



For Immediate Release

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Patterson leads Velocity Motorsports across the finish line in Portland

Prospect Hill, N.C. - The Velocity Motorsports team finished their west coast swing at the Portland International Raceway with Mark Patterson gathering his best career finish with a 10th place. The team ended the long hot weekend after another first lap crash took out nine of the Star-Mazda Championship competitors. One of those involved was rookie title contender for Velocity Motorsports, Logan Gomez. 2005 Masters Series Champion, John Pew would have to battle the odds this weekend, but he still maintains second place in the Masters Championship battle. Patterson is racing a limited schedule since he and driver coach, Ozz Negri, are focusing on their Rolex Daytona Prototype program. Jep Thornton will step into the #60 at the next Canadian round in Trois Rivières.

Mark Patterson Quotes:

“After the dust settled, it was great to get a top ten finish. I hope to repeat this more during the remainder of the season for the Velocity team.”

Logan Gomez Quotes:

“I enjoyed the atmosphere of the people of Portland and I got to talk to many fans throughout the weekend. During weekend testing, we were in the top ten during some of the sessions as we worked on setup. We ended up qualifying in 10th place with the same time as the ninth place qualifier. The green flag dropped and the 32 car field went into the first corner at about 120 mph, three and four wide. Then, the car on pole spun and I got boxed on the outside. This caused every car to slow. However, the cars in the back did not see the spin. The result was a huge crash and we were out of the race. I look to get back to racing in Canada.”

John Pew Quotes:

“Unfortunately, my qualifying run was cut short due to an engine problem. Without using the chicane at the start, my plan was to make up ground quickly. Sure enough, I had a great start and passed many cars. Unfortunately, my engine issues resurfaced during the race and I was down on power. We hope to make up some points in Trois Rivières.”

Ken Erb Quotes:

“Seeing Logan running in third and almost pulling off a pass for second at Miller Motorsports Park, as well as seeing Mark and John running near the top ten my expectations going into Portland were very high. Also, because of the first lap shenanigans pulled by the pole sitter last year, Mark crashed out of the race before the star finish line. There was definitely some unfinished business between Mark and Portland International Raceway. In the practice sessions, Logan was 7th quickest out of the box with Mark showing impressively in 12th and John not too far behind in 17th. The triple digit Portland temperatures would challenge the team as we searched to improve our lap times in preparation for qualifying and for the race. In qualifying, Logan was able to crack the one minute ten second barrier to post a quick time of 1.09.766 which was tied with Gerardo Bonilla. Because Gerardo ran his lap time in the earlier session, the series officials awarded him 9th placing Logan along side in 10th. Despite improving on their lap times, both Mark and John would start in unfamiliar territory on the grid in 25th and 30th place respectively. The team struggled with several inconsistent mechanical gremlins in John’s car perhaps a result of the remnants of his Montreal crash. Logan had an excellent start during the race, but unfortunately that was actually bad news as he was collected by the crash of pole sitter, Adrian Carrio. After some nine double yellow laps, the race would resume with John Pew complaining of straightaway speed. Mark Patterson, however, carved up through the field eventually securing a place in the top ten, his highest Star Mazda Series finish to date. John, battling his lack of acceleration, drove well and collected valuable Masters Series points and now sits in second place just two behind rival, John Faulkner.”

For more team information and great photos, visit www.velocitymotorsports.com. The replay of the Portland race can be seen on The SPEED Channel on August 5th at 1 pm Eastern. The next round of the Star-Mazda Championship is Sunday August 6th in Trois Rivieres, Canada.

www.velocitymotorsports.com