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Andersen Racing's Goring Leads, Finishes Third Saturday in Utah In Star Mazda Action

TOOELE, Utah, May 19 — Andersen Racing's Jonathan Goring started second and finished third in Saturday's non-stop Star Mazda race at Miller Motorsports Park.

The 17-year-old got a spectacular start and led the first six laps of the 15-lap race, which was presented by Goodyear. The eventual winner, Lorenzo Mandarino, got by him at that point, but Goring ran in second place until James Davison passed him on the very last lap to push him to third.

The only leaders were Goring and Mandarino.

It was the third top-10 and second podium finish of the year for Goring, of Norfolk, Conn., in the first four races of the 12-race series. There have been three different winners thus far.

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Goring's No. 14 advertises the Skip Barber Racing School, Alfas Unlimited and NPA Graphics in addition to the Fairfield, N.J.-based Andersen Racing team. Although Goring kept that car number, he was actually driving the car usually driven by one of his teammates, Phil Saville, after he damaged his usual mount during testing on Wednesday. He didn't crash but he did crack the tub on his regular car when he caught some curbing the wrong way, necessitating the change.

On Saturday the top five were Mandarino, Davison, Goring, two-time winner Dane Cameron and Marco Di Leo, the winner at Sebring. Goring had his hands full throughout the 45-minute race because the four drivers directly behind him all ran faster than he ran at one point or the other, including the sixth-place finisher, Nick Hays, who had the fastest lap of the race with a 2:40.362 (100.71 miles per hour).

"I got a good start and led for awhile, but then I made a little bobble in Turn 7, and Mandarino got me there," Goring said afterwards. "I believe it was Turn 19 where Davison got me. I made another small mistake, and he took advantage of it.

"My car was good in the beginning of the race, but then it picked up an understeer and it got all over the place," he added.

"I drove Phil Saville's car in the race after I cracked a tub on Wednesday, so this was a completely different car," he explained further. "I didn't crash; I just hit the curbing the wrong way. It wasn't a big hit, but apparently it was enough to crack it. So I drove Phil's car the rest of the weekend."

Saturday's race, part of the Larry H. Miller Dealerships Utah Grand Prix American Le Mans Series program, is scheduled to be shown on SPEED at noon Eastern time May 26. The next race is June 9 at Portland International Raceway in Portland, Ore.

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Jonny Baker will surely catch a break at Portland. He ended up 25th on Saturday despite qualifying sixth and moving up to fifth on the first lap with his Andersen Racing No. 6. Then trouble struck and Baker, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, England, spun on the 4.5-mile, 23-turn road course, caught another competitor in the process, and retired with only two laps completed. He had the best results of the team in the six sessions before qualifying, however, placing fourth overall three times.

"I made a mistake, and I paid the consequences," Baker said afterwards. "We had been fast in practice and qualifying and the car was capable of being on the podium. But I made a mistake in turn five on lap 2. The rear tires weren't up to temperature and I spun around. I tangled with another driver, and it broke the brackets off the nose of my car and I couldn't continue. It was a shame. I had to leave the hard work to Jonathan; there should have been two of us up there at the front.

"I'll just have to hit the ground running at Portland and get it right the next time," he added.

For more information see andersenracingteam.com and starmazda.com.

The stats:

Promoter's Test Session 1 (Wed.):

1. Lorenzo Mandarino, 2:41.214, 100.175 mph
6. Jonny Baker, 2:42.090, 99.634 mph
8. Jonathan Goring, 2:43.182, 98.967 mph

Promoter's Test Session 2 (Wed.):

1. James Davison, 2:39.772, 101.079 mph
4. Jonny Baker, 2:41.387, 100.068 mph
7. Jonathan Goring, 2:41.758, 99.838 mph

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Promoter's Test Session 3 (Wed.):

1. Russell Walker, 2:39.565
4. Jonny Baker, 2:39.874
25. Jonathan Goring, no time.

Official Practice 1 (Thurs.):

1. Ron White, 2:38.692
10. Jonny Baker, 2:40.029
13. Jonathan Goring, 2:40.560

Official Practice 2 (Thurs.):

1. James Davison, 2:38.358
4. Jonny Baker, 2:38.829
8. Jonathan Goring, 2:39.249

Office Practice 3 (Fri.):

1. Marco Di Leo, 2:38.856
10. Jonny Baker, 2:40.317
12. Jonathan Goring, 2:40.719

Qualifying (Fri.):

1. James Davison, 2:38.170*
2. Jonathan Goring, 2:38.433
6. Jonny Baker, 2:38.910

Race (Sat.):

1. Lorenzo Mandarino
3. Jonathan Goring
25. Jonny Baker

* After provisional polesitter Marco Di Leo's car failed post-qualifying inspection.