



STAR MAZDA FEATURES A FOUR TIME WINNER LOOKING TO MAKE IT FIVE AND A TOP MOTORCYCLE RACER TRADING TWO WHEELS FOR FOUR IN FEATURE DOUBLE-HEADER AT NJMP THIS WEEKEND

Fast Facts – Rounds 6 & 7 of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear in the Mazda Formula X at New Jersey Motorsports Park, June 26 - 27

- Conor Daly, winner of the last four Star Mazda Championship races in a row – and son of racing legend and noted motorsports broadcaster Derek Daly - is looking to make it five this weekend; he won Race 1 on Saturday at this event in 2009.
- Larry Pegram, one of the top motorcycle racers in North America (currently 5th in the AMA Pro American SuperBike championship) is making an exploratory run in the Star Mazda Championship this weekend. Pegram will compete in the Expert Series for drivers between 30 and 44 years of age and bring with him a film crew shooting a reality series about his exploits as he makes the switch from two wheels to four.
- Hot drivers to watch include current points leader and Indianapolis native Conor Daly (#22), as well as Quebec racer Mikael Grenier (#17); he is currently fourth in the championship but finished on the podium in both races here last year. Brazilian racer Caio Lara (#19) scored a pair of top-5 finishes at this event in 2009, and other top contenders with experience on the New Jersey Motorsports Park track include Jorge Goncalvez (#9), Anders Krohn (#47) and Rusty Mitchell (#66).
- The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is the college baseball of Indy-style auto racing, a high-speed training ground for future stars of the sport. Graduates of the series include Indy-car stars Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal and Raphael Matos, as rising NASCAR stars Michael McDowell, Colin Braun, Scott Speed and Brad Coleman.
- The Star Mazda Championship also features a race-within-a-race for Expert (ages 30 -44) and Master (45 and older) Series drivers; company presidents and entrepreneurs in high-speed, wheel-to-wheel battles with top young drivers from around the world. Top Expert Series drivers include Texan J.W. Roberts (#65) the current class points leader, as well as Californian Patrick O'Neill (#64) and Florida racer Walt Bowlin (#23). Leading the Master Series is Gerry Kraut (#55) from North Oaks, Minnesota. Also doing battle in the Master class will be Dom Bastien (#37) of West Palm Beach, Florida and, representing Puerto Rico, Carlos Conde (#31).
- The weekend is part of the partnership between MAZDASPEED and VISIT FLORIDA and is a stop on the 5-weekend, 7-race VISIT FLORIDA Cup, a championship-within-a-championship in which the driver scoring the most points during the five VISIT FLORIDA weekends will win both the VISIT FLORIDA Cup and a personalized Florida dream vacation.
- All the weekend's races will be broadcast live on HDnet. There will be a live three hour broadcast each day from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm EDT. The broadcast team will be led by veteran commentator Rick Benjamin with racers Jonny O'Connell providing color commentary and Todd Lewis on pit road.
- The Star Mazda Championship features two separate but complimentary driver development programs; the **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports Driver Development Ladder, represented this season by Californian Connor De Phillippi (#11) and the newly-announced Indy Racing League 'Road to Indy' program. Both are designed to help rising stars climb the ladder to the upper levels of motorsports.
- For further information, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398—5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

New Jersey Motorsports Park (June 21, 2010) -- The battle for the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear hits the half-way mark this weekend with a double-header on live HDnet TV at New Jersey Motorsports Park – and two interesting stories.



of racing are nothing if not fickle, and he'll be facing some stiff – and experienced – competition this weekend.

There are a number of potential spoilers hoping to bring an end to Daly's '5 in a row' scenario. Among the leaders is Quebec youngster Mikael Grenier driving the #17 Andersen Racing / Slow Cow / April Super Flow / NAPA Auto Parts / HS Telecom / Desharnais Mazda. Currently 4th in the championship with a pole and podium finish in the Night Before the 500 at O'Reilly Raceway Park, Grenier brushed the wall mid-way through last weekend's second annual Star Mazda Pizza Ranch 100 at the 7/8ths-mile Iowa Speedway oval. The contact relegated him to a 15th-place finish and did a bit of mischief to his standing in the championship, dropping him from 2nd to 4th, but Star Mazda awards 44 points for a win and while Daly's 216 points gives him a comfortable cushion over Grenier's 163, it's hardly insurmountable.

