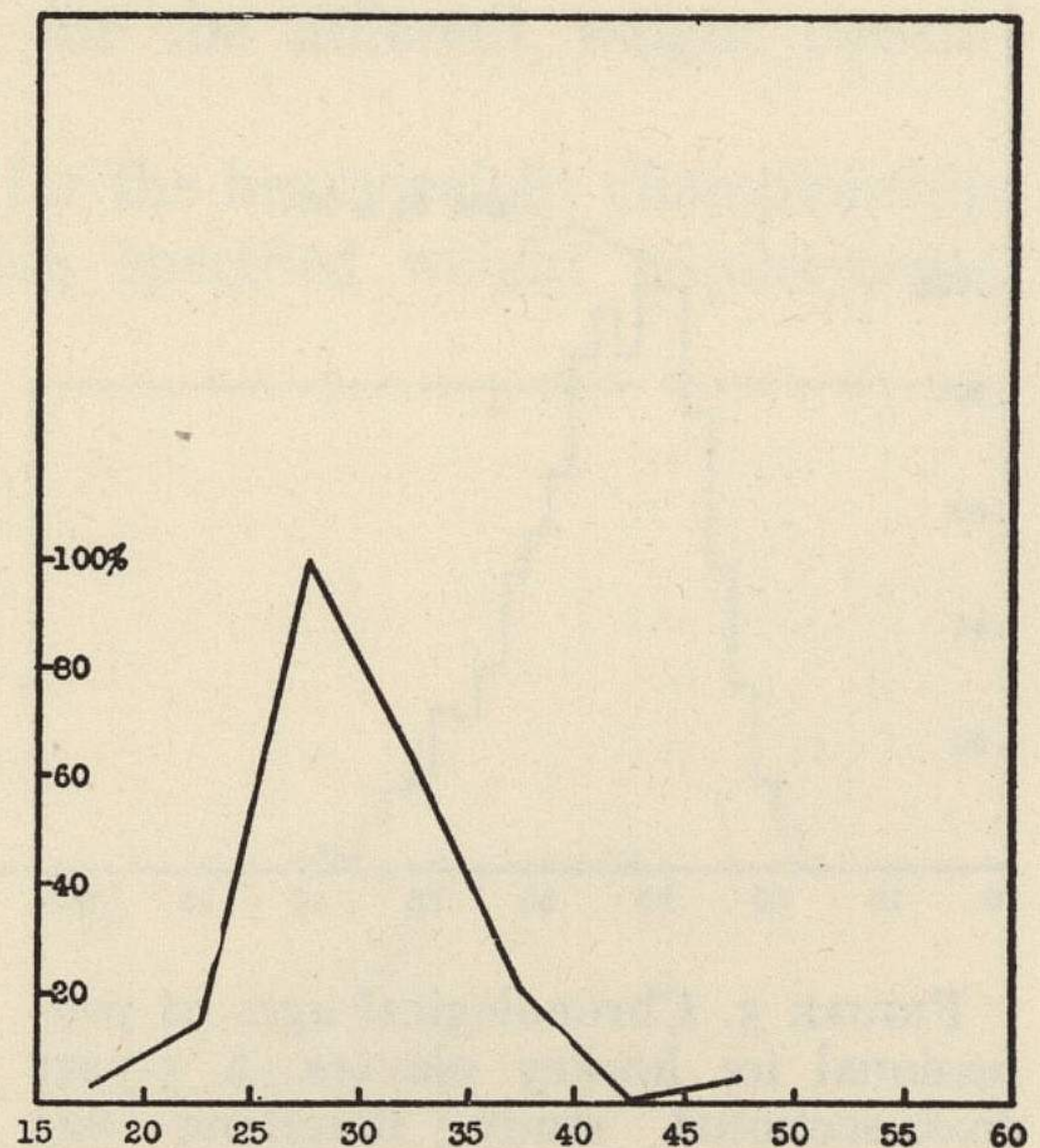


FIGURE 8. Chronological ages at which drivers won either first, second, or third place in the Indianapolis Speedway Races.

Because of the selective factor that is mentioned in the above quotation, we can say only that the modal age for football proficiency probably occurs *not later* than that which is set forth in Figure 6,