

The logo for Gabby Chaves, featuring the name "Gabby Chaves" in a stylized white font with a red and black graphic element to the left.

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Additional Photos available upon request

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## **CHAVES CHARGES TO STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PODIUM ON STREETS OF TORONTO**

### **JDC MotorSports racer showcased racecraft during street race doubleheader with third place finish in Round Seven and fourth place result in Round Eight**

MIAMI, FLA. (July 11, 2012) – Junior formula car standout Gabby Chaves enjoyed a successful return to street racing action in the Star Mazda Championship over the weekend (July 7-8), adding another podium result to his ever-increasing racing resume. Driving for JDC MotorSports, the highly-regarded teenager made the most of every opportunity around the Canadian National Exhibition course in Toronto, ultimately earning a third place finish in Round Seven and a fourth place result in Round Eight. With the two strong outings, Chaves continues the six-race Canadian swing on the series schedule third in the title fight.

For Chaves, the return to road course and street circuit racing - after two oval rounds - was the ideal opportunity to re-assert himself as a driver worth watching in the Mazda Road to Indy backed Star Mazda Championship. While the fast and bumpy the 2.84-km track around the CNE grounds provides plenty of challenges via a mix of asphalt and concrete surfaces, the FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy racer wasted little time going after a fast lap and working on finding the right setup with his JDC crew. Chaves, despite never quite finding the overall speed desired in the sweltering hot conditions, still had hope to improve the setup of the car to challenge for top honors come qualifying, ending the opening day's practice runs P5 on the time charts.

The lone qualifying run for the Star Mazda cars proved to be a frustrating affair for Chaves. The plan was to run two setups during the timed session in order to maximize the potential for a front-row starting position. Unfortunately, a significant crash - which halted the session - followed by heavy rain and lightning when the action resumed meant he never got the opportunity to post his ideal fast lap. The end result was a somewhat disappointing seventh place grid position.

When Chaves returned to his No. 19 machine that features support from Claro, Marca Colombia, Tecpro, and OMP, he was confident he could work his way forward and challenge the leaders in the first race of the weekend. Gabby, despite not feeling the optimum balance he hoped for, promptly displayed his skills behind the wheel, executing some bold overtaking moves. Pushing all the way to the checkered flag, Chaves ultimately crossed the line in third via an impressive drive.

With each racer's fastest lap from race one setting the grid for race two in downtown Toronto, Gabby's No. 19 car was only fast enough to once again line-up in seventh for race two despite his third place finish. Given his performance in the opening affair, it was no surprise that both Chaves and the JDC crew believed another charge to the front was in the cards when the cars launched from the traditional start. The 19 year-old did not disappoint, taking full advantage of every

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.

opportunity and making the most of other racer's mistakes. While Chaves was not quite able to reach the podium for a second consecutive day, he did impress onlookers with a fourth place result.

"Overall it was a successful weekend," stated Chaves. "While we never found the optimal setup for the mix of asphalt and concrete, we managed to have two good races and earn valuable points in the pursuit of a championship title. Both the JDC MotorSports crew and I will keep working hard to improve, and we are excited about building on this success in the upcoming races in Canada."

Thanks to his third podium finish of 2012, and seventh top-five result, Chaves now lies third in the highly-competitive development race series, and poised to challenge for top honors throughout the second half of the Star Mazda Championship.

Chaves continues the Canadian swing of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear schedule in two weeks time (July 21-22), with Rounds Nine and Ten at the Edmonton City Centre Airport in Alberta.

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](http://www.GabbyChaves.com) . For direct contact, please email [gabbyracing@yahoo.com](mailto: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.