



IT'S EUROPE vs. THE U.S. AS THE STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP HEADS FOR MILLER MOTORSPORTS PARK IN A 4-WAY BATTLE FOR THE TOP TWO SPOTS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

It's only two races into the 2009 season and already an interesting points battle for the top two spots is shaping up as the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear heads for Round Three at Miller Motorsports Park this weekend.



Englishman Adam Christodoulou, driving the #11 JDC Motorsports Mazda in his first-ever Star Mazda championship race, fired the opening shot with a victory from the outside of the front row in the season-opener at Sebring. In Round Two at VIR on April 26, Christodoulou took the pole position but crossed the finish line 7th after a wild last lap while Irishman Peter Dempsey started alongside Christodoulou on the front row, pulled off a spectacular

'hail Mary' pass on the last lap on brought his #3 AIM Autosport / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda home in first place. This is Dempsey's second season of Star Mazda Championship competition and he finished third in the 2008 championship with four wins, three of them in a row.

Where the first race, with Christodoulou never putting a wheel wrong, was a reasonably restrained demonstration of driving skill, by the time VIR rolled around, many of the Star Mazda Championship drivers seemed to have gotten in touch with their inner demolition derby driver and the race was a debris-strewn yellow-flag fest punctuated with the occasion couple of green flag laps. And at Sebring, another second-year driver, Californian Joel Miller, finished 5th while Rookie Conor Daly finished 3rd. At VIR, they swapped placings, with Miller finishing 3rd and Daly finishing 5th.

This is all the more interesting in light of the fact that in 2008, Miller was the reigning Skip Barber Pro Series Champion and racing in the Star Mazda with a scholarship from the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder. This year, he's paying his own way and his chief nemesis, Conor Daly, is the Skip Barber Pro Series champion and MAZDASPEED scholarship recipient. Miller is the classic outsider, a by-your-bootstraps driver who pilots the #2 JDC



Motorsports Mazda, while Daly is the consummate insider, son of racing legend and noted broadcaster Derek Daly. He drives the #22 Andersen Racing / College Network / Indeck / Cytomax Mazda. Both are talented and hungry, and their season-long battle is sure to be intense.

As a result of the first two races, the duo of Christodoulou and Dempsey are tied in the championship battle with 74 points, while Miller and Daly are tied for second at 69 points. The Star Mazda Championship awards 44 points for a win, so all four, as well as a number of others, are still in the hunt. The Star Mazda Championship presents a uniquely deep talent pool this season; not only are countries such as U.S., Canada, England, Ireland, Norway, Brazil, Venezuela, Chile and Japan represented, but three of the top-4 and seven of the top-10 drivers from 2008 have returned to do battle again in 2009.



And at Miller Motorsports Park in 2008, while Joel Miller qualified 2nd and finished 3rd and Peter Dempsey qualified 6th and finished 4th, it was Louisiana racer Alex Ardoin, now in his third Star Mazda season, who made the biggest impression; starting from the 29th and last spot on the grid due to a mechanical problem in qualifying, he slashed his way up through the field to finish 10th. This year, Ardoin rounds out

the top-5 in the championship battle with an 8th-place finish at Sebring and 2nd at VIR. Driving the #51 JDC Motorsports / Oral & Facial Surgery Center Mazda, he is the leading contender to step up and surprise the leaders.

Other drivers who should be watched are both second-season competitors; Canadian Taylor Hacquard, who finished 6th in 2008, and Billy Goshen who finished 8th. Hacquard changed teams in the off-season, and now drives the #15 Kester Racing Team 3G / Wolfe Auto Group / Texas World Speedway Mazda. Goshen's family team has expanded from one car last season to three, and he drives the #82 Goshen Motorsports / Baker Commodities / GPSTrackit / OTTO / First Quality Concrete Mazda.

