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Veach In It Together With Andretti, Looks Onto Barber **VEACH IN IT TOGETHER WITH ANDRETTI, LOOKS ONTO BARBER**

Andretti Autosport's Zach Veach Puts First Two Races in Star Mazda In The Books

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla (Mar. 25, 2012) – Andretti Autosport driver Zach Veach didn't quite have the start to the 2012 season he was expecting. Fresh off securing his second straight winter series championship, Veach was looking to make a little history on the Streets of St. Petersburg. Instead, the Star Mazda rookie driver had his hands full all weekend with his first start on a street course in Star Mazda.

"After having a bit of a rough start in the first race yesterday, we really wanted to work on getting off on the right foot today," said Veach. "We made some changes over night with our thoughts on what the track was going to be like, but once the race started, we had some imbalances in the car that hurt us, but we are all in this together and it is all part of learning, so I am looking forward to going to Barber. The only place we can go from here is up and I think we have a really good shot at doing well from here on out. I want to thank all of my sponsors, Zakosi Data Backup, Young Marines, Replay XD, ADS, OMP, Arai Helmets and the whole Andretti Autosport team for working so hard."

Veach opened the weekend with Star Mazda practice beginning on Thurs. Mar. 22, where he was steady in the Top-10 during combined practice sessions, making just his second appearance on the streets of St. Petersburg and first in a Star Mazda machine.

Following the presentation of the 2011 "Most Popular Driver" awards for all INDYCAR-sanctioned series, which included presenting Veach, teammate Sage Karam, Jacob Wilson and Helio Castroneves with the "Most Popular Driver" awards, Veach put down his quickest lap of the weekend in qualifications. He bested his two practice session times, recording a best time of 1:11.436 in qualifications, which put him eighth on the grid for the start of his season-opening race.

The first Star Mazda race of the weekend nearly got off without a hitch as the 21 competitors began the race with a standing start and roared through Turn 1. As Veach entered Turn 4, his throttle stuck and he was unable to slow his car as he entered the corner. The first year Star Mazda driver damaged his front wing and lost his shock cover, forcing an unexpected pit stop to replace his front wing, sending the 17-year-old a lap down and to the 21st position. He went on to finish 17th.

“This weekend’s has been a big learning experience for us being in the Star Mazda car and a street course together,” said Veach. “That is the first time with that combination for me. We are really learning a lot and had some really good race pace but with some throttle sticking issues. I was going into Turn 4 and tried to get off the breaks but the throttle stuck at about 25 to 50 percent, so I couldn’t slow the car. I ended up losing my front wing so had to stop in the pits and my guys did a fantastic job to get a new one put back on for me. I managed to go back out in the Zokosi Data Backup Mazda and finish 17th and tomorrow; I’ll be starting in the ninth position. We’ll have a lot better shot tomorrow in the second race and we just have to take what we learned from today and put it all together.”

Veach then started Race #2 in the ninth position, which was based off times recorded during Race #1. During the race Veach struggled with his car after changes were made to the Zakosi Data Backup Mazda overnight. The teen driver reported several imbalances in the car, which hampered his ability to push toward the front. He went on to finish 11th.

The opening round weekend at St. Petersburg was just Veach’s third and fourth starts in a Star Mazda machine. He made two starts in Star Mazda in 2011, earning his first podium result in only his second race with his third place finish at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. Veach moved up full-time to Star Mazda for 2012, following two seasons in USF2000, where he earned three pole positions and one race win in 2011. Thereafter, he won the Formula Car Challenge presented by Goodyear Winter Series’ championship in his Star Mazda machine in early 2012 before the start of the regular Star Mazda Championship season.

Veach’s 2012 effort in the Star Mazda Championship is primarily supported by Zakosi Data Backup with additional support from: The Young Marines, ADS IT Solutions, Replay XD, OMP, and Arai Helmets.

