

Bob Schader Takes ACRL Opener

Bob Schader picked up where he left off at the end of 1995 as he won the Sports Car Club of America's American City Racing League's season opener at the Laguna Seca circuit in Monterey, Calif.

Schader, who won the final two races of '95, drove his Team San Diego PPG/Valvoline-sponsored Lola to a 6.7-second victory over Team San Jose's Lee Lucas in the Saturn/Redline Oil Swift DB-5/Purcell. Jeff Glenn (Bank of the West/KJWL Swift DB-5) was third, as City Team honors went to San Jose for its two-three finish. Joe Giroski of Team Woodland (Washington) won the Sports 2000 class in a Tiga/Wasp as he finished eighth overall.

Peter Zarcades of Team Las Vegas (Pennzoil Swift DB-5) started on the pole after a lap of

1:31.131 on Laguna's reconfigured 2.238-mile circuit. Schader was second with a 1:31.84, while 1995 Rookie of the Year Glenn qualified third, and Lucas annexed fourth.

Zarcades led 14 cars to the green in the new start procedure that makes the pole-sitter pace the safety car in pit lane. Zarcades held the point only to Turn 2, where Schader moved past as a result of a good jump at the green. Lucas passed both Zarcades and Glenn on the inside and found himself in second before the end of the opening lap.

As Lucas passed Schader for the lead in Turn 2 on lap two, Glenn and Zarcades were having an outstanding braking duel in Turn 11. Zarcades dived under Glenn in an attempt to retake third, and Zarcades hit the binders a bit too late — and found himself spinning into the runoff area. He came back on track just in time to collect Las Vegas teammate Leo Sismani, who had been running fifth, causing substantial

body damage to both cars and forcing Zarcades' eventual retirement.

Lucas had to give up the lead on lap eight after trying to drive with only three speeds because of gearbox woes, and Schader then held off the field until the checkered flag on lap 18.

—Bill Freed

SCCA AMERICAN CITY RACING LEAGUE ROUND 1

**Monterey, Calif., Laguna Seca (2.238 mile),
March 31, 1996, 18 laps (40.284 miles):** 1 Bob Schader, San Diego, Lola 18; 2 Lee Lucas, San Jose, Swift, 18; 3 Jeff Glenn, San Jose, Swift, 18; 4 Brad Krause, Santa Barbara, Lola, 18; 5 Rick Lee, Reno, Lola, 18; 6 Leo Sismani, Las Vegas, Swift, 18; 7 Jim Paul, Long Beach, Swift, 18; 8 Joe Giroski, Woodland, Tiga, 18; 9 Ian Wood, San Diego, Swift, 18; 10 Leo Giroski, Woodland, Tiga, 17. **Time of Race:** 28:07.106. **Winner's Average Speed:** 85.959 mph. **Fast Lap:** Schader 1:32.406 (87.18 mph). **Lap Leaders:** Schader, 1; Lucas 2-7; Schader, 8-18.