



**SALEEN**  
Executive Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jack Gerken  
(714) 814-9901

## **SALEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH PODIUM FINISH AT SEARS POINT**

SEARS POINT, Calif., July 22, 2001 – On a day that bode well, Steve Saleen and Franz Konrad were honestly disappointed with the results of today's **X-Factor Grand Prix of Sonoma** as the #26 **Konrad/Team Saleen S7R** finished third to the two factory Corvettes for the second-straight race.

The Saleen S7R that dominated the Corvettes and won the 12 Hours of Sebring in the last round of the American Le Mans Series set the fastest laps in virtually every practice this week. In fact, in yesterday's qualifying for the GTS class, Terry Borcheller earned his first ALMS pole with 1:30.924 around the 11-turn, 2.52-mile undulating circuit north of San Francisco, nearly a second faster than the Corvette of Ron Fellows. So, with eleven victories in its first 17 races, hopes were high for today's race under beautiful Northern California skies.

And for nearly sixty minutes, Borcheller increased his lead over the quickest Corvette to more than seven seconds. He actually set the fastest lap of the race in GTS class with a 1:32.127. But near the one-hour mark his tires went away very rapidly; and from then on, the team seemed to be backing up with one problem after another.

"I really hoped for a better result today," commented team owner Franz Konrad. "Things were really look solid for the team until our Goodyears went away for the second race in a row." Konrad was running first in last week's European Le Mans Series race at Estoril when he experienced a similar problem and finished second to the Saleen S7R of Ray Mallock Ltd.

Konrad/Team Saleen eventually finished third in class and 16<sup>th</sup> overall in today's two-hour and 45-minute sprint race, very similar to their recent result in June's 24 Hours of Le Mans. The team will now head to Portland, the fourth round of the ALMS, on August 5 just behind Ron Fellows and the factory Corvette in the GTS Drivers' and Manufacturers' points race.

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