



GOODYEAR



SAGE KARAM BETTERS STAR MAZDA LAP RECORD FOR IOWA SPEEDWAY IN FIRST PRACTICE SESSION FOR THIS WEEKEND'S IOWA SPEEDWAY FOUNDATION STAR MAZDA 100

Iowa Speedway / June 22, 2012 – Sage Karam, winner of last year's Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear race at Iowa Speedway, was quickest in Friday's first practice session for this year's Iowa Speedway Foundation Star Mazda 100.



His lap of 21.832 sec. (147.417 mph) in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda... and interesting to note that this time, set in the first session on old tires left over from the previous oval race at the Night Before the 500, is quicker than the outright Star Mazda lap record at Iowa Speedway set by Conor Daly in 2010.

(Note: Official lap records are set only in qualifying or the race.)

"I love this track and the car felt awesome right from the start; since all of us were on old tires, we weren't really trying for a time; I guess that says a lot about how far these cars have come in the past couple of years," said the youngster from the Andretti hometown of Nazareth, PA. "We might put some stickers on this evening and try for a time, but we have a three hour practice session tomorrow that we need to conserve for, so once we get what we feel is the optimal setup, we'll just focus on qualifying and the race. The key here, like any short oval, is to build a bit of a gap in the lead, and then manage the race and your tires. A hundred laps here is a long race."

Rounding out the top-3 were Martin Scuncio, with a lap of 21.983 in his #22 Juncos Racing / Pullman Bus Mazda and Connor De Phillippi, winner of the previous oval - the Night Before the 500 at Lucas Oil Raceway - with a time of 21.992 in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda.

If you place any faith in history as an indicator of the future, then contemplate this; Karam won from the pole here last year. Scuncio qualified on the outside of the front row and finished 12th. And De Phillippi qualified 5th and finished 11th.

"Last year we were five laps from the end and I had a tire go down so I had to make a pit stop," recalls De Phillippi. "Nothing you can do about that, but Juncos Racing is a very detail-oriented team and we've spent a lot of time in the shop making sure the cars are perfect for this race, that the bodywork fits



GOODYEAR



PERFORMANCE FRICTION BRAKES



BBS



REPLAY XD





perfectly flush to reduce downforce and that everything is in place for us to come away from Iowa with the points lead. Lucas Oil Raceway is a track that requires maximum downforce and letting up on the gas a bit as you enter the turns, while Iowa is a minimum-downforce track where a few tenths or hundredths of a second will win the pole and may make the difference between winning and losing."

| 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 |

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.

