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INTRODUCING: **Conor Daly**

Derek Daly's lad is making a name for himself in America but is aiming for F1



Daly will contest the Star Mazda series in '09

Perhaps Conor Daly was destined to do something adrenaline-fuelled with his life. Not only was his father Derek a Formula 1 racer and Sebring 12 Hours winner, but his mother Beth was a jet ski world champion in her youth as well. Now it's the teenager who is making a name for himself – in the world of American single-seater racing.

FAST RISE TO THE TOP

Racing a kart for the first time at the age of 10, Daly went on to rack up five high-profile titles before winning on his car racing debut in a Skip Barber Regional Series race in 2007.

An even stronger 2008, in which he

was a consistent winner in Canadian Formula Ford and champion in the Skip Barber National Series, resulted in the then 16-year-old being selected with fellow fast teenager Josef Newgarden for the Team USA Scholarship that has previously launched the careers of Jimmy Vasser, Bryan Herta and AJ Allmendinger.

"That was a big honour," says Daly. "We got to come over to the UK to do the Formula Ford Festival and the Walter Hayes Trophy, and both were amazing experiences, because the level is just so high."

High? You wouldn't have known it as Daly, driving for Cliff Dempsey Racing, devoured the field at Silverstone to

become the youngest winner in Walter Hayes Trophy history – and the first American to triumph.

STAYING AT HOME... FOR NOW

While Newgarden will compete in Britain this

season, Daly has opted to stay in the USA and graduate to the hugely popular Star Mazda Series with Andersen Racing.

"The main reason for it is money," Daly says. "We got \$350,000 for winning in Skip Barber to go towards Star Mazda, and that's 90 per cent of our budget, so it would have been stupid to turn that down."

He is clear on what he wants from 2009: "The title. Sure it's a bit of a jump from the Barber cars in terms of the speed you corner and brake at, but if I can just learn in the first half of the year – like I did last year – then I don't see why I can't challenge at the front."

F1 AMBITION

Despite his laid-back demeanour away from the track, when the time comes to talk racing, his ambition is clear.

"I want to be in F1 one day," he says. "This summer we're planning to come over to England and get some testing done. I'd like to do an F3 test or, if I can't do that, do a race at Brands Hatch, because I really enjoyed it there when I did the Festival. Maybe F3 or Formula Master there would be a good move." ❧

CV



Name: Conor Daly
Born: December 17, 1991
From: Indiana, USA
2009 Star Mazda Championship
2008 Skip Barber National champion (5 wins); Canadian FFord, 3rd (5 wins); Walter Hayes Trophy, winner
2007 Skip Barber Regional (3 wins); Stars of Karting Eastern Champion
1995-2006 Karting – five other titles at US level



Daly blitzed the field in the Walter Hayes Trophy