



## **MILWAUKEE MILE NEXT TEST IN QUEST FOR STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP**

TRAFFORD, PA (May 26, 2006) – The venues change but the results remain the same. From the historic road course of Mid-Ohio to the temporary street course in Houston to the Milwaukee Mile, the John Walko Racing team has remained at the top of the charts.

All three drivers took to the historic oval during a two day test this week in preparation for the only oval appearance on the schedule this season. The STAR Mazda Championship Series visits Milwaukee in conjunction with the Champ Car World Series the weekend of June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Team owner John Walko was pleased with the performance his crew and drivers, "We were confident coming here that we had a good baseline to work from. The fact that the cars rolled off the trailer very fast is a testament to the hard work of the crew after racing back to back weekends on street and road courses."

Veteran Ross Smith is looking forward to his chance at the venerable oval as he has been quick in his brief experience on ovals.

"I've never raced on this oval before so it should be interesting. But I have run Phoenix and Pikes Peak and at Phoenix we were really quick, we turned the third fastest lap of the day, so hopefully we see the same results here."

Despite the ovals being few and far between on the schedule, Smith enters the race with high aspirations, "Our goal is to try to get a podium. Our team is confident that our baseline setup is good so we hope to be quick right away."

Charles Anti looks to Milwaukee as an event where his momentum carries through to a solid race finish, "This is my first time on an oval but I'm excited to see what it is like. Our goal is to continue the progress we made at Mid-Ohio and see it result in a strong finish."

Rookie Kevin Lacroix, seventh in the Championship hunt after running just two of the three races so far this season, enters the race on the heels of a very strong test.

"I think it will be a very good race for us. John did a really good job with the car, with the engineering. The car was very good. We weren't the very fastest but we were able to do the same lap times for 60 laps without slowing.

Lacroix was just .03 seconds off the top time of the day according to Walko, "Kevin was up to speed very quickly and remained consistent throughout the run. These drivers and

crews are still in the early stages of working together yet they have shown an ability to communicate regardless of the venue or the circumstances."

The team heads to Milwaukee solidly in third place in the Team Championship chase while two of their three drivers sit in the top ten in the Driver Championship.

Contact [info@johnwalkoracing.com](mailto:info@johnwalkoracing.com) for more information regarding testing programs available for the 2006 season. Additional team information can be found at [www.johnwalkoracing.com](http://www.johnwalkoracing.com).