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HOT AND COLD TELLS THE TALE – VAUTIER AND KARAM SET FAST TIMES IN STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP TESTING AT MOSPORT AS ACTION BEGINS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MOBIL1 GRAND PRIX

Mosport International Raceway / July 21, 2011 – It was hot and cold (relatively speaking) that told the tale of today's Star Mazda Championship test sessions at Mosport International Raceway. During the course of



three test sessions on a miserably hot and humid day, it was French racer and current points leader Tristan Vautier who set the quick time of the day, a 1:16.070 in his #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda, during the relative cool of the morning.

"There was no change of balance in the car between the morning and afternoon sessions, just a decrease in the overall level of grip," says Vautier, who won Round 2 at Barber Motorsports Park and has led the championship chase ever since. "Since our race on Sunday is so early in the morning, I think we have a good setup and are in good position for the weekend. Our goal is to be at the top of every session because where you qualify will be important in the race."

But when it got hot, the hot got going and Sage Karam, the 2010 USF2000 champion and Mazda Road to Indy Scholarship driver who won the last two races in a row (on the ovals at Milwaukee and Iowa), turned the quick times in the heat of the day. In the mid-day session #2 he drove his #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda to a 1:16.873 and in the late afternoon he turned a lap almost 4/10ths quicker at 1:16.492. The Star Mazda lap record for Mosport, a 1:14.169, was set by Adrian Carrio in 2006 under decidedly more favorable weather conditions. Quickest of the Expert Series (for drivers 30 years and older) was Texan J.W. Roberts, the 2010 Star Mazda Expert Series champion, with a lap of 1:21.524 in his #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda, a time set during the final session of the day.

The remainder of the top-5, and the top-10 for that matter, was a case of 'the usual suspects' trading places on the time sheet with few surprises. In the final session, the order was Martin Scuncio in 2nd with a 1:17.258 in his #60 Juncos Racing / Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico Mazda; Nick Andries in 3rd with a 1:17.258 in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda; Gustavo Menezes in 4th with a 1:17.508 in the #28 Juncos Racing / Truecar / Safety Park Mazda; and Vautier 5th quick with a 1:17.824.

If there are surprises here, they are the 8/10ths of a second gap between Karam and Scuncio and the pace of Brazilian newcomer Joao Jardim, who seems to be finding his footing with the JDC Motorsports team with a 6th-quick time of 1:18.382. And perhaps an unpleasant surprise for the JDC team who had two cars go off in Turn 3, Jardim and, more seriously, Vautier, whose car will need a new nose, new left-front



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corner and other assorted bits. Vautier's off produced a long yellow toward the end of the session, and after the track went green again and with most of the drivers out on new tires, the final ten minutes saw a mad scramble to try and finish off the day with the top time.

However, since Round 6 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship will take the green light for the series' traditional standing start at 8 am Sunday morning, perhaps the results of today's morning session are an equally valid indicator. As mentioned Vautier was quick, with Connor De Phillippi (who, with Karam, is the only other two-race winner so far this year); he turned a 1:16.388 in the Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. Third quick was Brazilian racer J.V. Horto with a 1:16.478 in the #18 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda and next on the time sheet was Sage Karam with a 1:16.508. Rounding out the morning's top-5 was California driver Gustavo Menezes, an international karting champion who made the jump directly to Star Mazda, with a 1:16.944. He and Karam (right) were the only two drivers who figured in the top-5 during all three sessions.



Merge of all three sessions

Pos No.	Name	Overall BestTime	In Session	Sponsor
1	5 Tristan Vautier	1:16.070	Thursday First Test	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	11 Connor De Phillippi	1:16.388	Thursday First Test	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
3	7 J.V. Horto	1:16.478	Thursday First Test	Programa LeiLoes
4	88 Sage Karam	1:16.492	Thursday Final Practice	MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
5	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:16.944	Thursday First Test	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.
6	60 Martin Scuncio	1:16.948	Thursday Second test session	Bia Comunicaciones / Cable Del Pacifico
7	81 Nick Andries	1:17.227	Thursday First Test	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
8	39 Joao Jardim	1:17.404	Thursday Second test session	Shopping M
9	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:17.512	Thursday First Test	JAC Motors
10	20 Carlos Linares	1:17.819	Thursday Second test session	Mindeporte
11	85 Chris Miller	1:18.475	Thursday First Test	Miller Milling, Red Line Oil
12	48 Patrick McKenna	1:18.794	Thursday Second test session	Mosport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
13	26 Jérimy Daniel	1:20.015	Thursday First Test	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
14	65 J.W. Roberts	1:21.524	Thursday Final Practice	General Data Tech
15	23 Walt Bowlin	1:21.969	Thursday Second test session	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery





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Star Mazda Championship action continues tomorrow with the first official practice session taking place 10:45 - 11:30 am. Qualifying is 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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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, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car. For more information on the various Mazda spec series, visit:

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

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