

# NATIONAL RACING REPORT

**H**alfway through the MiDiv National Racing season some classes are shaping up while others remain wide open. The second Memphis National was completed on the Memorial Day weekend so its season is done while the first National at the home of the Runoffs, Heartland Park, comes up in mid-June.

Drivers are reminded that to qualify for MiDiv awards they must start races in class in at least three MiDiv Nationals, which is different from qualifying for the Runoffs (four finishes, two in-division). Last year, by the way, two drivers asked questions about awards:

1) "Can I buy extra awards as gifts?" The answer is a modified yes. The award itself -- a leather and maple director's chair for champions, a leather/maple camp stool for 2nd and 3rd -- is unique and personalized for the recipient. One champion bought additional chairs for his crew, but they were not personalized, just decorated with the SCCA wire wheel on the seat.

2) "I finished in an award-winning position but did not have three MiDiv starts, can I buy my award?" That's a yes, although the driver asking eventually did not do so.

Contact the MiDiv Pointskeeper (me) for more information and cost. Now then, who's in contention?

## FORMULA CARS

**FA** • Grant's Army (MidS) continues to roll with **Keith Grant** winning four of five starts and **David Grant** runner-up winning the one Keith didn't. **Michael Roman** (StL) stands third with one victory, ahead of National champ **Mirl Swan** (KC) and **David Wilcox** (Wich) each with two wins.

**FC** • Not really a lot of action here as only two drivers have as many as two starts. **Keith Williams** (KC) leads **Mike Bass** (MidS) by 3 points.

**FSCCA** • Just two drivers with points. **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) leads with two wins.

**FM** • **Ken DeNault** (DMV) is the star so far of those driving the Star Mazda cars, leading the class with three wins. **Michael Fling** (Okla) is 6 points behind.

**FF** • **Cliff Johnson** (KC) is the leader at 32 points, but only two points behind is the tandem of **Gerald Barrett** (Okla) and **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS). Each of the top three has a win on the board so far.

**FV** • **Lisa Noble** (Kan) has run off with a nice early lead, 51 points from two wins and three seconds, but it is not insurmountable. **Brad Stout** (StL) lurks in second after just three starts, all of them victories.

**F500** • **Jack Walbran** (StL) has twice the score of **Rusty Cook** (MidS), but that's because Walbran has been busy with seven races already and 60 points to show for it. Cook's 30 is from four races, and only 6-up on **Kenny Price** (StL) who has raced only twice but won both for 24 points.

Nobody has run in the new **Formula 1000** class yet.

## SPORTSRACING

**CSR** • National champ **Hans Peter** (KC) won both his starts. **Jim Coté Jr.**, (KC) usually seen in SRF, took one ride in a CSR and is the only other driver with points.

**DSR** • The only score on the board comes from a **Charlie Smith** (KC) victory at MAM.

**S2000** • **Rob Sherwood** (StL) has won three of four. Nobody else in the class has more than one start.

**SRF** • **Michael Wold-Steele** (Neb) has only raced twice, winning both, but that's enough to lead the class so far since everyone else is beating up on each other. Three points behind is **Angelo Lagonia** (MidS) who's been out five times. Another one point back comes **Jim Coté Jr.** (KC) who's done three races.

## GRAND TOURING

**GT1** • **Shawn Gray** (MidS) is the dominant driver, winning at all four MiDiv tracks run so far for a 48-point score. Gray missed his hometown race the day before Memorial Day so that win went to **Richard Grant** (MidS) who tied **Buddy Cisar** (Neb) in points but still with only half of Gray's total. HPT owner **Ray Irwin** (Kan) is fourth at 12 points after visiting (and winning at) his other race track, Blackhawk Farms.

**GT2** • **Greer Haynes** (MidS) has only a 3-point edge on **Milton Grant** (MidS), each with a Memphis win for a 19-16 score.

**GT3** • **Milton Grant** (MidS) has been busier in this class winning four times.

**GTL** • **Peter Zekert** (StL) has run up five wins for 60 points. Every time **Brad Lewis** (StL) went out Zekert was there, so Lewis stands 2nd in points with three second-place finishes.

## TOURING

**T1** • **Jim Lynch** (StL) has won four out of five in his Viper for big numbers on the scoreboard, almost double the score of runner-up **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb).

**T2 •• Dennis AuBuchon** (StL) has the same record and the same score as Lynch, and a 20-point edge over **Chris Brannon** (OzMt).

**T3 ••** Completing a St. Louis sweep of the T classes is **Dwight Faitz** (StL), who's won three of five, but he holds only a 6-point lead over **Steven Burkett** (StL).

