



THE CONSISTENT ENGLISHMAN -- ADAM CHRISTODOULOU WINS ROUND ONE OF THE 2009 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP AT SEBRING



Sebring (March 20, 2009) – A trio of European rookies took the top three spots in this afternoon's Round One of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the 57th Annual 12 Hours of Sebring. Adam Christodoulou, the rising open-wheel racer from Milton Keynes, England, started from the outside of the front row and drove twenty flawless laps to

victory at the wheel of the #11 JDC Motorsports Mazda. Finishing second by a margin of 0.504 sec. was fellow Englishman and long-time rival, pole-sitter Richard Kent of Birmingham, driving the #33 Andersen Racing / Traka / Allied Interior Products Mazda. Rounding out the top-3 was Conor Daly, son of racing legend Derek Daly, a former F1 and Indy car racer as well as two-time winner of the 12 Hours of Sebring. Daly, the 2008 Skip Barber Pro Series champion, is racing the #22 Andersen Racing / College Network / Indeck / Cytomax Mazda with sponsorship from the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder.

"We struggled through some mechanical problems during the week and even missed a session on Wednesday, which was tough with qualifying on Thursday, but the team did an awesome job and it all came right in the end," said Christodoulou. "Even though Richard was on the pole, I seemed to get an extremely good start and passed him going into the first corner, but then I looked over and saw Alex Ardoin next to me and he led the first couple of laps until he had a drive through penalty and I got the lead of the race. I'm used to twenty-five minute races in much colder climates, so it felt like a really long event, and Richard actually passed me on one of the final re-starts but went a bit deep into corner ten and I was able to get by and hold the lead for the rest of the race."

Rounding out the top-5 were Brazilian Caio Lara in the #19 JDC Motorsports Mazda and American Joel Miller, who won this event from the pole in 2008. Lara finished third on track, but was penalized a position for a driving infraction, moving him back to fourth and elevating Conor Daly to the top-3.

The top-finishing Expert Series (ages 30 – 44) driver was 2008 Expert Series champion Chris Cumming of Vancouver, B.C. He drove the #16 Kester Racing Team 3G / Texas World Speedway / Motul Oil Mazda to a 14th-place finish overall. Californian Mike

Guasch won the Master Series (45 and older) driving the #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Labs Mazda.

Other notable drives during the event include Alex Ardoin, who qualified 4th in the #51 JDC Motorsports / Oral & Facial Surgery Center Mazda, but with an aggressive start found himself leading the first three laps. Officials determined the start was perhaps a bit too aggressive and awarded him a 'drive-through' penalty that dropped him to the very back of the 28-car pack. By lap 20, however, the third-year racer from Lafayette, Louisiana worked his way back up to 8th. And Chilean rookie Kevin Toledo, driving for the newly-announced Eliseo THL Motorsports team headed by racing legend Eliseo Salazar, scored a top-10 finish driving the #77 Eliseo THL Mazda.

Peter Dempsey, who won four races during the 2008 Star Mazda Championship, three of them in a row, and finished third in the championship, weathered a difficult weekend with his new team to qualify 5th and finish 6th in the #3 AIM Autosport / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda. Joe D'Agostino, a last-moment entry driving with sponsorship from Classic Mazda in Orlando, Florida, qualified 11th on the starting grid in his #5 Andersen Racing / Classic Mazda machine and finished 7th. 17 year-old Venezuelan Jorge Goncalvez, moving up from from Formula BMW made a good showing, finishing 9th in the #72 AIM Autosport / Mazda.

In the championship points battle with one race run, Adam Christodoulou leads with 44, followed by Richard Kent with 41 (including a point for winning the pole), Conor Daly with 37, Caio Lara with 34 and Joel Miller with 32. Chris Cumming leads the Expert Series with 20 points, followed by Phil Fogg, Jr. who finished 19th overall in the #29 Northwest Autosport / Consonus Health Services Mazda to score 16 points. Noted Japanese racer and Star Mazda rookie Toshihiro Deki finished third in the class, scoring 12 points in the #80 Goshen Motorsports Mazda. Master Series winner Mike Guasch leads the category with 20 points, while Gerry Kraut, co-owner of JDC Motorsports, finished 2nd in the #55 JDC Motorsports / Dougherty & Co. / Dougherty Funding LLC Mazda to score 16 points. Rookie Walt Bowlin, driving the #23 Juncos Racing / Hooters Mazda finished third in the class and has 14 points.

In the team championship, JDC Motorsports leads with 32 points, followed by 2008 team champions Andersen Racing with 30 and AIM Autosport, who fielded the championship-winning effort of American John Edwards, in third with 22 points.

Pos	PIC No.	Name	Laps	Diff	Best Tm In Lap	
1	1	11 Adam Christodoulou	20		2:02.561	15
2	2	33 Richard Kent	20	0.504	2:02.601	15
3	3	22 Conor Daly	20	1.972	2:02.750	14
4	4	19 Caio Lara	20	1.531	2:02.240	14
5	5	2 Joel Miller	20	2.869	2:02.904	13
6	6	3 Peter Dempsey	20	2.945	2:02.804	4
7	7	5 Joe D'Agostino	20	3.272	2:03.113	15
8	8	51 Alex Ardoin	20	3.971	2:03.405	16
9	9	72 Jorge Goncalvez	20	5.975	2:03.138	15
10	10	77 Kevin Toledo	20	10.334	2:04.740	11

11	11	66 Rusty Mitchell	20	10.747	2:05.230	11
12	12	13 Michael Furfari	20	10.914	2:04.112	13
13	13	24 J.C. Kester	20	11.016	2:04.828	3
14	14	16 Chris Cumming	20	11.131	2:04.705	12
15	15	21 Denis Navarro	20	11.397	2:04.109	4
16	16	15 Taylor Hacquard	20	11.606	2:04.820	14
17	17	27 Anders Krohn	20	12.159	2:04.849	4
18	18	91 Michael Guasch	20	14.492	2:04.970	13
19	19	29 Phil Fogg	20	15.074	2:06.056	4
20	20	61 Sean Burstyn	20	15.528	2:06.095	14
21	21	55 Gerry Kraut	20	16.161	2:06.107	11
22	22	65 J.W. Roberts	20	21.952	2:08.352	11
23	23	71 David Ostella	20	26.572	2:03.579	4
24	24	48 Kristy Kester	19	1 Lap	2:04.715	3
25	25	23 Walt Bowlin	19	1 Lap	2:11.770	19
26	26	80 Toshi Deki	15	5 Laps	2:07.046	13
27	27	82 Billy Goshen		20 Laps		0
28	28	83 Ryan Booth		20 Laps		0

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit www.starmazda.com and www.mazdausa.com. For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or 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

