

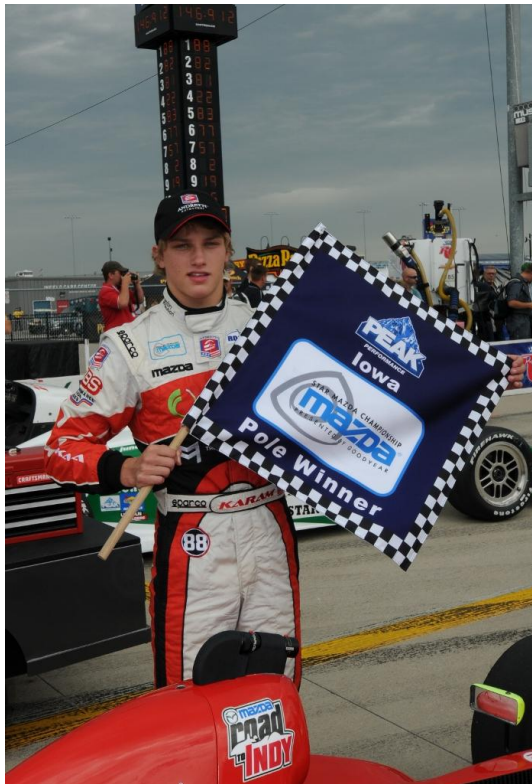


GOODYEAR



HURLING TOWARD A HAT TRICK – SAGE KARAM WINS THE PEAK PERFORMANCE POLE AWARD FOR TONIGHT'S IOWA SPEEDWAY FOUNDATION STAR MAZDA 100

Iowa Speedway / June 23, 2012 – After setting the fast time in practice yesterday, Nazareth, PA native Sage Karam waited patiently for a light rain shower to pass and the jet blower to dry the track before



taking his #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda out to win the PEAK Performance Pole Award for tonight's Iowa Speedway Foundation Star Mazda 100. His lap of 21.907 (146.912 mph) marks his third straight pole at this track – 2010 in USF200 and 2011 in Star Mazda. If he wins the race this evening, he will have scored a 'hat trick' in the most complete sense of the word.

Starting on the outside of the front row will be the current Star Mazda championship points leader, English racer Jack Hawksworth in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda. His lap time of 21.931 (146.751 mph) is, like Karam's, under the existing Star Mazda lap record at Iowa Speedway, a 21.933 set in 2010 by Conor Daly.

Completing the all-star top-3 is Finnish racer Petri Suvanto, the 2011 USF2000 champion who is racing in Star Mazda this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy. He turned a lap of 21.982 (146.411 mph) in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda – part of a 13-car lead pack that all qualified within 8/10ths of a second of each other.

"I just love this track and look forward to coming here every year," says Karam, a 17 year-old high school student who is a top-ranked wrestler when not behind the wheel of his race car. "The whole trick is to be perfectly smooth, and that's one of the things that the Andretti team teaches; my steering traces look like perfect curves, and when a tenth of a second can make all the difference, that's where you find the time. Anything can happen in an oval track race, but I'm feeling good about tonight... if the weather holds."

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



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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.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed In Lap	Diff	Sponsor
1	88 Sage Karam	21.907	146.912	2	Comfort Revolution
2	82 Jack Hawksworth	21.931	146.751	2 0.024	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks
3	81 Petri Suvanto	21.982	146.411	2 0.075	Mazda Road to Indy
4	22 Martin Scuncio	22.087	145.715	2 0.180	Pullman Bus
5	83 Gustavo Menezes	22.119	145.504	2 0.212	TrueCar.com
6	77 Zach Veach	22.222	144.829	2 0.315	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup
7	57 Diego Ferreira	22.264	144.556	2 0.357	Team Viso Venezuela
8	2 Connor De Phillippi	22.326	144.155	2 0.419	ModSpace Racing / One24
9	19 Gabby Chaves	22.381	143.801	2 0.474	Comcel/ Telmex/ coldeportes/ OMP
10	15 Bruno Palli	22.399	143.685	1 0.492	Team Viso Venezuela
11	9 Juan Piedrahita	22.613	142.325	2 0.706	Petrosur / GFK Motors
12	66 Zack Meyer	22.634	142.193	2 0.727	Partners III
13	53 Andre Mendez	22.710	141.717	2 0.803	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
14	91 Ashley Freiberg	23.073	139.488	2 1.166	TRUECar.com
15	20 Camilo Schmidt	25.007	128.700	2 3.100	

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.

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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