

Lime Rock SS Enduro: Day for the 944s

LIME ROCK HAS BEEN running its Labor Day Little Le Mans for Showroom Stock machines race on and off now for over a quarter of a century — since before the current SS classification even existed; back in the late '50s the production sports car classes were for cars as they came off the dealer's floor.

Revived by Lime Rock impresario Jim Haynes a few years ago, the 3-Hour Little Le Mans is the prototype for the Nelson Ledges and Mid-Ohio 24 Hour races and the Showroom Stock endurance series that both the SCCA and IMSA have announced for next season.

Because the SCCA put the three-hour LL onto its four-race 1984 Showroom Stock Manufacturers Cup series, the race generated entries beyond the normal regional range. With no prototype class, the overall race was contested

by a brace of four quick Porsche 944s. Foremost of these was the Rick Hurst/Bob Strange machine, class winner of both Ohio 24 Hour races. They led from start to finish, class winner of both Ohio 24 Hour races. They led from start to finish, running up 151 laps around the 1.53-mile circuit, but took the victory with a narrow 17.8-second margin over Joe Cogbill's solo-driven 944. Third, also on the lead lap, was the Kurt and Gary Mathewson car, a lap up from the fourth place Porsche of Jim Goughery and Dick O'Neil.

Dave Wolin and Mike Rutherford made it three straight in the SSA class with their Earl's Performance Mitsubishi Starion Turbo, a lap ahead of the Alfa GTV-6 of Ken Payson and Steve Lewis, and the Mazda RX-7 of former LL overall winner Richard Abbate. Bill Pate's

Rabbit GTI was another three for three winner, this time in SSB, while Kim Baker and yours truly swept SSC with their Bertone X1/9.

-Steve Potter

SCCA Showroom Stock Enduro Lime Rock, Conn., Sept. 3, 1984 RESULTS (151 laps, 231.03 miles)

1. Rick Hurst/Bob Strange (SSGT Porsche 944), 3h15m78s, 96.64mph; 2. Joseph Cogbill (SSGT Porsche 944), 151 laps, 3h24m640s; 3. Gary Mathewson/Kurt Mathewson (SSGT Porsche 944), 151; 4. Jim Goughery/Dick O'Neil (SSGT Porsche 944), 150; 5. Mike Rutherford/Dave Wolin (SSA Mitsubishi Starion), 148; 6. Ken Payson/Steve Lewis (SSA Alfa GTV-6), 147; 7. Richard Abbate (SSA Mazda RX-7), 147; 8. Thomas Tohn (SSGT Chevy Camaro), 146; 9. William Pate (SSB VW Rabbit), 145; 10. Frank Resciniti/Bill Silverman (SSGT Mazda RX-7), 145; etc.
