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## Ross student invited to try out for NASCAR

*BY VINCE GUERRIERI*

*Staff writer*

FREMONT -- Fremont Ross student Ali Kern has won on four-wheelers.

She has won in go-karts.

And most recently, she has won modified races at Sandusky and Lorain.

Now, she has her sights on something bigger.

Kern, 16, was invited to a combine to try out for one of 10 positions on the 2010 NASCAR Drive for Diversity Team.

"It was a long shot, but they called us," said Kern's mother, Kathi. "We leave for North Carolina in a couple weeks."

The program, auto racing's leading development program for minority and female drivers and crew members, will include sponsor and media interviews and a driving evaluation at Motor Mile Speedway in Virginia.

"I just want to go out there and represent female drivers as best I can," said Kern, who takes classes at Terra through the post-secondary enrollment option.

This year, Kern won one race at Sandusky Speedway and another at Lorain County Speedway this season. Kern finished third overall in points racing modified at Lorain County, in just her first full year racing cars.

She started racing at the age of 6, winning seven track championships in several divisions in motocross. She moved up to go-karts, racing with adults in Fremont, Clyde, Bellevue and even in Fort Wayne, Ind. In 2007, she won the Clyde Street Race.

Last year, area asphalt tracks started to beckon to her.

"I just wanted to go faster," Kern said.

She started entering modified races in Sandusky and Lorain County, winning a heat in limited action last year.

This year, in addition to her two wins, she finished in the top five spots nine times, 11 times in the top 10, five heat wins, three dash wins and an Australian pursuit win.

Kern has a couple years before she graduates high school, and she hopes to be on a stock car racing team by then.

But if not, that won't keep her away.

"If I don't get anything racing, I'd want to go into sports management or something in racing," she said.

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