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## **Andersen Racing's Scuncio Posts His Best Finish of the Year In Star Mazda Action at Trois-Rivieres**

TROIS-RIVIERES, Quebec, Aug. 6 — Star Mazda rookie Ramiro Scuncio of Conception, Chile recorded his best finish to date in the series, which is presented by Goodyear, when he placed seventh Sunday afternoon in his Andersen Racing/Sky Airlinc Chile No. 22 at the Grand Prix of Trois-Rivieres.

Ironically he started further back in the 31-car field than the two other Andersen Racing drivers, as he took the green flag in 21st place.

Local favorite Francois Bellemare of Trois-Rivieres drove another Andersen Racing entry sponsored by Thomas Bellemare Ltd. home 14th after starting 20th.

A third driver for the Fairfield, N.J.-based team, Gerardo Bonilla of Orlando, Fla., started tenth. He had moved up to seventh but then dropped to the bottom of the standings after an unexpected trip down an escape road with his Skip Barber Racing School-sponsored No. 9. He then fought back into the top 10 only to be taken out by another driver with seven laps to go. His official finishing position was 18th.

The 36-lap race, which Matt Varsha led wire to wire, was held on the city's 1.506-mile street circuit and it ended under caution.

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Both Bonilla and Scuncio are in the top-10 in the overall point standings; Bonilla is seventh and Scuncio is ninth.

Bonilla still has a healthy lead in the Expert Series point standings with 136 points to Brian Thienes' 106.

Andersen Racing driver Brad Jaeger missed the Trois-Rivieres race as he continues to recuperate from injuries sustained in the Star Mazda race at Montreal June 24.

The Trois-Rivieres race will be shown on SPEED at 1 p.m. Eastern time on Aug. 13.

The series now travels to Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wis. for an event Aug. 19. That race will be broadcast on SPEED at 3 p.m. Eastern on Aug. 26.

For more information see [andersenracingteam.com](http://andersenracingteam.com) and [starmazda.com](http://starmazda.com).

Driver quotes follow:

Ramiro Scuncio: "It was very good. I liked the track a lot.

"I had some brake issues in qualifying so I didn't qualify very well, and then I was penalized for a problem in the warm-up. But during the race I was able to move up a lot of positions and record my best finish in this series ever, so I'm very happy.

"The car was good. I want to thank everyone on the Andersen Racing team, especially my engineer, Rossella Maufriato, and my mechanic, Rolf Numsen."

Francois Bellemare: "I was surprised by the lack of respect some of the drivers in the race showed to their fellow competitors, but I was able to stay out of trouble and we got 14th, so that's good. Going into this I had hoped to be in the top 15 in my first race in this series, and I was.

"Andersen Racing gave me a good car; the team did a great job. It was great to race in front of my family and friends."

Gerardo Bonilla: "I got 18th.

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"I started tenth, and moved up to seventh. But then I had some trouble while braking for Turn Six and I went straight off on the escape road, and let the whole field get by me.

"Then I worked my way back up through the field. I got as high as ninth or tenth, but when I was passing Andrew Prendeville he turned left as hard as he could and took me out. The officials penalized him for avoidable contact, but it really hurt me in the point standings. I don't understand why he did what he did, but I feel good that I had come back through the field after having to use the escape road earlier in the race."

### **The weekend stats:**

**First Practice (Friday, 11:20 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.)**

1. Ryan Justice, 1:04.091 (84.255)
17. Ramiro Scuncio, 1:05.764 (82.112)
20. Francois Bellemare, 1:05.936 (81.898)
- Gerardo Bonilla, no time.

**Second Practice (Friday, 5 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.; rain)**

1. Matt Varsha, 1:03.498 (85.042)
11. Ramiro Scuncio, 1:05.371 (82.605)
25. Gerardo Bonilla, 1:07.438 (80.074)
28. Francois Bellemare, 1:09.652 (77.529)

**Qualifications (Saturday, 11:10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)**

1. Ryan Justice, 1:02.106 (86.948)
10. Gerardo Bonilla, 1:02.788 (86.004)
20. Francois Bellemare, 1:04.358 (83.906)
21. Ramiro Scuncio, 1:04.359 (83.904)

**Warm-up (Sunday morning)**

1. Kevin Lacroix, 1:02.946 (85.788)
9. Gerardo Bonilla, 1:03.634 (84.860)
18. Ramiro Scuncio, 1:05.526 (82.410)
19. Francois Bellemare, 1:05.604 (82.312)

**Race (Sunday, 1:40 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.)**

1. Matt Varsha
7. Ramiro Scuncio
14. Francois Bellemare
18. Gerardo Bonilla

**Points**

1. Adrian Carrio
7. Gerardo Bonilla
9. Ramiro Scuncio
25. Brad Jaeger