



Newgarden Receives ‘Securing Tomorrow’ Award *SSM Driver Was Winningest Indy Lights Driver En Route to 2011 Championship*

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 21, 2011) – Josef Newgarden, who drove the No. 11 Copart/Score Big/Robo-Pong Dallara for Sam Schmidt Motorsports (SSM) to this year’s Firestone Indy Lights championship, is the recipient of the 2011 “Securing Tomorrow” Award for being the series’ winningest driver in 2011.

The resident of Hendersonville, Tenn., who turns 21 on Thursday, scored five victories this season to secure the award, presented for the sixth year by Gregory & Appel Insurance.

Newgarden won the season-opening race on the Streets of St. Petersburg, Fla., followed by a victorious run in the Firestone Freedom 100 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Carb Day, and he added wins at Iowa Speedway in Newton, the streets of Edmonton, Alberta, and New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon. Newgarden’s SSM teammates – Esteban Guerrieri (3), Conor Daly (1) and Victor Carbone (1) – also scored victories in 2011, giving the team 10 wins in the season’s 14 Indy Lights events and a series-leading 46 since 2001.

“We had a wonderful year at Sam Schmidt Motorsports,” said Newgarden, who is the fifth SSM driver to capture the Indy Lights championship. “It was a fantastic team effort where everyone put something into each race. For me to come out with the most wins at the end of the year was a great bonus and an experience that I’m grateful for having. I want to thank Gregory & Appel for their continued effort to support young drivers. It’s an honor to receive this award.”

Newgarden’s series title propelled the young American driver to a full-time ride with Sarah Fisher Hartman Racing in the IZOD IndyCar Series beginning in 2012.

“Josef came to us last season with excellent credentials and he certainly lived up to it all through the season,” team owner Sam Schmidt said. “He proved to be a model of consistency from the first race to the last. Not only did he win five races, he finished second three other times and was third at another race, which is precisely the recipe for winning championships. It’s a thrill to see his efforts and excellent performance in 2011 pay off with a full-time IndyCar ride. He earned it.”

Newgarden is the third SSM driver to win the “Securing Tomorrow” Award, joining previous SSM series champions Alex Lloyd (eight wins in 2007) and J.K. Vernay (five wins in 2010).

The 2012 Firestone Indy Lights season kicks off March 25 with the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. Frenchman Tristan Vautier and Englishman Oliver Webb have already been named to the 2012 SSM Indy Lights lineup. Additional drivers will be announced at a later date.

About Sam Schmidt Motorsports:

Sam Schmidt Motorsports (SSM) was established in 2001 and is owned by former driver Sam Schmidt, who was paralyzed (quad) in 2000 after an accident during testing at Walt Disney World Speedway in Orlando, Fla. As a car owner, Schmidt fields cars in the IZOD IndyCar Series, including the Indianapolis 500, and the Firestone Indy Lights championship. SSM is the most successful team in Firestone Indy Lights history with 46 race wins and five championships. In addition, SSM has qualified 12 cars in the Indianapolis 500 since 2001 and, in 2011, won the coveted Indy 500 pole with driver Alex Tagliani.

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