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KARAM DOMINATES HEATED STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP TESTING BATTLE DURING FRIDAY PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MOBIL1 GRAND PRIX

Mosport International Raceway / July 22, 2011 – If yesterday was about hot and cold, and produced a split decision on who was quickest, today, with a single, mid-day on-track session for the Star Mazda Championship drivers, it was the last seven minutes that told the tale and gave Sage Karam the quickest time in three of the four testing sessions so far. Karam, the 2010 USF2000 champion and Mazda Road to Indy Scholarship driver won the last two races, both on ovals, but has left no doubt about his road racing chops with a lap of 1:16.119 in his #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda. This is less than 1/10th off Tristan Vautier's quick time in the relative cool of yesterday morning; a 1:16.070 set in the #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda.



Second in today's session was Connor De Phillippi, who turned a 1:16.266 in the Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. De Phillippi was the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series champion and was the Mazda Road to Indy scholarship driver during the 2010 Star Mazda season. He, like Karam, has won two races this year, the season-opener at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and Round 3 on the oval at Lucas Oil Raceway. Rounding out the top-3 was De Phillippi's Team Pelfrey teammate, Nick Andries, with a lap of 1:16.404 in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda.

Following a lengthy yellow toward the end of the session, the field took the green with seven minutes to go and the heated battle for the top spot on the time sheet succeeded only in producing several spectacular jumps up through the field to temporarily hold the second-quick spot. With 2:30 remaining, Brazilian racer J.V. Horta moved into second, but ultimately finished 4th with a lap of 1:16.492 in the #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda. Andries moved up into second with 30 seconds left to go before being eclipsed by his teammate on the final lap.

Finishing 4th-quick was Chilean racer Martin Scuncio with a 1:16.708 in his #60 Juncos Racing / Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico Mazda, followed by Gustavo Menezes with a 1:16.717 in the #28 Juncos Racing / Truecar / Safety Park Mazda. Menezes, the international karting champion who jumped



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directly to Star Mazda competition this year, held third spot until the closing minutes of the session. The quickest driver in the Expert Series for racers 30 and older was Walt Bowlin, who turned a lap of 1:20.937 in his #23 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery Mazda.

Star Mazda Friday Practice

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	88 Sage Karam	1:16.199	116.175	15			MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
2	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:16.266	116.073	17	0.067	0.067	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
3	81 Nick Andries	1:16.404	115.863	16	0.205	0.138	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
4	7 J.V. Horto	1:16.492	115.730	17	0.293	0.088	Programa LeiLoes
5	60 Martin Scuncio	1:16.708	115.404	16	0.509	0.216	Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico
6	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:16.717	115.390	14	0.518	0.009	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.
7	5 Tristan Vautier	1:16.728	115.374	18	0.529	0.011	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
8	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:17.090	114.832	10	0.891	0.362	JAC Motors
9	85 Chris Miller	1:17.124	114.781	15	0.925	0.034	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
10	39 Joao Jardim	1:18.086	113.367	10	1.887	0.962	
11	48 Patrick McKenna	1:18.343	112.995	17	2.144	0.257	Motorsports Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
12	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:19.680	111.099	10	3.481	1.337	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
13	20 Carlos Linares	1:19.744	111.010	7	3.545	0.064	Mindeporte
14	23 Walt Bowlin	1:20.937	109.374	19	4.738	1.193	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
15	65 J.W. Roberts		-	0			

Star Mazda Championship action continues tomorrow with qualifying scheduled from 8:40 - 9:25 am Saturday, July 23. The 45-minute Round 6 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will get the green light for the series' traditional and spectacular standing start at 8:00 am Sunday, July 24. The next event on the schedule is a double-header, Rounds 7 & 8, with Indy Lights, at the GP3R at Trois-Rivières, August 5-7.

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Road to Indy, please visit www.starmazda.com and www.mazdausa.com. For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

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www.mx-5cup.com www.skipbarber.com www.usf2000.com www.starmazda.com

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