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Andersen Racing's Krohn Finishes Fourth In Sunday's Star Mazda Race At Trois-Rivières

TROIS-RIVIERES, Quebec, Canada, Aug. 15 — Andersen Racing's Anders Krohn started second in Round 10 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear Sunday afternoon at the Grand Prix of Trois-Rivières, led about a quarter of the race, and then finished fourth in the 39-lap event on the 1.53-mile street circuit.

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Krohn qualified just 0.081 of a second off the pole-winning time and all four Andersen Racing drivers were in the top 10 in the morning warm-up session.

Krohn, a native of Stavanger, Norway who also resides in Houston, vaulted to the front in Turn 1 on the first lap of the race with his No. 47, which is sponsored by Trallfa Industries, Colosseum Dental and Norse Cutting & Abandonment. He led up until a restart following a full-course caution with 10 laps down. At that point the eventual winner, Alex Ardoin; Jorge Goncalvez and Conor Daly got around him. Many of the Star Mazda drivers were struggling with loose race cars, and Krohn fell back when he had to brake drastically to avoid a collision with a rival.

Mikael Grenier, who was third-fastest in the warm-up, finished tenth in the race with his No. 17, which is sponsored by Slow Cow relaxation drink, April Super Flow, NAPA Auto Parts, HS Telecom and Desharnais. The teen from Stoneham, Quebec started seventh but was involved in an early altercation that forced him to pit under green for a new front wing and nose. The Andersen Racing crew got him back out on the track without losing a lap, which was remarkable since the lap times here are about 62 seconds. Grenier, who is the official spokesperson for this event in a two-year deal that was announced on Tuesday, battled back up through the field for his eighth top-10 finish of the season, including a victory in the race at Autobahn Chicago on July 31.

Tristan Vautier, who posted the fourth-fastest time in the warm-up, started sixth. He ran in fifth place for a good portion of the race until he lost about seven positions during an incident in Turn 6. The rookie from Corenc, France, a two-time Star Mazda winner this year, held on to place 11th with his No. 38, which is sponsored by Moulin T.P., Cecibon, Circuit du Laquis, Fontanel Promotion and Allied Building Products Corp.

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Nick Andries, who qualified ninth and was tenth in the warm-up Sunday morning, ended up 18th in the race. The Pinellas Park, Fla.-based driver brought out the full-course yellow with 10 laps down when he backed into a wall off Turn 10 with his No. 81, which advertises the book "Indy 500: An American Icon;" Team Pelfrey and Andersen Racing's primary sponsor, Allied Building Products Corp.

Andries' car was too damaged after the crash to continue, but the other three Andersen Racing drivers continued to set competitive laps times. Krohn and Vautier set their fastest laps of the race on lap 21, while Grenier's fastest lap was recorded on lap 27.

The next Star Mazda race is coming right up next Saturday, Aug. 21, at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wis. Then it's back to Canada for a race at Mosport International Raceway in Bowmanville, Ontario on Aug. 28 before the season finale Oct. 1 at Road Atlanta in Braselton, Ga.

Unofficially Daly now leads the point standings with 412 points to Krohn's 354. Caio Lara is third with 321 but Grenier is only five points away with 316. The margin is even closer between fifth and sixth, as Joao Horta now holds fifth with 311 points to Vautier's 309. Andries, who is not running the full schedule, is 15th.

Andersen Racing continues to lead the team point standings.

Andersen Racing is one of the leading development teams in North America. It offers karting programs at Andersen RacePark in Palmetto, Fla. and it has professional kart teams in addition to its Star Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights teams. A sister company, Andersen Promotions, administers the USF2000 National Championship presented by Cooper Tires and powered by Mazda, which will also be in action next weekend at Road America.

For more information see andersenracing.com, andersenkarting.com, andersenracepark.com, starmazda.com and usf2000.com.

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Post-race quotes follow:

Anders Krohn: "I took the lead in Turn 1 on the first lap and held the lead for about 10 laps or so and then we had a full-course caution. As the laps went on the car went super-loose and it was a struggle to just hang on, and the other guys were able to pass me.

