

For this edition of the CAPS newsletter, Tom Melsheimer suggested I write about the young pylon racing pilots in our district. I had the pleasure of chatting with Annabelle Doe, Daniel Troup, Mitchell Haupt and Leo Nordell to put the following together:

Mitchell Haupt

Age: 12

Grade: 6th

Years pylon racing: Entering 2nd

Classes: EF1, 424, 426 this year

Home town: Kirtland, OH

Over the winter, Mitchell and his father Augie did some repairs to a 426 from a crash, fixed/updated a 424 by re setting the C.G. and installing a better engine, built another 426 for a backup and are getting ready to build another Quik-V6 for 426. Mitchell says they plan to hit all the races in the district this year including the Nat's.



Annabelle Doe

Age: 14

Grade: 8th

Years pylon racing: entering 2nd

Classes: EF1, 424

Home town: Smyrna, TN

Over the winter, Annabelle did some building including a Ricky Rat EF1 by Dan Kane. Annabelle will miss the first CAPS race in Muncie because of a field trip, but plans to hit the Nat's, Cincinnati and the fall CAPS race. She's also enjoyed recent airplane rides including one in Tim Sparks' Cessna Cardinal and in a Stearman owned by a pilot local to them that actually let her fly the plane for a while! Her father Tom is proud and amazed at Annabelle's affinity for both model and full-size aircraft.



Leo Nordell

Age: 15

Grade: 10th

Years pylon racing: 5

Classes: EF1, 426, Q40, FAI F3D

Home town: East Granby, CT

My wife and I have taken a recent interest in F1 auto racing, so before Leo and I even got to pylon he brought me up-to-speed on what's going on with F1. Back to pylon, Leo told me he set a new Junior record for Q40 at the Phoenix race with a 1: 01.03. Over the building season he built a couple FAI planes for the upcoming World Championships and went down to Houston to practice with Dennis Cranfill. Dennis will be Leo's caller at the WC this year. Leo also got a new Hot Stuff Q40 plane from Sweden as well as a new Quickie, also Swedish that he will be building with Lloyd Burnham. For the upcoming season, Leo will kick off by getting to the first CAPS race at Muncie a few days early to get in some FAI practice with Dennis. Leo also disclosed that his school endorses his pylon endeavors by allowing days off as they consider it a constructive extracurricular activity that enhances his education.



Daniel Troup

Age: 20

Occupation: Drafting engineer, Belcan Global Engineering

Years pylon racing: 7

Classes: EF1, 424, 426, Q40

Home town: Cincinnati, OH

Over the winter, Daniel and his father didn't have to work too hard or lock themselves in the work shop like many pylon racers. They built a Dan Kane Ninja (for a Quik-V6 wing) and freshened up a couple engines by installing new bearings and are ready to go for the 2022 season. Daniel will hit all three CAPS races as well as the Nat's. The biggest news for Daniel is his new job at Belcan engineering firm where he does engineering and CAD drafting. In addition to being a solid occupation, the new work schedule also frees up Daniel so he can get in more flying and pylon practice in the evenings after work.

