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High flying eight-year old

By Grant Berry

He's been called fearless. He's been called a daredevil. It's been said that his bones are made out of rubber. But for eight-year-old Trever Wahr, racing his KTM 65 motorcross bike over high-flying jumps is just plain fun. "I love the sport and want to do my best," he said.

Trever is a fourth grade student at Edgewood Elementary School in Fruitport. Last summer, he had a very busy and very successful season on the racetrack. He was a top five finisher in the state in points in both the 65cc 7-9 class and the 50cc SR class in the SJO Series.



Photo by Taylor Carlyle

He was also a top five finisher on the 50 SR at Big Air Motorcross and 8th in points in the 65cc 7-9 class.

Trever's third-place finish in the 65 cc class was even more remarkable because he missed the first two months of the racing season. "He didn't start racing on his 65cc until July when the season was half over," said his father, Scott Wahr. In spite of his shortened season, Trever still managed to participate in 20 races on the 65cc, and 23 on the 50cc.

The fever for motorbikes started for Trever when he was just five years old. By chance, family friend, Kirk Wierengo, happened upon a mini bike. When Trever got wind of the dirt bike, he wanted it. "If you get the training wheels off your bicycle, you can get the dirt bike," said his mother, Tavra Wahr. Three days after his training wheels came off, Trever was riding a motorcycle. "When he got the bike, he was a natural," his mom said. "I had to remove all the lawn ornaments from the yard so he didn't crash into them."

After riding around on the Suzuki for two years as fast as it could go, he wanted to race his sister, Mackenzie, all the time. But she wasn't having any of that, so Trever's dad took him to the Muskegon County Fairgrounds in August of 2011 for his first race. In 2012, they traveled to Supercross racetracks from Traverse City to Centerville.

Scott Wahr has become Trever's trainer, coach, mechanic, and chief fall guy. "If he doesn't win, he always blames me," he said. Actually, the Wahrs are proud of their son's attitude. They both say he handles it really well when he doesn't take first place. When asked how he feels when he doesn't win, Trever said, "I'm okay about it."

When Trever graduated to a faster bike, he purchased the KTM 50cc JR himself with the birthday and chore money he had been saving. His mom took him to the credit union where he drew out his savings, and then he

Annual 4-H banquet held

By Sandy Kriger

The Muskegon County 4-H banquet took place at Fellowship Reformed Church. About 200 people enjoyed a chicken dinner. Master of Ceremonies was 4-H program coordinator Katie Courtade. After dinner, 4-H and leader pins were awarded.

Project medal awards went to the following 4-H'ers.

Achievement: Nicole Chase
Agriculture: Christi Wiltenburg
Beef: Morgan Erffmeyer and James Brown
Childcare & Development: Kelly Olthof
Community Service: Lynn Olthof and Kelly Olthof

Dogs: Addison Walstra and Isaac Fitzgerald
Fisheries & Wildlife: Karson Kriger
Foods and Nutrition: Lynn Olthof & Malin Peterson

Hobbies & Collections: Owen Lynch
Horse: Emily Morgan and Madeline Williams
Leadership: Karson Kriger and Jackson Fitzgerald

Performing Arts: Malin Peterson
Personal Development: Owen Lynch and Serena Stillson

Photography: Hannah Erffmeyer
Poultry: Brandyn Gould
Rabbit: Emily Morgan
Sheep: Brooke and Autumn Vandonkelaar
Shooting sports: Nicholas VanRyswyk and Brad Osmer

Swine: Addison Walstra & James Brown
Visual Arts: Malin Peterson

The Marian Judd 4-H award went to Addison Walstra. Friend of 4-H went to Andy Rice; and the Community Service Award went to the Independent Seekers 4-H Club. •

counted the money out to the gentleman and bought the bike.

The worst experience Trever had during the 2012 season was at Big Air Motorcross in Newaygo. "He crashed and tumbled head over heels," Tavra Wahr said. "He got up and gave a thumbs up. The crowd went wild, but I couldn't sleep that night."

Even after his crash, his mom's still not worried. "He wears all the protective gear, and he absolutely loves it. He's active and engaged, and I can't take that away from him," she said.

In the off-season, Trever stays in shape by doing 52 sit-ups and pushups per day. "My dad makes me," he said. Scott Wahr's philosophy is, "If you're going to ride, you got to be in shape." In addition, Trever participates in wrestling and soccer, and he enjoys running in physical education class. These activities help keep him in shape for the upcoming racing season.

On warm days, and in the spring, Trever practices at his neighbor, Brendan Ballard's supercross-style track. Trever's grandparents, Tom and Molly Wahr, attend many of Trever's races and have also loaned him a trailer to transport his bikes. They also let him put sponsor stickers on the trailer.

Trever's sponsors for the 2012 season included H&H Lawn Service, Big Lots, Melching, Inc. Demolition & Dismantling, Stafford's Heating and Cooling, and KTW Drywall. Their sponsorship was a tremendous help with equipment and travel expenses. Trever's parents made him pursue sponsorship himself. "We made it clear that



Photo by Taylor Carlyle

he would have to be the one to talk with potential sponsors, and he did," said Scott.

For the 2013 racing season, Trever will be riding a recently purchased 2012 KTM 65cc. He plans to race the SJO Series on the 65cc in the 65 7-11 class and the mini open classes along with the Big Air GLMX series. Trever can no longer participate in the 50cc classes because he now exceeds the age limit. "My goal for 2013 is to race as many of the SJO arena cross races as possible and finish in the top five in points," he said. "I also hope to race as many of the GLMX Big Air races as possible and have a top five finish there, too."

The trophy case at the Wahr home is already spilling over with awards, with some trophies taller than the young man who won them. Surely the winter will pass slowly for Trever as he anticipates continued success in next year's racing season where he's certain to maintain his reputation as a high-flying fearless daredevil with bones made of rubber. •



Successful young hunter bags her first buck

Danielle Hysell, a seventh grader at Fruitport Middle School, shot a four-point buck on October 20, 2012. This was her first buck with a crossbow. Her father is Mike Hysell.

She was sitting with her grandfather, Gary Hysell, in the Cloverville area. She was using his crossbow and she shot the buck at 28 yards — an excellent shot!

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