



CONOR DALY WINS FROM THE POLE AT STAR MAZDA GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG, MOVES INTO CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD

Grand Prix of St. Petersburg/Sunday, March 28 – American racer Conor Daly, driving the #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. / Tom Lange Co. Mazda,



scored his first victory of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, from the pole at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. This, the second victory from the pole of his Star Mazda career (he also won from the pole at New Jersey in 2009), added to his third-place finish in the Season-opener at Sebring last weekend, gives him the lead in the championship points battle with 82.

"This is a major moment, the first race in the new era of open-wheel racing; the first 'Road to Indy' race with all the series involved competing on the same weekend and I'm honored and happy to have won," said Daly, son of F1/Indy Car/Sports Car racing legend Derek Daly. "The two full-course yellows were a little bit of a worry, but

they happened early in the race and I was able to pull out a bit of a gap in the later stages. The Juncos Racing team gave me a perfect car and I was able to be very consistent and hit my marks on every lap. The level of camaraderie and cooperation in the team is just fantastic and I'm looking forward to a very competitive season."

Bringing his #18 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda across the line in 2nd place, just .422 sec behind, was Brazilian racer Joao Victor Horto, a veteran of the Formula BMW Americas series where he raced with his current team, Apex. Team Apex, owned by James Exline, CEO of Wabash Capital Investments, made the transition to the Star Mazda Championship at the beginning of the season and has proved a potent force; Horto's teammate, Venezuelan George Goncalvez, finished a strong second in the Sebring season-opener. With a 6th at Sebring last week and a 2nd here, Horto is currently third in the championship with 70 points.

And, much to the delight of everyone in the Star Mazda Championship, 3rd-place went to Brazilian racer Caio Lara, a third-year driver in the series. This is his first podium finish and came under circumstances that proved his mettle; he suffered a huge crash in qualifying that saw a tiny miscalculation result in hitting both walls in Turn 9 at high speed and doing substantial damage to his #19 JDC Motorsports / MLD / ATW Mazda. He has set the 3rd-fast qualifying time by that point and was able to retain it for the start of the race. After a clean,

mistake-free drive, the popular young racer scored the top-3 finish he so richly deserves. With a 10th-place finish in the first race, and 3rd here, he is 6th in the points with 63.

Finishing first in the Expert Series for drivers 30-44 years old was Patrick O'Neill, racing the #64 JDC Motorsports / O'Neill Construction Mazda. His 14th-overall finish put two Irishmen on the podium (he and Conor Daly) for the first time since Virginia International Raceway in 2009 when he shared the podium with race-winner Peter Dempsey.



This was O'Neill's first race of the season and his victory puts him second in the Expert Series points with 20.

Let it be noted that the Star Mazda Championship is a leader in motorsports diversity; not only does the field include drivers from ten countries, but two Brazilians and two Irishmen were on the podium today. Leading home the Master Series field for drivers 45 and older was Puerto Rican racer Carlos Conde. He finished 18th overall in the #31 Team GDT / Pronto-GMT / Olympus Securities Mazda and now leads the Master Series championship battle with 34.

Making one of the most notable drives of the race was Quebec driver Mikael Grenier, pilot of the #17 Andersen Racing / NAPA Auto Parts / CAA-Quebec/HS Telecom Mazda. A victim of a qualifying strategy gone wrong when he sat out the first half of the session, only to have the second half be eaten up by a red flag for Caio Lara's crash, Grenier started from dead last in the field of 22 starters and drove his way up to a 6th-place finish; no small achievement for a young driver with limited street circuit experience. With a 4th at Sebring and 6th here, Grenier is 5th in the championship with 64 points.

Also putting in creditable drives were Scandinavian racer Anders Krohn who qualified 4th and finished 4th in his #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda. Krohn, a second-year racer who finished 6th in the 2009 championship, won the pole for the season-opener at Sebring and finished 5th. He currently stands 4th in the championship with 67 points.

MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship winner Connor De Phillippi in the #11 JDC Motorsports / MAZDASPEED Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda qualified 6th and finished 5th in today's race. Added to his 7th-place finish at Sebring, he is currently 7th in the championship with 61 points.

Local St. Petersburg racers Nick Andries, racing the #81 Andersen Racing / Team Pelfrey / Andersen RacePark Mazda and Hayden Duerson in the #94 Juncos Racing / Tampa Bay Endodontics Mazda, received the lion's share of the weekend's media coverage and backed up

their claim to that exposure with excellent times in practice, particularly considering it was the first-ever Star Mazda race for both. They qualified 11th and 16th respectively, but fared less well in the race, suffering contact and mechanical problems that took them out of the action early and relegated them to 21st and 22nd-place finishes.

Pos No.	Name	Laps	Sponsor
1	22 Conor Daly	33	INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd., Tom Lang Co.
2	18 Joao Horta	33	Wabash Capital Investments
3	19 Caio Lara	33	MLD, ATW
4	47 Anders Krohn	33	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Trallfa Industries, Colosseum
5	11 Connor De Phillippi	33	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
6	17 Mikael Grenier	33	NAPA Auto Parts, CAA-Quebec, HS Telecom
7	16 David Ostella	33	GP Global Precast
8	33 Richard Kent	33	Traka
9	38 Tristan Vautier	33	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
10	66 Rusty Mitchell	33	Motorola, Petro Comm.
11	28 Juan Piedrahita	33	Petro Sur, GFK Motors
12	13 Michael Furfari	33	Furfari Paving
13	27 Court Vernon	33	Mangroove Boats,Capt. Harry's
14	64 Patrick O'Neill	33	O'Neill Construction
15	85 Chris Miller	33	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
16	65 JW Roberts	33	General Data Tech
17	9 Jorge Goncalvez	32	Wabash Capital Investments
18	31 Carlos Conde	32	Pronto-GMT, Olympus Securities
19	25 Tatiana Calderon	32	Kia Motors
20	94 Hayden Duerson	13	Tampa Bay Endodontics
21	81 Nick Andries	6	Team Pelfrey/Anderson Racepark/ Allied
22	20 Carlos Linares	IND	

The next event on the Star Mazda Championship schedule, round 3 of the 2010 season, will take place at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on May 22 with the American Le Mans Series. On the following weekend, May 29-30, the Star Mazda Championship participates in a major new event on the schedule. As part of the Indy Racing League's 'Road to Indy' program, which includes the St. Petersburg race as well as Iowa Speedway on June 19, the Star Mazda Cars, along with the USF2000 series, will compete at the 'Night Before the 500' at O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis. This high-profile event is traditionally considered the 'opening act' for the Indianapolis 500.

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.

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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