

Sporting announces local star Pedro Petiz as Portugal's first Superleague Formula driver

29/05/2009

Pedro Petiz, one of Portugal's most promising young drivers, is the latest addition to Superleague Formula. The 22-year-old will be one of 20 top class drivers on the 2009 grid all racing identical V12 propelled, 750+bhp single-seater cars. Petiz will be racing for Sporting Clube de Portugal, the latest addition to the innovative new championship that unites the passion of football with motor sport.

With an array of national and international titles plus close ties with some of the most important brands and racing teams, Petiz is the first, and at the moment the only, Portuguese driver in Superleague Formula. His presence is certain to prove a huge hit with famously passionate Portuguese fans.

"For me it is a unique experience and honour to drive for Superleague Formula," enthused Petiz. "I think that the competition this year is going to be even more competitive than it was in 2008. This will be crucial for my development as a driver. It's not every day that we have the opportunity to race a car that has more than 750 horsepower."

Despite not yet having had an opportunity to get behind the wheel of a Superleague Formula car, Pedro Petiz knows very well the circuits where Superleague Formula will be racing in its second season. "The only contact I have had with the car was during a presentation to the Sporting fans last Sunday. I've raced at all the circuits where Superleague Formula will race this year, with the exception of Jarama, and I will do a test there in June. The first race will be at Magny Cours – it's one of my favorite circuits and I hope to get some good results there. I'm also really looking forward to racing at Estoril, as I will be the only Portuguese driver with the support of the home crowd. It will be fantastic," continued the young driver echoing the Club colors he will be representing.

"Driving for Sporting Clube de Portugal is amazing; I have been a fan of them for many years. I was at the Estadio Jose Alvalade for some of Sporting's biggest moments such as the final of the Taca UEFA in 2005 – it's an honour to be part of such a great club. I will do my utmost in 2009 to honour the green and white shirt, and I hope to be on the podium many times and also to score some victories for Sporting." That's an objective that will certainly be helped given that the Sporting race team will be managed by Zakspeed, the team which took Beijing Guoan Football club to victory in the first season of Superleague Formula.

Alex Andreu, President of Superleague Formula explained the importance of having Sporting in the competition as well as for Portugal. "A million thanks to Portugal and the big welcome given to us. FC Porto was the first club to take up the challenge in 2008,

Also the Circuit of Estoril that has become a major venue on the SF calendar after the success in 2008. Now we can add Sporting to that list as well as a Portuguese driver defending the colours of the Lisbon based club. We hope that in this new competition, and through the football clubs, we can help to promote young Portuguese drivers.”

Soares Franco, President of Sporting, highlighted the potential of the two sports that form Superleague Formula. “It’s unquestionable that football and motor sport are the most media grabbing sports in the world. The combination of the two is a winning formula and we need to support it. Sporting is a worldwide brand that only associates itself with leading projects, this is why we decided to join Superleague Formula.”

PROFILE

Name: Pedro Petiz

Age: 22 (29 October 1986)

Place of birth: Porto, Portugal

Residence: Lisboa, Portugal

Height: 1,83m

Weight: 71kg

Hobbies: All kinds of sports, reading and music

Best football moment: When Portugal won against England 3-2 at the Euro 2000 after having been 0-2 behind. Those incredible goals scored by Figo, Joao Pinto and Nuno Gomes.

Favourite football player: There are various, but probably the best at the moment is Cristiano Ronaldo and obviously Diego Armando Maradona from the times he played.

Do you play football? Yes I like playing football with friends, either five-aside or 11.

Superleague Formula Club: Sporting Clube de Portugal

Webpage: <http://www.pedropetiz.com/>

On Track:

Pedro Petiz started racing in 1999 at the age of 12 when he won the Trofeu Cabo do Mundo of Karting in Matosinhos. After that he participated in the Portugal Cup and went on to compete in the Portugal Championship of Karting where, in 2001, he became the youngest driver to race in the Inter A.

In 2002 his international career began in Italy where he qualified for European Karting and won the Open Karting Portugal, known as the Portugal Cup of Karting. The following year he qualified for the final of the European Karting Championship, and also participated in the World Cup of Karting as well as the Italian Open Master in Formula A.

In 2004 he moved into motor sport where he was one of the three finalists for testing for Team Portugal. He then went onto drive for Formula BMW Iberica where he took second place in the second race and took victory in the Vodafone Cup by Seat.

In 2005 he competed in the Junior category of the Eurocup Megane Trophy and scored several podiums and finished third overall... the following year he won the title. In 2008, Petiz raced in the Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup as part of the high-profile support race package at 11 grands prix. In 2009 Pedro Petiz competed in Mini Challenge before kicking off his Superleague Formula career.

FURTHER INFORMATION :

Additional briefing information, video and images are available at:
<http://www.superleagueformula.com/superleague/News-Media>

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