

COREY LEWIS



For Immediate Release



Team GDT Wins with Driver Corey Lewis

Sonoma, CA - Team GDT won Race 1 of the Formula Mazda Challenge Winter Series at Infineon Raceway with Nazareth, PA's 18 year old Corey Lewis. Lewis, a front runner in the Skip Barber National Series, had never been to Infineon Raceway, and only had a hand full of laps in a Pro Mazda before this race weekend. So Corey and the team had to use Thursday's open-test to its fullest. And after 180 miles of testing, the team felt confident their car and driver combination would be competitive.

Chuck West, Team Driver Coach;

"Corey was most impressive, his car feel and intuition in the car is a rare quality. Infineon or Sears Point, as I prefer to call it, is one of the most challenging race tracks in the country, you don't normally show up here and run as fast or faster with drivers that have hundreds of miles on this track. The fact that Corey has not driven a Pro Mazda car for any real length of time only shows his high talent level. I'm sure I helped him with some of the tricks to give him a jump start to the weekend but when the rain came, that was all him, he is awesome in the wet! I think he could be considered to be one of the top 5 American drivers coming up through the rank right now."

Friday brought rain for both 30 minute practice sessions with the Team GDT car posting some of the faster lap times during each session.

Saturday morning brought perfect dry conditions. Unfortunately qualifying was cut short on time due to one of the competitor's unscheduled meeting with the tire wall in turn 8. With only time for a hand full of laps Corey managed to squeeze out a time that placed him a respectable 4th on the grid.

"The car's set up was just coming in when the black flag came out." Corey said. "I definitely think we could have had a run at the pole if the session did not get cut short on time. But I know I'll have a great car to go for the win in the race."



Bob Markley, Team Engineer;

"He did a great job with limited time. I know we had a legitimate chance at the pole if the session went full length. Corey's feed back regarding the cars setup has been impressive considering the lack of seat time in a Pro Mazda or any winged car. It just shows you that real talented drivers can adapt and learn quickly in what ever car there put in."

Due to the driver that qualified 3rd having to switch to his back up car (forcing him to start last) Corey moved up one spot to start the race in the 3rd position right behind the pole sitter. As the field came up the front straight in formation for the rolling start, the pole sitter jumped the start before the green flag flew, which in NASA sanctioning rules is a violation.

"He jumped way before the green flag was out," said Lewis. "He probably had a good 8 to 10 car length lead by the time we entered turn 1. I never radioed my crew about it. I figured the officials would sort it out and I just wanted to concentrate on the race."

It only took 1 lap for Corey to make up the distance and for the next few laps he was all over the race leader looking for a way by. The two of them left the field to fight for 3rd place. But not for some bad luck with lapped traffic and a set of front tires that had taken the brunt of the nose to tail fight for the lead, forced Corey to fall back to a 4 second deficit. A gap he could not make up in the last ten minutes of the thirty minute event.

Following tech inspection after the race, NASA penalized Goncalvez the pole sitter and moved him back one position for jumping the start, giving the race victory to Lewis and Team GDT. Goncalvez was second and Hulse finished 3rd.

"I hate to inherit a win like that but I know if I got a fair shot at getting by him at the start of the race, especially since I was much faster than him in the first half of the track, I could have had a better chance to win the race."



About Corey Lewis

Corey is in pursuit of becoming a professional open-wheel race car driver. For the past two and a half years, he has competed in 26 Skip Barber Regional and National events posting 14 wins, 18 podiums, and 16 poles. Previously he was the 2004 World Karting National Association's National Series Runner-Up and the 2002 Stars of Karting Regional Series Champion.

Learn more: www.coreylewisracing.com
Latest news: <http://coreylewisracing.wordpress.com/>

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