

■ American City Racing League: Rounds 5 and 6

Double Dipper

• **PORTLAND, OREGON, July 6-7** When Bob Schader of Team San Diego and Joe Giroski of Team Woodland packed up to head home late Sunday afternoon, they took with them nearly all the top awards that were up for grabs during ACRL's Kinko's Firecracker Finale double-header weekend at Portland International Raceway.

In the Super Sports 2000 Division, Schader swept the weekend's twin 22-lap races, in addition to gaining the pole for each during the two Daeco Top Five qualifying sessions. Not wanting to be outdone, Giroski duplicated Schader's dominance in the Sports 2000 division. Their back-to-back victories helped each of these drivers garner the maximum number of points, bringing them closer to a divisional year-end championship.

Following rounds five and six of this eight-race season, the additional battle for the City Team title appears to be going down to the wire, particularly between Las Vegas and San Diego, with each taking a weekend win. Team Woodland, headed primarily by father and son teammates Leo and Joe Giroski, is now in third place, a mere one point ahead of Santa Barbara. San Jose holds down the fifth spot.

Schader was fast right out of the trailer. During qualifying for Saturday's race, the Boulder, Colo., resident broke the existing SS2 track record (without the Festival Chicane) in his Petro Cal/PPG/Valvoline/Turner Lola. Over a second behind was Jeff Glenn of Team San Jose, fresh off his first ACRL career victory at Portland during the Rose Cup weekend. Leo Sismani, Rick Lee and Peter Zarcades rounded out the first day's top five. Giroski, 11th fastest overall, topped the S2 times at 1:11.636 ahead of Bill Bachofner of Team Wilsonville and Brad Arntson of Team Woodland.

Sunday's Top Five qualifying was almost a complete duplicate, as Schader backed up his Saturday time with another pole, followed by Glenn's Marketing One Inc./Bank of the West Swift, then Sismani and Lee. Brad Krause was

fifth fastest in his Kinko's Lola, but lost control in Turn Nine just at the close of the 10-minute session and hit the outside tire wall. Extensive damage to the car meant he would be a DNS for Sunday's race.

Schader easily led all the way Saturday, gaining nearly a second a lap on the field, and cruised past the checkered flag with a 20-second margin of victory. Rick Lee of Team Reno and Leo Sismani of Team Las Vegas also shared successful weekends in their Ford/Cosworth-powered SS2 rides. Lee wheeled his Reno-Sparks CVA/Ski Centurion Lola to the second position in Saturday's race, with Sismani finishing third overall. On Sunday, the two swapped finishing positions as Sismani drove the California Scene Falcon-Swift into the second slot, his best ACRL career finish.

Jeff Glenn's high hopes for the weekend were dashed at the mid-point of Saturday's race when he suffered a flat rear tire due to rubbing bodywork. Solidly holding down second place at the time, he lost valuable moments in the pits and had to settle for 17th, four laps down. San Jose's Chris Ronson had a steady run to finish fourth, as did Larry Vollum of Team Portland, who landed in the top five.

In the S2 division, Joe Giroski's Master Transmission and Auto Tiga-Wasp SC89 finished eighth overall, one full lap ahead of the second place (11th overall) S2 Swift of Bill Bachofner. Third in S2 was veteran Ian Wood.

For Schader, Sunday's 22-lap second round was a carbon copy of the day before. After two aborted starts due to some scrimmages for position farther back in the field, the veteran quickly established his dominance. This day, he improved his margin of victory to a whopping 23.81 seconds, unusual in a typically competitive ACRL field. The early race fireworks were taking place behind him, with Glenn, Lee, Sismani and Vollum locked into a four-car dice for second. On the fifth lap, Glenn made slight contact with Lee exiting turn eight, with each losing positions as the cars of Vollum, Sismani, Tom Kreger (Team Vancouver) and Ronson slipped by. Several laps later, Glenn was slapped with a stop and go penalty for contact, but drove with a

vengeance thereafter to an eventual fourth-place finish.

With Schader waving good-bye to the rest of the field, Vollum and Sismani were locked in a good dice for second. Suddenly, with just four laps remaining, Vollum's Motorsports Engineering Swift went for a quick spin under braking at the entrance to Turn Nine, and Sismani barely squeaked by Vollum's car on the inside. Vollum was able to recover, but not before giving up valuable positions with little time left to make amends. Though well behind Schader, Sismani finished second ahead of Lee, Glenn and Chris Ronson's Redline Oil/Tom Rust Racing-sponsored entry.

Zarcades, a long-time ACRL standout, had nothing but bad luck throughout the weekend. His primary engine was lost during Friday's practice. Without a spare, they acquired a loaner from another team, and had the car ready to go for Saturday's qualifying, in which Zarcades placed fifth quickest. In the early stages of the race, a nudge from another car sent Zarcades spinning off-track, losing many positions. By the end of the race, he had worked his way back to 10th overall. On Sunday, still unable to get the borrowed engine up to optimum performance, the Team Las Vegas driver could only manage to get his Pennzoil-sponsored Swift 10th quickest in qualifying. With unsolved mechanical problems, he was forced to retire from Sunday's race after just five laps.

