



SAGE KARAM TOPS THE TIME SHEETS IN BOTH STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY PRACTICE SESSIONS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S IOWA SPEEDWAY FOUNDATION STAR MAZDA 100

Iowa Speedway / June 22, 2012 – Cranking his #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda up another tenth (and a touch), Sage Karam, winner of last year's Star Mazda Championship presented by



Goodyear race at Iowa Speedway, completed his domination of Friday's two practice sessions leading up to tomorrow's Iowa Speedway Foundation Star Mazda 100. His lap of 21.832 sec. (147.417 mph) in the morning was comfortably faster than the existing Star Mazda lap record of 21.933 at Iowa Speedway set by Conor Daly in 2010 – and his afternoon lap of 21.768 sec. (147.768 mph) was quicker still.

While it should be noted that official Star Mazda lap records are set only in qualifying or the race, it's still intriguing to see how close the top three drivers are to breaking that record, and the fact that these are the same drivers – with a twist -- that finished 1-2-3 in the previous oval race, the Night Before the 500 at Lucas Oil Raceway in Indianapolis.

At the Night Before the 500, it was Connor De Phillippi, second here in practice with a lap of 21.935 in the afternoon session driving his #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda, who crossed the finish line first, followed by Karam, and then by Karam's Andretti Autosport teammate Zach Veach, who was third today with a lap of 21.974 sec. (146.464 mph) in the #77 Andretti Autosport / K12 / Zakosi Data Backup Mazda.

"I was raised watching oval racing, and really like racing on an oval track," says Veach. "It's different from a road course in that laps are twenty seconds long, and then you start over. So you don't have to concentrate on an individual lap for quite as long, but you have to be much more focused, because any little mistake here carries much more weight than a mistake on a road course. My car is good now, but we're fighting just a little oversteer and I think there are a couple more tenths in the car that we'll find tomorrow in practice. I'm feeling pretty good about our chances of making it an Andretti Autosport 1-2 here at Iowa Speedway."





Friday Session 1

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	88 Sage Karam	21.832	147.417	27		Comfort Revolution
2	22 Martin Scuncio	21.983	146.404	48	0.151	0.151 Pullman Bus
3	2 Connor De Phillippi	21.992	146.344	34	0.160	0.009 ModSpace Racing / One24
4	81 Petri Suvanto	22.036	146.052	25	0.204	0.044 Mazda Road to Indy
5	77 Zach Veach	22.058	145.906	38	0.226	0.022 K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup
6	82 Jack Hawksworth	22.182	145.091	51	0.350	0.124 TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
7	83 Gustavo Menezes	22.196	144.999	34	0.364	0.014 TrueCar.com
8	19 Gabby Chaves	22.311	144.252	52	0.479	0.115 OMP
9	15 Bruno Palli	22.367	143.891	37	0.535	0.056 Team Viso Venezuela
10	57 Diego Ferreira	22.402	143.666	51	0.570	0.035 Team Viso Venezuela
11	9 Juan Piedrahita	22.468	143.244	37	0.636	0.066 Petrosur / GFK Motors
12	21 Camilo Schmidt	23.645	136.113	34	1.813	1.177
13	66 Zack Meyer	24.008	134.055	28	2.176	0.363 Partners III
14	20 Carlos Linares	24.067	133.727	31	2.235	0.059 Mindeporte
15	91 Ashley Freiberg	25.344	126.989	3	3.512	1.277 TRUECar.com
16	53 Andre Mendez	26.729	120.409	3	4.897	1.385 GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co

Friday Session 2

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	88 Sage Karam	21.768	147.850	9		Comfort Revolution
2	2 Connor De Phillippi	21.935	146.724	18	0.167	0.167 ModSpace Racing / One24
3	77 Zach Veach	21.974	146.464	13	0.206	0.039 K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup
4	81 Petri Suvanto	21.982	146.411	28	0.214	0.008 Mazda Road to Indy
5	22 Martin Scuncio	22.018	146.171	22	0.250	0.036 Pullman Bus
6	82 Jack Hawksworth	22.042	146.012	40	0.274	0.024 TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
7	57 Diego Ferreira	22.114	145.537	30	0.346	0.072 Team Viso Venezuela
8	83 Gustavo Menezes	22.183	145.084	33	0.415	0.069 TrueCar.com
9	15 Bruno Palli	22.219	144.849	39	0.451	0.036 Team Viso Venezuela
10	19 Gabby Chaves	22.253	144.628	22	0.485	0.034 Comcel/ Telmex/ coldeportes/ OMP
11	9 Juan Piedrahita	22.262	144.569	18	0.494	0.009 Petrosur / GFK Motors
12	66 Zack Meyer	22.725	141.624	37	0.957	0.463 Partners III
13	53 Andre Mendez	22.957	140.193	35	1.189	0.232 GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
14	91 Ashley Freiberg	23.308	138.081	51	1.540	0.351 TRUECar.com
15	21 Camilo Schmidt	23.425	137.392	44	1.657	0.117
16	20 Carlos Linares	23.597	136.390	24	1.829	0.172 Mindeporte

This weekend's Round 6 of the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is the second of two ovals on a 2012 schedule that includes a well-rounded menu of ovals, street circuits and natural-terrain road courses. Most are double-headers with two races per weekend, and most are with IndyCar. Following these two ovals in a row is a string of three Canadian races in a row, beginning with the Indy Toronto, followed by Indy Edmonton and then by the legendary GP3R Grand Prix de Trois-Rivieres, where Star Mazda will share the stage with Indy Lights.





On-track Star Mazda action begins with a 30-minute practice session from 12:45 – 1:15 pm Friday, June 22, followed by a second half-hour session from 3:30 – 4:00 pm. Star Mazda drivers from eight different countries and three continents will get an extended practice session on Saturday from 11:00am – 1:55pm, followed by single-car qualifying from 3:10-2:55 pm. The green flag for the start of the 1-hour Iowa Speedway Foundation Star Mazda 100 will wave at 5:20 pm Saturday, June 23.

Star Mazda Championship cars all carry two Replay XD1080 cameras to provide exciting driver POV footage for races that are broadcast tape-delayed on Discovery's Velocity Channel and globally on ESPN International. In the U.S., the race will air on Velocity at 12 Noon, Saturday, July 28.

