

ON YOUR BIKE, KID

Alex's Brands Hatch dream

By JEFF HOLMES

WHIZZKID Alex Gault will take on the big boys at Brands Hatch after being tipped as a future world champ.

The 14-year-old motorcycle marvel hopes to line-up in his first British 125GP Championship on Monday and race against seasoned stars.

Carlisle-based Gault swept all before him in the Minimoto class and is being tipped to star like Valentino Rossi, the legendary MotoGP world champion.

He said: "The great thing about motorcycle racing is that you're never at your peak - you can always go quicker.

"I'm looking forward to racing at Brands Hatch. It will be a step up from what I'm used to but the thought excites me."

Fearless

To qualify for the main event, boy wonder Gault must finish in the top 32 in the 55-man field.

He will be the youngest rider in the race, but the teenager has proved he is fearless with an incredible first practice round performance last week.

Gault added: "I was tossed over the handlebars while travelling at around 60 mph. I landed on my head before hitting the kerb. But all through the crash, I knew how I was going to land.

"When I realised my head was getting it first, I knew the damage would be minimal! My backside hurt when I hit that kerb, though!"

But that didn't stop Gault



MINI MARVEL . . . Alex Gault is chasing glory at Brands Hatch

from finishing third on the grid - just behind 2004 champion Christian Elkin and this year's favourite Chris Jones.

His dad Alex, who also doubles up as the Lanarkshire superkid's pits manager, said: "That was a major achievement.

"For Alex to be knocking on pole position on a track he had never ridden before is fantastic.

"He has taken a huge step up

in class and is competing in the 14-25 age bracket where some of the other lads have been racing for more than **NINE YEARS.**"

But that won't faze Gault. He is already the only 14-year-old in Britain to have a three-year deal with the mighty Barrus Malaguti racing team.

He said: "Racing is what I love to do. It's my ambition to go as far as I can in this sport."