"Ardoin passed me in Turn 6 and then Conor got alongside and just about put me into the wall; we almost had a massive crash there. I had to back out of it to not crash into Conor, and then Goncalvez got by too. So in a matter of seconds I went from first to fourth.

"For whatever reason the team struggled here. It really hurts because the team really worked hard. We try all we can every week and for whatever reason we can't seal a win.

"We will get a chance to rebound at Road America, and hopefully the team can stick it to them and we can finish 1-2-3 there. Big thanks to Andersen Racing for all the hard work; we struggled but we rebounded in qualifying; we just missed on the pole by less than a tenth. That's one of the reasons I really wanted to reward them with a win here."

Tristan Vautier: "It was a very tough race. We struggled a bit with oversteer all weekend but we thought we solved the problem this morning in warm-up, when we were P4.

"I had a new tire on the left for the race; I really needed it and there was not much we could do about it. In the race we were up to about P5 but then we got massive oversteer and we couldn't brake. Even on a straight line the car was moving left.

"Then I lost it in Turn 6; the car just went sideways. I came back on track in P11 or P12 and I finished the race, but it was frustrating.

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"The team worked hard to solve the problem; we thought we had solved it, so it's frustrating for all of us. We're a strong team and I have to thank the team; they really worked hard, but sometimes we have problems like this when we don't have much track time. The team worked hard, but it just wasn't our weekend. It's frustrating for all of us.

"I did one test at Road America; we'll hope for better luck there."

Nick Andries: "We struggled with a lot of oversteer and loose conditions, and about 10 laps into the race I got up on the curbing and backed it into the wall in the last turn, Turn 10. We were in a pack of cars; there were two in front and two behind me, but there wasn't any contact; I was just struggling to hang on to the car.

"I've never been here before. We started off the weekend kind of slow but we made big improvements. We didn't really make a mistake all week until the race, but I guess that's the way it goes sometimes.

"I'm really looking forward to Road America because we tested there and I've been there before. I'll be driving in both Star Mazda and Skip Barber there, so I'm really looking forward to it."

The weekend's stats follow:

Practice 1 (Friday, 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.):

1. Jorge Goncalvez, 1:01.846, 88.519 mph, lap 13
3. Mikael Grenier, 1:02.506, 87.584 mph, lap 15
4. Tristan Vautier, 1:02.533, 87.546 mph, lap 19
6. Anders Krohn, 1:02.778, 87.204 mph, lap 14
15. Nick Andries, 1:04.210, 85.260 mph, lap 21

Practice 2 (Saturday, 8:35 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.):

1. Conor Daly, 1:01.303, 89.303 mph, lap 21
5. Mikael Grenier, 1:01.592, 88.884 mph, lap 15
6. Tristan Vautier, 1:01.738, 88.673 mph, lap 14
7. Anders Krohn, 1:01.932, 88.396 mph, lap 12
14. Nick Andries, 1:02.619, 87.426 mph, lap 28

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Qualifications (Saturday, 2:35 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.):

1. Conor Daly, 1:01.617, 88.848 mph, lap 7
2. Anders Krohn, 1:01.698, 88.731 mph, lap 13
6. Tristan Vautier, 1:01.984, 88.322 mph, lap 15
7. Mikael Grenier, 1:02.097, 88.161 mph, lap 6
9. Nick Andries, 1:02.447, 87.667 mph, lap 18

Warm-up (Sunday, 9:15 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.):

1. Conor Daly, 1:01.891, 88.454 mph, lap 6
3. Mikael Grenier, 1:01.968, 88.344 mph, lap 9
4. Tristan Vautier, 1:01.998, 88.302 mph, lap 15
9. Anders Krohn, 1:02.754, 87.238 mph, lap 5
10. Nick Andries, 1:02.925, 87.001 mph, lap 7

Race (Round 10, 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.):

1. Alex Ardoin
4. Anders Krohn
10. Mikael Grenier
11. Tristan Vautier
18. Nick Andries

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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.

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 andersenracing.com, andersenkarting.com, andersenracepark.com and usf2000.com.