

NATIONAL RACING REPORT

They called them A-May-Zing, the Mid-America Motorplex races at the end of May that began the second half of the MiDiv National Racing season. And now there's nothin' to do until Hallett on the Independence Day weekend so for those who feel the Need for Speed, you may as well mosey up to Kettle Moraine country and do a few laps at the June Sprints. The only other SCCA races anywhere else in the whole dang country this month are in Reno, New Jersey and Ontario (yes, Canada!)

A dozen eager drivers have driven all five of our Nationals to date and two of them, current National Champions both -- **Jesse Prather** (Kan) in EP and **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) in T2 -- have won all five. They are the top points holders as of the end of May.

Thirteen of the 14 MiDiv Regions have drivers on the National points list to date, 10 of them currently occupying podium positions:

Kansas City Region ~ With 18 drivers in the top-3 positions, five are leading their classes. **Jim Wheeler** is in a fierce contest with Mid-South's Shawn Gray for the American Sedan championship. They've raced each other four times, finishing 1-2 each time, each winning twice. **Phil Hemes** in Formula Continental and **Tom Bootz** in D Sports Racing have had an easier time of it, each winning three times. A victory in their only time out so far have **Al Essig** in Sports 2000 and **David Bennett** in Super Touring U sharing the points lead in their classes. **2ND PLACE** – Two 2nds and two 3rds have **Charlie Clark** hanging in there in EP. Winning the HPT doubleheader is worth 24 points in FF for **Cliff Johnson**. **Steven Christopher** has 18 in T2. **Charlie Smith** in DSR won at MAM in his first time out. **3RD PLACE** – **Mike McGinley** has raced three times in T1, winning two of them. **Chris Funk** in SRF is just three points out of first. **Steven Christopher** has been chasing SSC points all over the country (seven out-of-division races!, plus the two at Heartland Park) but he's only 2 points ahead of fourth place. **Roy Lopshire** in GTL is 10 points out of first but 11 ahead of fourth. **Patrick Hughey** has one win in FV. Through different combinations of finishes from 2nd to 5th, **Charles Dillon** in FM, **Tony Giordano** in GT2 and **David Long** in EP all have 23 points. A 2nd at MAM has **Scott Peterson** tied for third in STU points

St. Louis Region ~ Fewer podium drivers, but more on the top step with seven class leaders, most with stout scores. Arguably Spec Miata is one of the toughest classes today with large grids of similar cars but **Richard Wiese** with four wins in five starts has a solid grip on the lead. **Jim Lynch** has three wins in five races to lead Touring 1

by 13. On the other hand there's Formula 500 leader **Jack Walbran** who DNF'd the first two MiDiv races and has yet to win one, but has five 2nds and one 3rd for an 18-point lead. Formula Vee champ **Brad Stout** has won all four starts for a 19-point lead. In SSB, **Dennis AuBuchon** has won all three of his races and has double the score of his closest rival. **Bernie Sunier** has won two of three, same as Wichita's David Wilcox and they're tied atop F/Atlantic. Nobody in Super Touring U has done more than one race so Gateway winner **Peter Knese** is tied for the lead.



Midwest Division SCCA National Racing

2ND PLACE – **Chris Huskamp** has run three F500 races and won them all. In HP **Bob Eichelberger** and his car owner went to Mid-Ohio and Eichelberger won to pass his owner in the points. **3RD PLACE** – That car owner is **Mark Weber**, who's now 4 points behind his teammate. **Jim Wright**, with three runner-up finishes in FA, is only four points back from the two drivers tied for the lead. **Bud Scott** has 9 points in STU.

Kansas Region ~ There's **Jesse Prather**, 5 for 5 in E Production; none of that end-of-season drama like the past three years. Dad, as in **Kent Prather**, only leads GT Lite by one point but all they do to convert Jesse's Miata from EP to GTL is slap on different numbers and class letters. Four runner-up finishes have **Bill Allman** atop GT2 by three points. Gateway winner **Bob Bramlage** is tied with F Prod national champ Rick Harris. **2ND PLACE** – Three-time winner **Chris Bovis** is the one hammering on Kent Prather's tailpipe in GTL. **Lisa Noble** is holding off third place in FV by just 4 points. **Allen Dale** is tied with Wichita's Richard Learned in FC, at HPT they traded 2-3 finishes. **3RD PLACE** – **John Steflik** is tied with Ozark Mountain's Sam Henry in FP but Steflik would win the tiebreaker with his MAM victory. **Charles McAbee** has one win and two DNFs in F500.

