

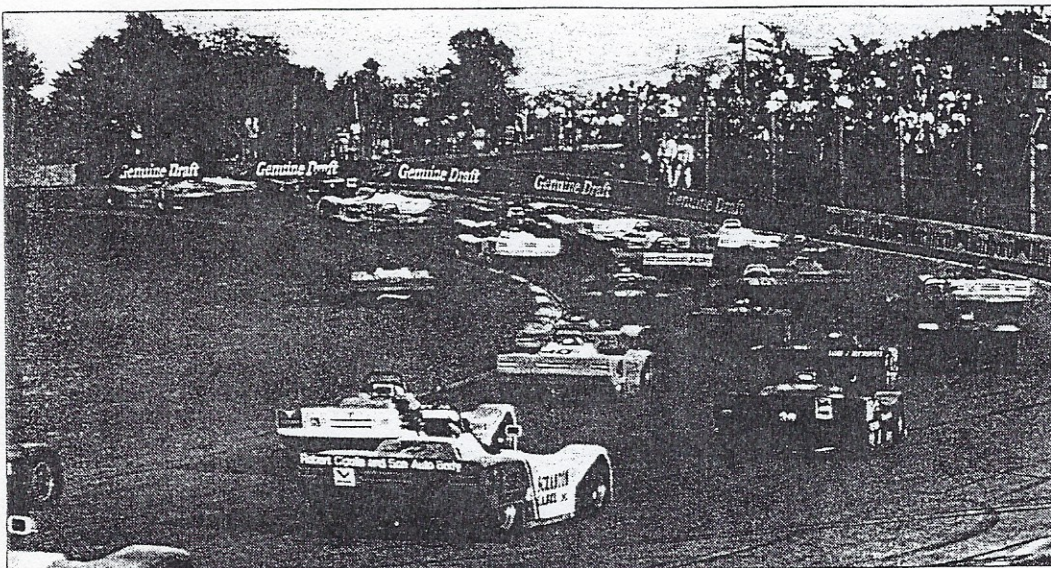
# MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

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**SPORTSCAR**

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KEN BROWN

If current negotiations go as planned, next year's SCCA Valvoline Runoffs will be broadcast nation-wide on cable television.

## Major SCCA Television Package in the Works

At press time it was revealed that SCCA Pro Racing, Ltd. is in the final stages of negotiation for a major, multi-year television package providing coverage of all SCCA professional racing series and the Valvoline Runoffs. A mix of several cable networks is reportedly involved in the deal. In today's racing marketplace television exposure is, of course, a critical component in attracting major sponsors. Little more is known at this time, but details will be announced "in the very near future" according to Kevin O'Brien, SCCA Pro Racing's vice president of marketing.

## Schedule for 1996 Trans-Am Released

A 12-race schedule is tentatively planned for the 1996 SCCA Trans-Am Championship, including an appearance at the new Homestead Motorsports Complex on March 17 and at a new street circuit in Reno, Nev., adjacent to the Reno Hilton Hotel Sept. 22. Although there is the possibility of additional events, the current schedule is as follows:

Feb. 25	St. Petersburg, Fla.
March 17	Homestead, Fla.
April 21	PIR, Phoenix, Ariz.
May 19	Bowmanville, Ontario
May 27	Lakeville, Conn.
June 3	Detroit, Mich.
June 28	Cleveland, Ohio
Aug. 4	Trois-Rivieres, Quebec
Aug. 10	Watkins Glen, N.Y.
Aug. 17	Elkhart Lake, Wis.
Sept. 1	Dallas, Texas
Sept. 22	Reno, Nev.

Three of the races will be held in conjunction with PPG Indy Car World Series events, returning to very popular and familiar Trans-Am venues (Detroit, Cleveland and Elkhart Lake) and three races will be part of NASCAR weekends (Homestead, Phoenix and Watkins Glen).



PHILIP SALAZAR

## Atlantic Awards Presented

The Player's Ltd./ Toyota Atlantic Championship banquet held Sept. 10 in Monterey, Calif., honored 1995 champion Richie Hearn and Category 2 champion Bernie Schuchman. Other award recipients were:

**Felipe Giaffone**, 1995 Rookie of the Year, who edged brother Zeca for the title; **David Empringham**, the Gilles Villeneuve award, for the driver who possesses extraordinary ability and special star quality; **Case Montgomery**, the Michael Rosen trophy, for outstanding performance; **Stan Wattles**, the Jovy Marcelo award, for sportsmanship exemplifying that of the late 1992 Atlantic champion; **Lee Bentham**, the new Rising Star award, for a rookie who performs in a most competitive manner; **Bill Fickling**, entrant of the year, for his work with eight P-1 Racing drivers in 1995, including rookies Lee Bentham and Shigeaki Hattori; **Brendon Cleave**, crew chief of the year, for preparing Hearn's car; **Jim Griffith**, mechanic of the year, for his work as Lynx Racing engineer and car builder for Patrick Carpentier; and **Arnie Loyning**, engine builder of the year, whose motors won 10 of the 12 races.

## Mahre Is ACRL Champion

The American City Racing League concluded its 1995 season with a double-header at Sears Point during the Pacific Coast Road Racing Championships event on Sept. 16th and 17th. With a win on Saturday and a third place on Sunday, Phil Mahre clinched the Super Sports 2000 Drivers Championship, while the city title—and Blackaller Cup—went to Team San Jose. Ted Guenther topped the Sports 2000 driver points and Jeff Glenn was Rookie of the Year by one point over San Jose teammate Chris Ronson. Glenn was also voted "Rising Star of 1995" by his fellow competitors.



DOUG BERGER

## Sears Point Will Decide Trans-Am

The season-long battle between Tom Kendall, Ron Fellows, Ford and Chevrolet will all get settled in the Oct. 7th race at Sears Point in Sonoma, Calif., the last of the year for the 1995 Trans-Am Championship. Ford pilot Kendall holds a decided 29-point advantage, and as Chevrolet stalwart Fellows himself points out, "I'll have to get the maximum points, 37, and Kendall can't get any more than eight points for me to win. Not so easy, is it?"

From Kendall's perspective it appears a whole lot easier, as the 1990 champion needs only to finish 17th or better to become the series eighth two-time champion. However, in this fender-bruising muscle-car series nothing can be taken for granted.

The situation is reversed in the Manufacturers Championship, where Chevrolet holds a 4-point lead over Ford and can wrap up its 14th Trans-Am title with a third-place finish. To repeat as the 1995 champion, Fords will have to finish 1-2-3 in this final race.