



GOODYEAR



GABRIEL CHAVES QUICKEST IN THURSDAY STAR MAZDA TESTING AT MAZDA RACEWAY

Mazda Raceway / September 6, 2012 – Colombian racer Gabriel 'Gabby Chaves' – the Mister Consistency of the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear with seven podium finishes and twelve top-5s stepped into the limelight today, setting the quick time during three Star Mazda test sessions on this Promoter Test Day leading up to this weekend's Sports Car Festival Powered by Mazda.



His time of 1:22.149 in his #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda is well shy of the 1:19.935 lap record set in 2008 by English racer Richard Kent; however this weekend is not necessarily all about ultimate speed – though there is plenty of time left to find two seconds – it's about four drivers trying to parlay the points available into the championship by going as quick as safely possible without risking damage to their cars.

Aside from Chaves, who is third in the championship battle, remaining contenders include Jack Hawksworth, the current championship leader, Sage Karam, second in the championship and last year's Rookie of the Year, and Connor De Phillippi, who finished second in the championship last year.

Hawksworth set the second-fast time of the day, a 1:22.226 in the #82 Team Pelfrey / TORGOEN Swiss Watches / EXA Networks Mazda. Both drivers set their quick time in the second session. Next up was Kara, with a time of 1:22.247 in the #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda. Petri Suvanto, the Finnish racer who won the 2011 USF2000 championship and is racing in Star Mazda this season with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy, turned the 4th-fast lap, a 1:22.351 in his #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda. Rounding out the fast-5 was Chilean driver Martin Scuncio with a lap of 1:22.551 in the #22 Juncos Racing / Pullman Bus / Gobierno Regional del Bio-Biol Mazda.

The final member of the quartet of championship challengers, Connor De Phillippi, managed the 6th-fast time, a 1:22.590 in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda.

The major story this weekend is the battle between the top four drivers in the Star Mazda Championship. Englishman Jack Hawksworth, this season's dominant driver (and a rookie, to boot) with seven wins and nine poles, leads by a 61 point margin with a maximum of 93 points remaining.

Nazareth, PA native Sage Karam was last year's Star Mazda Rookie of the Year and is second in the championship this year, driving to three wins -- including last weekend at the Baltimore Indy. Colombian rookie Gabriel 'Gabby' Chaves is third in the championship with seven podium finishes and twelve top-5s



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while Californian Connor De Phillippi (259 points) has two wins, two poles and seven podium finishes in the #2 Juncos Racing / ModSpace Racing / One24 Mazda... he also won this race from the pole last year.

Hawksworth, 20, was a top European kart racer before switching to open-wheel cars in 2010. After competing in Formula Renault and being chosen as a British Racing Drivers Club 'Rising Star,' he decided to take a chance on racing in the U.S.... a gamble that seems to be paying off handsomely.

Karam, 17, was the USF2000 champion in 2010 and moved up to race in Star Mazda in 2011 with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy. He was Rookie of the Year in his first season, and is now a genuine championship contender.

Chaves, 18 (right), was the youngest driver ever to win the Skip Barber shootout in 2007; he won 17 races in a row during the 2007-2008 season... and the championship. In 2009 he won the Formula BMW Americas championship, and then raced in Europe in both F3 and GP3, and is member of the prestigious 2012 FIA Institute Young Driver Excellence Academy.

De Phillippi (left), 20, was the 2009 Skip Barber Pro Series champion and is the youngest driver and only the second American to win the prestigious Walter Hayes Memorial Trophy. He graduated to Star Mazda in 2010 with scholarship backing from the Mazda Road to Indy, finishing third in the championship and taking Rookie of the Year honors; he finished second in the championship last year. For full results of the season so far, click [here](#).

Session 1

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Team	Laps
1	88 Sage Karam	1:22.441	10			Comfort Revolution	Andretti	15
2	22 Martin Scuncio	1:22.973	9	0.532	0.532	Pullman Bus	Juncos Racing	10
3	19 Gabby Chaves	1:23.170	9	0.729	0.197	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	JDC Motorsports	14
4	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:23.438	14	0.997	0.268	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	Pelfrey	14
5	77 Zach Veach	1:23.455	9	1.014	0.017	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Andretti	15
6	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:23.866	6	1.425	0.411	ModSpace Racing / One24	Juncos Racing	8
7	81 Petri Suvanto	1:24.014	14	1.573	0.148	Mazda Road to Indy	Pelfrey	14
8	15 Bruno Palli	1:24.059	10	1.618	0.045	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	13
9	18 Kyle Kaiser	1:24.117	10	1.676	0.058			13
10	66 Zack Meyer	1:24.607	12	2.166	0.490	Partners III	Aim Autosport	14
11	57 Diego Ferreira	1:24.761	11	2.320	0.154	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	11
12	16 Lloyd Read	1:24.937	13	2.496	0.176	PoweredbyAlberta.com	JDC Motorsports	14
13	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:25.229	8	2.788	0.292		Linares Racing	12
14	9 Juan Piedrahita	1:25.624	9	3.183	0.395	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	JDC Motorsports	14
15	83 Gustavo	1:26.315	2	3.874	0.691	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Pelfrey	2





