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Andersen Racing Enters Krohn In Firestone Indy Lights Race at Watkins Glen

PALMETTO, Fla., June 30 — Andersen Racing, one of the premier open-wheel develop teams in North America, is pleased to announce that it will field a car for one of its Star Mazda drivers, Anders Krohn of Stavanger, Norway and Houston, Texas, in the Corning 100 Firestone Indy Lights race that will be held at Watkins Glen International in Watkins Glen, N.Y. on Sunday. The 29-lap race on the famous 3.37-mile, 11-turn road course precedes the Camping World Grand Prix IZOD IndyCar Series race later that afternoon.

Krohn will be the first driver to compete in all three formula car classes in which the Palmetto, Fla.-based team is involved: Formula 2000, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear and Firestone Indy Lights.

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Team co-owner Dan Andersen had high praise for Krohn, 22, who is nicknamed "The Viking" and is one of the most personable drivers in the Star Mazda paddock.

"As a team whose reason for being is the development and advancement of young drivers, we have in Anders Krohn the prototypical Andersen Racing driver," Andersen said. "He came to us in 2008 and simply dominated the F2000 level with nine victories in 14 races. He came back to us this year in Star Mazda and is currently second in the points, and we will be contesting for that championship for the rest of the year. Getting him into a Firestone Indy Lights car with our team completes the cycle and makes me extremely happy. He is a clear talent who will advance in racing until he reaches the top."

Andersen Racing isn't currently fielding a Formula 2000 team but its principals are still very much involved with that division of cars because they are administering the first step in the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy ladder, the "Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda."

Andersen Racing has fielded cars for six different drivers so far this year in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear: Krohn, Mikael Grenier, Tristan Vautier, Nick Andries, Dom Bastien and Court Vernon. Andersen Racing is leading that series' team standings. It won the Star Mazda team championship in 2008 and it finished second last year. Star Mazda is the second step in the IRL's Road to Indy program.

Both the USF2000 series and Star Mazda are also part of the prestigious MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development program, which provides scholarships to champions to help them advance to the next-highest series the following season.

Andersen Racing has been competing in Firestone Indy Lights since 2007. It has fielded cars for Carmen Jorda, Joel Miller and Arie Luyendyk Jr. in that series so far this year.

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Two of Andersen Racing's former drivers, Graham Rahal (Star Mazda) and Mario Romancini (Firestone Indy Lights) are competing in the IZOD IndyCar Series this year.

The team, which is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp., also has regional, national and international karting programs and it owns a 1-mile road course test track, Andersen RacePark in Palmetto, Fla.

Krohn's appearance at Watkins Glen is being made possible by the following sponsors: Trallfa Industries, Colosseum Dental, Norse Cutting & Abandonment, Logi Trans and the team's primary sponsor, Allied Building Products Corp.

It is a "one-off" deal at this time, although Krohn hopes to secure enough backing to compete for the Firestone Indy Lights Rookie of the Year honors in 2011.

To prepare for Watkins Glen, Krohn completed 79 laps in one of Andersen Racing's Firestone Indy Lights cars at a private test at Putnam Park Road Course in Mount Meridian, Ind., on Wednesday, June 23. He also drove a Sam Schmidt Motorsports-prepped Firestone Indy Lights car for a few laps on the same 1.78-mile, 10-turn road course in 2008.

Krohn calls the chance to race in the Corning 100 "a huge opportunity.

"In Norwegian eyes it's pretty big, because no Norwegian has previously raced on a higher level in open-wheel racing," he said.

"Watkins Glen was a natural fit, both for my sponsors and myself," he added. "I personally love Watkins Glen, and beat the track record there for F2000 in 2008. It's a very technical and fast track, but I look forward to the challenge.

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“In addition to Andersen Racing, the people who are making this particular race happens for me is a worldwide transport company, Logi Trans,” he continued. “They were originally created in Norway but now have business in all corners of the world. In addition to Logi Trans, I would be nowhere without the help of my long-term, trusted partners and especially my main sponsors, Norse Cutting & Abandonment, Trallfa and Colosseum.

“I’m very proud to be the first driver to go from F2000 to Star Mazda to Firestone Indy Lights with Andersen Racing,” Krohn continued. “They are the best team I have ever been with, and I consider them my American family.

“I’d like to thank all the guys at Andersen Racing, but especially Dan and John Andersen for making this happen. They have always treated me very well, and they’ve given me an excellent chance to move up within their team. I will do my best to make them proud, as I owe them a lot!

“I have little to no idea what to expect going into the Watkins Glen weekend, but I know that I will have full support from the Andersen Racing guys. It will be an extremely steep learning curve, but I’ve never been afraid of taking on a mountain before.

“I would love to do more Firestone Indy Lights races in 2010, but my main focus remains on the Star Mazda Championship,” he added. “Although it is early for 2011 speculations, I would certainly love to do a full season in Firestone Indy Lights. We’ll take one step at a time, and for now just push as hard as we can at Watkins Glen.”

Krohn, Andersen Racing and the rest of the Firestone Indy Lights contingent won’t have much time to work on their set-ups at Watkins Glen, because there are only two practice sessions at 8 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. Saturday before qualifying is held at 3 p.m. that afternoon. There is a 20-minute warm-up session on Sunday before the race gets the green flag at 1:30 p.m., two hours before the IZOD IndyCar Series race starts.

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For more information see anderskrohn.com, andersenracingteam.com, indycar.com, theglen.com, starmazda.com, andersenkarting.com, andersenracepark.com and usf2000.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.

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 program utilizing multiple entries in three different platforms: karting, Star Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights.

A sister company, Andersen Promotions, administers the USF2000 National Championship presented by Cooper Tires and powered by Mazda. It is part of both the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy program and the MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development system.

Andersen Racing is sponsored by Allied Building Products Corp. 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, andersenkarting.com, andersenracepark.com and usf2000.com.