



Firestone
GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG
PRESENTED BY **RP FUNDING**

FACT SHEET / General Information

ABOUT THE EVENT

- WHAT** The 20th Annual Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding returns to the downtown streets and waterfront as the season-opening event for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES for the 14th time. Five racing series featuring open-wheel action and sports car racing will take the green flag.
- WHEN** March 8-10, 2024
- WHERE** Held on a temporary waterfront street course that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, the Duke Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey Theater), The Dali Museum and extending onto the runway of Albert Whitted Airport, and borders Tampa Bay and picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina.
- RACES** 8 total races
NTT INDYCAR SERIES
INDY NXT by Firestone
Plus, doubleheader features for the following:
USF Pro 2000 Presented by Continental Tire
USF2000 Presented by Continental Tire
IMSA VP Racing SportsCar Challenge
- OWNERS** Kim Green and Kevin Savoree of Green Savoree Racing Promotions
- TRACK** 1.8-mile, 14-turn temporary street course
- INDYCAR** Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding is the first of 17 rounds of the 2024 NTT INDYCAR SERIES schedule.
- FLORIDA** Only NTT INDYCAR SERIES race held in Florida.
- SPONSORS** Firestone has been the title sponsor of this event since 2014. RP Funding joined as the event's very first presenting sponsor in 2022.
- SPECIAL EVENTS** [5K Run on the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg Track](#): Thursday, March 7 - Runners and walkers will have the unique opportunity to "race on track." Register at gpstpete5k.com. 5K starts at 5:30 p.m. ET on Bayshore Drive NE adjacent to North Straub Park. All proceeds benefit the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg (PAL). Since 2017, \$271,265 has been donated to PAL via contributions from the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and proceeds from this 5K. Race owners Kim Green and Kevin Savoree were recently awarded the Ed Schatzman Circle of Excellence Award for their commitment to PAL's mission of empowering local youth.

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FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / 2024 GENERAL INFO

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INDYCAR Party in the Park: Thursday, March 7 - Free community event in North Straub Park from 5-7:30 p.m. ET. Opportunity for fans to see race cars up close from all series, get driver autographs and more.

A Grand Prix Evening - Celebrating 20 Years of Champions: Friday, March 8 - Past INDYCAR SERIES race winners, series and race officials, St. Petersburg community leaders, Mayor Ken Welch and past mayors, and race fans will gather to commemorate two decades of success for the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding. Event takes place from 7-10 p.m. at Duke Energy Center for Arts (Mahaffey Theater). Limited quantity of public tickets available at gpstpete.com/gpevening, \$250 per person. All proceeds benefit four local St. Petersburg youth organizations and programs: Pinellas Technical College, Youth Sports, Cultured Books Literacy Foundation and AKA Academy.

Bret Michaels Concert: Saturday, March 9 - Multi-platinum music icon Bret Michaels will perform a live concert as part of the race weekend festivities. The show will commence shortly after the racing ends on Saturday within the festival grounds on the plaza south of the Duke Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey Theater). All Saturday ticket holders will have access to the show. No additional ticket is required.

TV / STREAMING

NTT INDYCAR SERIES: Sunday, March 10 – Live race coverage nationally on NBC starting at 12 noon ET, including locally on WFLA NBC 8. All other INDYCAR on track sessions streamed live on Peacock.

INDY NXT: Race broadcast live on Peacock.

USF Pro 2000 and USF2000: Global live streaming can be found on the series' respective websites usfpro2000.com and usf2000.com.

IMSA VP Racing SportsCar Challenge: Global live streaming at IMSA.com/tvlive.

VOLUNTEERS Nearly 500 volunteers in 13 specialty areas contribute to the success of the event.

ON-TRACK PROGRAMMING

The **NTT INDYCAR SERIES** is North America's premier open-wheel auto racing series. It features an international field of the world's most versatile drivers – including two-time and reigning series champion Alex Palou, two-time series champion Will Power, six-time series champion Scott Dixon and two-time series champion and reigning Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden – who compete on superspeedways, short ovals, street circuits and permanent road courses. The 2024 season consists of 17 races in the United States and Canada and is highlighted by the historic Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES, INDYCAR, INDY NXT by Firestone, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IMS Productions are owned by Penske Corporation, a global transportation, automotive and motorsports leader. For more information on the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, please visit www.indycar.com.

