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## KARAM QUICKEST OVERALL IN FRIDAY STAR MAZDA PRACTICE AT BALTIMORE – DE PHILLIPPI TURNS TOP TIME IN 4-LAP AFTERNOON QUALIFYING-TURNED-PRACTICE SESSION

Baltimore, Inner Harbor / August 31, 2012 – On a day turned chaotic by errant asphalt and intransigent railroad tracks, Sage Karam's 1:28.8 in the morning Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear



session at the Grand Prix of Baltimore held up as the quickest lap of the day. The afternoon session, originally scheduled as a half-hour qualifying for Saturday's Race 1, was reduced to 15 minutes by delays for track repairs, and then further truncated to a total of four 'hot laps' as a result of red flags generated rated by spinning race cars.

Under those difficult conditions, it was Connor De Phillippi who turned the session's quick time of 1:29.650 in his #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda. Karam followed with a 1:29.682 in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda and rounding out the top-3 was current championship points leader Jack Hawksworth with a

1:29.789 in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda.

The day's schedule was already a shambles due to a paving problem over the railroad tracks on the back straight; the bump was sufficient to send cars flying and cause damage when they came back to earth – so the decision was made to try grinding it flatter. That reduced what was supposed to be a 30-minute qualifying session to 15 minutes and series officials made the call to consider the session 'practice only' and grid the cars for tomorrow's Race1 on the basis of points. As a result, Hawksworth will start from the inside of the front row, but will not get the championship point typically awarded to the winner of the PEAK Performance Pole Award. For Race 2 on Sunday, the standard procedure will be utilized, with the starting grid determined by the quickest lap turned by each car during Race 1.

"The track situation isn't ideal, obviously, but everyone has to deal with the same thing, so it's all a level playing field," observed De Phillippi. "The grinding they did didn't really fix the problem, so we're all going to be faced tomorrow during the race with a chicane that wasn't here today, but again it's something



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everyone has to deal with, so we're just going to focus on our car and our race and not let that throw us off our game. And I have to say, that other than the bump, the other changes that the event organizers have made to the track are all excellent; it's faster, safer and should make for a better race for the fans now and in future years."

Star Mazda on-track action at the Indy Grand Prix of Baltimore continues with Saturday's Race 1, scheduled for 30 minutes; cars will take the green light for the series' spectacular F1-style standing start 2:35 pm. Race 2, a 40 minute, takes the green at 11:35 am on Sunday, Sept 2.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Hometown	Team	Laps
1	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:29.650	2			ModSpace Racing / One24	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing	4
2	88 Sage Karam	1:29.682	3	0.032	0.032	Comfort Revolution	Nazareth, PA	Andretti	3
3	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:29.789	2	0.139	0.107	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey	4
4	81 Petri Suvanto	1:30.025	1	0.375	0.236	Mazda Road to Indy	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey	4
5	22 Martin Scuncio	1:30.560	1	0.910	0.535	Pullman Bus	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing	3
6	15 Bruno Palli	1:30.936	1	1.286	0.376	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	3
7	83 Gustavo Menezes	1:31.146	2	1.496	0.210	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey	4
8	77 Zach Veach	1:31.405	1	1.755	0.259	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Stockdale, OH	Andretti	1
9	57 Diego Ferreira	1:31.426	1	1.776	0.021	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	3
10	20 Carlos Linares	1:32.865	1	3.215	1.439	Mindeporte	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing	3
11	66 Zack Meyer	1:33.019	1	3.369	0.154	Partners III	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport	2
12	9 Juan Piedrahita	1:34.318	1	4.668	1.299	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	2
13	33 Ryan Tveter	1:34.327	1	4.677	0.009	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility Canada / Rogers TV	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT	2
14	93 Stefan Rzadzinski	1:35.993	1	6.343	1.666	PoweredbyAlberta.com	Edmonton, Canada	JDC Motorsports	3
15	19 Gabby Chaves	1:38.602	1	8.952	2.609	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	1
16	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:50.491	1	20.841	11.889		Merida, Venezuela	Linares Racing	2
17	53 Andres Mendez	2:32.103	1	1:02.453	41.612	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT	2
18	23 Walt Bowlin	11:22.251	1	9:52.601	8:50.148	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Tarpon Springs, FL	Aim Autosport	1
19	91 Ashley Freiberg		0			TRUECar.com	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports	





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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).

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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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