



TEAM GDT SCORES TWO TOP-10'S AND ASHLEY FREIBERG MAKES STAR MAZDA DEBUT AT AUTOBAHN GRAND PRIX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOLIET, Illinois (July 27, 2009): Team GDT returned to Star Mazda action this weekend at the Harrah's Autobahn Grand Prix Presented by Mazda with drivers Rick Rosin (#30) and Ashley Freiberg (#65). This was Rosin's fifth start this season with Freiberg making her Star Mazda racing debut. Freiberg, the 17 year old Homer Glen, IL native was a crowd and media favorite spending a lot of her time out of the car doing interviews, chatting with fans, and signing autographs for young children. Ashley is running full-time in the Skip Barber National Race Series this year looking to move in to Star Mazda next season.

Rick had a solid weekend for Rounds 8 & 9 of the series championship. Saturday's qualifying for Round 8 was a challenge for all; it had rained the night before and for the first group to go out, there were a few spots still with puddles and even a small river going across part of the track. Due to ever changing track conditions and two untimely red flags in the 22 minute group, Rick ended up in 14th starting position for Saturday afternoon's race. A smooth start and trouble-free race gave Rick a 5th-place finish in Saturday's race; his best finish of the season.

Rick Rosin, #30 Team GDT/State of Santa Catarina/FundeSporte

"The race at Autobahn Country Club was my best race this year. I worked with the team on the development of the car so we could get the best possible results. Due to our commitment, we finished the first race in fifth place after a frustrating qualifying which I was only able to make one good lap. For me it was a great result because I gained nine positions during the race".

Saturday afternoon's qualifying for Round 9 was once again a split session which went without any issues. At one point Rick was on pace for a 8th position starting position but unfortunately got held up by slower traffic on his flyer lap and wound up starting 11th for Sunday's race. Throughout most of Sunday's race, Rick was in battle with a group of five cars led by Conor Daly and brought his General Data Tech/State of Santa Catarina/FundeSporte car home in 9th place.

"In spite of having a competitive car an intense battle with my opponents for positions allowed me to not sustain the pace in the final race and I finished 9th after starting the

race in 11th. I thank the whole team for giving me this opportunity and I am still looking for sponsors to help continue my career. Rick said”

Ashley’s first race weekend in Star Mazda certainly had its difficulties. Due to a clutch issue, she missed the first test session Thursday morning. The team fixed the problem and had her back out for the afternoon session. With the difficult situation in qualifying already described above on Saturday, Ashley, with probably only 1 or 2 hot laps, squeezed out a 19th position for the afternoon race. And her start was not to be missed! After an impressive launch from a standing start, she went three-wide on the front straight and seemed not the least intimidated by the veterans as she slid herself in front of them and into turn one, passing multiple cars in the process. She then proceeded to charge her way past two more cars in the next couple of corners working her way up to 9th. After watching Ashley’s in-car camera, team coach Chuck West commented, “That was one of the most impressive rookie starts/first laps I’ve seen, in fact any racer would love to have a first lap like that”! Unfortunately on the third lap, a car returning to the track after an off course excursion hit her, spinning her into the grass forcing Ashley to make a pit stop for the crew to look over the car. No damage was found and she was sent back out where she ended up finishing 20th in her C+D Supply/AKZO NOBEL/AGA Glass car.

Ashley Freiberg, #65 Team GDT/C+D Supply/AKZO NOBEL/AGA Glass: “Qualifying was first thing in the morning on Saturday, but due to the rain over night, there was a small stream of water running across the track which caused enough red flags for me to get only one timed lap in, which put me 19th on the grid. In the race I experienced my first standing start. I found out they are extremely fun and not only that, but I am pretty good at them too”! “The only disappointment is that I know I could have finished in the top ten in my first pro race if I didn’t get hit by the car re-entering the track in turn 6”

Qualifying for Round 9 once again put Ashley in a 19th starting position for Sunday’s race, due to a brake system problem. Showing that Saturday’s rocket start was no fluke, she again had a terrific start. In the race she worked her way up to as high as 11th at one point but a late-race spin while charging hard to catch the pack right in front of her made for an 18th place finish. Ashley, the team and her family were pleased with the way the weekend went for her first time racing with the pros in the highly competitive Star Mazda Series.

Ashley Freiberg, #65 Team GDT/C+D Supply/AKZO NOBEL/AGA Glass: “I qualified for my second race in the 19th position once again, but I made up for it at the start. I was able to make my way up to 11th at the beginning but fell back to 13th which was where I stayed for about 6 laps. As the race went on I made a few rookie mistakes that unfortunately gave up a few positions. In the end, I was able to prove that with a little more seat time in the car, I will be ready to compete very well in the Star Mazda Series”.

”I would also like to add a thank you to Team GDT. My mechanics worked like crazy to

make sure I made it out on the track, and to my coach, Chuck West, for helping me as much as he could with the little amount of seat time that I had gotten.”

Paul Mata, GDT Team Manager; “I think she showed she’s the real deal. She generates a lot of excitement in and out of the car and she always acts professionally. She’ll be ready for this series next year and would be a great addition to any team”.

Bob Markley, Race Engineer, Team GDT:

“We had the chance to test at Autobahn a couple of weeks ago, and it really paid off. Rick drove two very good races finishing 5th and 9th and I am really pleased with Ashley finishing her first two Star Mazda Races. The testing provided us with a good baseline setup not only for this track, but also allowed us to work on some items that will be useful for the upcoming rounds at Mosport and Trois Rivieres. Rick could have qualified higher, but due to poor track conditions and a split group qualifying session for the first race, we were relegated to be back half of the field. For the second race qualifying, we were on our last lap before the checkers when Rick caught a slower car in a critical high-speed section. After looking at the data, we found that he was on a lap that would have been good for 8th. Rick’s race craft is amazing, as evidenced by his advancement through the field. Ashley continues to improve every time she is at the track with us. We have really focused on improving her technical skills and feedback as well as her driving skills. She is a smart driver who picks up on things very quickly. It is a good jump from the Skip Barber cars to the Star Mazda where you have wings, better brakes, and higher horsepower. Ashley will do well in this series.”

The Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear returns to action August 16th at Trois-Rivieres in Quebec, Canada.



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