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INDY NXT by Firestone is the developmental series of INDYCAR as it advances drivers and team personnel to compete in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. INDY NXT by Firestone, formerly known as Indy Lights, focuses on the next generation of open-wheel racers and is the premier proving ground for young talent and innovative technologies. The 2024 season consists of 14 races in the United States. Past series champions include INDYCAR SERIES champions Tony Kanaan, Scott Dixon, Josef Newgarden, Paul Tracy and Cristiano da Matta. In 2023, 19 of the 33 starters in the Indianapolis 500 competed in INDY NXT by Firestone. The NTT INDYCAR SERIES, INDY NXT by Firestone, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IMS Productions are owned by Penske Corporation, a global transportation, automotive and motorsports leader. For more information on INDY NXT by Firestone, please visit www.indynxt.com. For more information on INDYCAR and the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, please visit www.indycar.com.

USF Pro 2000 Presented by Continental Tire (formerly Indy Pro 2000) has served as a vital step on the career path of many of today's top drivers. It is the third official step on the USF Pro Championships ladder. The series is sanctioned by USAC and owned and operated by Andersen Promotions. The 2024 USF Pro 2000 champion will receive a scholarship valued at \$681,500 to advance to INDY NXT in 2025. Of the 25 drivers that made INDY NXT starts in 2023, only three were not USF Pro graduates. Recent alumni include Kyle Kirkwood, Sting Ray Robb, Christian Rasmussen, Rinus VeeKay and reigning champion Myles Rowe. In total, the USF Pro Championships Presented by Continental Tire will distribute over \$1.68M in prize money and awards.

USF2000 Championship Presented by Continental Tire debuted in 2010 and is a continuation of the highly regarded USF2000 series which ran from 1990 through 2006, launching the careers of many of today's top drivers. The series is the second official step on the USF Pro Championships Presented by Continental Tire ladder - a clearly defined path to reach the top echelons of the sport. In addition to providing a vital training ground for rising stars, the 2024 USF2000 champion will receive a scholarship valued at \$458,400 to advance to USF Pro 2000 in 2025. Graduates include Kyle Kirkwood, Christian Rasmussen, Myles Rowe and reigning champion Simon Sikes.

The **IMSA VP Racing SportsCar Challenge** is a multi-class sprint racing series that debuted in 2023. The lead LMP3 class features entry-level, closed-cockpit prototype race cars, while the production-based GSX class will utilize race cars built to international GT4 technical regulations. Each of the six event weekends on the 2024 VP Racing SportsCar Challenge schedule will include a pair of 45-minute sprint races, and drivers must be rated either Bronze or Silver on the FIA Driver Categorization List.

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FACT SHEET / History

HISTORY

2024 The Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding will be the 20th annual running for INDYCAR racing on the streets of downtown St. Petersburg. This is the 14th time the race will serve as the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season-opening event.

BEGINNING The inaugural Grand Prix of St. Petersburg was in 2005 and won by the late Dan Wheldon, two-time Indianapolis 500 champion and local resident. A Champ Car World Series race was run on the circuit in 2003. No race was held in 2004.

TITLE SPONSOR Title sponsorship partners for the event have included:
Firestone 2014 to present
Honda 2005 to 2013

PAST INDYCAR WINNERS The winners of the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg include:
2023 Marcus Ericsson, Chip Ganassi Racing
2022 Scott McLaughlin, Team Penske
2021 Colton Herta, Andretti Autosport
2020 Josef Newgarden, Team Penske
2019 Josef Newgarden, Team Penske
2018 Sebastien Bourdais, Dale Coyne Racing with Vasser-Sullivan
2017 Sebastien Bourdais, Dale Coyne Racing
2016 Juan Pablo Montoya, Team Penske
2015 Juan Pablo Montoya, Team Penske
2014 Will Power, Team Penske
2013 James Hinchcliffe, Andretti Autosport
2012 Helio Castroneves, Team Penske
2011 Dario Franchitti, Target Chip Ganassi Racing
2010 Will Power, Team Penske
2009 Ryan Briscoe, Team Penske
2008 Graham Rahal, Newman/Haas/Lanigan Racing
2007 Helio Castroneves, Team Penske
2006 Helio Castroneves, Team Penske
2005 Dan Wheldon, Andretti Green Racing
2004 No race held
2003 *Paul Tracy, Forsythe Racing (Champ Car World Series sanctioned event)*

REPEAT WINNERS Helio Castroneves (three wins: 2006, 2007 and 2012), Will Power (two wins: 2010 and 2014), Juan Pablo Montoya (two wins: 2015 and 2016), Sebastien Bourdais (two wins: 2017 and 2018), and Josef Newgarden (2019 and 2020) are the repeat winners on the streets of St. Petersburg.

