



GOOD YEAR

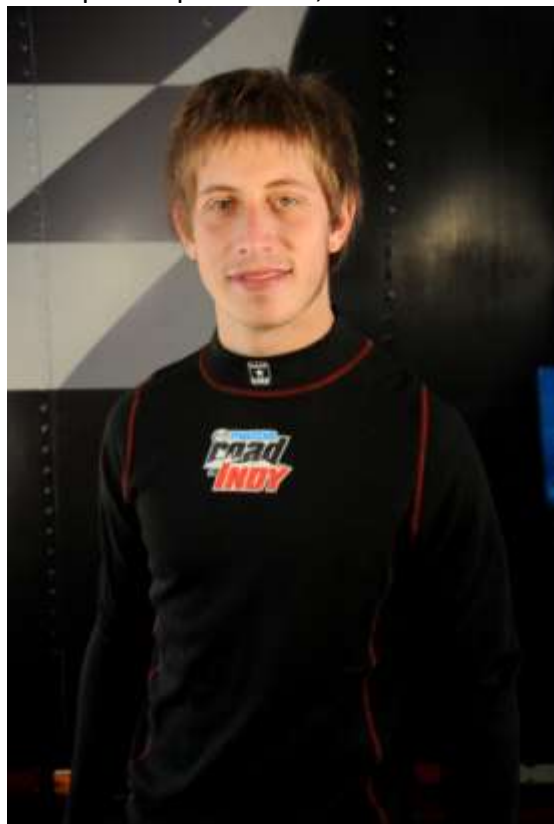


MAZDA SPEED
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



NEW CREAM RISING TO THE TOP – CHILEAN RACER MARTIN SCUNCIO QUICK IN THURSDAY STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP TESTING AT THE IOWA SPEEDWAY

Iowa Speedway/June 23, 2011 – With three ovals in a row on the 2011 Star Mazda Championship schedule, each of them dramatically different from each other, it's reasonable to



expect that even among the cream of the racing crop, the different currents set up by a 5/8ths mile bullring, a 1-mile oval with virtually no banking and a 1-mile high-banked oval would see different drivers rising to the top... and so they have.

In a multi-hour Thursday practice session for Round 3 this weekend with IndyCar at the Iowa Speedway, it was Chilean racer Martin Scuncio who set the quick time of 22.028 (146.105 mph) on lap 112 in his #60 Juncos Racing / Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico Mazda. Scuncio, with a good deal of open-wheel experience in South America and a season of USF2000 in 2010, made his Star Mazda debut in final race of the 2010 season at Road Atlanta and very nearly won the pole; he ultimately qualified 5th and finished 4th... and made all the experts along pit lane sit up and take notice.

In 2011, he has always been near the sharp end of the field in practice, qualifying and the race, but this is his first-ever visit to the very top of the time sheets and may well signal that he's finally got his

Star Mazda racer figured out and is ready to make good on that brash promise he showed at last year's season, finale.

"The car was very good; it was a great day, and even though the weather wasn't that great, the car was perfect," said Scuncio. "I think we all did a great job, and I have to say a huge thank you to Juncos Racing for giving me such a great car. I hope we can continue to come in first place and be at the top again tomorrow and Saturday."

And it might well be that the Juncos Racing team has finally re-discovered the form that took Conor Daly to a record-setting championship in 2010 with victories on road courses, street circuits... and ovals. Sitting in the second spot on the Thursday time sheet is Scuncio's Juncos Racing teammate Gustavo Menezes with a lap of 22.044 (145.999 mph) on lap 107 in his #28 Juncos Racing / Truecar / Safety Park Mazda. Menezes is something of an unknown quantity at this point; he's shown flashes of speed, and his races are steady and lacking in either drama or

mistakes. A top international karter with very little open-wheel experience before stepping into the thick of Star Mazda competition this season, Menezes is moving higher on the 'drivers to watch' list.

