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## BACK AND FORTH BATTLE BETWEEN HAWKSWORTH AND DE PHILLIPPI CONTINUES IN THURSDAY'S TWO STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PRACTICE SESSIONS AT THE INDY GRAND PRIX OF ALABAMA

Barber Motorsports Park / March 29, 2012 – The first two Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear practice sessions on Thursday presented a replay of the battle between Connor De Phillippi and



Jack Hawksworth that defined the season-opener at last weekend's Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. De Phillippi won Race 1 of the weekend's double-header, while Hawksworth won Race 2. Both won from the pole.

In the first of today's two Star Mazda practice sessions, Hawksworth set the pace with a lap of 1:20.616 in his #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda, better

than the existing lap record of 1:21.166 set by series champion Tristan Vautier in 2011, and a good bit quicker than his own best lap of 1:21.043 here in series Spring Training two weeks ago -- but still well shy of the blistering 1:20.076 set by De Phillippi in Spring Training. De Phillippi was quickest in today's second, altogether slower session with a 1:21.067 in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda.

Rounding out the top-5 in both sessions were the 'usual suspects' from St. Pete; in Session 1 it was Petri Suvanto (podium in Race 2 at St. Pete) 2nd-quickest in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda / RKM Building Mazda, followed by De Phillippi, Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey / TrueCar.com Mazda) and Martin Scuncio (#22 Juncos Racing / Pullman Bus Mazda).

In Session 2, Gabby Chaves, who finished on the podium in Race1 at St. Pete driving his #19 JDC Motorsports / OMP Mazda turned the 2nd-quickest time, followed by Scuncio, Juan Piedrahita (#9 JDC Motorsports / Petrosur / GFK Motors Mazda), who scored a podium finish in Race 2 at St. Pete and Sage Karam (#88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda), who endured a horrible season-opener and is due to show some form here at Barber.

Qualifying for Race 1 takes place 1:45--2:15 pm Friday, March 30, followed by Race 1 from 4:45—5:25 that evening. There will be no on-track Star Mazda activity Saturday, March 31. Race 2 is scheduled to take the green light for the series' traditional – and always exciting – F1-style standing start at 10:20 am Sunday, April 1. Star Mazda races will be broadcast on Velocity TV and ESPN International; for air dates and times, go to [www.StarMazda.com](http://www.StarMazda.com) and click the Star Mazda TV icon.



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### Star Mazda / Thursday Practice / Session 1

| Pos No. | Name                 | Best Tm  | Best Speed | In Lap | Diff  | Sponsor                               |
|---------|----------------------|----------|------------|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 1       | 82 Jack Hawksworth   | 1:20.616 | 101.965    | 11     |       | TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks   |
| 2       | 81 Petri Suvanto     | 1:20.861 | 101.656    | 11     | 0.245 | Mazda Road to Indy / RKM Building     |
| 3       | 2 Connor De Philippi | 1:20.906 | 101.599    | 12     | 0.290 | ModSpace Racing / One24               |
| 4       | 83 Gustavo Menezes   | 1:21.479 | 100.885    | 13     | 0.863 | TrueCar.com                           |
| 5       | 22 Martin Scuncio    | 1:21.520 | 100.834    | 9      | 0.904 | Pullman Bus                           |
| 6       | 19 Gabby Chaves      | 1:21.588 | 100.750    | 11     | 0.972 | OMP                                   |
| 7       | 9 Juan Piedrahita    | 1:21.969 | 100.282    | 7      | 1.353 | Petrosur / GFK Motors                 |
| 8       | 88 Sage Karam        | 1:21.980 | 100.268    | 6      | 1.364 | Comfort Revolution                    |
| 9       | 93 Stefan Rzdzinski  | 1:22.343 | 99.826     | 12     | 1.727 | PoweredbyAlberta.com                  |
| 10      | 57 Diego Ferreira    | 1:22.438 | 99.711     | 12     | 1.822 | Team Viso Venezuela                   |
| 11      | 91 Ashley Freiberg   | 1:22.499 | 99.637     | 12     | 1.883 | TRUECar.com                           |
| 12      | 77 Zach Veach        | 1:22.583 | 99.536     | 11     | 1.967 | Zakosi Data Backup / ADS IT Solutions |
| 13      | 66 Zack Meyer        | 1:22.663 | 99.440     | 10     | 2.047 | Partners III                          |
| 14      | 15 Bruno Palli       | 1:23.123 | 98.889     | 8      | 2.507 | Team Viso Venezuela                   |
| 15      | 53 Andre Mendez      | 1:23.259 | 98.728     | 12     | 2.643 | GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co  |
| 16      | 21 Camilo Schmidt    | 1:23.514 | 98.426     | 11     | 2.898 | Mindeporte                            |
| 17      | 20 Carlos Linares    | 1:23.543 | 98.392     | 11     | 2.927 | Mindeporte                            |
| 18      | 72 Larry Pegram      | 1:24.770 | 96.968     | 8      | 4.154 | Foremost Insurance                    |
| 19      | 23 Walt Bowlin       | 1:26.538 | 94.987     | 12     | 5.922 | Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery                 |
| 20      | 10 Jeremy Daniel     | -        | -          | 0      |       | FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams            |

