

Mid-Am Report

Like a two-act play with entr'acte, the 2009 Mid-Am Championship has reached the curtain of the first act – five races from the end of March to the end of May setting the stage for the second act. At this point the audience is not quite sure yet who done it, or even whether the hero will get the girl. Possibilities abound.

The entr'acte – a little between-the-acts olio at Hallett on Independence Day – will further tease. But not until Act Two – MAM and Memphis in August and the Bonus Race at Heartland Park on the Labor Day weekend will the climax be revealed.

An intended epilogue – the annual double Regional at Gateway in October, has been written out of the script this year. (St. Louis Region on June 5 announced the cancellation of that weekend “due to the lingering economic downturn.”)

So where does Act 1 leave us? About as many examples of soliloquy as dialogue. On stage by themselves (the only drivers yet to score points in class) are a dozen drivers:

- **Greg Scharnberg** (DMV) in Club Continental.
- **Jason Mabee** (KC) in Formula Enterprises.
- **Chuck Dillon** (KC) in Formula Mazda.
- **Bill Lauer** (Wich) in Formula Vee.
- **Kenneth Kirkland** (Ark) in Formula 500.
- **Buddy Cisar** (Neb) in GT1.
- **Cliff Koehler** (KC) in GT2.
- **Bud Scott** (StL) in STU.
- **Charles Guenther** (KC) in Super Production.
- **James Wood** (Neb) in SSC.
- **Ralph Woodard** (Neb) in Improved Touring R.
- **Frank Fisher** (KC) in Improved Touring C

Another 13 classes are building the drama in varying degrees. In some the protagonists are already engaged in heated duels, while in others they are still warily circling one another.

ITA – The largest class at 18 drivers has three-time winner **Ray Yergler** (DMV) in the lead while **Brian Laughlin** (NeOk), the Hallett winner, is posed to launch an all-out assault. He's 15 points down after only two races and fending off **Jarold Boettcher**

(KC), another two points back after three outings.

ITS – The closest class with **Ryan Staub** (KC) and **David Bennett** (KC) trading wins. They've raced each other all three times they've been out, finishing 1-2 each time, and the tally is Staub 2, Bennett 1, and they're 3 points apart.

American Sedan – **Kim McDonald** (Neb) and **Dave Gird** (Wich) have each won twice. McDonald's 9-point lead is a result of the only time they raced each other with Gird winning but McDonald now has three starts to Gird's two. **Jack Martin** (Wich) lurks another 6 points back.

E Production – It is almost the identical situation here where **Brett Whitney** (KC) and **David Long** (KC) each have two wins, but Whitney got his third race in when he lost to Long at MAM.

GT3 – **Jeff McCormick** (KC) and **Robert Herman** (Neb) each have two races in. McCormick leads by 3 points after outrunning Herman at MAM.

Spec Racer Ford – **Glen Tomlinson** (Okla) has four finishes and two wins for 34 points. **Ed Sodano** (KC) has only two but won one of those and beat Tomlinson in both so his 21 points may not be that far behind.

F Production – **Ron Davis** (Kan) has a 19-point edge on **Marty Wagner** (NeOk). It'd be closer if Wagner didn't have that DNF at MAM.

Improved Touring B – **Chris Albin** (Sill) atop the class, three wins in four starts and a 20-point bulge over **Alex Wiley** (Kan). Familiar story. But beware **Gary Learned** (Okla) in third, 4 points behind Wiley and with a victory over Albin at Hallett.

Improved Touring 7 – **Steve Wolf** (KC) has two wins. Three other drivers have one each. No two of them have been in the same race yet. Be interesting when they do.

Four more classes – **Formula Atlantic**, **Spec Miata**, **Improved Touring E**, and **H Production** – have multiple drivers involved but none has yet done more than one race. So except for HP where both did the same race, they're all at 12-point ties.

—Rocky Entriken