

Bob Schader wins ACRL opener; San Jose takes team honors

By Roger Diez

MONTEREY, CA, March 31—There was good hard racing as the American City Racing League opened its 1996 season at Laguna Seca Raceway.

Team San Diego's Bob Schader kept his momentum from his 1995 season-ending win at Sears Point, and was fastest out of the box in Saturday's practice. Schader was the only driver to get below 1:31 on the newly remodeled 2.238-mile Laguna Seca road course. His reward was the overall victory.

Notably missing from the entry list were last year's driving champion Phil Mahre and 1994 champ Margie Smith-Haas. Smith-Haas, recently returned from her PPG Race Car driving duties in Homestead, FL, and Brazil, plans to start her season at Mesa Marin in April. Mahre, a skier of some note, probably won't be seen until the snow melts.

The Daeco Top Five qualifying session was exciting as usual, with Schader's PPG Valvoline-sponsored Lola taking the point until the final lap of the 10-minute sprint when Team Las Vegas' Peter Zarcades gave himself a birthday present by snatching the pole with a lap at 1:31.131 in his Pennzoil Swift DB5. Schader had to settle for second, while the Team San Jose Swift-mounted due of Jeff Glenn and Lee Lucas took third and fourth. Brad Krause broke into the Top Five for the first time, taking fifth for Team Santa Barbara.

The feature race went off right after lunch in beautiful weather. Fourteen cars took the trademark ACRL parade lap, aligned in team formation and flying American and Canadian flags. Re-gridding in qualifying order, they took one pace lap and got the green from starter Karen Cantu. Schader out-dragged Zarcades into Turn 2 for the lead, but on the second lap, Lucas charged to the front, also with a Turn 2 pass. Lucas' teammate Glenn, 1995 Rookie of the Year, moved into third behind Schader.

At Turn 11, Zarcades tried to take the spot back with an outbraking maneuver, left it too late and slid across the track in a lurid spin into the dirt. The rest of the field took evasive action.

Driver Point Standings:

Overall: Bob Schader, 100; Lee Lucas, 93; Jeff Glenn, 88; Brad Krause, 84; Rick Lee, 80; Leo Sismani, 76; Jim Paul, 73; Joe Giroski, 70; Ian Wood, 67; Leo Giroski, 64; Roger Werner, 61; Buddy Gold, 58; John Ostlund, 55; Peter Zarcades, 54.

B Category: Joe Giroski, 100; Ian Wood, 93; Leo Giroski, 88; John Ostlund, 84.

American City Race League, Sanctioned by SCCA Pro Racing, Official Race Results, 3/31/96, Group 10, Season Opener Round 1 of 8, Laguna Seca Raceway, track length, 2.238 miles, victory margin 6.735, race length, 40.284 miles, time of 28:07.106, average mph, 85.959

Po #	Team/Driver, City Pts	Pts Cts	Car	#laps	Time
1	8 SD Bob Schader, San Diego	100-A	Lola	18	1:32.406
2	27 SJ Lee Lucas, San Jose	93-A	Swift	18	1:32.788
3	33 SJ Jeff Glenn, San Jose	88-A	Swift	18	1:32.921
4	25 SB Brad Krause, Santa Barbara	84-A	Lola	18	1:34.031
5	11 RN Rick Lee, Reno	80-A	Lola B	18	1:34.329
6	55 LV Leo Sismani, Las Vegas	76-A	Swift	18	1:33.893
7	1 LB Jim Paul, Long Beach	73-A	Swift	18	1:34.692
8	18 WDL Joe Giroski, Woodland	100-B	Tiga B	18	1:36.945
9	88 SD Ian Wood, San Diego	93-B	Swift	18	1:37.693
10	17 WDL Leo Giroski, Woodland	88-B	Tiga S	17	1:39.792
11	9* SD Roger Werner, San Diego	84-B	Swift	16	1:36.194
12	24 SB Buddy Dold, Santa Barbara	70-A	Lola T	15	1:35.574
13	59 FRS John Ostlund, Fresno	80-B	Swift	14	1:36.674
14	51*LV* Peter Zarcades, Las Vegas	69-A	Swift	13	1:34.459
dns 5	SD Marc Zurlinden, San Diego		Swift		
dns 20	PTL Dennis Pavlina, Portland		Swift		
dns 52	LV Chris Ronson, Las Vegas		Swift		

*Not running *Car #51 with 2 point bonus for qualifying on the pole

Number of starters: 14; number of finishers: 14

Fastest lap by Bob Schader Car #8 time of 1:32.406 on lap 6 at 87.18 mph

Lap leader(s) 8 1-18-17

lap to lap 27 2-7

Lead changes 2 between 2 cars.

Team results

Po	Team	Total Points	Scoring car	Track pos
1	San Jose	181	27 (2,2)	33 (3,3)
2	San Diego	167	8 (1,1)	88 (9,9)
3	Santa Barbara	145	25 (4,4)	24 (12,11)
4	Woodland	134	18 (8,8)	14 (10,10)
5	Las Vegas	133	55 (6,6)	51 (14,13)
6	Reno	80	11 (5,5)	
7	Long Beach	73	1 (7,7)	
8	Fresno	58	59 (13,12)	
9	Portland	0		