

# Mid-Am Report

Strange days, strange days indeed! Or, yes, we recognize, as James Carville said, "It's the economy, stupid!" Still the numbers are surprising. At the midpoint of the season, the sixth of 11 races, we have 157 drivers registered and that's a very nice number. But those 157 drivers have accounted for all of 149 points finishes. That plus five DNFs makes just 154 starts. Yes, an average of less than *ONE* start per registered driver.

Considering the Mid-Am is really intended for the low-budget racer, it is perhaps no surprise that the low-budget racer is the one most seriously affected by the economic recession (I know I am!). I think what 157 registered competitors means is we have a good number of drivers who really want to race and are willing to put down half a sawbuck to declare so. Just that when it comes to actually getting the car out of the garage and onto the trailer reality rears up and says "Uh-uh."

To qualify for the championship, drivers must earn points in three races and start at least four, racing on at least two different tracks. To qualify for the Bonus Race takes four finishes. Right now we have all of nine drivers who have qualified for both, and one more who has met championship minimums but needs one more points finish to get Bonus points at Heartland Park on Sept. 5.

Imagine someone with no starts yet. That means if he finishes all four August races he'd qualify for both Bonus and Championship, miss one and he gets no Bonus (just regular points) but can still get in on the championship.

We'll focus here just on classes where someone has at least two finishes already.

FORMULA ENTERPRISES ~ **Jason Mabee** (KC) has two finishes, needs two more.

FORMULA MAZDA ~ **Chuck Dillon** (KC) has three, needs one more.

FORMULA VEE ~ **Bill Lauer** (Wich) got his second finish in at Hallett.

FORMULA 500 ~ **Kenneth Kirkland** (Ark) got win No. 3 at Hallett.

SPORTS 2000 ~ **Jack Donnellan** (Okla) made his third race at Hallett but he's also leading the National points.

SPEC RACER FORD ~ **Glen Tomlinson** (Okla) has his four races in and leads **Jim Coté Jr.** (KC) by 10 points. Coté has just two races, both wins. **Kirk Collier** (KC) is 1 point behind Coté with three races in, and **Ed Sodano** (KC) is 2 behind Collier with just two races.

GT3 ~ **Jeff McCormick** (KC) and **Robert Herman** (Neb) both have two races in. McCormick leads by 3 points.

SUPER PRODUCTION ~ **Charles Guenther** (KC) won

twice at the MAM doubleheader in April.

E PRODUCTION ~ **Brett Whitney** (KC) has two wins, two 2nds, is qualified for both series and Bonus, but is just 6 points ahead of **David Long** (KC), who has three wins.

F PRODUCTION ~ **Ronald Davis** (Kan) has fully qualified with four finishes and has a 10-point edge on **Marty Wagner** (NeOk) whose three finishes and one DNF meets series minimums but he still needs one more finish to get Bonus points. His brother **Randy Wagner** (NeOk) had worse luck with a DNF on the first day of the MAM double and he didn't get back out Sunday, but he turned that around winning Hallett for his second finish.

AMERICAN SEDAN ~ **Kim McDonald** (Neb) has two wins from three finishes. His third finish is the 9-point margin he has over two-time winner **Dave Gird** (Wich). **Jack Martin** (Wich) has two 2nds for third place.

SHOWROOM STOCK C ~ **James Wood** (Neb) won the three MAM races and got his fourth in at Hallett so he's solid.

SPEC MIATA ~ Eleven registered drivers and only five finishes among them. **Mark Hamilton** (MidS) is the only one with as many as two, getting his second win at Hallett.

IMPROVED TOURING R ~ 2008's Driver of the Year, **Ralph Woodard** (Neb), has two wins.

IMPROVED TOURING S ~ The only class with two fully qualified drivers has **Ryan Staub** (KC) and **David Bennett** (KC) trading wins the past four races. The showdown is Staub 3 and Bennett 1 which gives Staub a 6-point lead. **Brian Landers** (KC) in 3rd is the only other driver with at least two finishes.

IMPROVED TOURING A ~ It's the largest class in the Mid-Am with 18 drivers registered, but the oddity is the only qualified driver is in 3rd place! **Ray Yergler** (DMV) leads with three wins, **Brian Laughlin** (NeOk) is three points behind with two wins and a 2nd, while **Jarold Boettcher** (KC) is the only one with four finishes. **Chuck Grauel** (Wich) and **Tom Kraft** (DMV) both also have two finishes, while **Paul Sherman** (Wich) and **Oren Tucker** (Ark) each have two starts, one finish.

IMPROVED TOURING B ~ **Chris Albin** (SIII) is the high-points man for the series but still only at 57 points. **Gary Learned** (Okla) at 30 and **Alex Wiley** (Kan) at 25 both have three finishes.

IMPROVED TOURING C ~ **Gerald Behnke** (KC) got his fourth win in at Hallett.

IMPROVED TOURING 7 ~ **Steve Wolf** (KC) has won twice. **Todd Smith** (KC) has a win and a 2nd. They're 3 points apart.

—Rocky Entriiken