"Today was really good. I was really happy with the car," said the native of Coto de Caza, California. "It surprised me that I was able to be flat out after five laps, and as soon as I got comfortable, the car just got quicker and quicker. It was really consistent throughout day which is really good to know going into the race. We played around and got a lot of things tested out today, so we know where we are for the race. Tomorrow, we will work on fine tuning and keeping ourselves in P1 and P2 and hopefully P3 and P4!"

Third quick was no surprise: Connor De Phillippi with a lap of 22.065 (145.860 mph) on lap 149 in his Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. He's the only driver to have won two races so far this season, in Round 1 on the St. Petersburg street circuit and from the pole in Round 3 at the Night Before the 500 on the Lucas Oil Raceway oval. He currently sits second in the championship and is always a threat. He provided one of two dramatic moments during the test when a mechanical problem put him into the wall in Turn 1. The other was a much larger hit by the lone female driver in the series, Colombian racer Tatiana Calderon who hit gearbox first and thoroughly scrambled the back half of the car. The driver is OK, if sore, and the team will be pulling an all-nighter to get her back on track tomorrow.

Fourth on the sheet is Nazareth, PA native Sage Karam, winner of Round 4 with a dominant performance at the Milwaukee Mile. He turned a lap of 22.071 (145.820 mph) on lap 116 in his #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda. He was actually quickest throughout most of the session, but when everyone else came in for new tires at the end of the run, his team elected to conserve a fresh set for future use.

Rounding out the top-5 is De Phillippi's Team Pelfrey teammate, and pole-winner at Milwaukee, Florida racer Nick Andries who turned a lap of 22.078 (145.774 mph) in his #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. Andries is currently 3rd in the championship and also set the fast lap in Round 3 at the Night Before the 500 on



his way to a 2nd-place finish. 6th-quick on the day was the current championship points leader, French open-wheel racer Tristan Vautier who won Round 2 from the pole at Barber Motorsports Park and has turned in a very consistent series of performances, with one win, one pole, a podium and a pair of 4th-place finishes.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	60 Martin Scuncio	22.028	146.105	112			Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico
2	28 Gustavo Menezes	22.044	145.999	107	0.016	0.016	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.
3	11 Connor De Phillippi	22.065	145.860	149	0.037	0.021	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
4	88 Sage Karam	22.071	145.820	116	0.043	0.006	MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
5	81 Nick Andries	22.078	145.774	126	0.050	0.007	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
6	5 Tristan Vautier	22.207	144.927	202	0.179	0.129	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
7	7 J.V. Horto	22.319	144.200	144	0.291	0.112	Programa LeiLoes
8	39 Joao Jardim	22.371	143.865	66	0.343	0.052	
9	10 Tatiana Calderon	22.573	142.577	27	0.545	0.202	JAC Motors
10	20 Carlos Linares	22.779	141.288	98	0.751	0.206	Mindeporte
11	27 Nick Mancuso	22.798	141.170	198	0.770	0.019	Jimmy Johns Sandwiches /Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars
12	65 J.W. Roberts	22.871	140.720	98	0.843	0.073	

The next race on the 2011 Star Mazda Championship schedule is Iowa Speedway, with IndyCar, June 23 – 25. Sage Karam won from the pole at Iowa in the 2010 USF2000 race, so he has to be considered the favorite going in, but anything can happen on an oval. Other top contenders with Star Mazda experience on the Iowa banking include Brazilian racer J.V. Horto in the #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda who finished 3rd last year; Connor De Phillippi who finished 4th, Nick Andries who came home in 6th and Tristan Vautier who finished 8th.

On-track action at Iowa Speedway continues on Friday, June 24, and Saturday, June 25 with 45-minute practice sessions each day. Single-car qualifying will take place from 2:30 - 3:15 on Saturday afternoon, with the 100-lap / 1-hour Round 5 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear scheduled to take the green flag at 4:15 pm Saturday.

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.

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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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