



Wheldon Completes First Australia Practice Day in Panther's No. 4 Car *Former Indy 500 and IndyCar Series Champion Finishes 18th in Friday Practice*

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia – (October 24, 2008) – Dan Wheldon concluded his first full day of practice for Sunday's Nikon Indy 300 Friday afternoon on the streets of Surfers Paradise, Australia behind the wheel of Panther Racing's No. 4 Delphi National Guard Honda. Wheldon, who fought with a braking issue throughout the first practice session, finished 18th in the IndyCar Series' final speed chart Friday afternoon.

The Englishman posted a top lap speed of 100.770 mph, 1:39.1538 seconds, after turning a total of 33 laps on the 12-turn, 2.795-mile street circuit.

There is another practice session on Saturday, following by qualifications for Sunday's event – which will mark the first time Wheldon has piloted a Panther car in an event since 2002. The former Indy 500 winner and IndyCar Series champion finished fourth in the 2008 championship, after collecting victories at Kansas and Iowa Speedway. Sunday will mark the first time either he or Panther has participated in an event in Australia.

The Nikon Indy 300 will be broadcast live Saturday, October 25th at 10:30 p.m. (ET) on ESPN Classic with additional coverage provided by the IMS Radio Network and XM Satellite Radio Channels 144 and 145.

Dan Wheldon, No. 4 Delphi National Guard Honda Dallara:

"This is a great track with a lot of great fans and a good atmosphere for racing. The practice wasn't exactly what we'd like, but we're still looking forward to a good race on Sunday. What's important for us is learning as much as we can about each other so we can get a good start on 2009. We had some braking issues in the first session, but now everything is moving in the right direction. Part of what's great about this event is that we can work on these kinds of things in the Delphi National Guard car, but most importantly it's going to be a great weekend of racing for the fans."