Among Expert Series drivers (ages 30 – 44), 2008 Champion Chris Cumming of Vancouver, B.C. finished 2nd at Miller last year and heads back this year again leading his class championship with a class win at Sebring and 3rd at VIR driving the #16 Kester Racing Team 3G / Texas World Speedway / Motul Oil Mazda. His strongest competition will come from Japanese racer Toshihiro Deki, second in the championship with a 4th at Sebring and 2nd at VIR in the #80 Goshen Motorsports Mazda, as well as 2008 West Coast Star Mazda champion Patrick O'Neill, who missed Sebring but won his class at VIR in the #64 Mundill / O'Neill Construction Mazda.

In the Master Series (age 45 and older), champion Chuck Hulse did not return this year, but his teammate and 2nd-place finisher in the 2008 championship, Gerry Kraut, is back in the #55 JDC Motorsports / Dougherty & Co. / Dougherty Funding LLC Mazda, scoring 2nd-place finishes at Sebring and VIR. His main competition this year again comes from a teammate, though this

time its California Michael Guasch, who leads the Master Series championship by virtue of class wins in both of the first two races at the wheel of the #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda.

In addition to the various championship battles already underway, Round 3 of the Star Mazda Championship at Miller Motorsports Park marks the first of five races designated as Star Mazda / Racing For Kids events. Participating drivers (including Alex Ardoin, Toshihiro Deki, Ryan Booth, Chris Cumming, Billy Goshen, Taylor Hacquard, Kristy and J.C. Kester, Caio Lara and Joel Miller) will visit the Primary Children's Medical Center at 100 Medical Drive at 3:00 pm, Thursday, May 14. The top-finishing driver on the list at the Miller event will receive a \$500 cash prize, with a comparable cash donation made to the Children's Hospital in that driver's name. At the end of the season, a \$1,000 cash prize will be offered to the best performing driver in the five race mini-series with another \$1,000 going to the children's healthcare institution of the driver's choice. Joel Miller of Hesperia, California won the RFK Star Mazda title last year and Alex Ardoin of Lafayette, Louisiana won the honor in 2007.



On-track activities for drivers in the Star Mazda Championship begins with a pair of 50-minute promoter test sessions on Thursday, May 14, one beginning at 8:00 am and the other at 1:00 pm. A pair of official 45-minute practice sessions will take place on Friday, May 15 at 8:45 am and 1:00 pm. Qualifying to set the grid for the Star Mazda Championship's spectacular, F1-style standing start takes place from 8:35 am - 9:20 am Saturday, May 16, with the 45-minute Round 3 of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at Miller Motorsports Park during the Larry H. Miller Dealerships Utah Grand Prix Presented by the Grand & Little America Hotels scheduled to get the green light at 6:05 pm Saturday afternoon.

Miller Motorsports Park - Overview

Miller Motorsports Park is a state-of-the-art road racing facility for automobiles, motorcycles and karts located just 35 minutes from downtown Salt Lake City in Tooele, Utah. It is considered the finest facility of its type in North America. Opened in 2006, Miller Motorsports Park hosts many of the world's most significant racing series, including the American Le Mans Series, Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series, NASCAR Grand National West Series, AMA Superbike Championship and, new for 2008, the FIM SUPERBIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, one of the top three racing series in the world.

The track at Miller Motorsports Park is a 4.5-mile, 40-50 foot wide, 24-turn circuit, the longest in North America. It has four different configurations, ranging from two different 2.2-mile circuits (East and West Courses) to the 3.08-mile Perimeter Course and the 4.5-mile Full Course. The 3500-foot main straightaway allows the fastest cars and motorcycles to approach 200 mph before braking for Turn 1. The 511-acre facility also boasts a 0.9-mile paved karting circuit, one of the finest in the country, with 20 different configurations available.



In addition to the professional racing series that visit Miller Motorsports Park, the track also [has its own locally-based racing series](#) for road racing cars and motorcycles, Supermoto motorcycles and karts (with competitor's ages ranging from five to 65 years old). There is racing taking place almost every weekend between April and October.

