



WITH THE POINTS BATTLE DOWN TO TWO DRIVERS, THE STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP HEADS FOR ROUND 12 OF THE 2010 SEASON – AND ROUND 6 OF THE VISITFLORIDA CUP – THIS WEEKEND AT MOSPORT

Mosport Raceway (August 24, 2010) – With the end of the series' 20th anniversary season fast



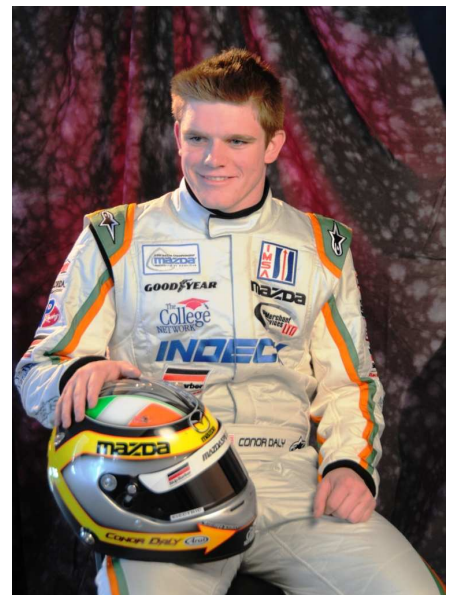
approaching, it seems appropriate that several of the various battles going on inside the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will be settled this weekend at Mosport -- a track celebrating its 50th anniversary.

There are four championships to be won within the overall Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear; the overall series title and the

VISITFLORIDA cup, as well as the Expert Series for drivers ages 30 to 44 and Master Series for drivers 45 and older.

One of these championships has been settled already, and a second one will be when his car takes the green for the start of Round 12 of the 13-race season. Texan J.W. Roberts, owner of both General Data Tech and Team GDT, has secured the Expert Series championship with eight in-class wins so far this season racing his #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda. And his Team GDT teammate, investment banker/racer Carlos Conde of San Juan, Puerto Rico, will become the Master Series champion when he starts the race in his #31 Team GDT / Pronto-GMT / Olympus Securities Mazda. His record so far this year includes six in-class wins. Team GDT also 'swept the field' in Round 10 at Trois-Rivières on August 15 when they brought 2009 GP3R winner Alex Ardoin back for a one-off race and he repeated his overall race victory; three of the five drivers on the podium were from Team GDT.

And of the final two championships that remain to be won, the overall Star Mazda series championship with its coveted, career-making prize package comes down to the two drivers who have exhibited extraordinary consistency throughout the season: Indianapolis native Conor Daly (right), the current championship





points leader with six wins, eight poles and ten podium finishes driving the #22 Juncos Racing / INDECK / The College Network / Merchant Services Ltd. Mazda; and Norwegian racer Anders 'The Viking' Krohn (below left), currently second in the championship with one pole, four podium finishes and 11 top-5 finishes in the #47 Andersen Racing / Norse Cutting & Abandonment / Trallfa / Colosseum Mazda.



Both drivers are in their second season of Star Mazda Championship competition, and both did well in this event last year; Daly qualified and finished 2nd and Krohn drove through the field from 13th on the grid to finish 5th (he also won the 2008 F2000 championship with back-to-back wins at Mosport). They went on the finish 3rd and 6th, respectively, in the overall championship. Daly currently leads the championship with 457 points; Krohn is second with 388 points. And there are a maximum of 90 points available (44 for a victory and 1 point for pole) in the final two races.

The prize they are both battling for includes \$100,000 in cash, a test with a top Indy Lights team and the **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports Driver Development Ladder scholarship -- a Mazda-funded drive for the full 2011 season in a Mazda RX-8, fielded by the factory-backed Speedsource racing team, competing in the Grand-Am GT1 class. Star Mazda graduates have gone on to compete at the top levels of the sport, including F1 (Scott Speed), IndyCar (Graham Rahal, Marco Andretti, Raphael Matos), NASCAR (Michael McDowell, Colin Braun, prototypes (Dane Cameron, Mark Wilkins) and sports cars (Guy Cosmo, Joey Hand). The **MAZDASPEED** Ladder is the only automaker-supported motorsports scholarship program reaching from entry-level karting to the top levels of the sport. Drivers in the series also benefit from a separate but parallel development program, the IndyCar 'Road to Indy'; the program designates the Star Mazda Championship as an official step on the Road to Indy (along with the USF2000 National Championship Powered Buy Mazda and the Indy Lights series) and provides a clear path – along with a variety of other valuable assistance -- for young open-wheel drivers whose goal is to race in IndyCar and the Indy 500.

