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## **Reigning Star Mazda Champion Successfully Tests One of Andersen Racing's Firestone Indy Lights Cars at Mid-Ohio**

PALMETTO, Fla., June 16 — Adam Christodoulou received one of the perks he earned for winning the driver title in the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear when he tested one of Andersen Racing's Firestone Indy Lights cars at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio last Thursday.

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## Christodoulou Test/Page 2 of 6

Christodoulou's test was the result of a collaborative effort between Mazda, Performance Friction, the Star Mazda series and the Palmetto, Fla.-based team, which was the series' top team in 2008, finished second in 2009 and is currently leading the 2010 team point standings. Andersen Racing will make its 75th consecutive Star Mazda start this Saturday at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa, where it hopes its four Star Mazda drivers (Mikael Grenier, Anders Krohn, Tristan Vautier and Nick Andries) will add a 17th pole position and an 18th race victory to the stats it has already accumulated in the series. It is the only team still actively participating in the series since the debut of the current generation of Star Mazda race car in 2004.

That kind of commitment and those achievements coupled with the team's extensive driver development program that includes karting programs, a Firestone Indy Lights team and a Star Mazda team made Andersen Racing the perfect group to conduct the test for Mazda, the series and Performance Friction. The team has also been tabbed to conduct a similar test for the 2010 Star Mazda champion.

Performance Friction stepped up to sponsor the test because it is also devoted to supporting rising open-wheel talent. The company is the exclusive brake pad and disc supplier for the first two levels of the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy program: the USF2000 National Championship presented by Cooper Tires and powered by Mazda, and the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. Its products are also used by nearly all the teams in Firestone Indy Lights, which is the final step on the official Road to Indy ladder prior to the IZOD IndyCar Series.

m-o-r-e

## Christodoulou Test/Page 3 of 6

Christodoulou, who turned 21 the day after the test, completed 89 laps on Mid-Ohio's 2.258-mile road course in Andersen Racing's No. 4 Firestone Indy Lights car, which is normally driven by Carmen Jorda. It was a return to his open-wheel roots, as he also won the 2008 British Formula Renault Championship in addition to the 2009 Star Mazda title. The native of Litchfield, Staffordshire, England has been driving a Mazda RX-8 in the GT division of the Grand-Am Rolex Series this year with the 2008 Star Mazda champion, John Edwards, as Mazda continues its role as the car manufacturer most committed to supporting North America's open-wheel development series. Both the USF2000 National Championship and Star Mazda are part of the MAZDASPEED driver development program in addition to the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy program.

"I was very pleased with Adam's test," said Andersen Racing co-owner John Andersen. "He showed that with a little bit of seat time he was able to run with the best Firestone Indy Lights drivers.

"This was not Adam's first test of a Firestone Indy Lights car, as he tested with Bryan Herta's team last September," Andersen added.

"We were the first team in North America to test Adam in a Star Mazda car back in early 2009, and we knew then what a talent he is," added his brother and team co-owner, Dan Andersen. "It was a real delight to be able to provide our Firestone Indy Lights team and race car and see him perform so well once again. We would welcome an opportunity to have him on our Firestone Indy Lights team sometime in the future."

"The test at Mid-Ohio in the Firestone Indy Lights car definitely put a huge smile on my face," said Christodoulou. "This test was possible thanks to Performance Friction brakes, Mazda and Andersen Racing, and it was a pleasure to be back in a single-seater.

"At first it was quite strange getting back into a single-seater car, as I hadn't been in one for at least eight months, and I had only been in a Firestone Indy Lights car once last year.

m-o-r-e

## Christodoulou Test/Page 4 of 6

“The first thing I noticed was how quiet it seemed compared to the scream of the three-rotor Mazda RX-8 I have been racing all season,” he added. “I was also braking far too early for all the corners. The brakes felt unbelievably good, and I was over-slowng the car and wasn’t getting the best out the brakes until my second or third run. Then I was carrying a lot more speed and was a lot more efficient on the brakes.

“I got on really well with all the Andersen crew,” he continued. “It’s the first time I got to meet all the guys from the Firestone Indy Lights side of the team, and they did a great job with the car. Everything ran smoothly and we didn’t run into any problems.

“I had plenty of time in the car even though we were restricted on miles,” he said. “I completed roughly 80 laps, with my third-from-last lap being my quickest all day, even with worn tires. We made some very minor changes but I think the biggest time difference was just me adjusting to the car. I felt that each time I got in the car I picked up fractions of a second here and there.

