



## STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP GRADUATE JOEL MILLER TAKES ANOTHER STEP DOWN THE 'ROAD TO INDY' WITH HIS SECOND INDY LIGHTS START THIS WEEKEND AT INFINEON RACEWAY

Infineon Raceway / August 18 , 2010 – Star Mazda graduate Joel Miller will take another step down the 'Road to Indy' when he makes his second career Indy Lights Series start this weekend driving for Bryan Herta Autosport in the Carneros 100 at Infineon Raceway. Miller will drive the No. 28 entry with sponsorship from Doug Mockett & Company, Lamborghini Travels, Blanco Basura Clothing, Valli Construction and Paradise Landscape.



Miller, 22, of Hesperia, Calif., won the 2007 Skip Barber Pro Series championship and moved up to race in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear in 2008 with backing from the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder program. He won his first-ever Star Mazda race, from the pole, in the season-opener at the 12 Hours of Sebring. With one win, two poles and eight podium finishes, Miller finished 2nd in the championship. He raised funding to return for a

second season in 2009, scoring three podium finishes and eight top-5s to wind up 5th in the championship.

“We are excited to welcome Joel to the team this weekend,” said team co-owner Bryan Herta. “He has worked hard and creatively to put together the budget to compete at Sonoma and we want to provide him with the best opportunity to showcase his talents as he focuses on a full Indy Lights campaign next year.

Miller made his Indy Lights debut at Long Beach earlier this season, finishing 11th for Andersen Racing after losing second gear in the race. A mechanical engineering student at the University of California, Riverside, and sales representative for Sparco USA, Miller began his racing career in the karting ranks. Among his credits are the 2006 Stars of Karting national title in the ICA division; he was also a Team USA Scholarship recipient contesting the 2007 Formula Palmer Audi Autumn Trophy Series in England.

Miller helped to raise the funding for this Sunday's 40-lap race through the Joel Miller Indy Racing Experience, an event held this past Sunday in Santa Cruz which featured a celebrity poker tournament, raffle, exotic car display, live music and a pro skate demonstration. Proceeds also benefited the Wings for Life charity. Organized by Monarchy Media Management, guests included Dancing with the Stars Karina Smirnoff, Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice and former New York Giants defensive back Reggie Stephens and motocross champion Josh Van Den Heuvel.





"I have known Bryan since I was seven years old in go-karts and I am happy to come full circle and finally be able to drive a car for him. I have run at Sonoma in various formulas and I am very familiar with the track. This is a local race for me and I am really looking forward to the weekend because I know the place and I also know that I will have a good car under me. My goal is a full season in Indy Lights next year. I did Long Beach for the experience and now this weekend at Sonoma. Everything we are doing is for next year. Hopefully, we can keep the sponsors we have on the car for this coming weekend involved for a full-time effort and, hopefully, with Bryan's team."

Drivers in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear are in the unique position of participating in two separate but complementary programs designed to advance their motorsports careers.

**MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder:**



Up-and-coming race drivers have two major challenges: winning on the track, and finding the resources to move up to the next level. Mazda, in conjunction with series corporate partners, is making the second task significantly easier for this year's champion drivers. Mazda will provide a next-level, fully-funded ride for the 2011 season in a Mazda powered car to the 2010 champions of selected Mazda series.

The winner of a karting 'shoot-out' will participate in a full season of the BFGoodrich Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda in 2010.

- The Skip Barber National Champion moves up to race in the Cooper Tires Presents USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda.
- The USF2000 Champion moves up to race in the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear.
- The Star Mazda Champion moves up to race in the next Mazda-sponsored RX-8 competing in a full season of GT1-class racing in the Grand-Am Series.

**The Indy Racing League 'Road to Indy' Program:**

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, now entering its 20th year as one of North America's premier open-wheel driver development series and a well-established gateway to many forms



of motorsports, takes on an added dimension as a part of the official "Road to Indy" developmental system. In conjunction with the new Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship powered by Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights, the Road to Indy provides a clearly-defined path for career-minded young drivers to progress up through the ranks to compete in the





IZOD IndyCar Series and the Indianapolis 500.

Drivers from each of the "Road to Indy" series will benefit from the program in both immediate and longer-term ways. In 2010, all three series that make up the "Road to Indy" program will join the IZOD IndyCar Series at the Streets of St. Petersburg and Iowa Speedway. In addition, the drivers and teams will participate in various Indy Racing League programs such as:

- Inclusion in online advertising promoting the Road to Indy program
- A micro Website dedicated to Road to Indy housed and promoted on the League's official website IndyCar.com
- Opportunities to develop business-to-business relationships with Indy Racing League teams, sponsors and manufacturers.
- Invitation to participate in the Road to Indy Summit at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in May on the same weekend they will be competing in the "Night Before the 500."

Notable graduates of the Star Mazda Championship already competing in the IZOD IndyCar Series include Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal and Raphael Matos (the 2005 Star Mazda champion). Recent competitors in the Indy Lights series who honed their skills in the Star Mazda Championship include James Davison, James Hinchcliffe, Pablo Donoso, Michael Potekhen and Daniel Herrington.

### About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

For 2010, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will feature an 11-weekend, 13-race schedule, most on major race weekends with American Le Mans and the Indy Racing League. Rising stars from around the world will compete for prizes valued at \$1.5 million and benefit from two driver development programs, including the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder and the Indy Racing League's 'Road to Indy' program. Series alumni include Indy Car stars Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal and Raphael Matos, rising NASCAR drivers Michael McDowell, Scott Speed and Colin Braun and prototype racers Dane Cameron and Guy Cosmo. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete and the Star Mazda Championship also features Expert (30 to 44) and Master (45 and older) classes for more mature racers. 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 on the Star Mazda Championship please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com).

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com) and [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com). For information, interviews and photos, contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or [StarMazdaPR@aol.com](mailto:StarMazdaPR@aol.com).

