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## FRENCH RACER TRISTAN VAUTIER SHOWS STRENGTH EARLY WITH FASTEST TIME IN DAYS 1 & 2 OF THREE-DAY STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP TEST AT INDYCAR SPRING TRAINING

Barber Motorsports Park / Birmingham, AL / March 15, 2011 – After an all-night rainstorm that thoroughly scoured the 17-turn, 2.38-mile Barber Motorsports Park track, it was again French



racer Tristan Vautier who set the pace in Day 2 of Star Mazda Championship testing at IndyCar 'spring training,' - first on the wet track of the morning session and later on the dry and fast track that saw lap times dropping like a stone throughout the rest of the day.

His 120.397 (102.989 mph) lap in the #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda came on the 10th of 13 laps turned in the 30-minute final session. This is the first time the Star Mazda Championship cars have visited Barber Motorsports Park and his time represents an unofficial lap record – unofficial since in Star Mazda lap records can only be set in qualifying or

the race. It is, however, a useful indicator, and a target for other drivers to shoot at in Wednesday's final 1-hour session... and during the race on the April 10.

In the wet morning session, Vautier turned a 1:27.969 (94.124 mph) in his #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda vs. a quick time of 1:20.831 (102.436 mph) in the yesterday's morning session. In the wet, Sage Karam was second-quick with a lap of 1:29.093 (92.937 mph) in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda, followed by Nick Mancuso at 1:29.527 (92.476 mph) in the #27 JDC Motorsports / Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products. Mancuso provided something of a surprise since, although he has substantial experience in sports cars and sedans, this is his first go at open-wheel racing.



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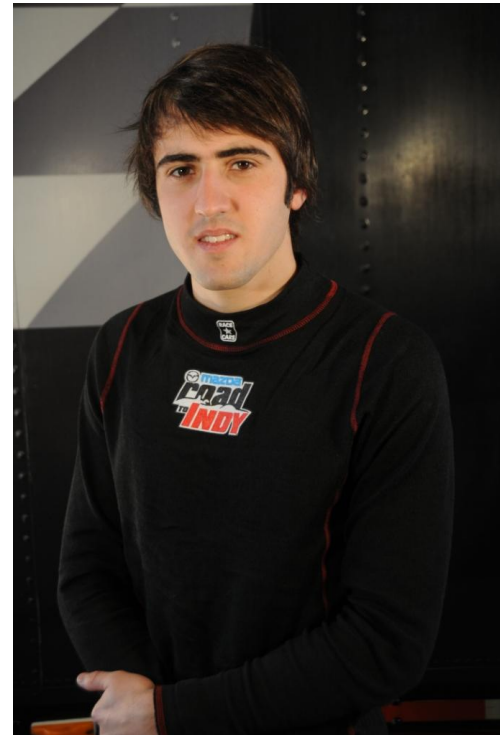


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The original schedule for Day 2 called for two sessions, one morning and one afternoon. However a sudden, unexplained schedule change split the single afternoon session into two and drivers and teams were only alerted 15 minutes before the start of the second session, newly scheduled to run from 10:30 to 11:15 am. Several teams were already deep into dismantling their cars and were unable to make the session, while others quickly buttoned their cars up, pried their drivers away from their cell phones and sent them out for truncated, impromptu session.

Once again Vautier (right) was quickest with a lap of 1:21.000 (102.222 mph), followed by Sage Karam at 1:21.406 (101.712 mph) and Martin Scuncio – who was actually quickest in the second, slower afternoon session on Day 1. The young Chilean racer turned a 1:21.745 (101.291 mph) in the #60 Juncos Racing / Fuerza Chile Mazda. Holding his place near the sharp end of the field as he had done in every previous session was Brazilian second-year Star Mazda racer Joao Victor Horto with a 1:21.851 (101.159 mph) in the #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda.



And in the final session of the day, the quickest so far of the test, it was Vautier setting the pace, followed by Martin Scuncio at 1:21.364 (101.765) on lap 12, his last of the session. In third was Horto with a 1:21.555 (101.527 mph) on lap 8 and showing some strength after languishing in the bottom-half of the top-10 on Monday was St. Petersburg, FL college student Nick Andries with a 1:21.974 (101.008 mph) in his #81 Team Pelfrey Mazda. Team Pelfrey, based in Clearwater, FL, was a competitive IndyCar team during 1998-2001 and noted for giving their 'big break' to many young drivers; team owner Dale Pelfrey has revived the team as a 2-car Star Mazda effort for the 2011 season.

