



2009 STAR MAZDA CHAMPION ADAM CHRISTODOULOU SCORES INTERNATIONAL GT PODIUM AT MONZA

Monza, Italy / Oct. 3 – After a successful rookie season of racing the Speedsource RX-8 in the Grand-Am GT1 class – including a win at Lime Rock and a Manufacturer's Championship for Mazda -- 2009 Star Mazda champion Adam Christodoulou headed back for Europe to race a Ferrari in the International GT Open at Monza, home of the Italian Grand Prix and the spiritual home of Ferrari's loyal fans.



Driving for the CRS Racing team, Christodoulou had a lot on his shoulders this weekend: racing a Ferrari for the first time and at Monza, also for the first time. The young Briton excelled himself though and, along with Tim Mullen, bagged a podium finish in Sunday afternoon's race.

The weekend got off to a damp start as both of Friday's free practice sessions were run in wet conditions. With no dry running under their belts the teams went into Saturday's sunny qualifying sessions blind but Adam did a great job, matching the seventh place that Tim took for race one.

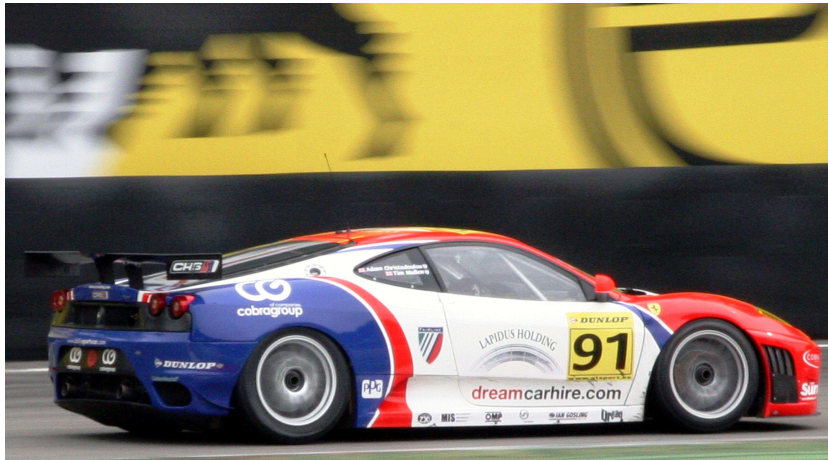
The first race took place on Saturday afternoon. Tim took the start in the No.91 CRS Ferrari in 8th and did his usual good job, despite struggling a little with the car's handling. Adam then jumped in and brought the Ferrari home in eighth place.

The start of race two today was down to Adam in the No.91 car. Adam started from 7th on the grid and he had a great run, all the way up to 4th place by lap 5, handing over to Tim mid race and finishing 3rd taking the fourth podium finish of 2010 for the No.91 CRS Ferrari.

"It was a better weekend than Brands Hatch, that's for sure," said CRS MD, Mark Busfield. "Adam adapted very quickly to the team and to the car and got up to the level he needed to be at very quickly indeed. I'm very pleased to see Tim and Adam on the podium here."

"It's been a great opportunity to be working with the CRS team again," said Adam. "It was a tough start to the weekend not getting any dry running before qualifying, and I was defiantly thrown in the deep end,





but the whole team worked extremely hard during the weekend and after race one on Saturday evening. The hard work and commitment from the team has shown in race two, every time I jumped in the car it felt better and I drove faster, and to walk away with a podium on my first experience back with the team is fantastic."

Christodoulou, the 2008 U.K. Formula Renault champion won the 2009 Star Mazda Championship and with it a full season of racing in the Grand-Am GT1 series in a Mazda RX-8. He shared driving chores with 2008 Star Mazda champion John Edwards and the duo won at Lime Rock, helping Mazda win the manufacturer's championship.

"It's been an emotional year of racing, and a fantastic experience for both myself and John in our rookie year racing in sports cars," says Christodoulou. "We've has a huge amount of support from Mazda and all of the SpeedSource team over the past few months, and it goes without saying that we would not have been able to achieve half of what we have done with any other manufacturer and without their unfaltering enthusiasm. Despite missing the season opener at Daytona, we still managed to finish 5th overall in the championship - a positive start, and I look forward to next year to be in contention for the 2011 Championship win."



For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit www.starmazda.com and www.mazdausa.com. For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

