

# NATIONAL RACING REPORT

**W**ith the Runoffs coming to MiDiv beginning this year, racing in our division has become much more intense. One result has been a marked increase in entries -- not only at Heartland Park Topeka but at the other MiDiv tracks as well. That, of course, means a more challenging championship quest in most classes.

Awards go to the top three in each class (providing they have the required three starts in MiDiv races), which will be sent to the Regional Executives for presentations at each region's awards banquets. Here's how they were earned:

**EP • Brian Haupt** (KC) only had the one win at Hallett but ran eight of the 10 Nationals and a second-place at the final round at HPT bumped him 4 points past **Don Tucker** (MidS). **Charlie Clark** (KC) edged **Kevin Grant** (MidS) by 1 point for third.

**FP • Jesse Prather** (Kan) cut it awfully fine, waiting until only four races were left before he even got on the track, but he won three of them and second place at HPT boosted him 5 points past SCCA's PR majordomo **Eric Prill** (Kan). **Ron Davis** (Kan) scored just 1 point at HPT, but it was the point that put him on podium ahead of **Robin Manning** (MidS).

**GP • Chris Albin** (SIII) had a strong early lead, good thing as he needed every bit of it. **Chuck Mathis** (SIII) came on strong with a 5-win season ending up 1 point behind Albin. **Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) was another early starter, and held off National Champion **Kent Prather** (Kan) by 2 points for third place.

**HP • Jeff Norris** (Okla) and **Rob Horrell Jr.** (MidS) only met once at the April Hallett race. Norris won that matchup, and five months later he was champion by just 2 points over Horrell.

**GT1 •** In a Mid-South Region sweep, **Bill Gray** had a somewhat easy championship, but 22 points behind him **Shawn Gray** got second by just 2 points over **Richard Grant**.

**GT2 • Barry Shonberger** (StL) had a rough year, with three DNFs in six starts, but two of the races he finished he won, enough to end the year four points up on **Ward Herst** (StL). **Tony Giordano** (KC) edged **Andy Hauck** (Kan) by 1 point for third.

**GT3 • Milton Grant** (MidS) made a couple of long tows to race **Robert Weaver** (Okla) head to head. Eight points was the margin.

**GT-Lite • Peter Zekert** posted four victories and won by 31 points over two-time winner **Roy Lopshire** (KC). **Brad Lewis** (StL) was third, 3 points behind Lopshire but just 1 ahead of **Keith Maloney** (OzMt).

**CSR • Hans Peter** (KC) won 7 times so this was an easy title.

**DSR •** Despite both racing out of Kansas City Region, **Mark Dalen** and **Bill Johnson** only faced off once and Johnson got the best of that duel. However, at year's end with both tied at 37 points, Dalen's two wins was the tiebreaker over Johnson's one for the championship. And just one point behind them is **Jim Boehm** (StL).

**S2000 • Jack Platt** (KC) went to the last race 2 points behind **Rob Sherwood** (StL). The showdown ended with Sherwood a DNF and Platt the champion by 5 points.

**SRF •** This was a KC 1-2-3-4 sweep, but **Chris Funk** did not leave much hope for his pursuers winning seven times in eight starts. **Ron Lentz**, a 4-time winner, took second ahead of **Frank Stone**.

**FA •** For a time it appeared Grant's Army would march off with this one until **Mirl Swan** (KC) fired off four late-season victories. Even taking the final battle could not win the war for **Keith Grant** (MidS). **David Grant** (MidS) and **David Wilcox** (Wich), both 2-time winners, tied for third, the tie broken in Grant's favor by having five second-place finishes to Wilcox's three.

**FC •** Victories were hard to come by in this class, only three of 10 races being won by MiDiv drivers. **Bill Allman** (Kan) won two of them to take the championship over **John McMurray** (StL).

