



CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER CONOR DALY TOPS THE TIME SHEET IN THE FIRST DAY OF TESTING FOR STAR MAZDA ROUNDS 6 & 7 AT NEW JERSEY MOTORSPORTS PARK

New Jersey Motorsports Park (June 24, 2010) – Conor Daly continued his front-of-the-pack ways today, setting the quickest time in the second of two promoter test sessions leading up to Rounds 6 & 7 of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. His time of 1:15.990 (102.803 mph) in the #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. Mazda was substantially slower than the official lap record of 1:14.744 set in qualifying for Race #2 last year by Englishman Richard Kent,



who won from the pole. Daly, who has won four races in a row so far this season, and won Race #1 here last year, doesn't expect to break that particular record.

"It's so hot and humid here that unless we get a cool weather front passing through at just the right time, we're not going to get anywhere near Richard's record time," says Daly, the son of racing legend and noted motorsports broadcaster Derek Daly. "We went out on old tires in the morning session, and the track was so slippery and

hot that it didn't seem worth wasting a set of new tires in the session. We held off putting on stickers until toward the end of the afternoon session and that made all the difference. We tested here earlier and were able to roll off the truck with a good setup on the car and the Juncos Racing team and I are just keeping our heads down and focusing on continuing to execute in exactly the way we have for the last four races."

Daly is somewhat reticent to discuss, and justifiably so, the other record he is hoping to break this weekend. 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. A consequential weight to hang across the shoulders of a driver who graduated from high school on May 14 – but he had not problem stepping up to the challenge of winning his fourth in a row last weekend, and on the high-speed 7/8ths-mile Iowa Speedway oval, no less.

In the first session of the day, Frenchman Tristan Vautier, winner of Round 1 at Sebring was at the sharp end of the time sheet with a lap of 1:16.589 (101.999 mph) in his #38 Andersen Racing / Moulin TP / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda. Daly was second-quick, followed by Brazilian Joao Victor Horto (#18 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda) the driver currently 3rd in the championship. Rounding out the top-5 were quick young Quebec racer Mikael Grenier (#17 Andersen Racing / Slow Cow / April Super Flow / NAPA Auto Parts / HS Telecom / Desharnais Mazda, 4th in the championship with a pole and two podiums, followed by American Connor De Phillippi, the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship winner who is racing the #11 JDC Motorsports / MAZDASPEED Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda with backing from Mazda. De Phillippi won his ride by racing to the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series championship.

In the afternoon session, times came down dramatically, and the list of 'quick guys' shuffled, somewhat. Daly topped the time sheets and second, almost a second back, was Norwegian racers Anders 'The Viking' Krohn. Currently 2nd in the championship battle with a pole, a podium and five top-5s, Krohn turned a 1:16.944 (101.528 mph) in his #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda. Third-quick was Grenier, maintaining his top-5 status from the morning session.

Next up was proof that sometimes you have to change teams to prove how fast you are, Texan Rusty Mitchell. In his third season of Star Mazda competition, Mitchell had been driving for the Michell Motorsports 'family team,' but between Rounds 4 & 5 he convinced his sponsors that moving to the hottest team in the series, Juncos Racing, was the right move. His 1:17.208 (101.181 mph) lap in his #66 Juncos Racing / Motorola / Petro Communications / HRP Racing Products / Texas Autosports Mazda was 1.2-seconds off the pace, but any way you cut it, he was still the 4th-fastest guy on the track.

And in 5th was Joao Victor Horto, a familiar name from the morning session, and perhaps representative of a hot new team moving up to challenges the established powerhouse organizations in the series. Team Apex ran Formula BMW American in 2009, with Horto, and moved up when BMW pulled down their bucks-deluxe hospitality tent at the end of the season and called it quits. Apex, an experienced team but a rookie in the intense Star Mazda environment, has run strong since the first race and their two drivers, Horto and Venezuelan second-year Star Mazda Racer Jorge Goncalves, occupied the other two podium spots at Iowa while Conor Daly was celebrating his fourth win. It's only a matter of time until one of these two stands on the top step and marks the arrival of a new team to be reckoned with.

The other interesting story of the day was 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 1:19.216 (98.616 mph) was 17th-fast in a 22-car field, but given his lack of open-wheel experience and the level of competition involved, it's an achievement worthy of respect. The quickest Expert Series driver was Californian Patrick O'Neill, who turned a 1:18.267 (99.812 mph) lap in his #64 JDC Motorsports / O'Neill Construction Mazda, good for 13th-fast on the day. The quickest Master Series driver (45 and older) was North Oaks, Minnesota racer/investment fund CEO Gerry Kraut. Also a co-owner of the championship-winning JDC Motorsports team, Kraut was 16th-quick with a lap of 1:18.627 (99.355 mph) driving the #55 JDC Motorsports / Dougherty & Co. / Dougherty Funding LLC Mazda.

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.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	22 Conor Daly	1:15.990	102.803	14			INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd., Tom Lang Co.
2	47 Anders Krohn	1:16.944	101.528	12	0.954	0.954	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Trallfa Industries, Colosseum
3	17 Mikael Grenier	1:17.063	101.372	13	1.073	0.119	Slow Cow, April Super Flow, NAPA Auto Parts, HS Telecom, Desharnais
4	66 Rusty Mitchell	1:17.208	101.181	20	1.218	0.145	Motorola, Petro Comm.
5	18 Joao Horta	1:17.325	101.028	17	1.335	0.117	Wabash Capital Investments
6	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:17.443	100.874	11	1.453	0.118	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
7	9 Jorge Goncalvez	1:17.610	100.657	14	1.620	0.167	Wabash Capital Investments
8	38 Tristan Vautier	1:17.746	100.481	9	1.756	0.136	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
9	28 Juan Piedrahita	1:17.800	100.411	21	1.810	0.054	Petro Sur, GFK Motors
10	19 Caio Lara	1:17.819	100.387	2	1.829	0.019	MLD/ATW/Molecule
11	16 David Ostella	1:17.850	100.347	7	1.860	0.031	GP Global Precast
12	85 Chris Miller	1:18.224	99.867	16	2.234	0.374	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
13	64 Patrick O'Neill	1:18.267	99.812	10	2.277	0.043	O'Neill Construction
14	20 Carlos Linares	1:18.502	99.513	10	2.512	0.235	IND
15	81 Nick Andries	1:18.627	99.355	23	2.637	0.125	Indy 500/ American Icon Team Pelfrey
16	55 Gerry Kraut	1:18.878	99.039	16	2.888	0.251	Dougherty and Co./Dougherty Funding LLC.
17	72 Larry Pegram	1:19.216	98.616	15	3.226	0.338	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance
18	25 Tatiana Calderon	1:19.665	98.061	17	3.675	0.449	JAC Motors
19	65 J.W. Roberts	1:20.545	96.989	22	4.555	0.880	General Data Tech
20	23 Walt Bowlin	1:20.927	96.531	8	4.937	0.382	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
21	31 Carlos Conde	1:25.004	91.902	3	9.014	4.077	Pronto-GMT, Olympus Securities
22	37 Dom Bastien		-	0			Andersen Race Park

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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