



CONOR DALY SCORES HIS FOURTH POLE OF THE SEASON IN QUALIFYING FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S RACE 1 / ROUND 6 OF THE 2010 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP AT NEW JERSEY MOTORSPORTS PARK

New Jersey Motorsports Park (June 26, 2010) – By a margin of more than half a second, Conor Daly, the current championship leader and winner of the last four races in a row, has put his #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. Mazda on the pole for this afternoon's Race #1/Round 6 of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. His lap of 1:15.317 (103.722 mph) around the 14-turn, 2.25-mile 'Thunderbolt' track at New Jersey Motorsports Park, while just a tick slower than his best time in yesterday's practice, was sufficient to give Daly, the son of racing legend and noted motorsports broadcaster Derek Daly, his fourth pole of the season.



Starting alongside Daly on the outside of the front row will be French racer Tristan Vautier, the only other driver in the field

who has won a race this season. Vautier, who won the season-opener at the 12 Hours of Sebring, turned a lap of 1:15.920 (102.898 mph) in his #38 Andersen Racing / Moulin TP / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquis Mazda. Vautier, though often quick in practice and qualifying, has yet to renew the promise of that early victory, though his troubles have not always been of his own making. He was leading the Round 3 at Mazda Raceway when a suspension failure relegated him to a 15th-place finish. He is currently 6th in the championship with one win, three top-10s and 152 points.

"Because it's so hard to pass on this track, where you qualify is very important and the Juncos Racing team put a lot of effort into making sure we got this pole," said Daly, currently leading the championship with 217 points. "It's going to be extremely hot during the race this afternoon, so managing your tires to make sure you have something left for the end will be a key strategy. That and making sure I get a good start and lead going into the first corner because if you get behind somebody, you pretty much have to make a risky move to get around them. The Juncos Racing team has given me all the tools to win this race, now I just have to stay focused on that one task."

Having already won four races in a row, should Daly succeed in his mission this afternoon, he will move into elite territory. Only three drivers in the 20-year history of the Star Mazda Championship – Joey Hand (1999), Michael McDowell (2004) and Raphael Matos (2005) have won four races in a row. All went on to win the championship in that year, and to move on to successful motorsports careers.

Starting behind Daly on the inside of the second row will be Brazilian racer Caio Lara with a lap of 1:15.946 (102.863 mph) in his #19 JDC Motorsports / MLD / ATW Mazda. Lara scored top-5 finishes in both races at NJMP last season and has been a consistently fast competitor this year; he has already scored one podium

-- and finished in the top-10 at every race to stand 8th in the championship with 149 points. Gridded next to Lara for the traditional Star Mazda standing start, set to take place at 3:00 pm this afternoon, is Norwegian racer Anders 'The Viking' Krohn. Currently 2nd in the championship battle with a pole, a podium and five top-5s, Krohn turned a 1:16.014 (102.771 mph) in his #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda.

Rounding out the top-5 is another driver who has been quick in practice and testing, Brazilian Joao Victor Horto. He turned a lap of 1:16.116 (102.633 mph) in the #18 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda. With three podium finishes already this season and driving for the ascendant Team Apex, Horto is currently 3rd in the championship with 165 points.

Also of note, starting from 7th on the grid with a lap of 1:16.551 (102.050 mph), is 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 quickest Expert Series (ages 30-44) driver was Californian Patrick O'Neill, who turned a 1:17.570 (100.709 mph) lap in his #64 JDC Motorsports / O'Neill Construction Mazda, good for 15th on the starting grid. Starting next to him, with a time less than 1/10th of a second slower (1:17.629 / 100.632 mph) is Master Series (45 and older) driver Gerry Kraut of North Oaks, Minnesota. Currently leading the Master Series championship battle in his #55 JDC Motorsports / Dougherty & Co. / Dougherty Funding LLC Mazda, Kraut is both a company CEO and co-owner of the championship-winning JDC Motorsports team.

The other driver provoking widespread interest is Larry Pegram, driving the #72 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance Mazda. Pegram, one of the stars of the AMA SuperBike championship, is making his 4-wheeled racing debut at New Jersey Motorsports Park, competing in the Expert Class for drivers aged 30 – 44. His time of 1:18.302 (99.768 mph) places him 19th on the 22-car starting grid.



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.

This afternoon's Star Mazda Championship Race 1/Round6 gets the green light at 3:00 pm. Qualifying for Sunday's Race #2 / Round 7 is from 9:05 am – 9:50 am, with the race start scheduled for 3:05 pm.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Sponsor
1	22 Conor Daly	1:15.317	103.722	3		INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd.
2	38 Tristan Vautier	1:15.920	102.898	2	0.603	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
3	19 Caio Lara	1:15.946	102.863	2	0.629	MLD/ATW/Molecule
4	47 Anders Krohn	1:16.014	102.771	2	0.697	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Trallfa Industries, Colosseum
5	18 Joao Horto	1:16.116	102.633	3	0.799	Wabash Capital Investments
6	17 Mikael Grenier	1:16.184	102.541	2	0.867	Slow Cow, April Super Flow, NAPA Auto Parts, HS Telecom, Desharnais
7	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:16.551	102.050	9	1.234	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
8	9 Jorge Goncalvez	1:16.576	102.016	5	1.259	Wabash Capital Investments
9	66 Rusty Mitchell	1:16.661	101.903	4	1.344	Motorola, Petro Comm.
10	16 David Ostella	1:16.666	101.897	3	1.349	GP Global Precast
11	28 Juan Piedrahita	1:16.902	101.584	7	1.585	Petro Sur, GFK Motors
12	85 Chris Miller	1:16.978	101.484	3	1.661	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
13	81 Nick Andries	1:17.378	100.959	7	2.061	Indy 500/ American Icon Team Pelfrey
14	25 Tatiana Calderon	1:17.485	100.820	7	2.168	JAC Motors
15	64 Patrick O'Neill	1:17.570	100.709	11	2.253	O'Neill Construction
16	55 Gerry Kraut	1:17.629	100.632	4	2.312	Dougherty and Co./Dougherty Funding LLC.
17	31 Carlos Conde	1:18.076	100.056	4	2.759	Pronto-GMT, Olympus Securities
18	65 J.W. Roberts	1:18.216	99.877	9	2.899	General Data Tech
19	72 Larry Pegram	1:18.302	99.768	8	2.985	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance
20	20 Carlos Linares	1:18.584	99.410	5	3.267	Instituto Nacional De Deportes
21	23 Walt Bowlin	1:19.235	98.593	4	3.918	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
22	37 Dom Bastien	1:19.249	98.575	11	3.932	Andersen Race Park

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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