



## VENEZUELAN ROOKIE CARLOS LINARES OUTRUNS THE BIG GUNS AND TOPS DAY 1 STAR MAZDA TESTING AT O'REILLY RACEWAY PARK

O'Reilly Raceway Park / Friday, May 28 – Venezuelan rookie Carlos Linares outgunned the big guns of the Star Mazda Championship and turned the fastest time of the first day of pre-race testing. Driving the #20 Linares Racing / IND Mazda in the final session of the day, on the final



lap of the session, he turned a lap of 20.2555 sec. (121.925 mph)... and then backed the car into the wall on his 'pit in' lap.

"It was my mistake, but the car is not badly damaged and we will have it ready for practice and qualifying and the race tomorrow," said Linares, 2009 Venezuelan national FF1600

champion who races with backing from IND, Venezuela's National Institute of Sport. "The good thing is that the Linares team and my engineer Rob Ridgely have given me a car that makes it very easy to go fast. I was not pushing hard to do the quick time, just driving smooth and focusing on doing a perfect lap. The team is not so happy about having to work late to repair the car, but they are very happy to be the fastest."

Second-quick, by less than a tenth of a second, is current championship points leader Conor Daly. The son of racing legend Derek Daly has won the last two races from the pole and was quickest in two days of Series-sanctioned testing at O'Reilly Raceway Park earlier this month. His quick lap then was a 20.187; the best he managed today was a 20.340 in the #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. / Tom Lange Co. Mazda. It should be noted, however, that Daly and the Juncos team chose to sit out the last session, run from 9:50 to 10:50 in the evening as they felt any data from the session would not be relevant to the race, scheduled to take the green flag at 8:10 tomorrow evening.

Rounding out the top-5 were Anders Krohn with a lap of 20.465 in the #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda, Mikael Grenier with a 20.651 in the #17 Andersen Racing / Slow Cow / April Super Flow / NAPA Auto Parts / HS Telecom / Desharnais Mazda. Fifth was 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series champion and MAZDASPEED

Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship winner Connor De Phillippi with a time of 20.651 in the #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda.

Star Mazda Championship on-track action continues with two one-hour practice sessions on Saturday morning, followed by a 1-hour, single-car qualifying session at 2:30 pm. The 125-lap race, Round 4 of the 13-race 2010 Star Mazda Championship season, is scheduled to take the green flag at 8:10 pm.

Courtesy of USAC, the Star Mazda race will be streamed live on IndyCar.com, as well as [www.StarMazda.com](http://www.StarMazda.com).

Pos No.	Name	Overall BestTm	In Session	Sponsor
1	20 Carlos Linares	20.255	Formula Mazda Practice 3	IND
2	22 Conor Daly	20.340	Fromula Mazda Practice 2	INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd., Tom Lang Co.
3	47 Anders Krohn	20.465	Formula Mazda Practice 1	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Tralffa Industries, Colosseum
4	17 Mikael Grenier	20.575	Fromula Mazda Practice 2	Slow Cow, April Super Flow, NAPA Auto Parts, HS Telecom, Desharnais
5	11 Connor De Phillippi	20.651	Formula Mazda Practice 1	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
6	18 Joao Horta	20.739	Formula Mazda Practice 1	Wabash Capital Investments
7	9 Jorge Goncalvez	20.758	Formula Mazda Practice 1	Wabash Capital Investments
8	66 Rusty Mitchell	20.786	Formula Mazda Practice 1	Motorola, Petro Comm.
9	38 Tristan Vautier	20.814	Fromula Mazda Practice 2	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
10	85 Chris Miller	20.866	Formula Mazda Practice 3	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
11	25 Tatiana Calderon	20.881	Formula Mazda Practice 3	Kia Motors
12	16 David Ostella	21.242	Formula Mazda Practice 1	GP Global Precast
13	19 Caio Lara	21.276	Formula Mazda Practice 1	MLD/ATW/Molecule

### 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](http://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](http://www.MazdaRacing.tv). Additional information, including search links and affiliates, can be found at the 'TV Information' link on the Series web site.

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For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com) and [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com). For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

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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](http://www.usf2000.com)

[www.skipbarber.com](http://www.skipbarber.com)

[www.mx-5cup.com](http://www.mx-5cup.com)

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