



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jack Gerken
(714) 814-9901

HISTORIC VICTORY FOR SALEEN S7R AT 12 HOURS OF SEBRING

SEBRING, Fla., March 17, 2001 – Steve Saleen knew that he had built a good road car. Franz Konrad, Terry Borcheller and Oliver Gavin – drivers of the #26 Giese/BASF/HCI/Hella/Goodyear Saleen S7R – knew they had a good race car. But no one at the 49th annual Superflo 12 Hours of Sebring would have predicted a virtual flag-to-flag win in GTS class by the Konrad/Team Saleen in its inaugural race of the 2001 American Le Mans Series (ALMS).

But after Gavin earned the pole on Thursday and Borcheller set the fastest race lap today, David slew Goliath as Saleen defeated the powerful Corvette C5-R duo from General Motors in the classic Florida endurance race. The final margin was less than two minutes but the victors were able to put the hammer down at will during the day to consistently turn laps two seconds quicker than the proven Corvettes.

“I knew the car was beautiful but didn’t realize how beautiful until practice this week,” said Konrad. “This is my fourth class win at Sebring but this Saleen S7R is definitely the most impressive of the lot. The car was like the Eveready bunny today.”

“This was a very memorable day for us,” commented Saleen. “Our first endurance victory for the S7R coming in this classic race and against such great competitors; it’s really unbelievable! The car performed beyond our expectations, but the drivers, Franz’s crew and our racing staff deserve a tremendous amount of credit.”

Today’s win was actually the second straight win for a Saleen S7R customer team, both in March and both in Florida. Chris Bingham and Saleen Motorsports’ Ron Johnson drove the Fordahl/Team Saleen S7R for another flag-to-flag victory two weeks ago in the Rolex Sports Car Series event at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Konrad/Team Saleen heads for Europe now for the first European Le Mans Series race at Donnington in England on April 14 followed by qualifying for the 24 Hours of Le Mans on May 6. After Le Mans, Konrad/Team Saleen will return to North America to compete against the Corvettes for the entire ALMS season.