



-- TAKING THE FIGHT TO A BRAND-NEW BATTLEFIELD --

The Star Mazda Championship is the college varsity of IndyCar racing, a high-tech, high-speed training ground for tomorrow's stars of the sport – graduates include IndyCar drivers Marco Andretti, Graham Rahal, James Hinchcliffe and Raphael Matos

Fast Facts – Round 10 of the 21st season of the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear at the inaugural Grand Prix of Baltimore, Sept. 2 - 4

- **DIVERSITY GOES ZOOM-ZOOM FOR BIG \$\$\$** – Drivers from six different countries (U.S., France, England, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela) will be doing battle for prizes worth \$1.5 million... including a scholarship for the series champion to move up and compete in the Indy Lights series in 2012 via the Mazda Road to Indy driver development program.
- **WINNERS IN THE FIELD** – There are four race winners in the field this weekend, including championship points leader Tristan Vautier (two wins in the #5 JDC Motorsports / Cecibon / Circuit du Laquais Mazda), Connor De Phillippi (three wins / 2nd in the championship driving the #11 Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda), J.V. Horto (one win / 4th in championship driving the #7 Juncos Racing / Programa Leilões Mazda) and Sage Karam (two wins / 5th in championship driving the #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda).
- **VETERANS IN THE FIELD** - In the Expert Series, a race-within-a-race for drivers 30 and older competing wheel-to-wheel with the hottest young drivers from around the world, points leader (and 2010 Expert Series champion) J.W. Roberts has four in-class victories racing the #65 Team GDT / General Data Tech Mazda. Walt Bowlin, the racing dentist from St. Petersburg, FL has one in his #23 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery Mazda and Larry Pegram, one of the top AMA Superbike racers in the country, has two in the #72 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance Mazda.
- **YOUNGEST DRIVER / BIG WINNER** – Sage Karam, the youngest driver in the series, won the 2010 USF2000 National Championship and a funded scholarship to race in the 2010 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear. Karam is 5th in the championship currently with two wins driving the #88 Andretti Autosport / MAZDASPEED / Comfort Revolution Mazda. The Mazda Road to Indy provides scholarships for the champions in each of the three participating series – USF2000, Star Mazda and Indy Lights, to move up to the next level of competition. 2010 Star Mazda Champion Conor Daly, son of F1 and IndyCar racing legend Derek Daly, is racing in both Indy Lights and the European GP3 series this year via the Mazda Road to Indy scholarship.

- **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 the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma – and he has already raced here once this year; he finished 9th in the AMA West Coast Moto Jam AMA Superbike race on May 15. Pegram races the Expert Series for drivers 30 and older, driving the #72 AIM Autosport / Tampa Bay Jaw Surgery / Foremost Insurance Mazda.
- **FAST FEMALE DRIVING FOR CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING TEAM** – The lone female competitor in the Star Mazda field at Infineon is 17 year-old Colombian karting star Tatiana Calderon. She drives for Juncos Racing, the team that won the 2010 championship with Conor Daly. She is in her second year of Star Mazda competition and is currently 7th in the championship with two podium finishes and seven top-10s driving the #10 Juncos Racing / JAC Motors Mazda.
- **BIG LEAP INTO BIG SHOES** – Gustaveo Menezes, a top international kart racer took a big jump into big shoes moving directly from karting to the Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear... a move comparable to graduating directly from middle school to college. But his competitiveness increases with each race; he astonished the field by qualifying on the outside of the front row for the start of last week's race at the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma. He is currently 6th in the championship, having finished every race in the top-8.
- **EX-INDYCAR TEAM NOW RACING IN STAR MAZDA** – Team Pelfrey, an IndyCar team from 1998-2001 noted for giving young drivers their 'big break,' is now competing in Star Mazda as they build their effort back toward IndyCar. Team owner Dale Pelfrey sold his aerospace business and has revived the team as a 2-car Star Mazda effort... with an eye on graduating to Indy Lights and then IndyCar in the next couple of years. His drivers, Californian Connor De Phillippi (two wins in the #11 Team Pelfrey / Justice Brothers Products / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda) and Florida driver Nick Andries (five podiums in the #81 Team Pelfrey / Lithionics Battery / GS610 Brake Fluid / Trademark Garage Floors Mazda), are currently 2nd and 3rd in the championship battle.
- **A TIRE-SMOKING DRAG RACE** - The Star Mazda Championship is unique in that, unlike IndyCar and Indy Lights, it uses a Formula One-style 'standing start.' Drivers line up on the grid two abreast in qualifying order and wait for the red LED panels on the pit wall to turn green... and once they do, it's a flat-out, tire-smoking drag race into the first turn. The 1-hour race, Round 10 of the 2011 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear season, is scheduled to take the green light at 11:00 am Sunday, Sept. 4.
- **NEED TO KNOW** - For further information, interviews and photos, contact Peter Frey / (818) 398-5733 / StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