Nobody's shown up in a Super Touring. I guess because of trademark issues we're calling that class just "ST" now. Maybe we need to go back to the original plan and call the four classes T1-T2-T3-T4.

#### PREPARED

This is the new category designed to take in the World Challenge cars. So far only one has shown up. Nobody's run **BP**, which is the World Challenge GT cars.

**DP •• Ron Pawley** (NeOk) has a Lexus IS300 set up for World Challenge Touring Cars and has scored four wins, looking for competition out-of-division for two of them.

#### PRODUCTION

**EP ••** This one's shaping up to be a bit of a brawl, with six drivers posting three starts already. **Don Tucker** (MidS) leads it by 5 over **Kevin Grant** (MidS), 33-28. Behind them comes the father-daughter tandem of **Brian and Meredith Haupt** (KC) with dad over his daughter by one, 22-21.

**FP •• Eric Prill** (Kan) has a six-point edge over National Champion **Jesse Prather** (Kan), but Prill has won just two of his four races while Prather has won all three of his. Ten points behind Prather is **Bob Bramlage** (Kan) who has just a 2-point edge up on **Weber Manning** (MidS).

**GP ••** With most of the LBCs (that's "little British Cars" to the uninitiated) sent down to HP, the only one left in GP is the oldest one of them all, the nearly 50-year-old MGA of **Kent Prather** (Kan). It seems most of his competition now is Volkswagens. Nonetheless, Prather has won two of three starts for a 3-point edge on the Golf of **Chris Albin** (Sill). National Champ **Chuck Mathis** (Sill) has been out just once and won that.

**HP ••** The arrival of all those LBCs has injected new life into the moribund H Production class and **Loren Moore** (OzMt) is pounding the message home with five wins. **Mark Weber** (StL) is just 9 points back with two wins and three seconds.

#### STREET TIRES

**AS •• Jim Wheeler** (KC) has been the dominant force this year winning three of four for 42 points, That doubles the score of his nearest challenger, **Philip Smith** (StL), who won the only race Wheeler didn't. Five points further back five drivers are bundled in a 2-point spread -- **Bill Tucker** (KC), **Scott Bettinger** (Wich), **Jonathan Ricker** (StL), **Scott Davie** (Ark) and **Carey Grant** (MidS).

**SSB •• Ward Herst** (StL) has the only start so far, finishing second at Memphis.

**SSC •• John Saucier** (Okla), who thrilled with a runner-up finish at the 2006 Runoffs, has already racked up the maximum possible 72-point score from six wins. He doesn't even get to count four more second-place finishes.

**SM ••** In Club Racing's most populous class, **Jim Drago** (MidS) holds the big lead with 54 points from six finishes, two of them wins. Nineteen points back comes **Charlie James** (NeOk), the SafeRacer guy, and he's only six points up on **Sam Henry** (OzMt). **Jim Daniels** (MidS) is another 2 points behind. This class is far from a done deal. --Rocky Entriken

### The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

The I.T. Tour is only eight races this year since Heartland Park is not running IT at its stand-alone Nationals. But drivers are reminded it still takes three starts to qualify for awards -- and only three races are left.

**ITR ••** Only two cars so far in the newest IT class just added this year, but they came and raced each other at the last MAM race. **Jeff Goodnow** (KC) won that one over **Ralph Woodard** (Neb).

**ITS •• Mark Andrews** (StL) won at both Gateway and Memphis to lead the class, but it steps down only three points to **Bill Denton** (MidS) and another three to **Jim Bishop** (Miss).

**ITA ••** With four starts up on the board, **Ed Mabry** (Ark) has just a 2-point lead over **Jeff Seelig** (StL). Another three points back stands Texas golf pro **Mac Spikes** (MidS), who has just a one-point edge on **Roger Johnson** (MidS) and **Jim Lorenzetti** (KC).

**ITB ••** Not a whole lot of action here. Eight drivers on the board but none has more than one race, so four of them are tied for first and three more are three points behind.

**ITC** •• **Curt Weilandich** (StL) has stepped out with three victories as ITC, kind of quiet the past few years, begins to see a little more activity.

**ITE** •• Uncharacteristically quiet here for the first few races as **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) ran up three wins and now has a 40-point tally. But then at MAM six of them showed up. **Mark Kirby** (KC) won that battle but **John Waldbaum** (Neb) got the points to go 2-up on Kirby for second place.

**IT7** •• **Nadeem Bari** (StL) and **Charles Casteel** (KC) are tied at 21 points each. --*R.E.*