



January 11, 2017

To whom it may concern :

I have been intimately involved in the sport of auto racing for over 40 years as a writer and broadcaster. Since 1990 have had the pleasure of running a scholarship program for talented young American race car drivers with the aim of providing opportunities for them to learn more about the industry and compete in some overseas races. The vast majority of alumni have progressed to extremely successful careers in the sport either in INDYCAR, IMSA or NASCAR. I envisage Michai Stephens following in their footsteps.

He hails from a humble background with no connection whatsoever to the sport, but his passion and determination finally led to an opportunity to attend the Skip Barber Racing School. He impressed immediately and, despite a total lack of karting or other racing experience, was running with the leaders from the very beginning. I invited him to be part of a selection process for the 2014 Team USA Scholarship, with many illustrious names in the sport included among the judging panel. He was selected to represent the program in England where he once again belied his lack of experience by finishing third in the Walter Hayes Trophy Grand Final at Silverstone – from a field of almost 120 Formula Ford regulars. It was a remarkable performance.

Since then he has struggled to overcome the lack of personal funding but has shone – crucially, both in and out of the car – whenever opportunities have arisen. Michai has been working hard to generate the funding which will be necessary to pursue his career goals, and I have no hesitation in recommending him to any potential business partners.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

JEREMY A. SHAW
Team U.S.A. Scholarship President

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