

## AND MITCHELL MAKES SEVEN -- STAR MAZDA GRADUATE RUSTY MITCHELL TO MAKE HIS INDY LIGHTS DEBUT WITH TEAM E RACING ON STREETS OF LONG BEACH

TAMPA, FLA. (April 12, 2011) – Team E Racing is pleased to announce that up-andcoming American Rusty Mitchell will join the Florida-based Firestone Indy Lights team



for the prestigious Grand Prix of Long Beach on April 17. The talented Texas racer and graduate of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will be making his series debut with the former New Team of the Year award winner seeking to not only impress behind the wheel, but also develop a multi-race partnership.

Mitchell makes the seventh member of the Star Mazda class of 2010 to move up to Indy Lights,

including series champion Conor Daly, Anders Krohn, Peter Dempsey, David Ostella, Jorge Goncalvez and Joel Miller.

Team E has always taken great pride in giving talented young racers the opportunity to showcase their skills in the highly-competitive Indy Lights series. That trend will continue in Round Three of the 2011 edition of the Indy Lights series, with Star Mazda graduate Mitchell getting behind the wheel of the No. 17 Team E/Motorola/ Petro Communications entry for one of the premier events on the calendar...the Grand Prix of Long Beach in southern California. Mitchell will make his Indy Lights debut with Team E Racing having impressed the crew and Team Owner Neil Enerson recently in private testing at Firebird International Raceway.

"Team E is happy to be back on track again this season with Rusty Mitchell," said Enerson. "Rusty, although a rookie to our series, is not a rookie to racing. Rusty ran his own Star Mazda team. His understanding of the owner and driver side of the business at this level is rare. We look forward to him competing at Long Beach."

"I can't wait to compete at one of the most prestigious events in North America with such a great team," said Mitchell. "Neil and all the guys at Team E have shown they have the personal and equipment in place to win races in the Indy Lights series. I think this is a great opportunity for myself, as well as my sponsors to get our feet wet in the series, and hopefully put together a multi-race package later in the season, and possibly a full year in 2012. I want think my sponsors Motorola and Petro Communications, as well as Neil Enerson and the guys at Team E for getting this deal put together in such a short amount of time."

Based in Midland, Texas, Mitchell will make his Indy Lights debut with Team E Racing with plenty of success already on his racing resume. First getting behind the wheel via local karting in Texas, the up-and-coming American captured four IKF regional

championships, one WKA divisional championship and a SKUSA Long Track National championship before making the move to cars. Continuing his winning ways right from the get go, Mitchell captured both the SCCA Southwest Division National Formula Enterprises title and the FormulaCar Magazine FE Championship Midwest/Southwest crown in his first season of action. Mitchell has continued to impress over the past two seasons, earning one pole position, one podium position, four top-fives and 14 top-10s with a privateer effort in the highly-competitive Star Mazda Championship. Prior to joining Team E on the streets of Long Beach, the Texan has made the transition to sports car competition this season, co-driving an Intersport Racing LMP Challenge entry in the American Le Mans Series.

Formed in 2008 by businessman Neil Enerson, Team E Racing wasted little time in

establishing itself as race-winning outfit. The St. Petersburg, Fla.-based team won the sixth-ever race it contested (Milwaukee Mile with Bobby Wilson), and added a runnerfinish the up at Nashville Superspeedway in its inaugural season of action, earning the Indy Lights New Team of the Year award. With a championship-winning staff leading the charge, Team E has run limited campaigns the past two seasons,



continuing to show it has the tools to succeed via a runner-up finish in the 2010 seasonopener on the streets of St. Petersburg. With a continued mandate to assist young racers in making their mark, Team E recently ran former Skip Barber National series champion Joel Miller in Round One of the Indy Lights series in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The on-track action for Mitchell in his Firestone Indy Lights debut with Team E Racing gets underway on Friday afternoon (April 15), with the first of two practice sessions on the streets of Long Beach, Calif. A second practice run and the lone qualifying session will take place one day later, with Round Three on the California street circuit slated to begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday morning (April 17) in front of a large crowd. In advance of the event, Mitchell and Team E are continuing to search for additional funding to build on their current program. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Mitchell (<u>mitch82@gmail.com</u>) and/or Enerson (<u>Neil@teameracing.com</u>).

Additional information on Team E Racing can be obtained from the team's website @ <u>www.teameracing.com</u> For direct contact, please contact Neil Enerson @ 727-375-3482