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16	33	Ryan Tveter	1:27.375	11	4.934	1.060	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility Canada / Rogers TV	Team GDT	14
17	53	Andres Mendez	1:28.038	13	5.597	0.663	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Team GDT	14
18	23	Walt Bowlin	1:34.479	8	12.038	6.441	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Aim Autosport	8
19	91	Ashley Freiberg	1:49.318	1	26.877	14.839	TRUECar.com	JDC Motorsports	2

Session 2

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Team	Laps
1	19 Gabby Chaves	1:22.149	8			Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	JDC Motorsports	14
2	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:22.226	16	0.077	0.077	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	Pelfrey	16
3	88 Sage Karam	1:22.343	13	0.194	0.117	Comfort Revolution	Andretti	16
4	81 Petri Suvanto	1:22.758	13	0.609	0.415	Mazda Road to Indy	Pelfrey	13
5	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:22.856	5	0.707	0.098	ModSpace Racing / One24	Juncos Racing	13
6	22 Martin Scuncio	1:22.969	7	0.820	0.113	Pullman Bus	Juncos Racing	14
7	77 Zach Veach	1:23.117	4	0.968	0.148	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Andretti	12
8	15 Bruno Palli	1:23.153	10	1.004	0.036	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	16
9	57 Diego Ferreira	1:23.402	6	1.253	0.249	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	17
10	9 Juan Piedrahita	1:23.489	4	1.340	0.087	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	JDC Motorsports	12
11	18 Kyle Kaiser	1:23.680	4	1.531	0.191			13
12	16 Lloyd Read	1:23.856	5	1.707	0.176	PoweredbyAlberta.com	JDC Motorsports	15
13	66 Zack Meyer	1:24.179	5	2.030	0.323	Partners III	Aim Autosport	16
14	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:24.191	7	2.042	0.012		Linares Racing	17
15	33 Ryan Tveter	1:24.542	7	2.393	0.351	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility Canada / Rogers TV	Team GDT	17
16	53 Andres Mendez	1:26.356	7	4.207	1.814	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Team GDT	13
17	23 Walt Bowlin	1:28.712	15	6.563	2.356	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Aim Autosport	15
18	83 Gustavo Menezes		0			Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Pelfrey	
19	91 Ashley Freiberg		0			TRUECar.com	JDC Motorsports	





Session 3

Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor	Team	Laps
1	88 Sage Karam	1:22.247	4			Comfort Revolution	Andretti	13
2	19 Gabby Chaves	1:22.309	12	0.062	0.062	Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro	JDC Motorsports	13
3	81 Petri Suvanto	1:22.351	8	0.104	0.042	Mazda Road to Indy	Pelfrey	17
4	22 Martin Scuncio	1:22.551	13	0.304	0.200	Pullman Bus	Juncos Racing	16
5	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:22.590	11	0.343	0.039	ModSpace Racing / One24	Juncos Racing	16
6	82 Jack Hawksworth	1:22.734	10	0.487	0.144	TORGOEN Swiss Watches/ EXA Networks	Pelfrey	15
7	77 Zach Veach	1:22.948	13	0.701	0.214	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup	Andretti	17
8	57 Diego Ferreira	1:22.980	9	0.733	0.032	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	14
9	15 Bruno Palli	1:23.002	15	0.755	0.022	Team Viso Venezuela	Juncos Racing	16
10	18 Kyle Kaiser	1:23.377	10	1.130	0.375			17
11	83 Gustavo Menezes	1:23.552	13	1.305	0.175	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley	Pelfrey	16
12	66 Zack Meyer	1:23.798	13	1.551	0.246	Partners III	Aim Autosport	19
13	16 Lloyd Read	1:23.849	14	1.602	0.051	PoweredbyAlberta.com	JDC Motorsports	19
14	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:24.945	7	2.698	1.096		Linares Racing	12
15	33 Ryan Tveter	1:25.657	10	3.410	0.712	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility Canada / Rogers TV	Team GDT	13
16	53 Andres Mendez	1:26.285	8	4.038	0.628	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co	Team GDT	19
17	23 Walt Bowlin	1:28.200	11	5.953	1.915	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery	Aim Autosport	12
18	9 Juan Piedrahita		0			Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link	JDC Motorsports	
19	91 Ashley Freiberg		0			TRUECar.com	JDC Motorsports	

Star Mazda Championship

Star Mazda continues tomorrow; official practice begins with a half-hour session from 8:35-9:05 am, Friday, Sept. 7. Qualifying for the PEAK Performance Pole Award for Race 1 takes 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.

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](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.

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>

