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Additional Photos available upon request

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## **TEAM PELFREY STARTS STAR MAZDA SEASON WITH HOMETOWN RACE IN FLORIDA**

### **Series newcomers take to St. Petersburg street circuit with returning stars Andries and De Phillippi behind the wheels**

CLEARWATER, FLA. (March 23, 2011) – Team Pelfrey officially returns to racing competition on March 26<sup>th</sup>, when the Florida-based team takes to the streets of St. Petersburg for Round One of the 2011 *Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear* season. With returning series standouts Nick Andries and Connor De Phillippi getting behind the wheels, the former IndyCar Series squad is poised to challenge for top honors in its inaugural series race.

It is not everyday that a race team gets to make its series debut in front of its hometown crowd, and be expected to contend for a win, but that certainly is the case for Team Pelfrey. Having previously raced in the upper echelon of open-wheel racing in North America via the IndyCar Series, the Clearwater, Fla., squad will make its junior formula car racing debut this weekend via an impressive two-car effort in the Star Mazda Championship. Thanks to a driver line-up of De Phillippi (reigning series Rookie of the Year) and Andries (Skip Barber National race winner), combined with a highly-rated staff (multiple race wins under their collective belts), Team Pelfrey is positioned to immediately fight for a race win in first-ever Star Mazda event.

"We're quite proud of what we've put together over the past three months, but this coming weekend is what we've been focused on more than anything else," stated Team Manager Geoff Fickling. "Having our team's debut be our well-hyped home-town race is a bit of a double-edged sword, but we're as prepared as we're ever going to be and can't wait to get it started. We have some amazing people behind this operation and hopefully we can represent the team at a deservingly high level this weekend, and kick off Team Pelfrey's first season in Star Mazda with a bang."

"I am excited for the opener in front of my hometown," commented Andries. "This year I feel I am 100% more prepared than I was last year. This is a special weekend for me. I am very excited to have hometown support. This is the race I want the most on the 2011 schedule! The team put together an excellent testing program, I have a awesome teammate, we signed great sponsors for the race, and we have the best owner in the Star Mazda paddock! All of this makes for a great setting to start off the season."

"It's been months that everyone at Team Pelfrey has been preparing for this weekend at St. Petersburg," added De Phillippi. "All of our testing has prepared us the best we can be, and both myself and teammate are ready to come out in full force. I cannot thank Mr. Pelfrey and the team





enough for this opportunity, and I'm looking forward to a successful weekend to start this 2011 season."

Team Pelfrey, having recently been among the front runners in all three days of Spring Training testing, enters the highly competitive Star Mazda Championship with strong season-long backing from Trademark Garage Floors, HP Spartacote, Lithionics Battery, GS 610 Brake Fluid, Justice Brothers, and Oakley, as well as Round One support from Lindross Remodeling, QAuto Accident Attorney, and Laughlen Electric.

The on-track on action for Team Pelfrey and the rest of the *Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear* field begins in St. Petersburg on Friday (March 25), with a morning practice run on the western Florida street circuit. After an additional practice session on day one, the lone qualifying will take place on Saturday morning (March 26). The traditional standing start for Round One is then slated to go at 4:10 p.m. local time.

Additional information on Team Pelfrey can be obtained via the team website at [www.Team-Pelfrey.com](http://www.Team-Pelfrey.com) For direct contact, please contact Geoff Fickling at [gf@team-pelfrey.com](mailto:gf@team-pelfrey.com) or (727) 329-8860.

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#### **About Team Pelfrey:**

After a multi-year hiatus from motorsports competition, Team Pelfrey rejoins the professional open-wheel ranks in 2011. With the primary goal of helping develop and train new talent, the Florida-based squad will run a multi-car effort in the highly-regarded Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear, which is part of the Mazda Road to Indy ladder system. Building on Team Pelfrey's previous success in the IndyCar Series, which featured the likes of Danny Ongais, Memo Gidley, Bryan Tyler, Billy Boat, Robby Unser, Sarah Fisher and 1998 Indianapolis 500 race leader John Paul Jr. getting behind the wheel, Team Principal Dale Pelfrey has assembled a talented crew of personnel with a proven Star Mazda track record.



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