The other battle that remains to be settled is the first annual **VISITFLORIDA** Cup, a 7-race championship-within-a-championship sponsored by the series' television partner, VISIT FLORIDA, the official tourism and marketing organization for the state of Florida. The live HDnet broadcasts and global syndication package made possible by the **VISITFLORIDA** partnership brings Star Mazda Championship racing to more than 150 million households worldwide. The prize, a custom 'dream vacation' provided by





VISIT Florida goes to the driver scoring the most points in the seven races that are part of the Cup, including this weekend's Mobil 1 Presents the Grand Prix of Mosport and the season finale at the 13th Annual Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta, September 29 – October 2.

Conor Daly also leads this competition with 192 points scored in VISITFLORIDA races, and Anders Krohn is in second with 179 VISITFLORIDA points. But with 90 points remaining to be won in the final two races, that leaves the top-17 drivers still in contention, including the home-town hero of this race, 18 year-old David Ostella; he is 13th in the VISITFLORIDA points with 118. A rising open-wheel racing star from



Maple, Ontario, Ostella (left) has nine years of racing experience and has won karting championships in Canada and Europe. This is his second year of Star Mazda competition; he finished 9th at this event last year and is currently in the top-10 in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship battle with five top-10 and two top-5 finishes. Ostella and his #16 Star Mazda championship IndyCar-style race car (powered by the same Renesis rotary engine as the Mazda RX-8 sports car) compete with backing from GP Global Precast Intercontinental / Alpinestars, Masters Insurance, Pro Green Demolition and RAW Integrated Ltd.

In between races he is a student at St. Thomas of Villanova College whose hobbies include racing videogames, hockey, fitness, paintball. Ostella races for the only Canadian team in the in the Star Mazda Championship, AIM Autosport, based in Woodbridge, Ontario. Alumni of AIM Autosport, located in Woodbridge, Ontario, include such noted Canadian racers as Mark Wilkins, Andrew Ranger, Jean-Francois Dumoulin, Kevin Lacroix and Andrew Bordin.

The other rising Canadian racing star in the Star Mazda field this weekend is 17 year-old Mikael Grenier, a student at Georges-Vanier High School. A karting champion who started racing at age 5, he ran six Star Mazda races in 2009 in preparation for a full season in 2010. Grenier won his first Star Mazda race earlier this season from the pole in Race 1 / Round 8 at Autobahn on July 31. He is currently 4th in the championship battle (and 5th in the VISITFLORIDA standings) with one win, two poles, three podiums, and five top-5 finishes.

Other drivers to watch this weekend include Frenchman Tristan Vautier who has won two races driving the #38 Andersen Racing / Moulin TP / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais / Fontanel Mazda and is 6th in the championship, as well as the other race winner in the series this season, Brazilian racer Caio Lara, driver of the #19 JDC Motorsports / MLD / ATW / Molecule Mazda. Not having 'made his bones' with a race win yet, but still someone to keep an eye on is Venezuelan racer Jorge Goncalvez, #3 on the points list and with four podium finishes so far this season (including one last weekend at Trois-Rivières) driving his #9 Team Apex / Wabash Capital Investments Mazda for the hottest rookie team in the series, Team Apex.





Another driver who has shown improving form of late – including his first-ever Star Mazda podium finish last weekend at Trois—Rivières - and might be ripe to pull off a surprise is Californian Connor De Phillippi, the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series champion. Currently 5th in the overall championship (and 6th in VISITFLORIDA points), De Phillippi is racing the #11 JDC Motorsports / **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports / Skip Barber Mazda this season via a full-season 'scholarship' provided by the **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports Driver Development Ladder.

The Star Mazda Championship cars take to the track for the first time at 9:45 am, Thursday, August 26. There will be additional Star Mazda practice sessions at 1:00 pm Thursday afternoon and 9:45 am and 12:45 pm Friday, August 27. Qualifying for the race takes place at 8:00 am Saturday, August 28, with the traditional Star Mazda F1-style 'standing start' getting the green light at 1:15 pm Saturday 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.

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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