



Pit Notes

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Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg – Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5, 2009

It's a Boy for the Wheldons

St. Petersburg resident and 2005 Honda Grand Prix champion **Dan Wheldon** and his wife Susie have welcomed their first child, Sebastian Daniel, born on Sunday, Feb. 1 at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg. The Wheldon camp reports everyone is doing well. Wheldon will shift his focus to the 2009 IndyCar Series and his return to Panther Racing.

It's a Super Team for Target Chip Ganassi Racing

With 2007 IndyCar Series champion **Dario Franchitti** returning to open wheel racing as part of Target Chip Ganassi Racing, the popular Scottish driver will be paired with teammate **Scott Dixon**, who won the 2008 IndyCar championship and the 2008 Indianapolis 500. The pairing marks the first time in major auto racing history to team drivers who have won both its sanctioning body's Driver Championship (IndyCar Series) and its marquee event (Indianapolis 500) the previous two seasons. If it's not a super team, it's definitely got the makings of one.

It's Michael Andretti Calling Danica Patrick's Races in 2009

Andretti Green Racing has announced that team co-owner **Michael Andretti** will take over the role of strategist for driver **Danica Patrick** on the team's #7 entry for the 2009 IndyCar Series season. "I'm looking forward to having Michael call the shots for me this year." Patrick said. "Michael has been a great resource for me since I came to Andretti Green and having him in my pit box is going to be good. He has been very hands-on with all four of our cars in the past and it will be great having him calling races for me."

It's New Indy Lights Teams for Bryan Herta and Davey Hamilton

Former IndyCar drivers **Bryan Herta** and **Davey Hamilton** have announced plans for field for the 2009 Firestone Indy Lights Season. Former IndyCar and ALMS driver Bryan Herta and **Steve Newey**, his engineer for last year's Andretti Green Racing ALMS entry, have formed Bryan Herta Autosport and will field at least one team in the Firestone Indy Lights Series in 2009. Herta has put **Daniel Herrington** behind the wheel and secured a technical relationship with IndyCar's Vision Racing for the new season. Hamilton, a popular Indy 500 veteran, has signed Lafayette, Ind. driver **Brandon Wagoner** to pilot car number 32 for his newly formed team. He also has tapped veteran IndyCar engineer, **Darrell Sopp** as well as **Sean Birmingham** who will be team manager

Applications for 2009 Media Credentials Available

Applications for media credentials for the 2009 Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg are now being accepted. All requests for media credentials must be submitted by Friday, March 20. You must be on assignment for an accredited and verifiable media outlet to receive a working media credentials for the event. If you already have a 2009 IRL or ALMS hard card, you do not need to complete the media credential application process. To complete the media credential application, go to www.gpstpete.com and click on the Media Information link.