

Jonathan Klein Scores a Sixth-Place Finish at Mid-Ohio

Posts Second Fastest Lap of the Race

Long Grove, IL (May 23, 2005) – Jonathan Klein entered Round 3 of the Star Mazda Championship at the Mid-Ohio Race Course in 8th place and emerged two spots ahead in the standings with a steadfast drive around the 2.25 mile track. The engine problems that have plagued the Andersen Walko Racing team this year seem to have been resolved as Klein held the second- and fourth-place spots in Thursday's first two sessions, with the team opting to sit out the afternoon session in the wet. It was still raining for Friday's first practice, but the entire team went out for the afternoon session on a cold, green track. Jonathan's time placed him in 13th out of 46 drivers, on well-worn tires.

As soon as Qualifying started, Klein had to come back into the pits to have his malfunctioning no-lift shift disconnected. He produced a 9th-place time in the #26 car and while trying to get in one more hot lap, put a tire off and ended up in the gravel, causing a red flag at the end of that session. The red flag also caused Jonathan to be penalized four positions, so the race had him starting in the 13th spot.

When the green flag dropped at the start of the race, Jonathan started working his way up, executing a number of solid passes to finish the race in 6th place and logging the second fastest lap with only the race winner posting a faster time. A strong performance at Mid-Ohio has helped him secure the sixth spot in the championship, and a starting position of sixth at the next race in Montreal, when Star Mazda serves as a support race for the Formula 1 event this year. Andersen Walko is showing that hard work pays off as the team, with five cars entered at Mid-Ohio, all finished the race in the top 12 including two on the podium, teammates Pablo Donoso in 2nd and Robbie Pecorari in 3rd.

Jonathan Klein: *"It was great to score a solid finish. Had I not been penalized in Qualifying, I am confident I could have been joining my teammates on the podium. Rossella could only be there for the Thursday Test Day, but she gave us a great car that needed little tuning. However, John Walko kicked it up a notch, as I had the second fastest lap of the race. The car ran great throughout the weekend thanks to Scott's meticulous preparation as well. I look forward to spraying champagne at Montreal!"*