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MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



SHIFTING BREEZES – CHILEAN RACER MARTIN SCUNCIO TOPS FRIDAY STAR MAZDA TEST TIMES AT GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG

Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (March 25, 2011) – While the overall wind continues to blow from



the same direction that was set in three days of Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear testing during IndyCar spring training at Barber Motorsports Park, the breezes are starting to shift. For the first time since Session 2 on Day 1 of the Barber test, Chilean racer Martin Scuncio bested French driver Tristan Vautier – and since he turned the 1:11.413 (90.740 mph) lap in his #60 Juncos

Racing / Fuerza Chile Mazda during the final practice session before tomorrow morning's qualifying, he stands as the quickest driver of the day... an distinction wildly applauded by his Juncos Racing team when the final number came up on the timing screens.

It should be noted, however, that it's a thin margin of victory – Tristan Vautier, the dominant driver so far among the 2011 Star Mazda talent pool, is just slightly over 1/10th of a second back with a 1:11.523 (90.600 mph) in his #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda. Both teams have won championships, Juncos last year with Conor Daly's record-setting run, and JDC in 2009 with Englishman Adam Christodoulou... so the rivalry is understandable.

But perhaps the big news of the session was the appearance in the top-3 of Colombian racer Tatiana Calderon, the lone female race in the field. In her second season of Star Mazda competition driving the #10 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda, she knocked down the doors to the 'quick gentlemen's club' with a lap of 1:11.761 (90.300 mph).

"Racing here last year was good experience that helped me go fast today," said Calderon, a South American karting champion who made the jump directly from karts to Star Mazda in 2010. "But the team is doing such a good job, and we are all working together so well, drivers and engineers and everyone, that I feel very comfortable going fast in the car."

Fourth on the time sheet by virtue of his quick lap of 1:11.828 (90.216 mph) in the morning session (the lone driver going faster in the first session – his afternoon time was 7th fast) was local hero and St. Petersburg College student Connor De Phillippi, driving the Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. And rounding out the top-5 was



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Brazilian J.V. Horto, quick all day in his #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda with a final-session lap of 1:11.851 (90.187 mph).... putting the first five places on the merged sheet within half a second of each other.

The quickest driver in the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older was 2010 Expert Series champion J.W. Roberts; he was 13th quick overall with a 1:13.471 (88.189 mph) – more than a second quicker than in the morning - in his #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda.

Qualifying, scheduled for 8:05 – 8:50 am tomorrow morning, promises to be exciting. Round 1 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will take the green Saturday afternoon at 4:10 pm.

2011 Star Mazda Championship St. Petersburg
Results of Star Mazda Championship - Friday morning practice

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:11.558	90.556	22			Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:11.828	90.216	16	0.270	0.270	Justice Brothers Products/Trademark Garage Floors
3	7 J.V. Horto	1:12.186	89.768	18	0.628	0.358	Programa LeiLoes
4	60 Martin Scuncio	1:12.212	89.736	18	0.654	0.026	Fuerza Chile
5	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:12.239	89.702	18	0.681	0.027	JAC Motors
6	81 Nick Andries	1:12.572	89.291	20	1.014	0.333	Lithionics Battery/GS610 Brake Fluid
7	48 Patrick McKenna	1:12.952	88.826	21	1.394	0.380	Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
8	39 Richard Heistand	1:13.112	88.631	20	1.554	0.160	Masney Auto Transportation
9	85 Chris Miller	1:13.346	88.348	15	1.788	0.234	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
10	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:13.528	88.130	16	1.970	0.182	
11	27 Nick Mancuso	1:13.819	87.782	17	2.261	0.291	Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
12	88 Sage Karam	1:14.756	86.682	3	3.198	0.937	Comfort Revolution
13	65 J.W. Roberts	1:14.983	86.420	16	3.425	0.227	
14	66 Zach Meyer	1:15.323	86.029	16	3.765	0.340	
15	20 Carlos Linares	1:15.990	85.274	17	4.432	0.667	Mindeporte
16	23 Walt Bowlin	1:16.335	84.889	17	4.777	0.345	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
17	72 Larry Pegram	1:18.304	82.754	12	6.746	1.969	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
18	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:20.792	80.206	2	9.234	2.488	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams





