



RUPERT BERRINGTON

1991 Runoffs® GT1 champion Phil Mahre returned to racing in the ACRL and won in his debut at Phoenix.

Lippert (Checker Board Autosports/SR) all fought for position behind him.

On the restart after the track clearing coolant incident, Stilwell once again jumped to the point. Tilbor tucked in behind while Lippert, Jeff Mitchell (JD Equipment/SR) and Robert Mumm (Auto Stuff/Donnybrooke Mtr. Racing/SR) fought for third. Mumm made his move on Mitchell and then set his guns for Lippert. On the last lap, Lippert lost it at Turn Nine and tagged the wall, while Mumm went on for the podium finish.

"I was gaining on him [Lippert] rapidly," said Mumm. "I had a good draft and perfect spacing. I went around him going into Turn Nine. I felt a tap on my rear and I almost looped it; but when I checked my mirror, he was spinning off course." After a couple of fires that melted much of Mumm's electrical system at Phoenix, a podium finish was just what the doctor ordered. Mitchell hung on for fourth, while Mick Robinson (Robinson Motor Sport/SR) moved up to take over the number five spot.—*Dee Duncan*

• **QUALIFYING: Pos. Driver (all Spec Racer Fords on Yokohama tires). Time over 2.459-mile course.** 1. Warren Stilwell, 1:38.792 (91.457mph) RECORD; 2. Neil Tilbor, 1:37.140; 3. Robert Mumm, 1:37.310; 4. Leo Capaldi, 1:37.315; 5. John Collier, 1:37.320; 6. Bob Boudinot, 1:37.961; 7. Jeff Mitchell, 1:38.901; 8. Gary Lippert, 1:38.976; 9. James Simares, 1:39.063; 10. Rodney Thompson, 1:39.102; 11. John Hollansworth, 1:39.153; 12. Richard Doty, 1:39.293; 13. Mike Buck, 1:39.294; 14. Scott Zanetti, 1:39.301; 15. Mick Robinson, 1:39.531; 16. John Santo Spirito, 1:39.643; 17. Ray Senkevich, 1:41.544; 18. Wells Dickson, 1:43.246; 19. Dick Downs, no time.

• **RESULTS: 20 laps, 49.18 miles.** 1. Stilwell, 20 laps; 2. Tilbor; 3. Mumm; 4. Mitchell; 5. Robinson; 6. Doty; 7. Zanetti; 8. Thompson; 9. Buck; 10. Senkevich; 11. Dickson; 12. Lippert, 19 laps (accident); 13. Capaldi; 14. Simaras, 9 laps (mechanical); 15. Collier, 8 laps (accident); 16. Boudinot (accident); 17. Santo Spirito (accident); 18. Hollansworth, 0 laps (accident). **Time of Race:** 44m39.908sec; **Margin of Victory:** 4.358sec; **Average Race Speed:** 66.064mph; **Fastest Race Lap:** Stilwell 1:37.445 (90.845mph); **Lap Leaders:** Stilwell 1-21.

• **POINT STANDINGS (top 10 after 2 of 5 Rounds):** 1. Warren Stilwell, 36; 2. Chris Funk, 20; 3. Neil Tilbor, 18; 4. Scott Zanetti, 18; 5. Richard Doty, 15; 6. Robert Mumm, 14; 7. Cameron Earnshaw, 14; 8. John Santo Spirito, 12; 9. Jeff Mitchell, 12; 10. Mick Robinson, 11.

■ American City Racing League: Round 2

Mahre Returns

• **PHOENIX, ARIZ., May 6** Olympic Gold Medal skier Phil Mahre made a victorious return to the ACRL at Phoenix International Raceway, surviving a battle with Peter Zarcades to take the win. Mahre was also the fastest qualifier in the Marker Ski Bindings/Team Reno/Lola. He missed the season-opener at Firebird in March, but plans to run the rest of the season.

Lee Lucas suffered terminal engine problems on the second lap of the Daeco Top Five qualifying session on Saturday and Rick Lee, Mahre's teammate, crashed his Ski Centurion Van Diemen in Turn One. Lucas' crew set about installing a new engine, but Rick Lee would be a non-starter for the race, as was Team Santa Barbara's Tom Bungay, whose Drivertize-sponsored/Swift lost an oil pump drive-belt early in qualifying.

Mahre took the lead at the green flag, with Zarcades' Wynn's Oil/Swift DB-5 representing Team Los Angeles in hot pursuit. Bob Schader went off in Turn One on the second lap after starting third in his Valvoline/Petro-Cal sponsored Team San Diego/Lola and his day was done. Visibility was difficult the first few laps due to the quantity of oil-dry on the track, so Schader's off was a blessing in disguise, as it slowed the field down somewhat.

While Mahre and Zarcades pulled away, defending ACRL champion Margie Smith-Haas settled into third place in her Valvoline Falcon, ahead of ACRL rookie Jeff Glenn's Bank of the West/Team San Jose/Swift. Following closely behind was Margie's teammate, Leo Sismani. However, Lee Lucas, up from last on the grid, broke up this threesome by passing each of them over five laps. By lap 15 of the scheduled 30, he was in third and going after second.

