

The Grand Glenn

Jeff Glenn emerges on top in the American City Racing League

BY ROGER DIEZ

Jeff Glenn looked like the driver to beat right from the start, but "racing luck" meant the Carbir chassis factory driver had to work to snare the Sports Car Club of America's American City Racing League title.

The Team Beverly Hills driver suffered a broken CV joint at Portland, Ore., a flat tire at the Laguna Seca Raceway in California and qualifying troubles at Vancouver, Canada, along the way. But Glenn scored six poles and three wins, including the final two events, in the eight-race series to wind up on top. He took the checkered flag first in the second Portland race and at Las Vegas, Nev., and Reno, Nev.

Peter Zarcades, a 10-year veteran, enjoyed his best season ever as he tallied the other two pole positions and led the points battle from the second race of the season, which he won on the Mesa Marin oval in Bakersfield, Calif. The Team Las Vegas driver also won at Sears Point Raceway in Sonoma, Calif., but a crash in the last race ended his championship hopes.

1997 AMERICAN CITY RACING LEAGUE STANDINGS

Pos.	Driver	Team	Points
1	Jeff Glenn	Beverly Hills	645
2	Peter Zarcades	Las Vegas	633
3	John Ostlund	Fresno	557
4	Rick Lee	Reno	556
5	Stephen Romak	Fresno	538
6	Dennis Pavina	Wilsonville	491
7	Chris Ronson	Las Vegas	471
8	Leo Sismani	Las Vegas	470
9	Joe Ghoski	Woodland	441
10	Bill Bachofner	Wilsonville	434

TEAM WINNER: Fresno

S2000 WINNER: Frank Arnold



Jeff Glenn used his Carbir chassis to post three wins and take the ACRL drivers' title.

That crash turned a 23-point advantage into a 12-point deficit in a scoring system that counts only the seven best finishes.

Other winners were Team Reno's Rick Lee, who captured the season opener at Portland; Rookie-of-the-Year Stephen Romak of Team Fresno, who took a victory at California's Laguna Seca Raceway; and Team Vancouver's Jeff Clegg, who collected a popular and dominant home win at the Vancouver race.

In addition to Glenn and Zarcades, the other top five points finishers were John Ostlund of Team Fresno, Lee of Reno and Romak of Fresno.

The team battle also went down to the wire, with Las Vegas and Fresno only 21 points apart going into the Reno Hilton Challenge. Zarcades' crash and Chris Ronson's eighth place ended Las Vegas' team title hopes. Fresno's Romak and Ostlund scored team victories at Laguna Seca and Reno, and ended the season with 1,287 team points for the team's first championship. Zarcades and Ronson took team wins for Las Vegas at Mesa Marin and Sears Point, finishing with 1,216 team points. Reno scored team victories at the first Portland race (Lee and Gary Hewett) and at Las Vegas (Lee and Leo Sismani). Beverly Hills took the team win at the Portland Rose Cup, with Mark Neuhaus adding eighth place points to Glenn's win. Vancouver was the final team winner,

taking the Vancouver victory courtesy of Clegg's win and Bob Thomson's eighth.

The Sports 2000 Class also produced some spirited racing, although Fresno's Frank Arnold dominated. Arnold scored five class victories in the eight-race series, taking the win at Mesa Marin, Portland Rose Cup, Sears Point, Laguna Seca and Las Vegas. John Bachofner of Team Wilsonville started and ended the season with wins, taking victories in the first Portland race and at Reno. Craig Simmis of North Vancouver won his home race in his only ACRL appearance, driving the Shrike chassis.

When the season points were tallied, Arnold was the S2000 champion, followed by Bachofner, San Diego's Ian Wood, Woodland's Leo Gioski and San Diego's Jay Messenger, who also took the class rookie honors.

At ACRL's 10th Anniversary Awards Banquet, Romak collected the "Rising Star" award from his peers to go with his rookie title. Ostlund was voted most improved driver, while Team Wilsonville's Doug Esterbrook got the nod as mechanic of the year. The "Hard Luck" award was captured by Team San Diego's Bob Young. Team Beverly Hills' purple and yellow paint scheme was judged to be the best car and team presentation. And Series Administrator Margie Smith-Haas was voted sportsperson of the year.

Series veteran Peter Zarcades had two pole positions and two wins in 1997.



Photo:George Dwinell

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