



For Immediate Release:

## Hawksworth Wins Again for Team Pelfrey in Edmonton



EDMONTON, ALB., CANADA (July 23, 2012) – Team Pelfrey and its talented young English driver Jack Hawksworth had to settle for a victory and a seventh-place finish from this weekend’s pair of races on the challenging temporary circuit in Edmonton. Teammates Petri Suvanto and Gustavo Menezes also played a starring role in Sunday’s race. Suvanto drove from last on the grid to finish a fine fourth, just ahead of Menezes who was forced to start the race in a borrowed car after his primary No. 83 Star Mazda was badly damaged in a crash on Saturday.

Hawksworth’s sixth win of the season, which he claimed on Sunday in picture-perfect weather conditions, enabled him to extend his lead in the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear to 49 points, but he could have held an even stronger advantage if not for an unfortunate coming together with teammate Menezes in the closing stages of Saturday’s rain-hit affair.

Hawksworth, 21, from Bradford, England, started third for the opening race of the weekend and took the lead in the closing stages – ahead of Menezes -- after the decision was made to remain on slick tires while many of their rivals pitted for wet-weather tires when the race was neutralized by a full-course caution following a heavy rain shower. The gamble looked to have paid off when the race was resumed with just a few minutes remaining and much of the field still on dry tires. Unfortunately, Menezes lost control at the restart in treacherous conditions and caromed into Hawksworth. The Englishman managed to rejoin and finish in seventh, but Menezes’ attempt to resume resulted in a heavy crash as a result of damage caused during the initial impact.

Suvanto’s day also ended early when he was involved in someone else’s accident on the opening lap which resulted in a punctured oil cooler.

The team vowed to bounce back from its disappointment on Sunday, and did so in style. Hawksworth claimed his sixth PEAK Performance Pole Award of the season in the #82 Team Pelfrey/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks Star Mazda, by virtue of posting the fastest race lap on Saturday, then pulled away effortlessly from the rest of the field. His advantage was negated by a couple of late caution periods, but Hawksworth remained in control to score a fine victory.



Suvanto was obliged to start from the 19<sup>th</sup> and last position after his early retirement in Race 1, but the 19-year-old from Nurmo, Finland, responded with an impressive drive through the field to finish in fourth in the #81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy car.

Menezes, 17, from Coto de Caza, Calif., started Sunday’s race in a car borrowed from the rival Team GDT organization, and after another eventful afternoon, which included being forced to the back of the field on the opening lap, managed to charge through to an impressive fifth-place finish.

While Hawksworth continues to lead the drivers’ championship, Team Pelfrey also retains control in the coveted Team Championship with a 16-point advantage over Juncos Racing. The series will remain in Canada for two more races when it headlines the prestigious Grand Prix du Trois-Rivieres in Quebec on August 4/5.

### WHAT THE DRIVERS SAID:

Jack Hawksworth (#82 Team Pelfrey/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks) – Race One, qualified third, finished seventh; Race Two, started first, finished first: “After the unfortunate ending to the race yesterday, myself and the team were fired up to get going again and try and put things right in the weekend’s second race. Starting from the

pole I was able to get a decent start and open up a gap in the first lap as the cars behind squabbled for position. From there on I had a great car and was able to open up a seven-second gap by the halfway mark. The Safety Car then came out twice and made the latter part of the race very interesting! The guys behind pushed me hard on the restarts but I was able to fend them off after some fun, clean racing and bring the car home in first. It was a huge victory and a great way to rebound after yesterday. A massive thanks to the team for a great car; the whole team worked hard all weekend, nailed the setup and then brought home a big haul of points. Trois-Rivieres can't come soon enough."

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark/Oakley), – Race One, qualified 10th, finished 13th; Race Two, started sixth, finished fifth: "Edmonton was a very intense weekend. We struggled a bit in qualifying so I only managed to get the car up to P10. In Race One, I fought my way up to fourth with the semi-wet track, and then when the rain really began to come down, some drivers pitted for tires and we made the call to stay on dry tires. Coming to a green-white-checked in very wet conditions with slicks it became impossible to rotate the car and I had contact. My right-front trackrod snapped which led me to T-bone a wall at 100+ MPH. With no hope of being able to repair the car for Sunday's race, Team GDT was nice enough to lend us their spare car. It was difficult getting used to it during the race and my positioning wasn't 100 percent in the car. Unfortunately, there was another incident soon after the start and I fell back to nearly last. It took a good chunk of the race learning to adjust to the car, but as the laps went on I began to speed up and by the end I managed to get back to fifth. The team has learned a lot this weekend and I have a feeling we will be very strong in Trois-Rivieres."

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy) – Race One, qualified fifth, finished 19th; Race Two, started 19th, finished fourth: "Since the tough luck yesterday, I had to start from last in Race Two. My mentality was to go out there, take risks and treat every lap like it was qualifying. I managed to stay out of trouble in the start and started coming through the field one by one while being one of the quickest cars on track. Unfortunately, around mid-way through I clipped a wall slightly at the exit of Turn One and the car was never quite the same. Regardless of the handling problems I kept on gaining positions. In the end of the race we had two full-course yellows and in both restarts I gained positions and ended up sitting fourth going into the last lap and that was where I finished. I'd say that this was probably my best performance this year so far. We can now leave Edmonton with good momentum to go into our next Canadian street race in Trois-Rivieres."

**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.

**For more information, please contact Geoff Fickling at 727-329-8860 or [gf@team-pelfrey.com](mailto:gf@team-pelfrey.com)**