



THE MORNING FLIER -- DEMPSEY FASTEST IN STAR MAZDA FRIDAY P2 BUT CONOR DALY'S QUICK LAP IN P1 SETS THE BAR FOR SATURDAY MORNING QUALIFYING



A familiar order re-emerged in the final Friday afternoon Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear practice session at Mosport; championship points leader and 4-time race winner Peter Dempsey was quickest with a 1:15.406 (117.396 mph) in the #3 Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda. Adam Christodoulou, second in the championship and the only other driver

this season with more than one win, was second with a 1:15.467 (just 0.061-sec. behind) driving the #11 JDC Motorsports / Molecule / Alpinestars Mazda. Third was Richard Kent, driving the #33 Andersen Racing / Traka Allied Interior Products Mazda to a lap of 1:15.514 (117.229 mph) while Conor Daly was fourth, turning a lap of 1:15.571 (117.140 mph) in the #22 Andersen Racing / College Network / Indeck / Cytomax Mazda. Rounding out the top-5 was Trois-Rivieres pole-sitter (and 2nd-place finisher) Rusty Mitchell, who turned a lap of 1:15.598 (117.098 mph) in the #66 Mitchell Motorsports / Motorola Mazda. So the top-5 in the afternoon session were all less than 2/10ths of a second apart around the challenging 10-turn, 2.459-mile Mosport road circuit.

"It's great to get back on top and I really have to thank Ricardo Juncos and everyone at the team for all the effort they made for me," said Dempsey. "Our aim, under the circumstances, was to come here and just try and get some points, but if we could take home a race win and build our points lead back up after what happened at Trois-Rivieres, that would be great. Its going to be tough, though, because Conor and Adam and Richard all seem to be quite well hooked up, but I won this race last year and that helps. I know I could go out and just try to be in the top-5 at the last three races and that would win the championship, but for me, I always have to go out and try to do the best I can in every race, and if that brings the championship to me, then so be it."

But when you look at a merge of times from both the morning and afternoon session, it was Conor Daly's morning flier of 1:14.914 that set the mark at which the rest of the field - including himself - is still shooting. In the merge, Kent was second-fast with his morning time of 1:15.258, but Dempsey went 3/10ths quicker in the afternoon (1:15.406 vs 1:15.731 in the morning) and still wound up third. Adam



Christodoulou, coming back from a disastrous Thursday test session in which he crashed in both the morning and afternoon sessions, found his footing and improved almost a full second from morning to afternoon (1:16.268 vs. 1:15.467) and would up 4th overall. Likewise Rusty Mitchell made a big jump from morning to afternoon (1:16.297 vs. 1:15.598).

Master Series racer Gerry Kraut improved in P2, posting a 1:17.109 in his #55 JDC Motorsports / Dougherty & Co. / Dougherty Funding LLC Mazda – good for 14th-fast overall. The quickest Expert Series driver (ages 30-44) was Toshihiro Deki, improving by nearly half a second to 1:20.007 – 17th-fast overall – ion his #80 Juncos Racing Mazda.

All of which – save for Conor Daly's morning flier - would seem to suggest a combination of improving conditions (cooler and cloudier) in the afternoon, as well as teams refining setups and drivers gaining confidence on a track which requires the commitment of driving flat-out through at least three blind turns in search of a fast lap. And it all may be scrambled by the weather in any case; heavy rains are predicted for tonight and early morning, with qualifying for tomorrow afternoon's race scheduled to take place 9:20 am, with the race going green at 5.35 pm.

Results of Star Mazda Championship - Qualifying merge

Pos No.	Name	Overall BestTm	Diff	Team	Sponsor	P1. Best Tm	P2. Best Tm
1	22 Conor Daly	1:14.914		Andersen Racing	Indeck/Cytomax/Merchant Services/College Network	1:14.914	1:15.571
2	33 Richard Kent	1:15.258	0.344	Andersen Racing	Traka/Allied Interior Products	1:15.258	1:15.514
3	3 Peter Dempsey	1:15.406	0.492	Juncos Racing	Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsports Ireland	1:15.731	1:15.406
4	11 Adam Christodoulou	1:15.467	0.553	JDC Motorsports	Molecule/AlpineStars/Miller Milling Co	1:16.268	1:15.467

5	66	Rusty Mitchell	1:15.598	0.684	Mitchell Motorsports	Motorola	1:16.297	1:15.598
6	2	Joel Miller	1:15.678	0.764	Andersen Racing	Fader High Productions/eSoles/Doug Mockett & Co	1:15.678	1:15.938
7	21	Denis Navarro	1:15.857	0.943	Andersen Racing	Navarro Medicines Distribution/Allied	1:16.195	1:15.857
8	72	Jorge Goncalvez	1:15.877	0.963	Aim Autosport		1:15.877	1:15.884
9	27	Anders Krohn	1:15.885	0.971	Mundill	Trallfa/Colosseum	1:15.885	1:16.152
10	71	David Ostella	1:15.982	1.068	Aim Autosport	GP Global Precast	1:15.982	1:16.080
11	51	Alex Ardoin	1:16.100	1.186	JDC Motorsports	Oral & Facial Surgery Center/Twister Trailer	1:16.100	1:16.503
12	19	Caio Lara	1:16.346	1.432	JDC Motorsports	MLD/ATW/Molecule	1:16.346	1:16.523
13	77	Kevin Toledo	1:16.873	1.959	Eliseo THL Motorsports		1:16.873	1:16.930
14	55	Gerry Kraut	1:17.109	2.195	JDC Motorsports	Doherty and Co./Doherty Funding LLC.	1:17.635	1:17.109
15	91	Michael Guasch	1:17.113	2.199	JDC Motorsports	Molecule	1:17.909	1:17.113
16	13	Michael Furfari	1:17.345	2.431	Mundill	Furfari Paving	1:17.345	1:17.365
17	80	Toshihiro Deki	1:20.007	5.093	Juncos Racing		1:20.573	1:20.007
18	23	Walt Bowlin	1:22.200	7.286	Mundill	Hooters/Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	1:22.800	1:22.200

About The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

For 2009, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear (www.starmazda.com) will feature an 11-weekend, 13-race schedule on major race weekends with American Le Mans, Grand-Am, the Atlantic Championship, NASCAR Nationwide and Craftsman Truck Series. Prize money is \$1.5 million, including a fully-funded drive in the 2010 Atlantic Championship. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete and the Star Mazda Championship also features Expert (30 to 44) and Master (45 and older) classes for more mature racers. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 150 mph and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For drivers interested in competing in the series, detailed information is available at www.starmazda.com/newdriver.

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.atlantic-championship.com

www.starmazda.com

www.skipbarber.com

www.mx-5cup.com

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