



For Immediate Release:

Hawksworth Wins for Team Pelfrey on the Streets of Baltimore



BALTIMORE, MD. (September 1, 2012) – Team Pelfrey once again stamped its authority on the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear as its young English rising star Jack Hawksworth took a dominant victory this afternoon on the streets of Baltimore. The victory was Hawksworth's seventh in 13 races during a stellar rookie campaign. Fellow Team Pelfrey racers Petri Suvanto and Gustavo Menezes also enjoyed strong races, finishing fourth and seventh respectively, with Menezes' pace ensuring that he will start in the fourth position for tomorrow morning's second race in the weekend double-header.

Hawksworth, who also started from the pole position today, matched the record for most wins in a single Star Mazda season which was set by Michael MacDowell in 2004 and equalled by Conor Daly in 2010.

Hawksworth opened up a huge lead at the start, and even though his advantage was pinned back by full-course cautions, his lead was never seriously threatened. The race actually finished under yellow after Hawksworth's closest championship rival, Sage Karam, crashed heavily with just a few minutes remaining.

Suvanto was embroiled in a frantic dice and almost earned a place on the podium, while Menezes rebounded impressively after becoming involved in a fracas on the first lap which relegated him to the back of the field. The young Californian drove impressively through to seventh, posting the fourth fastest lap of the race to ensure he will start on Row 2 of the grid tomorrow morning.

"It was an excellent day for the team," said Team Pelfrey Team Manager Geoff Fickling. "Jack drove a brilliant race up front and to have our other two cars with Petri and Gustavo come home with solid finishes in a race where we didn't get many green flag laps really proves where we could have finished. It was a great day. All 12 corners are on the cars and we have three really good starting positions for tomorrow for Race 2. All in all, a great day and the track improvements were a success as well I think. It's too bad we didn't get as much track time yesterday and an opportunity to qualify but I think the event is amazing and they made those improvements to the track, so we should be in really good shape moving forward."

- Earlier today Team Pelfrey Development Driver Spencer Pigot secured his sixth victory of the season when the Cooper Tires USF2000 Championship Powered by Mazda also saw action on the Baltimore's Inner Harbor Street Circuit.

WHAT THE DRIVERS SAID:

Jack Hawksworth (#82 Team Pelfrey/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks) – Race One, started first, finished first: "It was a really good day. It was a crazy race with a lot of attrition; a lot of restarts and whatnot but I had a really, really good car. The guys worked tirelessly as usual to give me a really good car. It was just a case of timing the restarts and managing the gap and trying to pull a lead. With the way this weekend has been, it has been difficult with the track changes and stuff like that but hopefully we can try and improve and try to get another good result."

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/Mazda Road to Indy) – Race One, started sixth, finished fourth: "I was starting from sixth today and this is not an easy place to start a race like this. There are big possibilities of accidents in front of you and luckily I was able to avoid all of the problems during this race and I made up two places in the race. All in all, it was a good day. We got good fourth-place points and a fifth-place starting place for tomorrow. But, at the same time, it was a disappointment since I felt like I had the speed and I really had the pace to really make it on the podium today



but I guess I was being a bit too conservative and it ended up being a fourth-place finish. The team really gave me a good car and, hopefully, I can really use that car tomorrow and come back with a podium.”

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark/Oakley) – Race One, started eighth, finished seventh: “Today was a fantastic race. There was an incident in Turn One that took me to the back of the pack but we had a great car. The Pelfrey guys put it together and we were able to drive back to seventh place and qualify fourth for tomorrow so I am really excited for the weekend.”

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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