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## **VEACH RETURNS TO INDY FOR THE NIGHT BEFORE THE 500 RACE WITH NEW SPONSOR, NEW SERIES**

*Zach Veach Looks To Follow-Up 2011's Runner-Up Result At Lucas Oil Raceway*

**BROWNSBURG, IN** (May 23, 2012) – Andretti Autosport Star Mazda Championship driver Zach Veach hopes his past successes at Lucas Oil Raceway (LOR) lead him back to the podium during his first race on an oval in the Star Mazda Championship series. Veach will also be debuting a new paint scheme and sponsor in K12 when he takes to the track this week for the “Night Before the 500” race event.

“First I would like to say I'm very honored to welcome K12 to my team,” said Veach. “K12 online education has made me able to chase my dream, and without them, non of this would be possible! I'm really excited for this upcoming weekend, when we tested there at the beginning of May, the car had a lot of speed in it allowing us to finish in the top three and I think it's going to carry into this weekend!”

While making his first start in the USF2000 National Championship Series at LOR in 2010, Veach qualified third and put in a top-five result. During his second trip to Indianapolis in 2011 for autoracing's most famous weekend, Veach finished where he qualified in the second position, improving his previous finish of fourth. He returns to LOR hoping to once again improve on his previous result at the oval.

The 17-year-old Ohio native will boost a new sponsor in K12 starting at the “Night Before the 500” race and continuing for the remainder of the 2012 season. Veach is currently enrolled in The Ohio Virtual Academy, an online public school that pairs state-certified teachers with the curriculum provided by K<sup>12</sup> to individualize education. Racing since age 12, Veach has always taken his education and studies very seriously and this program allows him the opportunity to continue as an aspiring athlete while keeping up with school.

The month of May, long known as the lead-up to the famed Indianapolis 500, began with Veach serving as the keynote speaker for the second year in a row at the annual Young Marines Leadership Conference before returning to the cockpit of his racecar. Upon arriving in Indianapolis, Veach hit the ground running with Indy 500 activities, which include the “Mazda Road to Indy” Summit. The summit, will feature an oval clinic, presentations on fitness and wellness and a victory celebration planned for the evening of the Indy 500 race. Veach will also partake in the CARA Charities Fashion Show and the first ever Yellow Party, a benefit to fight cancer. To top the week off, he will do a special autograph signing at the Ray Skillman Mazda dealership Thursday at 5:30 p.m. followed by hosting members from Mazda North America.

Earlier this week, Veach appeared at the “Bully” premier with the director of the film, Lee Hirsch. In honor of the movie, Veach will carry the “Bully” logo on his racecar this weekend to show support and continue to raise awareness to combat bullying. The bullying initiative hits close to home too. The teen athlete is a spokesperson and judge in the Cyber Safety Academy’s Great American No BULL Challenge, a national anti-bullying movement contest for youth across America. As a student who was also bullied in school, he understands the importance of empowering today’s youth.

Prior to the big races this weekend, the Andretti Autosport drivers took a break from their demanding schedules and raced each other at Fast Times Karting in Indianapolis for a friendly team challenge with Indianapolis’ Radio Now 100.9. IZOD IndyCar Series drivers James Hinchcliffe and Sebastian Saavedra battled Veach and Radio Now contest winners in a special go-kart challenge just days before they will take to the big ovals in their respective series.

Practice for Saturday’s ‘Night Before the 500’ at Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis begins Friday, May 25, with a test session from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., qualifications set for Saturday at 4:55 p.m. and the race at 8:25 p.m. before an expectant crowd of 30,000 at Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis.

Veach’s 2012 effort in the Star Mazda Championship is primarily supported by K12 with additional support provided by: Zakosi Data Backup, The Young Marines, ADS IT Solutions, Replay XD, OMP, and Arai Helmets.

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](http://www.ZachVeach.com) or [www.AndrettiAutosport.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.starmazda.com) or [www.mazdausa.com](http://www.mazdausa.com).