

# Bob Schader is ACRL's 1996 driver champion

By Roger Dietz

**SONOMA, CA, July 13**—Team San Diego's Bob Schader won his first ACRL driver's championship at the Kinko's sponsored Sears Point race, the seventh of the American City Racing League's eight-race series for Ford Cosworth power two-liter sports racing cars.

The win was not without drama, as polesitter Jeff Glenn of Team San Jose hounded Schader the entire way, actually pulling alongside in the final turn before the checker. Schader out-powered Glenn to the flag by only a few feet.

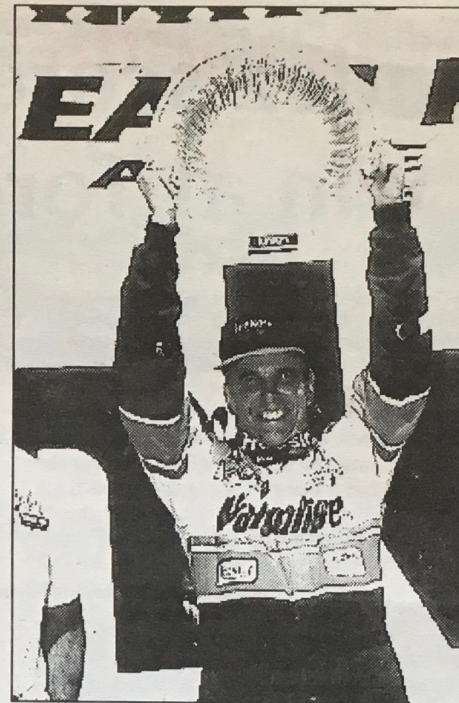
"Jeff was going to school on me in the practice sessions, and he took really good notes," laughed the winner after the race. Earlier in the day, Schader's team found a blown head gasket in the engine, necessitating a thrash to get the car to the grid.

Chris Ronson of Team Las Vegas followed the battling duo to the line, scoring his first podi-

um finish. Team Santa Barbara's Buddy Dold finished fourth, a spray of oil from his engine holding Margie Smith-Haas of San Diego at bay in fifth.

The stage for the battle was set in qualifying. Schader, who had been fastest by over a second in all the practice sessions, damaged a front winglet when he cut a corner too close on the first lap of the Daeco Top Five qualifying session. The resulting change in the aerodynamics slowed him just enough to allow Glenn to take the pole by a tenth of a second in his Bank of the West-sponsored Swift DB-5. San Diego's Marc Zurlinden, Reno's Rick Lee, and Ronson also made the Top Five.

When the green flag dropped for the race, Glenn surged to the front and held the lead for three laps. Then Schader got a great run off Turn 11 and made a pass in Turn 1 on lap four, never to



Team San Diego's Bob Schader clinched the American City Racing League's driver championship at Sears Point during the IMSA weekend, July 12-14. —Geoff Hewitt photo

and Glenn. Even a late-race caution didn't help, and then two laps from the end, Lee sputtered to a halt in Turn 3, victim of a fuel consumption miscalculation. This moved Ronson to third, Dold to fourth, and Smith-Haas to fifth. Her finish, combined with Schader's win, garnered the team win for the PPG/Valvoline sponsored San Diego team.

The Sports 2000 "B" drivers had a tight race. Point leader Joe Gioski of Team Woodland eventually triumphed, passing the Team Fresno cars of pole winner Eric Lunn and John Ostlund after a caution flag. A late-race incident dropped the Fresno drivers even farther back, leaving second to Bill Bachofner of Team Wilsonville, OR, and third to San Diego's Ian Wood. Only Gioski's father, Leo, has a chance to catch him for the Sports 2000 driver's championship.

With the driver's battle settled, only the team championship remains in doubt. San Diego looks strong, with only Team Las Vegas still having a mathematical chance of taking it away. San Diego would have to have a disastrous race at Reno, and Las Vegas almost a perfect score for that to happen, but in racing nothing is certain until the last checkered flag falls.

**Results: (18 laps, 45.36 miles) Driver/City Team:** 1. Bob Schader/San Diego, 18 laps; 2. Jeff Glenn/San Jose, 18 laps; 3. Chris Ronson/Las Vegas, 18; 4. Buddy Dold, Santa Barbara, 18; 5. Margie Smith-Haas/San Diego, 18; 6. Larry Vollum/Portland, 18; 7. (S2) Joe Gioski/Woodland, 18; 8. (S2) Bill Bachofner/Wilsonville, 18; 9. (S2) Ian Wood/San Diego, 18; 10. (S2) Dennis Reed/San Jose, 18; 11. (S2) John Ostlund/Fresno, 18; 12. (S2) Eric Lunn/Fresno, 18; 13. Justin Ferguson/Anaheim, 18; 14. (S2) John Bachofner/Wilsonville, 18; 15. (S2) Leo Gioski/Woodland, 17; 16. (S2) Jacek Much/Montreal, 17; 17. Jim Paul/Long Beach, 17; 18. Rick Lee/Reno, 16 (mech); 19. Leo Sismani/Las Vegas, 14 (accident); 20. Joe Casanova/San Jose, 13 (mech); 21. Marc Zurlinden/San Diego, 10 (accident); 12. Neal Knox/Dallas, 7 (mech).

**Driver Point Standings (top 10, best six of seven finishes):** 1. Bob Schader/San Jose, 599 (champion); 2. Rick Lee/Reno, 522; 3. (tie) Leo Sismani/San Diego and Jeff Glenn/San Jose, 502; 5. Chris Ronson/Las Vegas, 456; 6. (r) Marc Zurlinden/San Diego, 426; 7. Joe Gioski/Woodland, 423; 8. Leo Gioski/Woodland, 357; 9. Ian Wood/San Diego, 329; 10. Larry Vollum/Portland, 313.

**S2000 Driver Point Standings (top five, best six of seven finishes):** 1. Joe Gioski/Woodland, 593; 2. Leo Gioski/Woodland, 524; 3. Ian Wood/San Diego, 455; 4. John Ostlund/Fresno, 352; 5. John Bachofner/Wilsonville, 313.

**City Championship Points (top 10 after seven rounds):** 1. San Diego, 1208; 2. Las Vegas, 1070; 3. Woodland, 908; 4. San Jose, 847; 5. Santa Barbara, 808; 6. Reno, 572; 7. Portland, 461; 8. Wilsonville, 421; 9. Vancouver, 402; 10. Fresno, 323.



Mike Skinner and his crew enjoy victory lane at Tucson Raceway Park after winning the NASCAR Craftsman Truck race May 25. —Mike Keon/High Sierra Photos

be headed. Zurlinden spun out of third in Turn 7 on the first lap, rejoining in 13th. He worked his way back up to fifth by lap seven, dropped back two spots with a miscue in Turn 11, and finally ended his race on lap 10 with a crash in the Carousel.

"I was pushing hard to catch up, and just got in the loose stuff and lost it," said a disappointed Zurlinden.

Lee inherited third on the first lap, but was unable to keep up with the flying duo of Schader

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