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THE HAWKSWORTH CONVERSION x 2-- JACK HAWKSWORTH SURVIVES A RACE OF ATTRITION AND SCORES BACK-TO-BACK WINS FROM THE POLE IN STAR MAZDA RACE 2 AT THE TORONTO INDY

Toronto, Canada / July 8, 2012 – By pretty much any standards, Race 2 of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear double-header at this weekend's Toronto Indy was an ugly mess. Any race with



more laps under full-course yellow than green – and that winds up with a green/white/checkered finish that sees the second-place car stick it into the tire barrier – just isn't the way you want it to go... unless of course you happen to be leading the race with a tire slowly going flat.

Aesthetics aside, however, on display between the carnage and yellow flags was some diamond-hard, laser-precise, wheel-to-wheel competition of the sort that makes Star Mazda one of the top open wheel driver development series in the world today.

Unsurprisingly, as he did yesterday in Race 1, Team Pelfrey driver Jack Hawksworth never put a wheel wrong from green to checker and collected his second win of the weekend, his fourth win from the PEAK Performance pole of the season. What drama there was in his drive became apparent when he pulled the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda into Victory Circle with a flat left rear tire that could have changed everything had not the tire barrier reached out and snagged his principal competitor. Crossing the finish line second was Juan Piedrahita, who raced in Star Mazda two years ago, decided he needed more experience and so moved back to USF2000 last year. This season, driving the #9 JDC Motorsports / Petrosur / GFK Motors Mazda, his form and pace have been transformed... and, though always polite, his delight at doing well is both obvious and a pleasure to see.

The 'comeback kid' story of the race – and a textbook example of blindingly fast, but exceedingly careful driving was Sage Karam in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. The green light for yesterday's race left him sitting on the grid, having moved a total of about 4... maybe 4.5 inches before his differential failed. Today, with grid positions for Race 2 being set by each car's quick lap in Race 1, he started at the very tail end of the field. Making the most of the standing start he gained four places immediately, and with each few laps of green followed by another full-course yellow, he made the most of each opportunity and when the smoke cleared and the survivors crossed the finish line, his was the third car across. As he stepped from the car, his first words were "That was the most fun I ever had in an open-wheel race."



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"I'm obviously delighted with how our race weekend has gone, particularly since we left Iowa Speedway two weeks ago with my car smashed to bits and the Pelfrey team did an absolutely amazing job to give me back a car capable of winning back-to-back races on a really tough street circuit," said Hawksworth. "This kind of weekend has been in the works for a while, actually, given how professional the team is and how hard they work, and I'm happy to leave Toronto and head for the Edmonton Indy with the championship lead and a lot of positive momentum."

Note: Results and points are provisional

Pos No.	Name	Sponsor	Hometown	Team	Laps
1	82 Jack Hawksworth	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey	18
2	9 Juan Piedrahita	Petrosur / GFK Motors	Mexico City, Mexico	JDC Motorsports	18
3	88 Sage Karam	Comfort Revolution	Nazareth, PA	Andretti	18
4	19 Gabby Chaves	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	18
5	57 Diego Ferreira	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	18
6	83 Gustavo Menezes	TrueCar.com	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey	18
7	22 Martin Scuncio	Pullman Bus	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing	18
8	81 Petri Suvanto	Mazda Road to Indy	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey	18
9	10 Jeremy Daniel	FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams	Chateauguay, Quebec	TRC	18
10	93 Stefan Rzedzinski	PoweredbyAlberta.com	Edmonton, Canada	JDC Motorsports	18
11	91 Ashley Freiberg	TRUECar.com	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports	18
12	66 Zack Meyer	Partners III	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport	18
13	53 Andre Mendez	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT	18
14	20 Carlos Linares	Mindeporte	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing	17
15	15 Bruno Palli	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	17
16	2 Connor De Phillippi	ModSpace Racing / One24	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing	16
17	77 Zach Veach	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Stockdale, OH	Andretti	10
18	21 Camilo Schmidt		Merida, Venezuela	Linares Racing	10
19	23 Walt Bowlin	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Tarpon Springs, FL	Aim Autosport	5
20	33 Ryan Tveter	Rogers TV / Motorola Mobility Canada	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT	2
21	39 Corey Lewis	Monticello Motor Club / Bell Helmets	Nazareth,PA	GDT	1

