



-- COMPRESSION SESSION --

Championship leader Peter Dempsey takes his fourth pole of the year during an oil-spill-shortened Star Mazda Championship qualifying session at the Petit Le Mans



Road Atlanta / Sept. 24 2009 – Peter 'The Irish Steamroller' Dempsey scored his fourth pole of the year during a severely-compressed qualifying session leading up to tomorrow's Round 12 of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the Petit Le Mans Powered by MAZDA6. Despite a session shortened from 23 to 10 minutes due to crews cleaning up an oil trail laid down by another car, on lap 6 of the session Dempsey turned

the pole time of 1:19.584 in his #3 Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda. Dempsey, the current championship points leader, also owns the outright lap record, set here in 2008 when he qualified on the pole with a 1:18.328 (though he finished 19th due to an on-track incident). This is Dempsey's fourth pole of the year, matching his record of four victories so far.

"Juncos gave me a great car, but with the session so short, and the oil dry down on the track as well, it was always going to be difficult," said Dempsey. "We need the extra point for the championship so this was a vital qualifying session, and it's good to have a couple of Andersen cars between me and Adam (Christodoulou) as well, so I'm happy with how the session worked out."

Lining up alongside Dempsey on the front row will be Conor Daly, who on lap 4 of the session turned a 1:19.632 (just .048 sec. off the pole time) in the #22 Andersen Racing / College Network / Indeck / Cytomax Mazda. Daly, son of racing legend Derek Daly, is third in the championship with one win (from the pole at New Jersey) and four podium finishes. Daly is the 2008 Skip Barber Pro Series champion and is racing in the 2009 Star Mazda Championship courtesy of the unique MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship that provided the funding for his season.

Lining up third on the grid for the always-exciting Star Mazda standing start tomorrow afternoon will be Joel Miller, the 2007 Skip Barber champion who raced the 2008 Star Mazda season thanks to the MAZDASPEED Ladder. He finished second in the championship last year

(which was won by John Edwards, who today won the pole for tomorrow's Atlantic Championship race with funding from the *MAZDASPEED* Ladder). Miller turned a 1:19.948 in the #2 Andersen Racing / Doug Mockett & Co. / Allied Interior Products Mazda. Miller qualified and finished 2nd here in 2008.

Rounding out the top-5 are Englishman Richard Kent, currently 6th in the championship, with a lap of 1:20.229 in his #33 Andersen Racing / Traka Allied Interior Products Mazda and Scandinavian racer Anders 'The Viking' Krohn, 5th-fast with a lap of 1:20.297 in the #27 Mundill / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda. Both drivers are race winners (Kent at New Jersey and Mosport, both from the pole) and Krohn on the Milwaukee Mile oval.

Dempsey's primary protagonist (though technically eight drivers remain in mathematical competition for the championship) is Englishman Adam Christodoulou, a 2-time race winner (in the season-opener at Sebring and from the pole at Salt Lake City). Separated by just 8 points, with the series awarding 44 points for a win and a total of 89 points remaining to be won in 2009, Christodoulou has been a touch off the pace all weekend and starts 6th on the grid with a lap of



1:20.559 in the #11 JDC Motorsports / Molecule / Alpinestars Mazda. That said, he's been on the podium in four of the last six races and is eminently capable of the kind of surprise move that changes the character of a race – or a championship battle -- in an instant.

Among the Master (45 and older) and Expert (ages 30-44) Series drivers, Gerry Kraut, the co-owner of JDC Motorsports, will line up 16th in the grid with a lap of 1:21.740 in his #55 JDC Motorsports / Dougherty & Co. / Dougherty Funding LLC Mazda. Chris Cumming, the 2008 Expert Series Champion, will line up directly behind him in the 17th grid spot after turning a lap of 1:22.256 in his #16 World Speed Motorsports Mazda. While the 2008 Star Mazda Master Series championship has been clinched by Californian Mike Guasch, who scored six in-class wins driving the #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda, the Expert Series championship remains in contention; Cumming is battling with Japanese racer Toshihiro Deki, who starts 19th on the grid with a lap of 1:23.230 in the #80 Juncos Racing Mazda.

The 20-car field is set to take the green light for the 45-minute Round 12 of the 2009 season at 5:30 pm Friday, Sept. 25. Round 13, the season finale, takes place at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on October 10.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Diff	Best Spd	In Lap	Team	Sponsor
1	3 Peter Dempsey	1:19.584		114.897	6	Juncos Racing	Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsports Ireland
2	22 Conor Daly	1:19.632	0.048	114.828	4	Andersen Racing	Indeck/Cytomax/Merchant Services/College Network
3	2 Joel Miller	1:19.948	0.364	114.374	4	Andersen Racing	Allied Interior Products/Doug Mockett & Co
4	33 Richard Kent	1:20.229	0.645	113.974	6	Andersen Racing	Traka/Allied Interior Products
5	27 Anders Krohn	1:20.297	0.713	113.877	4	Mundill	Trallfa/Colosseum
6	11 Adam Christodoulou	1:20.559	0.975	113.507	5	JDC Motorsports	Molecule/AlpineStars/Miller Milling Co
7	51 Alex Ardoin	1:20.563	0.979	113.501	7	JDC Motorsports	Oral & Facial Surgery Center/Twister Trailer
8	19 Caio Lara	1:20.563	0.979	113.501	13	JDC Motorsports	MLD/ATW/Molecule
9	71 David Ostella	1:20.853	1.269	113.094	10	Aim Autosport	GP Global Precast
10	66 Rusty Mitchell	1:20.910	1.326	113.014	4	Mitchell Motorsports	Motorola
11	72 Jorge Goncalvez	1:20.930	1.346	112.987	6	Aim Autosport	
12	30 Rick Rosin	1:21.016	1.432	112.867	3	Team GDT	FundeSporte/Governo Do ESTADO SANTA Catarina
13	13 Michael Furfari	1:21.201	1.617	112.609	4	Mundill	Furfari Paving
14	21 Denis Navarro	1:21.271	1.687	112.512	4	Andersen Racing	Navarro Medicines Distribution/Allied
15	85 Chris Miller	1:21.354	1.770	112.398	10	JDC Motorsports	Miller Milling Company
16	55 Gerry Kraut	1:21.740	2.156	111.867	4	JDC Motorsports	Dougherty and Co./Dougherty Funding LLC.
17	16 Chris Cumming	1:22.526	2.942	110.801	4	World Speed Motorsports	Texas World Speedway/Motul Oil/K&N Filters +
18	77 Kevin Toledo	1:22.530	2.946	110.796	5	Eliseo THL Motorsports	www.Thl.cl/Chile
19	80 Toshihiro Deki	1:23.240	3.656	109.851	3	Juncos Racing	
20	23 Walt Bowlin	1:26.356	6.772	105.887	11	Mundill	Hooters/Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery

About the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder

The MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder is unique in being the only automaker-funded scholarship program that provides funding for champions at each level to move up from karting to the top ranks of the sport. Mazda will provide a next-level, fully-funded ride in a Mazda powered car to the 2009 champions of selected Mazda series. Open-wheel racers are competing for these awards in 2009:

- One successful kart racer will participate in a full season of the Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda in 2010.

- The 2009 Skip Barber National Champion will be racing in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear.
- The 2009 Star Mazda Champion will be racing in the 2010 Atlantic Series Powered by Mazda.

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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