



QUEBEC RACER MIKAEL GRENIER QUICKEST IN STAR MAZDA THURSDAY TESTING FOR THIS WEEKEND'S HARRAH'S AUTOBAHN GRAND PRIX PRESENTED BY MAZDA

Autobahn Country Club / Joliet, IL (July 29, 1010) – Mikael Grenier, the quick Quebec driver who pilots the #17 Andersen Racing / Slow Cow / April Super Flow / NAPA Auto Parts / HS Telecom / Desharnais Mazda



set the quick time of today's two 45-minute promoter test sessions leading up to Rounds 8 & 9 of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at this weekend's **HARRAH'S** Autobahn Grand Prix presented by **MAZDA**. Set on lap 14 of the morning session, Grenier's lap of 2:11.902 (87.163 mph) around the 3.6-mile track at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL was the only lap in 'the 11s'; second-quick was championship points leader Conor Daly with

a lap of 2:12.346 (96.837 mph) in the #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. Mazda.

Rounding out the top-3 was Frenchman Tristan Vautier, winner of Race 2 / Round 7 at New Jersey Motorsports Park on June 27, with a lap of 2:12.457 (96.756 mph) in his #38 Andersen Racing / Moulin TP / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda. All three times were set in the morning session. The Star Mazda Championship lap record at Autobahn, 2:10.546, was set by Peter Dempsey, who won both races from the pole.

Fourth-quick on the day, setting his time on lap 14 of the afternoon session, was Californian Connor De Phillippi, the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series champion and racing in the Star Mazda Championship this season via the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship. He turned a lap of 2:12.656 (96.611 mph, the fastest of the afternoon session) in his #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda. Conor Daly was again second-quick in the afternoon session with a lap of 2:12.748 (96.544 mph), but providing an interesting surprise was the third-quick car in the session, the #25 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda, driven by the Series' lone female driver, Tatiana Calderon of Bogota, Colombia. A South American karting champions in her first season of North American open-wheel racing, she turned a lap of 2:13.045 (96.328 mph).

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. Interestingly enough, the quickest times among this group came in the afternoon session, and it was local racer Jeff Garibotti, a 50-year old racing enthusiast and





soybean meal trader at the Chicago Board of Trade who turned the quick time of 2:16.633 (93.799 mph, 16th-fast overall in the 24-car field) in his #75 JDC Motorsports Mazda. Garibotti, a member of the Autobahn Country Club since its opening in 2004, is making his professional racing debut this weekend. The quickest Expert Series racer, Texan J.W. Roberts, turned a 17th-fast time of 2:17.097 (93.481 mph) in his #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda.

Official practice commences tomorrow with 45-minute sessions beginning at 10:45 am and 4:45 pm. Qualifying for Race 1 / Round 8 takes place Saturday, July 25 from 8:00 to 8:45 am, with the race scheduled to start at 1:05 pm. Following that will be qualifying for Race 2 / Round 9, from 6:35 pm to 7:20 pm. Its worth noting that this was the session in 2009 during which Peter Dempsey set his track record. The second of the weekend's two races begins at 1:00 pm, Sunday, July 26.

Fans can watch the weekend race action live on HDnet as drivers battle for the inaugural VISITFLORIDA Cup a 7-race championship-within-a-championship sponsored by Florida's official tourism corporation. The broadcasts, airing both Saturday, July 31 and Sunday August 1 from 1-4 pm Eastern (12 -3 pm Central), begin with a half-hour "Mazda Prerace Show presented by Visit Florida.com" from 12:30 – 1:00 pm Eastern, followed by three hours of live racing (1-4 pm Eastern), including the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda and the Playboy MX-5 Cup. The two 45-minute Star Mazda Championship races are both scheduled to start at 3:00 pm Eastern.

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

Dean Case / Communications Officer / MAZDASPEED Motorsports
 (310) 318-4582 / E-mail: MAZDASPEED@MazdaUSA.com

