



GOOD YEAR



MAZDASPEED MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT

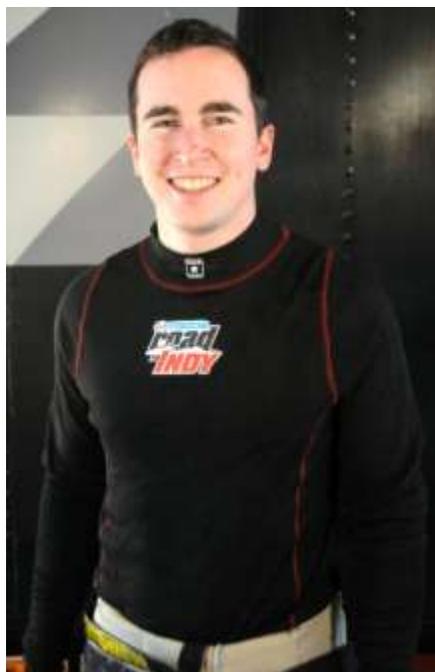


Patrick McKenna Racing

For Immediate Release
31st March 2011

Solid Start for McKenna in Star Mazda

Patrick McKenna professed himself satisfied with an impressive fourth place finish on his debut in the Star Mazda Series at St Petersburg, Florida on Saturday (March 26th).



McKenna started fourth in his Team GDT-Motorsport Ireland entry and enjoyed a busy afternoon on his way to finishing first of the Star Mazda debutants at the end of 29 laps of the demanding street track.

McKenna made a good getaway from the standing start and avoided the inevitable first corner incidents as he maintained his qualifying position in the early stages.

A number of full course yellow caution periods punctuated the action but McKenna, who finished runner up in last year's USF2000 series, showed impressive maturity as he settled into a rhythm behind the leading trio.

After slipping behind last year's USF2000 title rival Sage Karam, McKenna battled his way back into fourth as his fellow rookie retired triggering another full course yellow.

In bringing his car home fourth, McKenna fulfilled his pre-race goals and justified the faith placed in him by GDT Motorsport.

"That was a tough weekend and it's great to be able to reward the team with a strong result right from the start," says the reigning Motorsport Ireland Dunlop Racing Driver of the Year. "

"The build up to the weekend was pretty hectic as we tried to pack as much as we could into a short private test and the official test at Barber the week before.

"We had a bit of an off there which set us back a bit and I'd like to pay tribute to the team for the effort they made to get the car prepped and find the right set up for the weekend.

"We weren't quite on the pace in the Friday practice sessions but we worked hard at it and our pace was pretty good in qualifying and strong on race day.

"We set the car up to come on strong late in the race and the multiple yellow flag periods didn't do us any favours there. We'll look to find a bit of time on the green flag laps as getting the car working the tyres properly right from the get go is absolutely critical.

“All in all it’s a solid start and it sets us up nicely for Barber on Sunday week.”

McKenna’s next outing is the second round of the series at Barber Motorsports Park, Alabama on Sunday April 7th.



**Star Mazda Series Round One
St Petersburg, Florida, 27th March**

- 1 Connor De Phillippi, 29 1:11.967;
- 2 Martin Scuncio +2.261;
- 3 Tristan Vautier +3.032;
- 4 Patrick McKenna +6.441;**
- 5 Chris Miller +10.366;
- 6 Carlos Linares +13.347;
- 7 Nick Mancuso + 15.709;
- 8 Gustavo Menezes +17.368.

2011 Star Mazda Championship Presented By Goodyear Points Standings

- 1, Connor de Phillippi 45 points;
- 2, Martin Scuncio 41;
- 3, Tristan Vautier 37;
- 4, Patrick McKenna 34;**
- 5, Chris Mille 32;
- 6, Carlos Linares 30;
- 7, Nick Mancuso 29;
- 8, Gustavo Menezes 28.

2011 Star Mazda Championship Presented By Goodyear Schedule

- Rd 1 St Petersburg, Florida 26th March
- Rd 2 Barber Motorsports Park, Alabama 7th April
- Rd 3 Lucas Oil Raceway, Indianapolis 28th May
- Rd 4 Miwaukee Mile, Wisconsin 18th June
- Rd 5 Iowa Speedway, Iowa 25th June
- Rd 6 Mosport, Canada 23rd July
- Rd 7 Trois Rivieres, Canada 6th August
- Rd 8 Trois Rivieres, Canada 7th August
- Rd 9 Infineon Raceway, California 28th August
- Rd 10 Baltimore, Maryland 4th September
- Rd 11 Mazda Raceway, California 18th September

Patrick McKenna

Indianapolis-based **McKenna** drove a Cape Motorsports with Wayne Taylor Racing car to second in the 2010 USF2000 championship, scoring two wins (O'Reilly Raceway Park, where he won from the pole, and New Jersey Motorsports Park) and six podium finishes. He won the 2008 All-Ireland/Northern Irish Formula Ford Championship and the prestigious Martin Donnelly Trophy.

Star Mazda

The **Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear** is the second level of the **Mazda Road to Indy**, the most comprehensive driver development program in US racing with the most valuable, career-enhancing prizes ever offered to young drivers:

- The 2011 champion in the **Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda** wins a scholarship to move up to 2012 The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear.
- The 2011 champion in the **Star Mazda Championship** wins a scholarship to move up to the 2012 Firestone Indy Lights series.
- The 2011 **Firestone Indy Lights** champion wins a scholarship to move up to the 2012 **IZOD IndyCar series** – including the **Indy 500**.

For more information about **Patrick** see <http://patrickmckennaracing.com/>

For further information about Team GDT visit the team's [Facebook](#) page or www.gdt.com

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