

MID-AM REPORT

The Bonus Race at Mid-America Motorplex decided at least seven Mid-Am Championships, and created a showdown for at least five more at the annual Spooktacular double regional weekend at Gateway in October. As MiDiv racing pauses for the SCCA National Championship events over the next few weeks, Mid-Am drivers will have six weeks to wait for the final result.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED ~ CHAMPIONSHIPS WON

Driver of the Year ~ With **Chris Albin** (Sill) winning ITB for his 11th victory of the year -- and more significantly since **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) was a DNF and **Dave Gird** (Wich) did not race, that leaves Albin as the only driver on the list with 84 points. A couple of others could still tie him, but Albin would win any tiebreaker. **Randy Wagner** (NeOk) leaped to the second spot with an FP victory, and **James Stevens** (StL) came from nowhere to third by winning IT7, both now with 81 points. **Steve Bachenberg** (KC) got winner's points in ITA to move to fourth on the list at 78 points, but since Bill Pemberton (Neb) got the ITA trophy at MAM Bachenberg will still need one more outright win just to stay on the list and in the running for a new driver's suit from SafeRacer, which goes to the DotY Top Ten.

FP ~ **Randy Wagner** (NeOk) came to MAM to get the bonus points and **Bob Eichelberger** (StL) didn't. Even if Eichelberger wins both races at Gateway he can do no better than 72 points and Wagner has 81.

GP ~ **Rocky Entriken** (Sal) had it won from his four-race July blitz.

GT2 ~ **Greer Haynes** (MidS) is uncatchable with 60 points in hand.

S2000 ~ **John Nelson** (KC) put himself out of reach with a Bonus Race victory.

FV ~ **Matt Guzowski** (StL) was already beyond reach after winning the August Gateway race.

F500 ~ **Kenneth Kirkland** (Ark) has an untouchable 60 points.

AS ~ **Scott Bettinger** (Wich) scored his fourth victory at MAM, no bonus points for him but he won't need them.

SSC ~ **Dave Gird** (Wich) was already up to 72 without challenge.

ITS ~ **Aaron Holstrom** (KC) only had a 13-point lead, but a Bonus Race victory makes it a 37 point lead and that's enough.

ITB ~ **Chris Albin** (Sill) wins the Bonus Race, and his 14th straight championship in this class.

ITE ~ The door was open, just a crack, when **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) was DNF at the Bonus Race, but none of the drivers who had a chance, albeit slim, came to challenge and Wolverton cannot be caught now.

IT7 ~ The top three came to race but points leader **James Stevens** (StL) sealed the deal with a Bonus Race victory.

SM ~ The top four drivers in MiDiv's most hotly contested class all showed up, all of them eligible for bonus points. The only sure strategy in such a situation is to win the race, which is what points leader **Stephen Johnson** (KC) did. No one can catch his 78 points now. But the Bonus race left **Sam Henry** (OzMt) and **Peter Lehr** (DMV) tied, with **Mike Asselta** (KC) just four points behind. It could be quite a shootout at Gateway just for

second overall!

DOWN TO THE WIRE ~ FIGHTING FOR THE CROWN

EP ~ **Forrest Tindall** (OzMt) got the win to move within 12 points of **Court Whitlock** (OzMt). If Whitlock doesn't go to Gateway, Tindall can walk in.

SRF ~ **Robin Kirkland** (KC) was the only SRF driver to score points at MAM and he's now just 8 behind leader **Jack Donnellan** (Okla). If Kirkland wins just one of the Gateway races (and is second or third in the other) he prevents Donnellan from maxing his score at 72 and could steal the championship.

FA ~ **Willard King** (KC) scored his third win, just his third finish, at MAM. **Phil Gumpert** (StL) has two finishes. Both need Gateway just to qualify, but any finishes win it for King.

F/SCCA ~ **Jason Mabee** (KC) and **Craig Chandler** (OzMt) are tied at 48, but Chandler has 5 finishes to Mabee's four. The best score Chandler can get is 63. Mabee just needs two finishes to get at least 66. And if they stay tied, Mabee wins the tiebreaker.

CC ~ **Mike Bass** (MidS) has 60 points. **Greg Scharnberg** (DMV) scored his 48th at MAM. If Scharnberg can win both Gateway races he is champion, but Bass only needs to win one of them to take the crown.

EM ~ **Gary Phillips** (KC) just needs a couple of finishes, at least one of them second place, to deny **Charles Gruner** (StL) even if Gruner wins both ends of the doubleheader.

FF ~ **Don Nelson** (Neb) all but locked up the championship by winning the Bonus Race. Any finish in just one of the Gateway races assures him the title even if previous points leader **Tim Koch** (KC) goes and wins both of them.

ITA ~ The only scenario by which **Jude Rudder** (OzMt) can beat **Steve Bachenberg** (KC) is to win both races at Gateway. That would leave both drivers in a 78-point tie no matter what Bachenberg's finish, and Rudder would win the tiebreaker 5 wins to 4. A victory in either race by Bachenberg and the ITA championship is his.

JUST NEED A FINISH TO QUALIFY

GT1 ~ **Mary Daly** (StL) raced at Gateway and Memphis in May and Hallett in July. Since then has not been out on the track and needs one more finish just to qualify. She qualifies, she wins.

GT-Lite ~ **Kenneth Probst** (Sill) tried for his third finish at Gateway in August, but was DNF. Now he needs a finish at both October races.

FC ~ **Shane Bennoch** (OzMt) was last on the track at Gateway in May, his third win. He needs that fourth one.

CF ~ **Jeff Norris** (Okla) not only needs the finishes, he also needs to hold off **Jim Krispin** (StL) and Krispin's next-door neighbor **Michael Dierkes** (StL). Almost any finishes gives Norris the title, but should he stumble Krispin is only 9 points behind.

NO ACTION HERE

There will be no championships this year in Super Production, H Production, GT3, A-C-D Sports Racing, SportsRacing SCCA, Legends, Formula Super, Touring 1-2-3, Showroom Stock B or Improved Touring C.

--Rocky Entriken