



GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



VAUTIER 'SHAVES THE BARBER' WITH A POLE-WINNING PERFORMANCE IN STAR MAZDA QUALIFYING FOR ROUND 2 OF THE 2011 SEASON AT THE INDY GRAND PRIX OF ALABAMA

Indy Grand Prix of Alabama / Barber Motorsports Park (April 7, 2011) – In this afternoon's Star Mazda Championship qualifying session for Round 2 of the 2011 season at the Indy Grand Prix of Alabama, it was French racer Tristan Vautier who proved once again he is the master at 'shaving the barber' with a



pole-winning lap of 1:21.166 (102.013 mph) in his #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda. Starting alongside Vautier on the front row will be Brazilian driver J.V. Horto, who was just 2/10ths slower in his #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda with a lap of 1:21.366 (101.762 mph). Vautier dominated Star Mazda pre-season testing at Barber with the quick time in five of six sessions over three days.

"The track was very different from the series test here three weeks ago during IndyCar spring training" said Vautier, a second-year driver who scored two wins last season and finished 5th in the championship. "It was a bit slower, because the temperature was up and all the different kinds of rubber on the track from Grand-Am and IndyCar, but we all have the same conditions and my engineer Rick Cameron gave me a really good car for qualifying. Now we have to wait two days before we are on track again, and we will all be guessing what is the best setup. But I think I have the best guesser working on my car, so I feel good for the race."

Third on the grid will be Chilean racer Martin Scuncio, who qualified on the pole and finished 2nd in the season-opener at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg two weeks ago. He turned a lap of 1:21.440 (101.670 mph) in the #60 Juncos Racing / Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico Mazda.

Rounding out the top-5 are Irish driver Patrick McKenna, the 2010 USF2000 series runner-up who impressed in St. Pete with a steady drive, starting 4th and finishing 4th in the #48 Team GDT / Motorsport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech Mazda. And on the inside of the 3rd row will be St. Pete race –winner Connor De Phillippi, with a lap of 1:21.754 (101.279 mph) in the Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. De Phillippi, the current



GOODYEAR



PERFORMANCE
FRICTION
BRAKES



BBS

QUARTER MASTER



GOOD YEAR



MAZDASPEED MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



championship points leader, won the final race of the 2010 season, at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, from the pole; he was the series 'Rookie of the Year' and finished 3rd in the championship.

In the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older, the top qualifier was top AMA SuperBike racer Larry Pegram, trading two wheels for four this weekend. His lap of 1:23.261 (99.446 mph) was good for 13th on the grid. The top ten cars in the field are separated by slightly more than one second around the 17-turn, 2.38-mile Barber Motorsports Park track.

Pos	PIC No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:21.166	102.013	2			Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	2	7 J.V. Horto	1:21.366	101.762	3	0.200	0.200	Programa LeiLoes
3	3	60 Martin Scuncio	1:21.440	101.670	4	0.274	0.074	Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico
4	4	48 Patrick McKenna	1:21.751	101.283	3	0.585	0.311	Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
5	5	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:21.754	101.279	3	0.588	0.003	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
6	6	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:21.778	101.250	3	0.612	0.024	JAC Motors
7	7	27 Nick Mancuso	1:21.931	101.061	4	0.765	0.153	Jimmy Johns Sandwiches /Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars
8	8	88 Sage Karam	1:21.976	101.005	6	0.810	0.045	MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
9	9	81 Nick Andries	1:22.114	100.835	4	0.948	0.138	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
10	10	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:22.358	100.537	2	1.192	0.244	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.
11	11	66 Zach Meyer	1:22.891	99.890	6	1.725	0.533	Damis Partners III
12	12	19 Richard Heistand	1:23.027	99.727	4	1.861	0.136	General Data Tech
13	13	72 Larry Pegram	1:23.261	99.446	9	2.095	0.234	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
14	14	20 Carlos Linares	1:23.715	98.907	1	2.549	0.454	Mindeporte
15	15	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:23.730	98.889	5	2.564	0.015	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
16	16	23 Walt Bowlin	1:26.636	95.572	8	5.470	2.906	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery

The unique Star Mazda schedule at the Indy Grand Prix of Alabama means that teams and drivers will have two days of going over data and polishing the cars – and sight-seeing in Birmingham - before the next on-track session, a 15-minute practice from 8:30am-8:45am Sunday, April 10th. Round 2 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will take the green light for the series' spectacular F1-style standing start at approximately 10:45 pm.



GOOD YEAR



PERFORMANCE FRICTION BRAKES



BBS

QUARTER MASTER



GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT

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.

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.

For information, contact Dean Case / Communications Officer /MAZDASPEED Motorsports (310) 318-4582 / mazdaspeed@mazdausa.com.

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.



GOODYEAR



PERFORMANCE
FRICTION
BRAKES



BBS

**QUARTER
MASTER**



GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



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.

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/starmazdaseries>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/starmazdaseries>



GOODYEAR



PERFORMANCE
FRICTION
BRAKES



BBS

**QUARTER
MASTER**