

PIR ADDS INDYCAR



PHOENIX
GRAND PRIX



PHOENIX GRAND PRIX TO RUN SATURDAY APRIL 2 UNDER THE LIGHTS

PHOENIX, OCT 26 2015 – The Verizon IndyCar Series will race at Phoenix International Raceway in 2016, taking place under the lights on Saturday night, April 2, 2016.

“IndyCar has such a loyal and dedicated fan base in the Valley,” says PIR president Bryan R Sperber, “and we look forward to bringing the fastest racing action in America and the biggest stars in open-wheel racing to Phoenix next spring.”

The Phoenix Grand Prix will be the second race in the 2016 schedule for the Verizon IndyCar Series, following the season opening race at St. Petersburg FL on March 13. The highlight of the 2016 Verizon IndyCar Series schedule will be the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race on Sunday, May 29, with the season finale be September 18 in Sonoma, California.

The 2016 Verizon IndyCar Series season “is marked by the return of several storied venues, including Phoenix International Raceway,” said Mark Miles, CEO of Hulman & Company, the parent of INDYCAR and the

Indianapolis Motor Speedway. “Legendary Indy car names like Foyt, Unser, Andretti, Ruby, Rutherford, Sneva, Mears, Castroneves and Kanaan have all won at PIR in the past. It is an integral part of our sport’s rich heritage, and we are quite pleased to have this great mile oval back on the schedule going forward.”

PIR opened in 1964 and served primarily open-wheel racing until NASCAR made its debut in 1977. The track hosted Indy car races from 1964-2005, with many of the greatest names in racing history competing here.

Four-time Indianapolis 500 champion AJ Foyt won the inaugural pro race at PIR and captured a total of four checkered flags here; fellow four-time Indy 500 winner Al Unser has a track record six open-wheel wins at PIR; and four-time Indy car season champion Mario Andretti captured the last race win of his legendary career here in 1993.

Four Indianapolis 500 winners were in attendance at the announcement, including two-time winners Al Unser Jr. and Arie Luyendyk, 1983 champion Tom Sneva and 2004 Indianapolis 500 winner Buddy Rice. Also in attendance were 1992 Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year Lyn St James, 1998 Indianapolis 500 pole sitter Billy Boat, retired open-wheel driver P.J. Jones, and one of

the brightest young stars in the Verizon IndyCar Series, Josef Newgarden.

“I am so happy to see the Verizon IndyCar Series returning to Phoenix International Raceway,” said Unser Jr., who is tied for seventh on the all-time Indy car victory list with 34. “It was always one of my favorite tracks, even though I never was able to win a race there in 19 tries. Dad won there six times and Uncle Bobby won four, so the Unser name still has quite a legacy at PIR. Indy cars always put on a great show at PIR over the years and I know they will again in 2016.”

The Phoenix Grand Prix is the second of three race events at PIR in 2016. The Camping World 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race weekend runs three weeks earlier, March 11-13, and NASCAR returns to Phoenix for the semifinal race in the 2016 Chase for the Sprint Cup November 11-13, 2016.

Tickets for the Phoenix Grand Prix have already gone on sale, ranging from \$35-70, and each ticket includes Pit Road access. Kids’ tickets are \$10. Active duty military and veterans also receive discounts. Tickets are available online at PhoenixRaceway.com and by phone at 866-408-RACE (7223). ■