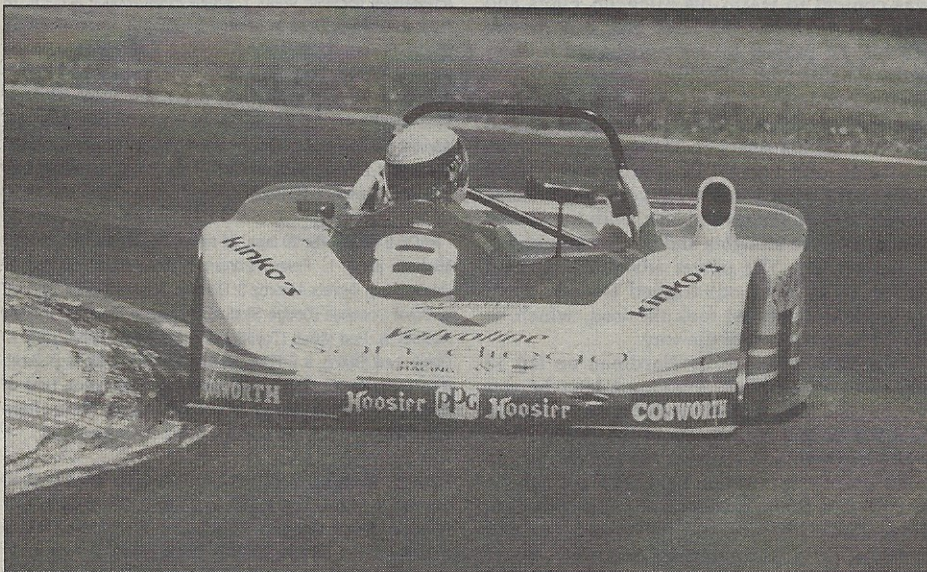
Schader's stunning dual victories drew him closer to the 1996 Super Sports 2000 driver's championship. At the end of the day on Sunday, he was obviously pleased. "Things have gone very, very well for me this weekend," he said. "We all just came ready to do the job. The car worked particularly well in the sweeping corners."

Joe Giroski, in winning the Sports 2000 division, again finished the race eighth overall, a lap ahead of second-place Ian Wood, while third in S2 went to Bill Bachofner.—*Bob Kehoe*

• **RACE 1 RESULTS: 22 laps, 42.196 miles.** 1. Schader, 22 laps; 2. Lee; 3. Sismani; 4. Ronson; 5. Vollum; 6. Kreger; 7. Krause; 8. J. Giroski; 9. Zurlinden, 21 laps; 10. Zarcades; 11. B. Bachofner; 12. Wood; 13. L. Giroski; 14. J. Bachofner; 15. Watt; 16. King, 18 laps (contact); 17. Glenn, 18 laps; 18. Ferguson, 16 laps; 19. Arntson, 12 laps (mechanical); 20. Choquette, 8 laps (mechanical); 21. Brewer, 4 laps (mechanical). **Time of Race:** 25m17.407sec; **Winner's Average Speed:** 100.10mph; **Margin of Victory:** 20.11sec; **Fastest Race Lap:** Schader 01:08.620; **Lap Leaders:** Schader, 1-22.

• **RACE 2 RESULTS: 22 laps, 42.196 miles.** 1. Schader, 22 laps; 2. Sismani; 3. Lee; 4. Glenn; 5. Ronson; 6. Zurlinden; 7. Vollum; 8. J. Giroski; 9. Wood, 21 laps; 10. King; 11. Ferguson; 12. B. Bachofner; 13. L. Giroski; 14. Watt; 15. J. Bachofner; 16. Greenwood, 20 laps; 17. Kreger, 16 laps (mechanical); 18. Choquette, 11 laps (contact); 19. Hermes, 8 laps (mechanical); 20. Burrows, 7 laps (mechanical); 21. Zarcades, 5 laps (mechanical). **DNS:** Krause, Brewer. **Time of Race:** 26m50.106sec; **Winner's Average Speed:** 94.345mph; **Margin of Victory:** 23.81sec; **Fastest Race Lap:** Schader 01:08.563; **Lap Leaders:** Schader, 1-22.

• **DRIVER POINT STANDINGS (top 10, best 5 of 6 races):** 1. Schader, 507; 2. Lee, 442; 3. Sismani, 429; 4. Glenn, 407; 5. Zurlinden, 386; 6. Ronson, 368; 7. J. Giroski, 350; 8. L. Giroski, 302; 9. Krause, 272; 10. Wood, 262. **CITY TEAM STANDINGS (top 5):** 1. San Diego, 1028; 2. Las Vegas, 938; 3. Woodland, 783; 4. Santa Barbara, 724; 5. San Jose, 685.



Bob Schader won both races at Portland and closed in on the ACRL Super Sports driving title as a result.

DOUG BERGER