

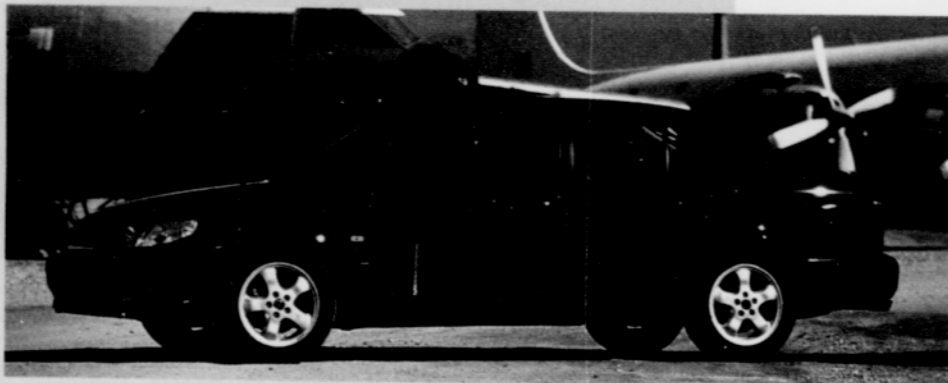
FIRST IMPRESSIONS



Grand Am



Oldsmobile Alero



Saab 9-5

I checked out the braking system, traction control, and all those little things you take for granted. This is an impressive little car that operates well in rain or shine.

The Alero name, by the way, means absolutely nothing, and has no roots in another language. Name aside, the Alero has a lot more style and personality than the conservative

Cutlass.

Standard on the Alero GX and GL models is the 2.4-liter DOHC four-cylinder that delivers a peak 150 horsepower. The 3.4-liter V6 pumping 170 horsepower is standard on the GLS.

The car hits dealer showrooms this summer and although Oldsmobile hadn't announced pricing yet, look for the Alero to start somewhere in the teens moving upward to the low twenties for fully-loaded models.

--by Jacqueline Mitchell

The New 1999 Saab 9-5

The Prima Air Museum, located in the heart of Tucson, Ariz., was the launch setting for the new 1999 Saab 9-5. The Scandinavian carmaker reached back to its roots in aircraft engineering to demonstrate the design and engineering of this new model. The exterior styling gives the fluid movement of an aircraft,

while the interior feels like its cockpit.

(The Saab 91 actually was an airplane; the 92 was the first Saab car built in 1947.)

The museum is surrounded by tall cacti and roadrunners, the latter being no match for the asymmetric turbocharged 3.0 liter V6 engine. The base engine is a turbocharged 2.3-liter four-cylinder that puts out 170 horsepower.

The 9-5 handled with preciseness, balance and stability on the long, flat desert roads and the narrow, winding mountain curves.

Saab says this is the safest car ever. The automaker is among the first to introduce a new anti-whiplash system in its seats, called the Saab Active Head Restraint.

Prices on 9-5 will range from about \$29,995 to \$36,800, considerably lower than the \$39,130 price tag on the 9000 model it replaces.

--by Randi Payton

The Redesigned 1999 Grand Am

The best way to test a vehicle's urban prowess is to place it in an urban setting, and that's just what Pontiac did when it chose sunny Miami Beach, Fla. as the setting to launch its redesigned Grand Am.

Pontiac says, this sporty car, the most popular selling vehicle in the Pontiac fleet, has been a particular favorite among urban drivers.

The first thing we noticed about the car is its bold, snazzy look. According to Pontiac, Grand Am buyers are style-conscious and like being noticed; the revamped Grand Am appeals to those desires. We liked the spirited performance of its 150-horsepower, four-cylinder engine which made changing lanes and passing other motorists a breeze. The solidity and rigid-

ity of the car is more German in structure, placing the Grand Am on par with cars built by BMW and Mercedes.

This car comes well-equipped and Pontiac boasts that "no car anywhere close to this price range offers so many standard features!" The Grand Am, which is rolling into dealer showrooms now, ranges from \$16,395 for the SE coupe to \$19,495 for the SE2 sedan.