Veach returns to the racetrack on Thurs., Mar. 29 for practice at 8:00 CST at Barber Motorsports Park in preparation for his first race event at the Birmingham, Alabama 15-turn 2.38-mile asphalt permanent road course. He will contest two race events during the IZOD IndyCar Series headlining weekend with races scheduled for Fri. Mar. 30 and Sat. April 1. Prior to taking to the streets of St. Petersburg, Veach participated in a two-day Spring Training testing platform at Barber, where he was 10th quick of the 21 drivers competing in the test.

Sanctioned by INDYCAR, the Star Mazda Championship is one of two series part of both the Mazda Road to Indy ladder system and the MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development driver program. Andretti Autosport is currently the only INDYCAR team to compete in each level of the Mazda Road to Indy.

For more information, please visit www.ZachVeach.com or www.AndrettiAutosport.com.

About Zach Veach:

Zach “Ziggy” Veach is a 17-year-old autoracing driver who competes in INDYCAR’s ‘Mazda Road to Indy’ Star Mazda Championship Series, an important open-wheel stepping-stone to a career in the IZOD IndyCar Series and Indianapolis 500. In 2012, Veach captured the Formula Car Challenge Winter Series Championship and in 2011, he secured the USF2000 Cooper Tires Winterfest Championship and was voted the “Most Popular Driver in USF2000”. Named by ESPN The Magazine as a NEXT athlete in motorsports, Veach keeps an active pace both on and off the race track. In 2010, Michael Andretti signed Veach to his team, Andretti Autosport, while also being named one of CNN’s “Intriguing People” and being nominated for the Sports Illustrated “Sports Kid of the Year” award. In addition to his racing, Veach is an advocate for safer driving as the national spokesperson for FocusDriven, an advocacy group for victims of motor vehicle crashes involving drivers using their cell phones and has campaigned for Oprah Winfrey’s “No Phone Zone.” Veach designed a phone application through his phone-app building company, ZaAPP, releasing urTXT, in the Marketplace for Android to help consumers avoid dangerous text messaging while driving. Like most of his peers, Veach was bullied as a kid and works to combat the growing epidemic as part of the Cyber Safety Academy’s “No BULL Challenge”

as a key ambassador. Veach has been a guest or profiled on a variety of national platforms including NBC's The Today Show, CNN's Headline News, ABCNews.com, Oprah Radio's The Gayle King Show, The Los Angeles Times, AOL.com and is a blogger for RACER magazine and The Huffington Post. The son of a national truck and tractor-pulling champion, Veach is sponsored by Zakosi Data Backup, The Young Marines, Replay XD, Arai Helmets, OMP, ADS IT Solutions, and artrotondo.com. He entered his sophomore year of high school this past fall and released his first book, 99 THINGS TEENS WISH THEY KNEW BEFORE TURNING 16, in 2011. For more information, please visit www.ZachVeach.com.

About Andretti Autosport:

Based in Indianapolis and led by racing legend Michael Andretti, Andretti Autosport fields multiple entries in the IZOD IndyCar Series. Andretti Autosport competes in Firestone Indy Lights, the Star Mazda Championship and in the USF2000 National Championship. The company boasts three IZOD IndyCar Series championships (2004, 2005 and 2007), two Firestone Indy Lights titles (2008 and 2009), one USF2000 championship (2010) and has won the Indianapolis 500 twice (2005 and 2007). For more information, please visit www.AndrettiAutosport.com.

About the Star Mazda Championship Series:

For 2012, the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will again be a major part of the "Mazda Road to Indy". The 2012 schedule consists of 17 races on 10 weekends, most with IndyCar. Rising stars from around the world will compete on road courses, street circuits and ovals in front of more than a million fans as they battle for prizes valued at \$1.5 million, including a scholarship to move up and race in the 2013 Firestone Indy Lights series. Drivers 16 and older are welcome to compete and the Star Mazda Championship also features the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older. The Star Mazda Championship features standing starts, wheel-to-wheel racing at 160 mph and budgets a fraction of other top open-wheel ladder series. For more information on the Star Mazda Championship and its drivers, as well as the Mazda Motorsports ladder system, please visit www.starmazda.com or www.mazdausa.com.