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THE STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY GOODYEAR ANNOUNCES 2008 TV SCHEDULE

Pacoima, CA (February 29, 2008) – The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear today released its 2008 television schedule, with all 12 races in the 2008 season to be broadcast as 1-hour, tape-delay shows on the SPEED Channel. Continuing as hosts will be noted racer/broadcasters Ralph Sheheen and Johnny O’Connell, with features, color commentary and pit lane interviews provided by Jamie Howe.

The 2008 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear begins with its traditional date at the 56th annual Mobil1 12 Hours of Sebring International Raceway on March 14 and winds up at the Monterey Sports Car Championships at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca on October 18. Due to the Champ Car/IRL merger, some dates during the course of the season may need to be changed or consolidated into 2-race weekends; announcements of schedule and TV broadcast changes will be made as the situation clarifies.

Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear 2008 Event and TV Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>With</u>	<u>Circuit Type</u>	<u>SPEED Channel TV Broadcast</u>
March 14	Sebring	ALMS	Airport Circuit	Sunday, March 30 / 3:00 – 4:00 pm
April 26	Houston	CC/ALMS	Street Circuit	Saturday, May 10 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
May 17	Salt Lake City	ALMS	Road Course	Saturday, May 31 / 3:00 – 4:00 pm
June 7	Watkins Glen	Grand-Am	Road Course	Saturday, June 21 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
June 21	Cleveland (**)	Champ Car	Airport Circuit	Saturday, July 5 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
July 5	Toronto (**)	Champ Car	Street Circuit	Saturday, July 19 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
July 26	Portland (**)	Champ Car	Road Course	Saturday, Aug. 9 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
August 9	Road America	CC/ALMS	Road Course	Saturday, Aug. 23 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
August 17	Trois Rivieres	Atlantic	Street Circuit	Saturday, Aug. 30 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
August 23	Mosport	ALMS	Road Course	Saturday, Sept. 6 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
October 3	Road Atlanta	ALMS	Road Course	Saturday, Oct. 18 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm
October 18	Mazda Raceway	ALMS	Road Course	Sunday, Nov. 9 / 12:00 – 1:00 pm

All times are Eastern

*(**) Subject to change due to IRL/Champ Car merger. All times subject to change. Check your local listings or log on to www.speedtv.com/programs.*

“We are extremely pleased to continue our long-standing partnership with the SPEED Channel in broadcasting our 12-race 2008 schedule nationally in weekend sports prime time,” says Star Mazda Championship President Gary Rodrigues. “With the unsettled environment caused by the Champ Car/IRL merger, I’m happy to say the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is in solid shape thanks to the steadfast support of our corporate partners. While a few dates may change, we will have a 12-race season, all on major Motorsports weekends, with all of the races broadcast on the SPEED Channel in the U.S. as well as Skysports in the U.K. and other overseas sports channels. Mazda’s commitment to the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder remains as strong as ever, and our place as a major rung on that ladder is secure.”

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is set to begin its 18th season in 2008 as one of the premier North American open-wheel driver development series and will feature an educational mix of circuits in both the U.S. and Canada. Over that time, the Star Mazda Championship has grown into one of the most prolific, successful and richest driver development series in all of auto racing with a prize fund approaching \$1.5 million.

Many top drivers began, or accelerated, their careers in the Star Mazda Championship. Recent alumni include such top Indy-car racers as Graham Rahal and Marco Andretti as well as the most recent American F1 driver, Scott Speed. Also on the list is Michael McDowell, the 2004 Star Mazda champion who has raced Indy Cars, Daytona Prototypes, was Rookie of the Year in the 2007 ARCA RE/MAX stock car series and has signed to drive for Michael Waltrip Racing in the 2008 Nextel Cup.

Recent graduates include 2005 Star Mazda Champion, Raphael Matos, who graduated via the Mazda Motorsports Ladder to the Atlantic series in 2006, won the 2007 championship and is moving up to the Indy Pro Series in 2008. Dane Cameron, the 2007 Star Mazda Champion will drive a Mazda-sponsored full season in the 2008 Atlantic Series Presented by Mazda while Joel Miller, the 19-year-old racer from Hesperia, California who scored five wins and finished on the podium in all 14 of the 2007 BF Goodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda Series races, has won a fully-sponsored ride in the 2008 Star Mazda Championship.

And when the cars competing in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear take to the track for the opening race of the 2008 season at the 56th annual Mobil1 12 Hours of Sebring, the drivers under those colorfully-painted helmets will represent a diversity of nationality, gender, age and family relationships totally unique in the world of auto racing. Included in the mix are racers from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Ireland and Gibraltar. There are two fast young female drivers, drivers ranging in age from 16 to 64, a father/son team and a brother/sister team. All in all, plenty of material for interesting features on the SPEED Channel broadcasts.

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Development Ladder, please visit and www.starmazda.com and www.mazdausa.com.

On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car.

For more information on the various Mazda spec series, visit:

www.champcaratlantic.com

www.starmazda.com

www.skipbarber.com

www.mx-5cup.com

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