

Star Mazda to Partner with Snap-on Stars of Karting presented by IndyCar Series

Seattle, WA – (February 24, 2007): The Star Mazda series will step up to provide two tests to deserving young driving talent from the Snap-on Stars of Karting presented by IndyCar Series it was announced on Saturday at the annual Kart Expo Show in Schaumburg, IL. One ICC (shifter) and one ICA (direct drive) pilot from the series that has demonstrated outstanding results on-track during the 2007 season, as well as the experience level, ability, and desire to step directly into the Star Mazda series will be chosen from a panel of Snap-on Stars of Karting officials and karting media at the conclusion of the Series Finals at Las Vegas Motor Speedway on October 21.

Star Mazda has served as a formula car training ground that has acted as a stepping-stone for Stars of Karting series graduates such as Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal, Scott Speed, and Ron White. Star Mazda Series President Gary Rodrigues stated, "Over the 17 years we have been working with drivers looking to launch big time motorsports careers, the Star Mazda Championship has recognized the value of the racecraft learned in karts. Nearly all of our new drivers come to us with karting experience, some through junior formulas and some directly from karts. We know the best kart racers can successfully make the jump into our pro series. We are very pleased to help make that happen with this award."

Paul Zalud, the President of the series thinks the agreement is a positive one for all of the parties, "The Star Mazda series is definitely a venue that many of our racers are aiming for, and the two tests being provided by Star Mazda add a great element to the 2007 prize plan for the racers in our elite classes. We look forward to working with Star Mazda to help them increase their presence in the elite level of karting."

The Snap-on Stars of Karting presented by IndyCar Series will kick off in Norman, OK April 13-15. The annual East-West showdown traditionally attracts over 260 racers competing in five classes. Those wishing to learn more about the series can go to www.starsofkarting.com and all promotional inquiries can be directed to jeff@starsofkarting.com.

Snap-on Stars of Karting presented by the Indy Racing League is based out of Seattle, Washington, sanctioned by the World Karting Association (WKA) and owned and operated by 1986 Indianapolis 500 champion and IRL IndyCar Series team owner Bobby Rahal, IndyCar Series driver Bryan Herta and veteran karting promoter Paul Zalud. www.starsofkarting.com, www.worldkarting.com.

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear has become the most competitive open-wheel development series in North America. The Pro Formula Mazda features a carbon-fiber chassis, six-speed sequential gearbox, and a 240-horsepower Mazda rotary powerplant. The Championship is twelve races, all broadcast on SPEED Channel in prime time. For more information about events and TV schedules please visit www.starmazda.com

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The Indy Racing League was formed in 1994 to preserve the heritage and excitement of the Indianapolis 500 in U.S. open-wheel racing. The Indy Racing League is the sanctioning body of the IndyCar Series, the premier open-wheel racing series in the United States, and the Indy Pro Series, which serves as an essential stepping stone for drivers striving to reach the IndyCar Series. Indy Racing League events are available to a worldwide audience through a variety of multimedia platforms, highlighted by a long-term and broad-reaching partnership with ABC Sports/ESPN. The Indy Racing League is continually at the forefront of motorsports innovation with drivers, teams and tracks benefiting from major safety and technological improvements such as the SAFER Barrier, SWEMS wheel tethers, chassis enhancements, ethanol fuel and Delphi IRL Safety Team. www.indycar.com