

Ross, Bird Leading Cross Canada Rally After First Leg

Dick Attwood Places Second Over Rain-Drenched Course

SUDBURY (CP) — Defending champions Klaus Ross and John Bird were officially leading at the end of the first-day 768-mile Montreal-Sudbury leg of the Cross Canada Shell 4,000-mile Rally.

At the mid-day point of the leg, the number of entrants was unofficially reduced by a

minimum of eight cars and perhaps by as many as 10.

This provisionally reduced the number of competitors entered in the six-day Montreal-Vancouver rally to a maximum of 56.

There were 65 cars at the starting lineup Saturday night in Montreal but one of the unofficially-announced entrants was eliminated because

he did not have the correct insurance.

The team of Klaus and Bird is again competing in a factory-entered Volvo.

The mid-day point was at Lindsay, Ont., some 65 miles Northeast of Toronto and 460 miles from the Montreal starting point, following the roundabout back-road route covered by the rallyists.

The Klaus-Bird team made it to Sudbury with only a 10-point penalty. The team of Paul McLennan and John Wilson, driving a factory-entered Ford Mustang, was unofficially reported as being in second position with 20 penalty points at Lindsay.

McLennan is from Toronto and Wilson from New Dundee, Ont.

Scott D. Harvey of Dearborn Heights, Mich. and Bob Molman of Bedford Heights, Ohio, also held second place at Lindsay, but they were reported later to have been deported by an unscheduled trip into the mud at the side of the road in the second part of the event.

Harvey and Molman are driving a factory-entered Valiant Barracuda.

The private-entry Plymouth Sports of Jacques Beaudet and Stanley Renald of LaTuque, Que. is the car which was eliminated for insurance reasons.

David Pearson, of the United States, No. 3 man in the North American Stock Car Racing Association standings last year, was retired from competition at Lindsay.

Pearson went off the road twice during the day. The first time was at a right-hand bend near Montebello, Que., some 150 miles west of Montreal.

As a stock car racer, Pearson would be more used to left-hand bends as stockers race on left-hand-turn tracks.

Pearson, driving a private entry Dodge, went off the road a second time before reaching Lindsay. The time lost on these two excursions caused him to arrive at the mid-day points too late. Drivers are penalized 100 points for each minute late and may not get more than 1,500 points in a day.

This stock car driver complained that his brakes did not work and that his throttle stuck. "I ain't busting my neck in this no more," he added. "I'm going home."



—CP Wirephoto

Volvo driven by last year's winners John Bird and Klaus Ross sends up a spray of water along back road heading for Sudbury yesterday in the Shell 4000 rally. Sixty-five cars left starting ramp in Montreal.