MAZDA MOTORSPORTS HOUR BEGINS THIS SATURDAY - APRIL 21st - ON VELOCITY

Beginning this Saturday, on the Velocity Network, racefans and gearheads can enjoy the first of 24 episodes of the best roadracing in America. The Mazda Motorsports Hour will focus on the stars of tomorrow, young up-and-coming racers looking to move up the Mazda Road to Indy and the *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Ladder. The 24 hour-long broadcasts will focus on three Mazda spec series:

The Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear

The Cooper Tires USF2000 Championship Powered by Mazda

The SCCA Pro Racing Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup

Both the Star Mazda and USF2000 Championships are a part of the Mazda Road to Indy. Over 25% of the 2012 IZOD Indycar drivers have spent time with Mazda series as they progressed upward to reach the Indy 500. The MX-5 Cup has what some call the greatest return on investment in all of racing – racing a $47,000 car for a $250,000 prize! The action in all three series has been intense at the opening rounds in Florida.

AIRDATE (All times Eastern) SERIES/VENUE

Saturday, April 21 - 12pm MX-5 Cup #1: Sebring International Raceway

Saturday, April 28 - 12pm MX-5 Cup #2: Sebring International Raceway

Saturday, May 5 - 12pm Star Mazda: Streets of St. Petersburg

Saturday, May 12 - 12pm USF2000: Sebring & G.P. of St. Petersburg

Sunday, May 20 - 12pm Star Mazda: Barber Motorsports Park

Saturday, June 9 - 12pm MX-5 Cup #3: Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

Saturday, June 16 - 12pm MX-5 Cup #4: Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

Saturday, June 23 - 12pm Star Mazda: Lucas Oil Raceway Park

Saturday, June 30 - 12pm USF2000: Lucas Oil Raceway Park

Saturday, July 7 - 12pm MX-5 Cup #5: Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course

Joining TV host Rick Benjamin in the booth will be racers Randy Pobst for the MX 5 Cup, and James Hinchcliffe on Star and USF2000. Todd Lewis will be the pit reporter.

Dates/times subject to change. The final 14 shows will be confirmed closer to the air dates.

To find the Velocity channel, go to http://velocity.discovery.com and type your zipcode into the channel finder.