



**QUEBEC RACER MIKAEL GRENIER ON POLE FOR STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP  
RACE 1 / ROUND 8 OF HARRAH'S AUTOBAHN GRAND PRIX PRESENTED BY MAZDA**

***Twenty-four drivers from ten countries continue their battle for the inaugural VISITFLORIDA Cup at this weekend's double-header, broadcast live on HDnet***

Autobahn Country Club / Joliet, IL (July 31, 2010) – Quebec racer Mikael Grenier scored his second pole of the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear with a lap of 2:43.240 (78.510 mph) in a rain-soaked morning qualifying session at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL. Grenier, driver of the #17



Andersen Racing / Slow Cow / April Super Flow / NAPA Auto Parts / HS Telecom / Desharnais Mazda, currently 7th in the championship battle, was also on pole (and finished second) for Round 4 at the O'Reilly Raceway Park Oval at the 'Night Before the 500.'

"It was raining all the session, and there was traffic, but it began to dry out a bit at the end and then there was a red flag," said Grenier, who hails from Stoneham, Quebec. "I was the

first car out of the pits when the track went green again with just a few minutes to go and I was able to get in a fast lap. Being one of the cars that went out in the rain practice session yesterday afternoon was good because it gave me a chance to feel the grip of the track in the wet and also to see where the puddles on the track are. The Andersen Racing team has been fast in the wet and in the dry, so we're ready for whatever comes in the race this afternoon."

Starting alongside Grenier will be Frenchman Tristan Vautier, winner of two races so far this season, at Sebring and New Jersey; he is currently fourth in the championship and turned a lap of 2:43.336 (78.464 mph) in his #38 Andersen Racing / Moulin TP / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda. Starting third will be Anders 'The Viking' Krohn, who was turned the quickest time in yesterday afternoon's wet practice session. Driving the #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda) his lap of 2:43.587 was good enough for the inside of the second row. Interesting to note that the top-3 cars were all within about 3/10ths of each other.

Rounding out the top-5 are Venezuelan racer Jorge Goncalvez and his teammate Joao Victor Horto. American Conor Daly set the 5th-fast time, but it was disallowed due to a part found to be 'out of adjustable limits' in post-qualifying tech inspection. As a result Daly will start from the back of the grid. Goncalvez, driving the #9 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda has scored two podium finishes this season and is eighth in the points; he turned a lap of 2:44.910 (77.715 mph), good for the outside of





the second row. Horto, currently third in the championship with four podiums, will start on row 5 with a lap of 2:45.213 (77.573 mph) in the #18 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda.

Setting the 7th-fast time 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 2:48.837 (75.908 mph) in his #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda.

Of note is the effort put in by one of the two female racers in the field, a local from Homer Glen, IL named Ashley Freiberg. A champion at the regional Skip Barber level and winner of a Skip Barber national race last weekend, Freiberg is driving a one-off this weekend and has suffered through a nightmare weekend as the team chased an elusive mechanical problem, changing engines and wiring harnesses before discovering a vacuum leak. She has run only a handful of laps so far this weekend, most of them 'hardship' laps in between sessions; in light of all that, her 9th-quick lap of 2:51.058 (74.922 mph) in the #91 Team GDT / Collision Damage Experts / Azko Nobel / Charleyhorse Restaurant Mazda is little short of spectacular.

Also of interest is that among the Expert (drivers 30 to 44 years old) and Master (45 and older) Series racers, its two local drivers, one of them making his pro racing debut, who have turned the quickest times. Jeff Garibotti, an ex acrobatic pilot who makes his living trading soybean meal at the Chicago Board of Trade, turned a 15th-quick lap of 2:58.689 (71.722 mph) in his #75 JDC Motorsports Mazda. Garibotti, a member of the Autobahn Country Club since it opened in 2004, has many laps at the track in his high-performance street cars and racing in Mazda MX-5 events, but this is his first-ever start in a professional open-wheel race. Starting next to him on the 7th row will be Homer Glen's Bob Kaminsky, who turned a lap of 2:59.377 (71.447 mph) in the #28 Team Apex / Air Tigers, Inc. Mazda.

Race 1 / Round 9 of this weekend's Star Mazda Championship double-header will take the green light for the series' traditional standing start at 1:05 pm (Central / 2:05 pm Eastern). Following that will be qualifying for Race 2 / Round 9, from 6:35 pm to 7:20 pm. The second of the weekend's two races begins at 1:00 pm Central (2.00 pm Eastern), 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.





### 2010 Star Mazda Championship Autobahn Raceway / Race 1 Qualifying

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Sponsor
1	17 Mikael Grenier	2:43.240	78.510	14	Slow Cow, April Super Flow, NAPA Auto Parts, HS Telecom, Desharnais
2	38 Tristan Vautier	2:43.336	78.464	13	Moulin TP, Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
3	47 Anders Krohn	2:43.587	78.344	15	Norse Cutting and Abandonment, Trallfa Industries, Colosseum
4	9 Jorge Goncalvez	2:44.910	77.715	15	Wabash Capital Investments
5	18 Joao Horto	2:45.213	77.573	10	Wabash Capital Investments, BomBril - Programa LeiLoes
6	11 Connor De Phillippi	2:48.837	75.908	11	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
7	81 Nick Andries	2:49.427	75.643	14	Indy 500/ American Icon Team Pelfrey
8	91 Ashley Freiberg	2:51.058	74.922	11	CDE, AKZO Nobel, Charley Horse, C + D Supply
9	16 David Ostella	2:52.163	74.441	14	GP Global Precast
10	66 Rusty Mitchell	2:53.406	73.907	10	Motorola, Petro Comm.
11	25 Tatiana Calderon	2:53.459	73.885	14	JAC Motors
12	21 Kevin Toledo	2:54.595	73.404	10	THL / Autodromo Codegua / Info-Centro
13	19 Caio Lara	2:55.582	72.992	7	MLD/ATW/Molecule
14	75 Jeff Garibotti	2:58.689	71.722	8	
15	28 Bob Kaminsky	2:59.377	71.447	10	Air Tigers Inc. / Slick Locks.com
16	85 Chris Miller	3:00.663	70.939	12	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
17	55 Gerry Kraut	3:02.318	70.295	11	Dougherty and Co./Dougherty Funding LLC.
18	31 Carlos Conde	3:03.798	69.729	9	Pronto-GMT, Olympus Securities
19	20 Carlos Linares	3:06.265	68.805	4	Instituto Nacional De Deportes
20	37 Dom Bastien	3:06.617	68.675	5	Andersen Race Park
21	23 Walt Bowlin	3:18.306	64.627	7	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
22	65 J.W. Roberts	3:20.332	63.974	6	General Data Tech
23	22 Conor Daly	2:45.204	77.577	14	INDECK, The College Network, Merchant Services Ltd.

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).

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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