



For Immediate Release:

## Englishman Hawksworth Wins at St. Petersburg for Locally Based Team Pelfrey



ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (March 25, 2012) – Team Pelfrey chose the perfect location to claim its first victory of the season – just a few miles from its home base -- in this morning’s second round of the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear on a tight and challenging 1.8-mile street circuit in St. Petersburg.

Jack Hawksworth, 21, (*LEFT, photo by Eric McCombs/Star Mazda*) from Bradford, England, started from the pole and led throughout the 19-lap race, which was interrupted by a pair of full-course cautions, to claim his first North American win in just his second start.

Finnish teammate Petri Suvanto, 19, made a poor start, dropping from second to third before Turn One, but maintained that position to ensure two Team Pelfrey

drivers were on the podium in front of a huge crowd that was gathered for this afternoon’s opening round of the IZOD IndyCar Series.

“Couldn’t be happier,” exclaimed Team Pelfrey Team Manager Geoff Fickling. “I’m so proud of our team, top to bottom. It’s been a hectic pre-season but man, every single person on this team has worked their butts off and it’s really paid off. I really felt we came to St. Pete prepared and we got the result to prove it.”

American Gustavo Menezes, in the third Team Pelfrey car, was once again stricken by mechanical maladies, restricting him to a 10<sup>th</sup>-place finish.

The Star Mazda Championship will continue with two more races next weekend at Barber Motorsports Park, near Birmingham, Ala., once again in support of the IZOD IndyCar Series.

- Also this morning on the streets of St. Petersburg, Team Pelfrey Development Driver Spencer Pigot ensured a sweep of the weekend’s pair of Cooper Tires USF2000 Championship Powered by Mazda races. Pigot, 18, from Orlando, Fla., overtook pole-sitter Matt Brabham to take the win and the championship points lead.

### WHAT THEY SAID:

Jack Hawksworth (#82 Team Pelfrey/RKM Building Construction/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks), started first, finished first – “It was just one of those races where everything came together. I had an absolutely perfect car from Team Pelfrey. There were a lot of safety cars and restarts but we managed to nail all the starts, and with the pace we had in the car it was really easy to control the race. It’s really good that Petri was on the podium, both of us getting points for the Team Championship, so a really good weekend overall.”

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy/RKM Building Construction), started second, finished third – “As a race car driver you always aim for the win, and when you don’t get that result you’re always a bit frustrated, and that was the case today. I didn’t do so well at the start, I made a little mistake, and that dropped us to third. After that it was a big fight with a fellow competitor and we finished P3. Thanks to the team, though, because the car’s been good all week and now I’m even more motivated to get that (first) win at Barber (Motorsports Park next weekend).”

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark), started eighth, finished 10<sup>th</sup> – “We worked really hard the last two days getting this car in shape after qualifying and we really dialed it in yesterday and unfortunately some engine

problems made us struggle. We thought we were going to be good today. I got a great start off the line and as soon as I came out of Turn One and got on the gas, I already felt the engine fading. Unfortunately, it just got progressively worse. That's part of the deal. Hopefully we've got our problems out of the way early. I know the boys are working really hard and we're going to take this thing apart and make sure it's working fine for Barber because I think we have a big possibility of fighting for the win."

**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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