Miller Motorsports Park offers something for almost every motorsports enthusiast. There are *rental karts* available for young and old. The [Performance Training Center](#) offers classes in auto racing, high-performance driving, karting and Supermoto, plus a Teen Driving Academy, Highway Survival School and Winter Driving Academy. The *Larry H. Miller Museum* is home to some of the world's most significant racing cars, specializing in cars associated with the legendary Carroll Shelby. The *Race Fanzz* retail store offers clothing, souvenirs, collectibles and

gift certificates. The track also holds [Open Track Days](#), during which individuals can drive their car on the track after a brief orientation course, and has a multi-level [Club Membership Program](#) that offers exclusive access and amenities.

[Corporate activities](#) are very popular at Miller Motorsports Park, with full banquet, conference and classroom facilities available plus a variety of entertainment and team-building options utilizing the racetrack, school and karting facility.

THE RACE TRACK

The road course is a 4.5-mile-long, 40-50-foot-wide, 24-turn layout that provides a variety of cornering speeds, from 50 mph to well over 100 mph. The fastest cars and motorcycles will approach 200 mph on the track's 50-foot-wide, 3500-foot main straight.

The course has four possible configurations. The 2.24-mile East Course is a highly technical challenge suited to lower-powered, better-handling cars and motorcycles, while the 2.2-mile West Course is fitting for higher-powered, larger cars and motorcycles.

The East Course has as many as seven major overtaking areas and 14 corners, including the three-turn esses, which have significant elevation changes. The feature corner on the East Course is the final turn, a 50-foot-wide, nine-degree banked sweeper that leads onto the main straight. It is designed to create last-minute overtaking challenges before the race to the finish line.

The West Course is notable for a sequence of three very fast (100-mph-plus) corners that lead to the heaviest-braking and slowest corner on the track, turn W5, whose 45-foot-wide entrance encourages overtaking. The rest of the West Course features several multiple-radius and complex corners designed to challenge drivers' skills. [View a map of the West Course.](#)

Miller Motorsports Park's longest configuration, the Full Course, has a character completely different from either of the two shorter layouts. In this 4.5-mile configuration, speeds will be extremely high both at the end of the long main straight and through the daunting sequence of turns that comprise the first elements of the East side of the course, where cornering speeds will approach 150 mph. [View a map of the Full Course.](#)

A fourth configuration, the 3.06-mile Perimeter Course (also called the Outer Course), eliminates the entire infield section and is one of the fastest track layouts in North America.

While the track is basically flat, Miller Motorsports Park's design incorporates several significant elevation changes in order to add character, challenge and unparalleled sightlines for spectators. The variety of configurations, each with its own distinct characteristics, enables Miller Motorsports Park to provide challenges for drivers and riders of all skill levels while

simultaneously providing exceptional race action for spectators. [View a map of the Perimeter Course.](#)

Safety was a major consideration in the design philosophy of Miller Motorsports Park. The circuit provides significant runoff areas, deep gravel traps and ample curbing to allow competitors to race hard, secure in the knowledge that if they make a mistake there is plenty of room for error designed into the circuit. Miller Motorsports Park enjoys a reputation as one of the safest racing facilities in the world.

SPECTATOR FACILITIES

Miller Motorsports Park is unique in that it offers spectators almost 100% sightlines of the entire track from any viewing location, while providing up-close viewing of prime race-action zones. This is possible because of the inherently level nature of the property, which allows spectators to be located around the perimeter of the course while ensuring that the track layout brings major overtaking and action zones close to spectator areas.

Six different spectator areas, known as Oases, are prime viewing areas featuring raised spectator banks, grandstands, restrooms, concessions, catering, nearby parking and other amenities. These Oases are linked by roadways that provide access to each other and to the Paddock and Expo area, and are also connected by pathways that follow the track's perimeter.

PADDOCK FACILITIES

Miller Motorsports Park hit the ground racing in 2006 with what might be the most complete competitor and support facilities of any road course in North America.

On the east side of the property, just off Sheep Lane, competitors arrive at the Main Entrance and register at the Welcome Center, which includes the *RaceFannz* retail store, the *Larry H. Miller Museum* and Security Center complex.

