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ADD WATER AND GET A NEW RECIPE – SAGE KARAM SCORES HIS FIRST STAR MAZDA STREET CIRCUIT WIN IN SUNDAY'S RAINY RACE 2 AT THE 43rd ANNUAL GP3R

Trois-Rivières, Quebec / August 5, 2012 – Sunday's Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear Race 2 at the 43rd annual GP3R looked for all the world like another Hawksworth runaway – start from the pole, build up a 10-second lead by the mid-point of the race...

but then, for the second weekend in a row, the rain came mid-way into the race and changed everything. As a result, scoring his first Star Mazda street circuit win, and his second win of the season, was Sage Karam in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. Following him across the finish line was Gabby Chaves in the #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda and Alex Ardoin in the #51 Team GDT Mazda.



Hawksworth, the championship points leader and winner of yesterday's Race 1 from the pole, was leading after the entire field pitted under a red flag on Lap 24 to change to wet tires, but was passed by Karam after the re-start and, in the process of trying to keep pace, overestimated the amount of grip available and slid under braking into the tire

barriers in Turn 6 with three minutes to go. He limped his nose-less and suspension-bent #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda around for the rest of the lap to finish 12th. The Quebec driver in the field, Jeremy Daniel, continued his run of home-town bad luck with a 14th-place finish, two laps down in his #10 The Racing Company / FixAuto / Sherwin-Williams Mazda.

"This is my first-ever Star Mazda win on anything but an oval, and I'm very excited to have it happen here on this very technical track, in the rain and in front of all the great Trois-Rivieres fans," says Karam, the 2010 USF200 champion now in his second season of Star Mazda. "When the first couple of drops hit my visor I was hoping for it to actually rain hard enough that they would force us to come in and change tires. I knew that was my best hope of catching Jack, who had a big lead in the dry. As soon as the green came out for the final wet laps I was able to get a run on Jack and pass him after the re-start. He slid off into the tires trying to keep up with me and after that all I had to do was not make any mistakes.



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Petri Suvanto, the Finnish racer who won the 2011 USF2000 Championship and is racing in Star Mazda this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy, started on the outside of the front row next to his Pelfrey teammate Hawksworth. In the first turn, however, Karam and Chaves dive-bombed him on the inside and dropped him to 4th before the race was two turns old. Then he had to battle the rest of the race with Ardoin, who is a two time winner of this event in 2009 and 2010, and finally finished 4th in his #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda.

Among the fine drives of the race was one by Andres Mendez, who started 15th on the grid and battled his way up to finish 7th, and another by Ryan Tveter, who was left standing on the starting grid yesterday by a broken axle – the second time this has happened this season. He shrugged off the mis-fortune and raced his way up from last in the field to finish 10th.

Returning to his run of hard luck after a good finish of 3rd in Race 1 on Saturday was Connor De Phillippi. A two race winner and early leader in the championship, he has seen his points lead melt away amid a series of poor finishes that are more a reflection of his luck than his talent. Starting 7th today in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda, he knocked his front wing askew early in the race and had to pit for a new nose. When all was said and done, he finished 13th.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Hometown	Team	Laps
1	88 Sage Karam	1:01.630	8			Nazareth, PA	Andretti	31
2	19 Gabby Chaves	1:01.626	15	4.569	4.569	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	31
3	51 Alex Ardoin	1:01.929	19	4.851	0.282	Sunset, LA	GDT	31
4	81 Petri Suvanto	1:01.822	11	8.018	3.167	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey	31
5	22 Martin Scuncio	1:02.039	4	8.842	0.824	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing	31
6	83 Gustavo Menezes	1:01.994	16	13.522	4.680	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey	31
7	53 Andres Mendez	1:02.785	10	17.499	3.977	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT	31
8	77 Zach Veach	1:02.182	6	17.951	0.452	Stockdale, OH	Andretti	31
9	91 Ashley Freiberg	1:02.361	17	19.420	1.469	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports	31
10	33 Ryan Tveter	1:02.968	16	21.903	2.483	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT	31
11	9 Juan Piedrahita	1:02.600	14	22.374	0.471	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	31
12	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:01.273	19	1 Lap	1 Lap	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey	30
13	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:02.003	4	1 Lap	14.045	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing	30
14	10 Jerimy Daniel	1:02.895	10	2 Laps	1 Lap	Chateauguay, Quebec	TRC	29
15	57 Diego Ferreira	1:02.370	15	8 Laps	6 Laps	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	23
16	20 Carlos Linares	1:02.812	9	8 Laps	22.546	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing	23
17	15 Bruno Palli	1:02.325	11	8 Laps	17:09.564	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	23
18	66 Zack Meyer	1:02.802	10	20 Laps	12 Laps	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport	11

In terms of Championship points, Hawksworth remains well in the lead with 286, followed by Sage Karam with 245, Gabby Chaves with 238, Connor De Phillippi with 212 and Martin Scuncio with 202. For full championship points and race-by-race results, click [here](#).



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Star Mazda on-track action at the GP3R at Trois-Rivières continues with Sunday's Race 2, featuring the series' spectacular F1-style standing start scheduled for 11:00 am on Sunday, August 5. The grid will be determined by the fastest lap turned by each car in Race 1, which means Hawksworth will start from the pole and will be joined on the front row by his Team Pelfrey teammate, Petri Suvanto.

Star Mazda Championship cars all carry two Replay XD1080 cameras to provide exciting driver POV footage for races that are part of the Mazda Motorsports Hour broadcast tape-delayed on Discovery's Velocity Channel in the U.S. and globally on ESPN International. In the U.S., the race will air on Velocity at 12 Noon, Saturday, September 1. In Canada, the Mazda Motorsports Hour airs on Rogers Sports Net; please check your local listings for date and time, or go to <http://www.sportsnet.ca/tvschedule>.

Trois-Rivieres is the final event of a three-weekend swing through Canada, including the Toronto Indy, Edmonton Indy and GP3R. The next event on the schedule is the Indy Grand Prix of Baltimore on September 1-2.

About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is a part of the [Mazda Road to Indy](#), the official driver development program for IndyCar. The 2012 schedule includes 17 races on 10 weekends, most with IndyCar. Rising stars from around the world are competing on road courses, street circuits and ovals in front of more than a million fans as they compete for prizes valued at \$1.2 million, including a scholarship to move up and race in the 2013 Firestone Indy Lights series. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete and the Star Mazda Championship also features the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 160 mph and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For more information on the Star Mazda Championship please visit www.starmazda.com.

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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