



## ZSports Midwest's Benjamin Searcy Rebounds to USF2000 Top Five Finish

2009 Rookie of the Year Earns Tilton "Hard Charger" award in USF2000 Series debut weekend.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (30 MAR 2010) – ZSports Midwest showed its mettle in a trying weekend which saw its young pilot Benjamin Searcy charging to a Round 2 top-five and a strong start toward the Cooper Tires Presents the USF2000 Championship Powered by Mazda crown.

The Tuscaloosa, AL native Searcy showed superb form driving the Speedy Oil Change/MJM Turbocharger/Combustion Technologies Van Diemen in every session leading up to the "Road to Indy" opener on the challenging streets of St. Petersburg, solidly in the top-five on the time sheets in both practice sessions and in qualifying. Starting from 4<sup>th</sup> on the grid in Round 1, Searcy was advancing when he was punted out of the race in a turn one lap one incident caused by a spinning competitor leaving his car damaged and out of the race.

Scheduling left no room for two qualifying sessions and the starting position for Round 2 was to be determined the fastest lap from Round 1. This left Searcy with the unenviable challenge of starting from the back of the Round 2 grid.

Undaunted, Searcy completed lap one in P4. "The car had a bit of understeer initially, but I was able to avoid some on track incidences in the first couple of laps," Searcy commented. "Then the tires and the track came to me and I was able to settle in. Unfortunately, the alternator belt failed on me five laps from the end and I lost power and pace. All in all, coming home with a top five after our Round 1 result is very satisfying."

"I'm proud of Ben," said ZSports co-owner and engineer Ron Boltik. "He kept tremendous poise in the face of some mechanical challenges during the weekend. We would prefer he not ever have to deal with them, but the manner in which he did only helps him develop professionally – on and off the track. Not only is he blazingly fast, he's mature beyond his years."

The ZSports crew and Ben are preparing for the high profile "Night before the 500" May 29<sup>th</sup> at O'Reilly Raceway Park in Indianapolis, IN and the pre-event test there in early May. The revived USF2000 series will return to the famous 5/8 mile oval in its efforts to further develop well rounded drivers and their futures in North American open-wheel racing.

More information about ZSports Midwest and Before Benjamin Searcy is available at [www.zsportsmidwest.com](http://www.zsportsmidwest.com). Call Ron Boltik at 612-685-1384 or email Ron at [ron@zsportsmidwest.com](mailto:ron@zsportsmidwest.com) with inquiries about what ZSports Midwest can offer potential racing stars and sponsorship opportunities.

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About ZSports Midwest

Driven by a passion for racing, Minneapolis-based ZSports Midwest, LLC is growing into one the most formidable teams in junior open-wheel competition. It earned its first wins and podiums and top fives in 2008 and built upon that success in 2009 with 3 wins and the "Rookie of the Year" driver honors. 2010 promises even bigger and better results for the upstart squad.

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