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CLASSIC SPORTS SUNDAY

by Robert Smith Jr.

As part of the Cavallino Classic's week of events, there was a new experience on the Sunday, an innovative automobile show dedicated to the true enthusiast for true sports cars. Named Classic Sports Sunday, the theme was old and new sports and race cars from all manufacturers. It came about from the fact that many of the participants in the Ferrari-based Cavallino Classic also owned other fine sports cars, but had no place to display them during the mid-winter season in Florida. This new show also appealed to the many sports car aficionados in South Florida who were heavily involved in other marques.

Held on the grounds of the Hilton Hotel Airport, the 1,000 enthusiasts braved early morning rain to see 130 unique and special sports and race cars, from a bug-eyed Sprite to a Lola T-70. Arranged in groups according to marque, the displays included some exceptional examples of each type, including early and late examples that gave a nice panorama of each marque and its history.

In the British contingent, there were some very nice DB5, DB6 and DB7 Aston Martins. Austin Healeys are rare at events nowadays, but CSS had several with an early 100-4 being prominent. The Jaguars were well represented with XK-120s, 140s and 150s vying for attention with the





radial (for its time) XK-E. A pristine XJ220 took the interest of the younger generation. Rounding out the British group was an extremely uncommon Lea Francis 2.5 Sport next to an equally unique Connaught L3-SR.

Among the American classes, the Corvettes were predominant, followed by a good class of Dodge Vipers. The Ford class was more diverse, with everything from Thunderbirds, Mustangs and Cobras to three of the very latest GT-40s.

Porsche had the next largest group, with the later Caymans, Carreras and 993s holding court, but mixed in could be spied some nice early 911s and 914s, now less often seen publicly. Mercedes had a varied group as well, with the 190 SL gaining the most attention. There were only a handful of BMWs, but their lack was more than made up for by the quality, including the hardly seen

and always extraordinary type 507.

Among the Japanese, the Nissan Skylines were a hit, along with the several Toyotas, including a rare 2000 GT and a high horsepower Celica All-Trac.

Lamborghinis had the aggressive looking Gallardo and Diablo, while the Ferrari presentation was light, no doubt a case of Ferrari-fatigue after six days of the preceding Classic. Some were noteworthy, however, including a very well preserved 365 GTB/4 Daytona.

In the truly race worthy class was the Lola T-70, and a rare Chevron B-16 with a good race history. The much newer Radicals were also on scene, but the showstopper among the newer race cars was the immaculate Mosler MT900S.

The most unusual car at CSS was a Speciale, conceived and built by the creative genius of Jason Wenig, at his aptly named The Creative Workshop. Known as a restorer of some clout, Jason decided to make his own sports car for a client. Utilizing components from existing sports cars along with extensive custom fabrication, he melded everything together into something truly unique. The design is modeled on the curvaceous ideas and forms of the sports

racers from the 1950s and 1960s, but the final product is not imitative in the least. Borrowing concepts that are part of our sports car heritage, the CW Speciale is a matchless blend of form and function and standing as an individual creation in its own right.

Owned by Barry and Lynn Smith, it took the Award for the Most Unique car at the CSS, richly deserved.

Among the other Major Award winners were James Thomas' BMW 507 gaining Most Elegant, Craig Zinn's 2000 GT taking Vintage Honors, and Carlos Arboleya's Diablo SV garnering Best Daily Driver. Best of Show GT was handed to Barry Moss for his Jaguar XJS V12, and Best of Show Competition went to Fred Larsen's Lola T70 MK3.

These and the Class Awards were decided upon after a thorough inspection of the cars in the morning and final deliberation by a group of invited Judges, all of them experts in their particular area.

Classic Sports Sunday was organized by the staff of the Cavallino Classic, with the same attention to quality and detail that have become the hallmark of the Classic. Plans are to slowly grow this new Classic event until it becomes the premier multi-marque sports car event of the winter season in Florida. ●