TEAM WINS Team Penske has the most wins on the streets of St. Petersburg, having won 11 races in the history of the event.

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FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / FACT SHEET HISTORY

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FASTEST RACE At a 100-lap race distance, the fastest race was set by Scott McLaughlin on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:51.27.3466 (96.899 mph). *(Race was shortened from 110 laps to 100 in 2020.)*

FASTEST QUAL. LAP The fastest qualifying lap time registered on the streets of St. Petersburg was on February 26, 2022 by Will Power with a time of 59.3466 (109.189 mph).

FASTEST RACE LAP The fastest race lap was set by Conor Daly, on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:00:9868 (106.253 mph).

HISTORIC FIRSTS

Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding has had the privilege to see a number of “firsts” take place on its track. Among them are the following:

2024 IMSA VP Racing SportsCar Challenge will compete on the streets of St. Petersburg for the first time; it is also the first ever race for the series on a street course

2023 First race of IndyCar’s development series as INDY NXT by Firestone; Series uses Firestone tires exclusively for the first time since 2013

2022 Trackside electronic EM Motorsports Marshalling System utilized by NTT INDYCAR SERIES for the first time

2022 NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver Scott McLaughlin wins his first race with the series

2020 Site of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season finale for the first time in its history where a new INDYCAR champion was crowned

2019 NBC Sports broadcasts its first race as the exclusive U.S. television partner for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES

2018 New aerodynamic body kit for the Indy car debuts into INDYCAR competition

2018 New chassis debuts for Pro Mazda series (now known as USF Pro 2000 Presented by Continental Tire)

2017 Sebastien Bourdais is first IndyCar driver at St. Petersburg to go from last to first to victory while also leading the most race laps

2017 Colton Herta becomes youngest driver in Indy Lights history to win a race

2015 Street/road course aero kits for the Verizon IndyCar Series make its competition debut

2015 The new Dallara chassis for Indy Lights makes its debut

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FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / FACT SHEET HISTORY

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- 2013** Verizon IndyCar Series driver James Hinchcliffe wins his first race with the series
- 2012** The new Verizon IndyCar Series Dallara chassis – known as the DW12 – makes its debut, racing for the first time at St. Petersburg
- 2012** Engine manufacturer competition is reintroduced with Honda, Chevrolet and Lotus fielding entries
- 2011** First street/road course to see double-file restarts in the Verizon IndyCar Series
- 2009** Graham Rahal is the youngest driver in IndyCar history to qualify on pole position
- 2008** Graham Rahal wins his first IndyCar race, becoming the youngest driver in IndyCar history to win a race
- 2007** The first event to feature both IndyCar and American LeMans Series (now known as the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship) races
- 2005** First event to feature an Indy Lights double-header weekend
- 2005** First non-oval event for the IndyCar Series

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FACT SHEET / Track Build

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BUILD THE FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG RACE TRACK?

The Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding is run on a 1.8-mile, 14-turn temporary waterfront circuit that includes a combination of adjacent downtown streets circling Pioneer Park, the Duke Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey Theater), The Dali Museum and extending onto the runway of Albert Whitted Airport, and borders Tampa Bay and the picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina.

START DATE	February 19, 2024
END DATE	March 16, 2024
RACE DATES	March 8-10, 2024
INSTALLATION/ TEARDOWN	In 2024, the track build team will complete installation and teardown in 27 days, an event record. Track construction will take 18 days. Teardown and removal from the site will be completed within one week after the race weekend ends.
CONCRETE	18,000 feet of steel-reinforced concrete block (each 12' in length) resulting in 20 million pounds of concrete being moved and nearly 2,000 blocks placed into position; with six (6) concrete blocks per load, Stepp's Towing hauls over 400 loads of concrete block during construction on flatbed trailers
FENCING	25,000 feet of chain-link spectator fencing lining the track; 18,000 feet of panel fencing (1,500 total panels) securing the steel-reinforced concrete barrier blocks
TIRE WALL	More than 12,000 tires - wrapped with 1,500 feet of 40-inch wide, half-inch reinforced rubber belt - are used to build the track's tire wall safety system.
TRACK WIDTH	Minimum track width is 26 feet; maximum track width is 63 feet
FRONT STRAIGHT	A front straight that is 2,350 feet or 4/10th of a mile long
BRIDGES	Five total bridges; four are pedestrian traffic bridges into the infield
GRANDSTAND	Multiple grandstands
PADDOCKS	Five race car paddocks
THE CREW	Approximately 300 workers will contribute to the construction project

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FACT SHEET / Fast Facts

NOTES OF INTEREST ABOUT THE RACE

Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding celebrates its 20th annual running, March 8-10, 2024. This event also serves as the NTT INDYCAR SERIES' season-opening event for the 14th time in its history.

