

JOHN ANDRETTI TO GRAND MARSHAL USAC SPEEDROME OPENER MAY 26TH

Indianapolis Speedrome®
Indianapolis, Indiana
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The name Andretti means a lot in Indianapolis and everywhere in the motorsports world for that matter. In particular, John Andretti is an important part of the beginnings of the famed Regional Midget series sanctioned by the United States Auto Club at the Indianapolis Speedrome®. We are very proud to welcome John back to his racing roots. The second-generation racer will be the grand marshal for USAC's kick-off to the 2010 campaign at Indy's eastside short track. "I am excited about getting back to the Speedrome", said Andretti. "It is one of my favorite places. It will be good to see all the next USAC stars on the racetrack". Leading up to the Indianapolis 500, Wednesday night May 26th will be the date for this first of six events scheduled this year. All the action gets underway at 7:15pm with preliminary heat competition.

John, the son of Aldo Andretti who is twin brother to Mario, is a big part of that storied racing families history. He began his Speedrome career in 1983 as a rookie in the USAC Regional Midget series that started just a few years earlier. John was a model of consistency right off the bat. He posted podium finishes in his first four starts. On the eighth night, he struck gold taking the feature win on June 30. The next seven contests saw him never finish worse than 7th leading him to the final two weekends in a hot championship battle. John polished off both those main events and his closest rivals to claim the rookie as well as the overall Speedrome title. Andretti would go on to win another feature in 1984 before beginning his rise up the national motorsports ladder.

Just a couple seasons later, John would join his uncle Mario, cousins Michael and Jeff in CART. The late 1980's saw John make his first appearance in the famed 500 as well as taking a major victory as co-driver in the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona. On three occasions, all four family members would incredibly make the same Indianapolis 500 starting field. 1991 was an outstanding year for the former Speedrome champ. He won his first CART Indy Car World Series event at Surfer's Paradise in Australia. Also that year was his career best in the Indy 500 of 5th. Just one week later, he joined Michael and Mario for the first all Andretti podium at the Milwaukee Mile CART event.

During 1993 and 1994, John made a racing transition that no driver has ever touched in the history books and started a trend of ultimate Ironman status. '93 saw him make his first-ever starts in the NASCAR Sprint Cup as well as NHRA. He stepped right into Jack Clark's NHRA Top Fuel Dragster and powered his way to a semi-final result! On the Cup side, he made a few spot starts in various cars. Then in 1994, he accomplished a feat most thought unattainable. John drove in the Indianapolis 500 before jumping in a plane flying to Charlotte, North Carolina to race in NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600, a racing first. Know now as "the double", John had set the stage for others to follow in this history making single day.

Later that year, he landed in the "King" Richard Petty's famous #43 halfway through 1994. After some solid seasons, he was tapped to drive for another legend Cale Yarborough in 1998. This resulted with his first Cup victory in the Pepsi 400 at Daytona Speedway. The next year John was back in the Petty ride leading to his second and final NASCAR win at Martinsville Speedway. In this current decade, Andretti has made several IRL starts, mostly in the 500, as well as being a regular runner in the NASCAR Sprint Cup series in Front Row Motorsports car #34. We are very proud to have John as a part of the Speedrome and USAC's legacy of racing. And we are excited to have him with us on opening night.

We are so proud to have the USAC Regional Midgets, Ford Focus Midgets, Ford Focus Young Guns, and Mopar .25 Midgets at the Speedrome in 2010. The dates, all Wednesday nights, for this heralded racing return are May 26th, June 2nd, June 9th, June 23rd, June 30th, and July 7th. Each event will see test drives and a driver school in the afternoon before preliminary heats begin at 7:15pm. The feature lineup is 40-laps for Ford Focus Midgets, main events for the Mopar .25 Midgets, a traditional 50-lapper for the Regional series, and the capper 30-laps for the new Ford Focus Young Gun cars. For more information, you can visit www.usacracing.com or www.speedrome.com.

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