

The American City Racing League Super Sports 2000 cars start at Phoenix International Raceway. The front row has Peter Zarcades, Swift DB5 (4), and eventual winner Phil Mahre, Swift (11). Seen in the second row is Bob Schader (8). —Kevin Lake photo

Phil Mahre is back up front of American City Racing League

By Mary Mitchell

PHOENIX, AZ, May 6—Olympic Gold Medal skier Phil Mahre is back in action and winning.

Phil Mahre returned to the American City Racing League at Phoenix International Raceway the weekend of May 8. He was the fastest in all timed sessions, driving the Team Reno/Tahoe Lola, and then he won the race. He is sponsored by Marker Ski Bindings, Lange Ski Boots, Reno Sun Glasses, Rain-X, and Ski Centurion. Mahre missed the season opener at Firebird in March, but plans to run the rest of the 1995 ACRL season.

Polesitter Mahre took the lead at the green flag with Zarcades' Wynn's Oil-sponsored Swift DB5 representing Team Los Angeles in hot pursuit. WSC's Bob Schader went off in Turn 1 on the second lap after starting third in his Valvoline/Petro-Cal sponsored Team San Diego Lola. His day was done. There was so much oil-dry on the track at the beginning of the race it was very difficult to see. Schader's "off" slowed the field down somewhat which helped the visibility problem by giving the drivers a chance to wipe their visors clean.

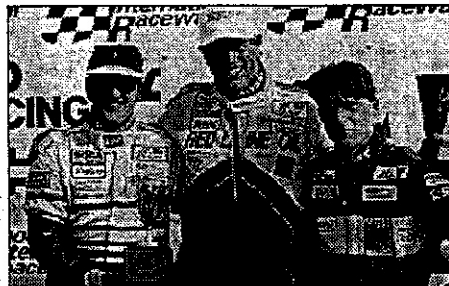
While Mahre and Zarcades pulled away, defending ACRL champion Margie Smith-Haas settled into third spot in her Valvoline/PPG Falcon ahead of ACRL rookie Jeff Glenn's Team San Jose Bank of the West/KJWL Radio Swift DB5. Glenn's a college senior, at 22, the youngest ACRL competitor. Following closely behind was Smith-Haas' teammate Leo Sisman's Valvoline/California Scene Swift DB5.

They had a close battle until lap 14 when the hard charging Lee Lucas, up from last on the grid, broke up the threesome by passing each over five laps. On lap 15 of the scheduled 30, Lucas was third and going after second.

Rick Ferguson's Team Anaheim Diversified



On the American City Racing League victory podium at Phoenix International Raceway, May 6, are second place Lee Lucas, race winner Phil Mahre, trophy queen Jessica Northey, and third place Margie Smith-Haas. —Kevin Lake photo



Team San Jose claimed the team trophy at Phoenix. From left, Chris Ronson, Lee Lucas, and Jeff Glenn. —Kevin Lake photo

Metalworks 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 sponsored Lola. Brad Krause's

handling went away and he was passed by ex-NAPS series' competitor Bob Liebert in the Team Columbus (OH) RAL Group Pratt/Miller with Oldsmobile Quad Four powerplant. Ronson got by Ferguson on lap 18 for seventh overall.

On lap 26, the crowd roared when Zarcades, who was now in the lead after passing Mahre on lap 15, had light contact with Mahre in Turn 2. Zarcades was unable to continue, so crowd favorite Mahre went on to victory after 27 laps.

Results, ACRL, Phoenix International Raceway, May 6, 1995: 1. Phil Mahre, Reno/Tahoe, 27 laps, 2. Lee Lucas, San Jose, 27 laps; 3. Margie

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