



To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to offer my support and endorsement of Michai Stephens as a racing driver. Opportunities in motorsport are often based on more than just lap times and results. Fortunately for Michai, he has assets on and off the track.

His story and background is unique and provides opportunities for media coverage not often available to junior level drivers and would still provide unique angles to journalists and broadcasters at the highest levels. While it's preferred to gather attention by winning every weekend, those results aren't realistic for any driver. So, a driver needs a story to continue getting attention for his partners. Michai's background of starting much later than others, without karting experience or financial means, and winning a Team USA Scholarship is one to celebrate.

Michai has also been able to create relationships with many, including myself, in the IndyCar paddock because of his personality and professionalism. His unique story has allowed many of us to distinguish him from other junior level drivers.

I've also had the chance to watch Michai in other environments. Several times last year, he raced in the same karting events as my son, Jackson (Michai's first karting experience – after he had already raced in the Road to Indy!). Last Winter, he served as a coach to my son to prepare him for a formula car scholarship shootout. I was impressed with his teaching techniques and meticulous approach and detailed feedback. Michai's coaching is one of the reasons my son was able to win a formula car scholarship.

Performance on the track is also obviously required and Michai has shown the ability to get results as well. With the right opportunity, Michai can advance and succeed as a driver and I hope you'll give him the chance to prove it.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lee  
NBC Sports  
IndyCar/IMSA broadcaster