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AND THE SECOND SHALL BE FIRST, PART II – CONNOR DE PHILIPPI ON POLE FOR THE STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON FINALE TODAY AT MAZDA RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca / September 18, 2011 – Following up on his quick time in Friday practice Team Pelfrey driver Connor De Phillippi, currently second in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented



by Goodyear points battle with three wins – scored his second pole of the season with a lap of 1:20.546 in his #11 Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda. De Phillippi, the only driver standing between points leader Tristan Vautier and the championship - turned the quick time on Lap 7 of the 45-minute qualifying session and was the only driver to break into the .20s.

The final lap of the session saw a quick succession of names in the second spot; with three minutes to go, rookie Zach Veach, the USF2000 standout in making only his second Star Mazda start, looked set to start from the outside of the front row, but – in quick succession – he was quickly replaced first by Sage Karam, then Nick Andries. It was Andries time of 1:21.017 in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda that finally held up.

And so yet another Star Mazda race will start with an all-Pelfrey front row... not an uncommon occurrence this season. Andries does not figure in the championship battle, but is in a heated 3-way contest for #2 in the championship with his own teammate, as well as Juncos Racing driver João Victor Horto and Sage Karam, the 2010 USF2000 national champion who is racing in the Star Mazda Championship this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy.

Starting on the inside of the second row, with a lap of 1:21.152 will be Sage Karam in the #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda, and alongside him will be Veach, with a time of 1:21.343 in the #77 Andretti Autosport / Team Zakosi Data Backup / Retail Pro / ArtRotondo.com / ADS IT Solutions Mazda.... not the front-row start he was hoping for, but still an impressive effort that serves notice of his intentions when he begins a full-season Star Mazda Championship campaign in 2012.

In Row 3, on the inside, will be Horto with a time of 1:21.410 in the #7 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda, and next to him, starting 6th, will be the championship leader --and the only four-race winner so far this season – JDC Motorsports driver Tristan Vautier with a lap of 1:21.343. Vautier need not be too concerned about his starting spot, as with the points lead he has, winning the championship is virtually



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assured the moment the green flag drops; but, competitive driver that he is, he would wish to end the Star Mazda Championship phase of his career and move up to Indy Lights in 2012 with some flair.

The top-qualifying driver in the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older was Team GDT racer J.W. Roberts who will start from 15th on the grid with a lap of 1:25.549 in his #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda. Roberts, who also owns Team GDT, was the 2010 Expert Series champion and looks set to repeat in 2011.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	11 Connor Dephillippi	1:20.546	100.027	7			Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors
2	81 Nick Andries	1:21.017	99.446	9	0.471	0.471	Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors
3	88 Sage Karam	1:21.152	99.280	8	0.606	0.135	MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution
4	77 Zach Veach	1:21.343	99.047	10	0.797	0.191	Team Zakosi Data Backup / Retail Pro / ArtRotondo.com / ADS IT Solutions
5	7 J.V. Horto	1:21.410	98.966	11	0.864	0.067	Programa LeiLoes, Athlete of Christ
6	5 Tristan Vautier	1:21.473	98.889	9	0.927	0.063	Cecibon, Circuit du Laquais, Fontanel
7	10 Tatiana Calderon	1:22.162	98.060	8	1.616	0.689	JAC Motors
8	20 Carlos Linares	1:22.409	97.766	7	1.863	0.247	Mindeporte
9	33 Patrick Mckenna	1:22.450	97.717	6	1.904	0.041	Motorsport Ireland / Irish Sports Council / General Data Tech
10	28 Gustavo Menezes	1:22.460	97.706	11	1.914	0.010	www.truecar.com / Truecar, Inc. / Clearbook / SafetyPark / Oakley / K1speed
11	39 Joao Jardim	1:22.644	97.488	12	2.098	0.184	Shopping M
12	27 Nick Mancuso	1:23.205	96.831	6	2.659	0.561	Indeck, Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products
13	16 Lloyd Read	1:24.325	95.545	10	3.779	1.120	Maaco / Flextronics
14	26 J�rimy Daniel	1:24.869	94.932	5	4.323	0.544	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
15	65 J.W. Roberts	1:25.549	94.178	11	5.003	0.680	General Data Tech
16	37 Dom Bastien			-		0	

Wrapping up one of the most competitive seasons in years, the Star Mazda Championship heads to the season finale with three of the four series titles – Series Champion, Expert Series Champion and Team Championship – still up for grabs. Sage Karam, driver of the #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda, has already clinched the Rookie of the Year title. The 45-minute season finale – commencing with the series' traditional, and spectacular, F1-style standing start, is scheduled to get the green light at 10:40 am this morning.

The 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear awards banquet will take place Sunday evening, Sept. 18 at The Clement Monterey Intercontinental Hotel (750 Cannery Row). The evening begins with a reception at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm and the awards ceremony at 8:00 pm.



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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.

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 Mazda's 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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