This will be the 21st race event to take place on the temporary street circuit running on Bayshore Dr. and circling Pioneer Park, the Duke Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey Theater), The Dali Museum and extending onto the runway at Albert Whitted Airport, and bordering Tampa Bay and picturesque St. Petersburg Harbor and Marina. The former Champ Car World Series, which merged with INDYCAR in 2008, promoted a race on the same course layout in 2003.

The SCCA Trans-Am Series held the first racing events in St. Petersburg, 1985-1990 and 1996-1997.

Record crowd marks were set in 2018 and 2019, and then surpassed again in 2022 and 2023. The 2020 and 2021 events were held implementing COVID-19 protocols for attendees, participants and workers. The 2020 race became the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season finale running in late October, then the 2021 race got delayed by over a month to late April.

Eight (8) races will take the green flag in 2024, highlighted by the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, the top open-wheel development series, and INDY NXT by Firestone, plus doubleheader features from USF Pro 2000 Presented by Continental Tire, USF2000 Presented by Continental Tire and the debut of IMSA VP Racing SportsCar Challenge.

The 100-lap NTT INDYCAR SERIES race is set to take the green flag at approximately 12:30 p.m. ET on Sunday, March 10, with NBC providing live national broadcast coverage starting at 12 noon ET. Practice and qualifying sessions will be available for live streaming on Peacock.

Helio Castroneves is the winningest driver on the streets of St. Petersburg. He won three times (2006, 2007, and 2012) and became the first driver with back-to-back wins. Helio also served as the grand marshal of the 2018 event. Juan Pablo Montoya started a streak of back-to-back winners with victories in 2015 and 2016; St. Petersburg's own Sebastien Bourdais claimed wins in 2017 and 2018; then Josef Newgarden accomplished the feat again in 2019 and 2020.

The back-to-back streak of race winners ended in 2022 when Team Penske's Scott McLaughlin won, earning his first career series victory and setting the track record for fastest 100-lap race in the process. Marcus Ericsson is the most recent St. Petersburg winner after taking the checkered flag in 2023 for Chip Ganassi Racing after passing Pato O'Ward late in the race on Lap 97.

Team Penske is the winningest team on the streets of St. Petersburg with 11 victories (Helio Castroneves in 2006, 2007 and 2012; Ryan Briscoe in 2009; Will Power in 2010 and 2014; Juan Pablo Montoya in 2015 and 2016; Josef Newgarden in 2019 and 2020; and Scott McLaughlin in 2022). Team Penske's Will Power also tops the list with nine pole positions all-time.

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FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG PRESENTED BY RP FUNDING / 2024 FAST FACTS

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At the time of his achievement, Graham Rahal was the youngest driver to win an NTT INDYCAR SERIES race by securing the victory in the 2008 Grand Prix of St. Petersburg at the age of 19 years and 93 days old. Rahal was also the youngest NTT INDYCAR SERIES driver to win the pole position in qualifying at 20 years and 90 days old in 2009, also accomplished on the temporary St. Petersburg track. Colton Herta topped both marks in 2019 at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, at 18 years and 359 days old to win a race and 19 years and 83 days old to claim a pole position.

The official track record for fastest lap on the streets of St. Petersburg is 59.3466 (109.189 mph) set by Will Power during qualifying on February 26, 2022.

At a 100-lap race distance, the fastest race was set by Scott McLaughlin on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:51.27.3466 (96.899 mph). *(Race was shortened from 110 laps to 100 in 2020 and remains the same length for 2024.)*

The fastest race lap was set by Conor Daly, on February 27, 2022, with a time of 1:00:9868 (106.253 mph).

The winner at St. Petersburg has gone on to win the NTT INDYCAR SERIES championship five times: Paul Tracy (2003), Dan Wheldon (2005), Dario Franchitti (2011), Will Power (2014) and Josef Newgarden (2019).

Scout.com's *Stadium Journey* named the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg as #2 on the list of "Top 100 Stadium Experiences of 2016."

According to an economic study conducted on behalf of Visit St. Pete/Clearwater, the 2023 race generated an economic impact of approximately \$61 million.

