



GOODYEAR

INDY

MAZDASPEED  
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



## SAGE KARAM ROCKETTS TO HIS SECOND WIN IN A ROW WITH A 7-SECOND MARGIN OF VICTORY DURING STAR MAZDA ROUND 5 AT THE IOWA SPEEDWAY

Iowa Speedway/June 25, 2011 – Capitalizing on the momentum of his victory last weekend at Milwaukee, his dominance in pre-race testing and the first-ever pole position he scored in cold,



damp conditions during qualifying earlier today, rising star Sage Karam went flag-to-flag to score his second win of the season at Iowa Speedway. Crossing the finish line in his #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda, he had a 7.8-second lead over Brazilian runner-up J.V. Horto in the #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda. Also of note, scoring his

first Star Mazda podium ever, California driver Gustavo Menezes brought his #28 Juncos Racing / Truecar / Safety Park Mazda home in 3rd. Horto fought his way forward from his 4th-place qualifying spot, while Menezes advanced up through the field from 6th on the starting grid.

"It's been another great weekend for the #88 MAZDASPEED/Comfort Revolution team," said the native of Nazareth, PA. "Right off the bat, I was flat out. With it being our second straight win, I couldn't be happier. The season is really coming together, and I have to thank the team for everything. Hopefully we can carry it over to Mosport next month. These two wins have really given me my confidence back from last season. Now the goal is to stay on the podium. We'll be working hard to do just that."

The opening of the race was actually a bit more exciting than the big victory margin would suggest. Karam and Scuncio, both starting from the front row, had a six-lap, wheel-to-wheel battle in which neither had more than a 1-foot advantage at any one time. On Lap 6, Scuncio, then on the inside, got crossed up and did a tremendous job to save the car and keep from collecting Karam in the process. He was the only credible challenger for Karam until the halfway point of the race when a mechanical problem ended his day early.

Rounding out the top-5 were current championship points leader Tristan Vautier, slipping back from 3rd on the grid to come home in 4th in the #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda and Colombian racer Tatiana Calderon, who started 7th, finished 5th in her #10

Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda. The top-finishing driver in the Expert Series for racers 30 and older is 2010 Expert Series champion J.W. Roberts. The Texas computer company CEO, who is both team owner and driver at Team GDT, qualified 11th and finished 10th in his #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda. This is his third in-class victory of the season.

Connor De Phillippi, the only other two-time winner so far this season (St. Pete and Barber Motorsports Park), qualified his Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda 5th but finished 11th after brushing the wall in the closing stages of the race and having to pit for a new tire. His teammate, Nick Andries, who started from the last position after brushing the wall with his #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda in qualifying, fought his way forward to finish one lap down in 7th. The other notable change of position in the race was Gustavo Menezes, who passed championship points leader Tristan Vautier on lap 91 of 100 to move into podium position. Both Menezes and Karam are rookies, the youngest drivers in the series with birthdays only 6 months apart. Karam is the 2010 USF2000 champion and is racing in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy.

With one win, one podium and three 4th-place finishes in a row, French driver Tristan Vautier clings to the championship lead with an 8-point margin over Sage Karam (185 vs. 177), who has now vaulted into 2nd-place with a podium and two wins in the last three races. Connor De Phillippi, who came to Iowa with two wins and 2nd-place in the championship, now drops to third with 171 points. The 4-driver Juncos Racing squad, which won the series championship last year with Conor Daly, leads the Team Championship fight with 129 points, followed by team Pelfrey with 123 and JDC Motorsports with 120.

Pos No.	Name	Laps Total Tm	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	88 Sage Karam	100 39:01.725			MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
2	7 J.V. Horto	100 39:09.562	7.837	7.837	Programa LeiLoes
3	28 Gustavo Menezes	100 39:10.116	8.391	0.554	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.
4	5 Tristan Vautier	100 39:10.626	8.901	0.510	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
5	10 Tatiana Calderon	100 39:22.934	21.209	12.308	JAC Motors
6	39 Joao Jardim	99 39:04.356	1 Lap	1 Lap	
7	81 Nick Andries	99 39:20.914	1 Lap	16.558	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
8	20 Carlos Linares	98 39:09.160	2 Laps	1 Lap	Mindeporte
9	27 Nick Mancuso	98 39:17.211	2 Laps	8.051	Jimmy Johns Sandwiches /Indeck / Lake Forest SportsCars
10	65 J.W. Roberts	98 39:21.564	2 Laps	4.353	
11	11 Connor De Phillippi	96 39:02.430	4 Laps	2 Laps	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
12	60 Martin Scuncio	44 16:32.251	56 Laps	52 Laps	Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico

## **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.

For information, contact Dean Case / Communications Officer /MAZDASPEED Motorsports (310) 318-4582 / [mazdaspeed@mazdausa.com](mailto: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](http://www.starmazda.com).

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For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com) and [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com). For information, interviews and photos, please contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

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