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## **Andersen Racing Signs Dempsey For 2008 Star Mazda Championship**

PALMETTO, Fla., Feb. 18 — Andersen Racing has signed Peter Dempsey for the 2008 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear following a spectacular test at Sebring International Raceway in which the Irish driver was timed well under the current Star Mazda track record.

On the first day of the test in Sebring, Fla. on Jan. 28, the 21-year-old driver from Ashbourne, County Meath, Ireland posted a lap that was 0.6 of a second under the current track record for the class. On the second day he remained fastest of the drivers participating in the test, beating his rivals by 1 second even though he was still on the tires he'd used the previous day.

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Track records can only be set during actual competition, but the test bodes well for Dempsey's chances at the season opener March 13-14 at Sebring.

"I'm over the moon with the test, and to be a second quicker on old tires when everyone else was on new gives me a big advantage," Dempsey said. "The team, my engineer and my mechanic were brilliant. I had the best car on the track, and that made my job a lot easier. I really have to thank Dan Andersen, the team co-owner. He has a fantastic team."

"There were about a dozen cars at the test, and Dempsey blew everyone away with times well under the track record," Andersen said. "He was more than a full second ahead of the second-quickest driver, who was Tom Gladdis in another one of our cars. Peter did a 1:58.7 and no one else was lower than 2:00.0. If that continues, we should have fun this year!"

"I just can't wait to get going," Dempsey agreed. "It will be a new challenge for me in a different country and in a different car and with a different team. I really only have raced on my dad's team, Cliff Dempsey Racing, up to this point."

Dempsey's addition to the Palmetto, Fla.-based team's Star Mazda squad brings its driver roster to four for that series. Juliana Gonzalez and Yannick Hofman are already signed in addition to Dempsey and Gladdis.

Dempsey also tested at Andersen Racing's test track, Andersen RacePark, on Dec. 16-17, which was the first time he drove a Star Mazda car.

He has an impressive record in British and Irish Formula Ford competition, however. He won the Leinster Trophy in 2007, along with the BRDC Golden Helmet, Martin Donnelly Trophy and the Walter Hayes Trophy. He was also a Dunlop/Motorsport Ireland Young Driver of the Year finalist last year.

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Dempsey finished third in the British Formula Ford Duratec Championship in 2006. He won the British Formula Ford 1600 Championship in 2005, the year in which he won 33 out of 43 races and was named the Motorsport Ireland Young Driver of the Year.

Andersen Racing strives to provide the best training possible for future open-wheel superstars. In addition to Star Mazda, Andersen Racing fields multiple entries in the F2000 Championship presented by Hoosier Racing Tire and the Indy Pro Series, the official development series of IndyCar. It is the official development team of Rahal Letterman Racing, which competes in both IndyCar and the ALMS. The team is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp.

For more information on Andersen Racing see [andersenracingteam.com](http://andersenracingteam.com) and [andersenracepark.com](http://andersenracepark.com). For more information on the Star Mazda series see [starmazda.com](http://starmazda.com). For more information on Dempsey, see [peterdempsey.com](http://peterdempsey.com).

### *About Allied Building Products Corp.:*

Allied Building Products Corp., headquartered in East Rutherford, N.J., is one of the largest roofing and siding distributors in the United States. Founded in 1950 with five employees and two trucks, today it is a \$1.8 billion building material distribution company with over 3,500 employees, more than 200 branches in 30 states, well over one million square feet of office and warehouse space, and an inventory of approximately 85,000 products, from residential roofing and siding to doors, windows, waterproofing, manufactured stone, interior products and commercial roofing systems. For more information see [alliedbuilding.com](http://alliedbuilding.com).

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### *About Andersen Racing:*

Andersen Racing strives to provide the best and most comprehensive training possible for future open-wheel superstars while giving its marketing partners media exposure and hospitality opportunities at some of the most prestigious events in North America. It provides a unique, three-step program utilizing multiple entries in three different series: the F2000 Championship (webcast), Star Mazda (televised on SPEED) and the Indy Pro Series (televised on ESPN2). In 2008 it will field multiple entries in 42 races in 19 states and provinces at some of the best facilities on the continent, including the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Andersen Racing's principals, brother Dan and John Andersen, have extensive experience in series administration as well as team management. They've worked with many of today's top open-wheel stars, including several Indy 500 winners.

Andersen Racing is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp. It is the official development team of Rahal Letterman Racing, which competes in the IndyCar Series and the American Le Mans Series. In addition, its F2000 team is also the official factory team of Van Diemen. The team is headquartered at Andersen RacePark, an 18-acre facility in Palmetto, Fla. that includes a 1-mile test track. For more information see [andersenracingteam.com](http://andersenracingteam.com) and [andersenracepark.com](http://andersenracepark.com).