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Contact: Mandy Skinner  
Phone: 847-708-7713  
Email: press@juncosracing.com

## Horto and Menezes Earn First Podium Finishes of 2011 in Pizza Ranch 100, Calderon Collects Fifth Place Finish, Scuncio Encounters Engine Failure



Newton, Iowa. (June 25, 2011) – J.V. Horto and Gustavo Menezes earned their first podium finishes of 2011 in tonight's Pizza Ranch 100 at Iowa Speedway. For Horto, his second place finish bettered his third place finish at the event last year, and for Menezes, his third place finish marked his first career podium. For the pair, the results were their best ones yet this season and one step closer towards achieving their maiden wins in the Star Mazda Championship

presented by Goodyear.

A slight rain delay forced nearly back to back warm-up, qualifying and race sessions for the series this afternoon. Horto, who qualified fourth, wasted no time challenging for positions in the race. He was up to third position by the end of the first lap and began to follow teammate Martin Scuncio (who was then in second) on a quest for the win. Unfortunately for Scuncio, an engine failure halfway through the race ended his day, allowing Horto to instead take home the second place finish as well as his first podium of 2011.

**J.V. Horto on the race:** "The weekend ended up being great for us. We improved a lot from the practice sessions in qualifying, ending up fourth. It was a good spot to be in for the fighting for the lead in the race. We weren't quite fast enough to catch Sage (Karam), but second place is a great result to get back into the championship points.

I'm happy to get my first podium with Juncos Racing today. I'm sure we are going to keep the momentum going from here on out. I want to thank the team for all of their efforts. I'm still looking forward to getting my first win this year!"

Sixteen-year-old Gustavo Menezes had an impressive weekend; he was consistently in the top five positions in both official practices, qualified sixth and secured his first career podium finish this afternoon after only five races worth of experience. Menezes drove an aggressive race for a rookie, challenging top competitors for positions throughout the 100-lap event. By lap nine, Menezes was able to overtake the No. 11 car of Connor De Phillippi, and with only ten laps to go, he passed the No. 5 car of points-leader Tristan Vautier for third position.

**Gustavo Menezes on the race:** "Today was an awesome day. I'm really happy with a podium finish. I think it was a big step for the championship, and it definitely makes me more comfortable to push myself even further this year and go for my first win. The car was great. It never faded off from lap one until the end. I got into some interesting battles, one of which was with the championship leader, Tristan Vautier. I finally got around him at the end of the race which was awesome. Tonight was very exciting, and I think it's a good sign for the rest of the year. Thanks to Juncos Racing and TRUEcar for making this happen. I can't wait to get back on the track!"

Tatiana Calderon also drove a commendable race this afternoon and as a result, gained her second best career finish of fifth position. She started the race in seventh position and held on to that place for a good portion of the race. It wasn't until the end that Calderon stepped up her game and began to chase down competitors and improve her position. The end was what mattered, though, and she ultimately brought home a fifth place finish for herself and the Juncos Racing team.

**Tatiana Calderon on the race:** "I'm extremely happy with my result today. I think I made a big improvement in qualifying because I finally went flat out and qualified seventh. The car was really good, so I gained a lot of confidence during the race, especially at the end; I think I was running almost faster lap times than I was at the beginning! By the time the race ended, I just wanted to be able to do more laps. I want to thank the team for all their hard work this weekend especially. They were up all night putting my car back together after I hit the wall on Thursday, so I can't thank them enough for getting it back to perfect for the race. I'm so happy with the way the day went, and now I am looking forward to Mosport!"

Martin Scuncio, without a doubt, had seemed to set himself up for a sure podium finish this weekend. He topped the time sheets in Thursday's open practice, ended Friday's practice third fastest and qualified second for the race. Scuncio spent the first six laps

of the race side by side with pole-sitter Sage Karam in an exciting and nerve-wracking battle fighting for the lead. He came out of the battle in second where it looked like he would finish the race, but as mentioned before, his engine let go 44 laps in, ending his race and giving him a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish.

**Martin Scuncio on the race:** “What can I say? We had an amazing weekend overall. At the start of the race we had some really good laps. I was fighting Sage (Karam) for first for the first six laps which was a lot of fun! He came out ahead, but we were still running in second which was still really good. At the end of my run, the times were still the same as they were at the beginning. Unfortunately something happened on lap 44, and the engine went off. It’s not the team’s fault or my fault, it just happened, and there was nothing we could do. Thanks to the team for all their hard work. They work so hard, and when things like this happen, it makes me sad, but we’re going to keep fighting for the championship. Thanks to my family, friends and sponsors for their support and for making this possible.”

Though the Juncos Racing team didn’t bring home a win today, they still accomplished an exceptional result as a team with three cars landing in the top-five positions. The four drivers currently lie in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth in the championship, and the team is now in the team championship lead.

**Team Owner Ricardo Juncos on the weekend:** “This weekend was the most challenging weekend we’ve ever had. We had a big accident on the first day with Tatiana (Calderon) which has never happened before. It really took a whole team effort to put her car back together, and it was a straight 42 hours of work. There are really no words to describe the effort everyone made, and I can’t thank them all enough.

“The way the race ended up was fantastic for the whole team. I feel sorry for Martin (Scuncio). He was fighting for the lead, and he had the exact same racecar as his teammates, but unfortunately we had an engine failure. We understand these things happen in racing, though. I’m most excited to know that all four cars could have been in the top five today. Having four cars that can run at the front every race really shows the amount of effort put in by the crew, drivers and whole team.

“We had two drivers in the top three positions and three drivers in the top five positions today, so that was unbelievable. We are back in the championship points and leading the team championship. I’m so grateful for everybody who made this happen. Now we have about a month before the next race, so we will be back home planning how to come back even stronger, like always.”

Up next on the 2011 racing calendar is Mosport International Raceway July 21-23. The team would like to extend its continued thanks to OMP Racing for its support in providing top of the line racing gear for the team's drivers. For more information, please go to [www.juncosracing.com](http://www.juncosracing.com).

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**João Victor Horto, #7 Juncos Racing / Programa Leiloes**

Session	Started	Finished	Best Lap Time	Best Speed
Race	4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	22.277	144.472

**Tatiana Calderon, #10 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors**

Session	Started	Finished	Best Lap Time	Best Speed
Race	7 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	22.496	143.065

**Gustavo Menezes, #28 JR/TRUECar/SafetyPark/Oakley/Performance Physixx/Fitness Concepts/Racing Optics**

Session	Started	Finished	Best Lap Time	Best Speed
Race	6 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	22.312	144.245

**Martin Scuncio, #60 Juncos Racing / Fuerza Chile**

Session	Started	Finished	Best Lap Time	Best Speed
Race	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	22.270	144.517

**About Juncos Racing:** Juncos Racing is centrally located in Vero Beach, Florida, U.S.A. to offer diverse levels of racing year round. Juncos Racing operates out of a state of the art facility which houses vehicles suitable for all levels of racing, from go-karts to open wheel Formula race cars. It is one of the few teams in the United States which offers a development program starting from racing go-karts to racing professional open wheel race cars. The team's goal is to provide young and older drivers alike with a foundation upon which they can build a career in motorsports. Juncos Racing offers two and three-day racing schools which cover theoretical and hands-on driving techniques. With your dedication and the team's expertise and advanced training techniques, Juncos Racing is confident that you will achieve and master the fundamentals of racing. For more information, please visit [www.juncosracing.com](http://www.juncosracing.com).

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