

Race Report - Firestone Indy Lights - Barber Motorsports Park, Alabama.

You just can't fake FAST: Conor again the fastest.

MAZDASPEED driver, Conor Daly again proved to be the storyline throughout the Firestone Indy Lights race at Barber Motorsports Park, Alabama, April 10th. However, round two of the championship was a high action event right from the drop of the green flag and despite Conor's pace, he netted nothing more than an 11th place finish.

After starting from fourth place on the grid, Conor was pushed off the track at turn one while avoiding his slow starting teammate, Esteban Guerrieri. He fell back to 10th place but made an immediate lap one outside pass move at the turn three



hairpin, passing two cars. Right in front of him, his other team mate, Josef Newgarden hit and spun Guerrieri just before the apex of the corner. Guerrieri spun right into Daly's path sending him on to the grass once again in avoidance, while Daly's fourth team mate, Brazilian Victor Carbone, was eliminated when he was unable to avoid Guerrieri.

Under a full course yellow caution flag, Conor was surprised to find himself in seventh place, behind Ireland's, Peter Dempsey at the end



of the first lap. At the restart Daly quickly passed Dempsey for sixth and began his charge towards the front which got him to third place with 15 laps to go.

Immediately after taking third place from Briton, James Winslow, Winslow lunged past Conor but turned into him before he had completed the pass and broke Conor's right front wing.

He pitted immediately for a new nose and right front wheel and returned a lap down but about two seconds behind the leaders, Spaniard Victor Garcia and England's, Stefan Wilson. Confirming that he was the fastest car in the race, he caught both leaders within eight laps. Having been advised via his radio to give the leaders "racing room" he backed off to about a two second gap and then ran them down again crossing the finish line right behind them, but netting just an 11th place finish for his efforts.

All the action was broadcast on live television with Daly carrying the on board camera. "It is irritating to have such out of control antics on the opening lap", said Daly. "Indy Lights is very competitive this year

and to think that we missed two poles by the collective amount of 8 hundredths of a second - that fraction of time could have kept me away from most of the destruction and desperation today. Our mission is to do a more complete job in qualifying and go from there". For his efforts, he was awarded the \$4,000 "Firestone Image" award

Within 45 minutes of the end of the race, Conor was on a plane to Barcelona, Spain where he will squeeze in three days of GP3 testing before being back in Long Beach California for round three of the Firestone Indy Lights championship, April, 15th - 17th.

In a ten day spell between Alabama and Long Beach, Conor will be in a race car for nine of those ten days on two different continents.



Daly drives for Sam Schmidt Motorsports as part of a four car team based in Indianapolis. Daly is the reigning Road to Indy Formula Star Mazda champion. In 2010 he will compete in the European GP3 series (Formula One support series) and a

limited program in the Firestone Indy Lights championship. Conor's dual programs are supported by Mazda, Modspace, Doug Mockett Companies, SAS International, Merchant Services LTD, Callcap and The College Network with additional support from Tom Lange Company, Alpinestars, Arai and St Vincents Sports Performance.