



**SEBRING CHAMPIONS LOOK TO CONTINUE
WINNING WAYS AT SEARS POINT
Saleen Drivers 1-2-3 in GTS Points Race**

SONOMA, Calif., July 18, 2001 – With eleven victories in the first half of the 2001 race season, Saleen S7Rs are certainly making their "marque" in their inaugural year. **Konrad/Team Saleen** will try to continue these winning ways and repeat their earlier flag-to-flag victory at the 12 Hours of Sebring when the **#26 BASF Saleen S7R** takes the green flag in this Sunday's **X-Factor Grand Prix of Sonoma** at Sears Point Raceway, the third round of the American Le Mans Series (ALMS).

Besides their dominating Sebring victory in March, Franz Konrad and Terry Borcheller competed in last month's grueling **24 Hours of Le Mans** with teammate Oliver Gavin gaining a well-earned third-place finish in the highly competitive GTS class. In qualifying for the classic endurance marathon, Gavin smashed the previous GTS record by nearly three seconds while Saleen S7R drivers posted the fastest laps during the race.

Konrad is also competing in the **European Le Mans Series (ELMS)** with a Saleen S7R, as is Ray Mallock Ltd. (RML), Saleen's technical partner in England. Between them, Konrad and RML have won all three rounds of the ELMS, including last Sunday's race at Estoril, Portugal where Saleen S7Rs placed first and second overall – another first in this inaugural season! Based on the rule that allows ALMS teams and drivers to substitute an ELMS race for an ALMS race, Konrad (55 points), Borcheller (52) and Gavin (52) currently **lead the ALMS GTS class** and Konrad/Team Saleen is the points leader for the Team and Manufacturers' Championships.

Saleen S7R customer cars are also leading the way in two other series around the globe. GTO class leader Chris Bingham and last year's GTO Co-Champion Ron Johnson have won four of six rounds of the Grand American Rolex Series in their **Fordahl/Team Saleen S7R**, including last week's race at Road America. And across

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the pond, former Spanish GT Champion Carlos Palau has won three of six races in the **Spanish FIA GT Champlonship**. Five cars leading four series -- in only its first season.

A high-performance vehicle manufacturer for 18 years, Saleen introduced the S7, the first true American supercar, at the famed Monterey Historic Races in August of last year. Less than three months later, the first S7R racecar performed admirably in its inaugural race at the same Laguna Seca circuit. The Saleen S7R's 7-liter racing V8 generates 600 horsepower and is capable of speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour. With its extreme ground effects engineering, the car could be driven upside down at 160 mph and still stay attached to the road.

Saleen was crowned the SCCA World Challenge Champions in 1996-1998, while an ex-Le Mans Saleen SR won the Spanish FIA GT in 1999. Last year, Saleen swept the Grand-Am GTO Champlonships winning the Team and Drivers' titles, as well as their fifth-straight Manufacturers' Championship.

Austria's Franz Konrad started racing sports cars in Germany in the mid-1970s. He moved to Formula 2 and 3 in the early 1980's, winning the German F3 Championship in 1983. Other highlights in Konrad's career include his second-place overall (to his Silk Cut Jaguar teammate) in the 1990 24 Hours of Le Mans; a first-in-class and eighth overall finish in the 1995 12 Hours of Sebring driving a Porsche 962 Spider; and back-to-back GT class victories at Sebring in 1997 and 1998. Konrad was also crowned the Porsche Cup Champion both years.

Saleen Motorsports' **Terry Borcheller** of Phoenix will co-drive with Konrad at Sears Point. In 1998, his first full season with Saleen, Terry won 17 races in four different marques, including seven (tying an SCCA record) victories that earned him the SCCA World Challenge Drivers' Championship. Last year, Borcheller and his teammate Ron Johnson dominated the field in Grand American GTO racing, taking their Saleen team to the "Triple Crown" (Drivers', Manufacturers' and Team Championships) in the series inaugural year.

Konrad/Team Saleen is sponsored by the Automotive Refinish and OE Coatings & Colorants divisions of BASF; Exide Technologies, manufacturers of the world's leading spiral-wound lead-acid battery, the Exide Select Orbital; Borla Performance Industry; Hella and Goodyear. NBC Sports will televise live coverage of the X-Factor Grand Prix of Sonoma beginning at 4 p.m. EDT on Sunday, July 22. Fans can listen to live coverage of the race online through the American Le Mans Series Radio Web at www.americanlemans.com.

Saleen facilities include total research, engineering, design and assembly capability. Since the company's inception in 1984, Saleen has produced over 8,000 vehicles, more than any other specialty manufacturer. The company's line includes the Saleen S281, the supercharged Saleen S281, the Saleen XP8 SUV, the new Saleen S7 supercar and Saleen Performance Parts, the latter encompassing the complete line of performance and appearance products for Mustangs and Explorers. For more information about Saleen – its people and its products – visit the web site at www.saleen.com.

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