



5 FOR 5 – CHRISTODOULOU MAKES A CLEAN SWEEP OF PRACTICE SESSIONS LEADING UP TO SATURDAY QUALIFYING FOR ROUND 2 OF THE 2009 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP AT VIR



VIR (April 24, 2009) – It's extremely unusual for a single driver to be the fastest in every session leading up to a race, and Englishman Adam Christodoulou isn't there quite yet – but he's well on his way. Driving the #11 JDC Motorsports Mazda, he has set the fastest time in five straight sessions, three 'promoter test day' sessions on Thursday and two official practice sessions on Friday. All that remains is

Saturday morning's qualifying session and Sunday afternoon's race – and while he started from the outside of the front row at Sebring rather than on the pole, he did go on to win the race, so the odds seem stacked in his favor.

His time of 1:46.051 (111.003 mph) in the final session was a thorough, if unofficial, smashing for the track record of 1:47.607, set by James Davison in 2007. It should be noted, however, that by series rules, official lap records can be set only in qualifying or the race. It's also worth noting, however, that the top eight drivers in the final session were all under the record, and the top three are all from the same team, JDC Motorsports, including Americans Joel Miller (#2 JDC Motorsports Mazda / 1:46.689 / 110.339 mph) and Alex Ardoin (#51 JDC Motorsports / Oral & Facial Surgery Center Mazda / 1:46.751 / 110.275 mph). Other drivers unofficially under the record include newcomer Mikael Grenier in his first Star Mazda drive, 'Irish Steamroller' Peter Dempsey who won four Star Mazda races last season, rookie Denis Navarro, *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship winner Conor Daly and fast-rising Brazilian racer Caio Lara.

"For the last session we had a few sets of changes and as the times have shown, its improved the car yet again," said Christodoulou. "Going through the mid-speed corners now, the car just seems to so hooked up; it goes through turns 5,6 and 7 just beautifully and that's where I found the majority of my time. I broke a few times into the 46's and tried for 45 on my last lap, but just pushed a little too hard at the end of the straight and ran off course. But we've got a little bit of a margin at the moment and as long as it stays that way, I'll be happy."

As he was in the morning session, the quickest Expert Series (ages 30 – 44) driver was 2008 Expert Series champion Chris Cumming of Vancouver, B.C. His lap of 1:48.789 (108.209 mph) was good for 16th-fast in the 28-car field. The quickest Master Series (45 and older) driver was again Michael Guasch, 20th-fast overall with a lap of 1:49.192 (107.810 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	1:46.051	111.003	9			1:46.474	110.562	8
2	2	Joel Miller	1:46.689	110.339	11	0.638	0.638	1:47.065	109.952	8
3	51	Alex Ardoin	1:46.751	110.275	9	0.700	0.062	1:46.881	110.141	7
4	17	Mikael Grenier	1:46.938	110.082	11	0.887	0.187	1:47.499	109.508	10
5	3	Peter Dempsey	1:46.967	110.053	8	0.916	0.029	1:47.087	109.929	10
6	21	Denis Navarro	1:47.170	109.844	10	1.119	0.203	1:47.758	109.245	8
7	22	Conor Daly	1:47.418	109.591	4	1.367	0.248	1:47.570	109.436	5
8	19	Caio Lara	1:47.450	109.558	11	1.399	0.032	1:47.556	109.450	8
9	27	Anders Krohn	1:47.655	109.349	8	1.604	0.205	1:47.886	109.115	9
10	82	Billy Goshen	1:48.129	108.870	10	2.078	0.474	1:48.166	108.833	12
11	71	David Ostella	1:48.155	108.844	8	2.104	0.026	1:48.435	108.563	9
12	72	Jorge Goncalvez	1:48.259	108.739	9	2.208	0.104	1:48.984	108.016	3
13	48	Kristy Kester	1:48.539	108.459	10	2.488	0.280	1:49.151	107.851	4
14	83	Ryan Booth	1:48.543	108.455	10	2.492	0.004	1:48.550	108.448	8
15	24	J.C. Kester	1:48.658	108.340	7	2.607	0.115	1:48.767	108.231	9
16	16	Chris Cumming	1:48.789	108.209	9	2.738	0.131	1:49.429	107.577	8
17	77	Kevin Toledo	1:48.813	108.186	10	2.762	0.024	1:49.029	107.971	11
18	15	Taylor Hacquard	1:48.861	108.138	11	2.810	0.048	1:48.875	108.124	10
19	66	Rusty Mitchell	1:49.164	107.838	6	3.113	0.303	1:49.201	107.801	8
20	91	Michael Guasch	1:49.192	107.810	11	3.141	0.028	1:49.211	107.791	10
21	30	Rick Rosin	1:49.400	107.605	3	3.349	0.208	1:51.837	105.260	2
22	55	Gerry Kraut	1:49.534	107.473	8	3.483	0.134	1:50.153	106.870	7
23	13	Michael Furfari	1:49.545	107.463	6	3.494	0.011	1:49.924	107.092	5
24	64	Patrick O'Niell	1:49.649	107.361	10	3.598	0.104	1:49.733	107.279	12
25	61	Sean Burstyn	1:49.940	107.077	12	3.889	0.291	1:50.263	106.763	11
26	80	Toshi Deki	1:52.812	104.351	4	6.761	2.872	1:52.911	104.259	11
27	31	Carlos Conde	1:53.102	104.083	9	7.051	0.290	1:53.819	103.427	8
28	23	Walt Bowlin	1:58.315	99.497	6	12.264	5.213	1:59.133	98.814	5

Qualifying to set the starting grid is 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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