Rick Ferguson's Diversified Metalworks/Team Anaheim/Swift led another close pack consisting of Team San Jose's Chris Ronson's (Tom Rust Racing/Swift) and Brad Krause's Team Santa Barbara (Kinko's/Lola). Krause's handling went away and he was passed by ex-NAPS series competitor Bob Liebert in the

Team Columbus (Ohio) RAL Group Pratt/Miller with Oldsmobile Quad Four power plant. Ronson then got by Ferguson on lap 18 and eventually finished seventh.

On lap 26, the crowd roared when Peter Zarcades, now in the lead after passing Mahre on lap 15, had light contact with Mahre at Turn Two. Zarcades was unable to continue and the race was checkered three laps early to remove Zarcades' crippled car so as not to finish under a full-course yellow and spoil what had been a very good race.

Lee Lucas' replacement engine held together for a second-place finish and, combined with the efforts of teammates Jeff Glenn (fourth place) and Chris Ronson (sixth), this gave Team San Jose the win and season points lead. Team San Diego was second, thanks to Smith-Haas' third place, Leo Sismani's fifth and Jay Messenger's 13th. Team Los Angeles, the series leader going into this event, was relegated to third with the demise of Peter Zarcades. Teammates Jim Paul and Ted Guenther, 10th and 11th, respectively, contributed to the Team Los Angeles' score.

The S2 winner was Team Los Angeles' Ted Guenther, who was 12th overall in his Precision Power/Swift DB-2. Team San Diego newcomer and ACRL rookie, Jay Messenger, from Muleshoe, Texas, had a race-long dice with fellow ACRL rookie David Seuss's Swift DB-2. After swapping positions a few times, Seuss was ahead when it counted. They finished 12th and 13th, followed by Mike Mayfield's Team Santa Barbara/Lola in his ACRL debut. Leslie Clark, the second female ACRL competitor, drove her Team Santa Barbara Clark Racing Enterprises/Swift DB-2 to 16th overall, earning enough points for ninth overall in driver points and second in points in the S2 Division Championship.—*Mary Mitchell*

• **QUALIFYING: Pos. Driver. Time over 1.5-mile course.** 1. Phil Mahre, 1:01.637; 2. Peter Zarcades, 1:01.853; 3. Bob Schader, 1:02.236; 4. Jeff Glenn, 1:02.835; 5. Margie Smith-Haas, 1:02.940; 6. Rick Ferguson, 1:02.863; 7. Leo Sismani, 1:03.148; 8. Bob Liebert, 1:03.311; 9. Chris Ronson, 1:03.467; 10. Brad Krause, 1:03.573; 11. Jim Paul, 1:04.698; 12. Edward Guenther, 1:04.982, 13. C. David Seuss, 1:05.380; 14. Tom Bungay, 1:06.392; 15. Mike Mayfield, 1:06.554; 16. Jay Messenger, 1:06.722; 17. Leslie Clark, 1:07.411; 18. Rick Lee (no time), 19. Lee Lucas (no time).

• **RESULTS: 27 laps, 40.5 miles.** 1. Mahre, Reno, 27 laps, 29m-17.869sec; 2. Lucas, San Jose; 3. Smith-Haas, San Diego; 4. Glenn, San Jose; 5. Sismani, San Diego; 6. Ronson, San Jose; 7. Liebert, Columbus; 8. Ferguson, Anaheim; 9. Krause, Santa Barbara; 10. Paul, Los Angeles, 26 laps; 11. Guenther, Los Angeles; 12. Seuss, Boston; 13. Messenger, San Diego; 14. Zarcades, Los Angeles, 25 laps (accident); 15. Mayfield, Santa Barbara, 25 laps (running); 16. Clark, Santa Barbara, 24 laps (running); 17. Schader, San Diego, 2 laps (accident). **DNS:** Lee, Reno; Bungay, Santa Barbara. **Time of Race:** 29m17.869sec; **Average Speed:** 82.941mph; **Margin of Victory:** 11.554sec; **Fastest Race Lap:** Mahre 1:01.937; **Lap Leaders:** Mahre 1-14, Zarcades 15-25, Mahre 26-27.

• **DRIVER POINTS (after 2 of 8 rounds):** 1. Lee Lucas, 183; 2. Jeff Glenn, 160; 3. Peter Zarcades, 152; 4. Rick Ferguson, 150; 5. Chris Ronson, 143; 6. Brad Krause, 137; 7. Ted Guenther, 134; 8. Leo Sismani, 130; 9. Leslie Clark, 106; 10. Phil Mahre, 102.

• **TEAM STANDINGS (after 2 of 8 rounds):** 1. San Jose, 343; 2. San Diego, 310; 3. Los Angeles, 304; 4. Santa Barbara, 265; 5. Reno/Tahoe, 195; 6. Anaheim, 153; 7. Woodland, 125; 8. Columbus, 76; 9. Boston, 61.