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BACK-TO-BACK HAWKS – ENGLISH ROOKIE JACK HAWKSWORTH WINS SECOND STAR MAZDA RACE IN A ROW WITH A DOMINANT FLAG-TO-FLAG RUN IN RACE 1 AT BARBER

Barber Motorsports Park / April 1, 2012 – Englishman Jack Hawksworth, fresh off a win from the pole in Race 2 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season opener at



the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg last weekend, has won his second race in a row – from the pole – in today's Star Mazda Race 1. Driving his #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda, Hawksworth (black suit) crossed the finish line 6.9 second ahead of 2nd-place finisher Sage Karam (orange / white) in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. This was his first podium of the season after winning two races last year but getting off to a

rocky start with mechanical problems in Round 1 at St. Pete.

Rounding out the top-3 was European F3 and GP3 racer Gabby Chaves (far right), who also scored a podium finish in St. Pete, driving the #19 JDC Motorsports / OMP Mazda. The top-finishing Expert Series driver, as he was in St. Pete, was top AMA SuperBike racer Larry Pegram (far left) who periodically trades 2-wheels for 4 when he races his #72 AIM Autosport Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery Mazda.

"The team and I are just over the moon about our results so far, but you can't reasonably after expect this kind of thing to continue, so you just have to make the best of it and keep working as hard as you can," says Hawksworth. "The minute you start taking the results for granted, they'll stop happening. Fortunately Team Pelfrey is a very professional organization, and even though the level of competition in this series is actually quite high, I'm confident that I have a winning car every time I roll out on track."

A second 30-minute race, with Hawksworth again having claimed the PEAK Performance Pole Award, will run immediately after the conclusion of the Grand Prix of Alabama at 4pm CT. The race was originally scheduled for Friday, but major storms in the area forced a postponement of all racing activities that afternoon.

Rounding out the top-5 are Martin Scuncio, who finished 4th in the #22 Juncos Racing / Pullman Bus Mazda after starting on the outside of the front row but getting freight-trained going into Turn 1 by Karam and Chaves. Connor De Phillippi, winner from the pole in Round 1 at St. Petersburg last weekend in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda,, qualified 4th and finished 5th on this track where it is notoriously difficult to pass. The lone female driver in the series, Ashley Freiberg, finished just outside the top-10, crossing the line 11th in her #91 JDC Motorsports / TrueCar Mazda.

The race was short on drama, a lazy spin and continue on Lap 6 by Zach Veach in the #77 Andretti Autosport / Zakoski Data Backup Mazda, a mistake that dropped him from 7th to 15th, and about 15-ft of off-roading by De Phillippi which produced no harm. There were, however, battles aplenty in mid-field with Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda), Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey / TrueCar.com Mazda) and Bruno Palli (#15 Juncos Racing / Team Viso Venezuela) slugging it out for 6th, 7th and 8th. Toward the end of the 30-minute race Chaves was within striking distance of Karam for 2nd, but couldn't make the pass stick, in part because he was being attacked from behind by Scuncio. When all was said and done, however, the race was 'clean and green' with only one brief local yellow.

Pos No.	Name	Laps	Diff	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Sponsor
1	82 Jack Hawksworth	22		1:22.271	100.643	4	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
2	88 Sage Karam	22	6.977	1:22.626	100.211	5	Comfort Revolution
3	19 Gabby Chaves	22	7.295	1:22.630	100.206	5	OMP
4	22 Martin Scuncio	22	8.509	1:22.374	100.517	6	Pullman Bus
5	2 Connor De Phillippi	22	9.199	1:22.572	100.276	3	ModSpace Racing / One24
6	81 Petri Suvanto	22	9.832	1:22.451	100.423	4	Mazda Road to Indy / RKM Building
7	83 Gustavo Menezes	22	10.835	1:22.954	99.814	10	TrueCar.com
8	9 Juan Piedrahita	22	18.191	1:23.366	99.321	11	Petrosur / GFK Motors
9	57 Diego Ferreira	22	21.323	1:23.406	99.273	7	Team Viso Venezuela
10	93 Stefan Rzadzinski	22	32.305	1:23.254	99.455	3	PoweredbyAlberta.com
11	91 Ashley Freiberg	22	38.383	1:24.017	98.551	10	TRUECar.com
12	20 Carlos Linares	22	48.030	1:24.398	98.107	10	Mindeporte
13	15 Bruno Palli	22	50.536	1:23.383	99.301	5	Team Viso Venezuela
14	53 Andre Mendez	22	51.796	1:24.577	97.899	4	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
15	77 Zach Veach	22	56.918	1:23.539	99.115	3	Zakosi Data Backup / ADS IT Solutions
16	72 Larry Pegram	22	1:27.155	1:25.028	97.380	5	Foremost Insurance
17	21 Camilo Schmidt	21	1 Lap	1:24.555	97.924	7	
18	23 Walt Bowlin	21	1 Lap	1:27.338	94.804	5	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
19	66 Zack Meyer	21	1 Lap	1:22.878	99.906	8	Partners III
20	10 Jeremy Daniel	22	Laps		-	0	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams

Figuring in the results of two weekends and three races so far, Hawksworth has the championship points lead with 88, followed by Connor De Phillippi (64), Gabby Chaves 63), Juan Piedrahita (57) and Petri Suvanto (54). Full results can be found [here](#).

With grid positions for Race 2 set by each car's quick time in Race 1, the front row for Race 2 will be Hawksworth on the pole with Scuncio alongside. Row 2 will be Petri Suvanto and Connor De Phillippi, with Row 3 featuring Sage Karam and Gabby Chaves. Row 4 matches Zack Meyer and Gustavo Menezes, while Row 5 has Stefan Rzedzinski and Juan Piedrahita lining up side-by-side. For a full grid sheet, click [here](#).

Star Mazda races will be broadcast on Velocity TV and ESPN International; for air dates and times, go to www.StarMazda.com and click the Star Mazda TV icon.

Fans can follow the drivers through the course of the weekend via the series' web site at www.StarMazda.com, or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/starmazdaseries> and Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/starmazdaseries>. Follow the actual race on your computer or smartphone at <http://livetiming.net/starmazda/>.

The next race on the 10-weekend, 17-event 2012 schedule for the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is the prestigious 'Night Before the 500' at Lucas Oil Raceway in Indianapolis. This first oval-track race of the Star Mazda season is held May 26, the Saturday night before Sunday's running of the Indy 500.

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.