“It would have been nice to have put on a new set of tires at the end of the day just to see how I compared to the other seasoned Firestone Indy Lights drivers, but overall it was a fun day and it was nice to be able to test against the 2010 Firestone Indy Lights drivers,” he concluded. “I have to say a big ‘Thank you!’ to all the people who put this deal together for me, especially Performance Friction brakes, MAZDASPEED Development and Andersen Racing. I look forward to hopping into a Firestone Indy Lights car again if the opportunity arises.”

More information on Andersen Racing, which is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp., is on-line at [andersenracingteam.com](http://andersenracingteam.com). The Star Mazda series’ Web site is at [starmazda.com](http://starmazda.com). Information on Firestone Indy Lights and the Road to Indy can be accessed through [indycar.com](http://indycar.com). Christodoulou’s Web site is at [adamchristodoulou.com](http://adamchristodoulou.com). Mazda USA’s Web site is at [MazdaUSA.com](http://MazdaUSA.com), while information on Performance Friction can be found at [performancefriction.com](http://performancefriction.com).

## Christodoulou Test/Page 5 of 6

### *About Mazda:*

On any given weekend there are more Mazdas on the road courses of America than any other brand of vehicle. MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models are all popular race cars because every Mazda has the soul of a sports car. In fact, the largest road-racing class in the world is Spec Miata. With more than 2,500 first- and second-generation Miatas tearing up America's racetracks, it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with one of the world's premier road courses, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Sonoma, Calif., and the Skip Barber Schools for driving and racing.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in the United States in 2010, Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, Calif. It oversees the sales, marketing, parts business and customer service of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario. Operations in Mexico are managed by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City. For more information see [MazdaUSA.com](http://MazdaUSA.com).

### *About Performance Friction:*

Performance Friction brakes are the standard of excellence in high-performance vehicles, commercial fleets and street vehicles. Hundreds of races and more than 1,500 championships have been won on Performance Friction Carbon Metallic® pads. In 2007 alone over 257 racing champions all over the world drove to victory on Performance Friction brakes.

Fleet maintenance managers for both on-road and off-road applications also rely on Performance Friction brakes, which are 100 percent American made at the company's 200,000-square-foot plant in South Carolina. The company supplies brake pads and rotors for domestic and international markets. Its main mass-market partner is O'Reilly Auto Parts, which owns over 3,400 stores in the United States including Checkers, Shucks and Kragan Automotive retail parts stores as part of the CSK Group. For more information see [performancefriction.com](http://performancefriction.com).

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## Christodoulou Test/Page 6 of 6

### *About the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear:*

In 2011 the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will stage a 13-race/11-weekend schedule, primarily supporting the American Le Mans Series presented by Patron and the IZOD IndyCar Series. Rising stars from around the world will compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million and benefit from two driver development programs: the MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development ladder and the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy program. The Star Mazda Championship features standings starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 150 miles per hour and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For more information see [starmazda.com](http://starmazda.com).

### *About Andersen Racing:*

Andersen Racing strives to provide the best and most comprehensive training possible for future open-wheel superstars while giving its marketing partners media exposure and hospitality opportunities at some of the most prestigious events in North America. It provides a unique program utilizing multiple entries in three different platforms: karting, Star Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights. A sister company, Andersen Promotions, administers the USF2000 National Championship presented by Cooper Tires and powered by Mazda. It is part of both the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy program and the MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development system. Andersen Racing is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp. The team is headquartered at Andersen RacePark, an 18-acre facility in Palmetto, Fla. that includes a 1-mile road course test track. For more information see [andersenracingteam.com](http://andersenracingteam.com), [andersenkarting.com](http://andersenkarting.com), [andersenracepark.com](http://andersenracepark.com) and [usf2000.com](http://usf2000.com).

### *About Allied Building Products Corp.:*

Allied Building Products Corp., headquartered in East Rutherford, N.J., is one of the largest roofing and siding distributors in the United States. Founded in 1950 with five employees and two trucks, today it is a \$1.8 billion building material distribution company with over 3,500 employees, more than 200 branches in 30 states, well over one million square feet of office and warehouse space, and an inventory of approximately 85,000 products, from residential roofing and siding to doors, windows, waterproofing, manufactured stone, interior products and commercial roofing systems. For more information see [alliedbuilding.com](http://alliedbuilding.com).