



FOUR FOR FOUR

Wins by Alan Rudolph and Luis Schiavo run Star Mazda's streak of new winners to four

by Eric McCombs, Photos by Bill Kistler and Eric McCombs



Luis Schiavo

One of the main calling cards of the Star Mazda Series has always been close, intense competition. Since the inception of the North American Championship, no driver has ever started the season with back-to-back victories and, in fact, the past three championships have produced a different winner at each of the first three events. The scramble for points has proved vital. The 2001 champion, Scott Bradley, claimed the title by a mere two points over Marc DeVellis, only to be outdone last year when Guy Cosmo edged out Moses Smith for the crown by one point.

Coming off of a two-month layoff following Round One - where series rookie Michael McDowell dominated - the teams headed to drastically different venues for Round Two and Three. They would gather at a track where they had never competed previously - Nazareth Speedway - for the second event before heading to the spiritual home for the series in Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca for Round Three. The question on everybody's mind as the cars began to roll was whether or not the current trend would prevail. Would McDowell earn consecutive victories or would a new driver step to