



SPORTS CAR NEWS

By CHUCK EASTMAN



The Winner

The man behind the glasses in the photo above is beginning to disprove the old theory that you have to be a temperamental nervous wreck in order to emerge victorious in such things as road racing. He is Eric Hauser, winner of both Saturday and Sunday main events at Santa Barbara last week end. Eric doesn't seem to get excited over anything, not even his marriage next week to the Cal Club's willowy Mary Hefly.

Hauser looks like a stock broker when he drives, which is natural because that's what he is. With the help of Max Balchowsky, who has breathed new life into the old Morgensen Special, Hauser drives a steady, sober race rain or shine. He watched him Sunday on his many trips around Turn Nine. In spite of the hot breath of two Ferraris which were right on his tail, Eric sat there like he was double-clutching his living room chair.

A fine driver is not always a fine gentleman, too, but Hauser is. Appreciative and humble and completely devoid of the hero-driver complex. Hauser is a credit to sports car racing. We wish there were more like him.

Viva Von Neumann

While in a complimentary mood we do not want to overlook the excellent job John von Neumann did on Sunday with the Ferrari Test Rossa. We have not always subscribed to von Neumann's "why should I try too hard" attitude on the race course. He made up for lost time at Santa Barbara. Pacing himself beautifully, he carefully nursed out everything the car had to offer and showed the fans a driving technique that has been in cold storage a long time. Except for the Turn Four boo-boq on the last lap von Neumann would have won the race. What's more, he would have deserved it this time.

Other Notes

Bill Pollack clearly indicated during the short time he drove that the Murphy car in capable hands is a potent combination.

We hope he gets another ride in it soon. Phil Hill might have won the big event in a more maneuverable machine. The big 4.9 Ferrari didn't have a chance to unwind on this course and it was a fight every time around the tight turns. Unfortunately Pete Woods was unable to enter the race because of mechanical problems on the D-Jaguar in which he won at Honolulu. Personally we feel his appearance on the starting grid would have made things a lot hotter for everyone. Jerry Austin did his best but he doesn't have quite the lead foot Wood's possesses.

The under 1500 main event was considerably lessened in interest when Bob Drake was unable to start. Having won the semi-main production ten-lapped minutes before in a Corvette and having finished second to the von Neumann Ferrari with the Cooper-Climax, also minutes before, it was a question of which was the more done-in, Drake or the car. Actually it was the Cooper. A shifting fork folded up. Thus the path was clear for another victory by Miles. Ten seconds behind came the smooth driving Kunstle, followed by popular Richie Ginther, all three in Porsche Spyders.

Spark Gaps

Next CSCC race is set for Paramount Ranch, June 15-16. Nice break for Masten Gregory, finishing third in the Grand Prix of Monaco. Moss, Hawthorne and Collins helped in this case by cracking up their machinery and retiring. It's official now, Jaguar announces the new XK-150 which we mentioned two weeks ago in this space. The new car will come equipped with disc brakes and a new "B" type head. Top speed is 135 m.p.h.

Anahuac At Olympic

Kid Anahuac of Mexico City and Ike Chestnut of New York have signed to meet in a 10-round bout at the Olympic Auditorium on June 20 as part of the annual "Fight For Lives" program sponsored by the Sportsman's Club.

