



GOODYEAR



2011 STAR MAZDA CHAMPION TRISTAN VAUTIER SCORES 50th INDY LIGHTS WIN FOR SAM SCHMIDT MOTORSPORTS AS HE WINS FROM THE POLE IN MILWAUKEE

WEST ALLIS, Friday, June 15, 2012 – Frenchman Tristan Vautier, the 2011 Star Mazda champion, made history for Sam Schmidt Motorsports Friday as he won the team’s 50th Firestone Indy Lights Race during the Milwaukee IndyFest at The Milwaukee Mile in West Allis, Wis.



It was a dominating day for Vautier in his No. 77 Mazda Road to Indy/SSM with Curb-Agajanian car. Earlier in the day, he had won SSM’s 51st Indy Lights Pole with a lap of 49.7536 seconds at 146.884 mph. From pole position, he went on to lead all 100 laps and claim his second Firestone Indy Lights win in this, his rookie year.

With the win, Vautier (241) moved back into the championship points lead over Guerrieri (238) and Saavedra (227). Carbone (182) is fourth, while Webb (148) is seventh. As Star

Mazda champion, Vautier's season of Indy Lights competition is being paid for by scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy, the official driver development program of IndyCar.

“We put the car on the ground this morning, and it felt amazing,” said Vautier. “After two runs we got it tuned, and we were great all day. It was a great race. We were in control. The end was a little harder with the lapped traffic, the lapped traffic to manage, but it was an awesome day and awesome job from the team. I see my teammate Esteban made it back to the podium, so great job from him from sixth and a tough day. So we have two cars on the podium. I think it’s the 50th win for Schmidt. I didn’t get the 50th pole, I was kind of pissed that my pole this morning was the 51st, but I’m real happy to get the 50th win. What an awesome team. Really thankful to Mazda for putting me in the car this year and the Mazda Road to Indy, Sparco, PitFit, all my sponsors who follow me in France and here who help me out. It was just really a great day.”

Vautier will be sharing the spotlight with the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the next Firestone Indy Lights event, the Sukup 100 on Friday, June 22 at Iowa (Newton) Speedway. The Star Mazda event is the Iowa Speedway Foundation Star Mazda 100, scheduled to take the green flag at 5:20 pm Saturday, June 23.



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