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TEAM PELFREY RESUMES STAR MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING WAYS IN TROIS-RIVIERES

De Phillippi and Andries gave Florida squad second one-two finish of 2011 in Round Eight

CLEARWATER, FLA. (August 9, 2011) – Team Pelfrey's two-event Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear Canadian road trip ended on a high this past weekend (August 6-7), with a return to victory lane and a total of three visits to the podium in Trois-Rivieres, Que. Nick Andries got the ball rolling for Team Pelfrey in Round Seven, as the Florida racer came home third place at the famed street circuit. Fellow second-year standout racer Connor De Phillippi followed that up with his series leading third win of the season in Round Eight, just crossing the stripe ahead of his teammate. The one-two finish in race two of the doubleheader not only re-established the Florida-based squad as a winning force in the highly competitive championship, but also propelled Team Pelfrey into the Team standings lead.

For Team Pelfrey, the lone doubleheader on the Star Mazda calendar in Trois-Rivieres provided not only the ideal opportunity to earn valuable points in its chase for a rookie title, but also the chance to continue building momentum entering the closing stages of the 11-race campaign. While the car setup that led De Phillippi to a runner-up result in Round Six at the high-speed Mosport road course would not translate directly to the tight confines of the historic Quebec street circuit, the momentum and confidence did carry over to the second event 'North of the Border'.

Both De Phillippi and Andries immediately displayed their intentions to challenge for top honors in Quebec during the lone practice run around the 1.53-mile circuit, with De Phillippi placing the No. 11 Oakley/Justice Brothers/Hernan Capdevila/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Team Pelfrey Mazda second on the timecharts, and Andries ending the run P4.

While things did not go quite according to plan in qualifying, with the Team Pelfrey racers battling traffic, the talented duo still made their presence felt. Andries ultimately posted the third best lap in his No. 81 Indy 500: An American Icon/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Oakley/Justice Brothers/Team Pelfrey Mazda, while De Phillippi was fifth quickest.

With passing opportunities at a premium on the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivieres track, it did not come as much of a surprise that Round Seven featured little movement among the lead pack. Andries was one of the few to make a pass for position, retaking third place early in the 39-lap affair, after losing the spot at the start. Andries in the end earned his fourth podium finish of the season, while De Phillippi secured his fourth top-five result with a fifth place finish.

Despite the processional affair in race one of the doubleheader in Quebec, the Team Pelfrey crew and drivers were confident they could move forward in Round Eight. That belief was well





justified, as De Phillippi and Andries promptly did just that in the 43-lap race. De Phillippi, starting fifth, was a driver on the move right from the get go, making the most of any mistake or opening by the drivers ahead to rapidly slot into second place. With his teammate Andries right behind, he held that position until just past two thirds mark, when traffic gave him the chance to pass for the lead in turn eight. With Andries also making the most of the situation to pass, the duo never relinquished the positions from that point forward, giving Team Pelfrey a second one-two finish in 2011.

"We actually threw away all the changes we had made to the cars since we got here and went back to the setup the cars rolled off the trailer with on Friday and that's what worked for us in the races," said De Phillippi. "Nick and I just drove the race [Round Eight] we wanted to, and were able to take advantage of some mistakes other people made to move up. It really feels like Team Pelfrey is capable of winning on any given weekend, and that, combined with the psychological boost of a 1-2 finish here, gives us some real momentum heading into the final three races of the season."

"It was a solid performance this weekend for the 81 team and Team Pelfrey as a whole," stated Andries. "I think the key to our success was the preparation of our crew on the engineering side and mechanical side. The guys took an extra day after Mosport to prep the cars for Trois-Rivieres, and as a result Connor and I rolled off the trailer quick. In race one, we were right there with Horto and Vautier, but just didn't have that little bit to overtake them. Race two was really exciting! Karam tried to make a move in turn six, but I had to race him hard because I knew he had a drive through. I felt my advantage was on the brakes and entries into the corners compared to Horto. I was able to get close off turn three and just out braked him into turn six. From there I was trying to run down Vautier and keep it clean. Lapped traffic, combined with some of the best laps of my race, got me within a few car lengths. I knew we had a better car, so I just had to pick my spot. I ended up making a mistake that eventually gave Connor the advantage, but we worked together with intelligence to track down Vautier. After Connor got by Vautier in turn eight, I used my strength in turn six and got Vautier as well. The team really deserved the 1-2 finish, and I think Team Pelfrey showed that we are going to fight for the title down the home stretch."

Team Pelfrey now heads west to California, with Infineon Raceway playing host to Round Nine of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear on August 26-27. The rookie squad from Florida enters the event as the new leaders in the Team standings, while De Phillippi and Andries are still second and third in the championship fight.

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.

