

MID-AM REPORT

The aftermath of the Mid-Am Bonus Race at Gateway International Raceway created the most unusual Driver of the Year outcome in the history of the Mid-Am Championship. The winner is **Mark Andrews**, a St. Louis Region member who drives a BMW 325is in the ITS class.

This outcome was truly strange in a number of ways. First, Andrews is the first DotY *ever* to win the honor without scoring the maximum possible 84 points (the only two drivers in the whole series to score 84 this year did not have the four outright wins required to qualify for the DotY). Second, he was only 7th in the DotY standings going into the Bonus race. Third, he won only four races but all four were outright victories (first on the track in a class of at least two cars). And fourth, Andrews did not even win his class championship!

Andy Wolverton looked the odds-on favorite to win it with a possibility of even going 1-2 by himself as he had the pre-Bonus maximum of 72 points in both the ITE and ITR classes. Also at 72 was Formula Mazda leader **Charles Dillon**, perennial ITB champ **Chris Albin**, IT7 leader **Charles Casteel**, and **Mac Spikes** in ITA. Andrews had just 63 points, but among them a key factor was that he was the only driver on the final DotY list to score points at the Nashville races.

Wolverton entered his ITE car at Gateway but was a DNS. Dillon, who had eight wins but only three outright, did not enter. Neither did Albin or Casteel. That brought it down to Spikes, the Texan running out of Mid-South Region who came in leading ITA with six victories, but he finished third in the Bonus Race and gained only another 2 points.

In ITS, Bill Denton was leading Andrews 69-63 and the two of them were among the five ITS cars entered. Andrews won the race, the only ITS unlapped by the overall leaders, and took the full bonus 24 points to 18 for Denton. With a total of 78 points -- top score among the six drivers who met the minimum requirements -- Andrews is Driver of the Year.

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• **FORMULA** • **FA** ~ **Willard King** (KC) won two spring races, then took both ends at the Hastings double regional for his second championship. • **CC** ~ **Mike Bass** (MidS) and **Jim Krispin** (StL) both had four earlier wins but the only time they'd met Krispin won. Their second meeting was in the Bonus Race and Bass won that one to claim a second straight Club Continental title. • **FM** ~ **Charles Dillon** (KC) scored eight victories on the season including a final two at Hastings. • **FF** ~ **Frank Chambers** (NeOk) got in his fourth victory at the Sunday Hastings race to win this championship. • **F500** ~ **Kenneth Kirkland** (Ark) scored all his five wins before August to win his second Mid-Am clock.

• **SPORTSRACING** • **S2000** ~ Make it three in a row for **John Nelson** (KC) after a five-win season. • **SRF** ~ **Angelo Lagonia** (MidS) was down in 5th place before his two wins at Nashville, and then he won the Bonus Race for a 32-point championship margin. **Duane Dean** (KC) edged **Robin Kirkland** (KC) by just two points for runner-up honors.

• **GRAND TOURING** • **GT1** ~ A new Mid-Am rule only requires three points finishes (but still four starts at two different tracks). Despite two DNFs, which still gave him the starts he needed, three 12-point finishes were enough to bring **Andrew Timmons** (Wich) his first championship. • **GT3** ~ **Rick Taylor** (Kan) finished off his 6-win year at the Hastings doubleheader. • **GTL** ~ **Phil Harris** (MidS) also used the three-finishes rule to his advantage with wins at Gateway and twice at Nashville. It was enough despite a DNF at the Bonus race.

• **PRODUCTION** • **SP** ~ **Ron Keith** (KC) ran his ASA-style Ford Taurus at Heartland Park and Gateway to score four victories. • **EP** ~ **David Long** (KC) ran off a four-win season for his second championship; his first was five years ago. • **FP** ~ **Randy Wagner** (NeOk) made the two Hallett races in April and June, then waited for the Hastings pair in September to finish off his second straight FP title and the third of his career. • **HP** ~ **Ray Barker** (Wich) took his Ford Fiesta to H Production and scored the last of his four wins by taking two at the new Hastings track.

• **SPEC MIATA** • **Mark Zwolle** (MidS) went to the Bonus Race with a 25-point lead so he could not be caught, but a third-place finish added 7 more to his total. **Oren Tucker** (Ark) was fourth in the race scoring the points to jump past **Brian Patnode** (KC) for second place.

• **IMPROVED TOURING** • **ITR** ~ **Ralph Woodard** (Neb) went to the Bonus Race 14 points behind **Andy Wolverton** (Neb) in this brand new IT class, but when Wolverton decided to enter his ITE car that left the door open for Woodard's bonus-points victory and a championship by just 3 points. Four early-season runner-up finishes gives third to **Jeff Goodnow** (KC). • **ITS** ~ The strange DotY scenario saw **Bill Denton** (MidS) win the class championship while **Mark Andrews** (StL) took runner-up in class but the top overall award. They went to the Bonus with Denton leading by six. Andrews won the race, both drivers threw out earlier second-place finishes, and they ended up tied at 78 points each. But Denton had five victories to Andrews' four including his double-points Bonus win and most wins broke the tie in Denton's favor. **David Leivian** (Wich) took third in class. • **ITA** ~ A similar situation played out here, with **Mac Spikes** (MidS) losing the ITA title to **Jeff Seelig** (StL) despite placing second in the DotY rankings. The two went to the Bonus Race with Spikes holding a 3-point lead with six victories including three of them over Seelig. But with the Bonus points on the line it was Seelig first under the checker to complete his 6-win season and end up 10 points ahead of Spikes, who was 5th on the track and took 3rd place points. **Travis Nordwald** (KC) got points for second in the race to jump past **Ed Mabry** (Ark) for third in class. • **ITB** ~ **Chris Albin** didn't do his usual run-every-race season, but seven wins was enough for his 15th consecutive ITB title. **Bernie Mermis** (Wich) and **Harlan Donaldson** (DMV) took 2nd and 3rd • **ITC** ~ **Curt Weilandich** (StL) won the Bonus Race to finish off his 6-win season. • **ITE** ~ **Andy Wolverton** had won nine times in this class but the 10th was not to be. Bonus Race results showed him DNS, still enough to win the class over **John Waldbaum** and **Jeff Demetri** for a Nebraska 1-2-3, but lacking the one win needed for Driver of the Year. • **IT7** ~ **Charles Casteel** (KC) scored the last of his seven wins in July at Mid-America.

| MID-AM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ~ 2007 | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| | 2007 | 2006 | Change |
| TOTAL RACES | 18 | 16 | +2 |
| TOTAL RACE ENTRY | 1239 | 1691 | -452 |
| AVERAGE ENTRY | 75.25 | 105.69 | 30.44 |
| Registered for Mid-Am | 176 | 185 | -9 |
| Withdrawn | 20 | 7 | +13 |
| Did Not Qualify | 107 | 119 | -12 |
| Eligible at end of season | 49 | 59 | -10 |
| Total points finishes | 432 | 512 | -80 |
| Average finishes per driver | 2.45 | 2.77 | -0.32 |