



At the Game

Great-grandson interested in motocross racing; competes well

By Kathy Davis-Vrbas
Rawlins County Square Deal
Austin Green bought his first dirt bike in May. By the end of his first motocross season, he had won the top spot for the summer series in the Cornhusker Motocross Circuit. Austin said his dad, David, used to race and was the one who inspired his son's interest in the sport. One day last spring, David told Austin they were on the way to a cattle sale in Topeka—but instead, he surprised his son by head-

ing for a bike shop, from which they brought home Austin's 85 cc Yamaha. Two weeks later, Austin won his first trophy, placing third in his very first competition. From July on, he took first place in every race. The secret? "I practice every day," Austin says. His dad built a track at the family farm east of Atwood—and even practices with him sometimes. "I think you get faster quicker when you have someone race with you,"

Austin says, noting friends he has met through racing often come and practice with him. Austin has completed on tracks in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska. The track at Kendall is his favorite so far, he says. He also competed in the Pike Peak Super-Cross at Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs. In Brush, Colo. he raced in the Amateur Nationals in September. Austin has enjoyed the people he meets through racing. Although motocross is a seriously competitive

individual sport, the racers and fans look out for each other, he explains. "Say you have a flat tire—someone is there 10 seconds," he says. "Everyone at the track's real friendly." But according to his mother, Dana, he isn't the only one who is having fun. "It is awesome family time," Dana says, explaining they take their camper to the racing sites and make motocross a weekend family event. The races draw people from a wide area and friendships develop easily, she says. "You get to know people, both the

kids and their parents," she adds. "You like to watch each other's kid race." Like any sport, motocross racing has its dangers. But Austin says the races "wear lots of protective gear" as they navigate challenging dirt courses at the highest speeds possible. "It's pretty much like who can handle a bump the fastest," Austin sums it up. Racers compete on bikes from 80 cc minicycles, where they race by age, and 125 cc bikes on up to powerful 450s, where the A, B and C divisions

are grouped by experience. Austin is looking forward to racing on his new 125 Yamaha when the new racing season starts in February of 2002. The Greens plan to take in races in Denver, Oklahoma and Texas this winter, Dana says. Austin, 13, is thoroughly enjoying his new sport. "I like the competition," he says. "It's just a lot of fun." Austin is the grandson of Judy Castle, Denver, and great-grandson of Avis Byers, St. Francis.

Wrestlers participate in kids meet

Thirteen members of the St. Francis Wrestling Club traveled to Hoxie on Saturday, Jan. 5 to participate in the Hoxie kids' wrestling tournament. Those attending and their placings are as follows:

8 and under: 43 pounds, Casey Keller, third; 49 pounds, Keegan Sherlock, fourth; 61 pounds, Cody Sherlock, second; Dillion Straub, fifth 10 and under: 76 pounds, Darris Keller, third; 79 pounds, Grady Brunk, fifth; 85 pounds, David Stephens, third; 90 pounds, Tyler Lauer, fifth; 115 pounds, Sam Sowers, second 12 and under: 92 pounds, Garrett Zweygardt, fourth; 105 pounds, Gavin Smull, third; 130 pounds, Talon Jones, fourth; 165 pounds, Casey House, fourth.

Indians outscored

The junior varsity boys fell to Hoxie 54-36 Friday night after Hoxie outscored the Indians 44-28 in the last three quarters. Seven players contributed to the scoring with Nick Raile and Trevor Henderson each having 9 points. "At the end of the first quarter, I felt pretty good about how we were playing," Coach David Morrow said. "Down only two to begin the second quarter, I was sure we had a pretty good chance to win. However, Hoxie warmed up and put us down by double digits for the rest of the game. "All the guys on the junior varsity team are getting a lot of good experience. With team numbers as low as they are - only seven or eight with four full quarters to play in the junior varsity game - we are going to have to give full effort every night and begin to shoot much better. "Compared to some of our earlier outings this year, we handled the ball pretty well against Hoxie."

SF 08 06 11 11 36
H 10 18 16 10 54
Raile 9, Henderson 9, Tyler Voorthies 4, Chase Collier 4, Jonathan Noorfs 4, Tanner Kinen 4, Dillan Zweygardt 2

Bowling

Wednesday Nite Mens 12/19
Team standings: Krien Steel Buildings 29-19, Grace Flying Service 26-22, Burr Retail Liquor 26-22, Majestic 23.5-24.5, Frontier Equity 22-26, 2001 Electronics 17.5-30.5
High game (scratch): Rick Burton 213, Bob Hankins 211, Alan Rose 206
High series (scratch): Rick Burton 602, Bob Hankins 593, Lenard Schlepp 529
Wednesday Coffee 12/19
Team standings: Snyder's Hay Gals 41.5-18.5, Sam's Electric 39-21, Majestic 36-24, Cheyenne Bowl 31-29, Pat's Windmill 27.5-28.5
High game (scratch): Barb Cobb 203, Mayetta McCall 185, Inez Bargo 183
High series (scratch): Cobb 545, McCall 467, Shirley Adkinson 462
Wednesday Nite Mens 12/26
Team standings: Krien Steel Buildings 30-22, Grace Flying Service 29-23, Burr Retail Liquor 27-25, Majestic 26.5-25.5, Frontier Equity 26-26, 2001 Electronics 17.5-34.5
High game (scratch): Bill Ehrman 246, Bob Hankins 202, Marvin Confer 195
High series (scratch): Ehrman 570, Hankins 546, Confer 528
Ladies Nite Out 1/3
Team standings: Troy's Alley Cats 41-23; Dundy Ag 36.5-23.5; Jersey Maids 38-26; Jake's Place 35-25; First National Bank 35-29; Wright Carpet 33.5-30.5; Republican Valley Vet 30-34.
High game (scratch): Pat Confer 202; Marsha Kechter 199; Kechter 184
High series (scratch): Kechter 527; Confer 524; Leisha Witzel 493

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