



DEMPSEY QUICK IN FIRST OFFICIAL FRIDAY PRACTICE SESSION FOR THE 2009 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON FINALE AT MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca / Oct. 9 – Leading championship contender Peter Dempsey began the process of revealing his true pace in Friday morning's first official practice session for the season finale of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca.



After turning 5th and 2nd-fast times in the two test sessions during Thursday's 'promoter test day,' Dempsey, driving the #3 Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda, unleashed a corker - 1:20.362 (100.256 mph), more than half a second faster than his best time of Thursday and almost 3/10ths of a second clear of the second-fastest driver

in the Friday morning session, Conor Daly. Driving the #22 Andersen Racing / College Network / Indeck / Cytomax Mazda, Daly turned a 1:20.620 (99.935 mph), a significant improvement on his best time of yesterday, an 8th-place 1:21.08 in the morning session. Daly, the son of racing legend Derek Daly, was the 2008 Skip Barber Pro Series champion and is racing the 2009 Star Mazda Championship with funding from the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder.

"Mazda Raceway is a great facility, but it doesn't really suit my driving style a hundred percent, and yesterday I was trying to force the issue a little bit, but we had a team meeting last night, and I had a good night's sleep and we came back stronger this morning," said Dempsey, who has scored five wins so far this season and needs only to finish 6th or better in tomorrow's race to clinch the championship. "We were happy with the car yesterday, but I wasn't driving really well, making a lot of mistakes, so this morning I was finessing everything and we ran the old tires from Atlanta and the car was really, really good. We didn't get to run any new tires in that session, so we definitely have a bit more in our pocketbook. We're here to try and just do the best job we can, so we know we're going for the championship but we still want to try and win the race if we can. We're staying focused until qualifying and hope we can get the pole, if we do, we'll race from there but if we don't I'll just have to try and race clean and bring the car home."

3rd-fast, after setting the pace in yesterday's morning session was Englishman Adam Christodoulou. He turned a 1:21.148 (99.285 mph) in the #11 JDC Motorsports / Molecule /

Alpinestars Mazda. Dempsey and Christodoulou are the only two drivers remaining in contention for the Series championship and Christodoulou has already clinched the 'Rookie of the Year' award. Dempsey needs to finish only 6th or better in the race to clinch the overall championship.

Rounding out the top-5 were American Joel Miller and Brazilian racer Caio Lara. Miller was 2nd-fast in the first session yesterday but slipped to 10th in the afternoon. This morning, he turned his quickest lap of the weekend so far, a 1:21.359 (99.028 mph) in the #2 Andersen Racing / Doug Mockett & Co. / Allied Interior Products Mazda. Lara, 4th-fast yesterday afternoon, turned a 1:21.436 (98.934 mph) in his #19 JDC Motorsports / MLD / ATW/ Molecule Mazda.

Among the Master (ages 45 and older) and Expert (ages 30-44) Series drivers, Expert racer Patrick O'Neill was quickest, 10th-fast overall with a lap of 1:22.119 (98.111 mph) in his #64 O'Neill Construction Mazda. The quickest Master driver was Mike Guasch, who has already clinched the Master Series championship with six in-class wins. He turned a 15th-fast overall lap of 1:22.925 (97.158 mph) in his #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda.

There will be a second practice session beginning at 1:10 pm this afternoon. Qualifying to set the grid for the always-exciting Star Mazda 'standing start' will take place from 8:00 – 8:45 am Saturday, Oct 10, with the expected field of 25+ Star Mazda cars and drivers taking the green light for the 45-minute 2009 season finale at 12:50 pm.

| Pos No. | Name | Best Tm | Diff | Best Spd | In Lap | Team | Sponsor |
|---------|------------------------|----------|-------|----------|--------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 3 Peter Dempsey | 1:20.362 | | 100.256 | 13 | Juncos Racing | Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsports Ireland |
| 2 | 22 Conor Daly | 1:20.620 | 0.258 | 99.935 | 19 | Andersen Racing | Indeck/Cytomax/Merchant Services/College Network |
| 3 | 11 Adam Christodoulou | 1:21.148 | 0.786 | 99.285 | 18 | JDC Motorsports | Molecule/AlpineStars/Miller Milling Co |
| 4 | 2 Joel Miller | 1:21.359 | 0.997 | 99.028 | 20 | Andersen Racing | Allied Interior Products/Doug Mockett & Co |
| 5 | 19 Caio Lara | 1:21.436 | 1.074 | 98.934 | 20 | JDC Motorsports | MLD/ATW/Molecule |
| 6 | 51 Alex Ardoin | 1:21.475 | 1.113 | 98.887 | 19 | JDC Motorsports | Oral & Facial Surgery Center/Twister Trailer |
| 7 | 33 Richard Kent | 1:21.782 | 1.420 | 98.516 | 15 | Andersen Racing | Traka/Allied Interior Products |
| 8 | 71 David Ostella | 1:21.922 | 1.560 | 98.347 | 7 | | |
| 9 | 72 Jorge Goncalvez | 1:21.927 | 1.565 | 98.341 | 7 | Aim Autosport | |
| 10 | 64 Patrick O'Neill | 1:22.119 | 1.757 | 98.111 | 16 | | |
| 11 | 21 Denis Navarro | 1:22.189 | 1.827 | 98.028 | 7 | Andersen Racing | Navarro Medicines Distribution/Allied |
| 12 | 73 Giancarlo Vilarinho | 1:22.522 | 2.160 | 97.632 | 13 | Aim Autosport | |
| 13 | 85 Chris Miller | 1:22.554 | 2.192 | 97.594 | 7 | JDC | Miller Milling Company |

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|----|----|-------------------|----------|-------|--------|----|--|---|
| 14 | 66 | Rusty Mitchell | 1:22.646 | 2.284 | 97.486 | 14 | Motorsports Mitchell Motorsports | Motorola |
| 15 | 91 | Michael Guasch | 1:22.925 | 2.563 | 97.158 | 7 | | |
| 16 | 16 | Chris Cumming | 1:23.059 | 2.697 | 97.001 | 7 | World Speed Motorsports | Texas World Speedway/Motul Oil/K&N Filters + |
| 17 | 30 | Kyle Marcelli | 1:23.091 | 2.729 | 96.964 | 11 | Team GDT | |
| 18 | 27 | Anders Krohn | 1:23.275 | 2.913 | 96.749 | 4 | Mundill | Trallfa/Colosseum |
| 19 | 13 | Michael Furfari | 1:23.822 | 3.460 | 96.118 | 12 | Mundill | Furfari Paving |
| 20 | 65 | JW Roberts | 1:24.068 | 3.706 | 95.837 | 12 | | |
| 21 | 55 | Gerry Kraut | 1:24.519 | 4.157 | 95.325 | 11 | JDC Motorsports | Dougherty and Co./Dougherty Funding LLC. |
| 22 | 12 | Chuck Hulse | 1:24.871 | 4.509 | 94.930 | 13 | DFR | |
| 23 | 80 | Toshihiro Deki | 1:26.023 | 5.661 | 93.659 | 17 | Juncos Racing | |

