

Dowlers go karting

» The one thing that was missing on Kevin Dowler's (kneeling in photo) re-sume was a karting championship. While he didn't win one himself, he can now at least say that he was part of one.

After a successful racing career, which included five championships in the CAS-CAR West Series and two wins in a stock at the Molson Indy, Dowler started his own karting team for his family.

Currently racing for his Sherwood Park, AB-based team are sons, Griffin (7), Adam (13) and Noel (17). Quebec native Phillippe Gelinas is also a member.

2010 will mark Griffin's first year of karting after two years of practice. His first event will be on home soil in May.

Dowler also sponsors the Apollo Motorsports Minimax class for Gatorz Karting.

"Sponsorship of classes is simple, you give a little back," Dowler said. "It's always a way to say thanks."

The Apollo Motorsports team kicked off their 2010 season in the Gatorz Challenge of the Americas in Phoenix, AZ. All three drivers started strong with top-ten finishes in the first two rounds of the season.

Noel and Phil earned top-five finishes, putting both in a comfortable tie for third place in the points.

While rounds three and four didn't go as planned for Adam, Noel and Gelinas continued their quests for the points lead. As the rain fell over the track at California Speedway, Noel's first attempt racing in the rain was a challenge.

Despite the bad weather, Noel left California sitting third in points.

Gelinas was ready to build on his points lead as he was mixed with the largest Sr. Max field of the season. With dual fourth place finishes, he quickly found himself sitting at the top of the points heading in



PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN DOWLER

to the final rounds.

In the finale of the Gatorz Challenge six race season, Adam Dowler had a difficult weekend. After a first lap crash in round five, Dowler finished at the back of the pack in 18th.

Round six looked to be a better day for the 13-year-old after qualifying ninth, but a dislodged chain ended his day.

In the Sr Max race in round five, Noel Dowler ran alongside teammate Phil Gelinas and both had solid top-ten finishes.

Dowler's second race in round six of the Sr. Max didn't produce the same results as the day before as a failed battery ended his race. Going into round number six, the last race of the season, Gelinas was sitting second in points and had a realistic shot at the title.

After qualifying second and padding his points total, Gelinas clinched the title with a third place finish in the race. The cham-

pionship win also secured him a trip to the 2010 Rotax Grand Finals in Italy.

In Dowler's next-to-last DD2 race he was able to post one the fastest laps, qualifying fourth before finishing second in the race. Round six on Sunday was almost a carbon copy of the day before.

This time Dowler qualified second before finishing in the same place. The excellent results have Apollo Motorsports looking towards the future.

"We want to continue our quest to have each class represented by Apollo Motorsports at the World finals," said Dowler. "Sr. Max is covered; Noel is going for DD2 and Adam for Jr. Max."

The elder Dowler is also committed to helping "build and maintain karting in the Edmonton region with the construction of a world class FIA CIK 1km purpose built kart track." •

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