



GOODYEAR



MAZDASPEED  
MOTORSPORTS DEVELOPMENT



## CHAVES QUICK IN STAR MAZDA WEDNESDAY PRACTICE SESSION 1 AT PETIT LE MANS

Road Atlanta / October 17, 2012 – After turning the 2nd-fast times in both sessions at yesterday's Promoter Test Day, Colombian racer Gabby Chaves topped the time sheet in Wednesday morning's first



official practice session for the season finale of the 2012 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear during the Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta. His lap of 1:18.830 in the #19 JDC Motorsports / CLARO / Marca Colombia / Tecpro Mazda is just half a second off the Star Mazda track record of 1:18.328 set by Peter Dempsey in 2008. Chaves was also the only driver in the 18s – second-

quick Sage Karam turned a lap of 1:19.233 in his #88 Andretti Autosport / Comfort Revolution Mazda.

Finnish racer Petri Suvanto, 5th-quick yesterday, moved up to third with a lap of 1:19.378 in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Mazda Road to Indy Mazda. Suvanto, the 2011 USF2000 champion, is racing this year in Star Mazda with scholarship funding from the Mazda Road to Indy, the official driver development of IndyCar.

The two new drivers in the field making their Star Mazda debut here this weekend, Colorado racer Scott Anderson in the #16 JDC Motorsports / Laser Nail Centers / Neuropathy Testing Centers Mazda and Cali, Colombia driver Juan Camilo Acosta in the #97 Team GDT / STF Group / Studio F Mazda both showed marked improvement. Scott moved up from 9th and a lap of 1:20.658 yesterday to 7th and a lap of 1:20.073 this morning. And Acosta, who brought up the tail end of both sessions yesterday with a best lap of 1:22.987, found 1.5 seconds in this morning's session and moved up to 15th with a lap of 1:21.254.

Star Mazda on-track action at the Petit Le Mans weekend on Road Atlanta's 2.54-mile (4.088 km), 12-turn road course continues with an afternoon session at 4:15 pm. Qualifying for the PEAK Performance Pole Award takes place at 12:15 pm, Thursday, Oct. 18, with all the drivers aiming to the Star Mazda track record of 1:18.328 set by Peter Dempsey in 2008. The 2012 season finale of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is scheduled for 50 minutes and will take the green light for the series' spectacular F1-style standing start at 3:45 Friday, Oct. 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, November 24. For information on international and Canadian air times, click [here](#).



GOODYEAR



PERFORMANCE  
FRICTION  
BRAKES



BBS



REPLAY XD





Pos No.	Name	Best Tm	Best Speed	In Lap	Diff	Gap	Sponsor
1	19 Gabby Chaves	1:18.830	115.996	17			Claro/ Marca Colombia / Tecpro
2	88 Sage Karam	1:19.233	115.406	12	0.403	0.403	Comfort Revolution
3	81 Petri Suvanto	1:19.378	115.196	16	0.548	0.145	Mazda Road to Indy
4	15 Bruno Palli	1:19.408	115.152	13	0.578	0.030	Team Viso Venezuela
5	2 Connor De Phillippi	1:19.457	115.081	9	0.627	0.049	ModSpace Racing / One24
6	77 Zach Veach	1:19.697	114.735	9	0.867	0.240	K12.com / Zakosi Data Backup
7	16 Scott Anderson	1:20.073	114.196	17	1.243	0.376	Laser Nail Centers / Neuropathy Testing Centers
8	9 Juan Piedrahita	1:20.093	114.167	12	1.263	0.020	Petrosur / Colombia es pasion / GFK Motors / Lamd Link
9	57 Diego Ferreira	1:20.097	114.162	17	1.267	0.004	Team Viso Venezuela
10	83 Gustavo Menezes	1:20.244	113.952	15	1.414	0.147	Team Pelfrey / Safety Park / Oakley
11	82 Ryan Tveter	1:20.762	113.222	18	1.932	0.518	CIMIER Swiss Watches / Motorola Mobility LLC
12	53 Andres Mendez	1:20.803	113.164	19	1.973	0.041	GrupoKriterion.com / DataFile.com.co
13	91 Ashley Freiberg	1:20.826	113.132	11	1.996	0.023	TRUECar.com
14	66 Zack Meyer	1:21.080	112.778	5	2.250	0.254	Partners III
15	97 Juan Camillo Acosta	1:21.254	112.536	17	2.424	0.174	STF Group / Studio F
16	21 Camilo Schmidt	1:21.272	112.511	14	2.442	0.018	
17	23 Walt Bowlin	1:24.289	108.484	8	5.459	3.017	Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery

### 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](http://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](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>

