

MUNDILL

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TREK TO TOOELE

Mundill Back into Action after Two Month Hiatus

(Tooele, Utah) May 17, 2008 – Mundill, a reasonably young team to the Star Mazda paddock, approached the second round of the championship in Miller Motorsports Park with high aspirations. After a successful run in Sebring, FL the team displayed they are a contender for the 2008 championship.

Adjusting to the new track configuration called the ‘outer course’ which is 3.048 miles long, came easy as the Mundill drivers had positive feedback about it. Rick Rosin compared it to the Nelsen Piquet circuit in Brazil saying that “It is a very demanding track.” Scott Rettich liked the “mix of high speed, middle speed, and low speed corners,” in comparison to last year’s 4.5 mile configuration.

The hard luck story of the weekend was of Alex Ardoin. In pre-race testing, Ardoin suffered a mechanical failure, which caused a fire while on track. A week later while preparing the car for the last official practice session prior to qualifying, a crack was discovered in the monocoque chassis. Although the team had a backup car available, it was decided to swap major components from Alex’s car to the undamaged chassis. Valuable testing time was lost as Alex was unable to drive in the final official practice session. Ardoin jokingly said “aside from car fires and cracked tubs, this week is going great.”

During qualifying, Brazilians, Caio Lara and Rick Rosin both relatively new to Mundill and the Star Mazda Series, shaved almost a second off their official practice times. Lara qualified 14th with a time of 1:46.066 and Rosin 12th with a 1:45.965. Scott Rettich followed the trend by dropping from a 1:47.548 in practice to 1:46.315 qualifying 17th.

As a result of lost testing time during the final practice, and uncertainties surrounding the rebuild of Alex's car, it was decided to use the first half of qualifying to evaluate and tune Alex's car. After twenty minutes of track time, Alex had no issues with the car, and was comfortable with the setup. The crew had just switched to the qualifying tires as the first of two red flags came out. Luck wasn't on Ardoin's side yet again as he was unable to complete a lap due to the red flags, and would start from the end of the field.

The opening laps of the Utah Grand Prix didn't go without incident. Mundill's Lara ran out of room in corner one as the car beside him spun, putting him out of the race. Lara was aiming for a top ten finish. Rosin worked his way up to ninth place but on the fifth lap had an off and fell back to 20th. Rosin gained six positions and managed to finish 14th. Rettich was able to make a clean start and gained 9 positions by the 11th lap, unfortunately, on lap 17, Rettich experienced brake failure, putting an end to his race. Prior to brake failure he had set his best time for the weekend of 1:45.92. Ardoin far exceeded expectations. Starting 29th, he moved up the grid and overtook 17 cars, to finish in 10th place.

Mundill's dedication and commitment to their drivers is quite apparent. The team will be back on track for Round 3 of the Star Mazda Championship at Watkins Glen on June 7th. Tune into SPEED at 3:00 pm Eastern on Saturday, May 31 2008 for the Star Mazda television coverage of the Utah Grand Prix.