

Peter Zarcades leads ACRL Team Vegas in Irwindale victory romp

By Roger Diez

IRWINDALE, CA, Oct. 2—Peter Zarcades led Team Las Vegas to the team points victory while capturing his second win in the Motorsport Composites Triple Crown Oval Championship (TCOC).

Las Vegas driver Michael Scully won the Aerocell Sports 2000 class battle, and both drivers were crowned TCOC champions. Zarcades' Pennzoil Swift dominated the proceedings from the first practice session, and set new qualifying and race lap records. The overall TCOC race went down to the wire, as Zarcades' points tally was matched by Steve Romak of Team Fresno at 288. Zarcades was declared champion by virtue of having won two races to Romak's single victory.

But the win wasn't as easy as it sounds. Zarcades lost the lead to outside polesitter Fiorenzo Tirinnanzi at the start, then dropped back several more places as he struggled with a loose car.

"I got mad when I lost the lead, made one little mistake, then another, and I was in fifth," said Zarcades. He made an in-car sway bar adjustment, settled down, and moved back to the front, taking the lead for good on lap 20 of the 75 lap feature.

Behind him there was a fierce battle for position among the Team Hollywood cars of Tirinnanzi and 1997 Champion Jeff Glenn, and the Team Fresno cars of Romak and John Ostlund. The battle was marked by a lot of "rubbing" to the delight of the oval track fans in the stands.

Late in the race, Ostlund got by Tirinnanzi for second, and a few laps later contact spun the Hollywood driver in Turn 4, moving Romak up to third. Tirinnanzi was subsequently the victim of a black flag and retired. Ostlund, knowing his teammate needed second place for the Oval Track title, slowed off Turn 4 on the last lap, and Romak took second by a nose, tying the TCOC points. Glenn finished fourth.

Behind all this action, Rookie points leader Sandy Popescu battled her San Diego teammate Jay Messenger until he finally got by to finish fifth, then vied with Las Vegas substitute driver Brad Pierce to the flag. Pierce finished in sixth, assisting Las Vegas to the team win.

The Aerocell Challenge race for the Sports 2000 category was also hot and heavy, with 1997 Champion Frank Arnold of Team Fresno battling side-by-side with Scully until he spun in Turn 2, dropping him a lap down. Scully cruised to victory in the race, and took the S2000 TCOC trophy home as well.

Joe Casanova of Team Hollywood finished third in the S2000 class for the second straight race.

The ACRL series, using a unique team racing concept, races Cosworth-powered Super Sports 2000 and Ford-engined Sports 2000 cars, with drivers required to run Hoosier R-45 compound tires and VP Racing Fuel.

Irwindale Speedway II ACRL Triple Crown Oval Track Championship Race Results:

Finishing position, start position (), driver, team, chassis, class, laps complete, qualifying time, best race lap, reason out (if any).

- (1) Peter Zarcades, Las Vegas, Swift DB5, SS2, 75, 17.265, 17.511
- (6) Stephen Romak, Fresno, Lola, SS2, 75, 18.225, 18.080
- (8) John Ostlund, Fresno, Lola 89/90, SS2, 75, 18.522, 18.162
- (3) Jeff Glenn, Hollywood, Carbir, SS2, 75, 17.866, 18.162
- (5) Jay Messenger, San Diego, Lola, SS2, 75, 18.144, 18.202
- (4) Brad Pierce, Las Vegas, Carbir, SS2, 75, 17.946, 18.027
- (7) Sandy Popescu, San Diego, Swift DB5, SS2, 75, 18.355, 18.144
- (9) Michael Scully, Las Vegas, SR71, 73, 18.696, 18.635
- (10) Frank Arnold, Fresno, Swift, S2, 72, 18.794, 18.755
- (12) Joe Casanova, Hollywood, Swift, S2, 72, 19.128, 19.021
- (11) Rick Eickhoff, Los Angeles, Shannon, SS2, 71, 19.115, 19.242
- (2) Fiorenzo Tirinnanzi, Hollywood, Carbir, SS2, 68, 17.749, 18.078 BF
- (DNS) Margie Smith-Haas, San Diego, Swift, SS2, DNQ, DNS
- (DNS) Jeff Anderson, Reno, Swift, S2, DNQ, DNS
- (DNS) Gary Corley, San Diego, Swift, S2, DNQ, DNS

Race Time: 28:17.598. Race Length: 37.500 Miles. Track Length: 0.500 miles
SS2 Fastest Race Lap: 17.511 (Zarcades, new record). SS2 Margin of Victory: 2.479 seconds.

S2 Fastest Race Lap: 18.635 (Scully, new record). S2 Margin of Victory: 1 lap

Team Points: Las Vegas 250; Fresno 248; Hollywood 206; San Diego 153; Los Angeles 61.

Brad Pierce in Carbir is 5th different ACRL winner at Sears

By Roger Diez

SONOMA, CA, Oct. 10—Brad Pierce, subbing in the Team Las Vegas Carbir, became the fifth different winner in seven races of the American City Racing League's 1999 season.

Pierce trailed polesitter Jeff Glenn's Team Hollywood Carbir for seven circuits of the 18-lap event, then took the lead on lap eight and never looked back. Pierce was delighted with the result, praising his crew for a quick engine swap on Saturday and for getting Sunday's setup just right. Pierce held pole position for much of the morning qualifying session, until Glenn's final lap at 1:35.905 snatched the pole away by a mere 136 second.

