



## QUEBEC RACER MIKAEL GRENIER WINS STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP POLE FOR THE 'NIGHT BEFORE THE 500' AT O'REILLY RACEWAY PARK

O'Reilly Raceway Park / Saturday, May 29 – Quebec racer Mikael Grenier qualified on the pole for tonight's Round 4 of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear – the



'Night Before the 500' - with a lap of 20.665 sec. (119.356 mph) around the .626-mile O'Reilly Raceway Park oval. It's an achievement made all the more remarkable by the fact that the entire 13-car field qualified within half a second of each other.

The 125-lap, 45-minute race is scheduled to take the green flag at

8:10 pm ET and the event will be live on streaming video available at [IndyCar.com](http://IndyCar.com), [StarMazda.com](http://StarMazda.com) and [USF2000.com](http://USF2000.com). This race is particularly significant as a major element of the new Indy Racing League 'Road to Indy' program; top series officials from the Speedway will be in attendance, and the winner will be interviewed in Victory Lane at the Speedway between 11- and 12 Noon Sunday, prior to the start of the Indy 500.

"We've been running second to fourth in practice and were making good adjustments to the car and knew that we had a good car for qualifying," said Grenier, who is third in the championship battle coming off a podium finish in Round 3 at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca last weekend. "It's really good to be on the pole here and I'm comfortable to have an experienced guy like Conor Daly next to me for the start. There will be a big crowd here tonight, and a lot of people from the IRL because of the Road to Indy program, and a lot of my sponsors. So tonight my plan is to really focus on being smooth and not making any mistakes. The Andersen Racing team has given me a very good car and now it's up to me."

Starting second will be the current championship points leader and Indianapolis native Conor Daly, who turned a lap of 20.693 in the #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. / Tom Lange Co. Mazda. Daly, having won the last two races in a row, from the pole, will provide Grenier with formidable competition. Starting on the inside of the

second row is Joao Victor Horto, a Formula BMW graduate who scored a podium finish in Round 2 at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and is 7th in the championship. Fourth on the grid is Connor De Phillippi of San Clemente, California, the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series champion who is racing in Star Mazda courtesy of the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder. He turned a lap of 20.828 sec. (118.571) in the #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda. And rounding out the top-5 is Texan Rusty Mitchell, who turned a lap of 20.983 sec. (118.571 mph) in the #66 Mitchell Motorsports / Motorola / Petro Comm Mazda. In the first three races of this season, he has scored two top-10s and is 9th in the championship with 79 points.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Sponsor
1	17 Mikael Grenier	20.665	119.506	2		Slow Cow, April Super Flow, NAPA Auto Parts, HS Telecom, Desharnais
2	22 Conor Daly	20.693	119.345	2	0.028	INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd., Tom Lang Co.
3	18 Joao Horto	20.729	119.137	2	0.064	Wabash Capital Investments
4	11 Connor De Phillippi	20.828	118.571	1	0.163	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
5	66 Rusty Mitchell	20.983	117.695	1	0.318	Motorola, Petro Comm.
6	16 David Ostella	20.988	117.667	2	0.323	GP Global Precast
7	9 Jorge Goncalvez	21.034	117.410	1	0.369	Wabash Capital Investments
8	20 Carlos Linares	21.052	117.310	1	0.387	IND
9	19 Caio Lara	21.168	116.667	1	0.503	MLD/ATW/Molecule
10	47 Anders Krohn	20.764	118.937	1	0.099	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Trallfa Industries, Colosseum
11	38 Tristan Vautier	20.812	118.662	1	0.147	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
12	85 Chris Miller	20.865	118.361	2	0.200	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
13	25 Tatiana Calderon	21.130	116.876	2	0.465	Kia Motors

Note: Cars #47, 38, 85 and 25 had their best qualifying lap removed for technical infractions

### 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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