



Contact - Bob Varsha, 404-803-1634

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No weekend testing means a testing weekend for Matt Varsha at Mid-Ohio

Atlanta, GA (May 30, 2006) - Not all of the lessons in a young driver's racing education come in the heat of battle on the track. Some are learned by putting the facts together sitting back in the hauler. Such was the case for Matt Varsha and the Racers Edge Motorsports team at round three of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course on May 21st.

A lack of sponsorship forced the team to forego testing on the new racing surface laid over the beautiful 2.25-mile Mid-Ohio circuit. Then rain early in the weekend made finding a good setup difficult. Still, the 19-year old rookie from Atlanta and his team managed to qualify third out of 35, ahead of many drivers who had the advantage of previous testing. As the rubber of a busy racing weekend built up on the new asphalt, however, the needed setup changed again, and Varsha struggled with understeer in the race. Finally, a quick half-spin on lap 13 of 29 relegated him to 16th in the running order, but he recovered and passed his way back to 9th by the checkered flag.

"I'll never doubt the importance of pre-race testing again," said Varsha, whose finish, along with the reversal of previous penalties to other competitors, dropped him from second to a close fifth in the championship standings after three of twelve rounds. "But the spin was simply the result of me trying too hard. Now we have a little more work to do in the championship, and thanks to Jon Mirachi and the Racers Edge team we're going to be in Milwaukee for my first race on an oval track. It'll also be the first race my dad (SPEED broadcaster Bob Varsha) has been able to come watch, so hopefully he'll bring me some good luck."

"I was especially proud of Matt and the team's performance at Mid-Ohio," said Mirachi. "With no budget available for testing on the newly repaved track, and then all the rain, there was simply no opportunity for Matt and his crew to dial in the car, or for Matt to explore the limits on the new track surface. Despite all that he still qualified third! In the race he settled into a groove and was poised for a podium finish when he hit some mud that had been dragged onto the track, causing a minor spin. But he never lost his cool, and was able to drive back into the top 10 by the checker. In fact, putting aside the spin, Matt has only lost two places on the track in three races, but he has gained forty-two! That first win is right around the corner, no question."

The next round of the Star Mazda Championship is the only oval track contest on the 2006 schedule, on the legendary Milwaukee Mile, Saturday June 3rd . SPEED's one-hour broadcast of the Mid-Ohio race will air Sunday, June 11th at 3pm eastern time. For more information on the series go to starmazda.com. To become a sponsor of Matt Varsha and the Racers Edge Motorsports team, contact Jon Mirachi at 973-919-6111, or Bob Varsha at 404-803-1634.

mattvarsha.com

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