Also flexing his muscles in the final session was second-year Star Mazda racer Chris Miller, who rounded out the top-5 with a 1:22.128 (100.818 mph) in his #85 JDC Motorsports / Miller Milling / Red Line Oil Mazda. Less than two seconds separated the top-8 runners during the final session, with positions 5-8 separated by less than half a second.



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### Results of Star Mazda Championship - Tuesday Morning Practice

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:27.969	94.124	11			Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	88 Sage Karam	1:29.093	92.937	12	1.124	1.124	Comfort Revolution
3	27 Nick Mancuso	1:29.537	92.476	13	1.568	0.444	Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
4	66 Zach Meyer	1:29.786	92.219	14	1.817	0.249	
5	48 Patrick McKenna	1:30.170	91.827	12	2.201	0.384	Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
6	7 J.V. Horto	1:30.320	91.674	13	2.351	0.150	Programa LeiLoes
7	60 Martin Scuncio	1:30.557	91.434	6	2.588	0.237	Fuerza Chile
8	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:30.600	91.391	13	2.631	0.043	
9	20 Carlos Linares	1:30.646	91.344	14	2.677	0.046	Mindeporte
10	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:30.788	91.201	13	2.819	0.142	JAC Motors
11	81 Nick Andries	1:30.990	90.999	7	3.021	0.202	
12	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:37.166	85.215	12	9.197	6.176	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
13	72 Larry Pegram	1:41.295	81.741	4	13.326	4.129	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
14	23 Walt Bowlin		-	0			Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
15	39 Richard Heistand		-	0			Masney Auto Transportation
16	85 Chris Miller		-	0			Miller Milling, Red Line Oil

### Results of Star Mazda Championship - Tuesday Second Practice

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:21.000	102.222	8			Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	88 Sage Karam	1:21.406	101.712	14	0.406	0.406	Comfort Revolution
3	60 Martin Scuncio	1:21.745	101.291	13	0.745	0.339	Fuerza Chile
4	7 J.V. Horto	1:21.851	101.159	7	0.851	0.106	Programa LeiLoes
5	81 Nick Andries	1:22.002	100.973	14	1.002	0.151	
6	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:22.013	100.960	4	1.013	0.011	
7	85 Chris Miller	1:22.246	100.674	15	1.246	0.233	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
8	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:22.871	99.914	10	1.871	0.625	JAC Motors
9	27 Nick Mancuso	1:23.225	99.489	24	2.225	0.354	Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
10	20 Carlos Linares	1:23.660	98.972	8	2.660	0.435	Mindeporte
11	66 Zach Meyer	1:23.699	98.926	10	2.699	0.039	
12	39 Richard Heistand	1:24.054	98.508	14	3.054	0.355	Masney Auto Transportation
13	72 Larry Pegram	1:24.542	97.939	12	3.542	0.488	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
14	23 Walt Bowlin	1:26.940	95.238	8	5.940	2.398	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
15	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:28.597	93.457	2	7.597	1.657	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
16	48 Patrick McKenna		-	0			Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech







### Results of Star Mazda - Tuesday Final Practice

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:20.397	102.989	10			Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	60 Martin Scuncio	1:21.364	101.765	12	0.967	0.967	Fuerza Chile
3	7 J.V. Horto	1:21.555	101.527	8	1.158	0.191	Programa LeiLoes
4	81 Nick Andries	1:21.974	101.008	10	1.577	0.419	
5	85 Chris Miller	1:22.128	100.818	8	1.731	0.154	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
6	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:22.166	100.772	10	1.769	0.038	
7	88 Sage Karam	1:22.170	100.767	4	1.773	0.004	Comfort Revolution
8	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:22.254	100.664	13	1.857	0.084	JAC Motors
9	39 Richard Heistand	1:22.876	99.908	7	2.479	0.622	Masney Auto Transportation
10	66 Zach Meyer	1:23.560	99.090	8	3.163	0.684	
11	27 Nick Mancuso	1:23.775	98.836	6	3.378	0.215	Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
12	72 Larry Pegram	1:23.846	98.752	14	3.449	0.071	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
13	20 Carlos Linares	1:24.482	98.009	7	4.085	0.636	Mindeporte
14	23 Walt Bowlin	1:26.385	95.850	5	5.988	1.903	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
15	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:26.482	95.742	7	6.085	0.097	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
16	48 Patrick McKenna		-	0			Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech

The final session of the Star Mazda Championship test at IndyCar spring training 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.

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Road to Indy, 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:

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