Other top contenders with experience at the New Jersey Motorsports track include Brazilian racer Caio Lara (#19 JDC Motorsports / MLD / ATW Mazda) who scored a pair of top-5 finishes at this event in 2009, and other top contenders with experience on the New Jersey Motorsports Park track include Jorge Goncalvez (#9 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda) driving for a hot new team that put two drivers on the podium in the Night Before the 500 Round 5 at O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis on Memorial Day weekend. Norwegian racer Anders 'The Viking' Krohn scored a top-6 finish at NJMP last year, in addition to winning on the Milwaukee Mile Oval. This year he's back with the team that helped him with the 2008 F2000 championship and is second in the championship battle driving the #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda to a pole at the Sebring season-opener, a podium and four top-5s.

Another driver who changed teams, albeit more recently – between Rounds 4 and 5 of this season – is Texan Rusty Mitchell. After two seasons with the family Mitchell Motorsports team, he's now in the cockpit of the #66 Juncos Racing / Motorola / Petro Communications / HRP Racing Products / Texas Autosports Mazda. Juncos Racing is currently the hottest team in the Star Mazda Championship; in their rookie year, 2009, they won four races with Irish phenom Peter Dempsey and have already won four with American phenom Conor Daly.

Also keep an eye on a hungry young driver named Connor De Phillippi, driving the #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda. He won the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series and is driving in the 2010 Star Mazda championship with backing from the **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports Driver Development

Ladder, the unique and prestigious automaker-backed program that helps champions at each level of open-wheel racing move up the ladder. He has three top-5s and two top-7s this year and is currently 5th in the championship.

The other interesting story this weekend involves a brand-new driver who is unlikely to win the race, but will certainly attract a good deal of attention from fans and media, given the popularity of SuperBike racing at NJMP. Larry Pegram is one of the top motorcycle racers in North America (currently 5th in the AMA Pro American SuperBike championship) making an exploratory run in the Star Mazda Championship. Pegram has scored one win, four podiums and seven top-5 finishes so far this season riding the #72 foremost Insurance/Pegram Racing Ducati 1098R. He scored two top-5 finishes in the SuperBike race at NJMP in 2009. Pegram brings with him a film crew shooting a reality series about his exploits as he makes the switch from two wheels to four. He is making his Star Mazda debut with the help and support of friend and fellow Star Mazda driver Walt Bowlin. Pegram will compete in the Expert Series for drivers between 30 and 44 years of age while Bowlin races in the Master Series (45 and older). Let's hope we don't see a 'reversal of fortune' this weekend involving these two: Bowlin missed several races earlier this season due to a broken collarbone, an injury he suffered while test-riding Pegram's SuperBike.



All the racing action this weekend at New Jersey Motorsports Park, including the Star Mazda Championship, the Cooper Tires Presents USF2000 National Championship powered by Mazda, Mazda MX-5 Cup, IMSA Prototype Lites and the Patron GT3Challenge, will be broadcast live on HDnet. The pre-race show takes place 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm, and 1:00pm – 4:00 pm will be live coverage of the Playboy Mazda MX 5 Cup, USF2000, and The Star Mazda/Visit Florida Cup. All times are Eastern. Rick Benjamin will call the play-by-play, and a pair of well-known racers, Johnny O'Connell (USF2000 and Star Mazda) and Elliott Forbes-Robinson (Mazda MX-5 Cup) will be the on-air analysts. Todd Lewis will be the pit reporter. In addition to the live broadcast, both Playboy Mazda MX 5 Cup races and one of the two Star Mazda Championship races will be cable syndicated across the USA, Canada and worldwide.

The NJMP weekend is part of the partnership between **MAZDASPEED** and VISIT FLORIDA that includes the 5-weekend, 7-race VISIT FLORIDA Cup, a championship-within-a-championship in which the driver scoring the most points during the five VISIT FLORIDA weekends will win both the VISIT FLORIDA Cup and a personalized Florida dream vacation.

Star Mazda Championship on-track action begins with a 'promoter test day' on Thursday, June 23 with 40-minute sessions in the morning and afternoon. Practice continues on Friday, June 24, with qualifying for Race #1 from 9:45 am – 10:30 am Saturday, June 26. The traditional Star Mazda standing start gets the green light at 3:00 pm Saturday afternoon. Qualifying for Race #2 is from 9:05 am – 9:50 am Sunday, June 27 with the race start scheduled for 3:05 pm that afternoon.

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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