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FRENCH RACER TRISTAN VAUTIER QUICKEST ON DAY ONE OF STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PRE-SEASON TESTING AT INDYCAR 'SPRING TRAINING' AT BARBER MOTORSPORTS PARK

Barber Motorsports Park, Birmingham AL / March 14, 2011 – French racer Tristan Vautier, who scored two wins and finished 5th in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, set the pace in the first day of pre-season testing for the 2011 Star Mazda Championship at the IndyCar 'Spring Training' event at Barber Motorsports Park today.



Driving the #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda, Vautier turned a lap of 1:20.831 (102.436 mph) on Lap 29 of the 45 minute morning session. This is the first time the Star Mazda Championship cars have run on the 17-turn, 2.38-mile Barber Motorsports Park track, so his time stands – until tomorrow morning – as the unofficial lap record (official lap records in Star Mazda are recorded only in qualifying or the race).

Hot on his heels in the morning session when cooler temperatures and a thicker cloud cover kept track temperatures, and lap times, down was Chilean racer Martin Scuncio, who ran only the Star Mazda season finale in 2010 but very nearly stole the pole at Road Atlanta and figured heavily in the outcome of the race. He turned a 1:21.557 (101.524 mph) in his #60 Juncos Racing / Fuerza Chile Mazda. Third quick in the morning was Irish rookie Patrick McKenna making his Star Mazda debut after a runner-up finish in the 2010 USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda. Driving the #48 Team GDT / Motorsport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech Mazda, he turned a lap of 1:21.626 (101.438 mph).

"What a great track this is! There are so many great corners that you don't ever want to come into the pits," enthused Vautier. "The track got very slippery in the afternoon with more sun, so the times were slower, but it was still so much fun to drive. It's too early to tell anything about the drivers in the field or what the race will be like, but we're happy to be fastest on the first day, and we'll be working to keep it that way throughout the test."

In the afternoon, on a slipperier track, it was Scuncio who set the quick time of the session with a 1:21.361 (101.769 mph), with Vautier second at 1:22.483 (100.384 mph). Sage Karam, the 2010 USF2000 national champion racing in the Star Mazda Championship with a scholarship from the Mazda Road to Indy, was third-quick in the afternoon with a lap of 1:22.502 (100.361) in his #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. And turning the 4th-quick lap of 1:22.754 (100.056 mph) in the #10 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda was the lone female racer in the field, Colombian



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Tatiana Calderon. A South American karting champion who made the jump directly to Star Mazda with Juncos Racing in 2010, she scored six top-10 finishes and was 10th in the championship.

Star Mazda Championship practice continues Tuesday, March 15, with sessions scheduled from 8-9 am and 1:00-1:45 pm; the final session of the test takes place 9-8 am, Wednesday, March 16th. The first race of the 2010 season is scheduled to get the green light for the traditional Star Mazda standing start at 4:10 pm Saturday, March 26 at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.

Star Mazda / Barber Spring Training / Monday Morning Session / March 14

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap
1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:20.831	102.436	29		
2	60 Martin Scuncio	1:21.557	101.524	45	0.726	0.726
3	48 Patrick McKenna	1:21.626	101.438	23	0.795	0.069
4	7 Joao Horto	1:21.912	101.084	39	1.081	0.286
5	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:22.047	100.918	40	1.216	0.135
6	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:22.425	100.455	35	1.594	0.378
7	81 Nick Andries	1:22.746	100.065	33	1.915	0.321
8	85 Chris Miller	1:22.827	99.967	38	1.996	0.081
9	27 Nick Mancuso	1:22.851	99.938	50	2.020	0.024
10	39 Richard Heistand	1:23.007	99.751	34	2.176	0.156
11	88 Sage Karam	1:23.046	99.704	14	2.215	0.039
12	66 Zach Meyer	1:24.047	98.516	45	3.216	1.001
13	20 Carlos Linares	1:24.952	97.467	22	4.121	0.905
14	72 Larry Pegram	1:25.058	97.345	24	4.227	0.106
15	26 Jeremy Daniel	1:26.402	95.831	37	5.571	1.344
16	23 Walt Bowlin	1:27.700	94.413	28	6.869	1.298

Star Mazda / Barber Spring Training / Monday Afternoon Session / March 14

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap
1	60 Martin Scuncio	1:21.361	101.769	20		
2	5 Tristan Vautier	1:22.483	100.384	10	1.122	1.122
3	88 Sage Karam	1:22.502	100.361	7	1.141	0.019
4	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:22.754	100.056	15	1.393	0.252
5	7 Joao Horto	1:22.935	99.837	18	1.574	0.181
6	48 Patrick McKenna	1:23.180	99.543	11	1.819	0.245
7	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:23.250	99.459	5	1.889	0.070
8	66 Zach Meyer	1:23.429	99.246	18	2.068	0.179
9	85 Chris Miller	1:23.601	99.042	10	2.240	0.172
10	81 Nick Andries	1:23.690	98.937	16	2.329	0.089
11	39 Richard Heistand	1:23.776	98.835	17	2.415	0.086
12	20 Carlos Linares	1:24.487	98.003	13	3.126	0.711
13	27 Nick Mancuso	1:24.587	97.887	15	3.226	0.100
14	72 Larry Pegram	1:24.618	97.852	18	3.257	0.031
15	23 Walt Bowlin	1:26.893	95.290	12	5.532	2.275
16	26 Jeremy Daniel	1:27.840	94.262	20	6.479	0.947



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About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

For 2011, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will be a major part of the Mazda Road to Indy and will feature a 10-weekend, 11-race schedule, all on major race weekends and most with IndyCar. Two weekends are with the American Le Mans series, and one is a double-header with Indy Lights. Rising stars from around the world will be watched by more than a million fans as they compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million, including a scholarship to move up and race in the 2012 Firestone Indy Lights series. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete and the Star Mazda Championship also features the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 160 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, please contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.



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