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JDC MOTORSPORTS REVISITS STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PODIUM IN BALTIMORE DOUBLEHEADER

Series standouts Chaves, Freiberg, Piedrahita, and Rzadzinski overcome street race challenges for strong outing in Maryland

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. (September 5, 2012) – The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear doubleheader in Baltimore proved to be a trying affair for title contender JDC MotorSports, but the multiple junior formula car champion ultimately emerged from the Labor Day weekend (September 1-2) event with another trip to the podium and an additional five top-10 finishes. Gabby Chaves continued his second half charge for the series title with a third place in Round 13, with fellow rookie Ashley Freiberg adding to the post race celebrations with her best result to date via sixth place. Series returnee Stefan Rzadzinski joined the duo in the top-10 in race one, while Juan Piedrahita recovered from a difficult opening outing with a ninth place finish in race two.

The street circuit around the Inner Harbor of Baltimore was always going to be a challenging affair for the entire Star Mazda field, given the track layout features a mixture of high-speed corners and a tight hairpin lined by concrete retaining walls. That being said, no one was prepared for the chaos created by the light rail crossing on the front straight.

Almost immediately upon rolling on-course for the lone planned practice run, it became apparent changes needed to be made to the track, as the Star Mazda cars were vaulting over the tracks. Unfortunately for JDC MotorSports, the 'jump' resulted in damage to multiple cars prior to the session being checkered.

After some quick repairs, the four-car JDC MotorSports effort was back on-course later in the day to what was now a revised second practice run rather than qualifying due to the track issues. While changes had been done to the rail crossing section, multiple cars were still being damaged, including yet again the JDC entries.

Despite the less than ideal start to the doubleheader, the talented foursome of Chaves, Freiberg, Piedrahita, and Rzadzinski remained upbeat prior to race one of the doubleheader, given the squad had placed a driver on the podium in eight street and road courses thus far in 2012. That confidence appeared justified when Round 13 commenced in front of a large crowd, as Chaves maintained his third place starting position, just ahead of Rzadzinski's No. 93 PoweredbyAlberta.com/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports entry, having charged up from 16th on the grid. With Freiberg also rapidly advancing into the top-10, things were looking up for the Minnesota-based team. Unfortunately, it was not all good news, as before he couldn't even truly get his race started, Piedrahita's run behind the wheel was over via a first turn incident. Further bad luck soon befell JDC, as race officials assessed a jump start penalty to Rzadzinski, which proved incorrect, as post-race video evidence indicated there had been a malfunction with the



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start lights, and the Canadian had properly launched upon getting the green lights. Despite the setbacks, the opening affair in Baltimore proved to be successful. Chaves, overcoming a bent front wing on his No. 19 Claro/Marca Colombia/Tecpro/OMP/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports racer, held off repeated challenges, earning his seventh trip to the post-race podium celebrations with a third place finish. Freiberg, having dueled her way forward in her No. 91 TrueCar.com/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports racer, crossed the stripe in sixth, securing her best finish to date in her rookie campaign. Rzadzinski made it three JDC steeds in the top-10, following a superb recovery drive back to ninth.

Given the drama of the first race, many under the JDC awning were hoping for a less eventful Round 14. With a rolling start being utilized for the first time at non-oval this season, it was quickly evident that would not be the case. Going in opposite directions when the action commenced, Chaves fell back to seventh as Freiberg worked her way into the top-five. Behind the duo, Rzadzinski was again on the move, slotting into the top-10, while Piedrahita charged forward from the rear of the field. That, however, was just the start of the action, as Chaves was assessed a drive through penalty for avoidable contact while trying to regain his place among the top-five, Freiberg lost positions after being struck from behind, and Rzadzinski dropped back due to his shifter-cable breaking. It was not all bad news for the JDC crew though, as Piedrahita's No. 9 Petrosur/GFK Motors/Red Line Oil/JDC MotorSports continued to move up the scoring the charts. When the checkered flag waved after 25 laps, Chaves led a four-car JDC train across the line in eighth - having initially rejoined the race after his penalty in 15th - followed by Piedrahita, Freiberg, and Rzadzinski.

The JDC MotorSports crew and drivers have no time to ponder the results from Maryland, as the quest for Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear glory continues this coming weekend (September 8-9), with a pair of races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. The squad enters Round 14 and 15, the penultimate event on the series calendar, sitting third in the Team standings. Chaves, one of four racers still in contention for the championship crown, is currently third in the driver standings, ahead of Piedrahita in seventh, Freiberg in 11th, and Rzadzinski 13th. Live timing and scoring from northern California will be available at www.starmazda.com/timing

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](https://twitter.com/GabbyChaves)

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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.

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