

NEWS from TEAM

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Alex Ardoïn, #51, leads Conor Daly enroute to victory in the Star Mazda race at Trois-Rivières in 2010 for Team GDT. The Dallas-based team has entered cars for Ardoïn and rookies Andres Méndez and Ryan Tvester in this weekend's Star Mazda doubleheader at Trois-Rivières.

(Star Mazda photo by Eric McCombs)

Team GDT to Field Three Cars at Trois-Rivières For Méndez, Tvester And Two-Time Winner Ardoïn

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, Quebec, Aug. 2 — Team GDT is pleased to announce it will field cars for two-time Trois-Rivières Star Mazda winner Alex Ardoïn as well as rookies Andres Méndez and Ryan Tvester in the series' doubleheader this weekend at the 43rd annual Grand Prix of Trois-Rivières.

Ardoïn, of Lafayette, La., won at Trois-Rivières in both 2009 and

2010. His 2010 Star Mazda victory on the 1.5-mile, 10-turn street circuit capped an amazing day for Dallas-based Team GDT, as the owner of the team, J.W. Roberts, also won the series' Expert class and another Team GDT driver, Carlos Conde, was victorious in the Master class that day.

"I am excited to have Alex run at Trois-Rivières," said Paul Mata,

team manager. "He won this race with Team GDT a couple of years ago. He also has had great success at this track, winning here twice. His leadership and experience will also be helpful for Ryan and Andres, who are both rookies. It will be great for them to get advice and share feedback with a teammate who can compete for a win!"

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Photos may be downloaded off Star Mazda's Facebook page.



"My past success at Trois-Rivières started with my first visit back in 2007," Ardoin said. "I qualified on pole and led numerous laps before going out due to contact with another car. Since then I've had two wins ['09-'10] and a third ['08] as well as fastest race lap in 2010.

"I haven't done any racing since 2010 aside from one SCCA weekend in a Formula Ford," he continued. "I currently work a full-time, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. job in the oilfield industry back home in Lafayette, Louisiana. This opportunity came through a collaborative effort with Paul Mata and J.W. Roberts.

"It is extremely exciting to be back in the car at my favorite event of the year," Ardoin said. "Winning will be quite a tall task after not having raced for two years. But with the people of Team GDT behind me, I'm certain that we have an excellent weekend ahead of us. Hopefully at the conclusion of the weekend, Team GDT will have two more wins in the books."

Both Méndez and Tveter are also excited about the Trois-Rivières doubleheader for the series, which is presented by Goodyear.

"Andres is starting to show his race craft," said Mata about Méndez, a driver from Bogotá, Colombia who drives the #53 sponsored by DataFile Internacional S.A. and Grupo Kriterion. "He is coming straight from karting and has a lot of experience in race competition. He was able to get by three or four cars

in the last laps of the second Edmonton race to finish eighth. Although his car was disqualified for being a few pounds too light, he showed great drive. I hope we can build on this for the second half of the season."

Tveter, of Oyster Bay, N.Y., is coming off his best finishes of the season with a fifth and a tenth in the races at Edmonton, Alberta last month. His #33 has Rogers TV and Motorola Mobility Canada as marketing partners.

"Ryan's fifth place in the first race at Edmonton was incredible!" Mata said. "He did really well in both the dry, moving from 16th to eighth, and then when going to rain tires he continued his march to the front. He was also spun out by another car at the start of the race. In Race 2 he backed it up with another top-10 finish. I think Ryan has a lot of positives going for him. He has had some bad luck, but I know he can continue to score a lot of good finishes the rest of the season. I am excited for Team GDT the rest of the season!"

Although Méndez will be seeing Trois-Rivières for the first time this weekend, Tveter has actually driven on the street course once in the past and he said it's one of his favorite tracks.

"I had my second-ever race event there last year in F1600, and it went pretty well," Tveter said. "The track is tight and challenging, but it is a blast to race on. I think my track knowledge will definitely help me

achieve another good result. It will just be a matter of adapting to the car rather than having to learn a whole new track.

"The team and I definitely have been preparing a lot since Edmonton so I think we're in a very good position for the weekend," Tveter added. "I really can't wait to get on track Friday afternoon!"

There is only one 40-minute practice session at 1:20 Eastern time on Friday afternoon before qualifications are held at 5:35 p.m. that day. The time to beat is Rusty Mitchell's 1:01.341 set in 2009.

The standing start for the first 45-minute race is slated for 1:20 p.m. Saturday.

The starting line-up for Sunday's race will be determined by each driver's fastest race lap on Saturday. Sunday's race is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Eastern time.

The series' Web site at StarMazda.com features live timing and scoring as well as additional information.

Fans can learn more about Team GDT on its Facebook page or through Twitter @TeamGDT.

Both Méndez and Tveter also have Facebook and Twitter accounts. Méndez's Web site is at ag-mendez.com and Tveter's is at ryantveter.com.