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3rd 4th 5th Finish for Juncos Racing at Petit Le Mans Road Atlanta Season Finale



Braselton, GA (October 19, 2012) – Juncos Racing finished the season in style capturing three Top-5's in entire green flag Round 17 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta. The team claimed second in the 2012 Star Mazda Team Championship Point's Standings.

Battling his way to the front, Connor De Phillippi, 19, in the #2 ModSpace Motorsports One24/Juncos Racing earned his 10th podium and fourth consecutive third place finish. De Phillippi qualified with a third best time, but was penalized for causing a red flag with a wreck during qualifying and started in ninth position. De Phillippi took home two wins and finished fourth overall in the 2012 Star Mazda Driver Championship.

“The season has come to an end and I wanted to give the Juncos guys one last win, but with m hiccup in qualifying it made that a big task today,” said De Phillippi. “We had a solid race and managed to end on a high note with a podium finish. It has been an incredible season and we have all performed at the highest of our abilities. We are not champions in the points, but we all know where we deserved to be. Thank you to ModSpace and Juncos Racing for giving me the opportunity to drive for this incredible group of guys. I enjoyed working with everyone and had some of the best teammates of my career. Now onto 2013!”

Rookie Diego Ferreira, 18, in the #57 Juncos Racing car representing Team Viso Venezuela claimed his third fourth place finish of the season after qualifying fifth at Road Atlanta. Ferreira ended his rookie season with an impressive sixth place in the driver championship and received Most Improved Driver of the Year award from the Star Mazda series.

"I'm really happy with my result at Road Atlanta, securing my sixth place in the points in the driver championship," said Ferreira. "It was a long week of practice, but we only improved in each session as the week went on. I qualified fifth, but I had a bad start causing me to lose a couple of positions, but I was able to battle my way back to finish fourth. I really wanted to a podium this season and came very close during the last few races finishing in fourth multiple times. I received the award for most improved driver of the year, which was a great way to end my first year in the Star Mazda series. I have to give my team a big thank you for all they did for me this season and my family for all of their amazing support. I want to thank all of the Team Viso guys and especially E.J. Viso for giving me this opportunity this season. I'm looking forward to fighting for the championship next year."

Claiming a season best finish, rookie Bruno Palli, 21, driver of the #15 Juncos Racing machine represented by Team Viso Venezuela, captured his first Top-5 finish in fifth place after qualifying seventh for the season finale. Palli completed his rookie season in 12th in the driver championship.

"It was a pretty good week for me at Road Atlanta," said Palli. "We finished in the Top-5 during practice, but had tire issues in qualifying causing me to drop back to seventh. I'm really happy with my performance during the race, finishing fifth for the first time this season. I gained a lot of experience and improved a lot since the beginning of the year which showed in this week. I want to thank my driver coach Jorge Goncalves, who competed in Firestone Indy Lights this year, and was able to help me all week and get me focused for this race. Thank you to my team Juncos Racing for helping me improve all year and for all of their hard work, E.J. Viso for giving me this opportunity, and the Star Mazda series."

Teammate Martin Scuncio, 21, driver of the #22 Pullman Bus/Juncos Racing car unfortunately could not compete at the season finale due to a wreck during Monday's test session at Road Atlanta, which injured his hand ending his season early. Scuncio ended the season with one win and eighth in the championship.

"I had a bad crash on Monday and hurt my hand," said Scuncio. "It's a shame because the team worked so hard all year and not the way I wanted to finish the championship. I am still very happy for all Juncos Racing did for me during this season. A big thank you to all of the team, my family, and my sponsors for all of their support. Now to work for 2013!"

Finishing second in the Star Mazda Team Championship, Ricardo Juncos, Team Owner, was very pleased with a Top-5 finish from three of his drivers at Road Atlanta and all of the improvements they showed throughout the year. Juncos looks forward to being even stronger in the 2013 Star Mazda Championship.

“We finished with an outstanding performance having three cars in the Top-5 places,” said Juncos. “We had to rebuild almost 50% of Connor’s car after his crash in qualifying in less than a day before the race and he was able to finish third in a completely green flag race after starting ninth. We ended the race with both of our rookie’s running in fourth and fifth which shows the potential of the team and how strong our driver development program is. I feel very sorry for Martin not being able to start the final race due to a crash, but this is the down side of racing. After leading the championship in the beginning of the season with Connor and falling back in points after Iowa, it was hard to take the end results for the year. Unfortunately, we faced a lot of bad luck which made a big difference in the rest of the season. The good thing is the team was able to get better and we will be stronger for next year. I want to thank all of my team members, my drivers Bruno, Diego, Martin, and Connor for all of their trust in us, and I wish them the best of in their futures. I’m really looking forward to a strong season next year!”

About Juncos Racing: Juncos Racing is based in Brownsburg, Indiana, U.S.A. just outside the “racing capital of the world,” Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1997 Ricardo Juncos, Team Owner, established Juncos Racing, a full-service Formula Racing Team, based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. For five years Juncos Racing competed in various National Championships throughout South America and eventually made their way to the United States, opening the doors in 2003 to their first karting shop based in Miami, Florida. During the next few years Juncos Racing captured 19 Local, Regional, and National karting Titles. Juncos Racing entered into the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear in 2009 and claimed their first championship in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship with driver Connor Daly. 2012 will be the biggest year for Juncos Racing marking the third year in the Star Mazda series and entering their first year in the Firestone Indy Lights Series. For more information, please visit www.juncosracing.com.

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