

## SAMPLE PROFILE

A **profile** is a news story about a person or organization. A good profile sheds light on the personality of an individual and on their work.

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### *Speed Racer*

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Most kids play video games to feel the rush of auto racing. Not Matt Martin. When he has a need for speed, he climbs into his Ford F-150 pickup truck and goes for a few spins around a racetrack. Sometimes Matt drives as fast as 100 miles per hour!

The 13-year-old boy from Florida is way too young to have a driver's license, but he is already chalking up victories as a race driver. So far, Matt has won five races in the FastKids division of the FASTRUCK Series, for youths ages 12 to 17.

Matt is simply taking after his famous father. Mark Martin drives the number 6 car in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series. He has won 33 races in his career. He is one of the most popular drivers on the professional stock car circuit.

When Matt was 4, his dad started taking him on laps around tracks, but Matt was more into Thomas the Tank and Power Rangers. When he was 7, though, his dad gave him a car known as a quarter midget as a gift for Christmas. A quarter midget is similar to a go-kart but with a full roll cage to protect the driver.

Matt raced quarter midgets until he was 11. Then he moved up to a small race car called a Bandolero. After racing in a Bandolero for only a year, Matt was ready to give trucks a try. "They are a lot of fun to race because they feel like full-size cars," Matt told KYW Extra. "Race trucks also go a whole lot faster than Bandoleros, so they're pretty sweet."

According to Matt, his parents had different points of view about whether he should race at a young age. "My dad wanted me to, but you know how moms are. She was like, 'Now be careful, and don't get hurt out there.'"

Despite the motherly advice, Matt flipped his quarter midget many times. He also drove his Bandolero into the wall during one race. Another time, "I went full blast into another car." Matt also has wrecked his number 66 truck "pretty bad" without getting badly hurt.

While racing, Matt has a lot of protection. He wears a seat belt and a helmet. A special device protects his neck from injury. Also, his racing suit is fireproof. "Racing is not really all that dangerous," the seventh-grade student says. "Sure, you go fast, but it's safer than most sports."

Oddly enough, Matt says his worst injuries didn't occur while racing. They happened when he fell off his skateboard. He once hurt his knees and hip in a skateboard spill. "I could barely walk down stairs after that," he says with a laugh.

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