

# mooreville TRIBUNE

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## **THIS DRIVER HAS THE (W)RIGHT STUFF**

*By LARRY SULLIVAN*

An aspiring guitarist, Mooresville youth Josh Wright is currently making best-selling music with a much bigger and stronger – and faster – and faster instrument. It's also one he hopes steers him that much closer to another career goal.

A 16-year-old rising junior at Lake Norman High School, Wright is the 2005 IMCA Modified National Rookie points leader and the North Carolina state IMC points leader after making a successful move up the ladder from stock car racing's Limited Sportsman Series that he competed in just last year.

Wright continues proving that he has the right stuff, indeed, as he speeds towards what he hopes will be a career as a professional race car driver, logging in with yet another triumph at Carolina Speedway of late to chalk up his 11th win of the season. He engages in IMCA open wheeled modifieds, the nation's largest sanctioned class.

Just last month, the honor roll student who also finds the time to play both football and basketball at Lake Norman reeled in a win on the Lowe's Dirt Track IMCA Firecracker tour, winning two of three races over the July Fourth weekend.

He is currently the points leader both among rookies in his class as well as the state's overall points leader. The distinctions, combined with his season full of success, has landed Wright an invitation to compete in the IMCA Super Nationals that will take place early next month in Boone, Iowa.

Wright, who will turn 17 in September, stays on the go throughout the current racing season, engaging in regular events at the Carolina Speedway along with those taking place at East Lincoln Speedway and 311 Speedway. His major sponsors include Bushore Racing Transmissions, MBE LLC, Freedom Chassis and Doug Herbert's Performance Parts.

Wright made the move into the IMCA Modified division after competing for a year in the Limited Sportsman class last year. In 2003, he raced V-8 Super Stock, appearing in races at East Lincoln and Carolina speedways as well as at Thunder Valley in Gaffney, S.C. He made his presence felt at that level with six wins at the East Lincoln site, the most of any driver, and cooked up a fifth-place standing in the series points championship chase.

Wright began his career like a number of other drivers, by racing go-karts. He emerged as the Yard Karts overall track points champion in 1997, winding up fifth among his rookie class. He continued his climb through the various ranks, posting a second-place rookie effort and winning the Sportsman Award in 1998 prior to logging in with a runner-up finish in the WKA Dirt World Championships in 1999. He placed in the top-10 in the North Carolina Kart Racing Association in 2000 prior to making the move to the Pure Stock level.

In 2002, he placed fourth overall in the Pure Stock 4 (mini stock) division, claiming more wins, with seven, than any other driver. He has continued to make noise in the racing ranks ever since.

Wright, who enjoys playing the guitar and working on racecars as hobbies, is currently seeking any and all financial assistance in his continued preparation for the Super Nationals. He is one of a limited number of pilots from North Carolina to earn his way into that elite field and one of the few unrelated to anyone well known in racing circles.

As one way of helping raise funds to help with the trip, Josh Wright T-shirts are for sale and can be purchased on line at [www.joshwightracing.com](http://www.joshwightracing.com). Any and all other donations are also readily being accepted.

For more details, all interested can call Jerry Wright at 704-677-4777.