

The logo for Gabby Chaves, featuring the name "Gabby Chaves" in a stylized, italicized font. "Gabby" is in red and "Chaves" is in white, both on a black background.

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Additional Photos available upon request

CHAVES SCORES IMPRESSIVE PODIUM FINISH IN STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP DEBUT

Junior formula car star finished third and fourth in return to North American action on streets of St. Petersburg

MIAMI, FLA. (March 27, 2011) – Junior formula car star Gabby Chaves enjoyed a superb return to North American race competition this past weekend (March 24-25), with an impressive debut in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. The newly-signed JDC MotorSports rookie was among the drivers to watch during the season-opening doubleheader on the streets of St. Petersburg, Fla., ultimately capturing a third place podium finish in race one and a fourth place result in race two. Chaves is now poised to challenge for top honors when the Mazda Road to Indy series travels to Barber Motorsports Park this weekend (March 31-April 1) for Rounds Three and Four.

Mere days after signing with multiple series champion JDC MotorSports and first sampling the Star Mazda Championship car via two days of official testing, Chaves made his series debut during the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. Given the highly rated 18 year-old was making the transition back to racing on home soil after two seasons of European competition, and he had never previously visited the 1.8-mile street circuit, the primary goal of the doubleheader was to become acclimated to his new Star Championship surroundings. Chaves, however, wasted little time making his presence felt, turning the third quickest time in the opening practice session.

While a lengthy red flag stoppage in the second and final practice run prevented Chaves from gaining valuable additional seat time, he continued his fine run of form in his inaugural Star Mazda qualifying session. Showcasing the skill that led him to the 2009 Formula BMW Americas title and the 2010 Italian Formula 3 Championship Rookie of the Year award, he posted the fifth fastest time, earning a place on row three for the traditional F1-style standing start.

Sliding into the cockpit of the No. 19 OMP/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry one day later, Chaves was focused on running a clean race and making the most of any passing opportunity. The FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy racer, despite dueling drivers with a great deal more Star Mazda experience, did just that. Getting a good launch when the lights went green, he immediately took over fourth place. Remaining within striking distance of the lead trio, Chaves subsequently capitalized on some light contact between the cars ahead to advance into third place. Running mistake-free for the remainder of the race, the teenage up-and-comer captured an impressive third place finish, earning a trip to the post-race podium in his first Star Mazda race.

Chaves, having posted the fourth fastest lap in race one, lined-up in fourth on row two for second race of the IZOD IndyCar Series event doubleheader. While Round Two proved to be an entertaining affair to watch, with lots of close competition, the 20-lap affair was rather uneventful

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for Chaves. After losing one position at the start, he regained the place by the midway point, ultimately taking the checkered flag in the same position he had started the race, fourth.

"I'm very pleased with the results in St. Petersburg," said Chaves. "Unlike most of the field, I came into the season-opener with very little time in the car. The JDC crew did a great job giving me a fast car and helping me become comfortable in my new surroundings. Being able to challenge series veterans for top honors in my first event is a fantastic way to start the season. I'm really looking forward to getting better each time out, and I can't wait for the next two races at Barber Motorsports Park."

With his inaugural Star Mazda Championship event now under his belt, Chaves is excited about finding more speed in the races to come. The highly-rated driver will get that opportunity this coming weekend (March 31-April 1), when he travels to Barber Motorsports Park in Alabama for Rounds Three and Four on the Star Mazda Championship presented Goodyear calendar. Chaves enters the IZOD IndyCar Series event doubleheader fourth in the title chase, second among the rookie contingent.

Those interested in supporting Chaves' charge towards a career in the upper echelon of motorsports are encouraged to contact Chaves and/or his management team.

Additional information on Gabby Chaves can be obtained from his website @ www.GabbyChaves.com . For direct contact, please email gabbyracing@yahoo.com

Keep up to date via Twitter @ [GabbyChaves](https://twitter.com/GabbyChaves)

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About Gabby Chaves:

Widely considered one the premier up-and-coming drivers in the junior formula car ranks, Chaves has made a name for himself by winning races and challenging for championship titles. The American first got behind the wheel of a race car at the age of 13, winning a Skip Barber Racing Shoot-out scholarship. In his first full-season of competition, the former Easy Kart, Stars of Karting and Florida Winter Tour champion captured the Colombian Grand Prix Formula Renault 2000 title and finished as the series runner-up in the Skip Barber Eastern Regional Series. Building on this success, Chaves went undefeated in the 2006-07 Skip Barber Regional Southern Series, winning all 10 races. The teenager continued his winning ways one year later, extending his Skip Barber Racing victory streak to 17 consecutive victories, leading the Skip Barber National Series before making the switch to Formula BMW Pacific competition. Chaves returned to the top of the championship charts in 2009, winning the final Formula BMW Americas title with five wins and podium finishes in every race. In 2010, Chaves raced full-time in Europe, winning the Italian Formula 3 Championship Rookie of the Year award. The teenager made his GP3 Series debut in 2011, earning five top-10 finishes. This season, Chaves returns to North America, competing in the Mazda Road to Indy-backed Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear with multiple series champion JDC MotorSports as a Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy racer.