2011 Star Mazda Championship St. Petersburg
Results of Star Mazda Championship - Friday afternoon practice

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	60 Martin Scuncio	1:11.413	90.740	22			Fuerza Chile
2	5 Tristan Vautier	1:11.523	90.600	19	0.110	0.110	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
3	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:11.761	90.300	13	0.348	0.238	JAC Motors
4	7 J.V. Horto	1:11.851	90.187	12	0.438	0.090	Programa LeiLoes
5	81 Nick Andries	1:11.853	90.184	12	0.440	0.002	Indy 500/ American Icon Team Pelfrey
6	88 Sage Karam	1:12.060	89.925	9	0.647	0.207	Comfort Revolution
7	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:12.216	89.731	3	0.803	0.156	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber
8	48 Patrick McKenna	1:12.475	89.410	15	1.062	0.259	Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
9	39 Richard Heistand	1:12.689	89.147	18	1.276	0.214	Masney Auto Transportation
10	27 Nick Mancuso	1:12.839	88.963	18	1.426	0.150	Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
11	85 Chris Miller	1:13.007	88.759	19	1.594	0.168	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
12	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:13.325	88.374	16	1.912	0.318	
13	65 J.W. Roberts	1:13.471	88.198	15	2.058	0.146	
14	20 Carlos Linares	1:14.384	87.116	12	2.971	0.913	Mindeporte
15	26 J�rimy Daniel	1:14.388	87.111	20	2.975	0.004	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
16	66 Zach Meyer	1:14.939	86.470	6	3.526	0.551	
17	23 Walt Bowlin	1:15.547	85.774	14	4.134	0.608	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
18	72 Larry Pegram	1:15.712	85.587	3	4.299	0.165	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery

2011 Star Mazda Championship St. Petersburg
Results of Formula Mazda - Merged Practice

Pos No.	Name	Overall BestTm	In Session	Sponsor
1	60 Martin Scuncio	1:11.413	Friday afternoon practice	Fuerza Chile
2	5 Tristan Vautier	1:11.523	Friday afternoon practice	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
3	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:11.761	Friday afternoon practice	JAC Motors
4	11 Connor De	1:11.828	Friday First Practice	Mazdaspeed Motorsports, Skip Barber





	Phillippi			
5	7 J.V. Horto	1:11.851	Friday afternoon practice	Programa LeiLoes
6	81 Nick Andries	1:11.853	Friday afternoon practice	Indy 500/ American Icon Team Pelfrey
7	88 Sage Karam	1:12.060	Friday afternoon practice	Comfort Revolution
8	48 Patrick McKenna	1:12.475	Friday afternoon practice	Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
9	39 Richard Heistand	1:12.689	Friday afternoon practice	Masney Auto Transportation
10	27 Nick Mancuso	1:12.839	Friday afternoon practice	Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
11	85 Chris Miller	1:13.007	Friday afternoon practice	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
12	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:13.325	Friday afternoon practice	
13	65 J.W. Roberts	1:13.471	Friday afternoon practice	
14	20 Carlos Linares	1:14.384	Friday afternoon practice	Mindeporte
15	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:14.388	Friday afternoon practice	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
16	66 Zach Meyer	1:14.939	Friday afternoon practice	
17	23 Walt Bowlin	1:15.547	Friday afternoon practice	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
18	72 Larry Pegram	1:15.712	Friday afternoon practice	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery

Fans can follow the drivers through the course of the weekend via the series' web site at www.StarMazda.com, or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/starmazdaseries> and Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/starmazdaseries>. Follow the actual race on your computer or smartphone at <http://livetiming.net/starmazda/>.

ABOUT MAZDA

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, Mazda2, Mazda3, Mazda6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car. In fact, the largest road-racing class in the world is Spec Miata, with more than 2,500 first- and second-generation Miatas tearing up America's racetracks, making it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, one of the world's premier road-racing circuits, the Skip Barber Schools for driving and racing, and the Mazda Road to Indy.





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Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, Calif. and oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario; and in Mexico by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

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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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