

TRIO OF SALEEN S7RS TO BATTLE AT PETIT LE MANS
Borcheller, Konrad and Bingham Lead Team Saleen at ALMS Finale

ROAD ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 3, 2001 – In the finale to the American Le Mans Series (ALMS) season at Road Atlanta this Saturday, Team Saleen is looking for a successful end to what has been an incredible inaugural season for the Saleen S7Rs on the world's race tracks. Six Saleen S7Rs have raced in four different series (ALMS, ELMS, Grand-Am and Spanish GT) as well as three entries in the classic 24 Hours of Le Mans. With **24 poles, 23 fastest laps and 17 wins in 28 races**, it's quite possible that no other manufacturer has ever had such a successful record in only its first season of competition!

Fresh off its flag-to-flag victory at last month's sprint at Laguna Seca, **Konrad/Team Saleen** finds itself in second place in the ALMS GTS class. **Terry Borcheller**, a Saleen factory driver and last year's Grand-Am GTS Co-Champion, has proven to be the ALMS' fastest man in class with four poles and seven straight fastest laps. Joining Borcheller in the **#26 Saleen S7R** for this Saturday's ten-hour (or 1,000 miles) Petit Le Mans will be car owner Franz Konrad from Austria and Florida's Charlie Slater.

Borcheller and Konrad teamed with another Saleen factory driver, Oliver Gavin of England, to win the 12 Hours of Sebring earlier this season, as well as place third on the podium at Le Mans. Borcheller and Konrad are respectively third and fourth in the ALMS GTS Drivers' Championship with both having an outside chance to overtake Ron Fellows and Johnny O'Connell in the factory Corvette for the title.

For the ALMS finale, Konrad has also entered his **#25 Saleen S7R** that he drove to second place in the European Le Mans Series (ELMS) championship this past season. The car will be driven by Walter Brun and Toni Seiler of Switzerland. Both shared an S7R with Slater at Le Mans this past June.

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A third Saleen S7R has been entered by **Fordahl/Team Saleen** to contest the 2.54-mile circuit that winds through 12 turns in the red clay hills of northeast Georgia. The **#05 Saleen S7R** has raced in the rival Grand-Am Rolex Series all season and needs only to take the green flag at next month's Grand-Am finale at Daytona to clinch the Team and Drivers Championships in GTS class for the team and car owner Chris Bingham of Bellevue, Wa. Joining Bingham at Petit Le Mans are two Saleen factory drivers, **Ron Johnson and Oliver Gavin**. Johnson, last year's Grand-Am GTS Co-Champion with Borcheller, has competed all season with Bingham, setting five fastest laps en route. Gavin has been on the pole and podium in both Saleen factory drives (Sebring and Le Mans) this season.

A fourth Saleen S7R competed by Ray Mallock, one of Saleen's technical partners in the development of the supercar, and driven by Ian McKellar won the Team, Drivers' and Manufacturers' Championships in the ELMS GTS class. This was the **sixth straight GTS Manufacturers' Championship for Saleen!**

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.

Sponsors of Team Saleen include 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; O.Z. wheels and Borla Performance Industries.

The race will be televised live nationally in the United States on **Speedvision** beginning at **11:30 a.m. EDT on Saturday, Oct. 6**. Fans can listen to live coverage of the race online through the ALMS Radio Web at www.americanlemans.com.