

Mike Davies Takes Black Magic Pro Win

Mike Davies outlasted 22 other cars to record his first win of the 1997 season as he captured Round 4 of Professional SportsCar Racing's Black Magic Pro Series at the Sears Point Raceway in Sonoma, Calif.

Davies put his DePrisa Motorsports/Jones Aviation Toyota World Sports Racer on the outside pole, hounded pole-sitter David Tenney until his clutch gave up and went on to win the

40-minute race over the series points leader, Mike Anderson, by 1.153 seconds.

"This time last year I was 25 points down in the championship and I went on to win it, so I don't feel too bad at the moment that I'm eight points down to Mike," Davies said after four of eight races. "David had his car set up for the faster parts of Sears Point, and mine was set up for the slow stuff. Divide the differences and we were equal."

Rain Pilve of Estonia ran a strong third place for 19 of the 23 laps, sitting right behind Davies and Tenney, waiting for them to either break or

take each other out. On lap 19 of 23, however, it was Pilve who also suffered a clutch failure, seven laps after Tenney did.

"These are synchromesh transmissions straight from a Toyota MR2," Davies said. "They're not straight-cut gears like a racing gearbox, so when your clutch is gone, it's gone."

Anderson closed hard at the finish, turning a new track record 1:44.811 lap in his TRD/Fletcher Jones Toyota-sponsored machine.

Mark Meucci finished third, followed by Anderson's teammate, Scotty Gafforini.

— Dave Arnold



Mike Davies' Sears Point win was his first of the season.

Photo/Richard Dole

BLACK MAGIC PRO SERIES • ROUND 4

Sonoma, Calif., Sears Point Raceway (2.52 Miles), July 13, 1997, 40-minute race, 23 laps (57.96 miles): 1 (2) Mike Davies, 40:48.713; 2 (4) Mike Anderson, 40:49.866; 3 (6) Mark Meucci, 23 laps; 4 (12) Scott Gafforini, 23; 5 (9) Bob Rockwood, 23; 6 (11) Gary Tiller, 23; 7 (8) Victor Calderon, 23; 8 (7) Gary Gibson, 23; 9 (20) Shayne Stephens, 23; 10 (16) John Jernigan, 23; 22 other starters, nine of whom were still running. **Fastest Qualifier:** David Tenney 1:44.893 (86.488 mph) **Fast Lap:** Anderson 1:44.811 (86.555 mph) **Lap Leaders:** Tenney, 1-11; Davies, 12-23.

Peter Zarcades Scores ACRL Victory At Sears Point

Peter Zarcades captured Round 4 of the Sports Car Club of America's American City Racing League at the Sears Point Raceway in Sonoma, Calif.

"They say it's better to be lucky than good; today I was lucky," the Team Las Vegas driver said.

Zarcades had qualified his Pennzoil Swift on the outside pole, a full 1.1 seconds behind Team Beverly Hills' Jeff Glenn in a Carbir.

Lady Luck first reared her head on the pace lap when Glenn spun into a tire wall while warming his tires. He rejoined in sixth but tried to make it all back on the start. Going into Turn 2, Glenn hit Team Fresno's Steve Romak, spin-

ning him into the path of Reno's Rick Lee and seriously shuffling the rest of the field as everyone took evasive action. Both Romak and Lee retired with damage, while Glenn was black-flagged for a stop-and-go penalty. He rejoined in 15th place and mounted a charge that took him to third place at the checkered flag.

Meanwhile up front, Zarcades was on cruise control, building a lead of more than 5 seconds over Fresno's John Ostlund. Zarcades' teammate, Chris Ronson, ran third for much of the race, locked in a tight battle with Bob Young and Leo Sismani, with Larry Vollum also joining the fight in his charge up from 14th place.

The brakes on Ronson's Lola faded, however, and he spun in Turn 11, allowing Glenn through and dropping Ronson to seventh.

Zarcades' tires began going away, which allowed Ostlund to close to within 1.8 seconds

at the flag, but the first and seventh finishing combination was still enough to take the team win for Las Vegas and maintained its lead in the City Cup points standings. Zarcades also regained the drivers' points lead with his win.

Frank Arnold of Team Fresno took Sports 2000 honors for the third time this season ahead of 17-year-old newcomer Spencer Trenery.

— Roger Diez

ACRL • ROUND 4

Sonoma, Calif. Sears Point Raceway (2.523 miles), July 12, 1997, 18 laps (45.414): 1 (2) Peter Zarcades, Swift, 32:28.025; 2 (3) John Ostlund, Lola, 32:29.877; 3 (1) Jeff Glenn, Carbir, 18 laps; 4 (7) Bob Young, Lola, 18; 5 (9) Leo Sismani, Swift, 18; 6 (6) Larry Vollum, Swift, 18; 7 (8) Chris Ronson, Swift, 18; 8 (19) Dennis Pavlina, Swift, 18; 9 (11) Margie Smith-Haas, Falcon, 18; 10 (10) Mark Neuhaus, Swift, 18. **Fast Lap:** Glenn, 1:36.899.