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AWR Changes Its Name to Andersen Racing

FAIRFIELD, N.J., Jan. 30 — Andersen Walko Racing's Dan Andersen said today that the team is changing its name to Andersen Racing, effective Feb. 1.

The name change was made to better reflect the team's ownership. Former employee and minority owner John Walko has announced his own new team for the 2006 season.

Andersen Racing is based in a new, 7,000-square-feet, state-of-the-art shop in Fairfield, N.J.

Like Andersen Walko Racing (AWR) did before it, Andersen Racing will again field multiple cars in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. For 2006 its primary drivers will be Brad Jaeger of Cincinnati; Gerardo Bonilla of Orlando, Fla.; and Ramiro Scuncio of Argentina.

AWR fielded cars for Robbie Pecorari, Graham Rahal, Pablo Donoso and Jonathan Klein in 2005. They posted four victories, 17 podium finishes, 22 top-five finishes and four poles. Pecorari finished second in the championship and earned its Rookie of the Year award. Rahal finished fourth for the season, while Donoso was ninth and Klein was 13th.

Team owner Dan Andersen has been a hallmark of American formula car racing for many years both as a team owner and a series administrator. After selling the successful U.S. Formula 2000 national championship series in 2001, he focused on expanding the racing team he had been running since 1998 for his son, three-time SCCA national champion Mike Andersen. In late 2002 Walko became a minority partner of the team and its name was changed to Andersen Walko Racing for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 seasons.

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Two of AWR's best engineers, Glenn Phillips and Rossella Manfrinato, have remained with the renamed Andersen Racing, and Andersen recently hired the widely respected Remi Lanteigne to work as an engineer for the team. Veteran team owner Richard Morgan is the team's general manager, while Formula 2000's Michelle Kish is the team manager.

Other changes for 2006 include a new, bigger and more modern transporter, and additional shop and pit equipment.

"Our goal is to provide the best in service and hopefully bring home a championship," said Andersen. "We strive for excellence, and I'm confident that the team we have put together for 2006 will bring us closer to our goals.

"We have set some challenging long-range goals as well, and I expect that someday soon we'll be ready to move to the next level of competition with confidence," he added.

For more information please call Andersen or Kish at (973) 287-5600. The team's Web site address will now be andersenracingteam.com instead of andersenwalko.com.