

# ACRL Oval Win to Team Las Vegas

• The ACRL made its only oval track appearance of the year at Mesa Marin Raceway over the Memorial Day weekend, and Team Las Vegas came up with a jackpot. Peter Zarcades, who qualified on the pole here last year only to crash out of the race, won both the Daeco Pole Perfection award and the race this time out. With a qualifying time of 19.008sec, Zarcades was three-tenths quicker than Winston West feature race polesitter Butch Gilliland, though short of the ACRL record of 18.990sec set last year by Bob Schader.



*Peter Zarcades (left) and Chris Ronson celebrate their Team Las Vegas win, achieved by virtue of their first- and third-place finishes at Mesa Marin.*

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The Las Vegas driver pulled away at the green flag and led all 75 laps. Behind him, a battle royale ensued among Team Fresno's Steve Romak and John Ostlund, Team Reno's Leo Sismani, Team Beverly Hills' Jeff Glenn, and Team Las Vegas' Chris Ronson. Sismani dropped out on lap 31 with no oil pressure, and then, just past halfway, the race's only yellow flew for Gary Hewett's spin in Turn Four. On the restart, Jeff Glenn put on a demonstration of how to work traffic, surging past Ostlund and Romak and weaving his way through. Eric Purcell, Glenn's crew chief and spotter, gets an assist for talking Glenn through the restart lap.

Ronson, seeing the hole Glenn was making in traffic, followed him through into third. Ronson then spent the rest of the race fighting a loose car, his mirrors full of the green cars of Romack and Ostlund. Hewett hung on for sixth, the last car on the lead lap.

Glenn closed on Zarcades when the Las Vegas driver developed an engine miss the last five laps, but Zarcades still finished with half-a-straightaway margin in a dominant performance.

Fresno scored the S2000 win, courtesy of Frank Arnold, who leads the S2000 driver points with 193. Jay Messenger, from Muleshoe, Texas, was the lone Team San Diego driver and finished second in S2000, ahead of Wilsonville's John Bachofner.

The first- and third-place results moved Las Vegas into the team points lead ahead of Fresno Reno, while Zarcades moved into the driver points lead, but just one ahead of Romak and Ronson. For results and point standings, see Pro Racing Update in this issue.—Roger Diez