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Additional Photos available upon request

## STAR MAZDA PODIUM FINISH FOR TEAM PELFREY IN ALABAMA

### Andries made first visit to series podium with a runner-up finish in Round Two at Barber Motorsports Park

CLEARWATER, FLA. (April 12, 2011) – Team Pelfrey continued its inaugural season of *Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear* competition in fine fashion on Sunday (April 10), with another podium finish in Round Two at Barber Motorsports Park. American Nick Andries led the charge for the Florida-based team in Alabama, earning his inaugural series top-three result with a superb runner-up finish. Round One winner Connor De Phillippi finished 10<sup>th</sup>, following mid-race contact with another driver.

With a race win already in the books – De Phillippi winning the season-opener on the streets of St. Petersburg – Team Pelfrey entered its second-ever Star Mazda Championship event seeking to keep its winning ways going. Focusing on finding the right car balance for the technical Barber Motorsports Park track in the opening two practice runs, it appeared the squad was headed in the right direction, with both De Phillippi and Andries within the top-10. Things however did not go exactly as planned in qualifying, as neither Team Pelfrey racer was able to turn the fast lap flyer they desired in the timed session, resulting in De Phillippi earning a row three starting position with the fifth best time, and Andries turning the ninth quickest lap.

Following a rare two-day break between sessions, in which the Team Pelfrey crew and drivers discussed ways to go quicker, De Phillippi and Andries returned to action on Sunday morning confident they could advance up the charts and challenge for top honors. That confidence proved to be well justified, as both drivers got good launches from the traditional series standing start, with De Phillippi's No. 11 Oakley/Justice Brothers/Hernan Capdevila/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Team Pelfrey Mazda immediately among the lead pack, and Andries not far behind. With the No. 81 Indy 500: An American Icon/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Oakley/Justice Brothers/Team Pelfrey Mazda car of Andries steadily picking off drivers, it appeared the Florida-based team had the potential to place two drivers on the podium.

Unfortunately, De Phillippi's chances at being involved in the post-race podium celebrations vanished just past the halfway mark of the 33-lap affair, when he tangled with another racer while battling for position. The incident, which happened along the straight-away, resulted in a flat right front tire, right front suspension damage, and a bent front wing. De Phillippi immediately pitted for repairs and the Team Pelfrey crew quickly went to work, changing the right front tire and



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straightening the bent suspension enough to get him back out on the lead lap. Although he had to finish the race with a slightly cock-eyed steering wheel due to the suspension damage knocking the alignment off, De Phillippi still was able to pull off a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish, earning ever so valuable championship points.

Andries, however, was going the other way, making the most of every opportunity, including two electrifying passes in the final five laps of the 33-lap race. Displaying superb racecraft, the Floridian in the end took home a hard fought second place finish, earning his first trip to the Star Mazda podium.

“First off, I want to thank Dale Pelfrey for putting together a solid team, giving Connor and I the opportunity to challenge for podiums each time we race,” stated Andries. “The track was hard on the Goodyear tires, especially while running behind traffic. I had to save the tires and time my passes to minimize the time behind other cars in order to save the life of the tires. In the end, I just kept passing cars one by one.

“Our car improved so much from Thursday qualifying to the race. I have to really give a lot of credit to our team engineers Geoff [Fickling] and Tim [Lewis], and my mechanic Fred [Michael]. They worked really hard throughout the weekend. I’m really happy with our result, but I’m more excited about the potential our team has for the remainder of the season. I can’t wait to get to the next three races, all on ovals!”

“Going into this weekend at Barber we were looking to keep our momentum going after a successful St. Petersburg weekend,” added De Phillippi. “A podium was the goal and that is exactly what we had ourselves in position to do. Unfortunately, when we challenged for the fourth position, some wheel-to-wheel contact brought our podium effort to an end due to right front damage. As a team, we kept our composure and managed a top-10 finish which was very important for the championship. Up next are the ovals, and I know we will be working very hard as a team to prepare for the next three events. I cannot thank the team and Dale Pelfrey himself for their commitment and hard work, and I’m looking forward to getting them back on top. Also a massive congratulations to my teammate Nick Andries on his first podium finish in Star Mazda.”

Team Pelfrey resumes its chase for race wins and the 2011 *Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear* title on May 28<sup>th</sup>, with Round Three at Lucas Oil Raceway in Indiana. With continued support from Trademark Garage Floors, HP Spartacote, Lithionics Battery, GS 610 Brake Fluid, Justice Brothers, and Oakley, the Florida-based team enters the famed ‘Night before the 500’ event third in the team standings. De Phillippi, the reigning Rookie of the Year, is currently second in the driver standings, while Andries lies fifth.

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



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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.