**FM • Ken De Nault** (DMV) doesn't leave much for the rest, winning four times. Behind him, wow! **Sean Ferris Mataya** (StL) and **William Eriksen** (Kan) each won one and tied at 26, **Michael Fling** (Okla) and **Lee Walther** (Okla) tied at 25, **Richard Stephens** (NeOk) and **Gary Phillips** (KC) tied at 24. Mataya took the second step on the podium over Eriksen by having one second-place finish among his total.

**FF • Cliff Johnson** (KC) was a four-time winner, while **David Livingston Jr.** (MidS) won two. Those 24 points were the difference in Johnson's title.

**FV** • National Champion **Brad Stout** (StL), as usual, takes no prisoners, winning six times. **Lisa Noble** (Kan) held on by 1 point for second place over **Don Schanche** (StL).

**F500** • Only once since the class began using 500cc engines has **Rusty Cook** (MidS) not been the champion, and that was back at the end of the second millennium. **Jack Walbran** (StL) bridesmaid again.

**AS** • Strangely, nearly all the significant action happened before July, which is when **James Stevens** (StL) got three of his four wins. Between them, the top three drivers made 14 starts in the first six races and just two starts in the last four. **Jim Wheeler** (KC) needed his third-place at HPT to step past **Carey Grant** (MidS) for second overall.

**T1** • **Mike McGinley** (KC) put up four wins early in the year then held off a late challenge from **Jim Lynch** (StL), who was still able to get past **Natha Waldbaum** (Neb) in the last two races.

**T2** • **Chris Brannon** raced 10 times and won six of them for a perfect 72 points. He faced up with National Champion **Chuck Hemmingson** (DMV) three times, winning the final match at MAM. Hemmingson won four times for second-in-class.

**T3** • In the first year for T3 as a National class, **Steven Burkett** (StL) won four times while **Shannon McMasters** (MidS) won three. Burkett took the championship by 9 points.

**SSB** • **Ward Herst** (StL) won three of the first five races and needed them. **Jack Tippens** (StL) did not show up until just three races were left, but he won two of those (and one out-of-division) for second in points.

**SSC** • What does **John Saucier** (Okla) do with all those chairs? He won his 23rd, his 15th in a row in SSC with a 6-win season. Saucier won his first MiDiv championship in 1970, 36 years ago, driving a Formula A car -- no, not an Atlantic, but a honkin' 5-liter brute power formula car. **Paul Sherman** (Wich) did one race Saucier did not go to, and won that to finish second in class.

**SM** • The first year for Spec Miata as a National class saw 52 MiDiv drivers on the points list -- easily and immediately our most popular class. But at the top familiar names -- **Jim Drago** (MidS) and **Charlie James** (NeOk). Drago won the war by 10 points over James, reversing the finish of their Mid-Am duel in 2005. **Richard Wiese** (StL) took the last podium position. *--Rocky Entriken*

## The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

An unusual season for the I.T. Tour, with a result that only nine medallions will be presented. Every class has champions, but only drivers who have started three races are eligible for awards

Thus, in **ITS** only **Bill Denton** (MidS) wins a medal for 2nd place. **Mark Andrews** (StL) with two wins is champion, and **Dan Crossett** (NeOk) is tied with Denton.

Three medals in **ITA**, the biggest class with 35 drivers scoring points. **Tom Schiefler** (StL) had two wins, and a second in the final race at Gateway put him one point past **Ed Mabry** (Ark). **Pete Knese** (StL) got the Bronze.

Three medals in **ITB** too, with the gold going once again to 5-time winner **Chris Albin** (Sill). **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV) took the silver with bronze to **Patrick Findley** (MidS).

In **ITE** both medals go to Nebraska. **Andy Wolverton** won six times in seven starts for gold with silver to **John Waldbaum**.

**Michael Major** (StL) is the **ITC** champion, while in **IT7** **Scott Peterson** (KC) and **James Stevens** (StL) each won twice to share the title, but none had the three starts necessary to win awards. *—R.E.*