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Northwest Autosport to Test Canadian Standout Lorenzo Mandarino for 2007 Star Mazda Championship Seat

February 23, 2007. Portland, Oregon. Northwest Autosport has announced that young Canadian driver Lorenzo Mandarino will join recently signed Northwest Autosport drivers Phill Fogg Jr. and Eric Freiberg for a two day test at Buttonwillow Raceway Park on February 26 and 27.

Mandarino, from Vancouver, British Columbia, has been impressive wherever he has competed winning his first championship at the age of 10 in WKA karting. He has gone on to capture additional karting championships in the United States and Canada and has also found success behind the wheel of formula cars, capturing the 2003 Jim Russell Racing School Graduate Run-Offs and finishing second in the 2004 Skip Barber Run-Offs behind eventual series champion Gerardo Bonilla.

“We look forward to working with Lorenzo at Buttonwillow and watching what he can do behind the wheel,” Northwest Autosport Team Manager Michael Hernandez explained. “He has already shown that he has the speed necessary to compete at this level of motorsports and we feel with the chance to compete for a full season that he would be a championship threat.”

In a limited number of races in the Skip Barber National Championship Mandarino captured four victories and two second place finishes against the likes of Gerardo Bonilla and Marco Andretti before finances cut his 2004 season short. Without the budget to continue his open-wheel efforts, he focused on karting in 2005 and became the first Canadian driver to capture the SKUSA Supernational crown at Las Vegas.

Still looking for funds in 2006, Mandarino participated in the Discovery Channel Canada Star Racer driver search program for the next fastest Canadian driver. Despite placing first in all time-trials, heat races and the main event, the scholarship to participate in the 2007 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear was awarded to another driver.

“Northwest Autosport has a history of putting fast cars onto the track and I’m excited to have the chance to test with them,” Mandarino said. “Hopefully the test will go well and I will continue to do all that I can to secure sponsorship to compete in the 2007 championship.”

Parties interested in sponsoring Mandarino for the upcoming season may contact him directly at lorenzo.mandarino@telus.net

Based in Milwaukie, Oregon, Northwest Autosport is one of the top teams participating in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, which will feature twelve races across the United States and Canada supporting the American Le Mans Series, ChampCar and the GrandAm series. For more information please visit www.northwestautosport.com.

