



### Karting Scholarship Shoot-out: Pigot and Serralles win top prizes

SEBRING, Fla. (Dec. 31) – After a four-day competition amongst 36 of the best young karters from around the world, it was a pair of Floridians who earned the top prizes at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Skip Barber Karting Scholarship Shoot-out. Spencer Pigot, 16, from Windermere and Felix Serralles, 17, from Haines City, each earned a fully funded season in the 2010 BFGoodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda, courtesy of MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development and the FIA Motor Sport Safety Development Fund.



2009-2010 Skip Barber Karting Scholarship Shoot-out winners (l. to r.) Nicolas Costa, Mukul Sud, Sebastian Ordonez, Jesus Rios, Spencer Pigot and Felix Serralles are joined by John Doonan, (l.) Team Development Manager for Mazda North America, and Michael Culver, CEO of Skip Barber Racing School.

Additionally, Nicolas Costa, 18, Brazil, was awarded a half-season in the Skip Barber National while drivers Mukul Sud, 24, Emeryville, Calif. and Sebastian Ordonez, 15, Aventura, Fla. were awarded full seasons in the Skip Barber Regional Race Series with Jesus Rios, 15, Miami Beach, Fla. earning a half-season in the Regional. In all, more that \$250,000 in scholarships was awarded during the Shoot-out.

Drivers spent four days participating in on-track activities under the watchful eyes of Skip Barber Racing School's instructor cadre, including past National Champions Grant Maiman (2002) and Gerardo Bonilla (2005) – and off-track activities including a day of road safety exercises with the Skip Barber Mazda Driving School, media training by Barbara Burns, noted motorsports public relations specialist and principal at Burns Group Unlimited and Jeremy Shaw, motorsport journalist and co-founder of Team USA Scholarship. Drivers participated in a mock interview with SPEED TV Formula One commentator Bob Varsha and attended a sponsorship seminar hosted by John Doonan, Team Development Manager for Mazda North America.

“This year’s Shoot-out field was the most competitive we’ve had to date”, said Todd Snyder, VP of Competition for Skip Barber Racing School. “While the scoring was extremely close the drivers selected





distinguished themselves throughout the event by being both consistently quick in the race car and personable out of it.”

John Doonan added, “Each year the Karting Shoot-out showcases the best young racers looking to move up to race cars, and this year was no exception. We welcome Spencer and Felix to the Mazda family and look forward to seeing how they progress this season.”

The Skip Barber Karting Scholarship Shoot-out has been responsible for launching the auto racing careers of dozens of top line drivers including A.J. Allmendinger, Scott Speed, Patrick Long, Ryan Hunter-Reay and Michael Valiante, as well as numerous others who have gone on to post significant achievements in the world of racing. Two recent champions of the BFGoodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda – Joel Miller in 2007 and Connor DePhillipp in 2009 – won scholarships at previous Shoot-outs.

The 2010 BFGoodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda opens its 14-race season with rounds one and two at Homestead-Miami Speedway March 5-7, supporting the Grand Am Rolex Sports Car Series and Continental Tire Sport Car Challenge. Before the season begins, Skip Barber will run its annual National Spring Training at Sebring International Raceway January 28-29.

### **About Skip Barber Racing School**

For 35 years, Skip Barber Racing School LLC has operated a fully integrated system of racing schools, driving schools, racing championships, corporate events and OEM events across North America. The Skip Barber Racing School is offered at more than 20 of the most prestigious race tracks in North America, while the Skip Barber Driving School, utilizing Mazda's performance sedans and sports cars, operates at five world-famous tracks in destination locations.

The Skip Barber Race Series is collectively six separate, arrive and drive equalized-car racing championships– the Skip Barber *MAZDASPEED* Challenge; two regional race series featuring race prepared Mazda MX-5 Cup race cars, three regional open-wheel amateur series in Formula Skip Barber cars, and the first rung on the Mazda open-wheel ladder system; the BFGoodrich/Skip Barber National Presented by Mazda. All the series are part of Mazda's unique *MAZDASPEED* Motorsports Development ladder system.

The Corporate Events unit creates custom racing, team building and driving programs for companies of any size that desire special, exciting events to train, entertain, educate and reward.

Skip Barber OEM Events unit provides unique, specialized automotive-related training, driving, analysis, evaluation, logistics and consultation to manufacturers and others in the industry.

Skip Barber recently launched the Skip Barber Superbike School powered by KTM. Additional information is available at [www.skipbarber.com](http://www.skipbarber.com) or [www.skipbarbersuperbikeschool.com](http://www.skipbarbersuperbikeschool.com).

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