### Star Mazda / Thursday Practice / Session 2

| Pos No. | Name                 | Best Tm  | Best Speed | In Lap | Diff  | Sponsor                               |
|---------|----------------------|----------|------------|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 1       | 2 Connor De Philippi | 1:21.067 | 101.397    | 5      |       | ModSpace Racing / One24               |
| 2       | 19 Gabby Chaves      | 1:21.379 | 101.009    | 9      | 0.312 | OMP                                   |
| 3       | 22 Martin Scuncio    | 1:21.449 | 100.922    | 5      | 0.382 | Pullman Bus                           |
| 4       | 9 Juan Piedrahita    | 1:21.867 | 100.407    | 7      | 0.800 | Petrosur / GFK Motors                 |
| 5       | 88 Sage Karam        | 1:21.894 | 100.374    | 9      | 0.827 | Comfort Revolution                    |
| 6       | 57 Diego Ferreira    | 1:22.033 | 100.203    | 10     | 0.966 | Team Viso Venezuela                   |
| 7       | 93 Stefan Rzdzinski  | 1:22.082 | 100.144    | 9      | 1.015 | PoweredbyAlberta.com                  |
| 8       | 82 Jack Hawksworth   | 1:22.105 | 100.116    | 5      | 1.038 | TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks   |
| 9       | 83 Gustavo Menezes   | 1:22.166 | 100.041    | 12     | 1.099 | TrueCar.com                           |
| 10      | 81 Petri Suvanto     | 1:22.229 | 99.965     | 3      | 1.162 | Mazda Road to Indy / RKM Building     |
| 11      | 15 Bruno Palli       | 1:22.454 | 99.692     | 2      | 1.387 | Team Viso Venezuela                   |
| 12      | 66 Zack Meyer        | 1:22.642 | 99.465     | 6      | 1.575 | Partners III                          |
| 13      | 91 Ashley Freiberg   | 1:22.765 | 99.317     | 16     | 1.698 | TRUECar.com                           |
| 14      | 20 Carlos Linares    | 1:22.996 | 99.041     | 14     | 1.929 | Mindeporte                            |
| 15      | 77 Zach Veach        | 1:23.286 | 98.696     | 1      | 2.219 | Zakosi Data Backup / ADS IT Solutions |
| 16      | 21 Camilo Schmidt    | 1:23.633 | 98.286     | 12     | 2.566 | Mindeporte                            |
| 17      | 72 Larry Pegram      | 1:23.786 | 98.107     | 18     | 2.719 | Foremost Insurance                    |
| 18      | 53 Andre Mendez      | 1:23.947 | 97.919     | 7      | 2.880 | GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co  |
| 19      | 23 Walt Bowlin       | 1:25.446 | 96.201     | 12     | 4.379 | Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery                 |
| 20      | 10 Jeremy Daniel     | -        | -          | 0      |       | FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams            |





Fans can follow the drivers through the course of the weekend via the series' web site at [www.StarMazda.com](http://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/>.

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





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