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**For Immediate Release:  
From: Northwest Autosport Media Center**

*Ryan Justice tops charts most of the week but settles for a runner up qualifying position.*

A short qualifying session ended Ryan Justice's chances of capturing the season opening race pole position. As the 2006 Star Mazda Championship got underway in Sebring Florida earlier this week, Justice emerged as the driver to beat. "After 2 days of practice and testing this week we found ourselves at or near the top of the charts in every session", said Ronnie Swyers, Team Manager for Northwest Autosport. Ryan Justice has just been on top of his game this week with a new record shattering performance on Wednesday by over 3 seconds. He has worked very hard over the winter on the physical and mental aspects of auto racing.

The short session also ended a good qualifying run for Northwest Autosport driver Phil Fogg Jr. of Wilsonville Oregon. The lack of green flag qualifying laps just didn't work out for the Consonus Health Services Pro Mazda. Running as high as 17<sup>th</sup> earlier in the week to a disappointing 32<sup>nd</sup> qualifying position will make a top 10 finishing position much harder to achieve on Friday. "We have a great car, just not a great starting position" said Fogg.

Northwest Autosport driver Mark Pavan of Toronto Canada other hand did benefit from the lack of qualifying laps of his teammates. While running in the first qualifying group on track, he qualified his Lemontonic / Northwest Autosport Pro Mazda in the 15<sup>th</sup> starting position. "We had a brake bias problem that cost me some time in every breaking zone", stated Pavan. "But that just gives me that much more confidence about how good my car will be for tomorrows race."

Northwest Autosport team drivers along with 34 other racers in the Star Mazda Championship Series will take the green flag at Sebring International Raceway Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> at around 2:00pm. SPEED Channel coverage of the race will broadcast on Sunday, April 9th at 4:00 PM Eastern Time.

For more information check out

[www.northwestautosport.com](http://www.northwestautosport.com)

[www.ryanjustice.com](http://www.ryanjustice.com)

[www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com)