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JDC MOTORSPORTS' VAUTIER PERFECT AT INFINEON RACEWAY

Championship leader topped every Star Mazda session en route to lights-to-flag win in Round Nine

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. (August 30, 2011) – For JDC MotorSports and its French racer Tristan Vautier, perfection was the name of the game this past weekend (August 26-27) at Infineon Raceway. The championship leader topped the charts in every session in northern California, ultimately leaving Round Nine of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear with the pole position, fastest race lap, and win. With rookie Joao Jardim (eighth) and Nick Mancuso (10th) adding to the team points haul, and guest racer Mikhail Goikhberg (11th) charging from deep in the field, the stage is set for the Minnesota-based squad to continue its late season push for a third series title when the action resumes on September 3-4 on the streets of Baltimore.

While a trip to California is a regular late season feature on the Star Mazda calendar, JDC MotorSports and the rest of the field got their first chance to compete at Infineon Raceway in over five years, when the Mazda Road to Indy series joined the IndyCar Series in northern California. That being said, the JDC racers entered the first of three races over four weekends well acquainted to the undulating track, thanks to an official series test one week prior to the event. Given Vautier had ended the one-day test run P2 on the speedcharts, it came as no surprise that he was immediately up to speed upon hitting the track for official practice on Friday. Setting the tone for what would ultimately be a perfect weekend behind the wheel, Vautier not only lead the way in the opening session, but was P1 in the second session, a half second faster than pre-event testing. While Jardim, Mancuso and Goikhberg were unable to match the pace of their championship leading teammate, the trio did make progress during the two practice runs, working on finding the right balance for the tricky IndyCar track configuration.

When the talented Star Mazda racers returned to Infineon one day later for morning qualifying, all the attention was rightfully on Vautier, given his day one performance. The two-time 2011 race winner promptly ensured all eyes remained focused on No. 5 Cecibon/Circuit du Laquais/Fontanel/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports Mazda, capturing the pole position via a new lap record. Things however did not go quite as smoothly for his teammates, as all three drivers could not quite get the speed desired from their racing steeds in the timed run. Jardim and Mancuso ultimately locked-out row five on the grid with the ninth and tenth best times, while Goikhberg posted the 15th quickest lap in the No. 55 Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports Mazda.

Following a brief break to debrief, rest, and make any further setup changes, it was time to go racing under the California sun. Well aware that getting a good launch from the traditional Formula One style standing start would likely be a key component to a successful race, Vautier

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did just that, holding the top spot through the opening sequence of turns. With their teammate leading the way out front, Jardim and Mancuso spent the early portions of the 30-lap affair engaged in an entertaining multi-car battle for places inside the top-10. It was however Goikhberg who was making the best progress forward, rapidly advancing from his starting position deep in the field. The story of Round Nine though was Vautier. The Frenchman, in what was a superb display of high-speed driving, never relinquished the lead, posting the fastest race lap en route to a lights-to-flag victory.

“What a weekend!” stated Vautier. “I’m so happy for everyone in the team. It was a tough one. We set the pace in practice one, and after that the tough part was to keep improving with the competition getting closer and closer. Qualifying was incredibly tight and very exciting. JDC made the right call to get me in pitlane for a tire change quite close to the end. The race was very interesting, because I had to deal with the tire wear after having pushed hard to pull away and set the fastest lap to get an extra point. In the end, we managed to hang on. Thanks everyone! We will now keep pushing for the next one!”

Jardim, having being involved in a race long fight for position in the No. 39 Shopping M/Red Line Oil JDC MotorSports Mazda, was the next JDC car to the stripe in seventh, earning a second consecutive top-10 finish. Mancuso’s return to series competition after a three race hiatus witnessed the No. 27 Jimmy John’s Sandwiches/Indeck/Lake Forest Sportscars/F.A.S.T Race Products/ Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports Mazda taking the checkered flag were it had started, in 10th. In what was a splendid charge forward, Goikhberg followed his teammate across the start/finish line in 11th.

“It was great to be back in the JDC car,” commented Mancuso. “We got a little lost with our setup initially, but had the car dialed in by race time. I wanted to finish further up the order, but another top-10 result in my sixth-ever formula car race isn’t too shabby. Congratulations to Tristan on a great drive. I hope to be back for the race at Mazda Raceway!”

“Overall I am not happy with my pace,” said Goikhberg. “I know I can be much higher up the grid. JDC knows how to engineer cars as shown by Tristan’s win. However, a lot of positives come out this experience, and I’ll do all I can to test the car over winter, which will hopefully lead to a full time ride in 2012.”

JDC MotorSports now travels across the nation to contest Round 10 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear this weekend (September 3-4) on the streets of Baltimore. Vautier, thanks his third win of 2011 and a perfect run at Infineon, enters the inaugural Baltimore Grand Prix with a 19 point advantage (347-328) in the championship fight. With only two races remaining on the 2011 calendar, JDC MotorSports remains third in the Team standings.

Fans and supporters of JDC MotorSports can keep abreast of the action in Baltimore via – <http://livetiming.net/StarMazda/html.asp> – Live Timing.

JDC MotorSports races with associate sponsorship from www.RedLineOil.com

Additional information on JDC MotorSports can be obtained from the team’s website @ www.jdcmotorsports.com For direct contact, please contact John Church @ 952-233-3075

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About JDC MotorSports:

Involved in formula car racing since its inception in 1994, JDC MotorSports has established itself as one of the leading junior open-wheel teams in North America. Initially making its mark in the F2000 class of club racing competition, JDC MotorSports was soon a team worth watching in the pro ranks. Competing in the Formula Ford 2000 Zetec Championship, the team not only won races, but also helped develop multiple young drivers. In 2005, JDC MotorSports expanded its efforts, entering the Star Mazda Championship. Quickly becoming one of the top teams in the series, JDC captured both the driver and team titles in 2007, as well as Rookie of the Year honors, with Dane Cameron scoring a series-high three wins. In 2008, JDC MotorSports was the runner-up in the Star Mazda Championship and finished fourth in its inaugural season of F2000 Championship Series competition. The Minnesota-based team won the Star Mazda Championship title with Rookie of the Year Adam Christodoulou, and the F2000 Championship Series title with Chris Miller in 2009. This past year, JDC continued its winning ways, earning the Rookie of the Year award in the Star Mazda Championship with Connor De Phillippi, and scoring a non-points win in the USF2000 National Championship. The Minneapolis-based squad will compete in the Star Mazda Championship, USF2000 National Championship and Prototype Lites Championship in 2011 via multi-car operations.

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