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COMPARE YOUR CHOICES

How does a driver decide what series to compete in next season?

There are several series in the F2000 or Formula Continental class of open-wheel racing in North America, and trying to choose where to go can be a bit confusing.

We believe the decision becomes far easier when a driver considers his or her ultimate goals.

Some series focus on inexpensive and plentiful track time, which usually means that they schedule their dates at low-key, often non-spectator events to save money for the series and ultimately require less from the competitors to cover their costs. This is fine for drivers who want decent competition and fun but aren't concerned with personal exposure. Indeed, this style of racing will generally result in larger fields, although the majority competing are clearly not planning a future as a pro driver.

For some drivers it's important to stay close to home. Choosing a series that does not require distant travel has advantages for them. For these drivers, SCCA or NASA club racing are attractive options.

Most career-minded drivers, however, see the value in receiving some level of training to perfect their skills as pro drivers while also getting their names out to higher level team owners and the media. Racing where they can achieve a solid return for their sponsors' investments is also very important, as sponsorship is critical in climbing the professional ladder.

Sponsors, of course, prefer to be in front of the large crowds that high-profile events provide.

None of the options that are currently available are perfect for

everyone. The choice, as mentioned above, depends largely on one's goals. The best advice is to not select a series based upon car counts or a cheap budget if racing there doesn't provide you with what you need to advance your career. Although car counts and budget are definitely important factors, the exposure potential outweighs all else for drivers moving up.

The Cooper Tires USF2000 National Championship Powered by Mazda will race on seven great circuits in 2012, and our races are at premier events on all of those circuits.

We provide extensive media coverage through our staff and through the IZOD IndyCar Series' public relations department.

Our Mazda scholarship is a huge incentive alone for career-minded drivers.

In addition, training such as the Mazda Road to Indy Summit at St. Pete and Indy truly develops drivers who are climbing up towards the IZOD IndyCar Series.

It's true that some of these things really don't matter to some F2000 drivers, and for them, we completely understand if they choose to race elsewhere.

But for drivers who would like to see if they can make a career in open-wheel racing, there is only one choice.

Please contact us and let us help you reach your goals.