



**GOODYEAR**



**MAZDASPEED**  
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



## **VAUTIER WINS STAR MAZDA ROUND 9 AT THE INDY GRAND PRIX OF SONOMA AT INFINEON RACEWAY TO BECOME THE SECOND THREE-RACE WINNER OF THE SEASON**

Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, CA / August 27, 2011 – French racer Tristan Vautier has become the second 3-race winner of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season with a victory from the pole – his fourth of the season -- in Round 9 at the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma at Infineon Raceway.



Vautier, Driving the #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda, Vautier led every lap to finish 9.690-seconds ahead of Connor De Phillippi, the other three-race winner so far this season driving the #11 Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda.

The race was much closer than the final gap would suggest; Vautier and De Phillippi battled the entire 30 laps with never more than a second or two separating them until the last lap when De Phillippi spun in the chicane on the back side of the course, but still had enough of a gap to the car behind him to keep his place on the podium.

From there, however, fans waited another 19 seconds for the 3rd-place #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda of Nick Andries to cross the finish line. AMA Superbike star Larry Pegram, who also competes in the Star Mazda Championship won the Expert Series race-within-a-race for drivers 30 and older; he finished 12th overall in the #72 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance Mazda to score his third in-class victory of the season.

"It was a tremendous race and I led all the way but there was a little bit of drama," said Vautier. "I spun the tires a little bit on the start/finish line as we accelerated, but still managed to get a good start and not make any mistakes. Toward the end of the race, Connor was closing on me a little bit so I had to be very careful to maintain the gap without using up my tires. But it all worked out and I have to give credit to the JDC Motorsports team for giving me a perfect car. We now have a couple of days before the next race at the new street circuit in Baltimore, but we'll just keep working like we have been and we ready to fight for the championship right to the end."

Finishing 4th after qualifying 6th was Sage Karam, winner of two races so far this season in the #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda. Karam, the 2010 USF2000 champion, is racing in Star Mazda this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy driver development program.



**GOODYEAR**



**PERFORMANCE**  
FRICTION  
BRAKES



**BBS**





GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



And rounding out the top-5 with another strong performance in what may well prove to be her breakout season was Colombian racer Tatiana Calderon, the lone female driver in the series; she has two podiums and seven top-10 finishes in the #10 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda. Brazilian driver João Victor Horta, winner of Round 6 at Mosport, brought his #7 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda home in 6th and Ohio native Zach Veach, a top contender in the USF2000 championship making his first-ever start in the Star Mazda Championship demonstrated he will be a force to be reckoned with next season with a 7th-place finish in the #77 Andretti Autosport / Team Zakosi Data Backup / Retail Pro / ArtRotondo.com / ADS IT Solutions Mazda.

Suffering most from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune were California driver Gustavo Menezes, who impressed in pre-race practice and then put his #28 Juncos Racing / Truecar / Safety Park Mazda on the outside of the front row for the start and engaged in a heated, wheel-to-wheel battle for the first 22 laps with Nick Andries. Finally, Andries out-braked Menezes into Turn 10 and Menezes spun, dropping him back to a 10th-place finish -- leaving Nick Andries and Sage Karam to fight it out for the last spot on the podium. Even with this incident, and De Phillippi's last-lap adventure, the race went green all the way.

And the 'sleeper' in the field had his share of bad luck as well. Expert Series racer Patrick O'Neill, the only driver racing this weekend who was also on the grid in back in 2005 the last time the Star Mazda Championship cars raced at Infineon, practiced as high as 5th in the series test earlier this week, and qualified 11th in the #64 AIM Autosport / JDC Motorsport / O'Neill Construction Mazda only to finish two laps down in 17th.

Pos No.	Name	Laps	Diff	Gap	Best Tm	In Lap	Sponsor
1	5 Tristan Vautier	30			1:29.877	4	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
2	11 Connor De Phillippi	30	9.690	9.690	1:30.075	12	Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
3	81 Nick Andries	30	28.697	19.007	1:30.231	7	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
4	88 Sage Karam	30	31.469	2.772	1:30.515	4	MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
5	10 Tatiana Calderon	30	32.107	0.638	1:30.574	4	JAC Motors
6	7 J.V. Horta	30	38.326	6.219	1:30.648	4	Programa LeiLoes, Athlete of Christ
7	77 Zach Veach	30	40.436	2.110	1:30.683	5	Zakosi Data Backup / Retail Pro / ArtRotondo.com
8	39 Joao Jardim	30	45.357	4.921	1:31.147	4	Shopping M
9	28 Gustavo Menezes	30	47.097	1.740	1:30.330	4	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc.
10	27 Nick Mancuso	30	47.494	0.397	1:31.230	4	INDECK / Lake Forest Sports Cars
11	55 Mikael Goikberg	30	1:02.185	14.691	1:31.761	17	Red Line Oil
12	72 Larry Pegram	30	1:07.483	5.298	1:31.501	8	Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
13	20 Carlos Linares	30	1:31.226	23.743	1:31.400	4	Mindeporte
14	65 J.W. Roberts	30	1:34.054	2.828	1:32.474	7	General Data Tech
15	29 Phil Fogg	29	1 Lap	1 Lap	1:32.296	6	Consonus Health Services
16	23 Walt Bowlin	29	1 Lap	17.784	1:33.880	24	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
17	64 Patrick O'Neil	28	2 Laps	1 Lap	1:30.123	2	O'Neill Construction



GOODYEAR



PERFORMANCE FRICTION BRAKES



BBS





**GOODYEAR**



**MAZDASPEED**  
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



The order of the drivers in the championship battle remains unchanged in the face of today's results, but leader Tristan Vautier, who has held the #1 spot since the second race of the season, increased his lead by four points to 347 vs. 328 for De Phillippi and 317 for Nick Andries. With 90 points left to be won in the final two races, the top seven drivers in the championship are still mathematically in the hunt. Texan J.W. Roberts, the 2010 Expert Series champion who is both driver and owner of Team GDT, maintains his lead in the 2011 Expert Series, with Walt Bowlin in 2nd and Larry Pegram in 3rd. Team Pelfrey, powered by the results of drivers Connor De Phillippi and Nick Andries, leads the Team Championship battle with 242 points vs. 232 for Juncos Racing.

From here until the end of the season it's a mad cross-country dash – and back again -- for the teams and drivers of the Star Mazda Championship. Round 10 of the 11-race, 10-weekend 2011 season takes place next weekend at the inaugural IndyCar Grand Prix of Baltimore on September 4 – and then it's back to the West Coast for the season finale at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on September 18.

---

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

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/starmazdaseries>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/starmazdaseries>

Live timing: <http://livetiming.net/StarMazda/>

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](http://www.mx-5cup.com)   [www.skipbarber.com](http://www.skipbarber.com)   [www.usf2000.com](http://www.usf2000.com)   [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com)

Dean Case / Communications Officer / MAZDASPEED Motorsports / (310) 318-4582

E-mail: [MAZDASPEED@MazdaUSA.com](mailto:MAZDASPEED@MazdaUSA.com)



**GOODYEAR**



PERFORMANCE  
FRICTION  
BRAKES



**BBS**

