

Sam Schmidt (31) and Ron Henriksen slugged it out after Schmidt spun out of the lead with a blistered tire.

■ Shelby Pro Series, Round 1

Davies Rolls On

• PHOENIX, ARIZ., April 1 The first round of the Shelby Pro Series started the same way last season ended. Mike Davies, the defending series champion, took the win, thus opening his account with maximum points. Augie Pabst III was second, while third went to early leader Sam Schmidt. Davies has now won three Shelby races in a row (the last pro race in 1994, plus the Runoffs).

After an off-season which nearly saw the series' demise, it was encouraging to see 29 cars present at this 1995 opener—and 11 on the lead lap at the end of the 40-lap race.

Davies was fastest in qualifying and grided his Met-Rx Shelby on the pole, with Schmidt's Sports Car Ltd. example next to him. However, at the green flag Schmidt got the jump on Davies, making an outside pass in Turn One—only to face a yellow as Gary Tiller parked his car in the wall. After six caution laps, Schmidt made a fine restart and kept the lead from Davies, as the pair opened a gap on Pabst in third place, with Ron Henriksen, Jim DeBoer, and Robert Urich following Pabst.

This order continued until lap 27, when Schmidt spun in Turn Two. He was able to continue, but dropped to third behind Davies and Pabst. The story was tires, as Schmidt had blistered his right rear, causing the spin.

"I pushed it too hard to stay ahead of Davies," said Schmidt. "The tire started blistering, and I altered my line a little, which caused the the blistered rear tire to come around."

For his part, Davies was aware of the tire difficulties, and took advantage. "I knew tires were a concern, so we played it conservatively. When I was following Sam, I saw a dark line on his tire, so I knew it was just going to be a matter of time until it went off."

Pabst and Schmidt were unable to challenge Davies, subsequently, as a crash on the front straight involving Dick Fairbanks and Bud Clark produced an explosion of fiberglass strewn all over the track and saw the final eight laps run under caution. Fairbanks' car got into the outside wall coming off the last corner, bounced off and collected Clark. The two cars pirouetted down the track in perfect unison

until Fairbanks tagged the inside wall and scraped along the concrete past the start/finish line with flames bursting from a punctured oil tank. The fire was quickly extinguished, but a groggy Fairbanks collapsed after he exited the car and the ambulance rolled out to take him to the hospital. He was subsequently released in good condition. Clark was also uninjured.

When Dodge withdrew its support at the end of 1994, and Shelby management decided to end its involvement, the Shelby Pro series appeared dead. But the owners, led by Wally Gerhardt, banded together to form Shelby Racing Promotions and purchased the series from Carroll Shelby, including the rights to the Shelby name. An owners' steering committee sets policy, and LP Racing and Foxco Engineering handle the engine program. SCCA Pro Racing sanctions the series, provides field staff and assists Shelby Promotions with scheduling and operations. At Phoenix, the race was sponsored by DMB, La De'A sportswear, and the Bondurant Driving school.—Tom Schultz

• **QUALIFYING: Pos. Driver (all Dodge 3.3-liter V6 engines) Time over 1-mile course.** 1. Mike Davies 0:28.440 (126.58mph); 2. Sam Schmidt 0:28.500; 3. Bennett Dorrance 0:28.682; 4. Ron Henriksen 0:28.823; 5. Cory Witherill 0:28.935; 6. Jim deBoer 0:28.998; 7. Augie Pabst III 0:29.029; 8. Robert Urich 0:29.050; 9. Gary Tiller 0:29.308; 10. Paul Jasper 0:29.316; 11. R. David Jones 0:29.419; 12. Howie Liebgood 0:29.433; 13. Russell Errigo 0:29.464; 14. Shane Milhouser 0:29.477; 15. Mark Baker 0:29.569; 16. Chris Horn 0:29.634; 17. Dick Downes 0:29.671; 18. Patrick Rooney 0:29.769; 19. Ric Rushton 0:29.824; 20. Cory Shelton 0:29.832; 21. W. Jerry Gillis 0:29.845; 22. Bill Dollahite 0:29.911; 23. Tim Magrath 0:30.137; 24. Dick Fairbanks 0:30.390; 25. W.H. "Bud" Clark 0:30.418; 26. Mark Winkleman 0:31.247; 27. Ray Ritchie Jr. 0:32.891; 28. Sherif Fathy 0:33.364; 29. Rich Thorner (no time).

