

## **Ethanol Presents \$2,500 to Sam Hornish Jr. with Fastest Practice Lap at Indy on Thursday**

Ethanol Presents \$2,500 to Sam Hornish Jr. with Fastest Practice Lap at Indy on Thursday Speedway, Ind. (May 11, 2006) - Sam Hornish Jr. clocked the fastest lap of the month at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway with a speed of 226.789 miles per hour to win Thursday's "Ethanol Fast Lap Award." The Marlboro Team Penske driver has been the fastest driver for three straight days in Indy 500 practice.

Tom Branhan, president of Ethanol Promotion and Information Council (EPIC), made the presentation of \$2,500 to Hornish Jr. Thursday. EPIC is the primary sponsor for Rahal Letterman Racing's No. 17 Team Ethanol Honda Panoz Firestone machine driven by Jeff Simmons in this year's Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.

One of the highlights of the day was the appearance of Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and his staff during "Ethanol Day" at IMS. Bodman received a two-seater Indy car ride from Davey Hamilton, a tour of the Rahal Letterman Racing garage and serve as an honorary pit crewman on Simmons' Team Ethanol Honda during Thursday's practice runs.

Ethanol will present \$2,500 to the driver with the fastest practice lap speed for five days during the month of May at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway with the "Ethanol Fastest Lap." The "Ethanol Fastest Lap Award" will be awarded on May 10, May 11 (Ethanol Day at the track), May 17, May 18 and May 26 (Carb Day).

A blend of ten percent ethanol fuel and ninety percent methanol will power the Honda engines in the 2006 Indy 500. And, in 2007, all of the machines in the 91st Indy 500 will run 100 percent fuel-grade ethanol. The IndyCar Series has already run ethanol-enriched fuel in the cars in the first three IndyCar Series in 2006 at Homestead, St. Petersburg and Motegi, Japan.

Ethanol, made from a variety of plants including corn, milo/sorghum, sugar cane and cellulosic material, is produced in the United States and has proven to burn cleaner than methanol and gasoline, the majority of current racing fuels.

By the conclusion of 2006, the U.S. ethanol industry will have a capacity of over five billion gallons annually, up more than 300 percent from five years ago. Five billion is just a small portion of the 140 billion domestic market ethanol is now blended into more than a third of the nation's gasoline supply.

The ethanol relationship with the Indy 500, IndyCar Series and its sanctioning body, the Indy Racing League, was assisted through the cooperation of a group of companies within the fast-growing ethanol industry, led by the major ethanol design-build firms Fagen Inc., ICM Inc. and Broin Companies. To gain awareness, the ethanol industry has sponsored a car in the IndyCar Series since 2005.