



O'Neill Captures Star Mazda West Coast Series Victory at Miller Motorsports Park

May 17, 2008. Tooele, Utah. Racing as part of Round Two of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at Miller Motorsports Park, Patrick O'Neill, of San Francisco, California, drove to victory in Round Four of the Star Mazda West Coast Series in his #64 O'Neill Construction Pro Formula Mazda. Joining O'Neill on the podium were World Speed Motorsports teammates Stan Kohls and David House.

"This was an awesome weekend and it was blast to drive with the national series here at Miller Motorsports Park," O'Neill commented. "This was my first ever standing start and it was dead cool. Rick Cameron helped give me a great car and I stayed out of trouble and had a fun time out there."

The standing start would be a focal point for all the west coast drivers accustomed to the traditional rolling starts for the other events with Dave House making the biggest jump overall at the start, gaining nine positions on the opening lap. While House was jumping forward Kohls slipped back a couple of spots and Michael Guasch got caught up in an incident in the first corner that would end his race early.

"I had a great launch and found myself gaining spots quickly," third place finisher House explained. "I had made it past Michelle Bumgarner into turn one when a melee of cars were scattered across the track. I was able to hold the position on her under the yellow flag but once the green flag came out I had a target on my back from all the drivers that I had passed at the start. I fell back in the field but the race was still a blast."

Kohls was not as pleased with his first standing start but regrouped to fight his way to the second step of the podium. "That standing start was tough," Kohls said. "I think I was standing still when Dave went by but I was able to avoid the trouble in turn one and spent the race trying to work my way back. I want to thank everyone at World Speed Motorsports for all their hard work this weekend, I had a great time out there."

With Round Four of the West Coast Series in the books the drivers and teams now head back to California for Rounds Five and Six of the Championship as part of the MOLECULE Formula Mazda Challenge at Thunderhill Raceway Park on June 6-8. This round of the championship will be featured on Speed Channel on Sunday, May 31 at 3:00 PM Eastern Time. For more information please visit www.formulamazdachallenge.com