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## **TEAM PELFREY CONTINUES STAR MAZDA OVAL RUN WITH PODIUM FINISH AT MILWAUKEE MILE**

### **Nick Andries converted pole position into a third consecutive top-three result**

CLEARWATER, FLA. (June 21, 2011) – Team Pelfrey continued its championship-contending rookie season run on Sunday (June 19) with yet another impressive oval outing in the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear. As part of the IZOD IndyCar Series event at the historic Milwaukee Mile, sophomore stars Nick Andries and Connor De Phillippi locked out the front-row of the starting grid in single-car qualifying for a second consecutive race prior to coming home third and sixth, respectively, in a rain-delayed affair.

After a record-setting performance at the 'Night Before the 500' in late May, which featured Team Pelfrey leading every session en route to a flag-to-flag win and a new lap record, the Florida-based squad and its two highly-talented drivers entered the Milwaukee Mile event riding a wave of confidence. Building on this early season success, Andries and De Phillippi wasted little time getting up to speed around the high-speed oval, continually working with the talented Team Pelfrey engineers and crew to make their cars even better. It certainly showed at the conclusion of the Thursday promoters' test session, and the Friday and Saturday morning practice sessions as well, as De Phillippi was P1, and Andries P3 on the timesheets, entering single-car qualifying.

In a repeat of the previous round in Indiana, Team Pelfrey was the class of the field in Round Four qualifying, with the now-trademark yellow and black cars once again topping the speedcharts. Andries proved to be fastest driver this time out, turning the quickest lap (27.269 seconds) in his two-lap run, just edging his teammate De Phillippi by a mere 0.003s when the final checkered flag waved, giving the St. Petersburg racer his first Star Mazda Championship pole position.

With two Team Pelfrey cars lining-up at the front of the field on Sunday morning, the stage was set for the Florida-based squad to potentially add another victory to its ever-growing junior formula car resume. Unfortunately, the outcome had to wait, as a rain shower forced the start of the 98-lap race to be pushed back to the early evening, following the IndyCar Series race.

When the green flag finally waved to get the action underway, it quickly became apparent that the new track conditions were not ideal for the Team Pelfrey duo. While Andries initially held on to the top spot, his teammate De Phillippi immediately lost positions to the chasing pack of cars. The No. 81 Indy 500: An American Icon/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Oakley/Justice Brothers/Team Pelfrey Mazda of Andries continued to hold lead until lap five, when second place found a way past. Continually working at improving the handling of



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their cars via adjustments within the cockpit, the duo then held station until a lap 14 caution bunched the field back to together.

For Andries, the ensuing restart marked an opportunity to retake the lead. The Floridian got a good launch when the flag dropped and was able to move to the inside of the leader in turn one. While able to hold the position through turn two, the move ultimately came up just short, with Andries slotting back into second place by the end of the lap. As De Phillippi continued to battle the handling of his No. 11 Oakley/Justice Brothers/Hernan Capdevila/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Team Pelfrey Mazda further down the order, Andries held station in second lap after lap. That, however, all changed on lap 81, when he was forced to defend a spirited challenge from another driver, resulting in both drivers relinquishing a position to another racer. In the end, Andries earned a third consecutive podium visit via a third place finish, while De Phillippi needed to deal with an ill-handling car all race long and still scored valuable points with a sixth place result.

“Of course. it’s always disappointing when you don’t convert a pole into a win, but with that said, I’m very happy to be on the podium for the third straight race,” stated Andries. “I got a good start, and felt comfortable with the lead, but the #88 car was just better than us. The balance of my car was a little loose, and I hoped as the tires wore out it would pick up some understeer, but the car never did. As usual, the Team Pelfrey crew did a great job this weekend. Connor and I didn’t have the best cars, but we made it to the finish and scored points, which is important. I think we will rebound this coming weekend at Iowa.”

“This race weekend at Milwaukee was truly a building weekend for us as a team,” added De Phillippi. “We started a little behind the ball, but eventually we got to the top of the time charts. That in itself was really good for the team, and it showed how bad all of us truly want to win this championship. When it came to the race, it just wasn’t our day. As a team, we guessed at which direction the track conditions would go, but we just didn’t quite get things right. I still have the best group of people around me that I could possibly ask for, and when we roll in to Iowa this next weekend we will be looking for redemption! Thank you to Dale Pelfrey for this unbelievable opportunity.”

With two oval races now in the books, Team Pelfrey now looks to continue its run of circle track form this coming Saturday (June 25), when Round Five of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear takes place at the Iowa Speedway. The squad, which enjoys on-going support from Trademark Garage Floors, HP Spartacote, Lithionics Battery, GS 610 Brake Fluid, Justice Brothers, and Oakley, currently tops the Team Championship standings, while De Phillippi and Andries lie second and third in the title fight.

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.

