



DEMPSEY STILL QUICKEST BUT NEW PLAYERS APPEAR IN FINAL FRIDAY PRACTICE FOR THE 2009 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON FINALE AT MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca / Oct. 9 – You know a man is well-nicknamed when he keeps proving the validity of it over and over again. On top of five wins so far this season, and a



sufficient lead in the Series points championship that he need only finish 6th or better in tomorrow's final race of the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, Peter 'The Irish Steamroller' Dempsey has already staked his claim to tomorrow by being quickest in both practice sessions today.

The scenario is not without its interesting points however; Dempsey, driving the #3 Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsport Ireland / Queyside.ie Mazda, turned a 1:20.362 in the trademark cold, misty gloom of the morning session at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, but slowed to a 1:20.851 in the sunny warmth of the afternoon session.

That said, it was still fast enough to be first on the time sheet at everyone else slowed equally, with Conor Daly, 2nd-fast in both sessions, dropping from a 1:20.620 in the morning to a 1:21.124 in the afternoon – just a hair more than 2/10ths slower than Dempsey in both sessions. Daly, the son of racing legend Derek Daly, has won one race so far this season and is third in the championship.

"We weren't really trying that hard, just running on old tires and working on a few new directions in the setup to see to see what was going to work for qualifying and the race, but then Ricardo (Juncos, the team owner) told me that I was P1 by half a second, so we knew it was good," said Dempsey. "For me, I like more medium to high-speed corners with some brows and crests and camber falling off; that's the kind of track I like where you can really drive the car into the corner. But this track is so technical and there is no flow to the circuit, I mean you have a first turn that is a second-gear corner, then four high-speed corners, then the Corkscrew that is like dropping off a forty-foot cliff... it's really different. And they resurfaced the track a couple of years ago and the tarmac isn't really very abrasive so it takes longer for the tires to come up to temperature, too, so it's really important that you manage your tires right going into qualifying and give yourself that little extra advantage. I've probably been off the road more than any other driver this weekend, there's not one session I've come in that the car isn't

covered in gravel but I'm just trying to find the limit and that's what you have to do... I don't want to ponce around back in 6th or 7th and risk not winning the championship. I want to attack one hundred and ten percent in qualifying and try to get the pole and if we do then that will really take the pressure off going into the race."

While Dempsey and Daly duelled up front, Daly's only competition for the Series championship, English racer Adam Christodoulou (who has already clinched the Rookie of the Year award) slipped down the time sheet from 3rd in the morning session with a 1:21.148 to 5th in the afternoon with a 1:21.506 driving the #11 JDC Motorsports / Molecule / Alpinestars Mazda. It's not so much that he got slower than everyone else – everyone pretty much lost around half a second from morning to afternoon – it's that one other reliable contender, as well as a rookie in his first Star Mazda Championship race, managed to insert themselves in between the dueling duo.

American Joel Miller, driving the #2 Andersen Racing / Doug Mockett & Co. / Allied Interior Products Mazda, has been quick in testing, setting the 4th-fast time in both sessions; a 1:21.359 in the morning and a 1:21.500 in the afternoon. This is what you'd expect from Miller, who won the season-opener last year and has put together a string of three podiums and four top-5 finishes so far this season and currently sits 4th in the championship battle.

The surprise of the day was the appearance on the sharp end of the time sheet by newcomer Giancarlo Vilarinho (right), a Brazilian graduate of the Formula BMW Americas series making his first appearance at a Star Mazda Championship race driving the #73 AIM Autosport Mazda. His lap of 1:21.461 was more than a second faster than his 12th-fast morning lap of 1:22.522 – a sure indication that he is fast finding his footing in this intensely competitive series.



Among the Master (ages 45 and older) and Expert (ages 30-44) Series drivers, Expert racer Patrick O'Neill was quickest, 15th-fast overall with a lap of 1:22.340 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 17th-fast overall lap of 1:22.543 (one of the few drivers to actually improve his time from morning to afternoon) in his #91 JDC Motorsports / Molecule Mazda.

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 field of 23 Star Mazda Championship 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	1:20.851		99.650	12	Juncos Racing	Juncos Racing / The Collection / Motorsports Ireland
2	22 Conor Daly	1:21.124	0.273	99.315	12	Andersen Racing	Indeck/Cytomax/Merchant Services/College Network
3	73 Giancarlo Vilarinho	1:21.461	0.610	98.904	21	Aim Autosport	
4	2 Joel Miller	1:21.500	0.649	98.856	16	Andersen Racing	Allied Interior Products/Doug Mockett & Co
5	11 Adam Christodoulou	1:21.506	0.655	98.849	6	JDC Motorsports	Molecule/AlpineStars/Miller Milling Co
6	27 Anders Krohn	1:21.508	0.657	98.847	11	Mundill	Trallfa/Colosseum
7	33 Richard Kent	1:21.638	0.787	98.689	14	Andersen Racing	Traka/Allied Interior Products
8	72 Jorge Goncalvez	1:21.642	0.791	98.685	6	Aim Autosport	
9	51 Alex Ardoin	1:21.790	0.939	98.506	18	JDC Motorsports	Oral & Facial Surgery Center/Twister Trailer
10	71 David Ostella	1:21.852	1.001	98.431	19		
11	19 Caio Lara	1:22.003	1.152	98.250	5	JDC Motorsports	MLD/ATW/Molecule
12	85 Chris Miller	1:22.022	1.171	98.227	22	JDC Motorsports	Miller Milling Company
13	21 Denis Navarro	1:22.027	1.176	98.221	7	Andersen Racing	Navarro Medicines Distribution/Allied
14	30 Kyle Marcelli	1:22.208	1.357	98.005	10	Team GDT	
15	64 Patrick O'Neill	1:22.340	1.489	97.848	20		
16	66 Rusty Mitchell	1:22.377	1.526	97.804	5	Mitchell Motorsports	Motorola
17	91 Michael Guasch	1:22.543	1.692	97.607	19		
18	65 JW Roberts	1:22.981	2.130	97.092	21		
19	13 Michael Furfari	1:23.156	2.305	96.888	21	Mundill	Furfari Paving
20	55 Gerry Kraut	1:23.707	2.856	96.250	15	JDC Motorsports	Dougherty and Co./Dougherty Funding LLC.
21	12 Chuck Hulse	1:23.912	3.061	96.015	12	DFR	
22	80 Toshihiro Deki	1:24.949	4.098	94.843	18	Juncos Racing	
23	16 Chris Cumming	1:25.517	4.666	94.213	3	World Speed Motorsports	Texas World Speedway/Motul Oil/K&N Filters +

