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Thursday Pit Notes

Good morning and welcome to Thursday activities of the **Checker O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 Presented by Pennzoil** race weekend at Phoenix International Raceway. This weekend's events feature five races: the **Checker O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 Presented by Pennzoil** NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race (35th event on the 36-race 2008 NSCS schedule); the **Able Body Labor 200** NASCAR Nationwide Series race (34th event on the 35-race 2008 NNS schedule); the **Lucas Oil 150** NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race (24th event on the 25-race 2008 NCWTS schedule); and two events in the **34th Copper World Classic**: the second-to-last USAC MOPAR Midget Car National Championship race (25 laps) and the final round of USAC K&N Silver Crown Championship Series race (100 laps). Note that the USAC Midget Race will also count for the separate USAC Western Midget Car Championship.

Today's highlights feature Copper World Classic practice from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., USAC Midget Qualifying at 1:30 p.m., USAC Silver Crown Qualifying at 3 p.m., NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series practice from 3:45 – 6:45 p.m., the USAC Midget Car race (25 laps – 25 miles) at 7 p.m., and the USAC Silver Crown Series (100 laps – 100 miles) at 7:40 p.m. (time approximate). All Times are Mountain Standard Time (two hours behind Eastern Standard Time).

“Won't you please, please help me?” (with due respect to Lennon and McCartney)... Many representatives of Phoenix International Raceway are here to help you: Paul Corliss, Director of Communications; Griff Hickman, Communications Manager; Debi Supan Media Center Supervisor, Media Center Staff members Terry O'Connor, Paige Pedersen, Sara Elgin, Kristal Shipp, Tiffany Breaux, Chris Billings, Sue Pfeffer and Rickey Farrell; John Chuhran, Pit Notes Editor; and Pit Notes Reporters Jenn Jepson, Chandra Shumate, Kallie Parsons, Vaughn Hillyard, Alex Paris, Rudy Rivas, Haley Shore, and Nicole Shumate. Also on hand to help are Dick Jordan of USAC and Owen Kearns, Josh Hamilton, Ginnie Pritchett, Denise Maloof and Ramsey Poston of NASCAR. If you have any special needs, feel free to contact any of these individuals for assistance

Easy In, Easy Out... Phoenix International Raceway and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) have created new traffic patterns for this weekend's events. The November NASCAR event weekend at PIR requires the use of more than 4000 traffic cones, 600 barricades, approximately 75 people, and numerous special signs and vehicles. Parking passes – or lack thereof – determine the exits that spectators should take from I-10 to the track. Fans without passes must use the free general parking lots and must exit the highway at either Litchfield Road (Exit 128) or Estrella Parkway (Exit 126). Fans with special passes and permits – and only those fans – should exit at Avondale Boulevard (Exit 131). Motorists who take the wrong routes may face major delays as they approach the track. Directions of officers and deputies will supercede normal traffic patterns. **A full description of all traffic patterns is available in a separate news release. Electronic maps of the traffic plans are also available. Both may be obtained by contacting the PIR media staff. Please publish the detailed information in local publications to assist race fans traveling to and from this weekend's races.** Traffic updates are available by calling 511 or at Twitter.com/PhoenixRaceway.