



For Immediate Release:

## Hawksworth Takes Pole in the Wet for Team Pelfrey in Alabama



LEEDS, ALA. (March 30, 2012) – Inclement weather at the challenging Barber Motorsports Park road course in Alabama forced officials to postpone the race that had been scheduled for this evening until Sunday morning, but it was still a good day for Team Pelfrey. Englishman Jack Hawksworth, 21 (LEFT), who scored his first Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear race win last week in St. Petersburg, Fla., in just his second series start, showed that was no fluke by posting the fastest lap in today's shortened, wet qualifying session. Hawksworth's best time of 1:29.729 ensured he will start on pole position for the first of two races to be held on Sunday in support of the IZOD IndyCar Series.

Hawksworth also set the fastest time of the day during dry practice on Thursday, a 1:20.616, just 0.245s ahead of teammate Petri Suvanto, who overcame some problems during today's abbreviated qualifying session to qualify in sixth.

Gustavo Menezes also was quick in practice, setting the fourth fastest lap, but was once again out of luck in qualifying. He will line up 10<sup>th</sup> on the grid on Sunday morning.

Race One on Sunday will commence at 10:20 am, with Race Two due to be green-flagged after the IZOD IndyCar Series race at approximately 4:45 pm. The starting grid for Race Two 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/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks), qualified first – “We had a bit of a difficult situation with the big storm coming in and delaying qualifying, and then also having not driven [a Star Mazda car] in the wet before, but the team did a great job to get the car switched over to a wet setup. We had a great car and we were able to put it on pole position, so I'm very happy. The forecast for Sunday is dry and we were quickest on Thursday in the dry and we think we've got a good race car, so starting from the pole, we should be in with a good shot of getting some good points on the board.”

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy), qualified sixth – “It was a bit of a weird day. We spent the whole day waiting for qualifying and then as I was starting to put my helmet on, they decided to postpone qualifying due to dangerous weather conditions. Then, after all the waiting, the series decided to make a shortened, 20-minute session in wet conditions. We were struggling with some technical problems so, considering those issues, P6 is not such a disaster and we know we have a good race car. No matter what the weather is like on Sunday, I'm looking forward to the races and making a good comeback and scoring some good points.”

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark), qualified 10th – “It was pretty good. It was my first time in a Star Mazda in the rain and one of the first times in a formula car in the rain, so considering that I think we had a pretty good day. It wasn't what we wanted because, coming out of yesterday, we were hoping to fight for P1 today in qualifying, but it's still somewhere that we can fight for a podium or a win in Sunday's races. I got some good experience today and I think we can definitely work on getting up to the top.”

### 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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