



For Immediate Release:

## Team Pelfrey Back on Top as Hawkworth Scores Double Victory in Toronto



TORONTO, ONT., CANADA (July 9, 2012) – Team Pelfrey made its return to the limelight this weekend as British rising star Jack Hawkworth claimed dominant wins on consecutive days on the challenging street circuit that surrounds Exhibition Place in Toronto, Ont., Canada.

Early season pacesetter Hawkworth had relinquished his championship lead following the pair of disappointing results in the recent oval events at Lucas Oil Raceway in Indianapolis and Iowa Speedway, but bounced back in style on Saturday morning as he secured his fourth PEAK Performance Pole Award of the season in the #82 Team Pelfrey/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks Star Mazda.

The 21-year-old from Bradford, England, maintained his advantage throughout the race which was slowed several times by full-course cautions to claim his third win of the season. Hawkworth also regained the championship points lead from Connor De Phillippi, who finished seventh.

Petri Suvanto, from Nurmo, Finland, crossed the line in sixth after magnificent work by the team to repair the #81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy machine following a major crash in qualifying. Gustavo Menezes, from Coto de Caza, Calif., posted a tremendous recovery drive to eighth in the third Team Pelfrey car after an unfortunately timed rain shower restricted him to a disappointing 17<sup>th</sup> on the starting grid.

Hawkworth set the fastest lap of Saturday's 21-lap race to secure another PEAK Performance Pole Award and ensure he would again start from the coveted inside front row starting position for Race Two on Sunday morning, the curtain-raiser to the IZOD IndyCar Series race. The young Briton again drove beautifully in the race, never putting a wheel wrong as a series of mistakes by his rivals ensured that much of the race was run behind the Safety Car. Hawkworth's second win of the weekend catapulted him into a 39-point lead in the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear with nine races remaining.



Suvanto started fourth on Sunday but made a mistake on Lap 3, leaving his braking a tad too late at Turn Three. He resumed at the back of the field after a trip down the escape road, then charged back to eighth by the checkered flag. Menezes made another of his trademark charges, rising from 10<sup>th</sup> on the grid to sixth, but his hopes of rising still further were thwarted by various incidents which meant the event would finish under caution.

The championship will continue north of the border for two more races in Edmonton, Alb. – once again in support of the IZOD IndyCar Series – on July 21/22.

### WHAT THE DRIVERS SAID:

Jack Hawkworth (#82 Team Pelfrey/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks) – Race One, qualified first, finished first; Race Two, qualified first, finished first: “It was a great weekend. It was such a pleasure to drive the No. 82 Team Pelfrey car all weekend. The team has done such a fantastic job and it shows the team spirit and the determination throughout the whole team to come back from Iowa and respond with a result like this. I am already looking forward to Edmonton and can't wait to get back out there! The (Toronto) track was great to drive and both races were very exciting with many safety car periods making it difficult to build a gap over the opposition. Fortunately, I was able to get good restarts and always had a car capable of pulling a gap on the rest of the field.”

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy) – Race One, qualified fifth, finished sixth; Race Two, qualified fourth, finished eighth: “Our weekend didn't start very well. After having been quick in practice, I knew that we had a chance for the pole and I went for it. Sometimes, when you go for the limit, it's easy to go over it too and that's what happened, which led to contact with the pit wall. We had to switch to a spare car and due to some straight line speed issues we didn't quite have the pace on Saturday. Sunday's race was a different story. I was fighting for fourth place on Lap 3 when I had tire-lockup under braking after the long straight and I had to use the run-off area to avoid a crash. I had to work my way up front from the back of the field but, unfortunately, we spent most of the race under full-course yellow, so I only had enough time to get up to eighth. The team did an amazing job over the weekend to give me a chance to win. The most important thing is, even though the results might not show it, that we have kept on improving every single race this season. I'm confident that our time will come soon, we just have to keep on believing.”

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark/Oakley), – Race One, qualified 17th, finished eighth; Race Two, qualified 10th, finished sixth: “Toronto was a very busy track with lots of excitement and it was by far my favorite street circuit of the year. We got our first glimpse around the track on Friday and I really had a blast! Unfortunately, we had some minor contact with the wall in the second practice which really limited my track time. Being down 30 minutes on the rest of the field for qualifying meant we would need to try some substantial changes to get me up front. Then I only got four green laps in qualifying on old tires before the red flag came out and then later the rain poured! I made an amazing getaway in Saturday's race, fighting my way up about 10 places from 17th. We were very fast considering the traffic situations. Team Pelfrey gave me an amazing car. Starting P10 in Race Two was another challenge. We unfortunately did not have much time to maximize our potential with only six laps under green, but I managed to drive up to sixth. Overall, we pulled through strong and definitely raced hard. I believe we will be strong contenders for the race win in Edmonton and recover some ground in the championship! I would like to thank my sponsors SafetyPark, Oakley, GoPro, Bell, TriPacific and everyone else for making this all possible.”

**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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