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## **AIM Autosport's Ostella fourth in Illinois** Best finish of the season for AIM's Star Mazda team

Joliet, Ill. (August 1, 2010) — AIM Autosport's Formula Mazda team celebrated its best result of the season yesterday as driver David Ostella, in the Global Precast car, claimed fourth place in round eight of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. Walt Bowlin, driving a second AIM entry, sponsored by Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery, finished third in the Masters Class. The result serves as a welcome boost for AIM's Formula Mazda squad which has not had much to shout about this season.

This weekend's double-header on Autobahn County Club's difficult 3.56-mile road course began with testing on Thursday and official practice on Friday. Walt managed to get some miles under his belt, trying to make up for sitting out most of the season with a broken collarbone. David, under the tutelage of driving coach, Lee Bentham, worked on adapting his driving style. Chief Engineer, Keith Willis, is collaborating with Lee to help David reach his potential in the current generation of Formula Mazda.

Qualifying for the race took place in the morning in rainy conditions. The rain stopped toward the end of the session, making it critical to post a quick lap in the final minutes. Unable to get a clear lap, David qualified tenth, but had the pace for a much better starting spot. Walt, in just his third race of the season, was tentative in the rain and qualified third in his class, 22nd overall.

The 45-minute race, which totalled 17 laps, took place in dry conditions. David got away well, climbing two places on the opening lap and reaching fifth by lap three. In the Masters Class, Walt held his starting position and kept pace with his classmates.

David suffered two setbacks during the race, both occurring when he lost places during restarts. However, the work on David's driving seems to be paying off as both times he rebounded and found his way back to fifth. When the checkered flag came out, David was fifth and later promoted to fourth when a competitor ahead was penalized. Walt had a good run, maintaining his position in the Masters Class, but moving up and down the overall order as he battled with Championship and Expert Class drivers. After a late race spin, he finished third in his class.

David's result has elevated him to tenth in the Driver Standings while AIM remains fifth in the Team Standings.

Today's schedule begins with qualifying at 8:25am (CT) followed by a 45-minute race starting at 2:00pm (CT). HDNET will provide live television coverage.





### **Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear**

The 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear features an 11-weekend, 13-race schedule, most on major race weekends with American Le Mans and the Indy Racing League. Rising stars from around the world compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million and benefit from two driver development programs, including the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder and the Indy Racing League's 'Road to Indy' program. Series alumni include Indy Car stars Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal and Raphael Matos; rising NASCAR drivers Michael McDowell, Scott Speed and Colin Braun; and prototype racers Dane Cameron and Guy Cosmo. For more information about the Star Mazda Championship visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com).

### **AIM Autosport**

Established in 1995, AIM Autosport's mandate is to identify, train and manage emerging motorsport talent. AIM has provided many young drivers with a solid foundation on which to build a career in professional racing. The success of the AIM driver development programs has been achieved through the dedication of our employees and the ongoing support of our commercial and technical partners. Away from the track, AIM Autosport serves the needs of the racing community with a purpose-built preparation shop situated in the Toronto suburb of Woodbridge, Ontario. AIM fields the No. 61 Ford Riley with drivers Mark Wilkins and Burt Frisselle in the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series. The team also competes in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear and the Cooper Tires presents the USF2000 Series powered by Mazda. Both series are an integral part of the new Road to Indy driver development series. AIM won the 2008 Star Mazda Championship with driver John Edwards. For more information about AIM Autosport, visit [www.aimautosport.com](http://www.aimautosport.com).

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