



Kristen Tabor and her mom (Janice Tabor) cruising the wheat fields in a 2002 Acura RSX.

claim their second national victory in a row and extend their championship lead. "I'm stoked," said Block at the finish, "we're looking to win the championship this year."

Block and Gelsomino took advantage of the third starting spot to post the fastest time on the first three stages. Their teammates at Subaru Rally Team USA, Travis Pastrana and Derek Ringer, drew the first starting spot and spent the first day sweeping loose rocks off the road for the cars that followed. They finished second overall.

The two Subaru USA sponsored Impreza STIs were strong favorites coming into the high-speed event where top speeds in excess of 130 mph were recorded on the long straights. "I've never been in anything this fast in all my life," noted the amused former WRC champion Ringer.

Since all the cars exceeding the 80 mph average speed were given the same calculated stage time, the results were settled early in the rally. The competition was essentially frozen by rule and more than 20 cars received the same assigned time for one stage.

Third overall were Rockstar Energy's Tanner Foust and co-driver Chrissie

Beavis in their Subaru WRX STI. Andrew Comrie-Picard and Marc Goldfarb drove to fourth place in their Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9.

"Our result is great for the championship," said Comrie-Picard. "This event was about bravery and horsepower. Full points to the guys on the podium, but there wasn't any need for us to take risks here."

In fifth place were Matt Johnson and Jeremy Wimpey in their brand-new Hankook Subaru WRX STI. Pat Richard and Alan Ockwell collected some much-needed seat time and a solid sixth place overall in another STI.

Teenager Kyle Sarasin and co driver Mikael Johansson were seventh in an Impreza. Since there was no question about the results, several drivers put on a show for the fans. Pastrana, Johnson and Sarasin all spun doughnuts for the crowd on the final stage. Other drivers demonstrated their drifting techniques for the delight of spectators and workers.

Andrew Pinker and Robbie Durant were eighth overall in another Rockstar STI.

"This was super high-speed, drag-racing type of rallying. It was a horse-

power battle," said Pinker. "I prefer a tighter, more technical challenge."

Ninth was another technical expert, Carl Jardevall with Amity Trowbridge in an Evo 8, the second Mitsubishi finisher.

Stephan Verdier and Scott Crouch earned the Production GT class win with a 10th place finish in an Impreza WRX. One place back was the second PGT finisher, another WRX driven by Patrick Moro and Mike Rossey.

Christopher Duplessis and Martin Headland suffered through some new-car blues to finish 12th in a most interesting entry, a 2004 Volkswagen R32 prepared by Team NatuRally.

Zibigniew Szewczyk and Tomasz Karzynski claimed the Group 5 win in their Mitsubishi Lancer. Lou Beck and Jerry Mizar took the Group 2 crown and Jan and Jody Zedril grabbed the Production Class win.

It's too bad this rally will always be remembered for the extreme speeds and the silly scoring, because it deserves to be remembered for the wonderful people of Pomeroy and the extraordinary hospitality provided by our new friends in southeastern Washington.