

Having had the opportunity to have our son participate in 1/4 midget racing and karting at a very young age it gave me a real education as to not only know how to work on the car to get it fast, but to learn first hand what a lot of the parents of young drivers were thinking about as to what would be the best logical "next step" for their drivers after 1/4 midget racing. There is not a "formal ladder system" for young racers to follow here in the United States, but there are a number of viable options for parents and young drivers to consider that would be a logical "next step" in their racing career. For the oval racing perspective, the United States Auto Club has developed an excellent program for young drivers to consider and that is Ford Focus midget racing. The USAC Ford Focus Program offers young driver candidates at the age of 11years & 6 months to be able to participate in USAC sanctioned Ford Focus events as "Young Guns" which features "restrictors" that reduce the horsepower of the Ford Focus engine and allows the young driver the opportunity to compete in a "full sized" midget on 1/4 mile dirt or paved tracks. When drivers turn 13 years & 6 months or become emancipated, they can graduate to the Ford Focus Midget series (unrestricted) and compete on dirt and pavement tracks for national championships.

equipment, technology, meticulous preparation, engineering expertise and wealth of experience, our team is fully prepared and capable of working with and training young driver candidates and providing the racing services necessary to compete and win. The Nine Racing team is headquartered in Brownsburg, Indiana so the driver development program emphasis will be in the Midwest region for the most part. However, we do have an affiliation with a west coast Ford Focus program managed by Kevin Gerhardt who has operated the very successful Western Speed Ford Focus program for five years winning numerous championships and main events with drivers. Just a side note, Kevin, his wife Julie and son Cody raced quarter midgets from the Madera California, "Good Times" Club. Both the Western Speed Ford Focus driver development program and our Nine Racing program operate in similar fashion thereby providing quality race vehicles, engineering expertise, driver coaching, testing opportunities and the right atmosphere for the young driver to learn and develop his racing and driving skills. Both the Western Speed and Nine Racing driver development programs concentrate primarily on pavement and cars designed specifically for pavement racing.

Our Nine Racing Driver



tremendous value for the young driver candidate to choose the direction of going with the established team concept because of the advantage of having a full

was a bit nervous, but Steve reminded him to just relax and do *what you know how to do*. I remember him saying something like, *your not here to impress anyone, it's*

for support and to crew the car. Our opportunity was a perfect match. I would highly recommend anyone to work with NINE Racing. Steve Lewis cares about develop-

"As a dad, very involved in Dylan's racing, for the first time, I felt comfortable and trusted the team enough to just stand back and let them do what they do best." Danny Cappello

compliment of experience behind the young driver. One young driver, graduating from the quarter midget ranks is Dylan Cappello. Dylan took the opportunity to participate in one of our cars at the 2010 annual "Turkey Night Grand Prix" event held at

for you to get comfortable." The test went incredible. I'm not sure the car required any adjustments. Dylan, my wife Shellie and I were pretty excited. So on Tuesday, we just relaxed. Wednesday was an Open Practice Day and again, the car was per-

ment of drivers and brings a perfectly tuned race team around them. We had been offered to drive for another team before and respectfully declined. NINE Racing was a great fit for Dylan and he enjoyed it and performed incredibly due to the profes-

THE NEXT STEP

Parents and young drivers have a choice as to how to prepare for "the next step" by either starting their own team or to look for joining an established team that offers a true "driver development" program to train and "develop" the talent of the young driver candidate. Our Nine Racing midget team that has operated since 1979 and has developed a winning and championship heritage, now offers a full fledged driver development program for young up and coming driver candidates the first hand opportunity to further develop driver skills into championship form. Using our Ford Focus midget and full midget

Development program offers the young driver candidate the opportunity to join an established team and work with true professionals. The goal of the program is to "develop" the skills of the driver with numerous test sessions and provide "coaching" from experienced drivers. We also offer marketing support and media exposure by preparing pre and post race press releases for the candidate. Our team also has affiliations with two key late model and ARCA teams so there is the opportunity for the driver to move up to the next step on the ladder after Ford Focus and Full Midget competition. There is

Irwindale, California in November.

"We were so excited to be in the Nine Racing Ford Focus Midget for Turkey Night", said Danny Cappello. "The whole family was excited for Thanksgiving this year. Sunday, we loaded into our car in Phoenix and drove to southern California and the NINE Racing Shop where Steve Lewis introduced us to his crew, Glenn Martin and Krieg. At the shop, they fit Dylan's seat in the car and adjusted the seat belts. On Monday, we showed up at Irwindale for the test. The car was prepared and ready and looked awesome. Dylan

fect. Dylan practiced very well. Glenn and Krieg would talk to Dylan about his line, how the car was and if any changes were going to be made. As a dad, very involved in Dylan's racing, for the first time, I felt comfortable and trusted the team enough to just stand back and let them do what they do best. I also need to mention Kevin Gerhardt from Western Speed. We have known the Gerhardt's from quarter midget racing. Kevin was a big part of Dylan's crew. Thursday was race day with a couple of practice sessions prior to qualifying. The car was perfect and Dylan's comfort level and trust showed with some incredible results; FAST TIME at Turkey Night out of 33 cars! Needless to say his mom and I were so proud of him as well as his team. NINE Racing and Steve Lewis are a class act and a Top Notch Team, who I believe love to see drivers do well in their cars. Because of Dylan's Rookie Status, he started the race at the back. He finished the race in 7th place. Dylan and our whole family were so impressed with NINE Racing and all the people Dylan had around him

sionalism, readiness and the confidence the team brought to the table.

For additional information about how our Nine Racing program might work for your driver go to: www.nineracing.com or contact either Nine Racing or Western Speed directly. Steve Lewis Business: 949/212-3109 e-mail: stewel@performanceracing.com Kevin Gerhardt Business: 559/673-6300 e-mail: keving@perfrlr.com

The Nine Racing team has extended a special offer that will be applied to the winner of the Honda Light 160 class winner at USAC's 2011 Mopar .25 Midget "Battle at the Brickyard." That winner will receive a "complimentary" test session in a Nine Racing Ford Focus pavement midget, at the Bryant Heating & Cooling Indianapolis Speedrome. "Steve Lewis and Nine Racing, Inc. have an illustrious career record with USAC. This is a unique opportunity for one of our lucky Mopar .25 Midget drivers. Steve has done so much for the sport and this is yet another example of his generosity," said James Spink, USAC Development Director.

