



## Jonathan Klein Charges Ahead 24 Positions At Road Atlanta Engine Problems Plague Klein All Weekend

Long Grove (April 17, 2005) – A rough start to the second race weekend in the 2005 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear gave way to some outstanding driving by Jonathan Klein in a very well-prepared race car for the main event. Thursday's test day and Friday's practice sessions using Klein's #26 car and an additional engine could not give him the times he needed to compete well in the 40 car field at Road Atlanta, with his positions ranging from 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Team owners Dan Andersen and John Walko, engineer Rossella Manfrinato and Jonathan decided to put aside Klein's car and rent another from Racer's Edge to work toward the best result possible.

"Although my times were terrible on Thursday and Friday," said Klein, "I have to say that Rossella and Scott gave me the best handling Star Mazda I have ever driven since I started last May. I was fastest in the corners of the four Andersen Walko drivers, but I was getting killed on the straights. The engines were a problem, and even with changing everything we could, the results showed we had to do something else. We hoped a change in car was the answer."

That answer had to wait a little longer. Mechanic Scott Gates and Rossella worked into the early morning hours on Friday to prepare the rented car. When the green flag dropped for qualifying, Klein instantly knew something wasn't right. The car would not go above 7,000 RPM and the qualifying result had him in the 37<sup>th</sup> spot. The team went back to work with only a few hours to go before race time.

A small vacuum hose, connecting the solenoids to the intake runners which open up for top-end horsepower, was never connected by the car owner's mechanics, and could not be seen until the AWR crew closely investigated the system beyond the normal car prep. The team knew Jonathan had his work cut out for him. The race started with Jonathan in the 37<sup>th</sup> position, and by Lap 2 he had passed 15 cars. He had faster lap times than some of the drivers ahead of him, took care of his tires, and carefully continued to pick off cars one by one, finishing the race in 13<sup>th</sup> place, passing a total of 24 cars.

"The practice and qualifying results are not representative of my or my crew's ability," said Jonathan. "We have been battling horsepower problems for a while now, but Rossella and Scott gave me an excellent racecar – I can't say enough about them. As a team, we didn't have a great weekend, but Graham, Robbie, Pablo and I will regroup and be ready at Mid Ohio in one month."

"I also want to thank one of my sponsors, Nexus Distribution Corp., based in the Chicago area and with a facility in Lawrenceville, GA, close to Road Atlanta. Nexus treated their employees and customers to a day at the races, complete with a cookout. It was great to know I had a bunch of fans cheering for me, and I tried to give them a good show at Turns 10A and 10B where they were watching."

Jonathan currently stands 8<sup>th</sup> in the championship, with 10 races to go. The broadcast of the Road Atlanta race will be televised on Speed Channel on May 29, at 2 pm. The first race in the series, from Sebring, will be televised on April 24 at 11 am, also on Speed.

Please visit Andersen Walko Racing at [www.andersenwalko.com](http://www.andersenwalko.com), the Star Mazda Championship website at [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com), and [www.jonathankleinracing.com](http://www.jonathankleinracing.com).

