

MAZDA MOTORSPORTS: A SUCCESSFUL PIRELLI WORLD CHALLENGE SEASON OPENER

THREE CLASS WINS AND EIGHT PODIUM FINISHES FOR MAZDA TOURING CAR COMPETITORS

AUSTIN, Texas (March 6, 2016) – After the season opening double-header for the 2016 Pirelli World Challenge (PWC) at the Circuit of the Americas (COTA) in Austin, Texas, the Mazda tally sheet showed three class wins, eight podium finishes, and three pole positions.

John Doonan, director of motorsports, Mazda North American Operations said, “Congratulations to Elivan Goulart, Ted Hough, and Will Rodgers for great wins at COTA. Thanks to a great effort by all of our customer teams in the Pirelli World Challenge, the season is off to a great start. I’m sure the battle will be fierce all season long until the finale at Mazda Raceway in October”

The top Mazda results were as follows:

Touring Car A (TCA)

Elivan Goulart from Shelton, Conn, drove his S.A.C. Racing SCDA1.com Mazda MX-5 to the win in the first race and backed it up with a second place in the second race.

Eric Powell from Orlando, Fla, drove his Tech Sport Racing Mazda MX-5 to a third place in the first race and set the fastest race lap to earn the pole position for race number two.

Joey Bickers from Moorpark, Calif, drove his Atlanta Motorsports Group Mazda MX-5 to third place in the second race.

Touring Car B (TCB)

Ted Hough from Farmington, Minn, scored the first race win in his Breathless Racing Mazda2

Will Rodgers from Murrieta, Calif, drove his Hale Motorsports Solvang Brewing Co. / Kelly Benefit Strategies / Family 1 Mazda2 to the win in the second race. Will actually crossed the line first in the first race, but was disqualified for a minor technical infraction.

Henry Morse from Redondo Beach, Calif, scored a pair of third-place finishes in his Hale Motorsports MorseGPS powered by CalAmp / Rolling Hills Prep School Mazda2.

This was the first ever professional race weekend for both Rodgers and Morse. Rodgers graduated from the Spec Miata Teen Mazda Challenge, while 15-year-old Morse is coming directly from karting.

Several of the Mazda race cars at COTA carried artwork for the Austin Humane Society (AHS). The AHS sold over \$5,000 worth of raffle tickets at the race. First prize in the raffle, thanks to Roger Beasley Mazda, is a 2016 Mazda MX-5. <http://www.austinhumanesociety.org/>

The remaining 2016 Pirelli World Challenge (TC/TCA/TCB) Race Schedule:

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| May 19-22 | Canadian Tire Motorsport Park | Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada |
| June 23-26 | Road America | Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin |
| July 29-30 | Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course | Lexington, Ohio |
| Aug 12-14 | Utah Motorsports Campus | Tooele, Utah |
| Oct 7-9 | Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca | Monterey, California |

Each event is a double-header, with two races per weekend, for a 12-race season.

About Mazda, Mazda Motorsports and *MAZDASPEED*

Mazda Motorsports and MAZDASPEED boasts the most comprehensive racing development ladder system of any auto manufacturer in the world. The Mazda Road to 24 program offers a number of scholarships to advance drivers up the sports car racing ladder which culminates in the Mazda Prototype team that races in the top level of IMSA sports car racing in North America. The Mazda Road to Indy is a similar system in open-wheel racing, which includes USF2000, Pro Mazda and Indy Lights racing categories with Mazda power. The new Global MX-5 Cup car makes its debut in 2016, with affordable, turnkey race cars. In the grassroots categories, more Mazdas road race on any given weekend in North America than any other manufacturer. Since 2000, Mazda has been the title sponsor of Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, the only racetrack operated as a non-profit in support of local charities and civic organizations.

Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, Calif., and oversees the sales, marketing, parts and customer service support of Mazda vehicles in the United States and Mexico through nearly 700 dealers. Operations in Mexico are managed by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City. For more information on Mazda vehicles, including photography and B-roll, please visit the online Mazda media center at www.mazdausamedia.com Motorsports information can be found at www.mazdamotorsports.com

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