



## **Klein Finishes Season on the Podium Takes Second at Laguna Seca**

Long Grove (October 21, 2005) – The final race of a hard-fought 2005 Star Mazda Championship season found Jonathan Klein running at Laguna Seca in Monterey, CA for only the second time in his racing career. This very technical track had Klein all over the time sheets in practices, ranging from second-place to 21<sup>st</sup>. Confident with running in the wet, Jonathan did a rain dance on Friday night and found Saturday's qualifying conditions ideal as his Andersen Walko Racing #26 was readied with Goodyear rain tires for the session. Jonathan ran in P2 for a good part of qualifying until the last of several red flags that flew that morning ended the session, with his teammate Graham Rahal gaining that second spot just as the flag dropped.

The race, although run on a dry track, was interrupted by multiple full-course yellow flags, as drivers who went off-track had to be pulled out of the deep gravel in the run-off areas. Klein was hit from behind and lost a position at one point, maintained his focus and patience until an opportunity presented itself. That ideal time came when Rahal and Mike Potekhen tangled, going slightly off course, while Jonathan was ready and maneuvered around the duo to take the second spot. Klein drove hard to meet up with the leader, James Hinchcliffe, and finished the race under caution right behind him.

*"Finally! We finally got on the podium. It was really nice to be on the podium at the end of what has been a very frustrating season. We started off with a lot of engine problems, then we had a few big penalties from the series, and some mistakes on my part that did not turn out well. I believed that if qualifying was going to be wet, I would be in good shape. Sure enough, it was wet on Saturday morning so we had a good grid position of third for the start. Running with Graham and James is always good because they are clean racers and it was no different this time as we all gave each other plenty of racing room throughout the race. There were many yellow flags during the event which made it difficult to get into a rhythm but my car was good on cold tires so I was okay. I can't thank Rossella Manfrinato and Scott Gates enough for all the work and effort they put in to my racing effort this season. They helped make it all happen. I do not yet have anything set for next year, but I am still looking to continue my racing career.*

*"Thanks as always to my wonderful sponsors this year for all of their support: Wil and Dean Hansen and Brian King of Nexus Distribution Corp., Bob and Anne Rossdeutcher of Midwest Steel & Services, Ed Jaeger of Ironclad, and Adam Steinberg of ProStar, as well as their employees and customers who came out to the races to cheer me on. I'd also like to thank my parents for even making this happen in the first place, they're the greatest and I love them!"*