Nebraska Region ~ **Andy Wolverton** is running away with Touring 2 again after five victories. **Jeff Demetri** added a MAM win to his two HPT victories in Super Touring O. **Mark Hutchins** is hanging on to a one-point lead in Spec Racer Ford. **2ND PLACE** – **Natha Waldbaum** has run all five races in T1, all 2nds and 3rds. **Buddy Cisar** has three runner-up finishes in GT1. **3RD PLACE** – **Dan Downs** made his first GT1 start at MAM and won it. **Robert Herman** has two finishes in GT3.

Oklahoma Region ~ Formula Enterprises cars have only shown up at one MiDiv Race this year, Hallett, and **Lee Walther** won that one and added scores from out-of-division finishes for a 12-point lead. **Robert Weaver's** second win, at MAM, moved him atop GT3 by 3 points. **Jack Donnellan** won at MAM to tie KC's Al Essig at 12

points each in S2000. **2ND PLACE** – **John Saucier** went out to Portland last month and now has two wins, two 2nds and two 3rds to move within 5 points of the SSC leader. Two-time winner **Jim Duea** is the one three points behind Weaver in GT3. **3RD PLACE** – **Michael Fling** would have more than 9 points in FE but for two DNFs after heartbreaking long tows to races out of division.

Ozark Mountain Region ~ **Rob Jones**, trying to do two classes this year, has spent most of his effort so far in SSC where he has four wins. **2ND PLACE** – **Jones** has 18 points from two runners-up in SSB. **Kyle Jones** has 46 points in Spec Miata. Teen-ager **Crispin Beaver** is a two-time winner in GT2 and just 3 points out of first. **3RD PLACE** – **Beaver** is also doing double duty and got his first SM checker at MAM to bump up in the standings. **Sam Henry** is tied with John Steflik of Kansas at 26 points in FP.

Mid-South Region ~ National Champion **William Gray** has four wins for a 21-point lead in GT1. Son **Shawn Gray** has been trading wins in American Sedan with KC's Jim Wheeler and both are tied at 42. **David Livingston Jr.**, with one win on the board, leads Formula Ford by four. **3RD PLACE** – **Bret Volkamer** stands just 6 points behind the Gray/Wheeler tie in AS.

Des Moines Valley Region ~ **Ken De Nault** has four

Formula Mazda victories and a fat 31-point lead. **2ND PLACE** – That's **Mark Greb** next up in FM. Two-time winner **Scott Goolsbey** is in a tight SRF battle, one point behind the leader and two ahead of 3rd place.

Wichita Region ~ Everyone is tied! National Champ **Rick Harris** is tied with Kansas's Bob Bramlage in F Production, but Harris has the tiebreak edge two wins to one. **David Wilcox** has the same record in Formula Atlantic as St. Louis's Bernie Sunier, two wins and a 3rd. Each has beaten the other once. **2ND PLACE** – It's **Richard Learned** with the same record as Kansas's Allen Dale, two 2nds and a 3rd in FC.

Southern Illinois Region ~ **Chris Albin's** four wins gives him a 25-point lead in H Production.

Northeast Oklahoma Region ~ **2ND PLACE** – **Richard Stephens** is 12 points behind the FE leader.

Other Regions ~ The only **Arkansas Region** driver on the list is **Chris Edens**, a Runoffs contender at 7th in Spec Miata. **Salina Region's Steve Pistora** reportedly has the 2007 Runoffs-winning F500 Novakar but has suffered a string of DNFs and DNSs from engine woes. Nobody from **Mississippi Region** is playing in National races yet this season.

—Rocky Entriken

The Midwest Division I.T. Tour

The I.T. Tour is officially halfway through a six-race season. While 41 drivers have raced in the series, only four have done the minimum two races to meet the series' minimum qualifications.

Chris Albin (SIII) is the only one of those four to win both starts, taking the Gateway and Hallett rounds in ITB.

The other three all have one win, one 2nd for 21 points. MAM winner **Gary Learned** (Okla) makes ITB the only class with two qualified drivers. The others are class

leaders **Brian Landers** (KC) in ITS and **Brian Laughlin** (NeOk) in ITA. ITA is the largest class with 18 drivers scoring points.

Each track (Gateway, Hallett, MAM) has been visited once with second visits in July and August expected to result in many more drivers meeting qualifying minimums, but the advantage will go to those who score the max four races.

—R.E.