

MID-AM REPORT

After eight months and 18 races, We have 25 new Mid-Am champions. As it tuned out, the season-ending doubleheader at St. Louis had as much effect on the championships as the Bonus Race at Mid-America.

This year **Loren Moore** (OzMt) would not be denied. After he missed out on Driver of the Year in 2004 when he was unable to go to the Bonus Race, this year Moore reeled off 14 victories including the big one at MAM to take the crown. Of course, Moore is ITE champion, and not incidentally repeated his double-up from '04 and claimed the Super Production title also. It is only the second time in a decade that a name other than Chris Albin (Sill) has appeared on the award. Moore did the first part of the season in his Corvette before showing up late in the year in a new Viper.

The top 10 in this year's Driver of the Year list receive a new driver suit from the Mid-Am's presenting sponsor, SafeRacer. Moore's might be a little extra-special.

Here's how the other 23 champions did it:

PRODUCTION

• **EP** ~ Ozark Mountain drivers **Forrest Tindall** and **Court Whitlock** both ended up with 72 points in the final tally, but although Whitlock won the Bonus Race that ended up working against him. It meant he only ran five races for his 72 points while Tindall went to Gateway and got his fifth and sixth wins. First tiebreaker: most victories. Advantage Tindall, for his second straight championship. • **FP** ~ **Ron Davis** (Kan), also with 10 victories, ended up third in the DotY rankings. for his fifth championship, third in FP. • **GP** ~ **Chuck Leighton** (OzMt) made the trip to St. Louis. He didn't need to for his second class championship, but it kept him in fourth on the DotY list.

GRAND TOURING

• **GT1** ~ **Mary Daly** (StL) picked up her 7th and 8th wins at Gateway, but unfortunately was not at the Bonus Race and so ended up 10th on the DotY list. It's Daly's sixth championship over the past decade. • **GT2** ~ **Dave Jones** (StL) made a late-season rush to get in the bare-minimum four races, the last two on the last weekend, but enough to be GT2 champ. • **GT3** ~ Ditto for **Bill Briggen** (Sill), who got his fourth race on Saturday of the doubleheader to claim the crown, so Sunday he ran his VW in ITB. He's also competed in G Production this year, but was withdrawn from the Mid-Am since that's the class in which he took the car to the Runoffs. Briggen has been told that to anyone's best recall no one has ever competed in three different classes in the same year in the same car.

SPORTSRACING

• **S2000** ~ **John Nelson** (KC) won the Bonus, and that was all he needed to win the championship. He won this class once before, back in '98. • **SRF** ~ Just two points covered the top three drivers -- 36-35-34 for **Jeff Stehney** (KC), **Dan Axtell** (KC) and **Jim Fiss** (StL) before the Bonus Race. None went to the Bonus but all went to the Gateway doubleheader. Stehney took both days and the title. Axtell and Fiss, however, ended up tied. Both had equal wins (none) so it came down to the head-to-head matchups. They'd raced each other three times and Fiss had taken the checker ahead of Axtell in all three.

FORMULA

• **FA** ~ **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) won a pair at Gateway to claim the second straight Atlantic championship by a Formula SCCA driver. • **FM** ~ **Lee Walther** (Okla) had won the Bonus and could not be caught, but he needed one more outright win to meet the requirements for DotY and fretted over whether any other Mazdas would show at St. Louis. Two did, both from CenDiv, and Walther put 'em away to boost himself to fifth for DotY. • **FF** ~ **Joe Spain** (Okla) needed to make the trek to St. Louis just to get one more finish. He got two, both victories. • **CF** ~ St. Louisans **Michael Dierkes** and **James Krispin** have dueled each other for two years. Last year Krispin won. This year they raced each other six times, five at St. Louis. The final score: three wins each, three seconds each, each one tosses one 9-point finish (rules only let them count four at any one track), each beat the other three times. Unbreakable tie. • **FV** ~ Victory at the Bonus Race polished off a championship for **Patrick Hughey** (KC).

STREET TIRES

• **AS** ~ **Jeff Kopp** (KC) won five times in six starts, the last one coming at the Bonus Race, for his second championship. And just to add to his involvement, he took over as MiDiv Webmaster (www.midiv.com) earlier this year. • **T3** ~ **Steven Burkett** (StL) had to race his Mazda RX8 in Touring 2 in National races this year, but in Regionals it's a T3 car and he won 11 times with it. He missed the Bonus Race, however, so just barely made the top 10 for DotY. • **SSC** ~ **Dave Gird** (Wich) only got out four times this year, but it was enough. • **SM** ~ **Charlie James** (NeOk) and **Jim Drago** (MidS) went to the Bonus Race virtually tied. Okay, half a point apart, five wins each. But **Tom Kraft** (DMV) ambushed them both at MAM for his first win of the year. Those 24 points lifted Kraft to third place in the scoring. The class was decided by James finishing second and Drago third at the Bonus. That also means James is eighth and Drago ninth on the DotY chart.

IMPROVED TOURING

• **ITS** ~ **Bob Gill** (KC), champion the past three years, was in third place going to Gateway behind two St. Louis locals, 14 back of **Paul Lerman** and 11 down from **Mark Andrews**. The only way he could get a fourth championship was to win both races. So he did. • **ITA** ~ **Steven Bachenberg** (KC) took the checker six times this year for a second straight championship. Gill and Bachenberg are 11th and 12th on the DotY list. • **ITB** ~ **Chris Albin** (Sill) is slowing down some. No, not on the track, but cutting back ever so slightly on his road trips. He's also concentrating on his GP car more. Albin "only" raced his ITB Golf 10 times this year, winning all 10 so he is the runner-up for Driver of the Year. • **ITC** ~ **Jarold Boettcher** (KC) was done racing after the July holiday weekend at

Hallett. Five finishes, four in first place, was enough. • **IT7 ~ Nadeem Bari** (StL) was almost unbeatable this year. Winning six, including the Bonus, ranked him sixth in the DotY. --*Rocky Entriken*