

STAR MAZDA'S 21st SEASON OF DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S INDYCAR RACING STARS STARTS THIS WEEKEND IN THE STREETS OF ST. PETE

Fast Facts – Round 1 of the 21st season of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the Grand Prix of St. Petersburg

- **THE HOME-TOWN HERO/ HOME-TOWN TEAM** – Nick Andries, a mechanical engineering major at St. Petersburg College will be driving the #81 car for Team Pelfrey, based in Clearwater. Team Pelfrey was an IndyCar team from 1998-2001 noted for giving young drivers their 'big break'; Dale Pelfrey has revived the team and is fielding a 2-car effort in the Star Mazda Championship.
- **ST. PETE SURGEON WITH A 'NEED FOR SPEED'** – DDS Walt Bowlin, CEO of Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery, races in the Star Mazda Expert Series, a race-within-a-race for drivers 30 and older. A veteran Star Mazda competitor, he will be driving the #23 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery Mazda.
- **TOP SUPERBIKE RACER TRADES TWO WHEELS FOR FOUR** – Larry Pegram, one of the top AMA Superbike racers in the U.S. will trade his 2-wheeled racer for a Star Mazda Indy-style open-wheel drive at St. Pete. He ran three Star Mazda races in 2010 and will drive the #72 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance Mazda in 2011, racing in the Expert Series.
- **STAR MAZDA GRADUATES IN INDY LIGHTS AND INDYCAR** – Now in its 21st season, the Star Mazda Championship is the most successful open-wheel driver development program in North America. Star Mazda graduates in the IndyCar field this weekend include Graham Rahal, Marco Andretti and 2005 Star Mazda Champion Raphael Matos. Alumni competing in Indy Lights include 2010 Star Mazda champion Conor Daly, Anders Krohn, Jorge Goncalvez, David Ostella, Joel Miller and Peter 'The Irish Steamroller' Dempsey.
- **FAST FEMALE DRIVING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING TEAM** – The lone female competitor in the Star Mazda field at St. Pete is Colombian driver Tatiana Calderon. She drives for Juncos Racing, the team that won the 2010 championship with Conor Daly and is in her second year of competition driving the #10 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda.
- **AN ADVENTURE JUNKIE WITH BRAINS** – You'd think driving an Indy-style race car at 160 mph through the streets of St. Pete would be adventure enough for anyone... but not Nick Mancuso, driver of the #27 JDC Motorsports / Indeck / Lake Forest Sportscars / F.A.S.T. Race Products Mazda. His hobbies include skydiving and capturing reptiles in the wild. He was also he was inducted into the Cum Laude Society in 2004, and in 2005 was made a member of the National Honor Society and selected from a pool of 1.4 million students as a National Merit Scholar.
- **\$2.5 MILLION IN 'RACING SCHOLARSHIPS'** – The Star Mazda Championship, along with USF2000 and Indy Lights (all three series racing at St. Pete) is part of the Mazda Road to Indy. This unique driver development program offers 'racing scholarships' worth \$2.5 million per year to champions in each series to help them move up to race at the next level... all the way to IndyCar and the Indy 500.