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**MAZDASPEED**  
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



## MAZDASPEED & CONOR DALY 2011 PLANS CONFIRMED

*-- Mazda Road to Indy Balanced With European GP3 --*

February 17, 2011 (Irvine, Calif). Conor Daly has spent the past three years racing with Mazda, winning two championships along the way, including the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear.



For 2011 Conor will showcase his talents as a part of both the newly created Mazda Road to Indy with Sam Schmidt Motorsports, and in the European GP3 series.

"The past two-and-a-half years has presented enormous business challenges for drivers, manufacturers, and race series. Conor has done an outstanding job of delivering the goods both on-track, and off-track to his business supporters. As we transition into the Mazda Road to

Indy beginning with the 2011 season we needed to make sure that Conor could take a step up in his career, while meeting everyone's business objectives. Thanks to Mazda, the people at INDYCAR, Sam Schmidt Motorsports, and Carlin, Conor should have an outstanding year," noted John Doonan, MAZDASPEED Motorsports Team Development Manager.

Conor enthused, "I'm extremely pleased to have all the plans worked out for 2011. It's taken a lot of work and I'm extremely thankful to everyone at Mazda who spent a great deal of time making sure my program was in order. It really shows how dedicated Mazda is to their ladder drivers. With the significant changes to the ladder system in 2010, Mazda still stayed devoted to supporting their champions. I'm honored to have the support of Mazda for the 2011 season and beyond."

Conor will race the entire GP3 season with Carlin, and non-conflicting road-course dates in the Firestone Indy Lights Championship with Sam Schmidt Motorsports. Team releases will be issued with additional program details.

Mazda launched their MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development Ladder in 2006. Since then, they have funded 26 seasons of racing in both sports cars and open-wheel series. Mazda will provide a complete ladder update and announce other 2011 motorsports plans at their fifth annual pre-season media gathering on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in Irvine, California.



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### CONOR DALY 2011 MAZDASPEED Schedule

Date	Series	Location
March 27	FIL	St. Petersburg, Florida, USA
April 10	FIL	Barber Motorsports Park, Alabama, USA
April 17	FIL	Long Beach, California, USA
May 8	GP3	Istanbul Park, Turkey
May 22	GP3	Barcelona, Spain
June 26	GP3	Valencia, Spain
July 10	GP3	Silverstone, England
July 24	GP3	Nurburging, Germany
July 31	GP3	Hungaroring, Hungary
Aug 7	FIL	Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada
Aug 28	GP3	Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium
Sept 4	FIL	Baltimore, Maryland, USA
Sept 11	GP3	Monza, Italy

### CONOR DALY MAZDASPEED Ladder History

- BFGoodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda
  - 2008 Series Champion with five race wins
- Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear
  - 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> Place with one race win
  - 2010 Series Champion with seven race wins

### ABOUT MAZDA

On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, Mazda2, Mazda3, Mazda6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car. In fact, the largest road-racing class in the world is Spec Miata, with more than 2,500 first- and second-generation Miatas tearing up America's racetracks, making it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, one of the world's premier road-racing circuits, the Skip Barber Schools for driving and racing, and the Mazda Road to Indy.

Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, Calif. and oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario; and in Mexico by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

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### **About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear**

For 2011, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will be sanctioned by IndyCar and will feature a 10-weekend, 11-race schedule, all on major race weekends and most with IndyCar. Two weekends are with the American Le Mans series, and one is a double-header with Indy Lights. Rising stars from around the world will be watched by more than a million fans as they compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete and the Star Mazda Championship also features the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 160 mph and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For more information on the Star Mazda Championship please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com).

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



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