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JDC MOTORSPORTS COMMENCES STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE CHASE WITH DOUBLE PODIUM EFFORT

Chaves and Piedrahita captured top-three finishes in season-opening doubleheader on streets of St. Petersburg

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. (March 27, 2012) – Defense of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear title commenced in fine fashion for JDC MotorSports over the weekend (March 24-25), with the renowned squad taking home two podium finishes during the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg doubleheader. Newly signed rookie Gabby Chaves got the ball rolling in Round One with a third place result. Juan Piedrahita kept the momentum going in Round Two with a runner-up finish. Add in top-10 results by rookies Stefan Rzadzinski and Ashley Freiberg, and JDC MotorSports enters the second event on the series calendar this coming weekend (March 31-April 1) second in the team standings.

After a hectic, but exciting off-season - which featured Chaves, Freiberg, and Rzadzinski joining Piedrahita under the JDC awning - JDC MotorSports' Star Mazda Championship line-up was excited to get the 2012 campaign underway as part of the IZOD IndyCar Series season-opening Grand Prix of St. Petersburg event. While racing within the confines of the concrete-lined Florida street circuit can be a daunting experience, especially for series rookies, the talented JDC racers and crew were confident they could achieve success. That belief immediately appeared well justified, with Chaves going third quickest in the opening practice session in his No. 19 OMP/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry, and both Piedrahita and Freiberg cracking the top-10.

While a lengthy red flag effectively made the second practice run a non-affair with virtually no flying laps completed, everyone in the JDC paddock was upbeat entering the lone qualifying session. As expected, the key to turning a fast time in the session was making the most of any open space to post a 'flyer'. Chaves and Piedrahita did that to good effect, ultimately posting the fifth and sixth fastest laps respectively, securing row three starting positions. Rzadzinski and Freiberg likewise were paired together on the timing charts, turning the 11th and 12th quickest times for places on row six.

Returning to their cockpits one day later, the JDC foursome were keen to showcase their racecraft talents. The traditional F1-style standing start featured mixed results for the JDC contingent. Both Chaves and Freiberg got good launches, with Chaves slotting into fourth, and Freiberg advancing up to 10th in her No. 91 TrueCar.com/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports car. Piedrahita held station in sixth, while Rzadzinski's No. 93 PoweredbyAlberta.com/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry fell to 15th by the completion of lap one. While the opening laps featured plenty of close racing, the order remained relatively unchanged until the later portions of



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the 25-lap affair, when the JDC contingent made their presence felt. Both Chaves and Piedrahita made the most of some light contact between cars in the lead pack to vault into third and fourth place respectively. Freiberg likewise advanced a further position up the order, taking ninth place, while Rzadzinski rebounded from his less than perfect start, with a fine drive up into the top-10. When the checkered flag waved, Chaves had earned a superb podium finish in his series debut, crossing the stripe just ahead of Piedrahita in fourth. Freiberg and Rzadzinski made it four JDC cars in the top-10, taking the flag in ninth and 10th.

With each driver's fast time in race one setting the grid for race two, JDC was poised to once again challenge for places at the front of the field in Round Two, with Piedrahita lining up third, Chaves fourth, Rzadzinski sixth, and Freiberg 15th. As expected, the standing start proved to be a key moment in the race for many of the racers, including two of the JDC entrants. Piedrahita got a good jump in his No. 9 GFK Motors/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry, taking over second place. Going the opposite direction, Rzadzinski fell back to eighth. Both Chaves and Freiberg effectively held station, with the Colombian losing one place to fifth, and the American moving up one place to 14th. In a repeat of the opening affair, the early stages of the 20-lap race featured lots of exciting competition, but little movement on the scoring charts. That unfortunately changed for Freiberg on lap 11, when contact with another car resulted in her race ending prematurely in one of the tire barriers. That proved to be the only moment of drama for JDC MotorSports, as when the checkered flag waved a short time later, Piedrahita had captured a well deserved runner-up finish, leading Chaves (fourth) and Rzadzinski (eighth) to the stripe.

"It was a great weekend for me," said Piedrahita. "We knew we had the speed from the beginning, we just had to make small adjustments. Race one was great, as I could post a fast lap, and I knew race two was my opportunity for top honors. I had a great start passing Suvanto and then tried to close the gap with Jack, but he was very fast on corner exits. Overall, I'm very happy, and I can't wait for the races at Barber! A special thanks goes out to the whole team."

"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."

"It was a great first weekend in the Star Mazda Championship," commented Rzadzinski. "The grid is so competitive. JDC MotorSports helped me make huge strides throughout the weekend, can't thank them enough. It was awesome driving the Powered by Alberta car to two top-10's, and I'm really looking forward to getting back on track at Barber."

"This weekend was my first-ever street race, and I seriously loved it!" added Freiberg. "It was definitely an awesome experience, and I am so excited to go back. My weekend went pretty well. I'm still learning the car, but am happy with where we ended up on Saturday. Being taken out on Sunday in turn 10 was a tough way to end the weekend, but it wasn't in my control. I am looking forward to Barber. It is a tough track for me, since so much of it is trusting downforce, which I am not used to coming from Skip Barber, so I will definitely be going through some pretty big learning curves out there!"

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JDC MotorSports and its talented four Star Mazda racers have no time to enjoy the spoils of a highly-successful season-opening effort, with the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear returning to action this weekend (March 31-April 1) at Barber Motorsports Park. The Minnesota-based outfit enters Rounds Three and Four in Alabama second in the team standings. Piedrahita and Chaves currently lie third and fourth respectively in the championship chase. Live timing and scoring from the doubleheader will be available at www.starmazda.com/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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Learn more about Stefan Rzadzinski at www.rzadracing.com keep up to date via Twitter @ [rzadracing](https://twitter.com/rzadracing) and his Facebook page @ [Stefan-Rzadzinski](https://www.facebook.com/Stefan-Rzadzinski)

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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 won a third Star Mazda Championship with Tristan Vautier in 2011, in addition to being victorious in the USF2000 National Championship and earning multiple podium finishes in its Prototype Lites Championship debut campaign. JDC MotorSports will once again contest full seasons in the Star Mazda Championship, USF2000 National Championship and Prototype Lites Championship in 2012.

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