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DE PHILLIPPI WINS PEAK PERFORMANCE POLE AWARD FOR STAR MAZDA ROUND 5 IN THE 67th ANNUAL NIGHT BEFORE THE 500 AT LUCAS OIL RACEWAY

Lucas Oil Raceway / Indianapolis / May 26 – Connor De Phillippi, winner of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear 'Night Before the 500' event last year at Lucas Oil Raceway, will again start from



the pole in his #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda for tonight's Round 5 of the 2012 season in the 67th annual Night Before the 500 at Lucas Oil Raceway.

De Philippi, qualifying next to last in the reverse points qualifying order, turned a lap of 20.559 around the 0.686-mile oval; the time was considerably slower than his lap record 19.999 set in qualifying last year, but the 92-degree heat and glaring sun slowed the track down. Virtually all of the top qualifiers turned their best lap on Lap 1 of two flying laps.

The first bit of drama in qualifying was provided by Zach Veach, the 6th car to take to the track for single-car qualifying. His first flying lap of 20.685 in the #77 Andretti Autosport / K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup Mazda jumped him to the provisional pole, which he held until Andretti Autosport teammate Sage Karam, qualifying 11th, took it away from him – by a mere 3/100ths of a second – with a lap of 20.653.

The cheerful symmetry of an all-Andretti front row lasted until De Phillippi rolled on course and, not really to anyone's surprise, spoiled the party. The first 13 cars in the 16-car field qualified within one second of each other; the 45-minute/100-lap race, scheduled to take the green flag at 8:25 pm.

"The virtue of being next to last to qualify is knowing that your quickest lap is going to be your first one, so that's where all the effort goes; push just that little bit too hard on the second lap and you slow down," said De Phillippi. "The heat makes a big difference, which accounts for why qualifying was slower than last year, but we don't race until 8:30 in the evening, so it will be closer to the temperatures we practiced in yesterday and we know we have a good car for those conditions. There's no way to predict the outcome of an oval-track race, but Juncos Racing has given me a great car every time out and I'm looking forward to the race."



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BBS



REPLAY XD

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Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed In Lap	Diff	Sponsor
1	2 Connor De Phillippi	20.559	120.123	1	ModSpace Racing / One24
2	88 Sage Karam	20.653	119.576	1 0.094	Comfort Revolution
3	77 Zach Veach	20.685	119.391	1 0.126	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup
4	9 Juan Piedrahita	20.714	119.224	1 0.155	Petrosur / GFK Motors
5	81 Petri Suvanto	20.766	118.925	2 0.207	Mazda Road to Indy
6	57 Diego Ferreira	20.789	118.794	1 0.230	Team Viso Venezuela
7	22 Martin Scuncio	20.831	118.554	1 0.272	Pullman Bus
8	15 Bruno Palli	20.880	118.276	1 0.321	Team Viso Venezuela
9	82 Jack Hawksworth	20.901	118.157	2 0.342	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
10	19 Gabby Chaves	20.908	118.117	1 0.349	OMP
11	83 Gustavo Menezes	21.029	117.438	1 0.470	TrueCar.com
12	20 Carlos Linares	21.368	115.575	1 0.809	Mindeporte
13	53 Andre Mendez	21.520	114.758	2 0.961	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
14	66 Zack Meyer	21.769	113.446	2 1.210	Partners III
15	91 Ashley Freiberg	21.903	112.752	2 1.344	TRUECar.com
16	21 Camilo Schmidt	21.956	112.480	1 1.397	

Star Mazda Championship cars all carry two Replay XD1080 cameras to provide exciting driver POV footage for races that are broadcast tape-delayed during the Mazda Motorsports Hour on Discovery's Velocity Channel. Round 5 of the Star Mazda Championship at the Night Before the 500 will air on Monday, June 18 and Saturday, June 23 at 12 Noon ET. Click [here](#) to search for the Velocity channel in your area.

About PEAK

PEAK is a division of Old World Industries, LLC, which operates in more than 52 countries worldwide. Old World Industries Inc. is a Northbrook, Illinois-based company that enjoys a presence in various consumer product markets, energy exploration, and chemical manufacturing in more than 50 countries worldwide. Old World's other brands include a full line of PEAK Antifreeze & Coolant; SIERRA, the 'greener' antifreeze; Mr. Clean Windshield Wash and Wiper Blades; Fleet Charge Fully Formulated Coolant; Final Charge Heavy Duty Global Extended Life Antifreeze/Coolant; HERCULINER Truck Bed Liner Kits; and SplitFire Spark Plugs. For more information, visit www.peakauto.com.





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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.

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