



USUAL SUSPECTS, DIFFERENT ORDER – COLOMBIAN RACER GABBY CHAVES BECOMES THE SIXTH DIFFERENT WINNER OF THE 2012 STAR MAZDA SEASON WITH HIS FIRST VICTORY AT MAZDA RACEWAY

Mazda Raceway / September 9, 2012 – Colombian racer Gabriel 'Gabby' Chaves scored his first-ever victory in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear in today's Race 2 at Mazda Raceway.



Starting from the pole and leading every lap in the #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda, he took the checkered 15 seconds ahead of yesterday's winner and 2012 series champion Jack Hawksworth in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda. With his victory, Chaves became the sixth race winner of the season, including Hawksworth, Sage Karam, Connor De Phillippi, Martin Scuncio and Camilo Schmidt.

Finishing third and scoring his second podium of the weekend was Connor De Phillippi, driving the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda; he won this race from the pole last year. Walt Bowlin won the Expert Series race-within-a-race for drivers 30 and older, finishing 16th overall in his #23 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery Mazda.

"This win is a great victory for me personally, for the JDC Motorsports team and my sponsors, CLARO and Marca Colombia," said a jubilant Chaves, who also set the fastest race lap. "I had a very fast car yesterday even though I finished second to Jack, and today, as soon as the race started, I felt very much in control and was able to pull out a good gap and work on driving each lap as perfectly as possible. We have had a very consistent season, with nine podium finishes, but now that I know what a Star Mazda victory tastes like, I'll go to the final race at Petit Le Mans in a few weeks hungry for another one."

Of the other battles being fought this weekend, Hawksworth, a rookie in the series, clinched the Rookie of the Year title as well as the series championship, and his team, Team Pelfrey, clinched the team championship. And with six in-class victories, Walt Bowlin also won the Expert Series championship.

Suffering most from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune this weekend was Sage Karam and the Andretti Autosport team. A pair of off-course excursions in yesterday's Race 1 put an end to his hopes of snatching the championship away from Hawksworth, and today, after starting 4th and running with the leaders, had a suspension failure put an end to his day and dropped him to a 19th-place finish. Adding





insult to injury, his Andretti teammate, Zach Veach, went off in the closing laps, damaging his suspension and forcing him to retire just two laps from the end. He was credited with a 17th-place finish.

Notable drives include Camilo Schmidt, surprise race winner at Edmonton in the #21 Linares Racing Mazda who started 15th and raced his way up to 6th. His teammate, Carlos Linares, however, never made it to the start/finish line; a coming-together with two other cars during the starting scramble put his #20 Linares Racing / Mindeporte Mazda into the wall fifty yards shy of the starter's stand. And Lloyd Read, the 2011 West Coast Formula Car Challenge Champion who made his debut in the Star Mazda Championship this weekend, qualified an excellent 10th in the #16 JDC Motorsports / Flextronics Mazda and worked his way up to 7th by the finish. And Venezuelan racer Bruno Palli, who started 17th in the #15 Juncos Racing / Team Viso Venezuela Mazda ran a smart race to finish 10th.

Pos No.	Name	Sponsor	Hometown	Team	Laps
1	19 Gabby Chaves	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	31
2	82 Jack Hawksworth	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	West Yorkshire, England	Pelfrey	31
3	2 Connor De Phillippi	ModSpace Racing / One24	San Clemente, CA	Juncos Racing	31
4	57 Diego Ferreira	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	31
5	81 Petri Suvanto	Mazda Road to Indy	Nurmo, Finland	Pelfrey	31
6	21 Camilo Schmidt		Merida, Venezuela	Linares Racing	31
7	16 Lloyd Read	FLEXTRONICS		JDC Motorsports	31
8	83 Gustavo Menezes	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Coto de Caza, CA	Pelfrey	31
9	9 Juan Piedrahita	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	Bogota, Colombia	JDC Motorsports	31
10	15 Bruno Palli	Team Viso Venezuela	Maracay, Venezuela	Juncos Racing	31
11	22 Martin Scuncio	Pullman Bus	Concepcion, Chile	Juncos Racing	31
12	66 Zack Meyer	Partners III	Toronto, Canada	Aim Autosport	31
13	18 Kyle Kaiser	Intervision / Juniper / Net App / Riverbed		World Speed Motorsports	31
14	33 Ryan Tveter	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility LLC	Oyster Bay, NY	Team GDT	31
15	53 Andres Mendez	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Bogota, Colombia	Team GDT	30
16	23 Walt Bowlin	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Tarpon Springs, FL	Aim Autosport	30
17	77 Zach Veach	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Stockdale, OH	Andretti	26
18	91 Ashley Freiberg	TRUECar.com	Homer Glen, IL	JDC Motorsports	14
19	88 Sage Karam	Comfort Revolution	Nazareth, PA	Andretti	11
20	20 Carlos Linares	Mindeporte	Caracas, Venezuela	Linares Racing	

For full points and season race results, click [here](#).

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





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The next race on the 10-weekend, 17-race 2012 schedule for the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is the season finale, set to take place at Road Atlanta during the Petit Le Mans, Oct. 17-19.

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/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.

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GOODYEAR



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