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Andersen Racing Signs Kent For 2009 Star Mazda Campaign

PALMETTO, Fla., Jan. 7 — Defending team champion Andersen Racing is pleased to announce that it will field a car for 20-year-old Richard Kent of Clifton Reynes, England in the 2009 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear.

Kent hopes he can begin the 2009 season just as he finished 2008. He stunned the series regulars last October at the 2008 season finale at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Monterey, Calif., when he posted his first victory in the series in his initial start. Driving an Andersen Racing entry sponsored by Traka and Allied Interior Products, he led every lap of that race from the pole, which he'd won a few hours earlier by setting a new track record.

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Kent had never driven at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca prior to that event. He's already tested with the Palmetto, Fla.-based team at Sebring International Raceway in Sebring, Fla., site of the 2009 Star Mazda season opener on March 20, the first day of spring.

"It's fantastic to be returning to Andersen Racing for 2009, following the success we had at Laguna Seca at the end of last season," Kent said. "I hope we can continue the form we showed at Laguna throughout the year in the Andersen Racing/Allied/Traka car."

"After his stellar performance at Laguna Seca, Richard was definitely a 'must-have' driver for Andersen Racing's 2009 squad," said team co-owner Dan Andersen. "We knew how good he was prior to Laguna, but if anyone had any doubts, he erased them in brilliant fashion. I'm very happy to have him on board for a full season. We believe he will be a front-runner for the driver championship from the first race."

Another front-runner will be Kent's teammate, Conor Daly, the 2008 Skip Barber National champion. Other rides are also available. For more information on joining the team, contact Andersen at dandersen@andersenracingteam.com or (201) 532-9630.

Andersen Racing offers one of the most comprehensive driver development programs in open-wheel racing. In 2009 it plans to field multiple entries in karting, Formula BMW, Star Mazda and the Firestone Indy Lights Series. The team, which is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp., is the official development team of Rahal Letterman Racing, which competes in the IndyCar Series and the American Le Mans Series.

Kent's bio and other information can be found on the team's Web site at andersenracingteam.com. Information on the team's 1-mile road course test track can be found online at andersenracepark.com.

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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.

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, four-step program utilizing multiple entries in four different platforms: karting, Formula BMW, Star Mazda (televised on SPEED) and Firestone Indy Lights (televised on VERSUS). In 2008 it fielded multiple entries in 42 races in 18 states and provinces at some of the best facilities on the continent, including the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Andersen Racing won the team championship for 2008 for both the F2000 Championship Series presented by Hoosier Racing Tire and the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. Two of its drivers finished first and second in the F2000 driver point standings, while another was sixth. Three of its Star Mazda drivers placed third, fifth and sixth in that series' driver standings. RLR/Andersen Racing finished sixth in the 2008 Firestone Indy Lights team standings, while one of its drivers placed fifth in that series' driver point standings.

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. The team is headquartered at Andersen RacePark, an 18-acre facility in Palmetto, Fla. that includes a 1-mile road course test track. For more information see andersenracingteam.com and andersenracepark.com.