--by Randi Payton

The All-New 1999 Oldsmobile Alero

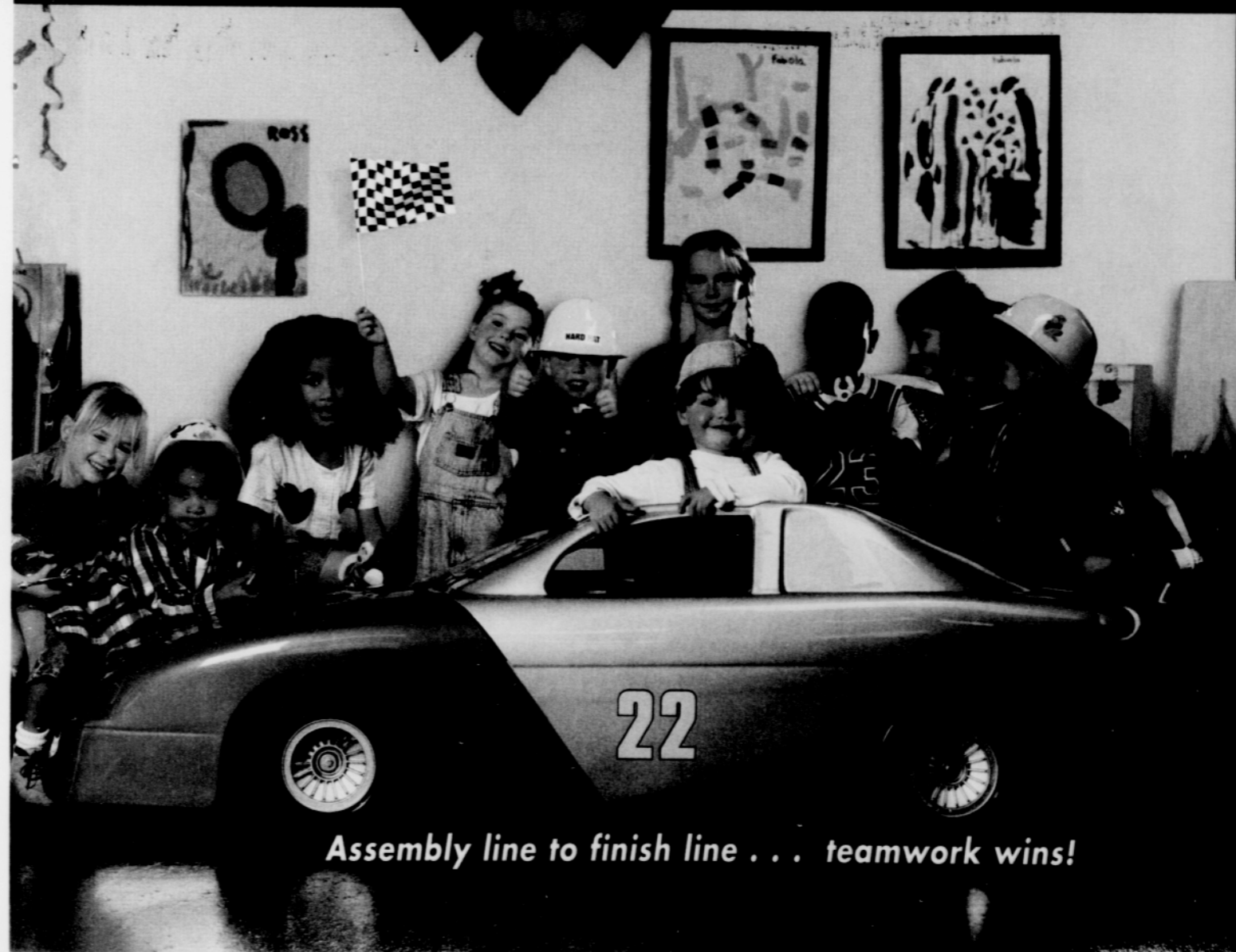
Little Rock, Ark. was the setting Oldsmobile chose to debut the all-new Alero mid-priced sedan and coupe. It was the start of deer hunting season in the rolling, back woods of Little Rock, and a rainy, chilly date to boot. Sounds like an awful day to test a new car? Nah.

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