

**STRANGEST RACE**  
A GHOST TRACK  
THAT NEVER WAS



**PACESETTER**  
BOEING'S BEST  
IS ON COURSE

AUG 07 \$3.95

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 8

# SportsCar

Official Publication of the Sports Car Club of America



**SCCA**  
Sports Car Club of America



WWW.SCCA.COM



PLAN OF  
**AT TACK**  
WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN THE RUNOFFS





COURTESY A1GP / LAT

C Prepared saw **Art Martinez** of Wichita Region in his classic MSE Firebird, holding off Kansas City's **Dick Berger** in an even more venerable Corvair coupe by 0.066. FTD went to young **Blake Teeter** from the host region putting one on Kansas Region's **Russell Blume** in F125. Teeter ran 74.519 for the two-day time, so dominant that he also was atop the PAX index. It is no small feat for the FTD machine to win the PAX index, but indicating how stout the two karters' times were, Blume was 2.25sec behind and still second on the PAX!

**CONTACT ROCKY ENTRIKEN**  
 Phone: (785) 827-5143  
 Fax: (785) 823-0213  
 E-mail: rocky@tri.net

## SOWDIV SUNSET

SOUTHWEST DIVISION  
 BY MICHAEL RYAN JOHNSON - MIDDRIVE INTERNATIONAL

## DALLAS TO DURBAN

**T**he two-mile street course in Durban, South Africa, is SWDiv driver **Nur Ali**'s favorite circuit. Ali figures the tight, twisty, street course is more appealing than other notable stops he competed at this year, including

circuits such as the historic Brands Hatch, Sepang International Circuit and the scenic Taupo Raceway Park set in the hills of New Zealand's North Island. Perhaps Ali's preoccupation with Durban may have something to do with it being the location he scored his first point in the prestigious A1GP series for Team Pakistan.

A native of Kurachi, Pakistan, Ali began his racing career – after moving to the United States – in the famous Skip Barber Racing School in 1998. After completion of the Skip Barber Racing School and series, Ali made his Southwest Division debut during the 2000 season in the Star Mazda Regional Championship. During the 2001-'02 season, Ali claimed a pair of championships in the Southwest Division Star Mazda series, which proved to be enough to put him on the radar of Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, who heralded Ali as being a “pioneer in Pakistan motorsports.”

While motorsports has been popular in Pakistan for some time, the nation has never been considered a major player due to a lack of racing venues and opportunities to groom international caliber drivers. Coincidentally, two years after meeting

**SWDiv's Nur Ali started his racing career in the Star Mazda Regional Championship in 2000, and has worked his way up to racing at international tracks – like his favorite in South Africa – for Pakistan in the A1GP.**

President General Musharraf, when the country of Pakistan gained an entry to the A1GP, Ali received the call that would springboard his career from regional competition into the cutthroat world of international motorsports to drive for A1GP Team Pakistan.

While the experience in A1GP has been fantastic, Ali will be the first to admit there have been a few bumps along the way. The series has been a big step up for the Swedish based team who runs Team Pakistan and Ali, in his rookie A1GP season, has had to acclimate himself to new circuits and to the 550hp Zytek powered Lola, built specifically to create a level playing field in A1GP.

“This season has been about learning, for the team and me,” explains Ali. “Every track we have competed at this year has been a new track and has presented us with unique challenges.” Furthermore, the level of competition cannot be overlooked. The majority of Ali's counterparts come from backgrounds in Formula 1, Indy Car, GP2 and the International F3 series. This year, six drivers with A1GP experience competed in the Indianapolis 500: **Phil Giebler, Ryan Briscoe, Darren Manning, Scott Dixon, Vitor Meira** and **Al Unser Jr.**