



#### For Immediate Release

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# ANDRETTI AUTOSPORT SIGNS SAGE KARAM AS DRIVER FOR 2011 STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP

**INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 15, 2010) –** Andretti Autosport announced today it has signed Sage Karam to drive in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship series. Comfort Revolution, a mattress manufacturer, has signed on as the primary sponsor for the entry.

The announcement marks Andretti Autosport's debut in the Star Mazda series and gives the team entries in each level of IndyCar's 'Road to Indy' development program, which includes the USF2000 National Championship, Star Mazda, Firestone Indy Lights and the IZOD IndyCar Series.

Karam, a 15-year old native of Nazareth, Pa., won the 2010 USF2000 driver championship with Andretti Autosport, scoring nine victories in 12 starts during the season. He also helped Andretti Autosport clinch the USF2000 team title, its first championship since re-branding in 2009.

As the championship winner, Karam received a sponsorship package from Mazda valued at \$350,000 to help him advance to the Star Mazda series in 2011 as part of the 'Road to Indy' program.

The 2011 Star Mazda season will begin on March 26 in conjunction with the IZOD IndyCar Series' Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. The schedule continues with 10 more races held with IndyCar, American Le Mans and USAC events. For a complete schedule, please visit <a href="https://www.starMazda.com">www.starMazda.com</a>.

# MICHAEL ANDRETTI, CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ANDRETTI AUTOSPORT:

"Sage did a great job in 2010 and really showed us what he is capable of. I'm glad we can continue to bring him through the ranks of the 'Road to Indy' program. This takes us one step closer to developing a driver all the way through to the IZOD IndyCar Series. I'm looking forward to seeing what Sage can accomplish next season."

# J-F THORMANN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, ANDRETTI AUTOSPORT:

"I'm pleased we were able to put this program together with Sage and Michael Fux. It's always satisfying to be able to not only bring talented drivers to the paddock but to also be able to give them the building blocks for a solid career. I have fond memories working with Marco [Andretti] in Star Mazda to

bring him through the ranks of open wheel racing, and I know Sage will have similar success with Andretti Autosport."

## MICHAEL FUX, COMFORT REVOLUTION:

"We were very proud of Sage's accomplishments last season, and I know he will do just as well in Star Mazda. Moving up the ladder will give him the tools he needs to become the best driver he can be. On behalf of Comfort Revolution, I look forward to working with him again as a sponsor in 2011."

### SAGE KARAM, DRIVER, ANDRETTI AUTOSPORT:

"Andretti Autosport did such a fantastic job of preparing me for the USF2000 series that choosing a Star Mazda team was an easy choice.

"I developed a lot of close relationships with the Andretti Autosport team members last year; it's like a family. I've always sensed the team's dedication and desire to win. Performing for them and never letting them down were always priorities of mine.

"Driving for Andretti Autosport is special for me. Growing up in Nazareth, Mario, Michael and Marco have always been heroes to me. So every time I strap in the Andretti car, it's very special to me.

"I believe in the 'Road to Indy' program and I know that the team does too. It's an exciting time to be a part of IndyCar and the Andretti Autosport family.

"I'd like to thank Michael Fux for believing in me and for supporting me through each step of my career."

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### About Sage Karam

Sage Karam is a talented young American racing driver launching a career in competitive open wheel racing through IndyCar's 'Road to Indy' development program. As the winner of the 2010 USF2000 National Championship with Andretti Autosport, he will move on to compete in the 2011 Star Mazda Championship series. He has previously competed in various karting series, eventually becoming a 35-time World Karting Association and IRL Stars of Karting National champion. At the age of 13, Karam was the youngest driver to win the annual Skip Barber Karting Scholarship Shoot-out. In addition, he was the only American driver to compete in both a national karting championship and an open-wheel professional series fulltime in 2009.

## **About Andretti Autosport**

Based in Indianapolis, Ind., Andretti Autosport is led by racing legend Michael Andretti. Andretti Autosport, which is the winningest team in IndyCar history, fields multiple entries in the IZOD IndyCar Series. Andretti Autosport also campaigns multiple cars in the Firestone Indy Lights series in a joint venture with AFS Racing and two cars in the USF2000 National Championship. The company boasts three IZOD IndyCar Series championships (2004, 2005 and 2007), two Firestone Indy Lights titles (2008 and 2009) and has won the Indianapolis 500 twice (2005 and 2007). For more information, please visit www.AndrettiAutosport.com.

About Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear

Now entering its 21st year of competition, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear is one of the premier open-wheel driver development series in the world with prizes for 2011 valued in excess of \$1.5 million. The series is part of both the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Driver Development Ladder and IndyCar's 'Road to Indy' program and graduates have gone on to race in F1, IndyCar, NASCAR, prototypes and sports cars. Races are held on major motorsports weekends in North America, including IndyCar, American Le Mans and USAC. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete, with the Expert Series providing a championship-within-a-championship for drivers 30 and older. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 160 mph, unlimited testing to accelerate driver development and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.StarMazda.com">www.StarMazda.com</a>.