



AKAI SPONSORED TEAM RAHAL AND MICHEL JOURDAIN WIN AT MONTREAL

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MONTREAL, QUEBEC ([PRWEB](#)) August 28, 2003 -- Team Rahal Gigante Champ Car driver Michel Jourdain Jr., sponsored in part by Akai Consumer Electronics Products (APH USA Inc.) won the Molson Indy Montreal on Sunday, leading 15 laps en route to winning his second race of the 2003 Champ Car World Series season. The popular 26-year-old native of Mexico collected his sixth podium result of the 2003 season edged every closer to the top of the championship standings.

“This is a great day for Team Rahal and all of our sponsors, including Akai,” said Jourdain. “The car was perfect today, and the crew gave me some of the best pit stops this season. We knew before the race that fuel mileage would be critical on the first stint. In a way not leading was an advantage on the first segment because I was able to save some fuel drafting off of the other cars. Alex [Tagliani] had a great car and I feel bad for Alex because I know what it is like to dominate a race and not win. Still when he had to pit earlier than us we knew we had an advantage. When he had to do it a second time it became a bigger advantage. All I had to do was stay close to him because I knew he had to stop two laps before me. Once I got the lead I ran as hard as I could and tired not to make a mistake. The crew did a great job on the last stop and then it was simply looking forward and not making any mistakes.”

Akai, through their U.S. operating subsidiary APH USA, Inc. has been involved as a partner with Team Rahal for two years as an associate sponsor. “We’re very excited about this win for Team Rahal, Michel Jourdain Jr. and the Akai car,” said Mike Schoen, VP of Sales and Marketing for Akai. “Canada is a strong target market for Akai consumer electronics, so hopefully we gained some Canadian fans for Team Rahal and for Akai Consumer Electronics after Michel’s exciting win in Montreal.”

The win was the second of the season for Team Rahal and it marks just the third time in the team’s history that it has won multiple races (1992, 2001, 2003). The win was the 16th in Team Rahal history and the team’s first win on Canadian soil.

“I am so proud of the job Michel has done this season,” said three-time series champion and Team Rahal owner Bobby Rahal. “I always felt that there was untapped potential in Michel and he has proved me right numerous times since we signed him. We have been waiting a long time to win in Canada and to win at a historic track like the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve is a proud accomplishment in Team Rahal’s history. Michel continues to show he is a championship contender. To watch how he has matured as a driver and as a leader has been remarkable.”

APH USA, Inc. is a United States holding company for Akai manufacturing, sales and North American distribution. Akai is an associate sponsor of Team Rahal and the 2003 Champ Car featuring driver Michel Jourdain Jr. For additional information on Akai merchandise, sales and customer support, or for pictures of the Team Rahal car featuring the Akai logo, please visit Akai online at <http://www.akaiusa.com>. For additional information or press inquiries, contact our sales department at 310-664-8060. APH USA is located at 1500



Olympic Boulevard in Santa Monica, California.

Team Rahal is now in its second decade as one of the leading open-wheel racing teams in North America. Based in Hilliard, Ohio, the team is co-owned by three-time CART champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal and CBS LATE SHOW host David Letterman. Currently the team campaigns cars in the Bridgestone presents the Champ Car World Series powered by Ford, the IRL IndyCar Series and the Toyota Atlantic Championship. The 65-member team enjoys primary sponsorship from the Gigante Group in the Champ Car World Series, Pioneer Electronics and the Miller Brewing Company in the IndyCar Series and Argent Mortgage Company in the Toyota Atlantics Championship.



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