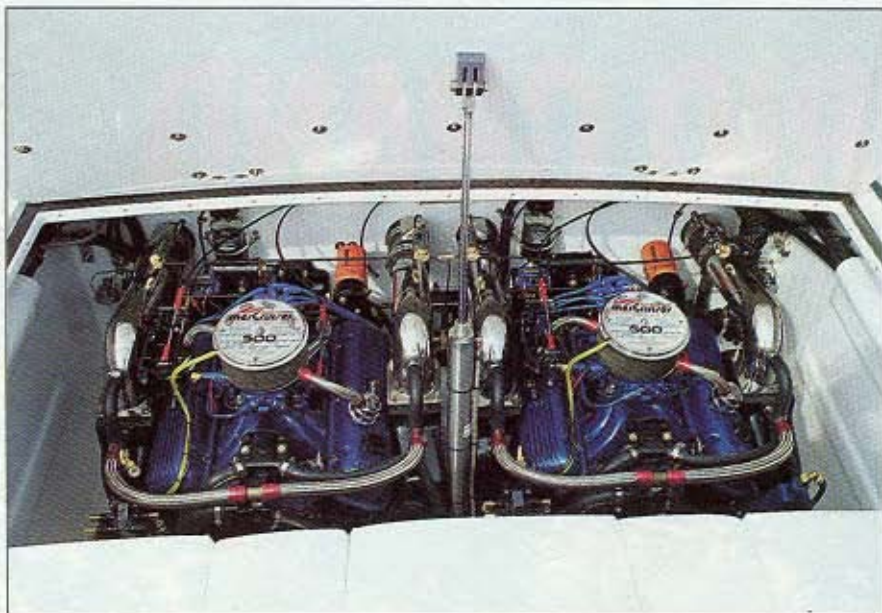


"We were interested in a boat that wasn't going to break. We didn't want to come in on one engine—that sort of thing," Stephenson says.

Kiekhaefer recommended his new Merc Hi-Performance 500HPs, big-block engines that deliver good price-point performance. *Heart Racer* has twins, mated to Bravo I drives spinning 25-inch-pitch Quicksilver Mirage props.

Once the boat was launched, Kiekhaefer took it to Mercury's high performance facility at Lake X in Florida to test drive heights and props until he was personally satisfied. While the engines don't push the boat to the dizzying speeds that the Hi-Performance Group's supercharged engines might, *Heart Racer* turns in a very respectable top end of 68 mph at 4900 rpm, depending on condi-

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SPEED RACER: Andretti at the helm (opening spread and below). Under the hood (above).

