

MID-AM REPORT

And so the first season of the new-era Mid-Am Championship is a wrap, upon completion of the final weekend at Gateway Motorsports Park.

Now the championship comprises ALL the classes offered in Midwest Division club racing – the 27 Runoffs classes, 15 other classes for which rules are found in the GCR, and the four “additional” classes in the Mid-Am rules. In all, 46 total classes are available to MiDiv drivers. Champions are declared this year in 31 classes, 27 of them (including two who tied in ITS) have qualified for MiDiv’s distinctive leather director’s chair awards, plus another 34 who will receive the leather-seat camp stools for a 2nd or 3rd place finish. Basically the championship now collects everything we knew before in both National and Regional racing under a single umbrella.

The Driver of the Year award also has new parameters. Now named for the late John Saucier, a 28-time champion in classes ranging from Formula A to Showroom Stock C, it is no longer a simple points tally, but becomes a more subjective selection among drivers who have accumulated at least 100 Mid-Am points. A full two dozen drivers have met that qualification in this first year. A three-member committee, which in future years will include the immediate past recipient, makes the selection. The other two committee members are the Area 6 Director (Peter Zekert) and the MiDiv Executive Steward (Scott Bowman). The third member this year is the immediate past Area 6 Director, who just happens also to have become the current president of SCCA, Lisa Noble.

The series comprised 16 races on seven weekends at Hallett, Gateway (three weekends), Mid-America, Hastings and Heartland Park. Hallett and HPT were Majors, offering only the 27 Runoffs classes. The MAM and Hastings weekends each put on a third “bonus race” open only to non-Runoffs classes. A driver could score a max of seven races. Only the best three finishes from any one track were scored.

Awards will be sent to 11 of the 14 MiDiv regions for presentations to their drivers at annual awards banquets or such other occasions as they deem appropriate. All but one of the regions had drivers who scored points in the championship.

ARKANSAS REGION — ITE • **Chris Edens** won an April race at Gateway, then took both ends of Gateway’s August weekend.

DES MOINES VALLEY REGION — FM • **Ken De Nault** is the runner-up in Formula Mazda after four Gateway wins (he only gets to count three) and two 2nds at Heartland Park. ITS • **Andrew Wolff** ties for the third-place award with two wins and a 2nd at MAM. ITA • **Daniel Juliano** also did the three races at MAM, finishing 2nd in each one. ITB • **Harlan Donaldson** did the tripleheaders at both MAM and Hastings, winning the MAM bonus race.

KANSAS REGION — SRE • **Grayson Strathman** is the class runner-up after two wins at MAM. EP • **Jesse Prather** is second in points with three Majors wins, one at Hallett and two at HPT. EP • **Eric Prill** also ran the two Majors weekends, with one victory at each. Prill was also one of just three MiDiv podium finishers at the Runoffs at Laguna Seca with a 3rd place finish.

KANSAS CITY REGION — Kansas City was the big dog in the Mid-Am series with 10 champions, plus four other podium

finishers. FM • **Larry Howard** won Formula Mazda with victories at the MAM races, a 2nd at Gateway in April, and two 3rds at the HPT Majors. FF • **Cliff Johnson** took the championship by winning both ends of Hallett’s Majors and finishing 2nd both days at HPT. F500 • **Timothy Friest** won the championship with three victories, two at the Hallett Majors, then a win and a 2nd at the HPT race. He also had 2nd place finishes twice at MAM and one at Hastings. **David Vincent** actually won

more races, taking all four at MAM and Hastings, but his Majors finishes were four 3rds, leaving him eight points behind Friest. SRE • **Jim Coté Jr.** ran both Majors weekends but his best points were 2nds at the two MAM races, enough to be champion. GT2 • **Tony Giordano** led a 1-2-3 sweep for KC with a victory at MAM, two wins at

Hastings, and two Majors finishes at HPT. Second place goes to **Mark Kirby**, who won the HPT Majors and was 2nd twice at Hallett. Third is **Mike McGinley**, who chased Kirby home at the two HPT races. GTL • **Roy Lopshire** posted three wins, at Hallett, MAM and HPT. EP • **Brian Haupt**’s best day was Sunday at MAM, which he won. He had a 2nd on Saturday, plus four Majors finishes. AS • **Jim Wheeler** was one of four Mid-Am drivers with “perfect” seasons, 175 points from seven wins, the highest possible score. He got them two each at Hallett, MAM, Hastings, and one at HPT, in one of the most hotly contested classes in the season. SM • **Justin Walker** won both days at MAM and was 2nd both days at Hastings. IT7 • **Will Wolf** also got a perfect 175 points, winning two each at Gateway in April, and MAM, plus three at Hastings, for his best seven (tossing his only 2nd place finish, at MAM). **Bill Miller** ran the same eight races to finish 2nd in points, winning the only one Wolf didn’t (at MAM) plus four 2nds and two 3rds.

