

FORMULA CAR CHALLENGE

presented by: **GOODYEAR**

WEST COAST REGION: The Thunderous Roar of Twenty Formula Cars Was Heard at Thunderhill Raceway Park This Past Weekend

April 18th, 2011
Willows, CA

This weekend was the third and fourth races of the West Coast Region Formula Car Challenge presented by Goodyear. Many of the competitors came out a little early and took advantage of testing opportunities on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and were chomping at the bit to race come Saturday. 20 cars were on the grid Saturday morning, and track conditions were perfect.

2010 SFR Formula Atlantic Champion, and current FCC Winter Champion Frank Cusack took Pro FM pole position with a 1:40.224. This year's 12 Hour of Sebring Champion Mike Guasch would start off pole with a best time of 1:40.922. In the FM class Bill Weaver took the top spot with a 1:48.172, and newcomer Kevin Rogers was off pole with a 1:49.442.



The race start was tight, and in turn one the rows were 3 and 4 wide. "That was a hectic, but great start," noted Series Official Ben Hettema. "Throughout the weekend there were close battles for every position on the track, and that kept the spectators glued to the fence." At the front end of the field Guasch and Cusack battled hard and were only feet away from each other throughout a good portion of the race. In the end Guasch took the top spot in Pro FM, followed by Cusack, and Stan Kohls. Bill Weaver won the FM race, Kevin Rogers finished second, and 2010 FCC National FM Champion Cameron Parsons rounded out the podium.

On Sunday Guasch took the Pro FM pole position with a 1:40.174. Cusack would start off pole with a best time of 1:41.832. In the FM class Mike Anderson set a qualifying time of 1:46.952, which was very close to the Formula Mazda track record (Ian Lacy 1:46.525 in 1998.) Weaver would start off pole with a 1:48.257.

At the start of the race the drivers were gridded closely and anticipating the green flag, but a couple of cars got together prior to the start. After a quick cleanup the field came by and took the green. Cusack got a great start and put some space between himself and the hard charging Guasch. Dirt on the track in turn two caused a few cars to spin, and two cars were damaged in the incident. A full course yellow allowed Guasch to get right back in position close to Cusack. When the track went back to green Guasch got a great run off of the last corner and was able to pass Cusack into turn one. At the checked flag the top three in Pro FM were Guasch, Cusack, and Andy Brown. The Formula Mazda top three were Mike Anderson, Bill Weaver, and Stew Tabak.

Next the series will head back to Infineon Raceway on June 11-12 for races five and six. The double header will take place on the IndyCar track configuration. "We decided to run that track configuration so that our drivers will have more experience on that course in preparation for the August event where we compete on the same weekend as IndyCar." added Hettema. The Formula Car Challenge presented by Goodyear is a featured event at the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma August 26th – 28th. The West Coast Region is partnered with Goodyear, Mazda USA, MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development, Red Line Oil, and NASA Pro Racing.



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Goodyear Tires Awards:

A drawing for complimentary tires takes place at every race. This weekend free race tires were presented to John Weed, Andre Eriksen, Perry Mele, and Kevin Rogers.

Current Points: <http://formulacarchallenge.com/WestCoastResults/2011FCCpoints.pdf>

Event Video: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FormulaCarChallenge#p/f/0/hYmsnbSM4e8>

Event Photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/formulacar/sets/72157626400079233/>

Event Results:

Saturday Qualifying Formula Mazda 1 st – Bill Weaver 2 nd – Kevin Rogers 3 rd – Mike Anderson 4 th – Woody Yerxa 5 th – Stew Tabak 6 th – Cameron Parsons 7 th – John Weed 8 th – Bruce Carpenter 9 th – Peter Workum 10 th – John Ertel	Saturday Race Formula Mazda 1 st - Bill Weaver 2 nd – Kevin Rogers 3 rd – Cameron Parsons 4 th – Woody Yerxa 5 th – Bruce Carpenter 6 th – Peter Workum 7 th – John Weed 8 th – John Ertel 9 th – Mike Anderson
Saturday Qualifying Pro FM 1 st – Frank Cusack 2 nd – Mike Guasch 3 rd – Stan Kohls 4 th – Sean Prewett 5 th – Dave House 6 th – Lloyd Read 7 th – Andy Brown 8 th – Andre Eriksen 9 th – Paul LaHaye 10 th – Perry Mele	Saturday Race Pro FM 1 st – Mike Guasch 2 nd - Frank Cusack 3 rd – Stan Kohls 4 th – Andy Brown 5 th – Lloyd Read 6 th – Dave House 7 th – Paul LaHaye 8 th – Sean Prewett 9 th – Andre Eriksen 10 th – Perry Mele
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About the Formula Car Challenge presented by Goodyear

The Formula Car Challenge presented by Goodyear is a multiple-region series with an annual NASA sanctioned national championship. The series features a multi-class format; Formula Mazda (FM), Pro Formula Mazda (PFM), and the FormulaSPEED2.0 (FS2.0). All classes are powered by Mazda, and equipped with Goodyear Racing tires. For 2011 there are four Formula Car Challenge regions; The West Coast Region promoted by World Speed Inc, the South West Region promoted by Texas Autosports, the East Coast Region promoted by The Speed Connection, and the Mid West Region promoted by Lake Effect Motorsports.

More Information: <http://www.FormulaCarChallenge.com>

CAR CLASSIFICATIONS DETAILS FOR THE FORMULA CAR CHALLENGE PRESENTED BY GOODYEAR

			
	FORMULA MAZDA (FM)	FormulaSPEED2.0 (FS2.0)	Pro Formula Mazda (PFM)
Engine	Mazda RX7 Rotary	Mazda MZR 2.0	Mazda RX8 Renesis Rotary
Horsepower	180	195	240
Gearbox	Hewland 5 speed h-pattern with reverse	Hewland 6 speed sequential with reverse	Hewland 6 speed sequential with reverse
Weight	1350 with driver	1300 with driver	1350 with driver
Data system	Optional – open	AiM Sports spec EVO4 with steering wheel display	Optional – open
Tires	Goodyear	Goodyear	Goodyear
Chassis	Square tube space frame	Round tube space frame with Kevlar composite protection panels	Carbon fiber monocoque
Suspension	Outboard Koni double adjustable shocks	Pushrod actuated inboard double adjustable Ohlins dampers	Pushrod actuated inboard triple adjustable Ohlins dampers
Available since	1984	2011	2004
Manufacturer	Moses Smith Racing www.MSRparts.com	World Speed Inc. www.FormulaSpeed.us	Star Race Cars www.StarMazda.com