



GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT

A TWO MAN WAR NO MORE – CHILEAN RACER MARTIN SCUNCIO SCORES HIS FIRST-EVER STAR MAZDA VICTORY WITH A WIN FROM THE OUTSIDE POLE IN RACE 2 AT BARBER

Barber Motorsports Park / April 1, 2012 – For a while, a little while, it looked as though the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear was shaping up to be a two-man war, between Californian Connor De Phillippi, now in his third season of Star Mazda competition, and English racer Jack Hawksworth, a hungry rookie with a very heavy right foot. De Phillippi



won Race 1 in the St. Pete season-opener last weekend; Hawksworth won Race 2, and followed that up with a dominant win in Race 1 at the Indy Grand Prix of Alabama earlier today. So there was every reason to believe one of the two would win Race 2 this afternoon.

But Chilean racer Martin Scuncio, driving the #22 Juncos Racing / Pullman Bus Mazda, had other ideas... and enough car and talent to break up the 'top step club.' He crossed the finish line 0.651 seconds ahead of Hawksworth in his previously-invincible #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda, and 1.601 seconds ahead of Juncos Racing teammate Connor De Phillippi in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda.

The top-finishing driver in the Expert Series, a race-within-a-race for drivers 30 and older, was Larry Pegram, a top racer in the AMA SuperBike Series who periodically trades two wheels for four and now leads the Expert Series championship in his #72 AIM Autosport Foremost Insurance / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery Mazda. He finished first in class and 14th overall.

"I'm very happy for myself, my team and all the people who've helped me over the years, this one is for them," said Scuncio, an F3 champion in Chile and veteran of both European and U.S.

open-wheel racing. "The Juncos Racing team gives me a good car every time, but I have not always made the best use of it, until today. My car felt very strong and I was able to pass Connor in Turn 11 on the third lap and stay ahead of him. It wasn't easy, but I felt very much in control and now that I know this feeling, I believe I will experience it again soon."

Scuncio, 20, made a splashy debut in the Star Mazda Championship in 2010 with a one-off race at the final event in Road Atlanta where he narrowly missed being on the pole and finished 4th in the race. In 2011, he improved on his record in the season opener, starting from the pole and finishing second. He only ran a partial 2011 season, scoring two podiums and finished 13th in the championship.



Rounding out the top-5 were Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey / TrueCar.com Mazda) and Juan Piedrahita (#9 JDC Motorsports / Petrosur / GFK Motors Mazda), who scored his first podium finish in St. Pete.

The stage seemed set for a dramatic two-lap shootout when a full-course yellow in the closing laps bunched the field and left just enough time for two extremely

hot laps. But, while the racing was very much wheel-to-wheel, particularly in the first couple of turns after the re-start, the order at the front of the field, for the most part, remained unchanged to the checkered. If there was a victim in this otherwise orderly melee, it was Sage Karam in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. Last year's Star Mazda Rookie of the Year and 2-race winner, was passed for 4th on the re-start lap by Gustavo Menezes in a daring slide that would have made a dirt-track racer applaud, and then, somewhere on the back side of the course away from view, something happened that dropped him from 5th to 13th... a shame after a tough St. Pete weekend partially redeemed by a podium finish in Race 1 earlier today at Barber.

With two weekends and four races of the 10-event, 17-race season complete, we have three different winners in four races, a good indicator of just how deep the talent pool is this year. Jack Hawksworth, with two wins, two poles, four fastest laps and two 2nd-place finishes, appropriately leads the championship with 115 points. Connor De Phillippi, who won four races last year and finished 2nd in the championship, is currently in 2nd with 86 points. Today's Race 2 winner, Martin Scuncio is 3rd with 78 points, followed by Gabby Chaves with 78 and Juan Piedrahita with 74. For full results and points so far this season, click [here](#).

Pos No.	Name	Laps	Diff	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Sponsor
1	22 Martin Scuncio	21		1:22.492	100.373	7	Pullman Bus
2	82 Jack Hawksworth	21	0.651	1:22.480	100.388	7	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
3	2 Connor De Philippi	21	1.601	1:22.539	100.316	7	ModSpace Racing / One24
4	83 Gustavo Menezes	21	2.127	1:22.574	100.274	5	TrueCar.com
5	9 Juan Piedrahita	21	3.570	1:23.141	99.590	7	Petrosur / GFK Motors
6	19 Gabby Chaves	21	3.927	1:22.777	100.028	5	OMP
7	81 Petri Suvanto	21	4.548	1:22.916	99.860	4	Mazda Road to Indy / RKM Building
8	57 Diego Ferreira	21	4.934	1:23.463	99.206	9	Team Viso Venezuela
9	93 Stefan Rzedzinski	21	5.316	1:23.517	99.141	4	PoweredbyAlberta.com
10	21 Camilo Schmidt	21	8.063	1:24.531	97.952	6	Mindeporte
11	77 Zach Veach	21	11.780	1:23.392	99.290	5	Zakosi Data Backup / ADS IT Solutions
12	91 Ashley Freiberg	21	11.874	1:24.477	98.015	6	TRUECar.com
13	88 Sage Karam	21	12.790	1:23.036	99.716	5	Comfort Revolution
14	72 Larry Pegram	21	13.667	1:24.613	97.857	15	Foremost Insurance
15	20 Carlos Linares	21	15.784	1:24.490	98.000	6	Mindeporte
16	10 Jeremy Daniel	21	26.277	1:24.582	97.893	5	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams
17	53 Andre Mendez	21	34.495	1:24.406	98.097	15	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
18	23 Walt Bowlin	20	1 Lap	1:26.562	95.654	10	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery
19	66 Zack Meyer	19	2 Laps	1:23.369	99.317	9	Partners III
20	15 Bruno Palli	15	6 Laps	1:23.647	98.987	4	Team Viso Venezuela

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.

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://starmazda.com/timing/>.

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.

