

Mother is Inspiration for Modified's Michael Ostrowski

Story & Photo RMG Race Media Group



ROSEVILLE, CA. Nineteen-year-old Michael Ostrowski pilots the number 77 machine in the Modified division entering 2011 as his third year in modifieds. Michael is no stranger to racing, he began racing at the young age of eight in quarter midgets then moved up to go karts where he established his racing resume. Michael has captured 5 championships in karting and has finished runner up in the Grand American Modified Division at Stockton 99 Speedway in his rookie year. With over 50+ wins in karting, today Michael is still actively racing go karts. Michael races his modified machine on Saturday nights at All American Speedway and Sunday's he's at

Infiniteon Karting center racing the Red Line Oil Karting Championship or other regional karting series in northern California. "The cornering capabilities, straightaway speeds, and the tracks are very technical and challenging," says Michael on what he likes about karting.

Michael Ostrowski tested a modified in early 2008 and that was his turning point in his racing career. Spring of 2008 Michael had built his own left hander modified from bare frame in four months. After the modified was complete Michael got the opportunity to race the last four races at Altamont before the track closed. On the last race Michael had set fast time in his new modified and was his first fast qualifier in his fourth career start in modifieds. However, Michael has not won in the modified division yet so he is looking to capture wins at All American Speedway. On race days, Michael's job is to not only drive but to be a mechanic on his own car and regularly double checks everything. Michael's dad, Scott, is Michael's spotter and mechanic on the 77 machine. To prepare himself for racing, he believes it is important to be physically fit and works out 5 days a week and eats healthy. Michael loves racing Modifieds because of the horsepower to weight ratio and the feeling of always being on the edge but mostly because they are open wheel. This year Michael is not only looking to run upfront but to get a few wins for his mom.

Michael's mom, Nanette Ostrowski, 48 years old, has been battling cancer since last October when she was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma of the lung, and lymph nodes in the brain. Since then Nanette is rarely at the track to watch Michael race due to her chemo treatments which have made her too sick and weak to make the drive up from Salida to Roseville and back. "I am nervous when Michael races whether or not I attend. My husband, Scott keeps me up to date with many phone calls and text messages throughout race day. I try to attend most of Michael's races but I'm limited to how I feel and I have already missed a few of his 2011 races," says Nanette. Nannette has been involved in racing since 1982 when her husband Scott introduced her to the I.M.S.A. event at Watkins Glenn, NY. Since then both Nannette and Scott have enjoyed all forms of racing. "I have been supportive and involved in Michael's racing for over 11 years. My proudest moment was in 2005 when Michael started a training and exercise program and he lost 32 pounds at the age of 13. He then won 2 championships in karting that same year!" says Nannette on Michael's success. Before Nannette was diagnosed with cancer her role as a racing mom was not only to be supportive but to keep all of Michael's safety equipment clean, encourage Michael to stay fit, eat healthy and be a good sportsman.

Michael loves racing and enjoys racing his modified at All American Speedway. Michael hopes that his mother will be able to witness his first modified win at the Roseville facility. Racing is truly a family sport and many memories are created at the track. Michael will be running the full Modified championship points series. Be sure to keep an eye on the red number 77 modified. Michael would like to thank the All American Speedway fans for supporting him and All American Speedway.