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VEACH FASTEST ON OPENING DAY OF MAZDA ROAD TO INDY TEST AT INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



Indianapolis, Indiana (October 28, 2011). Zach Veach, of Stockdale, Ohio, topped the time sheets today as the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear made its first appearance at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as part of the Chris Griffis Memorial Mazda Road to Indy Open test at the historic circuit.

Driving the #77 Andretti Autosport Team Zakosi Data Backup Pro Formula Mazda, Veach posted a best time of 1:27.112 around the 2.514-mile road circuit that has played host to Formula One and MotoGP events. Team Pelfrey drivers Jack

Hawkesworth and Petri Suvanto with best times of 1:27.806 and 1:27.884 respectively.

Climbing out of the car at the end of the day Veach was pleased with the results. "I have to thank the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for giving us the opportunity to test on the circuit. My goal is to race here on the oval but getting a chance to run the road course has been great," Veach explained. "Testing is a lot of fun because the pressure isn't the same and you can have a lot of fun and allows you to learn and work on your driving style a bit and though we were fastest in both sessions there still things to work on and I'm looking forward to the rest of the test."

Seven Star Mazda drivers participated in the opening day of the test and despite the frigid morning and cool afternoon temperatures there were no incidents of any significance in either of the two one-hour sessions.

The test, run in honor of long-time Sam Schmidt Motorsports Indy Lights Team Manager Chris Griffis, who passed away suddenly in September, continues on Saturday, October 29th, with two more sessions at the famed Brickyard.

About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

For 2012, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will be a major part of the [Mazda Road to Indy](#). The schedule has yet to be announced, but all races will be on major motorsports weekends and most with IndyCar. 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 2013 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.



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