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STRONG POINT SCORING AFFAIR FOR JDC MOTORSPORTS IN STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLEHEADER AT BARBER

Chaves scored a podium finish and Piedrahita and Rzadzinski added top-10s at Alabama road course

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. (April 3, 2012) – JDC MotorSports' strong start to the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season continued over the weekend (March 31-April 1) with two impressive outings by the four-car line-up at Barber Motorsports Park. Rookie sensation Gabby Chaves led the charge for the Minnesota-based squad with a podium result in Round Three, while Juan Piedrahita made sure it wasn't a one-man affair with a top-five finish in Round Four. Add in a pair of top-10s for Stefan Rzadzinski and an 11th place result by fellow rookie Ashley Freiberg, and JDC enters the oval portion of the season third in the team championship fight.

Only a week after starting the 2012 title chase with a double podium effort on the streets of St. Petersburg, the talented JDC MotorSports line-up was back on-course in the state of Alabama ready to further establish its position as title contenders.

Seeking to build on both the momentum of the season-opener and the data gathered during Spring Training testing at the undulating road course, Thursday's two practice runs were used by the JDC drivers and crew to work on setup and tire conservation. Chaves proved to be the quickest JDC entry at the conclusion of the two sessions, posting the fourth best combined time. Piedrahita's No. 9 GFK Motors/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry was next on the time sheets in seventh, while Rzadzinski ended the day in 10th, just ahead of Freiberg in 12th.

Mother nature added a new element to the proceedings on Friday, as earlier heavy rain and lightning resulted in a tricky wet qualifying run. Chaves, using his two years of European racing experience to full-effect, was poised to earn his inaugural Star Mazda pole, but was caught out by a slower car on his final flying lap, relegating the No. 19 OMP/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry to fifth place on the timing monitors. Piedrahita made it two JDC cars in the top-10 when the checkered flag waved with the ninth best time, while Rzadzinski and Freiberg turned the 12th and 14th quickest laps respectively.

With persistent poor weather ultimately forcing the early cancelation of race activities on Friday, the JDC contingent and the rest of the Star Mazda field did not get the chance to showcase their racecraft until Sunday morning, when Round Three commenced under clear and sunny skies. As many expected, given the lack of true passing zones at Barber, the F1-style standing start was a key moment for the majority of the field. Chaves executed a near perfect launch, slotting into third place by the exit of turn one. From that point forward, he repeatedly looked for a way into second









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place, while at the same time holding off challenges from fourth place. Not far behind, Piedrahita initially held his 10th place starting position, before advancing up to eighth place by the midway point of the 22-lap affair. A little deeper in the field, Freiberg also enjoy a good getaway in the No. 91 TrueCar.com/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports car, passing several cars including her teammate Rzadzinski. The Canadian, however, recovered in his No. 93 PoweredbyAlberta.com/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports regaining lost positions as the JDC duo worked their way forward as the race progressed. At the conclusion of the fully green race, Chaves had secured a third JDC podium finish in as many races with a third place result. Piedrahita crossed the stripe in eight, while Rzadzinski made it three JDC cars in the top-10, just edging Freiberg to the flag.

As is the case for each road course and street circuit race in 2012, the line-up for race two of the doubleheader was determined by each racer's fast time in race one, placing Chaves sixth, Rzadzinski ninth, Piedrahita 10th, and Freiberg 14th on the grid for Round Four immediately following the IZOD IndyCar Series race.

Unlike the opening affair, the 21-lap tussle for top honors in race two proved to a less than straight forward affair for the JDC MotorSports contingent. Chaves again enjoyed a superb launch when the lights went green, rapidly advancing up to fourth place. Unfortunately, this proved to be the high point of his race, as an electrical issue began robbing his car of power, sending him back down the order. One of those making a way past the race one podium finisher was his teammate Piedrahita, Making the most of a good start and every opportunity to go forward, the Colombian steadily climbed his way into the top-five. While not quite as prolific in their march forward, Rzadzinski and Freiberg likewise showed good racecraft, with Rzadzinski again cracking the top-10, and Freiberg just a few places further back. When the action came to a close, Piedrahita was the top JDC car in fifth, one place ahead of Chaves in sixth. Rzadzinski crossed the start/finish in ninth, while Freiberg came home in 12th.

"It was great to score another podium finish in race one," stated Chaves. "That being said, I'm actually somewhat disappointed in the final results from the weekend. I believe I had a car to challenge for the win in both races if not for some bad luck in qualifying and race two. JDC MotorSports has been great, and we will continue to work on finding even more speed. I'm now looking forward to making my oval debut at Lucas Oil Raceway in May."

"I'm happy with the final results of the weekend," commented Piedrahita. "We struggle with qualifying in the rain, and we had to battle in race one with race traffic, but we knew we had more speed for race two. Things worked pretty good for me in the second race, and I'm happy with my top-five finish. We have to keep working hard to return to the podium."

"Overall, I'm very happy with the progress we made this weekend," said Rzadzinski. "Conditions in the wet were tricky in qualifying, and I would have personally liked to be a bit better than 12th. However, all things considered, the races were dry and they went very well! We managed another two top-10 positions in my second weekend in the Star Mazda Championship. It is fantastic to compete against such top level talent from around the world, and I hope to be back representing Alberta soon!"

"I definitely learned a lot this weekend and have made some good improvements driving-wise," added Freiberg. "Of course. I would have loved to finish inside the top-10, but I also know that I just need to keep gaining more experience and keep working hard to find time. This field is extremely competitive, and it only pushes me even harder to be the best I can be."









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Next up for JDC MotorSports' Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear title defense is oval competition during the prestigious 'Night Before the 500' event at Lucas Oil Raceway. Prior to Round Five in Indianapolis on May 26, the talented driver line-up will take part in official series testing at the short banked oval on May 5. JDC MotorSports enters the first of back-to-back circle track races sitting third in the team standings, while Chaves and Piedrahita are currently fourth and fifth in the championship chase.

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

Learn more about Gabby Chaves at www.gabbychaves.com and keep up to date via Twitter @ GabbyChaves

Learn more about Ashley Freiberg at www.ashleyfreibergracing.com keep up to date via Twitter @ AshleyFreiberg and her Facebook page @ AshleyRacing

Learn more about Juan Piedrahita at <u>juanchopiedrahitac.com</u> keep up to date via Twitter @ Juanpc9 and his Facebook page @ JUAN-DIEGO-PIEDRAHITA-JUANCHO

Learn more about Stefan Rzadzinski at www.rzadracing.com keep up to date via Twitter @ rzadracing and his Facebook page @ 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.



