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FormulaCar

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TEAM
U.S.A.

J.R.
HILDEBRAND

Following in the shoes of a star-studded cast, this quick Californian showed well in the Formula Palmer Audi Winter Series



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Andrew Ferraro Photos - LAT Photographic

HILDEBRAND impresses in PALMER AUDI TEAM USA run

This year's Team USA Scholarship winner J.R. Hildebrand traveled to England in early November to contest the two-weekend six-race Formula Palmer Audi Autumn trophy.

Having only tested the 300-horsepower car once prior to the season-opener at Snetterton, Hildebrand was immediately on the pace. Starting on the front-row in race one of the triple-header, the California native drove a splendid race, finishing second behind Formula Renault veteran Josh Weber. Repeating the performance in race two with another second place finish, Hildebrand was set for a breakthrough win in race three. Unfortunately, while leading the race, the famed English rained arrived and caused Hildebrand to slide off-course in the tricky conditions. Despite the setback, the youngster still entered the final three races of the year in contention for the title.

Racing at the prestigious Brands Hatch circuit, the American was again one of the drivers to watch. Executing some sensational around-the-outside passes at the daunting Paddock Hill Bend, Hildebrand captured yet another podium finish in Round Four, before finishing fourth in Rounds Five and Six. Scoring three podium results and all but one finish in top-five in the six-race series, Hildebrand clinched a tie for third place in the standings.

Returning to North America for the 2006 season, Hildebrand will look to follow in the footsteps of fellow Team USA drivers Jimmy Vasser, Bryan Herta, Tony Ave, Memo Gidley, Buddy Rice, Paul Edwards, Andy Lally, Joey Hand, A.J. Allmendinger and Bryan Sellers. The young pilot is expected to tackle the Cooper Zetec Championship Series this summer.



TEAM USA