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Article Last Updated: Sunday, September 01, 2002 - 11:27:43 PM MST

## Young motocross riders making a name for themselves

By Darren Marcy/Outdoor editor

San Juan County is home to two state champion motocross riders, who combined aren't old enough yet to hold a driver's license.

Coby Adair, 9, of Aztec, and Tyler Blades, 6, of Farmington each won a four-race series held this summer to capture the titles in their age divisions.

Blades, a first-grader at Ladera Elementary School, won all four races he entered in the 4- to 6-year-old age group.

Blades, who checks in at 41 pounds, is less than half the weight of the bike he rides. The youngster burns the track on a 50cc motorcycle made by Cobra that weighs 87 pounds.

The son of Scott and Michelle Blades, Tyler has been riding for about three years and racing the last two. He had grown up with motorcycles, his dad said, but got the racing bug from his babysitter, whose son is a pro rider.

Scott said he used to ride some, but Tyler has been a motorcycle fanatic from little bitty.

"From the time he knew what a motorcycle was, he wanted one," Scott said. "Racing came from (his babysitter), they're kind of a racing family."

Tyler will race in the national ArenaCross circuit soon, competing in five races in our region. The top three points leaders from each region will compete in Las Vegas at the Amateur World Finals in October with the fastest 18 riders in the country competing.

Adair, who rides in the 9- to 11-year-old age group and rides a 65cc bike, already qualified for the Amateur World Finals this year, proving to be one of the three fastest riders in the area.

He was third in the region in the 65 cc class and will compete Oct. 13 at the MGM Grand Coliseum in Las Vegas, Nev.

Last year at the U.S. Open, he finished fourth in the world in the 50cc class.

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This summer, Adair padded his already impressive riding resume by sweeping two state titles the 65cc class for 7- to 11-year olds and the 65cc open class open to all ages.

The races were held in June in Albuquerque, followed by two races in Gallup over the Fourth of July weekend. The final race was in Clovis Aug. 12.

The son of Rick and Cherron Adair of Aztec, Adair will again compete in the national arena-cross circuit.

Both riders compete locally in the High Desert Racing series, a local competition held at the track east of Aztec and another west of Mancos, Colo.

Rick said his son, who has been racing for five years, is serious about the sport and sees himself earning a living at it one day.

"That's in his mind as a goal," Rick said. "He wants to be a professional and he wants to make money doing it. I just mechanic and keep him going."

Coby races a lot, his dad said, hitting about 40 races a year.

"We do a lot of racing," Rick said. "We don't push him. He pushes us."

Despite the hectic schedule and missing some school because of his racing, Rick said Coby is a good student and gets good grades in his fourth-grade class at Park Avenue Elementary School.

"I really push that on him," Rick said. "He misses more school than a lot of other kids. But he maintains and keeps up. He's a real positive kid."

Adair got interested in racing because his uncle is a professional rider.

"My brother is a pro rider," Michelle said. "He was trying to follow in his uncle's footsteps."

Both youngsters ride with a local group of motocross riders who compete and have fun in a family-oriented event.

"It's pretty amazing how big it is around here," Scott Blades said. "We're new to it. You go to the local races and there's 250-300 kids out there racing. They're just having fun and the families are involved too. It's pretty amazing."

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