

NATIONAL RACING REPORT

The heat wave spreading across the country hasn't made a race track the most comfortable place to be, but the racing has been matching the weather. As a hot July fades to an even hotter August, few chances remain anywhere to score those last points.

If you aren't already on the way to Pocono, you've probably missed the double National there. Next weekend MiDiv is at Gateway while Nationals also run at VIR and Grattan. Weekend after that the only race is at Motorsports Ranch Houston. On the last weekend of August, no one has scheduled a National! And then the final race at Heartland Park -- and you thought the entry in June was big? They're at Nelson Ledges that same Sept. 2-3 weekend and word is easy points might be available there.

On that note, please check the points lists. If you see an error, or even think you do, do us both a favor and send me a note by e-mail. I'm always happy to double-check.

Some drivers are just racing for those last few points needed to assure a Runoffs invitation -- there was a fair bit of "I just need a start" or "I just need a finish" going on at MAM last weekend. But we focus here on who needs what for a championship. The best chance to improve the score may be at Gateway because there will be no easy points at Heartland Park!

EP • **Brian Haupt** (KC) leads by 4 but **Kevin Grant** (MidS) and **Don Tucker** (MidS) may have the edge. Haupt has six finishes and must toss 3 points his next race while Grant, 4 points back, and Tucker, 10 behind, are both scoring just four races and get to keep all the points they win from their next two times out.

FP • **Eric Prill** (Kan) still leads, while Ron Davis (Kan) has joined **Weber Manning** (MidS) in a second-place tie 7 behind.

GP • **Chris Albin** (SIII) leads **Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) by three, but Albin has the edge with an open race left while Leighton must toss a 7-pointer to improve his score. Chuck Mathis (SIII) lurks within range, scoring just three races. Defending champ **Kent Prather** (Kan) just needs one more start and likely could care less about points.

HP • **Jeff Norris** (Okla) leads **Rob Horrell Jr.** (MidS) by 9. **Mark Weber** (StL) won the last two to move into contention, 2 behind Horrell.

GT1 • **Bill Gray** (MidS) probably has it put away with a 24-point bulge over **Shawn Gray** (MidS), but Bill's scoring six races and Shawn is mathematically still within range. **Richard Grant**, (MidS) is just 4 points behind Shawn.

GT2 • **Barry Schonberger** (StL) leads and has all his Runoffs qualifiers done. **Ward Herst** (StL) is 13 behind but may get them as he needs two more races just to qualify.

GT3 • **Milton Grant** (MidS), **Robert Weaver** (Okla) and **Richard Allen** (Okla) all have qualified. Will they call it good or will the two Oklahoma drivers try to sneak past Grant to win a chair?

GT-Lite • **Peter Zekert** (StL) DNF'd at MAM but his 24-point lead is probably enough over **Brad Lewis** (StL) and **Robert Weaver** (Okla).

CSR • **Hans Peter** (KC), with six wins, can't be caught.

DSR • Tight one! **Mark Dalen** (KC) leads **Jim Boehm** (StL) by one point and **Bill Johnson** (KC) lurks 6 behind Boehm.

S2000 • **Rob Sherwood** (StL) won the MAM battle over **Jack Platt** (KC) but Platt still leads the war by 10.

SRF • **Chris Funk** (KC) has a strong 14-point lead over **Ron Lentz** (KC), both scoring just five races.

FA • **Mirl Swan** (KC) won the last two to take the tactical advantage over Grant's Army. **Keith Grant** (MidS) and **David Grant** (MidS) are tied 7 points behind.

FC • None of the leaders have scored in the last two races so **Bill Allman** (Kan) still has a 15-point lead on **Phil Hemes** (KC).

FM • **Ken De Nault** (DMV) put it away with an MAM win, now 26 points up on **William Eriksen** (Kan) .

FF • **Cliff Johnson** (KC) got his third win of the year at Hallett and holds a stout 24-point margin on **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS).

FV • **Brad Stout** (StL) is 10 points up on **Lisa Noble** (Kan), who broke her Vortech at MAM. Stout, with one free race left, probably has it won. Noble could only net a max 5 points if she won her next start.

F500 • Nobody from this class raced Hallett or MAM, so that leaves **Rusty Cook** (MidS) still up 14 over **Jack Walbran** (StL).

AS • **James Stevens** (StL) probably put it away with a MAM win to go up 25 on **Carey Grant** (MidS).

T1 • **Mike McGinley** (KC), now has 21 over **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb) -- probably enough.

T2 • The lead **Chris Brannon** (OzMt) had over defending national champ **Chuck Hemmingson** (DMV) has been cut to six points, but Brannon won their MAM duel.

T3 • **Steven Burkett** (StL) won MAM and his 20-point lead over **Jack Tippens** (StL), and 21 over **Shannon McMasters** (MidS) probably put it away.

SSB • **Ward Herst** (StL) and **Jack Tippens** (StL) are both trying to qualify in two classes. Tippens won SSB at MAM but Herst leads by 16.

SSC • **John Saucier** (Okla) is uncatchable at 72 points.

SM • **Jim Drago's** (MidS) 14-point lead over **Charlie James** (NeOk) seems pretty strong.

--Rocky Enriken

The I.T. Tour Report

With the cancellation of the Heartland Park round of the I.T. Tour (not enough came to race last time!) the Aug. 13 race at Gateway will be the series finale. No one who does not already have two races behind them can meet the three-race qualifying minimums.

ITS • **Dan Crossett** (NeOk) and **Bill Denton** (MidS) are tied at 21. Crossett needs to start at Gateway to qualify, while Denton has his three starts (that earlier Gateway DNF could mean a championship gold medal!).

ITA • **Ed Mabry** (Ark) took second at MAM and jumped to an 8-point lead over **Tom Schiefler** (StL) and 10-up on **Pete Knese** (StL). While Mabry and Knese have both met the qualifying minimums, Schiefler still needs to race at Gateway. And Mabry needs to go to block a Schiefler charge.

ITB • **Chris Albin** (SIII) has won it, of course -- still the only ITB champion the I.T. Tour has ever known in the series' 10 years. **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV), won at MAM to move into silver medal position, but could still be caught by **Patrick Findley** (MidS).

ITC • No one can meet the qualifying minimums. No medals here.

ITE • **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) has socked this one away with 69 points to 33 for **John Waldbaum** (Neb). **Sheila Burkett** (StL) gets bronze if she starts at Gateway.

IT7 • **Scott Peterson** (KC) leads 24-16 over **Jim Wyatt** (KC). Both of them need the Gateway race to meet the qualifying minimums.

—R.E.