



THEY'RE COMING... AMERICAN OPEN WHEEL STARS CONNOR DE PHILLIPPI, SAGE KARAM AND ZACH VEACH FINISH 1-2-3 IN STAR MAZDA ROUND 5 AT THE 67th ANNUAL NIGHT BEFORE THE 500

Lucas Oil Raceway / Indianapolis / May 26 – On Carburetion Day at the Indy Motor Speedway, Tony George Jr. was asked by a member of the media, "So where are all the Americans in the field?"

His eloquent answer? "They're coming."

Indeed. And leading the charge are three of the top young American open wheel racers on the Mazda Road to Indy. In tonight's Round 5 of the 2012 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the Night Before the 500, Californian Connor De Phillippi, winner of this event last year, won again from the PEAK pole, leading the entire way in his #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda.



Finishing 2nd was last year's Star Mazda Rookie of the Year, and winner of two of the three oval races on the schedule, Nazareth, PA native Sage Karam in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda.

And claiming the final spot on the podium was one of the youngest drivers in the field, Zach Veach of Stockdale, OH, driver of the #77 Andretti Autosport / K12.com / Zakoski Data Backup Mazda. Each finished where they qualified... which says little about how fast and competitive this race actually was.

This is De Phillippi's second win from the PEAK pole so far this season, including his victory in Race 1 of the season-opener at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.... but still leaves him second in the points championship, albeit only by 12 points, behind Jack Hawksworth, who has also win two races and finished 8th tonight. Karam has now scored his second 2nd-place finish of the season, benefiting from the points shuffle as he moves up from 7th to 6th and is headed next to Iowa Speedway, where he won last year. The tonight's 3rd-place finish is Zach Veach's first podium finish of the season, and jumps him up the championship ladder from 12th to 9th.

"Our plan was to build a lead over four or five laps and then control the pace of the race, which, even with two short yellows and two re-starts, is what we did," said the thoughtful winner. "This is probably my favorite victory so far because when we came here for the series test on May 5, we were about three-





tenths off the pace. So we went back to the shop and went to work and figured it out as a team, and this is absolutely a victory not just for me but for the entire Juncos Racing organization. And what we achieved here really provides a good foundation, both operationally and mentally, for the next race on the schedule, the 1-mile oval at Iowa Speedway."

Rounding out the top-5 were Martin Scuncio, who started 7th in the #22 Juncos Racing / Pullman Bus Mazda and moved up to finish 4th. Finnish racer Petri Suvanto, who won the USF2000 race here last year and went on to win the championship, along with the Mazda Road to Indy scholarship that is funding his 2012 Star Mazda campaign, started 5th and finished 5th... all the more remarkable for missing the three-hour test session on Friday as his team chased 'electrical gremlins' in his #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda.

And it would be remiss not to mention the efforts of Gustavo Menezes, who qualified an uncharacteristic 11th in his #83 Team Pelfrey / TrueCar.com Mazda and raced through the field to finish 6th.

Pos No.	Name	Laps	Diff	Gap	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Sponsor
1	2 Connor De Phillippi	100			20.420	120.940	5	ModSpace Racing / One24
2	88 Sage Karam	100	1.737	1.737	20.691	119.356	5	Comfort Revolution
3	77 Zach Veach	100	3.463	1.726	20.806	118.697	5	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup
4	22 Martin Scuncio	100	4.664	1.201	20.850	118.446	3	Pullman Bus
5	81 Petri Suvanto	100	6.052	1.388	20.863	118.372	5	Mazda Road to Indy
6	83 Gustavo Menezes	100	7.859	1.807	21.076	117.176	6	TrueCar.com
7	82 Jack Hawksworth	100	8.557	0.698	21.130	116.876	6	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
8	9 Juan Piedrahita	100	12.129	3.572	20.948	117.892	3	Petrosur / GFK Motors
9	19 Gabby Chaves	99	1 Lap	1 Lap	21.044	117.354	5	OMP
10	57 Diego Ferreira	99	1 Lap	0.375	21.085	117.126	5	Team Viso Venezuela
11	20 Carlos Linares	98	2 Laps	1 Lap	21.496	114.886	5	Mindeporte
12	53 Andre Mendez	98	2 Laps	0.487	21.534	114.684	7	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
13	21 Camilo Schmidt	97	3 Laps	1 Lap	21.824	113.160	91	
14	15 Bruno Palli	79	21 Laps	18 Laps	21.039	117.382	11	Team Viso Venezuela
15	91 Ashley Freiberg	76	24 Laps	3 Laps	21.722	113.691	6	TRUECar.com
16	66 Zack Meyer	30	70 Laps	46 Laps	21.407	115.364	4	Partners III

Pos No.	Name	Total
1	82 Jack Hawksworth	129
2	2 Connor De Phillippi	117
3	22 Martin Scuncio	97
4	19 Gabby Chaves	92
5	9 Juan Piedrahita	89
6	88 Sage Karam	86
7	81 Petri Suvanto	86
8	57 Diego Ferreira	63
9	77 Zach Veach	53
10	83 Gustavo Menezes	53

11	93 Stefan Rzadzinski	48
12	91 Ashley Freiberg	40
13	20 Carlos Linares	36
14	21 Camilo Schmidt	36
15	53 Andre Mendez	33
16	15 Bruno Palli	29
17	72 Larry Pegram	23
18	66 Zack Meyer	19
19	10 Jerimy Daniel	18
20	23 Walt Bowlin	13
21	33 Ryan Tveter	0





GOODYEAR



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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.

Round 6 of the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear – a race that Sage Karam won last year – takes place at the Indy Grand Prix of Iowa on the 1.0-mile Iowa Speedway, June 22-23.

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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Points as of Round 5



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