

MADE racing champion continues to see success

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He may be Stevenson MADE, but as a racing star, he is self-made. Andrew Bogusz's '24 accomplishments far outpace the expectations for his 15 years of age.

Kart racing is a competitive road racing sport where drivers ride go-karts on circular tracks. Bogusz has won many titles and honors with his racing from 2016 to 2021. Most recently, he won the prestigious honor of being division champion at Arthur Raceway.

"Winning the championships was really triumphant and gave me the feeling that all my hard work was paying off," Bogusz said. "When I came off of the last turn to finish first in the blue plate clone championship, I felt so triumphant. I thought that the whole last race was going to go wrong, but instead I swept both of the class championships I was in during my rookie season. This made me feel like I was one of the greatest drivers at that track."

Racing that is a family business involves every part of a family's life.

"It is a great feeling when your child is able to compete at something he enjoys and have success," Terry Bogusz, Andrew's father, said. "Andrew is a third-generation racer, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Terry

Bogusz, who competed many years at Mt. Clemens Racetrack, and myself, who raced oval track stock cars throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Canada. I was also the 2008 Auto City Speedway Track Champion. Andrew has been involved in racing since he could walk

"To prepare for a race, I listen to rock and roll or country music. Racing is not like baseball or football where you get pumped up. You want to bring yourself down and be very calm."

-Andrew Bogusz '24

and help in the garage on my race cars."

Like his father and grandfather before him, Bogusz loves to be on the track.

"I think people should know the excitement behind racing," Bogusz said. "Many people just view it as just a bunch of rednecks going around in circles, but it is more than that. You have to watch the moves they make on the track and know what they experience to appreciate it."

Any competition takes dedication and drive.

"I have known from past experience, that in dirt racing the track is constantly changing throughout the race day," Bogusz said. "I have to search the track and find where there is speed in my car. It is not like asphalt racing, where you are always relying on a specific line, and one deviation can cost the race. When I went to Arthur Raceway for the first time, I did not know what to expect. My family has no experience or knowledge in dirt racing, so I was the first of us to try it out. For my first race, I really struggled. I spun out in open practice and finished dead last in the feature race because of a late spin with two laps to go. Once I got some wins under my belt, and I started to know where to run on the track on certain days, it was time to put what I did in asphalt racing to the test. By the last few races, I was running with or pulling away from the 'big dogs' at the track."

Learning a new skill can be tough, but when there is a struggle, the success is even sweeter.

"The feeling of winning is the feeling of domination," Bogusz said. "But a win can feel different in many ways. Some races I lead all race and win, and I feel like this was my race. Other races when I have not led all day, I will suddenly find myself in a position to win. If I do, I really feel victorious. What it means to me is that this was my race and that I am the best car out there."



Showing off his racing kart, Andrew Bogusz '24 gets ready to compete. "A race to me is my paradise and it is what I love to do, but everyone needs a break sometimes from doing what they love," Bogusz said. "Even me. In reality, and in technicality, it is this. I am manhandling a 300 pound killing machine on four wheels, with the aerodynamic properties of a brick, and a tank of highly flammable liquid strapped to it, all while battling with others trying their best to beat me to the finish line." (Bottom left)



Andrew Bogusz poses with his father, a former racing champion who taught him to race. "Racing at any level takes a commitment and sacrifice to have success," Terry Bogusz said. "It takes hard work and long hours preparing the equipment and traveling to race." (Top right) Photos by Terry Bogusz