

Jeff Glenn Takes ACRL Title With Victory In Reno Finale

Jeff Glenn won the Sports Car Club of America's American City Racing League's eighth and final round at Reno, Nev., to overcome a 23-point deficit to Peter Zarcades and claim the championship.

Glenn, who drives for Team Beverly Hills, picked up two points in qualifying as he captured his sixth pole of the season, but Zarcades still had only to finish fifth or better in the race to clinch the title.

Glenn took the lead at the green flag, which didn't stay green for long as third-fastest qualifier Mike Wright of Vancouver smacked the wall in Turn 1 on lap two, bringing out the first of three full-course cautions.

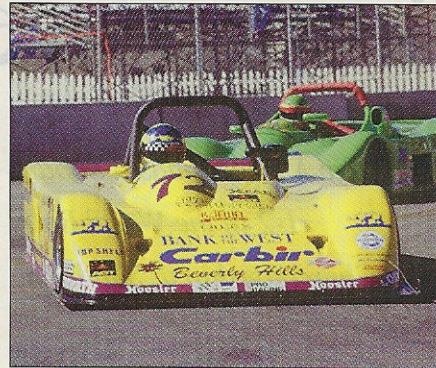
On the restart, Glenn took off with Fresno's Steve Romak tucked in behind him, and the pair opened a gap on the rest of the field, with Reno's Rick Lee, Fresno's John Ostlund, Vancouver's Jeff Clegg, Zarcades, Woodland's Joe Giroski and Ronson battling for third through eighth.

Zarcades, who was running sixth and needed to move up one spot, tried an outside pass on Ostlund on lap 13 and the two cars made contact. Zarcades banged the Turn 1 wall, ending his race and apparently the championship fight. But since ACRL scoring drops one race, Glenn still had to finish third or better to take the title.

Glenn seemed to have it well in hand, but on lap 21 Reno's Leo Sismani collected Vancouver's Bill King in Turn 8, bringing out the third full-course yellow. When the green waved again with two laps to go in the 30-lap race, Romak was all over Glenn. Crew Chief Éric Purcell advised Glenn to let Romak pass if he had to because second would clinch the championship, but Glenn held on to score his fourth win of the year by .314 second.

Clegg finished third, Giroski took a season-high fourth, and defending champion Lee was fifth. Romak's second won him rookie-of-the-year honors and combined with Ostlund's sixth secured the team win and season championship for Fresno.

— Roger Diez



Photo/George Dwinell

Jeff Glenn's pole position and victory in Reno gave him the points he needed to win the ACRL title.

SCCA ACRL • ROUND 8

Reno, Nev. (1.27 miles). Oct. 19, 1997. 30 laps (38.100 miles): 1 (1) Jeff Glenn, Team Beverly Hills, 39:43.205; 2 (2) Stephen Romak, Fresno, 39:43.519; 3 (8) Jeff Clegg, Vancouver, 30; 4 (7) Joe Giroski, Woodland, 30; 5 (4) Rick Lee, Reno, 30; 6 (5) John Ostlund, Fresno, 30; 7 (12) Gary Hewett, Reno, 30; 8 (13) Chris Ronson, Las Vegas, 30; 9 (10) Dennis Pavlina, Wilsonville, 30; 10 (9) Bill Bachofner, Wilsonville, 30; 14 other starters. **Winner's Average Speed:** 57.553 mph. Fast Lap: Glenn, 1:02.592.