



## JOHN EDWARDS QUICKEST IN FIRST STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PRACTICE SESSION AT THE MOBIL1 GRAND PRIX OF MOSPORT



American John Edwards, the first two-time winner in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship with victories at Miller Motorsports Park and Portland, turned the quickest time – by nearly 4/10ths of a second – in the first official practice session on Friday morning. Edwards, who is currently 5th in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship points battle, set the fast time of 1:15.842 (116.722 mph) in the #7 AIM

Autosport Mazda on a muggy morning under slightly overcast skies.

Running second-fast, with a lap of 1:16.234 (116.121 mph) in the #20 JDC Motorsports / Mazda / K&N Air Filters Mazda was Joel Miller, winner of the Star Mazda Championship season-opener at Sebring. Miller, who is 3rd in the championship battle, the 2007 Skip Barber Pro Series Champion, which won him his fully-sponsored ride in the Star Mazda Championship courtesy of the *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Driver Development Ladder. Miller drives for JDC Motorsports, the team that won the 2007 Star Mazda Championship with Dane Cameron, who is now racing in the Atlantic Championship with sponsorship from the Mazda ladder.

Third-fast in the morning session was Irishman Peter Dempsey, the second-two time winner in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship – and the first to score-back-to-back wins with his victories at Road America and Trois Rivieres. Dempsey, who is 4th in the championship, turned a lap of 1:16.30 (116.019 mph) in the #21 Andersen Racing / LotusWorks/ Allied Building Products Mazda. Rounding out the top-5 were 4th-fast Tom Gladdis in the #5 Andersen Racing / Marrache & Co. / Allied Building Products Mazda with a lap of 1:16.438 (115.743 mph) and Louisiana racer Alex Ardoin with a lap of 1:16.603 (115.562 mph) in the #51 Mundill Racing / Oral & Facial Surgery Center / Twister Trailer Mazda. Gladdis was on the pole for both Star Mazda Championship races at the Mazda Grand Prix of Portland and won the Saturday race; he is 6th in the championship after being forced to miss Watkins Glen because of his age (drivers under 18 are not allowed). Ardoin, a 2nd-year driver, won the 2007 season-ender at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca and sits second in the 2008 championship battle.

The fastest driver in the Expert Series (ages 30 to 44) was Phil Fogg, Jr., who turned a lap of 1:16.938 (115.059 mph), which was both fastest among the Expert drivers and 7th fast overall. Fogg is currently 3rd in the Expert Series points battle with one win and three podium finishes driving the #29 Northwest Autosport / Consonus Health Services Mazda. The quickest Master Series driver (ages 45 and older) in the session was Master Series points leader Chuck Hulse, driver of the #12 JDC Motorsports / Silicon Salvage Mazda. His lap of 1:18.106 (113.338 mph) was 15th-fast overall in the 22-car field.

There will be a second practice session this afternoon from 12:50 to 1:35 pm. A 45-minute qualifying session will be held from 8:00 am to 8:45 am Saturday, August 23, with the 45-minute race, Round 8 of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, scheduled to take the green flag at 3:50 pm Saturday afternoon. The race will be broadcast on SPEED TV at 1:00 pm (ET) Sunday, October 12.

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com) and [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com). For interviews, photos, etc., contact Star Mazda Championship Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 906-6997 / [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