The race all started going sideways about three laps in when 4th-place starter Petri Suvanto, the 2011 USF2000 champion who is racing in Star Mazda this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy, overcooked his entry to Turn 3 and went down the runoff. Re-joining the battle at the end of the field, he fought his way back up to finish 8th in his #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda. No flags for that one, but the first full-course yellow came out on Lap 5 when Ryan Tveter, experiencing perhaps the worst racing weekend of his young life, hooked the rear end coming out of Turn 11 onto the front straight and stuffed the nose of the #33 Team GDT / Rogers TV / Motorola Mobility Canada Mazda into the wall; yesterday, he made about two laps before his differential packed it in. This personable young driver has nowhere to go but up from here.

After a long yellow, the green flag flew again and we got two laps of green-flag racing before Zach Veach, who scored a podium finish yesterday and started on the outside of the front row today, overcooked it





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into Turn 6 and clouted the wall with his #77 Andretti Autosport / K12 / Zakosi Data Backup Mazda. He finished 17th. With the yellows back out all around the course, Jack Hawksworth and Connor De Phillipi, first and second, respectively, in the points, were running 1-2. Sage Karam had made it up to 6th by this point, and when the green flew again with about bare minutes to go, De Phillipi promptly went way, way too deep into Turn 3, locked up the tires and almost made the turn... but only almost. On the exit, the tire barrier reached out and grabbed his left rear, spun him into the wall and his race was done. He was credited with a 16th-place finish, a double disappointment after starting 15th and finishing 7th in Race 1 yesterday. No driver, save perhaps Ryan Tveter, will be happier to see Toronto in his rear-view mirror.

Good-news stories included Gabby Chaves, who finished on the podium yesterday and drove from 7th to 4th today in his #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda, Diego Ferreria who moved from 8th to 5th in the #57 Juncos Racing / Team Viso Venezuela Mazda, and the series' mile-a-minute enthusiasm generator, Gustavo Menezes, who moved up from 10th to finish 6th in the #83 Team Pelfrey / TrueCar.com / Oakley Mazda.

The three Canadian drivers, Stefan Rzadzinski, Zack Meyer and Jerimy Daniel all had a reasonably good day; Daniel, driving the (#10 The Racing Company / FixAuto Mazda for his family-owned team, battled his way up through the field from 18th to finish 9th. Meyer moved up one spot from 13th on the grid to finish 12th in his #66 AIM Autosport / Damis Partners III Mazda, and Rzadsinski, buried in mid-pack battling, brought his #99 JDC Motorsports / PoweredByAlberta.com Mazda home in 10th.

With all said and done, for this weekend anyway, Jack Hawksworth leads the championship with 197 points, followed by De Phillipi (158), Chaves (150), Scuncio (141), Piedrahita (140) and Karam (140), Suvanto (133) Ferreria (110), Veach (97) and Menezes (89).

Returning to the 2.84-kilometer, 11-turn street circuit for the first time since 2007, Toronto marked the first of three straight Canadian street races for the Star Mazda Championship. Next up is the Indy Edmonton on July 21 – 22, followed by the legendary GP3R Grand Prix de Trois-Rivieres, August 3 – 4, where Star Mazda will share the stage with Indy Lights.

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 Toronto race will air on Velocity at 12 Noon, Saturday, August 4. For international dates and times, please visit www.StarMazda.com and click the Star Mazda TV logo on the home page; or go to <http://intl.tv.espn.com/>.



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