

Cole Miller-Off Road Racing

Statistics show that families that participate in activities together are more bonded. For the Millers, sports-specifically off-road bike racing-is an exciting activity that strengthens the family ties.

Mom and wife Michele observes that they have always been a close family but racing together has definitely made them closer. "We all work together getting everything ready for race day," she says. "My husband Mike has always taught our sons, Wil and Cole how to work on their bikes, take care of them, and always race hard and smart-to never give up!"

Son Cole, a junior honor student at John Milledge Academy, has shown real talent in off-road racing. Competing in his first race at age 4 years-old, he has been truly committed to the sport and has won many races and championships. His other passions include football and duck hunting.

Michele says she has never been afraid to have her husband and sons race-she simply puts it in God's hands. She says, "If something does happen during a race, like when Cole broke his femur in a wreck in 5th grade, we just deal with it accordingly."

She says that the joy they get out of racing as a family far exceeds the fear that could come along with such a sport. "I love that we participate as a family in racing. Before each race, my adrenaline goes up and it is so exciting! And if they win or have a great race, it makes me one proud mom!"

Cole, as all off-road racers, races against the class they are placed. Plus, the actual race has staggered starts for each racer. The path can be filled with dry dirt, mud, or grass and can travel over hills and straight fields. The races actually take place on private farm land.

Cole races in the Southern Off-Road Championship Series (SORCS)-which includes the states of Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina. To win a Championship title, a racer must compete in at least 9 out of 14 races in a year. In 2015, Cole won the SORCS Championship title winning 6 races in a one year time-span.

"When I was four years-old, I wanted to start racing because I saw my older brother and Dad racing," said Cole. "It seemed like a lot of fun that I wanted to be a part of and we enjoy it so much as a family sport."

Winning, not the speed or danger, is what is most exciting about racing for Cole. His most favorite memory in his career was his very first race at Garland Farms in Milledgeville when he was barely out of his toddler years.

Like other sports, racing teaches life lessons through sportsmanship and practice. "I've learned so much from participating in this sport," says Cole. "Including how to set goals and work hard toward those goals-then you will achieve success."

Cole is currently working hard at finishing up high school and has future plans to go to college and maybe join the Coast Guard. No matter what he chooses to do in life, he will most definitely take with him the lessons learned on the track. He also plans to continue racing throughout adulthood, as well.

"I am very proud of my sons and my husband for taking part in a family activity that brings us all together in a positive way," adds Michele.

For more information on the Southern Off-Road Championship Series, log onto <http://sorcs.net/>.