After passing through the main gate, competitors see the Maintenance facility, which also houses the Shipping and Receiving office, to the right, as well as a children's playground and basketball court. Directly ahead are the first of two 40-bay Day Garages, and a full-service Kart Retail and Service Center, adjacent to the Miller Kart Track. To the left, stretching 800 feet along the East Pit Lane, are the 27-bay Formula One-style Grand Prix Garages. Also visible is a feature image of the park: the three-story Race Control Tower.

Further into the 24-acre paved paddock, located close to the main straight, is a combination Medical/Restroom/Concession center. On the north side of the Paddock is a swipe-card-operated gas station, a wash bay and the Team Garage complex. Team Garages are available for rent to teams and individuals on a long-term basis as a location for workshops, car and motorcycle storage, or even as a facility from which to operate a motorsports-related business.

Two additional Race Control buildings serve the West Course and Miller Kart Track.

The Paddock is extensively wired to provide power for a large number of competitors, and has perhaps the largest number of permanent, high-quality restrooms of any race facility in the nation. Wireless Internet access is also available. Additionally, the Paddock has several classrooms and other multiple-use facilities.

CORPORATE AND MEMBER FACILITIES

The most spectacular, and certainly the most significant, building at Miller Motorsports Park is the 22,000-square-foot Club House Building, located on a hill overlooking the final turn before the main straight. This three-story facility offers almost 100% views of the entire track, and sits directly above the sweeping final corner complex. Surrounded by nearly five acres of prime viewing embankment, Club House Members enjoy exceptional viewing, privileged access and exclusive food, service and entertainment opportunities unique in American motorsports.

The Club House Building comprises a members-only main floor with lounge, cafeteria, catering facility, meeting room, restrooms, wireless Internet access, business center and a large open-plan exhibition hall which opens directly onto the viewing banks.

The third-floor Executive Level, complete with an expansive deck, is reserved for Miller Motorsports Park's Executive Club members.

The Miller Motorsports Park Club House is in use year-round, and its members enjoy access to all events as well as the opportunity to participate in a wide range of enthusiast-centered activities. The Club House is also used during the week as the main corporate entertainment center at Miller Motorsports Park.

Easily accessible to all spectators, paddock participants and corporate guests, a large corporate hospitality area is located between the Paddock and the Club House. Guests can also be accommodated in tented suites located on the roof of the Grand Prix Garages.

MILLER KART TRACK

Miller Motorsports Park incorporates one of the most spectacular kart road course facilities in North America. At 0.89 miles, with a main straight approaching 900 feet in length and 30 feet in width, the track is one of the fastest in the nation, yet still has a wide range of different-speed corners. This track's subtle elevation changes and multiple configurations make it perfect for all classes of racing. It is a center for major corporate and rental kart activities and can be used for solo car competition (autocrosses), driver training and manufacturer ride-and-drive activities. Also, it has been designed to serve as a motorcycle riding and race-training course, and incorporates dirt loops for Supermoto action.

The Miller Kart Track is located so that it can operate simultaneously with almost any road course event, and where it serves corporate and spectator needs during major events.

LOCATION

Miller Motorsports Park is situated in Tooele County, just 25 minutes from Salt Lake City International Airport, 35 minutes of downtown Salt Lake and about 10 minutes from Tooele or Grantsville. It is directly adjacent to Tooele County's Deseret Peak Recreation Complex. Miller Motorsports Park is easily accessed by major highways (I-80) and surrounding county roads.

SUMMARY

Miller Motorsports Park is the most advanced, safest and best-equipped road racing facility in North America. So outstanding was its design and execution that it was named "Motorsports Facility of the Year" by the Professional Motorsport World Expo in Cologne, Germany, on November 8, 2006. The facility offers something for everyone, with outstanding fan amenities, unmatched corporate meeting and entertainment options and the finest paddock and garages available for teams. Miller Motorsports Park is a significant addition to the national road racing industry, and a major component of the ever-growing Salt Lake City sporting market.

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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