



## Press Release

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\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

### 2009 Granja Viana 500 Race Report

I would like to extend my great thanks to MG Tires, particular Luis Ruibal, Wagner Rossi and The Brian Stewart Racing Karting Championship for providing the greatest racing experience of my life!

I was surprised and honoured to be awarded the BSRKC grand Prize of the MG Tires sponsorship to represent Canada in the 500 Milhas De Kart Granja Viana in Sao Paulo Brazil and immediately accepted the offer. It was apparent to me after brief internet search what a tremendous experience lay ahead.

Luis and MG Tires provided me and my family with all the information required, made the travel accommodation and race arrangements so I could thoroughly enjoy and contribute to the big event. We couldn't have asked for a more professional, safe and comfortable race experience.

When we arrived and met Luis, Leo our driver, and the other race team members, I knew my racing career would be enriched immeasurably. To meet and race with North American Champions Matt Zeis, Tommy Thompson, and Jeff Smith was fun, but the shared experiences, advice, opinions and mutual support helped me to understand elements of race craft I had not previously experienced, but also the unique experience of team endurance racing and the role of team strategy. The other MG team of Alex Speed, Cyndie Allemann, Richard Benitez and Cody Hodgson added to the experience. They helped on and off the track and we had a great time together.

This was just the start! When we got to the track, met the mechanics, got sized up for the kart and looked around...Massa, Andretti, Barrichello, Kanaan....training, preparing with us in the pits. We worked hard as a team to get the best set-up with a great support team lead by Sabia Racing. It was hard to understand all the subtle instructions but Leo, Cindy and Luis communicated all the Portuguese instructions for us. We had our share of adversity learning the handling of the 200 kg kart, on a fantastic technical track with great elevation change, and changing track conditions, but the mechanics kept us going forward (mostly). When the entire team went out on a soaked track in Rookie karts for a fun warm up race it broke the ice and had us all in stitches. Unfortunately the parents and Luis had a few crashes and were bruised the next morning.



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On race day I was under the weather but nothing could keep me from the race. From the celebrity qualification to the running start, this was a wild exciting experience. How the mechanics, Sabia, and fellow racers dealt with mechanical setbacks, extremely fast driver changes, and numbing watching of the lap statistics was a remarkable day and night. The MG Tire race team was the best! I always wished I could race better, but it is not realistic to think I could be faster than Massa. I was disappointed that my stomach flu kept me from the final session on the track, but I was not at my best, and that is what the team deserved. To come from 53rd to 28th with a team that has never raced this track in this kart setup was great achievement and I am proud to have been part of this team of great racers competing against the best professional racers in the world!

I will never forget the Granja 500 nor the help from teammates Tommy, Jeff, Matt, Alex, Cyndie, Richard and Cody. Luis ran an excellent support team and my great thanks to him and Wagner and all of the MG Tire staff. Finally thanks to BSRKC for this outstanding race experience!

– Brendon Bain

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