• **RESULTS: 40 laps, 40 miles** 1. Davies, 40 laps, 40m24.107sec; 2. Pabst; 3. Schmidt; 4. deBoer; 5. Henriksen; 6. Milhouser; 7. Jones; 8. Horn; 9. Urich; 10. Liebgood; 11. Baker; 12. Shelton, 39 laps; 13. Magrath; 14. Rushton; 15. Winkleman; 16. Downes; 17. Dollahite, 38 laps; 18. Errigo, 37 laps (mechanical); 19. Ritchie, 36 laps; 20. Fairbanks, 31 laps (accident); 21. Clark, 30 laps (accident); 22. Gillis, 28 laps (motor); 23. Rooney, 20 laps (accident); 24. Tiller, 1 lap (accident); 25. Jasper, 1 lap (accident). DNS: Fathy, Witherill, Thorner, Dorrance. **Time of Race:** 40m24.107sec; **Average Speed:** 59.403mph; **Margin of Victory:** 4.743sec; **Fastest Race Lap:** Schmidt 0:29.095; **Lap Leaders:** Schmidt 1-26, Davies 27-40; **Cautions:** 2 for 16 laps.

■ American City Racing League, Round 1

Zarcades Charge

• CHANDLER, ARIZ., March 12 Zooming quickly up from ninth on the 15-car starting grid, Peter Zarcades of Team Los Angeles won the American City Racing League's season opener at Firebird Raceway.

After having two of three practice and qualifying sessions declared wet during the weekend, it was warm and sunny with no rain in sight by race time.

At the green flag, polesitter Lee Lucas (Team San Jose) fell to seventh, allowing rookie Jeff Glenn to lead his first ACRL race; but it would be for only one lap, as he relinquished the top spot to Rick Lee's Team Reno Lola on the second go-around. Lee didn't lead long either, however, as Zarcades grabbed the lead on lap four and was never challenged, setting the fastest time on lap seven.

Zarcades' dominance left Lee and a recovered Lucas in a battle for runner-up. They swapped positions a few times, but it was Lee in second place when it counted most—on the last lap.

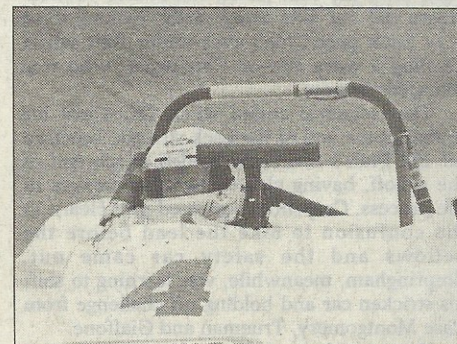
Gary Green (Swift) gave Team San Diego valuable fourth-place points, and Rick Ferguson (Team Anaheim) drove a good race from 13th to place fifth overall in his Swift, followed by early leader Glenn in his Team San Jose Swift.

The "B" Division winner was Edward Guenther, finishing seventh overall for Team Los Angeles in a Swift.

Team Los Angeles leads the team competition with 173 points after one round, followed by San Jose and defending champion San Diego.—Mary Mitchell

• **RESULTS: 25 laps, 40 miles.** 1. Peter Zarcades, Los Angeles, 25 laps, 24m34.341sec; 2. Rick Lee, Reno/Tahoe; 3. Lee Lucas, San Jose; 4. Gary Green, San Diego; 5. Rick Ferguson, Anaheim; 6. Jeff Glenn, San Jose; 7. Edward Guenther, Los Angeles, 24 laps; 8. Brad Krause, Santa Barbara; 9. Chris Ronson, San Jose; 10. Tom Bungay, Santa Barbara; 11. Joe Casanova, San Jose; 12. Leslie Clark, Santa Barbara, 23 laps; 13. Joe Gioski, Woodland, 22 laps; 14. Leo Gioski, Woodland. DNF: Leo Sismani, San Diego, 8 laps (transmission). **Time of Race:** 24m34.341sec; **Average Speed:** 97.472mph; **Margin of Victory:** 9.804sec; **Lap Leaders:** Glenn, 1; Lee, 2-3, Zarcades 4-25; **Fastest Race Lap:** Zarcades 57.288sec (100.54mph).

• **TEAM STANDINGS (after 1 of 8 rounds):** 1. Los Angeles, 173; 2. San Jose, 166; 3. San Diego, 142; 4. Santa Barbara, 137; 5. Woodland, 125; 6. Reno, 93; 7. Anaheim, 80.



Peter Zarcades took the ACRL opener at Firebird.