



SEBRING WINNER ADAM CHRISTODOULOU TOPS THE TIME SHEETS IN FIRST STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PRACTICE FOR ROUND 2 OF THE 2009 SEASON AT VIR



VIR (April 24, 2009) – After topping the time sheets in all three sessions during 'promoter test day' on Thursday, Englishman Adam Christodoulou – winner of Round 1 of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at Sebring – unsurprisingly set the fastest time on the 17th lap of the first official practice session on Friday morning. He turned a 1:46.746 (110.280 mph) around the 3.27-mile, 17-turn VIR road course driving the #11 JDC Motorsports Mazda.

The time is just shy of a full second faster than the existing Star Mazda Championship lap record of 1:47.607, set by James Davison in 2007. Also under the record is his teammate, American Joel Miller, who turned a 1:47.257 (109.755 mph) on lap 15 in the #2 JDC Motorsports Mazda.

Neither time, however, counts at this point as an official record; by series rules, official lap records can be set only in qualifying or the race. It does serve, however, as eloquent testimonial to the talent of both Christodoulou and Miller, as well as the effectiveness of the aerodynamic, suspension and engine upgrades all the Star Mazda Championship cars underwent at the start of the season.

"The car seem awesome; we came testing here last week, got the car set up spot on and it shows," says the British karting champion and ex-Formula Renault racer. "Now I've been with the team for a few more test days and it all has seemed to jell really nice. Even during wet testing here, car felt really good; if stays that way rest of the weekend, the team and I will be very happy. I'm coping with the heat reasonably well and though its much hotter than Europe, I'm getting used to it... a bit. I just hope it doesn't get much hotter. The track yesterday lost a bit of grip from last we were here, but then it gripped up again during testing yesterday and then this morning it was back and we couldn't believe how much grip we had. The times aren't too much quicker, I think the heat slowed the cars down a bit in a straight line, but we're one and two on the time sheet, so we're feeling good and we'll see how it goes."

Third on the time sheet was MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder racer Conor Daly, son of racing legend and noted motorsports commentator Derek Daly. Driving the #22 Andersen Racing / College Network / Indeck / Allied Interior Products Mazda, the young Daly from Noblesville, Indiana turned a 1:47.681 on lap 12 of the session.

Rounding out the top-5 were Brazilian Denis Navarro with a lap of 1:48.020 (108.980 mph) in the #21 Andersen Racing / Navarro Medicines Distribution / Allied Interior Products Mazda and Scandanavian racer Anders Krohn, who set a time of 1:48.817 (108.812 mph) in the #27 Mundill / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda.

The quickest Expert Series (ages 30 – 44) driver was 2008 Expert Series champion Chris Cumming of Vancouver, B.C. His lap of 1:49.274 (107.729 mph) was good for 16th-fast in the 28-car field. The quickest Master Series (45 and older) driver was Michael Guasch, 18th-fast overall with a lap of 1:49.462 (107.544 mph) in his #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda. Both drivers won their respective class in the Star Mazda Championship season-opener at Sebring.

Pos	No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Spd	In Lap	Diff	Gap	2nd Best	2nd Spd	2nd Lap
1	11	Adam Christodoulou	1:46.746	110.280	17			1:46.943	110.077	18
2	2	Joel Miller	1:47.257	109.755	15	0.511	0.511	1:47.546	109.460	14
3	22	Conor Daly	1:47.681	109.323	12	0.935	0.424	1:47.950	109.050	13
4	21	Denis Navarro	1:48.020	108.980	12	1.274	0.339	1:48.179	108.820	11
5	27	Anders Krohn	1:48.187	108.812	10	1.441	0.167	1:49.048	107.952	9
6	82	Billy Goshen	1:48.198	108.801	12	1.452	0.011	1:48.406	108.592	11
7	3	Peter Dempsey	1:48.303	108.695	8	1.557	0.105	1:48.389	108.609	9
8	17	Mikael Grenier	1:48.501	108.497	17	1.755	0.198	1:48.581	108.417	12
9	15	Taylor Hacquard	1:48.565	108.433	10	1.819	0.064	1:48.996	108.004	9
10	72	Jorge Goncalvez	1:48.710	108.288	9	1.964	0.145	1:48.769	108.229	10
11	30	Rick Rosin	1:48.783	108.215	9	2.037	0.073	1:48.814	108.185	12
12	48	Kristy Kester	1:48.785	108.213	16	2.039	0.002	1:50.459	106.573	10
13	71	David Ostella	1:48.874	108.125	8	2.128	0.089	1:49.203	107.799	17
14	83	Ryan Booth	1:49.164	107.838	12	2.418	0.290	1:49.383	107.622	11
15	13	Michael Furfari	1:49.234	107.769	12	2.488	0.070	1:49.287	107.716	11
16	16	Chris Cumming	1:49.274	107.729	11	2.528	0.040	1:49.338	107.666	13
17	19	Caio Lara	1:49.283	107.720	4	2.537	0.009	1:51.026	106.029	2
18	91	Michael Guasch	1:49.462	107.544	18	2.716	0.179	1:50.752	106.292	17
19	77	Kevin Toledo	1:49.465	107.541	15	2.719	0.003	1:49.915	107.101	14
20	66	Rusty Mitchell	1:49.481	107.526	14	2.735	0.016	1:49.838	107.176	10
21	64	Patrick O'Niell	1:49.586	107.422	19	2.840	0.105	1:49.896	107.119	14
22	24	J.C. Kester	1:49.670	107.340	12	2.924	0.084	1:49.957	107.060	13
23	61	Sean Burstyn	1:50.171	106.852	12	3.425	0.501	1:50.420	106.611	9
24	55	Gerry Kraut	1:50.666	106.374	10	3.920	0.495	1:50.724	106.318	14
25	31	Carlos Conde	1:52.707	104.448	11	5.961	2.041	1:52.734	104.423	9
26	80	Toshi Deki	1:54.106	103.167	8	7.360	1.399	1:54.335	102.961	6
27	23	Walt Bowlin	2:32.167	77.362	1	45.421	38.061	11:32.664	16.995	2
28	51	Alex Ardoin	-	-	0			-	-	0

Official practice continues with another session Thursday afternoon, with qualifying to set the starting grid scheduled for 8:45 am - 9:30 am Saturday, April 25. The 45-minute Round Two of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is scheduled to take the green flag at 1:00 pm Sunday, April 26.

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

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