



## Klein Starts Season Off with a Top 10 Finish

Long Grove (March 20, 2005) – The 2005 Star Mazda race season kicked off this week at the Mobil 12 Hours of Sebring in Sebring, Florida, culminating in a top ten finish for Jonathan Klein. Klein had an up and down week on the time sheets. Tuesday started off well, resulting in 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in three testing sessions. Wednesday was not as successful, as Jonathan in his #26 Star Mazda struggled with power and handling issues, finishing the day with times just out of the top ten. Thursday had a morning practice and afternoon qualifying scheduled, and Klein and his crew decided to switch to the backup car. Heavy rainfall soaked the track, but a determined Klein went out and turned the third quickest lap time of the 42-car field. With qualifying cancelled due to the torrential downpour, the starting grid was based on Wednesday's practice times, which placed Jonathan 12<sup>th</sup> on the grid for the race.

Jonathan had an excellent start as the field took the green flag at the 3.7-mile Sebring International Raceway. Within a few laps, Jonathan made his way up to 6<sup>th</sup>-place. As the race progressed, his no-lift shift gear selector stopped working which slowed gear changes down, and the motor continually sputtered in the higher gears on the straight-aways. John Walko set up the car well and mechanic Scott Gates worked incredibly hard all week to prepare the car, but a 9<sup>th</sup>-place finish was the end result. A top ten finish in what will be a long, intensely competitive Star Mazda season is not a bad way to start.

**Jonathan Klein:** "I'm happy to finish 9<sup>th</sup> in the first race because it's a top ten and solid points in the championship standings. Everyone at AWR is looking to finish on the podium with as many wins as possible, but finishing is most important in the big picture and top tens are acceptable. Congratulations to my teammate Graham Rahal on his third-place finish in his first Star Mazda Pro race. My other teammate Robbie Peccorari finished sixth and Pablo Donoso was doing great in his first Star Mazda race until he was hit and damaged his suspension. Andersen Walko Racing is going to be a great team this year. I love Road Atlanta and Andersen Walko always runs up front there, so look for our team to be swarming the podium there in one month."

Jonathan did an interview at Sebring for Speed Freaks TV, shown on the Speed Channel. The broadcast containing his interview is scheduled to be shown on Saturday, April 2. The Star Mazda race from Sebring is scheduled to be shown on Speed Channel, Sunday, April 24 at 11am EST.

