



CONOR DALY TOPS THE TIME SHEET IN TWO-DAY STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP TEST AT O'REILLY RACEWAY PARK

O'Reilly Raceway Park, IN / May 5 & 6 -- With Indianapolis native Conor Daly leading the way, drivers from six countries took to the track for two days of intensive testing at O'Reilly Raceway Park.



After eight 45-minute on-track sessions, a total of six hours, Daly's lap of 20.187 sec. (122.336 mph) around the .686-mile oval asphalt oval in his #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. / Tom Lange Co. Mazda put him among the open-wheel elite who have made their mark at this historic track.

The outright open-wheel lap record of 20.016 sec. (123.381 mph) was set by Jason McCord in an 800-horsepower USAC Sprint Car in 2001. Jason Leffler set the lap record of 20.298 sec. (121.667 mph) in his 700-horsepower Silver Crown car in 2001 and the lap record for the 350 horsepower USAC midgets was set in 1997 by Chris Schultz at 20.373 sec. (121.219 mph). The Star Mazda race car weighs 1,335 pounds with fuel and driver and the Mazda 'Renesis' rotary engine produces 250 horsepower.

"The track temperature makes a huge difference here, and we qualify in the afternoon and race at night," says Daly, who graduates from Heritage Christian High School on May 14th. "So we might or might not out-qualify the Midgets, but either way the fans are in for a hundred laps of wheel-to-wheel Star Mazda racing. The fast line around the track is right up next to the wall where the banking is the steepest, so the keys to the race will be qualifying up front, managing your tires and setting your car up so you can move to the inside to pass when you start hitting traffic. The Iowa oval was probably the most fun race last year so I'm really looking forward to the Night Before the 500 and I know the Juncos Racing team will give me a competitive car."

The O'Reilly Raceway Park / Night Before the 500 race will be Round 4 of the 11-weekend, 13-race Star Mazda Championship 2010 schedule. This is one of two ovals the Series will compete on during the season, including the 1.0-mile Iowa Speedway track on June 19th of the IndyCar weekend. As part of both the IRL 'Road to Indy' program and the **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports

Driver Development Ladder, Star Mazda drivers receive a comprehensive education, competing on road courses, street circuits and both long and short ovals.

Connor De Phillippi, driver of the #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda won the both the prestigious Walter Hayes trophy at the Formula Ford Festival in England and the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series Championship. His prize for the Skip Barber Championship included a Mazda-backed drive in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship.

"I did a midget test at few years ago, and I've run a couple of Legends races at the Las Vegas bullring, but this will be my first oval-track race in a high-downforce open-wheel car with wings and slicks," says the resident of San Clemente, California. "O'Reilly Raceway Park is a high-risk track because you have to run so close to the wall to be fast, but once you've got the car set up and the rhythm of the place figured out, its good racing. There are a lot of variables for the driver to deal with, qualifying in the day and racing at night, fuel loads, tire wear and track temperature, which has a huge effect on handling and lap times. The key to the race will be engineering a consistent car that maintains its performance over the course of the race – and staying out of trouble."

Pos No.	Name	Overall BestTm	In Session	Sponsor
1	22 Conor Daly	20.187	Thursday First Practice	INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd., Tom Lang Co.
2	17 Mikael Grenier	20.360	Thursday Second Practice	NAPA Auto Parts, CAA-Quebec, HS Telecom
3	38 Tristan Vautier	20.363	Thursday First Practice	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
4	47 Anders Krohn	20.440	Thursday Third Practice	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Trallfa Industries, Colosseum
5	11 Connor De Phillippi	20.480	Thursday Third Practice	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
6	16 David Ostella	20.487	Thursday First Practice	GP Global Precast
7	9 Jorge Goncalvez	20.524	Thursday First Practice	Wabash Capital Investments
8	85 Chris Miller	20.542	Thursday First Practice	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
9	18 Joao Horto	20.600	Thursday Final Practice	Wabash Capital Investments
10	66 Rusty Mitchell	20.618	Thursday First Practice	Motorola, Petro Comm.
11	20 Carlos Linares	20.873	Thursday Final Practice	IND
12	19 Caio Lara	20.975	Thursday Final Practice	MLD, ATW
13	25 Tatiana Calderon	20.983	Thursday Final Practice	Kia Motors
14	27 Nick Andres	21.012	Wednesday Final Practice	Mangroove Boats,Capt. Harry's

On-track activities for the Star Mazda Championship begin with multiple practice sessions starting Friday afternoon at 4:10 pm and ending with a final 1-hour session from 9:50 - 10:50 pm. Single-car qualifying begins at 2:30 pm Saturday, May 29, with the field scheduled to take the green flag for the start of the 100-lap/45 minute race at 8:10 pm.

Activities surrounding the O'Reilly Raceway Park / 'Night Before the 500' event begin with a Road to Indy autograph session during Community Day at the Speedway on Wednesday, May 26. Thursday, May 27 will be taken up with various Road to Indy activities at the Speedway. On-track action begins with a 3:00 pm practice session on Friday, May 28. Sessions alternate between Star Mazda and USF2000 until 10:00 pm in the evening. The 1-hour qualifying session for Round 4 of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship begins at 2:30 pm, Saturday, May 29, with the green flag scheduled to wave for the start of the 100-lap / 45-minute race at 8:10 pm. The record for a 100-lap USAC Midget race was set in 1965 by Bob Wente; he covered the distance in 44:04.38 at an average speed of 93.391 mph.

About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

For 2010, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will feature an 11-weekend, 13-race schedule, most on major race weekends with American Le Mans and the Indy Racing League. Rising stars from around the world will compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million and benefit from two driver development programs, including the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder and the Indy Racing League's 'Road to Indy' program. Series alumni include Indy Car stars Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal and Raphael Matos, rising NASCAR drivers Michael McDowell, Scott Speed and Colin Braun and prototype racers Dane Cameron and Guy Cosmo. 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 more information on the Star Mazda Championship please visit www.starmazda.com. Selected Star Mazda Championship races are broadcast on HDnet and syndicated through a variety of international, national and regional networks. Information on the TV schedule can be found at www.MazdaRacing.tv. Additional information, including search links and affiliates, can be found at the 'TV Information' link on the Series web site.

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.usf2000.com

www.skipbarber.com

www.mx-5cup.com

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