



GOODYEAR



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MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



## SAGE KARAM QUICK IN STAR MAZDA FRIDAY MORNING PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S ROUND 8 AT THE GRAND PRIX OF BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Inner Harbor / August 31, 2012 – Sage Karam, who finished second here last year and went on to win 'Rookie of the Year,' set the quick time in the first practice session for this weekend's Round 8 of the



2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. His lap of 1:28.8 in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda was unrecorded by timing and scoring due to the failure of his car's transponder, which had its power lead shaken loose by the huge bump over the railroad tracks on the back straight. His time was verified by viewing footage from his on-board Replay XD camera. He was the only driver to turn a lap in the 1:28 range.

Currently 2nd in the championship, Karam has won two races this year, scored eight podium finishes and sits

second in the championship. And, having won Race 2 on the GP3R street circuit in Trois-Rivières three weeks ago, he comes to Baltimore with a winner's momentum.

Finnish racer Petri Suvanto, who finished 2nd here last year in the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda, set the second-quick time of 1.29.045 in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda. Currently 6th in the championship with three podium finishes and six top-5s, Suvanto was the 2011 USF2000 champion and is racing in Star Mazda this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy. Third quick in the session was Suvanto's Team Pelfrey teammate and current championship points leader Jack Hawksworth with a lap of 1:29.185 in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda.

Rounding out the top-5 were Connor De Phillippi with a 1:29.911 in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda and Zach Veach, who turned a 1:29.998 in his #77 Andretti Autosport / K12 / Zakosi Data Backup Mazda.



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BBS



REPLAY XD

QUARTER MASTER



Star Mazda on-track action at the Indy Grand Prix of Baltimore continues with qualifying for the PEAK Performance pole for Saturday's Race 1 from 1:55 pm -- 2:25 pm. Race 1, scheduled for 305 minutes, will take the green light for the series' spectacular F1-style standing start 2:35 pm on Saturday, Sept. 1. Race 2, a 40 minute contest with the starting grid determined by each car's fastest lap on Race 1, takes the green at 11:35 am on Sunday, Sept 2.

*Note: Quick lap of 1:28.8 was by Sage Karam*

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Hometown	Team
1	81 Petri Suvanto	1:29.045	13			Mazda Road to Indy	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey
2	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:29.185	14	0.140	0.140	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey
3	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:29.911	7	0.866	0.726	ModSpace Racing / One24	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing
4	77 Zach Veach	1:29.998	14	0.953	0.087	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Stockdale, OH	Andretti
5	83 Gustavo Menezes	1:30.156	14	1.111	0.158	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey
6	22 Martin Scuncio	1:30.667	14	1.622	0.511	Pullman Bus	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing
7	15 Bruno Palli	1:31.057	11	2.012	0.390	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing
8	93 Stefan Rzedzinski	1:31.136	14	2.091	0.079	PoweredbyAlberta.com	Edmonton, Canada	JDC Motorsports
9	91 Ashley Freiberg	1:31.476	8	2.431	0.340	TRUECar.com	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports
10	57 Diego Ferreira	1:31.847	9	2.802	0.371	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing
11	20 Carlos Linares	1:31.978	11	2.933	0.131	Mindeporte	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing
12	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:32.057	11	3.012	0.079		Merida, Venezuela	Linares Racing
13	66 Zack Meyer	1:32.117	10	3.072	0.060	Partners III	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport
14	33 Ryan Tveter	1:32.195	13	3.150	0.078	Rogers TV / Motorola Mobility Canada	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT
15	19 Gabby Chaves	1:33.951	3	4.906	1.756	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports
16	53 Andres Mendez	1:33.985	8	4.940	0.034	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT
17	23 Walt Bowlin	1:39.619	7	10.574	5.634	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Tarpon Springs, FL	Aim Autosport
18	9 Juan Piedrahita	14:06.015	1	12:36.970	12:26.396	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports
19	88 Sage Karam		0			Comfort Revolution	Nazareth, PA	Andretti

**Star Mazda Championship**





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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 29. For information on international and Canadian air times, click [here](#).

### **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](http://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](http://www.starmazda.com) and [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com). For information, interviews and photos, please contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

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