



MAZDASPEED LADDER CHAMPION SAGE KARAM NOMINATED FOR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

'SPORTS KID OF THE YEAR' – VOTE FOR HIM AT <http://www.sikids.com/contests/skoty/2010/vote>

Sage Karam, the inaugural Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship powered by Mazda champion, has been nominated for the 2010 Sports Illustrated Sports Kid of the Year award. The 15 year-old is up against nine other athletes under the age of 16. Fan voting will determine the top-three finalists, which will be named on October 19.



Vote for Sage here between now and Oct. 18, and pass this along to fellow IndyCar fans: <http://www.sikids.com/contests/skoty/2010/vote>

SI Kids looks for a young athlete who excels in sports, the classroom and in his/her community. The winner will be featured on the cover of SI Kids, honored at Sports Illustrated’s annual Sportsman of the Year awards celebration in New York City and will appear on Cartoon Network’s “Hall of Game.”

Karam, 15, from Nazareth, Pa., recently finished his first season with Andretti Autosport in the USF2000 National Championship series. Karam scored nine victories in 12 starts. In addition to the driver championship title, he also won the VP Fuels Rookie of the Year award. The series is sanctioned by IndyCar. Off the track, Karam volunteers with Operation Smile and the Michael Fux Foundation and is an honor student.

Sage doesn’t have his driver’s license yet, but that hasn’t stopped him from becoming one of IndyCar’s rising stars. He captured the 2010 USF2000 Driver's Championship, helping Andretti Autosport win the team title as well. He won nine races in 12 starts and was named Rookie of the Year despite being the youngest driver on the circuit and one of only two Americans competing.

As a result of his USF2000 Championship, Sage will race in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear with backing from the **MAZDASPEED** Motorsports Driver Development Ladder. The **MAZDASPEED** Ladder is the only automaker-supported driver development program that provides funding for champions to move up at each level from karting to the top levels of professional motorsports. The Star Mazda Championship is also, along with USF2000 and Indy Lights, part of the IndyCar 'Road to Indy' driver development program.

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit www.starmazda.com and www.mazdausa.com. For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

