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Milwaukee is a Learning Experience For Andersen Racing's Star Mazda Drivers on Saturday

WEST ALLIS, Wis., June 20 — Mikael Grenier and Denis Navarro finished 12th and 13th, respectively, for Andersen Racing at the Milwaukee Mile Saturday in round six of the Star Mazda championship presented by Goodyear.

Unfortunately two other drivers for the Palmetto, Fla.-based team, Richard Kent and Conor Daly, were involved in an accident on the first lap and failed to finish the race. It was a huge disappointment for all involved, especially since Kent started on the pole here and Daly started third, and they each posted convincing victories at the doubleheader in New Jersey just last weekend.

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Luckily neither Kent nor Daly were hurt in the Turn 1 accident, and the damage to their cars was not extensive. Kent, of Clifton Reynes, England, drives the No. 33 sponsored by Traka and Allied Interior Products. Daly, a MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver from Noblesville, Ind., drives the No. 22 sponsored by Indeck, Cytomax, College Network and Merchant Services.

All four Andersen Racing drivers were making their first oval-track start.

Grenier started 16th in the 22-car field, but the rookie from Stoneham, Quebec was able to improve four positions with his No. 17 sponsored by NAPA Auto Parts, CAA-Quebec, HS Telecom, Desharnais Pneus et Mécanique, 66graphx and VSM Racing.

Navarro, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, started 14th and finished 13th with his No. 21 sponsored by Navarro Medicines Distribution and Allied Interior Products.

Anders Krohn, who won last year's Formula 2000 championship driving for Andersen Racing, won the 100-lap race over Adam Christodoulou, Alex Ardoin, Peter Dempsey and Jorge Goncalvez.

Rain on Friday played havoc to the event schedule. Star Mazda qualifying was scrubbed and the starting grid was based on each driver's fastest practice lap on Friday. That was great news for Kent, who got the pole with a time of 27.971 seconds (128.705 miles per hour), and for Daly, who started third with a lap that was only 0.022 of a second longer than Kent's.

Christodoulou regained the points lead following Milwaukee. He leads Dempsey by four points, 211 to 207. Joel Miller is third with 194.

Daly is now tied for sixth with Krohn. Kent is ninth, Grenier is tenth and Navarro is 13th.

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Andersen Racing remains second in the team point standings.

The next Star Mazda race is on another oval — Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa — on July 10. That is the same track where the RLR/Andersen Racing Firestone Indy Lights drivers are competing today. For more information on the Star Mazda series, see its Web site at starmazda.com.

Allied Building Products Corp. and Lafarge North America sponsor Andersen Racing, the development team of Rahal Letterman Racing. The team's Web site is located at andersenracingteam.com. Information on the team's 1-mile road course test track at its headquarters can be found online at andersenracepark.com. The series' Web site is at starmazda.com.

Post-race quotes follow:

Mikael Grenier: “My car was OK; it could have been better and it could have been worse. It was very good considering that we didn't have much practice here due to the rain and my crash in practice. That happened in the last corner. I hit the wall and missed most of the second practice session.

“It was really hard to pass during the race. Everyone was quick. It was just a bad weekend for us. We'll try again in Iowa.”

Denis Navarro: “I had some handling issues, but I played with the bars and learned how to adapt. It was my first oval race ever, and I was able to finish all 100 laps. I finished right behind one of my teammates, too. I learned a lot, all of which will help when we go to Iowa.”

Richard Kent: “I got together with Conor in Turn 1 on the first lap. The car isn't too bad. It wasn't a big crash, really; it's just very disappointing.

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“We had a good car. We started on the pole since we had the fastest time in practice. Unfortunately it just wasn’t our day today. We’ll try again in Iowa.”

Conor Daly: “I don’t really know what happened. It was an unfortunate turn of events.

“Before that, I really enjoyed it. We were running strong and were in position to have a good run. It just didn’t work out that way.

“My car isn’t too bad. There’s some right-front suspension damage and damage to the front wing. We’ll try again in Iowa.”

The weekend stats follow:

Practice 1 (Friday, 2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.):

1. Rusty Mitchell, 28.055, 128.319 mph
6. Conor Daly, 28.292, 127.244 mph
8. Richard Kent, 28.343, 127.015 mph
13. Mikael Grenier, 28.684, 125.506 mph
19. Denis Navarro, 28.950, 124.352 mph

Practice 2 (Friday, 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.):

1. Richard Kent, 27.971, 128.705 mph
4. Conor Daly, 27.993, 128.604 mph
12. Denis Navarro, 28.329, 127.078 mph
15. Mikael Grenier, 28.481, 126.400 mph

Qualifying was scrubbed due to rain on Friday affecting the event schedule. The starting line-up was based on each driver’s fastest time posted in the two practice sessions on Friday.

1. Richard Kent, 27.971, 128.705 mph
3. Conor Daly, 27.993, 128.604 mph
14. Denis Navarro, 28.329, 127.078 mph
16. Mikael Grenier, 28.481, 126.400 mph

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Race (Saturday, 3: 15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., 100 laps):

1. Anders Krohn
12. Mikael Grenier
13. Denis Navarro
21. Richard Kent
22. Conor Daly

About Allied Building Products Corp.:

Allied Building Products Corp., headquartered in East Rutherford, N.J., is one of the largest roofing and siding distributors in the United States. Founded in 1950 with five employees and two trucks, today it is a \$1.8 billion building material distribution company with over 3,500 employees, more than 200 branches in 30 states, well over one million square feet of office and warehouse space, and an inventory of approximately 85,000 products, from residential roofing and siding to doors, windows, waterproofing, manufactured stone, interior products and commercial roofing systems. For more information see alliedbuilding.com.

About Andersen Racing:

Andersen Racing strives to provide the best and most comprehensive training possible for future open-wheel superstars while giving its marketing partners media exposure and hospitality opportunities at some of the most prestigious events in North America. It provides a unique, four-step program utilizing multiple entries in four different platforms: karting, Formula BMW Americas, Star Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights (televised on VERSUS). In 2008 it fielded multiple entries in 42 races in 18 states and provinces at some of the best facilities on the continent, including the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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Andersen Racing won the team championship for 2008 for both the F2000 Championship Series presented by Hoosier Racing Tire and the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. Two of its drivers finished first and second in the F2000 driver point standings, while another was sixth. Three of its Star Mazda drivers placed third, fifth and sixth in that series' driver standings. RLR/Andersen Racing finished sixth in the 2008 Firestone Indy Lights team standings, while one of its drivers placed fifth in that series' driver point standings.

Andersen Racing's principals, brothers Dan and John Andersen, have extensive experience in series administration as well as team management. They've worked with many of today's top open-wheel stars, including several Indy 500 winners.

Andersen Racing is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp. and Lafarge North America. It is the official development team of Rahal Letterman Racing. The team is headquartered at Andersen RacePark, an 18-acre facility in Palmetto, Fla. that includes a 1-mile road course test track. For more information see andersenracingteam.com and andersenracepark.com.