



GOODYEAR



## MOJO RISING -- CHAVES AGAIN QUICKEST IN FRIDAY STAR MAZDA TESTING AT MAZDA RACEWAY

Mazda Raceway / September 7, 2012 – So, despite the fact that appearing at very the top of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear time sheet is a new experience for Colombian racer Gabriel



'Gabby' Chaves, he's always near the top and his latest ascension to the summit is no fluke. He was the quickest yesterday during three sessions on the Promoter Test Day, and again topped the time sheets this morning with a 1:22.171 in his #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda.

Second on the chart was Sage Karam with a lap of 1:22.247 in his #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda,

followed by current championship points leader Jack Hawksworth with a time of 1:22.345 in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda. All three of the top drivers are in contention for the championship, as is Connor De Phillippi, who was 7th-quickest with a time of 1:22.735 in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda.

"We may not have been at the top of the time sheet before, or the top of the podium, but we have always been close, in the top five or top three, but I feel this is where we belong," says Chaves, a member of the 2012 FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy. "I've been working very hard with the team and my engineer, and learning a lot at the races, and this is my weekend to put it all together and finally get a pole and a win. Winning these last three races is my key to the championship, so that's what I'm going for."

The two drivers in the field who are making their debut in the Star Mazda Championship this weekend are Kyle Kaiser and Lloyd Read, both of whom race in the Formula Mazda West Coast Series and thus have considerable experience at this track in this kind of car. Kaiser, Rookie of the Year in the 2012 Skip Barber Western Region Championship, was 11th quick with a lap of 1:23.232 in his # 18 World Speed Motorsports / Intervision Mazda. Read, the 2011 West Coast Formula Car Challenge Champion, was 13th fast with a time of 1:23.471 in the #16 JDC Motorsports / Flextronics Mazda.

Star Mazda continues this afternoon with qualifying for the PEAK Performance Pole Award for Race 1 taking place from 1:55-2:25pm Friday afternoon. Race 1, scheduled for 30 minutes, will take the green light for the series' spectacular F1-style standing start 8:00 am Saturday, Sept. 8. Race 2, a 45 minute contest with the starting grid determined by each car's fastest lap on Race 1, takes the green at 3:30pm Sunday, Sept 9.



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### Friday Morning Practice

Pos	No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Hometown	Team	Laps
1	19	Gabby Chaves	1:22.171	7			Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	18
2	88	Sage Karam	1:22.247	6	0.076	0.076	Comfort Revolution	Nazareth, PA	Andretti	17
3	82	Jack Hawksworth	1:22.345	4	0.174	0.098	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey	13
4	22	Martin Scuncio	1:22.454	13	0.283	0.109	Pullman Bus	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing	17
5	81	Petri Suvanto	1:22.648	13	0.477	0.194	Mazda Road to Indy	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey	18
6	77	Zach Veach	1:22.713	5	0.542	0.065	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Stockdale, OH	Andretti	18
7	2	Connor De Phillippi	1:22.735	12	0.564	0.022	ModSpace Racing / One24	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing	16
8	83	Gustavo Menezes	1:22.888	11	0.717	0.153	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey	16
9	57	Diego Ferreira	1:23.004	11	0.833	0.116	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	15
10	15	Bruno Palli	1:23.136	17	0.965	0.132	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	17
11	18	Kyle Kaiser	1:23.232	16	1.061	0.096				18
12	9	Juan Piedrahita	1:23.260	5	1.089	0.028	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	17
13	16	Lloyd Read	1:23.471	10	1.300	0.211	PoweredbyAlberta.com	Edmonton, Canada	JDC Motorsports	21
14	21	Camilo Schmidt	1:23.859	14	1.688	0.388		Merida, Venezuela	Linares Racing	19
15	33	Ryan Tveter	1:24.318	16	2.147	0.459	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility Canada / Rogers TV	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT	18
16	66	Zack Meyer	1:24.461	8	2.290	0.143	Partners III	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport	17
17	53	Andres Mendez	1:24.780	15	2.609	0.319	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT	18
18	91	Ashley Freiberg	1:24.782	21	2.611	0.002	TRUECar.com	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports	21
19	20	Carlos Linares	1:24.937	17	2.766	0.155	Mindeporte	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing	17
20	23	Walt Bowlin	1:28.745	14	6.574	3.808	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Tarpon Springs, FL	Aim Autosport	19

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, October 10. For information on international and Canadian air times, click [here](#).





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MAZDASPEED  
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### Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is a part of the [Mazda Road to Indy](http://www.mazdausa.com), 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). Follow the series at <http://www.twitter.com/starmazdaseries> <http://www.facebook.com/starmazdaseries> and live timing at <http://starmazda.com/timing>



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