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SAGE KARAM REBOUNDS FROM BIG SATURDAY CRASH TO WIN STAR MAZDA RACE 2 AT THE INDY GRAND PRIX OF BALTIMORE

Baltimore, Inner Harbor / Sept. 2, 2012 – Coping with an ever-evolving racing environment – a railroad track ski-jump on Friday that evolved into a chicane ski jump on Saturday and a tire-mountain / blind turn chicane on Sunday... all topped by a change from the series' usual standing start to a rolling start – it was



Sage Karam, rebounding from a big crash in Saturday's Race 1 who crossed the finish line first in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. This was his third victory of the season, his second on a street circuit and it moved him back up to second in the points championship.

Following Karam under the flag – albeit ten seconds back – was yesterday's winner and championship points leader Jack Hawksworth in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda. Even with a 2nd-place

finish, he now has a 61-point lead heading into the final three races of the season. The final podium spot was taken by Connor De Phillippi in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda; the podium, his second of the weekend, seems to mark an end to the streak of bad luck that followed him through the mid-part of the season.

"This was really a validation for me after yesterday's crash that we are consistent championship contenders," said an obviously pleased Karam. "The Andretti team did a tremendous job getting my car back together yesterday and they gave me the quickest car in the field for today's race. Jack has a really big lead in the championship right now, but I'm good at coming from the back and we won't give up fighting for the race win and the championship until it's all decided. I want to thank Michael Andretti, my family, sponsors and team for helping me get here."

With a maximum of 91 points remaining to be won, four drivers remain in contention for the championship; Hawksworth (342 points), Karam (281), De Phillippi (259) and Gabby Chaves (273) whose remarkable top-3 or top-5 consistency during the season suffered a blow today with a 9th place finish.



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Contact with another car early in the race affected the handling of his #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda and he did well to keep it in the top-10.

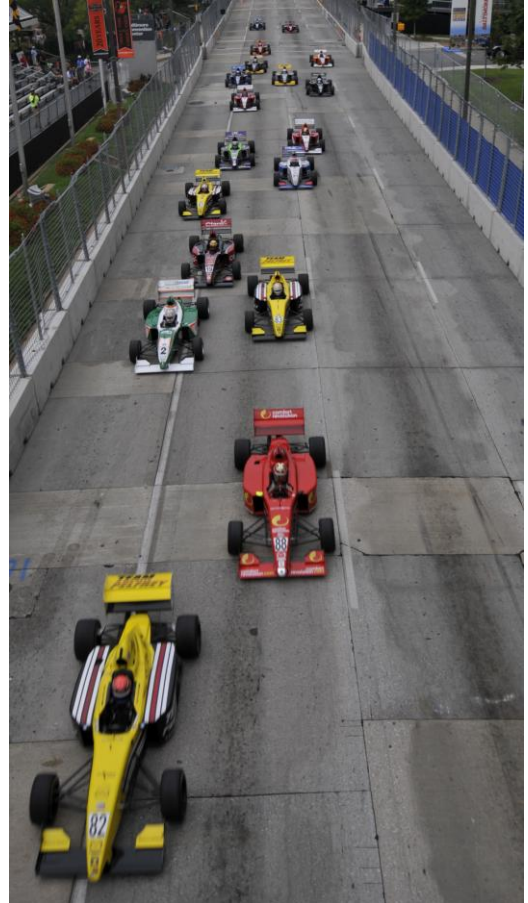
While the defining action in yesterday's Race 1 took place in the closing laps with Karam's crash into the wall exiting the controversial chicane, the shape of today's race was dictated on the first lap when Hawksworth grazed the wall with his left-front tire on the first lap and from there was in 'points preservation mode.'

"The hit happened early and from there on I was just trying to drive smart instead of as fast as possible to keep my championship points lead," said Hawksworth. "In many ways, today's result was one of the most important of the season, because if I had hit a bit harder, it would have changed the complexion of the championship considerably. As it is, we go into Mazda Raceway next weekend with a 61-point lead; now we just have to maintain focus and try and clinch the championship there."

Hawksworth's Team Pelfrey teammate, Finnish racer Petri Suvanto, also put in a tremendous drive, falling back through the field after contact when Chaves tried an overly-optimistic passing move; he survived and raced his way back up to a 4th-place finish in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda. Suvanto was the 2011 USF2000 champion and is racing is Star Mazda this year with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy. Ashley Freiberg, the lone female in the field scored yet another top-10 finish in her #91 JDC Motorsports / TrueCar Mazda.

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 Baltimore race will air on Velocity at 12 Noon, Saturday, September 29. For information on international and Canadian air times, click [here](#).

Round 9, the penultimate race meeting of the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season, takes places next weekend, October 8-9, during the Grand-Am weekend at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Northern California.



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Pos No.	Name	Sponsor	Hometown	Team	Laps
1	88 Sage Karam	Comfort Revolution	Nazareth, PA	Andretti	25
2	82 Jack Hawksworth	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey	25
3	2 Connor De Phillippi	ModSpace Racing / One24	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing	25
4	81 Petri Suvanto	Mazda Road to Indy	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey	25
5	57 Diego Ferreira	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	25
6	77 Zach Veach	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Stockdale, OH	Andretti	25
7	15 Bruno Palli	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	25
8	19 Gabby Chaves	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	25
9	9 Juan Piedrahita	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	25
10	91 Ashley Freiberg	TRUECar.com	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports	25
11	93 Stefan Rzedzinski	PoweredbyAlberta.com	Edmonton, Canada	JDC Motorsports	24
12	33 Ryan Tveter	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility Canada / Rogers TV	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT	24
13	23 Walt Bowlin	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Tarpon Springs, FL	Aim Autosport	22
14	21 Camilo Schmidt		Merida, Venezuela	Linares Racing	21
15	66 Zack Meyer	Partners III	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport	16
16	83 Gustavo Menezes	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey	16
17	22 Martin Scuncio	Pullman Bus	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing	13
18	53 Andres Mendez	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT	1
19	20 Carlos Linares	Mindeporte	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing	

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.





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