



## **PREDICTABLE RESULT, UNEXPECTED DETAILS -- ADAM CHRISTODOULOU WINS OVER 33 CAR FIELD IN STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 3 AT MILLER MOTORSPORTS PARK**



Miller Motorsports Park (May 16, 2009) – Given that he dominated all but one of the four practices session over the two days leading up to the race, and put his #11 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda on the pole by a margin of more than 3/10ths, it came as no surprise to anyone that he eventually crossed the finish line ahead of 32 other cars to win Round Three of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship at Miller Motorsports Park. The manner of it, however, was a bit more interesting.

Christodoulou, starting from the inside of the front row, got an excellent start and pulled into the lead; his intent to drive a clean race from the front and leading every lap seemed to be going according to plan. Then a full-course yellow resulting from contact between two mid-pack cars – as it so often does – nearly changed everything. After two laps of full-course yellow, on the re-start, it was Louisiana racer

Alex Ardoin who emerged from the four-abreast charge into Turn One leading the pack. And this he continued to do for the largest part of the race until, in one of those inexplicable things that happen in racing, while changing the settings on his cockpit-adjustable sway bars, Ardoin's finger just ticked the engine shutoff switch... with predictable results; off into the gravel, madly scrambling to get the engine re-started and the car back on track. Which he did. In sixth. And there he stayed until the checkered flag fell. Needless to say he was too devastated to speak about it afterward.

Christodoulou, on the other hand, was quite content, having driven a flawless – if not quite according to plan – race, to score his second victory of the season (he won from the front row at Sebring) and consolidate his lead in the points championship that he had shared entering the Miller weekend with Peter Dempsey, winner of Round Two at Virginia International Raceway. Christodoulou was also the top-finishing driver among those signed up for the Racing For Kids program and will have \$500 donated in his name to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City and a matching amount to a children's hospital in the U.K.

"It definitely wasn't an easy race," said Christodoulou, the 2008 U.K. Formula Renault Champion. "Alex was pretty quick, got a decent re-start and he actually pulled away at the start while I was battling it out with the guys behind me. I caught back up with him and pushed him

as hard as I could into the first corner and I think he hit the kill switch, and that was it for him. Obviously I passed him, took the lead and just kept my head down and took it to the end."

Finishing second after qualifying 5th was Irishman Peter Dempsey, driving the #3 AIM Autosport / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda. Dempsey won the previous Star Mazda race, Round Three at VIR, and won four races in 2008, placing third in the championship. His race was slightly compromised by a broken 'splitter,' an aerodynamic device that helps direct airflow and produce downforce to increase cornering. Likewise, 3rd-place finisher Joel Miller, who started from the outside of the front row in the #2 JDC Motorsports / Fader Higher Productions / Mockett / Burns Truck & Trailer Mazda, had mechanical problems that appeared early in the race; they did not compromise his ability to finish, but he was in 'conservation mode' throughout. Miller, the 2008 MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Scholarship winner, won the first race of last year at Sebring and finished second in the championship.

It is of note that all of the top-3 finishers are previous race winners -- and the 4th-place finisher as well, Englishman Richard Kent. He was the 'man from nowhere' who showed up at the final race of last season, broke the lap record at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on his way to winning first the pole and then the race. Kent drives the #33 Andersen Racing / Traka / Allied Interior Products Mazda. Rounding out the top-5 was rising Brazilian open-wheel star Caio Lara, now in his second season of Star Mazda competition and driving the #19 JDC Motorsports / MLD / ATW/ Molecule Mazda for the championship-winning JDC Motorsports team.

Finishing first in the Expert Series for drivers 30 to 44 years old was Japanese rookie Toshihiro Deki, driving the #80 Goshen Motorsports Mazda. It was the first podium appearance in the Star Mazda series for this driver who is a high-profile motorsports star in his homeland. Winning the Master series for drivers over 45 is 2008 Master Series champion Chuck Hulse. Making his first appearance in the series in 2009, Californian Hulse brought his #12 Dave Frieras Racing / Silicon Salvage Mazda home in 19th overall.

Pos	PIC No.	Name	Laps	Total Tm	Diff	Gap
1	1	11 Adam Christodoulou	22	43:32.006		
2	2	3 Peter Dempsey	22	43:35.880	3.874	3.874
3	3	2 Joel Miller	22	43:36.456	4.450	0.576
4	4	33 Richard Kent	22	43:38.159	6.153	1.703
5	5	19 Caio Lara	22	43:40.496	8.490	2.337
6	6	51 Alex Ardoin	22	43:43.059	11.053	2.563
7	7	17 Mikael Grenier	22	43:46.508	14.502	3.449
8	8	21 Dennis Navarro	22	43:46.929	14.923	0.421
9	9	13 Michael Furfari	22	43:56.313	24.307	9.384
10	10	30 Rick Rosin	22	43:56.891	24.885	0.578
11	11	82 Billy Goshen	22	43:57.334	25.328	0.443
12	12	27 Anders Krohn	22	43:57.925	25.919	0.591
13	13	15 Taylor Hacquard	22	43:59.209	27.203	1.284
14	14	72 Jorge Goncalvez	22	44:06.557	34.551	7.348
15	15	61 Sean Burstyn	22	44:09.261	37.255	2.704
16	16	48 Kristy Kester	22	44:14.981	42.975	5.720

17	17	66 Rusty Mitchell	22	44:19.322	47.316	4.341
18	18	71 David Ostella	22	44:21.738	49.732	2.416
19	19	12 Chuck Hulse	22	44:24.062	52.056	2.324
20	20	77 Kevin Toledo	22	44:24.919	52.913	0.857
21	21	91 Michael Guasch	22	44:25.197	53.191	0.278
22	22	24 J.C. Kester	22	44:45.292	1:13.286	20.095
23	23	83 Bruce Binnquest	22	44:47.761	1:15.755	2.469
24	24	22 Conor Daly	22	44:55.009	1:23.003	7.248
25	25	55 Gerry Kraut	22	45:10.859	1:38.853	15.850
26	26	80 Toshi Deki	22	45:14.041	1:42.035	3.182
27	27	18 Stan Kohls	21	43:42.418	1 Lap	1 Lap
28	28	23 Walt Bowlin	21	45:04.436	1 Lap	1:22.018
29	29	64 Patrick O'Neil	19	40:12.753	3 Laps	2 Laps
30	30	86 David House	18	37:39.557	4 Laps	1 Lap
31	31	16 Chris Cumming	14	29:51.302	8 Laps	4 Laps
32	32	29 Phil Fogg	1	2:02.642	21 Laps	13 Laps
33	33	20 Gustavo Linares	1	2:07.851	21 Laps	5.209

The next event on the 11-weekend, 13-race star Mazda Championship schedule is a two-race weekend on the challenging road course at New Jersey Motorsports Park, June 11 - 12. Between now and then, teams head to both Milwaukee and Iowa for series-sponsored testing in preparation for the two upcoming oval track races; June 20 at the Milwaukee Mile with NASCAR and July 10 at Iowa Speedway with ARCA.

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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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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:

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