



Hacquard Faces Road Atlanta in Penultimate Round

Braselton, Georgia (October 01, 2008) – Taylor Hacquard's rookie year competing in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear starts to wind up this weekend with the penultimate race of the season, Round 11, hosted at Georgia's Road Atlanta circuit on Friday 3rd October.

Forming part of an impressive support package to the American Le Mans Series 'Petit Le Mans' challenge, the Star Mazda field races on Friday before Saturday's 10-hour sports car endurance race gets underway. The weekend marks Hacquard's first trip to the 2.54-mile permanent road course located in Braselton, Georgia but as the 18-year-old Vancouver resident has already proved this season, he's a fast learner and a strong racer.

Taylor arrives at Road Atlanta following a pair of top-ten performances last time out at the New Jersey Motorsports Park double-header. Racing the #15 Wolfe Auto Group/World Speed Motorsports entry, Hacquard earned his sixth and seventh top-ten finishes of the season, climbing to ninth overall in the Star Mazda Driver Standings, and the top-ranked Canadian, on 250 points.

While aiming to maintain his impressive race record, the B.C. teenager is keen to improve his qualifying performances and crack the top-ten for the third time this year, Taylor's best grid slot to-date coming in the second round at Miller Motorsports Park where he secured seventh on the grid.

"It's great to be here at Road Atlanta," said Hacquard. "It's still early in the week yet there's a really good atmosphere building up towards the weekend's races. I'm really hoping we have a strong qualifying run here. I've shown I can race pretty well but if I can qualify a few spots higher than I usually do then I can really help myself out. That's my main focus for the weekend, improve my qualifying performance and continue to race strong.

"From my first laps of the track, Road Atlanta might prove to be a tricky place to overtake, there are a couple of obvious passing zones but it's quite a narrow race track, you really have to stick to your racing line to maintain your speed. It's hard to believe this is the penultimate round; the season's really flown by. I've had a good rookie year and I'm hoping for a strong showing at Road Atlanta. I wasn't overly happy with my last two performances so I'd like to turn things around before heading into the season finale later in the month."

Round 11 qualifying is set for 8:45am ET on Thursday 2nd October with the race scheduled the following day, Friday 3rd October, starting at 4:30pm ET – www.roadatlanta.com

SPEED will broadcast Round 11 from Road Atlanta as a tape-delay on Saturday 18th October starting at 12:30pm ET – www.speedtv.com

2008 Top-10 Star Mazda Drivers – R10/12: 1st Peter Dempsey (354pts), 2nd Joel Miller (349pts), 3rd John Edwards (334pts), 4th Alex Ardoin (327pts), 5th Charles Hall (325pts), 6th Tom Gladdis (305pts), 7th Billy Goshen (283pts), 8th Kristy Kester (255pts), **9th TAYLOR HACQUARD (250pts)**, 10th Ernesto Otero (243pts) – www.starmazda.com

ENDS – www.taylorhacquard.com

Photo Credit: 'Taylor Hacquard drives the #15 Wolfe Auto Group/World Speed Motorsports entry' – Eric McCombs

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