



AFTER A 'TWILIGHT ZONE' SESSION IN THE MORNING STAR MAZDA PRACTICE, THE NORMAL ORDER OF THINGS RE-ASSERTS ITSELF – PRETTY MUCH – IN THE AFTERNOON



Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca / Oct. 17 – With the first practice session of the morning delivering a shock to the system for everyone on the grid in the form of a total newcomer setting fast time his first time in the car -- Richard Kent, an English karting champion with a background in the European Formula Palmer Audi series drove the #77 Andersen Racing / Traka / Allied Building Supplies Mazda to a fast lap of 1:21.074.

In the warmth of a hazy, somewhat humid afternoon, however, the normal order of things re-asserted itself – more or less – with American Joel Miller turning the best time, a 1:21.661 in the #20 JDC Motorsports / Mazda / K&N Air Filters Mazda. Miller is the 2007 Skip Barber Pro Series Champion and is racing in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship courtesy of the MAZDASPEED Motorsport Driver Development Ladder scholarship.

"This morning was a mess with red flags, yellow flags, slow cars putting around, and that pretty much accounted for the way the times worked out," said Miller. "The track was slower this afternoon, but we got some good runs and showed our true colors. The track is a bit strange; every corner feels different and it isn't really 'rubbering up' from the ALMS cars. Its just a matter of feeling our way around, finding out what the car wants and not throwing it off trying too hard."

Setting second-fast time, less than a tick behind, was championship points leader, and four-time race winner, American John Edwards. He turned a 1:21.676 in The #7 AIM Autosport/ Mobil 1 Mazda. In third was another 4-race winner, Irishman Peter Dempsey, currently third in the championship battle. He turned a lap of 1:21.761 in the #21 Andersen Racing/LotusWorks/ Center Jewellers.ie/Quayside.ie/ Allied Building Products Mazda.

Down in fourth, still a stellar effort from a first-time Star Mazda driver, was the morning's quick guy, Richard Kent with a lap of 1:21.964. Rounding out the top-5 was last year's winner of this race, Louisiana racer Alex Ardoin, who turned a 1:22.109 in the #51 Mundill Racing / Oral & Facial Surgery Center / Twister Trailer Mazda

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm In Lap	Diff	Gap	Points	
1	20 Joel Miller	1:21.661	16		0	
2	7 John Edwards	1:21.676	14	0.015	0.015	0
3	21 Peter Dempsey	1:21.761	14	0.100	0.085	0
4	77 Richard Kent	1:21.964	10	0.303	0.203	0
5	51 Alex Ardoin	1:22.109	10	0.448	0.145	0
6	5 Jonny Baker	1:22.260	12	0.599	0.151	0
7	64 Patrick O'Neil	1:22.794	13	1.133	0.534	0
8	15 Taylor Hacquard	1:22.968	14	1.307	0.174	0
9	17 Scott Rettich	1:22.970	15	1.309	0.002	0
10	24 J.C. Kester	1:23.201	15	1.540	0.231	0
11	30 Rick Rosin	1:23.311	14	1.650	0.110	0
12	19 Caio Lara	1:23.335	12	1.674	0.024	0
13	16 Chris Cumming	1:23.414	10	1.753	0.079	0
14	82 Billy Goshen	1:23.590	8	1.929	0.176	0
15	22 Rusty Mitchell	1:23.994	16	2.333	0.404	0
16	52 Dave Mundy	1:24.185	12	2.524	0.191	0
17	48 Kristy Kester	1:24.245	15	2.584	0.060	0
18	12 Chuck Hulse	1:24.281	13	2.620	0.036	0
19	91 Michael Guasch	1:24.385	12	2.724	0.104	0
20	65 J.W. Roberts	1:24.453	15	2.792	0.068	0
21	29 Phil Fogg Jr.	1:24.874	4	3.213	0.421	0
22	55 Gerry Kraut	1:25.046	10	3.385	0.172	0
23	4 Chris Hundley	1:26.242	17	4.581	1.196	0
24	14 Frank McCormick	1:26.348	13	4.687	0.106	0
25	86 Dave House	1:27.879	6	6.218	1.531	0
26	57 Pedro Serramalera	1:28.084	8	6.423	0.205	0

Round 12 of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship will take place at during the American Le Mans season finale, the Monterey Sports Car Championships, at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, October 16 – 18. Qualifying for the race takes place from 9:00 to 9:45 am Saturday, Oct. 18, with the green flag scheduled to wave for the final 45-minute round of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship season at 12:15 pm. The race will be broadcast on SPEED TV Saturday, November 8 at 1:30 pm (ET). For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit and www.mazdausa.com. For interviews, photos, etc., contact Star Mazda Championship Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 906-6997 / StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car.

For more information on the various Mazda spec series, visit:

www.atlanticchampionship.com www.starmazda.com
www.skipbarber.com www.mx-5cup.com

Dean Case / Communications Officer / MAZDASPEED Motorsports
Office - (310) 755-7403 / Cell - (310) 318-4582 / E-mail: dean@RWB-LLC.com

