

# Riding up a storm

O'Fallon 7-year-old Aidan RoosEvans has been piling up championships on a national level

BY JAMIE FORSYTHE  
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Seven-year-old Aidan RoosEvans was born to motocross race.

At just 2½ years old, Aidan rode a small red two-wheeler without training wheels.

"One day he was going for a jump," said his father, O'Fallon businessman Joe RoosEvans. "He jumped and bent the training wheels I took them off and held the fender. He took off and never looked back."



RoosEvans

From that day on, Aidan was unstoppable. He has garnered eight

national motocross championships along with multiple regional and district titles.

"It's been amazing to watch," said RoosEvans, who owns Financial Resources of America in O'Fallon. "He won three national championships this year alone. Obviously, I'm proud, but I'm just amazed."

Aidan, a second-grader at St. Clare Catholic School in O'Fallon, won his most recent national championship title during the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Grand Nationals in DuQuoin July 25-30.

"The event draws people from all over the United States," RoosEvans said. "We are fortunate it's in DuQuoin."

Aidan is a celebrity within the AMA community

"He started out when he was 3½ years old, and they (AMA officials) see him today and are just amazed," RoosEvans said.

Aidan's passion for motocross racing is shared



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**O'Fallon's Aidan RoosEvans, 7, earned his eighth national championship at the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) Grand Nationals in late July in DuQuoin. "He has well over 100 trophies and plaques," his father, Joe RoosEvans said. "His number one plates cover two walls in the garage."**

by both his father and grandfather. When he was 12 years old, Joe RoosEvans said he got his start in motocross racing.

"My dad helped me and now he gets to watch his grandson do it," Joe RoosEvans said. "He goes to as many races as he can."

Aidan's grandfather, J. Montagu RoosEvans, 89, lives with Joe, his wife Lori and Aidan at the family's home just outside of O'Fallon.

Aidan trains year-around — utilizing the four tracks on the family's property. "When he trains, he'll ride usually every day," RoosEvans said.

"He'll practice or do drills."

Aidan has a trainer and a mechanic who works with him. The father and son team of Adam and Chuck Cobb, of Granite City, have

helped Aidan a lot.

Adam Cobb was a professional racer.

Aidan recently transitioned from a Cobra 50, an automatic motorcycle, to a Kawasaki 65, which requires gear shifting.

"He's taken to it really well," RoosEvans said. "It's unbelievable. ... "The 65 is a real motorcycle. Now it's the realization, he's growing up."

The next bike size is Kawasaki 85, and that's what Aidan wants, his father said. "But the youngest you can be on that is 9 years old."

Aidan's next big race is Saturday at Splinter Creek in Fosterburg. It's one of his favorite tracks.

"The best thing about racing is when you come out of the corners and just jump over their heads," Aidan said, referring to being high enough to look

down at spectators."

In the winter, RoosEvans said Aidan, who is sponsored by Midland States Bank, will compete at Daytona's Winter Nationals in Florida. He has won two national titles there.

Aidan's mother, Lori, said she tries not to worry about her son getting injured.

"I've learned to kind of get over it," she said. "You put the best equipment on him and that's all you can do. You want to wrap them in bubble wrap, but you can't do that."

Throughout his four years of racing, Aidan has suffered only a hairline fracture to his leg.

"He's very safe," Joe RoosEvans said. "His balance and coordination is unreal."

Aidan's parents say they'll keep supporting

their son's passion for racing as long he enjoys it.

"Aidan loves doing it," Joe RoosEvans said, noting his son is also into other sports such as soccer, basketball and swimming. "He's pretty well-rounded."

But there may be change up ahead.

"I feel like going on to go-carts when I grow up," Aidan said.

If Aidan continues his successful racing career, his parents may have to build a garage just to hold all his trophies, plaques and commemorative plates.

"He has well over 100 trophies and plaques," Joe RoosEvans said. "His number one plates cover two walls in the garage."

To find out more about Aidan, visit his Web site at <http://aidanroosevans.com>.