



## CHRISTODOULOU CAPTURES TIGHT BATTLE FOR POLE IN ROUND 2 OF THE 2009 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP AT VIR



VIR (April 25, 2009) – The name at the top of the qualifying sheet was the same as the previous five practice sessions -- and it was the expected, thoroughly-smashed track record – but the rest of the names, and the small gaps between lap times, were more of a surprise.

First, the expected. English racer Adam Christodoulou took the pole position for Round 2 of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at VIR

with a record lap of 1:45.868 (111.195 mph) in the #11 JDC Motorsports Mazda. And this time, his breaking of the Star Mazda VIR track record, a 1:47.607 set in 2007 by James Davison, was official.

"It's quite warm already this morning, but we made a few sets of changes to the car last night and they worked in finding a little bit more time," said Christodoulou, who started from the outside of the front row and went on to win the Star Mazda season opener at Sebring. "But it seems everyone else found a little bit more time we did, so it's a little bit closer than I expected it to be after yesterday's performance. Still I just plan on taking it and making it into a win. There's not as much wind down the back straight today as there was yesterday, so we aren't hitting quite as high a speeds as we did yesterday, but the track conditions around the corners are good; there seems to be a little bit more grip today, so I think if it's like that for the race and not unpredictable, then we should be pretty sorted. I've got to concentrate on getting a decent start; I got a really good start at Sebring and as long as I do the same here and lead into the first corner I think I can stay ahead of everyone for the rest of the race."

But back to track records; in fact, the top 14 cars all posted times under the record. All the cars in the Star Mazda Championship received an upgrade package of aerodynamic, suspension and engine enhancements prior to the start of the season at Sebring, so the faster times are not unexpected.

Setting the second-fastest time was Peter Dempsey, who earned the nickname 'the Irish Steamroller' last season for four victories, three of them in a row. He turned a lap of 1:45.997 (111.060 mph) in the #3 AIM Autosport / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda, followed by Brazilian Denis Navarro with a time of 1:46.272 (110.772 mph) in the #21 Andersen Racing / Navarro Medicines Distribution / Allied Interior Products Mazda. Rounding out the top-5 were Quebec racer Mikael Grenier in his first-ever Star Mazda Championship drive, turning a lap of

1:46.415 (110.624 mph) in the #17 Andersen Racing / NAPA Auto Parts / CAA-Quebec / HS Telecom Mazda, and Louisiana native Alex Ardoin, turning a 1:46.427 (110.661 mph) in the #51 JDC Motorsports / Oral & Facial Surgery Center Mazda.

In the Expert (ages 30 – 44) and Master (45 and older) Series, the two top drivers are the same as in practice, but they've changed places on the grid. The quicker of the two was Master Series racer Michael Guasch from California. He captured the 16th spot on the starting grid with a lap of 1:47.652 (109.352 mph) in his #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda. Starting from the 20th spot on the 28-car grid will be 2008 Expert Series champion Chris Cumming of Vancouver; he turned a lap of 1:48.048 (108.952 mph) in his #16 Kester Racing Team 3G / Texas World Speedway / Motul Oil Mazda. Both drivers won their respective class in the Star Mazda Championship season-opener at Sebring.

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.

### Qualifying Results - Saturday, April 25, 2009

Pos	No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Spd	In Lap	Diff	Gap	2nd Best	2nd Spd	2nd Lap
1	11	Adam Christodoulou	1:45.868	111.195	12			1:45.909	111.152	9
2	3	Peter Dempsey	1:45.997	111.060	8	0.129	0.129	1:46.190	110.858	7
3	21	Denis Navarro	1:46.272	110.772	9	0.404	0.275	1:46.767	110.259	8
4	17	Mikael Grenier	1:46.415	110.624	8	0.547	0.143	1:46.633	110.397	9
5	51	Alex Ardoin	1:46.427	110.611	7	0.559	0.012	1:46.536	110.498	5
6	22	Conor Daly	1:46.442	110.595	10	0.574	0.015	1:46.604	110.427	7
7	2	Joel Miller	1:46.473	110.563	12	0.605	0.031	1:46.507	110.528	4
8	19	Caio Lara	1:46.486	110.550	8	0.618	0.013	1:46.691	110.337	7
9	82	Billy Goshen	1:46.521	110.513	10	0.653	0.035	1:46.548	110.485	7
10	71	David Ostella	1:47.083	109.933	8	1.215	0.562	1:47.139	109.876	7
11	13	Michael Furfari	1:47.099	109.917	7	1.231	0.016	1:47.630	109.375	8
12	72	Jorge Goncalvez	1:47.114	109.902	9	1.246	0.015	1:47.394	109.615	8
13	30	Rick Rosin	1:47.517	109.490	9	1.649	0.403	1:47.623	109.382	4
14	66	Rusty Mitchell	1:47.574	109.432	8	1.706	0.057	1:47.875	109.126	5
15	27	Anders Krohn	1:47.649	109.355	6	1.781	0.075	1:48.430	108.568	5
16	91	Michael Guasch	1:47.652	109.352	11	1.784	0.003	1:47.790	109.212	7
17	83	Ryan Booth	1:47.665	109.339	9	1.797	0.013	1:47.735	109.268	10
18	15	Taylor Hacquard	1:47.718	109.285	11	1.850	0.053	1:47.784	109.218	8
19	24	J.C. Kester	1:47.792	109.210	8	1.924	0.074	1:47.795	109.207	9
20	16	Chris Cumming	1:48.048	108.952	10	2.180	0.256	1:48.048	108.952	12
21	48	Kristy Kester	1:48.146	108.853	9	2.278	0.098	1:48.451	108.547	7
22	55	Gerry Kraut	1:48.452	108.546	9	2.584	0.306	1:48.957	108.043	10
23	64	Patrick O'Niell	1:48.568	108.430	8	2.700	0.116	1:48.871	108.128	7
24	77	Kevin Toledo	1:49.252	107.751	3	3.384	0.684	1:50.624	106.415	2
25	61	Sean Burstyn	1:49.797	107.216	10	3.929	0.545	1:50.032	106.987	5
26	80	Toshi Deki	1:49.887	107.128	9	4.019	0.090	1:50.680	106.361	7
27	31	Carlos Conde	1:50.722	106.320	11	4.854	0.835	1:51.032	106.023	8
28	23	Walt Bowlin	1:54.701	102.632	11	8.833	3.979	1:55.183	102.203	8

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 information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

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

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[www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com)

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