

NEWS from TEAM

GDT
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Team GDT's Ryan Tveter comes in for a change of Goodyear tires Friday during qualifications for Saturday's Star Mazda season opener. He'll start 14th in his first Star Mazda race. His teammate, Andrés Méndez, who is also making his series debut, qualified 19th.

Team GDT's Rookies Ready to Go; Tveter Qualifies 14th, Méndez 19th

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 23 — Team GDT's rookies placed 14th and 19th during Peak Performance qualifying for the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear Friday afternoon at the St. Petersburg Grand Prix.

The qualifying session determined the starting line-up for Saturday's 40-minute race, which starts at 1 p.m.

Ryan Tveter, 17, of Oyster Bay, N.Y. qualified 14th in the team's No. 33 car advertising the team's primary sponsor, General Datatech, L.P., with a time of 1:12.585 and an average speed of 89.275 miles per hour for the 1.8-mile, 14-turn street course. His best lap came on his 15th lap of 16 completed in the allotted time.

Fellow rookie Andrés Méndez of Bogota, Columbia, 19, qualified

19th in the No. 53 sponsored by Datafile International SA and Grupo Kriterion with a time of 1:12.983 and an average speed of 88.788 mph. His fastest lap came on lap 10 of 16.

Connor De Philippi won the pole with a 1:10.401 (92.044 mph) but Conor Daly's track record of 1:10.352 still stands.

Saturday's race will be Tveter and

For more info: Linda Mansfield, Restart Communications
Cell: (317) 201-0729; E-mail: LKMRestart@gmail.com

Photos may be downloaded off Team GDT's Facebook page.

A video of Tveter's fastest qualifying lap is located at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgT0PbOHAOc&context=C4ca89bdADvjVQa1PpcFNhoZDtOKJ6g5QKuvB-jn0l3RTYS0eO4Oc%3D>





Team GDT's Andrés Méndez heads out of the pits Friday afternoon to qualify for his first Star Mazda race at the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. The series, part of the Mazda Road to Indy, has a doubleheader at St. Petersburg with races starting at 1 p.m. Saturday and 10:05 a.m. Sunday.

Mendez's first series start. It will also be the first standing start for both in a race car, although Méndez has done them in kart races.

Saturday's race is the first half of a doubleheader. Sunday's race is slated to start at 10:05 a.m. Its starting line-up will be set by each driver's fastest race lap Saturday.

Driver quotes follow:

Ryan Tveter: "I think I had a really good qualifying session. P14 is pretty good. Our car is dialed in.

"Some corners of the course were a little slippery but the track was much better than it was yesterday.

"The crown of the road on this circuit is very similar to Trois-Rivieres, but it's smoother. It's fun to drive. It's completely different than the Baltimore street circuit. It's quite a bit faster.

"I've never done a standing start before, but I practiced one this morning during the practice session.

"Tomorrow I want to try to set a fast

lap early and then conserve my tires as much as possible. We'll have stickers on at the start tomorrow. We planned it that way because we hope to be able to do a fast lap early to give us a good starting spot in Sunday's race, since that grid is set by the fastest race laps on Saturday."

Andrés Méndez: "I learned a lot in qualifying. The yellow flag and the red flag broke my momentum though.

"I came in and we put on a new set of tires but my car understeered after that. I'm not sure why it did that, but I still think we can have a good race tomorrow."

For more information, including live timing and scoring, see the series' Web site at starmazda.com. Other news is posted on indycar.com and gpstpete.com. Fans can learn more about Team GDT on its Facebook page or through Twitter @TeamGDT.

About Team GDT:

Team GDT is a multi-car professional race team headquartered in Dallas that

is owned by businessman and racing driver J.W. Roberts. The team focuses on the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, the second step in the IZOD IndyCar Series' Mazda Road to Indy.

In 2011 Team GDT won its second Star Mazda Expert Series championship in a row with Roberts behind the wheel. The Expert Series is a race-within-a-race and a championship-within-a-championship for drivers 30 and older. Roberts won the Expert title driving his Team GDT/General Datatech Mazda No. 65 with a total of five class victories. Team GDT is also well known for nurturing rising stars, including Motorsport Ireland "Young Racing Driver of the Year" Patrick McKenna and multi-Star Mazda race winners Alex Ardoin and Richard Kent. Fans can learn more about Team GDT on its Facebook page or through Twitter @TeamGDT.

About General Datatech, L.P.:

Founded in 1996, General Datatech (GDT) is an award-winning Cisco Gold Value-Added Reseller providing services for network infrastructure such as core routing and switching, unified communications, security, wireless, data-center and storage solutions to clients nationwide. More information is available at GDT.com.