



# ROUNDUp

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## Southwest Formula Mazda Series Rumbles at Hallett



By Sandy Magrath

Both Southwest Formula Mazda Series' (Standard FM and Pro FM) traveled to Hallett Motor Racing Circuit on July 20-22 for some awesome racing. I must say that Hallett is not the same without our old friend Mike Stephens. Mike, long time manager and owner of Hallett, took the checkered flag and crossed the finish line last month after fighting an undiagnosed neurological illness for several months. His absence was felt, but wife Connie and sons Shayne and Scott are carrying on his legacy with the same grace, friendliness and humor in which we had become accustomed. We will never forget Mike Stephens and feel very privileged to have known him.

On Saturday, A1 Grand Prix driver Nur Ali qualified on

the pole with Richard Stephens (Tulsa, Ok) in 2<sup>nd</sup>. 16 year old Austin Snader (Brookshire, Tx) qualified 3<sup>rd</sup>. The race was over for Richard Stephens after one lap when his FM got stuck in 4<sup>th</sup> gear. Soon thereafter, Ali (Ft. Worth, Tx) started having problems with his FM and started falling back. He pulled in after Lap 6. Snader then took the lead with Davis Parr (Dallas, Tx) and Kendall Smith (Dallas, Tx) in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Snader, leading his first FM Series race, spun out on Lap 15 and couldn't restart. Davis Parr won the race with Kendall Smith finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roger Addison (Edmond, OK) finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Sunday, Richard Stephens qualified on the pole with Davis Parr in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Austin Snader 3<sup>rd</sup>. Snader, who also wrenches on his car, knew immediately that he had forgotten to tighten the jets he had replaced that morning. After a quick pit stop,

he was back on the track, but 3 laps down. Nur Ali, starting from the back due to mechanical problems during qualifying, made his way up to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Stephens, Ali, and Davis Parr had a great battle going on. But on Lap 16, Ali's mechanical problems returned and he was done. Richard Stephens won the race with Parr in 2<sup>nd</sup> and newcomer Kendall Smith in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Zavelson, with Hallett being his 2 permitted "drops", continues to hold the lead of this Championship race with Parr in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Walter Gragert in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jose M. Castellano (getting much more comfortable with his car) won both days in the SWFM Pro Car Series moving him into the lead over Keith Young for the Championship. Bobby Gordon moved into 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Series with Keith Young dropping to 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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