Florida is a strong television market for the NTT INDYCAR SERIES. For the entire 2023 season, these DMAs ranked in the top 25 for average viewership ratings:

- Ft. Myers-Naples
- West Palm Beach
- Tampa-St. Petersburg (Sarasota)
- Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne

What does it take to build a race track?

- The famous Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg 1.8-mile, 14-turn waterfront circuit is assembled by approximately 300 workers, and will be completed in just 18 days in 2024, an event record.
- The process has become more efficient each year, with tear-down and removal expected to be completed within one week in 2024.
- 18,000 feet of steel-reinforced concrete block resulting in 20 million pounds of concrete being moved; additionally, 18,000 feet of panel fencing are erected holding the blocks into place.
- 25,000 feet of chain-link spectator fencing erected.
- Over 12,000 tires are used in the construction of the course for the track's safety wall system.

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Did you know?

- If you drive an Indy car at its average race speed of 102 mph across the 4.1-mile Sunshine Skyway Bridge spanning Tampa Bay, your right rear street course tire would rotate 2,953 times during the two-minute, 25-second drive. That's roughly 18 revolutions per second!

20th Annual Event Celebrations and Special Events

This landmark annual race weekend headlined by the NTT INDYCAR SERIES has become a staple in the St. Petersburg community as some of the most talented and accomplished drivers in the world compete on the city's streets each year. To celebrate the race's 20th annual running in 2024, the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding will utilize a commemorative, limited-use logo. Race weekend will also be enhanced with additional events and entertainment in 2024.

Thursday, March 7: 5K Run on the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg Track

Runners and walkers will have the unique opportunity to "race on track" during the 2024 Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding weekend. Online registration is available at gpstpete5k.com. The 5K starts at 5:30 p.m. ET on Bayshore Drive NE adjacent to North Straub Park, and all proceeds benefit the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg (PAL). Since 2017, \$271,265 has been donated to PAL via contributions from the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and proceeds from this 5K.

Thursday, March 7: INDYCAR Party in the Park

The 5K Run will coincide with the INDYCAR Party in the Park community event which is open to all and free to enter. The party will take place in North Straub Park from 5-7:30 p.m. ET and provide fans the opportunity to see race cars up close, get driver autographs and more. After completing the 5K, participants are encouraged to join the gathering as top finishers will be recognized on the INDYCAR Party in the Park stage.

Friday, March 8: A Grand Prix Evening - Celebrating 20 Years of Champions

INDYCAR SERIES race winners, series and race officials, St. Petersburg community leaders, Mayor Ken Welch and past mayors, and race fans will gather to commemorate two decades of success for the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding. The event takes place from 7-10 p.m. at Duke Energy Center for Arts (Mahaffey Theater) with a limited quantity of public tickets available at gpstpete.com/gpevening for \$250 per person. All proceeds will benefit four local St. Petersburg youth organizations and programs: Pinellas Technical College, Youth Sports, Cultured Books Literacy Foundation and AKA Academy.

Saturday, March 9: Bret Michaels Concert:

Legendary multi-platinum music icon Bret Michaels will perform a live concert on Saturday night as part of the race weekend festivities. The show will commence shortly after the racing ends on Saturday within the festival grounds on the plaza south of the Duke Energy Center for the Arts (Mahaffey Theater). All Saturday ticket holders will have access to the show for no additional charge.

Dan Wheldon Way and Victory Circle Monuments

On March 7, 2012, the City of St. Petersburg dedicated and renamed a roadway to honor race car driver and city resident Dan Wheldon, who lost his life in a racing accident at the end of the 2011 INDYCAR season in Las Vegas. He was the first Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg winner and a two-time Indianapolis 500 champion. To memorialize the life and legacy of Dan Wheldon aka “Lionheart” and capture the rich history of INDYCAR racing in St. Petersburg, a collaborative venture between INDYCAR, Green Savoree Racing Promotions and the City of St. Petersburg was born. The result of that collaboration is the Dan Wheldon and Victory Circle Monuments located at Bayshore Dr. and Albert Whitted Park (outside Turn 10 on the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg race circuit and positioned just southwest of Dan Wheldon Way) which was unveiled and dedicated on March 21, 2013. Each year’s winner has the honor of permanently placing an engraved plaque bearing his name on the monument as an annual tradition of the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg presented by RP Funding in Dan Wheldon’s memory. A third wall will be constructed and added to the monument ahead of the 2024 event to make space for recent and future race winner plaques to be added, including victories by Scott McLaughlin in 2022 and Marcus Ericsson in 2023.

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