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Karam Earns Third Cooper Tires Pole Award In USF2000 Action Saturday Morning; Video Streaming Set for Race at 3:30 p.m.

NEWTON, Iowa, June 19 — Sage Karam of Nazareth, Pa. earned his third “Cooper Tires, Don’t Give Up a Thing” award of the year when he won the pole for Round 4 of the “Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda” Saturday morning at Iowa Speedway. The 50-lap/30-minute race will follow at 3:35 p.m. Central time (4:35 p.m. Eastern time), with live video streaming and live timing and scoring planned via usf2000.com.

Karam’s combined qualifying time for two laps of Iowa Speedway’s 0.875-mile tri-oval was 48.080 seconds. It was an automatic track record, as this is the series’ first appearance at this track.

Karam’s red No. 8 is sponsored by the Michael Fux Foundation, Comfort Revolution, Bell Helmets, Alpine Stars, Walters Web and Artotundo.com. It is fielded by Andretti Autosport, and Karam had plenty of field from that organization’s IZOD IndyCar team and the AFS Racing Andretti Autosport Firestone Indy Lights team as well as the usual crew members who work on his car when he changed engines Friday afternoon.

USF2000 Qualifying/Page 2 of 3

Patrick McKenna of Dublin, Ireland, who drives for Cape Motorsports with Wayne Taylor Racing, qualifying second with a time of 48.197 seconds, 0.117 of a second off Karam's time. McKenna's white No. 2 is sponsored by Motorsport Ireland and Willsborough Transport.

Andretti Autosport's Zach Veach of Stockdale, Ohio will start behind his teammate in third place. JDC Motorsports' Raphael Abbate of Sao Paulo, Brazil will share Row 2 with Veach. Abbate was the fastest driver in the first test session on Friday while Veach topped the second test session Friday.

Fuerza Chile Motorsports' Martin Scuncio of Concepcion, Chile rounded out the top-five qualifiers.

"I just have to thank everybody at Andretti Autosport, the AFS Firestone Indy Lights team, godaddy.com; just everybody!" Karam said after qualifying. "At least 12 guys were there helping to change my engine yesterday, and I want to thank them all.

"My teammate will start third, so hopefully we can finish one-two for Andretti Autosport in the race this afternoon.

"This track is a lot of fun," he added. "It's flat out and a high-speed track, so I really like it."

The top qualifier in the National class was Ardie Greenamyre of Louisville, Ky., who drives for AcceleRace Motorsports. His car is sponsored by Bidazzled.com, Sabelt, ChaseCam, MemeTech, NEXAIRA and a brand-new supporter, Home Owners Security Door Co., which is the largest manufacturer of security doors and ironwork in the Louisville, Ky. area. One of its owners, Fred Harrod, is on hand at Iowa Speedway to personally cheer on Greenamyre, who is racing for the National class honors here against J.R. Smart and Brian Belardi. More information on the company, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, can be found on its Web site at homeownersdoors.com.

Following this afternoon's race the USF2000 series will host a doubleheader next weekend at New Jersey Motorsports Park in Millville, N.J.

More information on the series, which is part of both the MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development program and the Indy Racing League's Road to Indy ladder system, is available at usf2000.com.

USF2000 Qualifying/Page 3 of 3

About Mazda:

On any given weekend there are more Mazdas on the road courses of America than any other brand of vehicle. MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models are all popular race cars because every Mazda has the soul of a sports car. In fact, the largest road-racing class in the world is Spec Miata. With more than 2,500 first- and second-generation Miatas tearing up America's racetracks, it the most-raced production car in the world. Mazda's involvement in motorsports extends to its relationship with one of the world's premier road courses, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca in Salinas, Calif., and the Skip Barber Schools for driving and racing.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in the United States in 2010, Mazda North American Operations is headquartered in Irvine, Calif. It oversees the sales, marketing, parts business and customer service of Mazda vehicles in the United States, Canada and Mexico through nearly 900 dealers. Operations in Canada are managed by Mazda Canada, Inc., located in Ontario. Operations in Mexico are managed by Mazda Motor de Mexico in Mexico City.

For more information see MazdaUSA.com.

About Cooper Tire & Rubber Company:

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company is a global company that specializes in the design, manufacture, marketing and sales of passenger car and light truck tires and subsidiaries that specialize in medium truck, motorcycle and racing tires. With headquarters in Findlay, Ohio, Cooper Tire has manufacturing, sales, distribution, technical and design facilities within its family of companies located in 10 countries around the world.

For more information visit Cooper Tire's Web site at coopertire.com.

About the Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda:

Many top drivers in the IZOD IndyCar Series and endurance sports car racing honed their skills in F2000, and the Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda is an important training ground for rising stars.

Debuting in 2010, it is the revival of the very popular USF2000 series of 1990 through 2006. Sanctioned by the Indy Racing League, it is the first step on its Road to Indy ladder system, preceding Star Mazda and Firestone Indy Lights.

It is also part of the prestigious MAZDASPEED Motorsports driver development program. The top driver in the series' Championship class earns a scholarship package from Mazda valued at \$350,000 to help him or her advance to Star Mazda the following season.

USF2000 races are contested on road courses, street courses and ovals in order to give the series' drivers experience on all the different types of tracks they will face as they proceed up the ladder.

For more information visit USF2000.com.