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A TRIO OF STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONS -- DANE CAMERON, MIKE GUASCH AND JOEY HAND -- RACE TO VICTORY IN LMPC AND GT AT 59TH ANNUAL 12 HOURS OF SEBRING

Sebring, FL / March 19 – A trio of past champions in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear stood on the top step of the podium when the checkered flag waved on the 59th annual running of the legendary Mobil1 12 Hours of Sebring.



Dane Cameron, the 2007 champion, and Mike Guasch, the 2009 Star Mazda Master Series champion for drivers 44 and older, sharing driving duties with Jens Petersen, led 213 of 312 laps to bring the #36 Genoa Racing / MOLECULE / Du Pont ORECA FLM09 home 44 seconds ahead of the second-place car in the LMPC class and finish 9th overall. Cameron put the car on the pole for the start of the race and also led the final 70 laps, in the process setting the fastest

LMCP lap of the race.

In the GT class, 1999 Star Mazda champion Joey Hand teamed with Dirk Müller, and Andy Priaulx to bring the #56 Rahal Racing entry home in 1st place. For the Rahal team, which the 2010 ALMS GT and Manufacturer championships, this marked their first-ever victory at Sebring.

"I have my eye on the 4 biggest sports car races in the world so to have checked the first box off is a great feeling, let alone on my first try at the 12 Hours of Sebring!," said Cameron, the 23 year-old racer from Sonoma, California who has already won multiple open-wheel championships. "It was fantastic to be able to share this result with Tom Knapp and Michael Guasch as I have worked so much with the two of them in the past. The race was brutal on a track as rough as Sebring but Genoa prepared a fantastic car and we had no mechanical issues or penalties so it was a flawless run all around."

Hand, like Dane Cameron an open-wheel champion and Team USA Scholarship winner racing in Europe, moved to full-time sports car racing in 2004 and earlier this year won the Rolex 24 at Daytona for Team Ganassi co-driving with Scott Pruett, Memo Rojas and fellow Star Mazda graduate and rising IndyCar star Graham Rahal. "I came to Sebring with a really good feeling that we could win this, and now it really worked out," said Hand. "The victory belongs to everyone in Team RLL. In the off-season the guys built two brand-new M3 GT cars that worked well from the word go."



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The Genoa racing effort, led by technical director Thomas Knapp, saw the #36 car leap off the pole and maintain momentum to cruise to an early lead of three laps above the next LMPC entry. However, a minor communication breakdown three quarters of the way through the race shortened the gap and challenged the team to maintain their pace. Through the continually changing guidance and steady perseverance of drivers Michael Guasch, Jens Petersen and Dane Cameron, the car continued to bring on speed to recapture their lead and run solidly in the top ten for the majority of the race. The fate of the event was sealed when Cameron jumped in the car for the final stint on lap 247 and kept his cool the last two and a half hours to carry the momentum straight to victory circle.



"Qualifying on the pole is more of an ego boost than anything else, it's such a long race so where you start is really irrelevant," said Cameron, who also races full-time in the Grand-Am series, co-driving the No. 41 Team Seattle/Global Diving & Salvage/Dempsey Racing Mazda RX-8 GT with James Gué. "It definitely gave the team a morale boost, and gave us a boost to know that we had the fastest car in the field going into the race. Michael and Jens did an awesome job throughout the race and we just worked on staying clean and not having any penalties or any mechanical issues. So it was basically the most text book way to run the race-click off laps and mind our own business. The team prepared such a solid car for us we never had to worry about a thing-just work on our day."

Cameron's fellow Star Mazda champion teammate, Mike Guasch, won the Star Mazda Master Series for drivers 44 and older in 2009. After several seasons of open-wheel competition, the 53 year-old entrepreneur from Palo Alto, California, graduated in 2010 to race in the FIA GT3 European Championship and this year is competing in the British GT Championship.

"The car was fantastic! For me it was great because this was the first time I've actually driven the car. I did a test here in Sebring a couple of months ago, and then it was a last minute thing to actually get in the car and run the race. I knew that if I could run with Dane that we would do well, and then Jens came along and together we made a great package. We knew coming in that we had a great shot at it, but you never want to be THAT confident. But it all just came together. Dane put it on pole-and I started the race. We were in the top 10 for a long time. Not bad. Not at all!"

Genoa Racing has competed at the top level of worldwide open-wheel and sports car racing for nearly 30 years. The team, based in the Indianapolis suburb of Zionsville, Ind., has raced in the American Le Mans Series, Formula 3000, IndyCar, Indy Lights, Formula Atlantic and Can-Am competition. The team has



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enjoyed great success in formula-car racing, with a championship 17 victories and 20 poles. Genoa also recorded a front-row starting position in the 1998 Indianapolis 500 in conjunction with Thomas Knapp Motorsports. Genoa Racing is owned by Angelo Ferro, a businessman who is the largest producer of table olives in North America. He also owns AngRay Fantastico flower market in San Francisco, two car dealerships, a five-star hotel in Santa Rosa, Calif. and an automobile restoration shop.

For more information about Genoa Racing, visit www.genoaracing.com. You can also follow the team at Facebook and Twitter (Genoa36). For more information about Dane Cameron, please visit www.DaneCameron.com, and for Mike Guasch, go to www.MikeGuasch.com. Joey Hand's web site is located at www.JoeyHandRacing.com.

About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

For 2011, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will be a major part of the Mazda Road to Indy 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, including a scholarship to move up and race in the 2012 Firestone Indy Lights series. 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.

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, please contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

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