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She has a need for speed

Woodland resident Miller has big hopes for her racing career

By **JAMES DARNELL/Special To The Democrat**

Created: 02/01/2009 08:07:26 AM PST

Most parents are afraid when their child gets behind the wheel of a car on their own for the first time after obtaining their driver's license on their 16th birthday. But luckily for Woodland resident Jordan Miller, her parents encourage her urge to drive.

Miller turned 16 on January 7, but has been driving for as long as she can remember. Whether it was dirt bikes, sprint cars, or go-karts, Miller has been racing competitively for the past nine years. Currently, she has been preparing for the upcoming Jim Russell Go-Kart Racing Series, which will be taking place in April at the Kinsmen Kart Club in Dixon.



The immediate goal for Woodland Christian High School sophomore Jordan Miller is to win the Jim Russell Go-kart Series which starts this spring, but she realizes the odds are against her. "I know it's a long shot," she said. "The competitors are extremely tough and in their 20's. (The series) is the one everyone wants to win." (Courtesy)

While most girls are worried about their make-up and hair, Miller has been putting a helmet on and taking to the track. Some are curious as to why.

"I've been doing this for a long time, and I just love the adrenaline rush," Miller said. "I love to be going fast."

Fast has certainly not been a problem for Miller, who has progressed steadily from her days as a 7-year old dirt bike rider following in the footsteps of her big brother Justin, whom she used to watch. Recent accomplishments include finishing eighth in the Jr. Rotax Class of the Jim Russell Kart Racing Rotax Series at Infection Raceway in Sonoma in 2007, and in 2006 she placed seventh in the Championship Jr. Puma Class of the Jim Russell Kart Racing Series at Infection.

But her top honor came this past November, when she finished atop the senior class of the Kinsmen Kart Club go-kart class in the

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16-year old division. She had to sign waivers to take part since she did not meet the eligibility requirements, but that did not stop her from winning the 16-lap race while being the only 15-year old - and female - in the race.

"We're very very proud," Jordan's father Mitch Miller said. "She's been doing it for a long time, and she's been doing it all. She really wants to become the next Danica Patrick so she's very focused on trying to get into an Indy car."

Danica Patrick, of course, is one of the very few females racing in the IRL, giving Miller quite the role model in a sport that isn't often filled with women.

"I look up to her so much," Miller said. "She is one of the very few that have made it through."

Just because she can hold her own on the racetrack doesn't mean that her father doesn't worry about her though.

"I do worry, but not as much as I used to," he said. "But she is completely confident and very focused."

So what do Miller's girlfriends say when they find out she races go-karts?

"They're like, 'Wow, you must be a daredevil or something'," Miller said.

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