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Andersen Racing Drivers Prepare For Tomorrow's Star Mazda Race at MMP

TOOELE, Utah, July 14 — Gerardo Bonilla led the three Andersen Racing drivers competing at Miller Motorsports Park (MMP) on Friday when he qualified eighth in the 33-car field for Saturday afternoon's 45-minute race in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear.

The Orlando, Fla.-based driver, who leads the Expert Series point standings for drivers age 30-44, is sponsored by the Skip Barber Racing School.

The Star Mazda contingent was chasing Mike Potekhen in practice at MMP, but it was Adrian Carrio who won the pole Friday afternoon with a time of 2:36.171 (103.732 miles per hour). That was an automatic new track record since it's the series' first visit to this new 4.5-mile, 24-turn road course near Salt Lake City.

Although the temperature was near 100 degrees Fahrenheit, Ramiro Scuncio, another one of Andersen Racing's drivers, didn't mind the heat. Scuncio, of Conception, Chile, qualified 14th in his Sky Airline Chile No. 22 with a 2:39.028 (101.869 mph).

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Andersen Racing Qualifying Report from MMP

Page 2 of 4

Doug Prendeville of Whippany, N.J. rebounded from a clutch problem in the last practice session to qualify 18th (2:40.249 or 101.093 mph) for the Fairfield, N.J.-based team. His car carries the decal of Winder Farms, a local company based in West Valley City, Utah that has been providing fresh dairy products to the doorsteps of tens of thousands of Utah homes since 1880. In addition to supplying dairy products the company is now also a farmer's market on wheels, delivering over 70 different products to the doors of families living healthy, engaged lifestyles. This is the first time Prendeville has had Winder Farms as a sponsor, and he's very proud of the association.

Tomorrow's race is slated to get the green flag at 2:45 p.m. Saturday before the ALMS race begins at 6 p.m. The Star Mazda race will be broadcast at 3 p.m. Eastern time July 29 on SPEED.

More information is available at andersenracingteam.com, starmazda.com and millermotorsportspark.com.

Driver quotes follow:

Gerardo Bonilla: "It was a good session. I learned so much between practice and qualifying. We caught a car on our best lap. Then I regrouped and on my next flyer I made a mistake in Turn One. But overall it was a very good session. The car is working well. My engineer, Remi, did a great job as always. I also want to thank Phil Saville for letting me drive his car.

"This track is huge. There aren't any reference markers in the turns so it takes awhile to learn. If you go off it's dusty, but it's wide so hopefully there won't be any big crashes in the race tomorrow."

Andersen Racing Qualifying Report from MMP Page 3 of 4

Ramiro Scuncio: "The car improved a lot between this morning and now. It was very good at the beginning of the session, but then I touched a curb and just went off. We came in and then went back out, but we didn't go faster because at the end of the session we had a tire going down.

"I like the track very much. It's a very technical circuit and I think my go-kart experience is helping me because we drive on very technical tracks in go-karts too. This track is very difficult though. It's the longest track I've ever driven on."

Doug Prendeville: "I guess I'm a little rusty on qualifying. I spun twice. My last lap was my second-to-last lap, so we'll take it and go on from there."

The weekend stats from Miller Motorsports Park so far follow:

Promoter Test Session No. 1 (Wednesday):
1. Mike Potekhen, 2:40.564 (100.894 mph)
5. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:43.845 (98.874 mph)
13. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:47.740 (96.578 mph)
17. Doug Prendeville, 2:51.446 (94.490 mph)

Promoter Test Session No. 2 (Wednesday):

- 1. Mike Potekhen, 2:40.057 (101.214 mph)
- 8. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:44.129 (98.703 mph)
- 13. Doug Prendeville, 2:45.757 (97.733 mph)
- 23. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:50.120 (95.227 mph)

Promoter Test Session No. 3 (Wednesday):

- 1. Mike Potekhen, 2:40.616 (101.297 mph)
- 9. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:42.979 (99.399 mph)

Andersen Racing Qualifying Report from MMP

Page 4 of 4

- 13. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:43.838 (98.878 mph)
- 15. Doug Prendeville, 2:44.272 (98.617 mph)

Practice Session No. 1 (Thursday, 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.):

- 1. Mike Potekhen, 2:37.013 (103.176 mph)
- 8. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:40-515 (100.925 mph)

16. Doug Prendeville, 2:41.587 (100.256 mph)

18. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:42.775 (99.524 mph)

Practice Session No. 2 (Thursday, 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.):

- 1. Mike Potekhen, 2:37-355 (102.952 mph)
- 6. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:39.501 (101.567 mph)
- 16. Doug Prendeville, 2:42.012 (99.993 mph)
- 21. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:43.865 (98.862 mph)

Practice Session No. 3 (Friday, 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.):

- 1. Mike Potekhen, 2:36.447 (103.549 mph)
- 10. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:39.620 (101.491 mph)
- 15. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:40.398 (100.999 mph)
- 30. Doug Prendeville, 2:49.520 (95.564 mph)

Qualifying (Friday, 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.):
1. Adrian Carrio, 2:36.171 (103.732 mph)
8. Gerardo Bonilla, 2:37.995 (102.535 mph)
14. Ramiro Scuncio, 2:39.028 (101.869 mph)
18. Doug Prendeville, 2:40.249 (101.093 mph)