

NEWS from TEAM

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Team GDT's Corey Lewis (No. 39) was in contention for a top-five finish in Saturday's Star Mazda race at Honda Indy Toronto.

(Star Mazda photo by Eric McCombs)

Team GDT Has a Rough Day Saturday in Toronto; Lewis Runs as High as Sixth But Finishes 12th

TORONTO, Ont., July 7 — Neither qualifications nor the race went the way Team GDT hoped Saturday as Honda Indy Toronto hosted Round 7 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear on the street course around Exhibition Place.

The Dallas-based team hopes to turn things around Sunday at 9:50 a.m. when Round 8 is held on the slick,

2.84-kilometer/1.755-mile, 11-turn temporary street course.

Corey Lewis of Nazareth, Pa., ran as high as sixth but he ended up 12th in his first Star Mazda start ever. Andrés Méndez of Bogotá, Colombia would have crossed the finish line in 13th place but unfortunately he crashed in Turn 11 just 2 minutes short of the allotted 30-minute dis-

tance. Finally, the car of Ryan Tveter of Oyster Bay, N.Y., lost its differential on the first lap.

Qualifications were cut short due to a quick storm early Saturday morning after only eight laps had been turned in that session. Lewis, who drove the No. 39 sponsored by Team GDT, the Monticello Motor Club, Raceseng, Bell Helmets and Troy

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Photos may be downloaded off
Team GDT and Star Mazda's Facebook pages.



Boiler Works, qualified ninth with a time of 1:09.572 on lap eight. Méndez, who drives the No. 53 sponsored by DataFile Internacional S.A. and Grupo Kriterion, qualified 13th when he ran a 1:10.432 on lap seven. Tveter was blocked during the qualifying session but he posted a 1:10.956 on lap six for the 19th starting spot in the No. 33, which advertises Rogers TV and Motorola Mobility Canada.

Jack Hawksworth set a new track record of 1:07.968 in quals and then went on to lead every lap of the 21-lap race.

Lewis moved up two spots on lap one after Sage Karam's car, which was supposed to start second, had mechanical difficulties on the standing start and Lewis passed Zach Meyer. That put him right behind Petri Suvanto and set the stage for a big battle.

Suvanto and Lewis waged war until Lewis got around him in Turn 1 working lap nine, which put him in sixth place. Unfortunately in Turn 8 on that same lap the back end of Lewis's car stepped out on him and he lost five positions when Suvanto, Diego Ferreira, Stefan Rzedzinski, Connor de Phillippi and Meyer capitalized on his misfortune, pushing him back to 11th place when lap nine went into the record books. Gustavo Menezes and Bruno Palli got by him on the following lap too, so all of a sudden Lewis's hopes for a top-five finish were dashed and he

was back in 13th place. He advanced one position before the checkered when Martin Scuncio pitted on lap 13 due to a damaged front wing.

The race ended under yellow after Méndez crashed working lap 19.

Driver quotes follow:

Corey Lewis: "The car was great in the beginning and then little by little we lost grip towards the front of the car. I was having trouble getting around the corners at speed. There were so many moments when I thought I was going to be in the wall. I tried to make the pass on Suvanto cleanly but he moved over at the last second and I clipped him with my left-front wing. I don't think my car got damaged from that. It was pretty much a clean race from then on.

"We went over the data and we're going to make some changes for the morning, so we should have a better car for tomorrow's race. I look forward to it!"

Andrés Méndez: "It had a little push. I got a little out of shape and then it was going straight to the wall, and I just clipped the wall with the back of the car in Turn 11. It's a shame because we were getting better before that. Hopefully we'll have better luck tomorrow."

Ryan Tveter: "The differential broke on the standing start. The Team GDT crew pushed me back to pit lane and somehow they got it

back going. I got to Turn 3, downshifted to first, and the same thing happened again. I pulled off on the entry to Turn 5 and the Holmatro safety team pushed me off the track to an escape road. We have a new differential to put in, so we'll try again tomorrow. Everything seemed fine on the warm-up lap; it's just one of those things."

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, part of the IZOD IndyCar Series' Mazda Road to Indy, and the IMSA GT3 Cup Challenge.

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 Data Tech 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.