

Morris Youths Enjoy Kart Racing

by Dianne DeKezel

Speed, action and excitement? What boys wouldn't be interested in a sport that could offer you all that? Josh and Carter Zilkie of Morris have found a combination of all of these through the Manitoba Karting Association. Josh is in his third year of racing karts and Carter just began racing this past summer. Josh was the first to become interested when he attended races with a Morris friend a few years ago. Though his friend no longer races, he has found karting to be a fun and challenging sport for him. It was only natural that Carter, who is younger would want to give it a try too. And when the Awards Banquet was held October 15th at the

CanadInn in Winnipeg, it was obvious both boys are excelling at this sport they love. Josh was awarded one of the most prestigious awards for "Best Sportsmanship" which is based on overall performance plus attitude and behaviour. Carter was the winner of the Rookie of the Year award, presented to a first year racer. Because of their age difference the brothers race in different classes – Josh placed 4th in the Jr. Rotax and Carter came in 2nd in Jr. Briggs.

There are categories of racing from ages 8 to adult. The karting season started May 1st and ran until September 18th this year. Races are held primarily at Gimli, but are also held once per year in Russell, Manitoba. Karts can

reach speed of up to 100 kilometres per hour but in their categories they travel 70 to 75 kmh. As the boys' father, Wes Zilkie, points out "It is a safer sport than racing dirt bikes because you have four wheels on the ground instead of two."

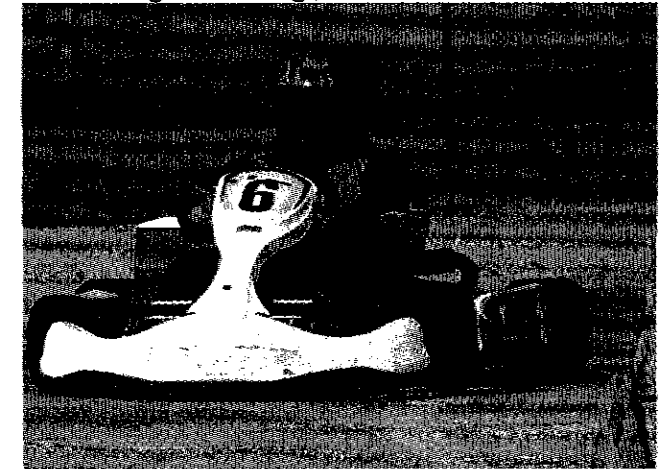
Josh and Carter are definitely planning to return to racing next season and hope to travel even further, perhaps attending the Western competitions in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Kart racing has become a very popular sport internationally, with racing all year in warmer climates such as Vegas. Mr. Zilkie points out that it originated in Australia. Racers who continue have opportunities to advance to Canadians and then the Worlds. Japan was the host of the World Karting Championships this year. The Manitoba

Karting Association has approximately 30 members, primarily from Winnipeg, but also from Brandon, Gimli, Kenora and Morris. Another Morris family involved in the sport are Brian and Roxanne Schiewe. Brian races and his son Robert is interested in the sport as well. Karts can be pricey, ranging from \$1500 to \$7,000. But as their father says, "It's an exciting sports and there's lots to learn." Next year Josh will be moving up to the Senior Rotax class and Carter will be moving up to the Mini-Max. And when they take to the track, they'll be ready to learn more and see where it takes them.

The Manitoba Karting Association (MKA) is a group of avid race enthusiasts who participate in kart racing over the summer season in Gimli, Manitoba,

Canada. The club is a collective of volunteers who are responsible for organizing,

coordinating, and directing the race season.



Josh Zilkie in his Kart

