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Nick Mancuso Racing LLC



Nick Mancuso Impresses in First Star Mazda outing with Team JDC Motorsports



On Tuesday, January 13th Nick Mancuso had his first opportunity to break into the world of open-wheel racing. Squeezing a test session in between classes at the University of California Santa Barbara, Mancuso would travel up to Sonoma, CA for his first laps at the renowned Infineon Raceway in a Star Mazda racecar prepared by JDC Motorsports. The Star Mazda series is an open-wheel series supported by the unique Mazda Motorsports Ladder. This ladder helps young drivers progress through the ranks of professional road racing providing the Star Mazda Champion \$750,000 for the next years racing effort.

Running over 300 miles in the one day test, Mancuso acquitted himself well. “He didn’t make any rookie mistakes and ended up running very competitive lap times at the end of the day” commented JDC team founder John Church. “Nick is a very smart and calculated driver, he knew specifically where he was losing time even before we looked at the data.” On his first visit to the circuit and his first time in the car, Mancuso would end the day fastest of the six Star Mazda cars present at the test.

“Truly, I was just looking to get a feel for these amazing cars while I decide what to do for the 2009 season,” Nick explained. “I must say that Infineon was quite a great track and the Star Mazda car is second to none. I was surprised by how quickly I adapted to the car and how quickly my lap times came down to a competitive level. Infineon Raceway is a track where you do not want to take too many unnecessary chances. I have to thank Lake Forest Sportscars, John,

Rick and the whole JDC Motorsports team as well as Patrick O’Neil for letting me drive their car.”

After only one day in the car, team principle John Church thought Nick was “already conservatively a solid top-10 driver, Nick has the potential to run up front in the series.” Mancuso simply described the day as “much better than being in class,” but it was definitely a very productive test. “The current economic climate is not the most conducive to securing motorsports partners for the 2009 season, but that won’t stop me from trying! If I can manage to put a few deals together you will see me in a Star Mazda car in 2009.”

While these cars may be very different from the sedans Nick was racing last year, John Church summed it up best when he said “I think he proved that he could handle the car.”

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear was formed in 1991 and its success is evident by the 30 to 40 car fields at many events. With over \$1,000,000 of prize money and the chance to perform in front of some of the biggest international racing venues, it is no wonder why the series attracts talented young drivers year after year. Graduates of the series have gone on to race in Grand-Am, ALMS, NASCAR and IndyCar, to name a few. The series champion is awarded \$750,000 to race in the Atlantic Championship- a premier open-wheel category. All 13 race events are aired on television providing great exposure for both the drivers and their respective sponsors.

Founded in 2007, Nick Mancuso Racing LLC was set up by aspiring racecar driver Nick Mancuso. After nearly winning the SCCA National title in a Sports2000 in his 8th race ever, Nick was selected as the SCCA National Rookie of the Year. He would then go on to land a factory seat in the Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup after beating out nearly 800 other competitors. He finished off 2008 in fine form winning North America’s longest endurance race: the 25 Hours of Thunderhill. Currently a student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Mancuso has set his sights on a career in professional motorsports. If you would like to know more about Nick please visit www.NickMancusoRacing.com.

If you would like to know how you can get involved in a racing program such as this please visit: <http://lfsc.com/star-mazda.htm>.