NEBRASKA REGION — The only region other than St. Louis to put on multiple race weekends (the MAM and Hastings races), Nebraska claims five champions and six more podium finishers. GT3 • **Tom Barribo** backed up a MAM win with four more 2nd place finishes at Gateway, MAM and two at Hastings. He finished 13 points ahead of runner-up **Robert Herman**, who won the other three MAM and Hastings races. T2 • **Natha Waldbaum** ran the Hallett and HPT Majors, winning once at Hallett and finishing 2nd in the other three. T4 • **James Wood** scored the winner’s points three times in four starts at MAM and Hastings. SP • **Ed Hunt** claimed the Super Prod title, also taking top points three times in four starts at MAM and Hastings. ITS • **Harold Janke** tied (with Jonathan Jones of St. Louis) for the ITS championship as a result of two MAM wins and one in the bonus race at Hastings. HP • **Thom Asay** is the class runner-up after finishing 2nd in all four races at MAM and Hastings. ITB • **Ralf Lindow** is 2nd in class after his only win in the final race at Gateway. He had seven 2nd place finishes. ITE • **John Waldbaum** ran all three Hastings races with a win and two 2nds to end up 2nd in class, ahead of **Frank Safranek** who won twice at MAM but didn’t get a points finish in the bonus race.

NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA REGION — FP • **Hans Saurino** won four times, once each at Gateway (April), MAM, Hastings and Gateway again (August). FF • **Frank Chambers** scored his only victory in the Sunday race at MAM, enough to be class runner-up when added to his four Majors finishes. GTL • **Nigel**



Saurino was 2nd in class after wins at MAM, Hastings and Heartland Park, plus a 2nd at the August Gateway race. Third place went to **Joshua Saurino**, who won once each at Hastings and Gateway, plus a 2nd at MAM. **FP • Nigel Saurino**, again, with different class letters on the same MG Midget, for two Majors wins at each of the Hallett and HPT weekends. *And then a third win, at Laguna Seca, to become MiDiv's only SCCA National Champion in 2014.*

OKLAHOMA REGION — **FST • Chuck Singletary** is Oklahoma Region's only champion, the first in MiDiv in the VW-powered Formula First class. He won twice at Gateway in August.

OZARK MOUNTAIN REGION — **HP • Jack Schulz** took the third-place award with a victory at the Hallett Majors and two 2nd place finishes at Gateway in August.

ST. LOUIS REGION — Four Mid-Am champions hail from the Gateway city, plus 10 more podium finishers. **FA • Jim Wright** won all six Gateway races, but only gets to count three of them. Added to his score are two 2nd place finishes at the HPT Majors races. **FB • Steve Hamilton** won the last four Gateway races (August, October) in the class also known as Formula 1000, only keeping three of the scores but it was enough to stay ahead of runner-up **Charles Livingston**, who won once at Gateway in April and finished 2nd twice in October. **GT1 • Michael Major** ran no Majors, but won five times in the Gateway races. Because of the three-max rule at any one track, he has but 75 points, but it was enough to be champion. **ITS • In** this unusual result, there was an unbreakable tie for the championship (thus no 2nd place) and another unbreakable tie for 3rd. **Jonathan Jones** won all the races at Gateway in April and October, keeping three for his final score (tied with Nebraska's Harold Janke). **Greg Hartrum** ran all six Gateway races, keeping an August win (the other five were

all 2nds; he tied Andrew Wolff of DMVR). **AS • Ian Maloney** is 2nd in class after four Gateway wins (scoring three) plus four finishes at the Majors weekends. **ITA • Don Melvin** won the four August and October Gateway rounds, keeping three to be 2nd in class. **SM • Justin Lautz** won Gateway weekends twice in August and once in October to be class runner-up. Third in class is **Adam Fein** who ran all six Gateway races, scoring wins in April and October and keeping one of two 2nd place finishes. **FF • George Hamilton** is third in class after three Gateway wins in August (two) and October. **F500 • Jack Walbran** is third in points with a 2nd and three 3rds in the four Majors races at Hallett and HPT. **SRF • Richard Wiese** won the April and August Gateway rounds, keeping three of the four for third in class. **IT7 • Curt Faigle** won the October Gateway pair, after three 2nds at Gateway in April and at MAM.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS REGION — **HP • Chris Albin** had a "perfect" 175-point season, nine wins actually, winning one at Gateway in April, then taking two each at MAM, Hastings, Gateway in August, and again in October. **ITB • Chris Albin** was not quite perfect, needing to include one 2nd place finish in his score of 171. He won two at Gateway in April, two at MAM, one (plus two 2nds) at Hastings, and one at Gateway in August. **ITR • Travis Duvall** had one win at Gateway in April and two in August.

WICHITA REGION — **ITA • Scott Bettinger** got the perfect 175-point score from seven wins, taking one at Gateway in April, three at MAM and three at Hastings. **FV • The Brothers Lauer** were separated by just one point after running the four Majors races at Hallett and Heartland Park. **Michel Lauer**, the champion, posted 70 points from three 3rd place finishes and one 5th. **William Lauer** outran Michael once at Hallett for a 3rd place finish, added to three 4ths. —*Rocky Entriken*

National Champion Nigel Saurino at Laguna Seca

(Bonvoulior Photo)

