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TEAM PELFREY DUO RECOVER TO SCORE VALUABLE POINTS IN IOWA

Andries and De Phillippi overcame setbacks in qualifying and race to exit oval third and fourth in title chase

CLEARWATER, FLA. (June 29, 2011) – When Team Pelfrey looks back on the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season, Saturday's (June 25) Round Five race at the Iowa Speedway may prove to be a valuable points scoring affair. Showcasing the never give up spirit within the Florida squad, title contender Nick Andries recovered from a dramatic crash in qualifying to finish a solid seventh on the banked oval. Fellow championship contender Connor De Phillippi followed suit, overcoming a tire failure in the race to finish 11th. While the results were less than ideal, the tenacity of the pair ensured they leave the final oval round sitting third (De Phillippi) and fourth (Andries) in the title chase.

Given Team Pelfrey had swept the front-row at the previous two oval races, as well as earned a win and three podium finishes, it comes as no surprise that the Florida-based team was full of confidence entering Round Five of the Star Mazda Championship at the Iowa Speedway. In what would be a precursor to further tire problems during the event, De Phillippi suffered a tire failure during the three-hour promoter's test session on Thursday, impacting the wall and doing significant damage to his 2011 race-winning car.

Things seemed to be taking a turn for the better one day later, as not only was De Phillippi able to get back on-course thanks to some superb work overnight by the Team Pelfrey crew, but Andries posted the second fastest time in the lone practice run.

A wrench was thrown in the Team Pelfrey plans unfortunately on Saturday afternoon, when a rain shower forced the final 45-minute practice run to be converted into a 10-minute warm-up session immediately prior to single-car qualifying. With no opportunity to further fine tune the setup on their cars, De Phillippi and Andries entered their two-lap timed runs seeking to make the most of the situation. For the reigning Star Mazda Rookie of the Year De Phillippi this resulted in the fifth fastest time, placing the No. 11 Oakley/Justice Brothers/Hernan Capdevila/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Team Pelfrey Mazda on the inside of row three for the early evening race. Andries' run unfortunately ended before it even really began, as the Floridian's No. 81 Indy 500: An American Icon/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Oakley/Justice Brothers/Team Pelfrey Mazda impacted the turn three wall on his first flying lap. While unhurt, it meant he would start at the rear of the field.



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Thanks to some superb foresight by the Team Pelfrey squad to have the back-up car prepped aligned for just such a setback, both De Phillippi and Andries were back behind the wheels when the green flag waved for Round Five a very short time later. De Phillippi, as many expected, initially appeared poised to join the fight for a podium finish. It was not to be however for the two-time 2011 race winner, as yet another tire failure relegated De Phillippi to the pitlane, losing two laps before rejoining the fray. Fortunately, Andries was going in the other direction in his back-up racing steed, steadily working his way forward as the race progressed. Well aware that every point may count come the end of the season, neither Team Pelfrey racer gave up pushing until the checkered flag waved. Andries in the end crossed the stripe in a hard fought seventh, while De Phillippi ended the 100-lap affair in 11th.

"I need to first thank the team for working so hard and quickly getting the back-up car ready to race, so I was able to at least salvage some points in the championship," stated Andries. "I also want to thank Dale Pelfrey, the best owner Team Pelfrey could ask for. I'm not sure many other teams even have a back-up car, and it was a huge relief to know Dale had decided to have a extra car ready for Connor and I.

"Everything was look pretty good going into qualifying, constantly in the top-five, then it seemed like it was just not our day. I was trying to push the car to its limits, because I felt I would gain an advantage the quicker I got the momentum up and the tires got up to temperature. Going into turn three on my first timed lap I just lost the rear of the car and was a passenger from then on.

"The race was a pretty boring one for me. I started last and passed three cars pretty early on and just settled in. I caught the only yellow at a bad time, because I just got lapped, and the next position in front of me did not get lapped, so I never had a chance to challenge the other guys for position. I'm looking forward to getting back up front and winning races on the remaining road and street courses."

"Iowa was another tough weekend for us, and many of the elements that made it tough were out of our control," commented De Phillippi. "The team put in a fantastic effort over the past two weeks, and unfortunately we don't have the results to show it. In qualifying the car could not have been any better, and even then it left us starting in fifth. It was definitely an interesting weekend none the less, and the extra tire blow out in the race just capped it all off. I'm looking forward to getting back to the road courses and getting that Team Pelfrey machine back on the top step of the podium. Thank you to all the guys for their hard work!"

Team Pelfrey and its talented duo of Andries and De Phillippi now have a break until July 22-23, when Round Six of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear travels 'North of the Border' to Mosport International Raceway. Entering the annual trip to the high-speed Canadian road course, the Trademark Garage Floors, HP Spartacote, Lithionics Battery, GS 610 Brake Fluid, Justice Brothers, and Oakley supported squad lies second in the Team Championship standings, while De Phillippi and Andries are third and fourth in the driver points chase.

Additional information on Team Pelfrey can be obtained via the team website at www.Team-Pelfrey.com For direct contact, please contact Geoff Fickling at 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.

