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## **KONRAD/TEAM SALEEN LOOKS TO MOVE UP ONE NOTCH AT MID-OHIO**

LEXINGTON, Ohio, Aug. 23, 2001 – While last Sunday's second-place finish in the Gran Turismo 3 Grand Prix of Mosport was certainly a step in the right direction, Konrad/Team Saleen would like to continue their progress at this Saturday's inaugural **American Le Mans (ALMS) at Mid-Ohio**, the sixth round of the eight-race season and the first ALMS race ever held in the Midwest.

The team hoped that they had left earlier frustrations at Sears Point and Portland behind as Terry Borcheller earned the team's **third ALMS pole** at Mosport. But early rain quickly dropped the **#26 BASF Saleen S7R** to third place until the Canadian sun reappeared allowing teammates Franz Konrad and Borcheller to give chase to the two factory Corvettes. Borcheller, in fact, set the **fastest lap** of the race for the fourth straight time and was trailing the leading Corvette by only ten seconds when a late yellow flag essentially ended the day's competition. After placing third at both Sears Point and Portland, the second-place podium was the next best thing. Konrad and Borcheller are currently tied for third in the GTS points battle.

*In its inaugural season of competition, six Saleen S7Rs have raced in four different series (ALMS, ELMS, Grand-Am and Spanish GT) as well as three entries in the 24 Hours of Le Mans. To date, the American supercar from Southern California has recorded 14 victories in 23 races, earned 19 pole positions and set 18 fastest laps.*

But except for its flag-to-flag win at the 12 Hours of Sebring, the next three ALMS races (Mid-Ohio, Laguna Seca and Petit Le Mans) are the most important of the season for Konrad/Team Saleen.

"We're pleased with our recent progress," commented Borcheller. "The car is the real thing! We just need to continue to improve as a team and we'll get back to the top rung of the ladder before the season's over."

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**Konrad/Team Saleen at Mid-Ohio**  
**Page 2**

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 Championships 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 Mid-Ohio. 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.

The race, which will be televised nationally in the United States on **NBC Sports**, will air on **Saturday, August 25 at 2:00 p.m.EDT**. Fans can listen to live coverage of the race online through the American Le Mans Series Radio Web at [www.americanlemans.com](http://www.americanlemans.com).

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