



Mazda Raceway Outing to Wrap Hacquard's Rookie Season

Vancouver, British Columbia (October 15, 2008) – Taylor Hacquard will cap a solid rookie open-wheel racing season in California this weekend as the Vancouver racer heads to the Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca for Round 12 of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear on Saturday 18th October.

The 18-year-old, who races the #15 Wolfe Auto Group/World Speed Motorsports entry, travels to the Monterey-based circuit sitting eighth overall in the 2008 Driver Standings and the leading Canadian racer in what is a truly international field of talent. Hacquard, despite his lack of experience, has been a permanent fixture in the top-ten all season long and gained a spot after the previous round at Road Atlanta courtesy of his eighth top-ten points finish in eleven starts.

More encouraging to the teenage racer that weekend was his ninth place qualifying effort. His fifth-row grid slot marked the third time this season Taylor has qualified in the top-ten with his strongest performance to-date coming in Round 2 at Miller Motorsports Park in May – a seventh place start the highlight so-far.

Buoyed by his Georgia outing, Hacquard arrives in California with track knowledge of the 2.238-mile Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca having made one career start there in last season's Star Mazda event. While he's proved himself to be a fast learner through the previous eleven rounds, Saturday's season finale will at least afford Taylor the opportunity to concentrate on finding a competitive set-up from the off without the distraction of learning a new layout - track time a precious commodity as always.

"I'm hoping to put it all together for a strong weekend," Hacquard commented before departing for California. "I qualified well last time out so I'd like to put in a similarly strong qualifying performance this time round. I've raced hard all season long but you can really help yourself with a decent grid slot. Unlike most of the circuits this season I do actually have experience of Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca from last season's Star Mazda finale but a lot's changed since then.

"My driving and level of understanding has improved since then and while I'm heading to California armed with previous track experience, I'll be working from a fresh set-up. I can focus on setting up the car as it should be without having to concern myself with learning the circuit layout. Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca's definitely a cool place to race. It's not the easiest track but I like the fact that it's another high-speed, flowing race track with the Corkscrew as a notable challenge. I'm looking for a good result to end what's been an amazing rookie season for me!"

Round 12 qualifying is set for 9am PT on Saturday 18th October with the season finale scheduled to start at 12:15pm PT on the same day – www.laguna-seca.com

SPEED will broadcast Round 12 from Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca as a tape-delay on Saturday 8th November starting at 1:30pm ET – www.speedtv.com

2008 Top-8 Star Mazda Drivers – R11/12: 1st Joel Miller (389pts), 2nd John Edwards (378pts), 3rd Peter Dempsey (374pts), 4th Alex Ardoin (347pts), 5th Charles Hall (342pts), 6th Tom Gladdis (334pts), 7th Billy Goshen (313pts), **8th TAYLOR HACQUARD (278pts)** – 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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