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Star Mazda Driver Connor De Phillippi Selected as Porsche Junior Finalist

Demonstrating yet again that the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is not only part of the Mazda Road to Indy but also a premier gateway series to all forms of motorsports, standout Star Mazda driver Connor De Phillippi has been selected as a 2013 Porsche Junior finalist.

Six talented young racing pilots aged from 18 to 20 are currently in Italy battling one another to determine who will receive intensive support in the 2013 season as a Porsche Junior in the Carrera Cup Deutschland. Among those taking part in the finale of the international youth selection process is De Phillippi, who recently completed his third Star Mazda Championship with a fourth place finish in the title fight via two wins and 10 podium finishes.

In addition to the 19 year-old Californian, two Swiss drivers Levin Amweg (18) and Jeffrey Schmidt (18), two Dutchmen Dennis van de Laar (18) and Pieter Schothorst (20), and a Spaniard Alex Riberas Bou (18) are part of the comprehensive test program in Vallelunga, Italy, piloting a 450 hp Porsche 911 GT3 Cup.

In the lead-up, the six finalists came out on top of an extensive selection process against other young talents from around the world. Factors taken into account were fitness, mental strength, demeanor, and technical understanding. Now working alongside engineers at the track, the junior drivers, all of whom have been successful in various national and international formula race series, are being tested for consistent times over a race distance, as well as in simulated qualifying laps. The six candidates are also being evaluated with regards to handling the media via television interviews and photo shoots.

In the weeks following the selection process, two pilots will be chosen after careful analysis of all data. The winners will be given support in their 2013 Carrera Cup Deutschland campaign as Porsche Juniors.

Porsche provides a large part of the season's budget, while the junior pilots choose their own race team based on a defined set of criteria from Porsche Motorsport.

Aside from financial funding, the two Porsche Juniors get support from an experienced coach who accompanies the drivers to the race track, giving them assistance similar to internationally successful Porsche factory pilots. Fitness tests with constantly adapted training plans will also be provided, as well as media coaching, technical seminars, while sponsor obligations are also part of the program.



*Connor De Phillippi (second from left) is one of six finalist for the 2013 Porsche Junior program
(Photo: Porsche Motorsport)*



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In the 2012 season, the Porsche Junior program commenced with Michael Christensen (Denmark) and Klaus Bachler (Austria) starting initially runs of four years.

Porsche has intensively supported talented youngsters in motorsport since 1997. Today's Porsche factory pilots [Timo Bernhard](#), [Marc Lieb](#), [Patrick Long](#) and [Marco Holzer](#) were trained as Porsche juniors. Other big-league names in motorsport to emerge from this scholarship programme are [Dirk Müller](#), [Lucas Luhr](#) and [Mike Rockenfeller](#).

