

PALM

SPRINGS







Main event, first four:
1. Gregory, Maserati 3000 S



2. McAfee, Ferrari Monza

OOD racing, bad weather, and the first West-coast appearance of three important cars marked the ninth race weekend held at Palm Springs by the California Sports Car Club. Seven races were run on Saturday and five on Sunday, and entries ranged from a 2 c.v. Citroen to the multilitred specials, so that everyone had a chance to try his skill-in most cases, more than once. The first day's events were all six laps of the 2.3-mile airport circuit, and these short sprints gave drivers a chance to familiarize themselves with car and course in preparation for the longer contests on Sun-

Saturday was not without its mishaps, however. In the morning during practice, a wild Austin-Healey sent two unwary flagmen flying, resulting in some badly broken bones. Later, at the start of the seventh race, Carrol Shelby, driving Tony Parravano's 4.9 Ferrari, started well back in the pack and became involved in a 5-car melée on the first turn, but, luckily, only machinery was damaged. In spite of slow top speeds, the small sedans in the opening event put on a show that was one of the day's best crowd-pleasers-perhaps because spectators could take a stronger personal interest in cars that they themselves might well be driving on the highway. Ron Pearson's Swedish Volvo led the field for awhile, but an amazingly fast Renault of Frank Aldhous was first across the finish. A very close contest for 3rd place occurred between an MG Magnette and a Borgward, with the latter

The 5th, 6th, and 7th races displayed, re-

Winner of the under 1500cc race was Ken Miles driving a new 4cylinder Maserati.



spectively, in their west-coast débuts, a 1.5-litre Maserati (driven by Ken Miles), a 3-litre Maserati (Masten Gregory) and a D Jaguar (Ignacio Lozano). The Maseratis performed brilliantly, but the Jag proved very unmanageable, reportedly due to improper tires and the lack of a limited-slip differ-Sunday began with that unusual spectacle,

a downpour in the desert, which lasted intermittently most of the day and apparently kept a lot of spectators at home. Those who braved the damp, however, found the day's racing well worth their trouble. Two consolation races started the program, for cars not qualified to run in the main events. These were won by Rex Huddleston in a Lotus Mk. IX and Alex Budurin in a Kurtis-Ford. The wet track put drivers on their mettle, and turn #1 in particular saw a good deal of "action" (see cut sequence), but conditions were far from hazardous. In the under 1500 main, Miles (Maserati) again subdued the Porsche Spyders of John Porter and J. P. Kunstle, as well as his MG Spl. ("Flying Shingle") temporarily operated by Harry Hanford. It looks as though this new Maserati will be giving the Porsches quite a time in the coming season.

Most dramatic race of the weekend was the final event for modified cars over 1500 cc. in which Ernie McAfee (Ferrari Monza) and Masten Gregory (3-litre Maserati) put on the kind of race-long battle that makes food for discussion long after the checkered flag falls. The two drivers and their cars were fairly evenly matched, but, as so often seems to be the case in California races, first car

Ignacio Lozano struggles in vain with an unwieldy D Jaguar making its West-Coast debut.





The Convair Special (left) was disqualified for cutting corners!

around at the beginning was Bill Murphy's Kurtis-Buick sporting a '56 Roadmaster engine. Soon, however, first McAfee and then Gregory passed the Kurtis, and after some very close "maneuvering", the Maserati was out in front. For a long hour the Ferrari hung a few seconds behind, and as the headlights went on in the deepening dusk and shivering spectators huddled around a few weak fires, the tension grew. Finally McAfee began closing the gap, and on lap 36 (of 38) he edged past Gregory on the back straight. But the advantage was short-lived; on turn 9 of the next-to-the-last lap, Gregory regained his lead, and the final lap was a real hairraiser. Coming out of turn 10 into the finishstraight, the two cars looked as though they were joined-but Maserati had the necessary push to hold its own for that last stretch, and Gregory crossed the line a split second ahead. For 3rd place, Chuck Daigh did a fine job in the Troutman-Barnes Mercury Spl. and managed to beat the Kurtis-Buick home by 14 seconds.



3. Daigh, Mercury Spl.

3. H. Hanford

1. E. McAfee

2. M. Gregory

3. S. Edwards

1. E. McAfee

2. B. Murphy

3. R. Morgenson

Race #7-Mod. over

Race #6—Formula Libre—6 laps

MG Spl.

Ferrari Monza

Maserati 3.0

Ferrari 4.4

Kurtis-Buick

Morgenson Spl.

Ferrari Monza



4. Murphy, Kurtis-Buick.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GIZZO

FLORA

Official Results CSCC Races, Palm Springs, California

Satu	orday			Sunday		
1. F 2. F	#1—Prod. sedo F. Aldhous R. Pearson D. Smith	Renault Volvo Borgward	d5.9 mph	Race #8 Consolation 1. R. Huddleston 2. N. Miller 3. L. Robeson	Lotus Mk IX MG Spl. Porsche Spd.	52.08 m
1. E 2. I	#2—Prod. sport E. Barker D. Johnson M. McCroskey			Race #9—Consolation 1. A. Budurin 2. B. Leach 3. H. Irvin	Kurtis-Ford Allard J2 Jag XK 140	56.8 m
		er 1500 & Form III-		1. S. Dane (500cc)	Dane Triumph	56.4 m
I. J	. Peterson	lag XKM	57.6 mph			

2. R. Cleye 3. M. Visel 1. B. Wright	M-B 300 SL M-B 300 SL LMF-JAP	49.5 mph	1. K. Miles 2. J. Porter 3. H. Hanford	Maserati 1.5 Porsche 550 MG Spl.
Race #5-Mod. under	1500—6 laps		4. J. Kunstle	Porsche 550
1. K. Miles 2. J. Kunstle	Maserati 1.5 Porsche 550	60.0 mph	5. M. Playan	MG Spl.

	Race #11-Women	's race—6 laps	
	1. P. Sawyer	TR-2	52.6 mph
	2. J. Wells	A-H 100	
5 mph	3. A. Sisk	Jag XK 140	
	Race #12—Over 1	500 Main—38 laps	
	1. M. Gregory	Maserati 3.0	60.8 mph
	2. E. McAfee	Ferrari Monza	5741

	Race #12-Over 150	00 Main—38 laps	
	1. M. Gregory	Maserati 3.0	60.8 mph
	2. E. McAfee	Ferrari Monza	
nph	3. C. Daigh	TrBarnes Spl.	
	4. B. Murphy	Kurtis-Buick	
	5. R. Morgenson	Morgenson Spl.	

Suspension antics-Devin Panhard



-and 2C.V. Citroen.



ROAD & TRACK, March, 1956

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58.5 mph