



ADAM CHRISTODOULOU DOMINATES QUALIFYING TO TAKE THE POLE FOR STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 3 AT MILLER MOTORSPORTS PARK

Miller Motorsports Park (May 16, 2009) – In an exciting qualifying session that saw the pole locked up on Lap 3, but the occupant of the outside spot on the front row change four times in



the final sixty seconds, it was Englishman Adam Christodoulou who put an exclamation point on his dominance of the pre-qualifying practice sessions with a lap of 1:43.761 (105.751 mph) in the #11 JDC Motorsports Mazda to take the top spot on the grid for this afternoon's Round Three of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at Miller Motorsports Park. Christodoulou, a rookie in the Star Mazda Championship,

was the 2008 U.K. Formula Renault champion and winner of Star Mazda Round One at Sebring, was the only car to break into the 1:43 range; that record, 1:43.650, was set in 2008 by American John Edwards (who went on to win the race from the pole and win the championship).

"The track conditions were better this morning; it didn't feel like there was a much grip, but the temperature is quite a lot cooler which is nice for the cars," said Christodoulou. "The team was all working last night on qualifying and we ended up looking at all the cars and we got a combination of what we thought the good setup would be. And it's obviously proven to be pretty quick. I'm still a couple tenths shy off the lap record, but we get a new set of tires for the race and maybe I can get it within the first few laps, hopefully. As for my teammates, we all work together off track, but when the helmets go on, everyone is a competitor. But we do go through the data both together and on our own, having a quick look to see where we can improve. For me it was the last sector of the track that I was struggling with yesterday, but I think I got it pretty sorted for qualifying."

Starting from the outside of the front row of the 33-car field will be Christodoulou's teammate on the JDC Motorsports team, American Joel Miller. He was second-fast in the final practice session on Friday, and in qualifying turned a 1:44.104 (105.402 mph) lap in the #2 JDC Motorsports / Fader Higher Productions / Mockett / Burns Truck & Trailer Mazda. Miller was

the 2008 MAZDASPEED Motorsports Drive Development Ladder Scholarship winner and won his first Star Mazda Championship race, the 2008 season-opener at Sebring, from the pole. He went on to finish second in the championship; he is back for his second season in Star Mazda and currently tied for second in the points championship battle.

Starting third will be another Englishman, Richard Kent, who turned a lap of 1:44.126 (105.380 mph) in the #33 Andersen Racing / Traka / Allied Interior Products Mazda. Kent was the 'man from nowhere' who turned up at the final race of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship season, set a new lap record to win the pole and then led every lap to win the race. In 2009, he won the pole at Sebring and finished second, then missed Round Two at Virginia International Raceway with a non-racing injury.

Rounding out the top-5 on the starting grid are Louisiana racer Alex Ardoin, another member of the JDC Motorsports team, who turned a lap of 1:44.127 (105.279 mph) in the #51 JDC Motorsports / Oral & Facial Surgery Center / Twister Trailer Mazda. Ardoin won the season-end Star Mazda race at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in his rookie year, 2007, and has been a consistent contender in the championship. This is his third season of Star Mazda competition. Starting 5th will be another intriguing story, Irishman Peter Dempsey, who won four Star Mazda Championship races in 2008, his rookie year, and won the 2009 Round Two at VIR in a wild finish that saw pole-sitter Adam Christodoulou taking the scenic route through the grass (and very nearly a corner worker's stand) on the final lap. He turned a 1:44.160 (105.346 mph). Dempsey and Christodoulou are tied in the 2009 Star Mazda Championship points battle.

Among the Star Mazda Expert Series drivers (ages 30 – 44), it was 2008 Expert champion Chris Cumming of Vancouver, B.C. who set the fastest time; his 1:45.443 (104.064 mph) in the #16 Kester Racing Team 3G / Texas World Speedway / Motul Oil Mazda puts him 16th on the starting grid. Among Master Series racers (45 and older), Californian Michael Guasch, who has won the class in both races so far this season, will start 23rd on the grid with a lap of 1:46.357 (103.170 mph) in the #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda.

Pos	No.	Name	Best Time	Best Speed	On Lap	Diff	Gap
1	11	Adam Christodoulou	1:43.761	105.751	5		
2	2	Joel Miller	1:44.104	105.402	12	0.343	0.343
3	33	Richard Kent	1:44.126	105.380	12	0.365	0.022
4	51	Alex Ardoin	1:44.127	105.379	11	0.366	0.001
5	3	Peter Dempsey	1:44.160	105.346	5	0.399	0.033
6	19	Caio Lara	1:44.401	105.102	5	0.640	0.241
7	27	Anders Krohn	1:44.614	104.888	9	0.853	0.213
8	17	Mikael Grenier	1:44.801	104.701	12	1.040	0.187
9	72	Jorge Goncalvez	1:44.956	104.547	10	1.195	0.155
10	15	Taylor Hacquard	1:44.986	104.517	7	1.225	0.030
11	13	Michael Furfari	1:45.033	104.470	4	1.272	0.047
12	22	Conor Daly	1:45.097	104.406	4	1.336	0.064
13	24	J.C. Kester	1:45.281	104.224	10	1.520	0.184
14	30	Rick Rosin	1:45.378	104.128	4	1.617	0.097

15	71	David Ostella	1:45.427	104.080	12	1.666	0.049
16	16	Chris Cumming	1:45.443	104.064	9	1.682	0.016
17	21	Dennis Navarro	1:45.479	104.028	9	1.718	0.036
18	48	Kristy Kester	1:45.651	103.859	3	1.890	0.172
19	82	Billy Goshen	1:45.655	103.855	4	1.894	0.004
20	66	Rusty Mitchell	1:45.698	103.813	11	1.937	0.043
21	64	Patrick O'Neil	1:45.932	103.583	7	2.171	0.234
22	61	Sean Burstyn	1:45.999	103.518	9	2.238	0.067
23	91	Michael Guasch	1:46.357	103.170	7	2.596	0.358
24	12	Chuck Hulse	1:46.476	103.054	9	2.715	0.119
25	29	Phil Fogg	1:46.912	102.634	7	3.151	0.436
26	55	Gerry Kraut	1:47.275	102.287	5	3.514	0.363
27	77	Kevin Toledo	1:47.341	102.224	3	3.580	0.066
28	20	Gustavo Linares	1:47.454	102.116	5	3.693	0.113
29	80	Toshi Deki	1:47.626	101.953	4	3.865	0.172
30	18	Stan Kohls	1:47.719	101.865	10	3.958	0.093
31	83	Bruce Binnquest	1:48.219	101.394	9	4.458	0.500
32	86	David House	1:48.279	101.338	8	4.518	0.060
33	23	Walt Bowlin	1:50.333	99.452	9	6.572	2.054

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.

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
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