



26 Law Drive, Unit C
Fairfield, N.J. 07004
Phone: (973) 287-5600
Fax: (973) 227-2202

Web Site:
andersenracingteam.com

For more information:
Linda Mansfield, Restart Communications
E-mail: LindaKMansfield@cs.com
Cell: 317-201-0729

Andersen Racing Duo Finishes Fifth and Sixth In Star Mazda Action Sunday On Streets of Trois-Rivieres

TROIS-RIVIERES, Quebec, Aug. 20 — Andersen Racing welcomed Yannick Hofman into the fold this weekend, and the 19-year-old driver from Montreal got off to a great start by finishing fifth in his first Star Mazda race ever at the Grand Prix of Trois-Rivieres Sunday afternoon. Meanwhile, Jonny Baker's luck finally improved and he finished right behind Hofman in sixth place for the Fairfield, N.J.-based team.

Andersen Racing's other two drivers in the 36-lap/50-minute race on the tricky 1.521-mile street circuit, Jonathan Goring of Norfolk, Conn., and Phil Saville of Oak Brook, Ill., were involved in a five-car crash at the start that forced their premature retirement from the race, which was presented by Goodyear.

Hofman qualified eighth with the Andersen Racing No. 00 sponsored by Jig-A-Loo, a new lubricant that also repels water. He comes to the team from the tough Formula BMW USA series, where he is currently seventh in points in his sophomore season.

The other three Andersen Racing drivers qualified close behind him, as Goring started tenth, Baker 11th and Saville 12th in the 24-car field.

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Hofman dealt with a problem with his gearbox and avoided all the accidents for his top-five finish. Baker, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, England, used up his tires coming through the field but still hung on for a solid sixth, which was especially satisfying since he was involved in an accident during qualifying on Saturday.

Goring suffered a cut on his hand in the first-lap crash, but he insisted it was minor despite the severity of the accident. His car, which is sponsored by the Skip Barber Racing School, Alfas Unlimited, NPA Graphics and Performance Drink, became airborne in the melee. Saville's No. 22, which carries the colors of New York Jewelers of Chicago, NVG Residential, Mac Marketing & Advertising Corp. and Chicago Indoor Racing, was also too badly damaged to continue.

Sunday's race is scheduled to be shown on SPEED at noon Eastern time next Saturday, Aug. 25 while the Star Mazda set is racing at Mosport International Raceway in Bowmanville, Ontario. No Star Mazda races are scheduled for September, but here are two in October: Road Atlanta in Braselton, Ga., on Oct. 4-5 and the season finale at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Monterey, Calif., on Oct. 19-20.

Andersen Racing is committed to offering a program that gives up-and-coming drivers the proper training to reach open-wheel racing's major leagues. It fields multiple cars in the F2000 Championship Series, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear and the Indy Pro Series. It is the official development team of Rahal Letterman Racing for the latter series. More information on the team is available on its Web site at andersenracingteam.com. The Star Mazda Web site is at starmazda.com.

Post-race quotes follow:

Yannick Hofman: "It was good; I had a lot of fun. The car was good at the start, but then something in the gearbox broke. I had to short-shift each time, which really hampered me on a track like this. I was still able to finish in the top five in my first Star Mazda race though. I was able to avoid any contact, and that was about it. It was good!"

Jonny Baker: "Lady luck finally smiled on us today and we got sixth."

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"In qualifying we had a big incident, but today it went really well. I went from 11th to seventh at the start; I just put my head down and went. The car was brilliant early on, but then it went off during the last 15 minutes of the race. I think I might have cooked the tires in getting up to sixth, but I'll take it.

"The whole Andersen Racing team did a great job, but I especially want to give a big thank-you to Steve Fried for getting the car back in shape after the crash in qualifying. He deserves a big pat on the back, for sure.

"The crash in qualifying was with Lorenzo Mandarino and Nick Haye, but it wasn't either of their fault; it was just a racing accident. It ruined qualifying for us though; the car was pretty bad afterwards. That's why it's so great to come back and finish sixth today. Steve really did a great job to get the car back for today's race after the crash in qualifying."

Jonathan Goring: "There was some confusion at the start; apparently the starter didn't wave the flag on cue or something. Natacha [Gachnang] was on my left and Nick Haye was on my right. Natacha ran out of room and Nick didn't see me and basically I was sandwiched in between them and I went up in the air. It took out two or three corners of the car and both wings; it's not pretty. My hand went up in the air and I got a cut on it, but it's nothing to worry about.

"It's just very frustrating, especially after our problems in qualifying and at Road America. I know both I and Andersen Racing can do much better than this."

Note: Phil Saville was unavailable post-race due to his travel schedule.

The weekend stats:

First Practice Session (Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.):

1. James Davison, 1:03.177
3. Jonathan Goring, 1:03.690
8. Yannick Hofman, 1:04.369
9. Jonny Baker, 1:04.406
11. Phil Saville, 1:04.482

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Second Practice Session (Friday, 3:20 p.m. to 4 p.m.):

1. Alex Ardoin, 1:02.995
4. Jonathan Goring, 1:03.244
10. Yannick Hofman, 1:04.117
11. Jonny Baker, 1:04.136
14. Phil Saville, 1:04.500

Qualifying (Saturday, 11:25 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.):

1. Alex Ardoin, 1:02.306
8. Yannick Hofman, 1:03.033
10. Jonathan Goring, 1:03.200
11. Jonny Baker, 1:03.274
12. Phil Saville, 1:03.427

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

1. Ron White
5. Yannick Hofman
6. Jonny Baker
20. Jonathan Goring
23. Phil Saville