Glenn, 1997 ACRL Drivers Champion, fought an evil-handling car to a second place finish in the race after a pair of spins and several lurid slides.

"We tried some new setup tricks, and the car was great for the first three or four laps, then the handling went completely away," said an exhausted Glenn after the race. His teammate Fiorenzo Tirinnanzi took his first-ever ACRL podium finish in third, making it a 1-2-3 for the Carbir factory. Tirinnanzi, who gave notice of his very competitive talents at Irwindale the week before, was extremely happy with his first podium appearance.

Team Fresno's John Ostlund, who had engine problems most of the weekend, brought his Lola home in fourth place ahead of teammate Frank Arnold, whose Swift DB2 finished fifth overall and first in the Aerocell Sports 2000 category. Arnold, a veteran of many Sears Point races, was hounded for the last half of the race by Sears Point first-timer Michael Scully in the Team Las Vegas SR71. Arnold hung on for the victory and maintained his lead in the Sports 2000 Drivers points chase. Joe Casanova finished third in Sports 2000, and added enough points to give Hollywood the team victory. Super Sports 2000 points leader Steve Romak of Team Fresno ran in third spot for the first six laps until sidelined with a broken CV joint, but maintained the season points lead over teammate Ostlund. Sandy Popescu of Team San Diego finished seventh, one place behind fellow Rookie of the Year contender Charlie Hewett of Team Reno.

Sears Point Raceway Results:

Finishing position, start position (), driver, team, chassis, class, laps complete, qualifying time, best race lap, reason out (if any).

- (2) Brad Pierce, Las Vegas, Carbir, SS2, 18, 1:36.041, 1:36.308
- (1) Jeff Glenn, Hollywood, Carbir, SS2, 18, 1:35.905, 1:36.701
- (4) Fiorenzo Tirinnanzi, Hollywood, Carbir, SS2, 18, 1:37.335, 1:37.660
- (5) John Ostlund, Fresno, Lola 89/90, SS2, 18, 1:39.420, 1:39.206
- (6) Frank Arnold, Fresno, Swift, S2, 18, 1:40.316, 1:42.231
- (8) Michael Scully, Las Vegas, SR71, 18, 1:42.110, 1:42.728
- (7) Charlie Hewett, Reno, Swift, SS2, 17, 1:41.973, 1:41.586
- (9) Sandy Popescu, San Diego, Swift DB5, SS2, 17, 1:42.966, 1:41.782
- (10) Joe Casanova, Hollywood, Swift, S2, 17, 1:47.402, 1:48.490
- (3) Stephen Romak, Fresno, Lola, SS2, 6, 1:36.874, 1:37.855
- (11) Edd Ozard, Fresno, Van Diemen, SS2, DNQ, DNQ
- (2) Rick Lee, Reno, Carbir, SS2, DNQ, DNQ

Race Time: 29:31.490

Race Length: 45.414 Miles

Track Length: 2.523 miles

SS2 Fastest Race Lap: 1:36.308 (Pierce)

SS2 Margin of Victory: 14.184 seconds

S2 Fastest Race Lap: 1:42.231 (Arnold)

S2 Margin of Victory: N/A

Team Points:

Hollywood	250
Fresno	230
Las Vegas	176
Reno	73
San Diego	70

SS2 DRIVER POINTS

(BEST 7 OF 8 RACES):

- Stephen Romak 564
- John Ostlund 548
- Peter Zarcades 469
- Fiorenzo Tirinnanzi 462
- Sandy Popescu 445
- Rick Eickhoff 34
- Chris Ronson 324
- Jay Messenger 317
- Brad Pierce 256
- Rick Lee 218
- Margie Smith-Haas 218
- Jeff Glenn 179
- Tom Kreger 169
- Scott Shelly 160
- Charlie Hewett 150
- Joe Gioski 137
- Edd Ozard 134
- Dennis Pavlina 61

AEROCELL S2 DRIVER POINTS

(BEST 7 OF 8 RACES):

- Frank Arnold 399
- Michael Scully 381
- Joe Casanova 269
- John Bacholner 181
- Jeff Anderson 181
- Ian Wood 172
- Bill Bacholner 169
- Leo Gioski 160
- Doug Allen 158
- Spencer Treney 102
- Duke Johnson 102
- Jeff Clinton 93
- George Greenwood 80
- Brad Arntson 80
- Chris Knight 73

MOTORSPORTS COMPOSITES TRIPLECROWN SS2000 OVAL TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (FINAL)

TEAM POINT STANDINGS (AFTER 7 RACES)

1	Fresno	1627	1	Peter Zarcades	288 *
2	Las Vegas	1541	2	Stephen Romak	288
3	San Diego	959	3	John Ostlund	256
4	Reno	922	4	Jay Messenger	241
5	Hollywood	873	5	Sandy Popescu	219
6	Los Angeles	364	6	Fiorenzo Tirinnanzi	214
7	Portland	287	7	Rick Eickhoff	207
8	St. Louis	139	8	Chris Ronson	166
9	Vancouver WA	100	9	Margie Smith-Haas	145
			10	Jeff Glenn	84
			11	Scott Shelly	76
				Brad Pierce	76
			13	Rick Lee	58

S2000 TCOC STANDINGS (FINAL)

1	Michael Scully	288
2	Frank Arnold	195
3	Jeff Anderson	181
	Joe Casanova	181

* Number of wins was tie-breaker.