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TEAM PELFREY ENDS ROOKIE STAR MAZDA SEASON WITH WIN AND TEAM TITLE

De Phillippi and Andries finished one-two for a third time in the season-finale at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca

CLEARWATER, FLA. (September 20, 2011) – Team Pelfrey ended its inaugural Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season in perfect fashion over the weekend (September 17-18), finishing first and second and capturing the team title in the season-finale at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Connor De Phillippi converted the pole position in Round 11 into a fourth win, and was joined on the podium by Nick Andries, giving the Florida-based squad its third one-two result of the season.

When Team Pelfrey arrived at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca for the final event of the Star Mazda Championship, the highly-rated squad was focused on one main objective...winning Round 11. While the team enters every race with that goal in mind, a victory in the northern California finale would potentially lead to a driver and team title.

The on-track action commenced for De Phillippi and Andries on Thursday with two promoter's day test sessions. As planned, the talented duo utilized the opening two runs to begin fine tuning their cars for the undulating track and the ever-changing track conditions. The end result was De Phillippi with the fourth best time, and Andries posting the sixth fastest lap.

Setting the stage for what would ultimately be a championship-winning event, the Team Pelfrey name moved to the top of the speedcharts on Friday. De Phillippi turned the fastest lap of the day in the afternoon session, while Andries' quick time in the morning run was good enough to place the No. 81 Indy 500: An American Icon/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Oakley/Justice Brothers/Team Pelfrey fifth on the combined timesheet.

Following a rare day off during the event, the Star Mazda cars returned to action on Sunday for qualifying and Round 11. Team Pelfrey proved to be the team to beat in the early morning timed run to set the grid for the season-finale, as De Phillippi posted the quickest lap in the No. 11 Oakley/Justice Brothers/Hernan Capdevila/Lithionics Battery/Trademark Garage Floors/HP Spartacote/Team Pelfrey Mazda, only just edging his teammate Andries for the pole position.

After a brief break to go over race strategy, the Team Pelfrey duo were strapped back into their yellow and black racing steeds for the traditional Formula One style standing start. De Phillippi promptly made the most of his P1 starting position when the lights went out, holding the advantage off the line and into the first turn. Andries' start proved to be more dramatic, as he was immediately under attack. Despite some intense pressure, the Floridian held on to second place.





From that point forward, the Team Pelfrey duo steadily built an advantage on the rest of the field. When the checkered flag waved, De Phillippi had captured his fourth win of the season, securing second in the championship standings. Andries came home in second, earning third in the title fight and giving Team Pelfrey an impressive one-two finish for the third time in 2011.

"I feel we had the best team in the series this year," stated De Phillippi. "We started 1-2 three times and finished 1-2 three times, and I won four races, so that's the great part that we're all happy about. It was the bad luck, the things that were out of our control that kept us from winning the championship, but we brought our A game to the track every weekend, fighting to win every race, and I think we had a good chance every weekend. We'll be back next year even stronger and more focused and going for the championship again."

"It was a great weekend, and to end on a high note is always nice," added Andries. "It was a team effort 100%. I crashed in final practice, which put me a little in the dark a little, but based off Connor's feedback qualifying couldn't have been better. It was same in the race. I'm super happy for the team. They deserved a winning season with all the effort they put in to those cars in the organization first year of existence."

With the one-two result, Team Pelfrey captured the team championship title in its inaugural season of junior formula car competition. The Florida-based team ended the year with four wins, 13 podium finishes, 15 top-fives, 20 top-10s, three pole positions, and five fastest race laps.

Team Pelfrey will now briefly savor its championship-winning rookie campaign, before beginning preparations for another title run in 2012.

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.

