



GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



SAGE KARAM QUICKEST IN THURSDAY STAR MAZDA PRACTICE AT MILWAUKEE

The Milwaukee Mile (June 16, 2011) – Sage Karam, the 2010 USF2000 champion and Mazda Road to Indy scholarship driver now competing in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship



presented by Goodyear, made his first foray to the top of the time sheet this season, setting the fastest time in Thursday testing at the Milwaukee Mile.

His lap – in clear and dry conditions - of 27.250 (132.110 mph) in the #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda was just 1/1,000th of a second shy of the official Star Mazda lap record at the Milwaukee Mile, a 27.249 set by Adrian Carrio in 2006. However, Star Mazda recognizes lap records only when set during qualifying or the race, not practice.

"Today was great! We ended up P1 for the first time this year, so we're definitely showing improvement. The Andretti boys put together a great car today so I hope we can keep this momentum going for the rest of the weekend!"

Karam's effort left him 4/10ths of a second clear of the second-quick driver, Brazilian J.V. Horto with a lap of 27.722 (129.861 mph) in the #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda. Rounding out the top-5 were Chilean driver Martin Scuncio in 3rd with a 27.742 (129.767 mph) in the #60 Juncos Racing / Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico Mazda; Californian Gustavo Menezes in 4th with a 27.755 (129.706 mph) in the #28 Juncos Racing / Truecar / Safety Park Mazda; and Florida driver Nick Andries with a 27.767 (129.650 mph) in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda.

Connor De Phillippi, who has won two races so far this year, including Round 1 at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and three weeks ago in Round 3 at the Night Before the 500 on the Lucas Oil Raceway oval, wound up 6th-quick with a 27.845 (128.374 mph) lap in his Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. French racer Tristan Vautier, the current points leader, brushed the wall on lap 20 of the session and had to be satisfied with a 7th-fast lap of 28.043 (128.374 mph) in his #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda. The top-8 cars were all within one second of each other.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Points
1	88 Sage Karam	27.250	132.110	78			MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution	0
2	7 J.V. Horto	27.722	129.861	70	0.472	0.472	Programa LeiLoes	0
3	60 Martin Scuncio	27.742	129.767	56	0.492	0.020	Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico	0
4	28 Gustavo Menezes	27.755	129.706	50	0.505	0.013	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.	0
5	81 Nick Andries	27.767	129.650	75	0.517	0.012	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors	0
6	11 Connor De Phillippi	27.845	129.287	49	0.595	0.078	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors	0
7	5 Tristan Vautier	28.043	128.374	20	0.793	0.198	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel	0
8	39 Joao Jardim	28.043	128.374	62	0.793		Shopping M	0
9	27 Nick Mancuso	28.564	126.033	20	1.314	0.521	Jimmy Johns Sandwiches /Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars	0
10	20 Carlos Linares	28.621	125.782	46	1.371	0.057	Mindeporte	0
11	26 Jérimy Daniel	28.994	124.164	13	1.744	0.373	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams	0
12	10 Tatiana Calderon		-	0			JAC Motors	0
13	48 Patrick McKenna		-	0			Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech	0
14	65 J.W. Roberts		-	0			General Data Tech	0

On-track action for the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the IndyCar225 at the Milwaukee Mile continues with two practice sessions on Friday, June 17. Single-car qualifying will take place from 3:00 – 3:40 pm Saturday, June 18. The one-hour Round 4 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship will take the green flag at 11am, Sunday, June 19

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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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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