

Crash can't stop teenager lining up in major race

Alex is on the fast track to biking stardom

By Gordon Thomson

TEENAGE biker Alex Gault is on track to becoming a race champion at the tender age of 14.

The youngster is busy preparing for his first British championship race just days after being thrown through the air in a 60mph crash.

Not only did he survive the

practice session spill but discovered he had clocked up the third fastest time ahead of his first British 125GP Championship race over the famous Brands Hatch circuit this weekend.

Alex, of Carluke, Lanarkshire, remembers vividly being tossed over his handlebars and is grateful for his sturdy crash helmet.

He said: "Throughout the crash, I was always working

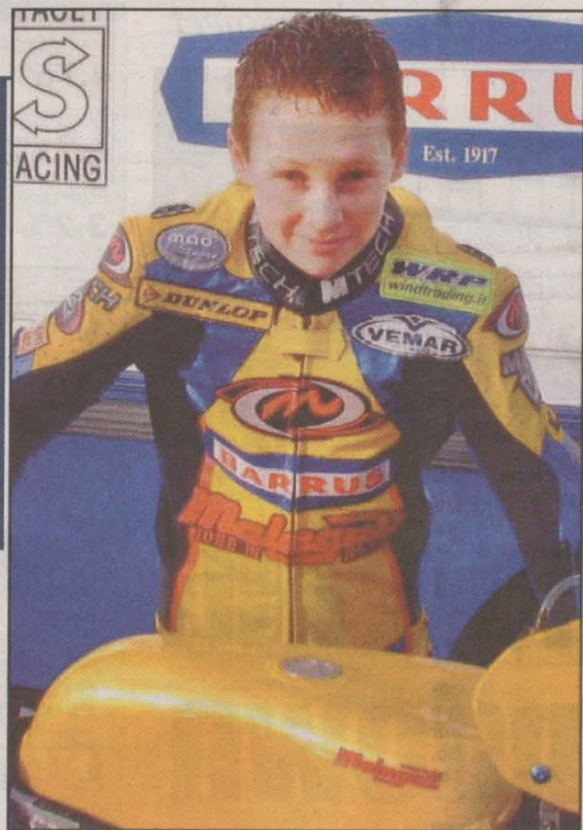
out how I was going to land. When I realised my head was getting it first, I knew it wouldn't be sore. My backside hurt when I hit that kerb though."

Minutes later it was announced he had completed the third fastest time behind reigning champion Christian Elkin and this year's title favourite Chris Jones.

Proud dad Alex Gault Snr – his son's pit manager – said: "That was a major achievement. For Alex to be just 1.5 seconds outside pole position on a track he has never ridden before is fantastic.

"Alex has taken an almighty step up in class. He is competing in the 14 to 25 age bracket where some of the other lads have been racing for years."

Alex will be one of the youngest racers to line-up with 54 other competitors at



RARING TO GO: teenage bike star Alex Gault is set to compete in a championship race at Brands Hatch

Brands Hatch in front of 30,000 spectators. But he won't be fazed by it all.

He has been racing for the past four years and has won a number of national and regional titles.

And he's the only 14-year-old in the UK to be signed by a motorbike manufacturer.

Success for the schoolboy has come despite his shortage of trackside finance.

The teenager has a budget of £16,000 compared to around £150,000 enjoyed by more established riders.

But there's no shortage of family support. When the championship race begins he will be cheered on by his dad, mum Liz and 11-year-old brother Ryan as well as pit lane mechanic Stephane Castille.

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FULL SPEED AHEAD: Alex in action on his bike