

Romak Rips In ACRL Victory

It was a jubilant Steve Romak and Team Fresno in victory circle at California's Laguna Seca Raceway as their bright green cars dominated Round 5 of the American City Racing League. Not only did Romak win the race, but teammate John Ostlund's third place sewed up the team points win, and Fresno driver Frank Arnold took his fourth-consecutive S2000 class win.

Romak, starting from the outside front row, took the lead on lap five when pole-sitter Jeff Glenn slowed with a deflating tire. Glenn's crew managed to get him back out on the lead lap as Romak and Ostlund came down the hill.

While Romak led the rest of the way, Ostlund fell prey to Las Vegas' Peter Zarcades on lap 12, slipping back to third. Zarcades was closing on Romak at the end, but the Fresno driver held on for a 2.973-second victory. "My brakes were just about gone at the end, but I knew that Peter couldn't catch me before the checker," said Romak.

Reno's Rick Lee, perennial fifth-place qualifier, finished fourth, and his teammate Leo Sismani was a distant fifth. Arnold led the S2000 class from the green to the checker, but there was a dandy battle behind him for second among San Diego's Ian Wood, Wilsonville's John Bachofner, and Spencer



Steve Romak moved into the lead on the fifth of 18 laps and never looked back.

Trenery of Las Vegas. Wood, using an engine rented from Bachofner, got by for second, and Trenery inherited third when the Wilsonville driver spun in Turn 11.

Las Vegas driver Chris Ronson, fighting transmission problems all weekend, had a great battle with Wilsonville's Dennis Pavlina, challenging for seventh spot until the gearbox let go again, leaving Ronson with only first gear and dropping him to 17th, one lap down. Pavlina finished seventh behind Team Woodland's Joe Giroski. Glenn set a new track record lap of 1:29.018 in his charge back up through the field and came home eighth.

Zarcades' second place kept him in the points lead with 383, ahead of Glenn's 357.

Romak moved into third in the standings with 352, just about sewing up Rookie of the Year honors.

— Roger Diez

ACRL • ROUND 5

Monterey, Calif. Laguna Seca Raceway (2.238 miles) July 27, 1997 18 laps (40.284 miles): 1 (2) Stephen Romak, Lola, 18 laps; 2 (3) Peter Zarcades, Swift, 18; 3 (4) John Ostlund, Lola, 18; 4 (5) Rick Lee, Lola, 18; 5 (7) Leo Sismani, Swift, 18; 6 (10) Joe Giroski, Wasp, 18; 7 (8) Dennis Pavlina, Swift, 18; 8 (1) Jeff Glenn, Carbir, 18; 9 (9) Bill Bachofner, Swift, 18; 10 (13) Gary Hewett, Swift, 18.
Time of Race: 27:27.787. **Margin of Victory:** 2.973 seconds. **Winner's Average Speed:** 88.010 mph. There were 10 other starters, all finished.