



## LINARES RACING EXPANDS TO 2-CAR TEAM FOR WITH SIGNING OF CHILEAN OPEN-WHEEL RACER KEVIN TOLEDO FOR 2010 – 2011 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPAIGN

Brownsburg, IN (July 23, 2010) – Linares Racing, the first-ever Venezuelan team to enter the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear has announced it will expand to a 2-car



effort for the 2010 – 2011 season with the addition of Chilean open-wheel racer Kevin Toledo. Six races remain on the 2010 schedule including this weekend's double header HARRAH'S Autobahn Grand Prix presented by MAZDA. The weekend is part of the VISITFLORIDA Cup and will be broadcast live on HDnet.

The team has been running a single-car effort for 2009 Venezuelan national

FF1600 champion Carlos Linares with backing from IND (Instituto Nacional De Deportes), Venezuela's National Institute of Sport. With several top-12 finishes, Linares is currently tied for 13th in the championship battle.

Toledo, who ran the 2009 Star Mazda Championship season with another team (with a best finish of 7th on the Iowa Speedway Oval), also has several years of experience in the Chilean F3 series and Formula Renault in Argentina.

"I learned a lot in my first season of racing in the Star Mazda Championship and I'm excited to join Linares Racing for the rest of 2010," says Toledo. "The team has made a lot of progress during the season, and Carlos has been very quick, so I think that with the two of us working toward the same goal, we can turn this team into a true championship contender in 2011."

Adding another dimension of top-level expertise to the team is engineer Rob Ridgely, who also has experience working with IndyCar teams. The widely-experienced Crew Chief will be Claudio Novoa, a veteran of the Barber Dodge Pro Series, Indy Lights with Andersen Racing and several Indy Car teams, including Team Minardi, Roth



Racing and Team Rahal. The new Linares Racing team, headquartered near the heart of the Indy Car racing community at a facility in Brownsburg, Indiana.

"We have grown as a team to the point now where Carlos is regularly running toward the front of the pack, and the addition of an experienced Star Mazda racer like Kevin to the team will give us more data to work with and help them both to be more competitive," says Novoa. "We'll be testing with Kevin at Putnam Park later this week and the team is excited to be taking this big step forward for the rest of this season, and building a team that can run for the championship in 2011."

"I'm very happy with the progress we have made since we first started the Linares Racing team at the beginning of this season," says Linares Racing team owner Gustavo Linares. "It was our plan from the beginning to expand to a two-car team once we had gained enough experience and the addition of Kevin Toledo to our driver lineup takes the team to the next level. We have a two-year plan to compete in the Star Mazda Championship before expanding our team to include the Firestone Indy Lights series and we hope to be able to help other young Venezuelan and South American drivers advance their careers in this country.

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear has reached the mid-point of the 2010 season with seven of 13 races completed. The next event on the schedule is the HARRAH'S Autobahn Grand Prix presented by MAZDA, a double-header weekend with races both Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1. Both races will be broadcast live on HDnet and will also be shown on Speed Latin America. For information about the broadcast dates and times, please visit [www.MazdaRacing.tv](http://www.MazdaRacing.tv).

Media inquiries, as well as requests for further information about driving and commercial opportunities at Linares Racing, should be directed to Gustavo Linares at 317.418.5054 or Claudio Novoa at 954.326.1404.

### **About the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear**

For 2010, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will feature an 11-weekend, 13-race schedule in the U.S. and Canada, most on major race weekends with American Le Mans, the Indy Racing League and USAC. Rising stars from around the world will compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million and benefit from two prestigious driver development programs, including the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder and the Indy Racing League's 'Road to Indy' program. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 150 mph and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For more information, please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com) or contact Peter Frey / Communications Director / 818-398-5733 / [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

