



GOODYEAR



WHEN IT MATTERS, HAWKSWORTH IS THE FASTEST MAN AT MAZDA RACEWAY AND SCORES HIS TENTH STAR MAZDA PEAK PERFORMANCE POLE OF THE SEASON

Mazda Raceway / September 7, 2012 – Despite having been topped on the time sheets in all the practice



sessions leading up to this afternoon's qualifying for Race 1 of the Star Mazda Championship at the Sports Car Festival Powered by Mazda, when it really mattered, it was championship leader Jack Hawksworth who dug deep and scored his record tenth PEAK Performance Pole Award of the 2012 season. His lap of 1:21.631 #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda was not only the quickest Star Mazda time, but the quickest lap turned by every class of car running here this weekend.

As impressive as that sounds, and it should, he still faces a battle of inches and thousandths of a second tomorrow as the next quickest qualifier, Sage Karam in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda, turned a lap of 1.21.637 – just 6/1000ths of a second slower. Hawksworth might take some comfort from his 61-point lead in the

championship, but he still needs to finish ahead of his three closest competitors to clinch the championship tomorrow... and none of them plan on making it easy.

"I'm very happy with the pole here at this beautiful track, but it's just another step we have to take," says Hawksworth, a top European karter with open-wheel experience in England but a rookie in the U.S. and Star Mazda. "There are a lot of things that could be going through my mind right now if I let them, but the Pelfrey team has worked incredibly hard to give me the tools to do this job, and I intend to see it through. The competition has been tough all season and gets tougher every time we're on track, so for me its head down and nose to the grindstone."

With Hawksworth and his closest competitor in the championship battle, Sage Karam, occupying the front row, both will have to worry about the occupants of rows two and three. Finnish racer Petri Suvanto, though not in contention for the championship, is a constant threat to break through to his first win in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda, and is well-positioned to do it from the inside of the second row. Suvanto was the 2011 USF2000 champion and is racing in the Star Mazda Championship with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy. Next to him on the grid is another of the four remaining contenders in the championship, Colombian driver Gabriel 'Gabby' Chaves, the man who was quickest in



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both days of testing leading up to this afternoon's qualifying. He will start fourth in the #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda.

And behind him, rounding out the top-5, is perhaps the greatest threat of all, the driver who won this race from the pole last year, Connor De Phillippi. After battling his way through a streak of bad luck during the middle of the season, he scored two podium finishes last weekend at the Baltimore Indy and has a steely determination to pilot his #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda across the finish line first and keep the championship battle going.

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, gave a spectacular account of himself, holding down the 6th grid spot until the closing minutes of the qualifying session. He will start 8th in his # 18 World Speed Motorsports / Intervision Mazda. Read, the 2011 West Coast Formula Car Challenge Champion, will grid on the 15th spot in his #16 JDC Motorsports / Flextronics Mazda.

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Team	Laps
1	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:21.631	16			TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	Pelfrey	19
2	88 Sage Karam	1:21.637	16	0.006	0.006	Comfort Revolution	Andretti	19
3	81 Petri Suvanto	1:21.898	16	0.267	0.261	Mazda Road to Indy	Pelfrey	19
4	19 Gabby Chaves	1:21.991	6	0.360	0.093	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	JDC Motorsports	17
5	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:22.345	16	0.714	0.354	ModSpace Racing / One24	Juncos Racing	17
6	57 Diego Ferreira	1:22.553	17	0.922	0.208	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	17
7	22 Martin Scuncio	1:22.571	9	0.940	0.018	Pullman Bus	Juncos Racing	10
8	18 Kyle Kaiser	1:22.580	7	0.949	0.009			16
9	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:22.644	15	1.013	0.064		Linares Racing	18
10	9 Juan Piedrahita	1:22.787	14	1.156	0.143	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	JDC Motorsports	18
11	83 Gustavo Menezes	1:22.799	9	1.168	0.012	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Pelfrey	17
12	77 Zach Veach	1:22.801	11	1.170	0.002	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Andretti	11
13	15 Bruno Palli	1:22.809	17	1.178	0.008	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	18
14	66 Zack Meyer	1:23.335	11	1.704	0.526	Partners III	Aim Autosport	17
15	16 Lloyd Read	1:23.571	15	1.940	0.236	PoweredbyAlberta.com	JDC Motorsports	18
16	91 Ashley Freiberg	1:23.641	14	2.010	0.070	TRUECar.com	JDC Motorsports	17
17	33 Ryan Tveter	1:24.014	10	2.383	0.373	CIMIERSwiss Watches / Motorola Mobility LLC	Team GDT	17
18	53 Andres Mendez	1:24.408	10	2.777	0.394	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Team GDT	13
19	20 Carlos Linares	1:24.482	6	2.851	0.074	Mindeporte	Linares Racing	17
20	23 Walt Bowlin	1:27.362	10	5.731	2.880	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Aim Autosport	17





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Star Mazda action continues tomorrow with the 30-minute Race 1 taking 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.

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](#).

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. 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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