25th January 2019

Mazda takes pole position for the 2019 Daytona 24 Hours

* Britain’s Oliver Jarvis takes pole position for the world famous Daytona 24 hours.
* Mazda Team Joest’s pair of Mazda RT24-Ps will start in first and fourth place in tomorrow’s race.
* Oliver Jarvis’ pole time sets a new sportscar track record at Daytona.

Driven by Oliver Jarvis, the No. 77 Mazda RT24-P lapped the Daytona International Speedway road course faster than any other car in history in Thursday’s qualifying for the Daytona 24 Hours. Jarvis not only captured the overall pole position but broke the 26-year-old course record on the 3.56-mile road course.

On his fourth flying lap, Jarvis lapped in 1:33.685, which officially reset the longstanding record lap of 1:33.875. In the No. 55 Castrol Mazda RT24-P, Jonathan Bomarito set a time of 1:34.212 which would be good for fourth position at the end of the session.

This is Mazda’s first overall pole position in its history at the Daytona 24 Hours and is the first pole position in IMSA for Jarvis and the Mazda RT24-P. Mazda has captured 22 class victories at the Daytona 24 Hours, beginning forty years ago with a 1-2 finish for the Mazda RX-7 in the GTU class.

The 2019 Rolex 24 at Daytona starts at 2:00 PM Eastern US time on Saturday 26th January.

**Quotes
John Doonan, Director, Mazda Motorsports**

“Everyone at Mazda is appreciative of IMSA to give us the chance to showcase our brand here in this championship. It’s been a good month. The Roar was good and today was good, but this weekend is what it’s all about and we hope that it can be a great end to what has been a good month. Everyone involved with Mazda Team Joest – Multimatic, AER, and these drivers – have been absolutely non-stop and we are very, very proud of the results we are seeing from their effort. All that effort has resulted in Mazda’s first pole position at this race. We have been in touch with the Gurney family since we unofficially went under the track record at the Roar Before the 24, and we are really pleased to honor them with this track record.”

**Jonathan Bomarito**

“It’s a great day for the Mazda program. All of the Mazda Team Joest guys have worked so hard since the checkered flag fell at Petit Le Mans last year, and having our cars start first and fourth for the Rolex 24 at Daytona is proof of that. Obviously, the Mazda RT24-P has a lot of pace, but we also know we have a car that will be good for the race and I’m looking forward to taking the green flag on Saturday afternoon.”

**Oliver Jarvis**

“The most important thing for us was to get the pole. Since the Roar, I’ve gotten a better understanding of what it means to have the course record. For that record to stand for 26 years is incredible, and I wasn’t sure that we could beat it today because of the rain that we had this morning. I think for us and for Mazda Team Joest, it’s the icing on the cake, because we worked so hard. There’s been no off-season, and this is the result of all the hard work that’s gone in back at the workshop. For me, it’s very special to achieve my first pole with Mazda, but also to beat such a longstanding, impressive record is something special.”

- Ends -

Further press information is available at [www.mazda-press.co.uk](http://www.mazda-press.co.uk)

Interactive Press Packs for all models are available at [www.mazdamediapacks.co.uk](http://www.mazdamediapacks.co.uk)

Visit our media blog at [www.insidemazda.co.uk](http://www.insidemazda.co.uk)

Follow us on Twitter @mazdaukpr

*For further information please contact one of the following:*

Graeme Fudge, PR Director | T: 01322 622 691 | E-mail: gfudge@mazdaeur.com

Owen Mildenhall, PR Manager | T: 01322 622 713 | Email: omildenhall@mazdaeur.com

Lois Cavanagh, Press Officer | T: 01322 622 650 | Email: lcavanagh@mazdaeur.com

Martine Varrall, Press Officer | T: 01322 622 776 | Email: mvarrall@mazdaeur.com

Ref: 190124FINAL