



For Immediate Release:

## Team Pelfrey Fill Row Two of the Grid for Hometown Star Mazda Opener

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (March 23, 2012) – Team Pelfrey drivers Jack Hawksworth, Petri Suvanto and Gustavo Menezes will line up third, fourth and 10<sup>th</sup> on the grid for tomorrow's opening round of the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear.

The locally based team was extremely competitive during practice this morning, and will surely be among the challengers for victory in this weekend's pair of 30-minute races following another strong effort in this afternoon's 30-minute qualifying session.

Race One tomorrow will commence at 1:00 pm, with Race Two due to be green-flagged at 10:05 am on Sunday. The starting grid for Sunday's race will be determined by each driver's fastest lap during Race One. Live timing and scoring will be available at [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com).

### WHAT THEY SAID:

Jack Hawksworth (#82 Team Pelfrey/RKM Building Construction/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks), qualified third – "I'm really happy with the car and everything but I think we could probably have had a bit more out of the car for qualifying. The red flag didn't really fall at a good time for us and we had quite a bit of traffic, but that's all ifs and buts. Overall, though, we're right up there and the team has done a great job with the car. Thanks to Dale (Pelfrey) for putting the whole team together and all the engineers and mechanics, because it's been brilliant. I can't wait for the race. It's my first race in America but I've raced in Europe for quite a few years, (and) I've got a year's car racing experience so hopefully that will stand me in good stead."

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development/RKM Building Construction), qualified fourth – "I'm not entirely satisfied with P4 but it's still a good way to start the season. It's a long season, a lot of races to come. Even this weekend we have two races, so you can't really be too disappointed and we just have to work on moving forward and trying to improve the car and to improve myself and get everything together for the two races. We were second this morning (in practice), which was good, and the qualifying session was quite hectic with lots of yellow flags and lots of traffic, so I never really got a perfect lap together, which is obviously my fault, but I'm looking forward to the race."

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark), qualified 10th – "We ran really good this morning and thought we had something together and, unfortunately, it was a little bit of a struggle in qualifying, but I'm sure the guys from the team will be able to come up with something for the race tomorrow. We're going to be working hard tonight to make sure we can hopefully be on the podium or fighting for the win tomorrow."

### About Team Pelfrey:

Dale Pelfrey's race team, based in the St. Petersburg, Fla., area, is built upon the same principles he used 35 years ago when establishing his business career – hire the best, acquire the best and demand the best in order to achieve the most. After fielding cars in the IZOD IndyCar Series from 1998 until 2000, Team Pelfrey was reformed in 2011, winning on its Star Mazda debut and going on to earn the Team Championship as well as second and third in the drivers' title-chase with Connor De Phillippi and Nick Andries. Team Pelfrey is fielding three cars in the 2012 Star Mazda series in addition to expanding its driver development program within the Mazda Road to Indy ladder system by supporting Spencer Pigot in the USF2000 Championship.

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