

## The Whole Stohr-y

■ Mark Jaremko handily won last year's D Sports Racing contest; this year he blew the field away. A year of development of the Stohr 03D BPS while concentrating on one class (last year Jaremko also campaigned a Stohr Formula Ford) led to a dominating victory. Jaremko took the pole by 2.3sec with a 1:23.503 lap, led all 20 laps, set fastest lap of 1:24.850 and earned a 4.346-second victory.

It wasn't just Jaremko that dominated, but the other Stohr-mounted drivers as well. Lee Stohr's remarkable cars took the first three grid positions (the first non-Stohr was 3.4sec back) and the first four finishing positions.

"Just a dream for us," Lee Stohr said. "I've never had this good a year in racing. We got the car to work well with the Goodyear R160 tire. We worked with Chriss Billings and the Öhlins ST44 shocks. We tried to get more aerodynamic downforce with strakes and diffusers. We added fender louvers. Mark increased the spring rate—we ran even stiffer at the Runoffs."

Once again Arnie Loyning prepared the Yamaha engine. The horsepower was up, but

the Spokane, Wash., driver didn't need to go over 12,000rpm for the race.

Jaremko's biggest problem wasn't fast cars, but slow. With a four-second lead, Jaremko came upon a car running much slower just as he spotted a yellow flag. He had to back off, get behind the slower car, and then pass once past the incident. This dance eliminated his lead.

"I got a little worried when I saw Matt [Direnzo] and Mark [Bakhit]." Jaremko was forced to rebuild his lead, but at least he avoided spending his evening with the stewards. Last year he had to defend his victory after a similar incident with the same car.

Driving the second Stohr, 21-year-old Matt Direnzo finished second in his first time at Mid-Ohio. The rookie from Medford, N.J., was running the same Stohr/Goodyear/Yamaha/Loynings package as Jaremko. Direnzo qualified second and had a great dice with Mark Bakhit. Bakhit, of Gilbert, Ariz., chose Suzuki power for his Stohr. He made a late decision to go to the Runoffs and had problems all week that culminated in a fire in

the final qualifying Thursday afternoon.

"We were ready to give up—I was crushed." However, a remarkable effort by Bakhit's crew and several competitors got him to the grid in his sixth qualifying position.

Bakhit made a remarkable start and moved into fourth on lap two. After the pace car led laps three and four, Bakhit climbed into second on the fifth lap. From then, Bakhit and Direnzo had a fine dice for second. Direnzo retook second on lap 10, but Bakhit repassed on lap 17.

This set the stage for a remarkable finish. On the 20th and last lap, Direnzo went inside Bakhit at the end of the back straight. They went side by side through the Esses. Bakhit won this battle, but Direnzo recovered with a late pass to take second. It was a remarkable display of close and clean racing.

Jay Lovett finished fourth in a Stohr. Jason Miller was the first non-Stohr in fifth with his Wynnurst DSR. 1999 Champion Bruce Sunseri finished sixth ahead of 1988 champion Al Beasley Sr. Ellen Ferguson was eighth in another Stohr.



**RACE 17**  
D Sports Racing  
Mark Jaremko  
Northwest Region  
Stohr 03D BPS