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A PAIR OF YOUNG racers from Transfer kick off this column. Reynolds High student Bo "Mojo" Shaw, 14, is doing well in dirt bike events, while Gene Kirila, 14, is succeeding in car racing.

TIDBITS: Shaw, Kirila have success in racing; Rhoads at Vandy

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A PAIR OF YOUNG racers from Transfer kick off this column.

?? Reynolds High student Bo "Mojo" Shaw, 14, races a Kawasaki KX 85 dirt bike and has been riding for nine years. His sponsor is Northstar Powersports in Hermitage.

Bo, the son of Steve and Debbie Shaw, will participate in the Toyota AMA Arenacross Series event that is Feb. 1-3 at the Chevrolet Centre in Youngstown.

Bo will race on Sunday Feb. 3 in the 85cc Kawasaki In Classes-Super Mini-Sr. Mini race. Feb. 3 racing starts at noon. The racing on Friday and Saturday (Feb. 1-2) begins at 7:30 p.m.

In 2007, Bo placed 1st in both the 85 CC Sr. Mini Bike and Modified Pitbike classes at the Northeast Motocross Complex in Andover, Ohio. He was also 1st in the 85 CC Sr. Mini Bike and 85-105 CC Super Mini Bike competition at T.V. Land Raceway in Pier Point, Ohio.

At the Competition Riders of America, Bo was 2nd in the 85 CC Sr. Mini Bike and 3rd in the 85-105 CC Super Mini Bike.

In Hubbard at Big Game Raceway, he took 1st in the 85-105 and 2nd in the 85. He took 3rd in the 85 at the Faircross Series and 3rd in the 85 and 4th place in the 85-105 at Sunoco Racing Fuel Series.

For tickets to the Toyota AMA Arenacross event, visit chevroletcentre.com.

?? Gene Kirila, 14, of Transfer was in North Carolina this past weekend taking part in the 5th round of the INEX Winter Heat for Legends cars.

Gene raced on the infield road course at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C., on Saturday, competing in the Semi-Pro division.

At LMS, he started the heat race in the 3rd position and drove to the front for the win. In the 2nd heat, the field was inverted so Gene started at the rear and placed 4th. In the feature race, he started 7th and finished 5th.

The Kirila racing family then headed to Rockingham for racing on Sunday.

Gene started 12th in the heat race and took 5th. In the feature, he started 4th and placed 2nd.

Gene, who will turn 15 on Valentine's Day, just recently got a Late Model Car. "He will practice this year and then his rookie Late Model season will be 2009," said his mother, Ginger Kirila in a recent phone conversation.

ã Vanderbilt freshman guard Jence Rhoads, a Slippery Rock High product, started for Vandy on Sunday in a 62-51 loss to No. 11 LSU in Baton Rouge, La.

Rhoads played a team-high 39 minutes and registered 8 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists and 2 steals.

Vandy is 1-1 in the SEC and 12-5 overall. They are unranked by The Associated Press. LSU is ranked 9th.

Rhoads, who is 5-foot-11, has started 10 games for the Commodores. She is averaging 22.4 minutes, 4 points and 2.6 rebounds. She is 2nd-best on the team with 51 assists and also has 16 steals.

Vandy hosts No. 12 Georgia at 7 p.m. Thursday.

ã Oil City High football coach Bill Heber resigned last week following 6 seasons of guiding the Oilers. Oil City went 27-30 over those 6 years and were 3-7 in 2007.

Heber, a 1986 OC graduate, was an assistant for 14 seasons before he replaced Paul Stamm in 2002.

Five schools in District 10 are looking for head coaches — Conneaut Lake (Ray Collins), McDowell (Joe Tarasovitch), Northwestern (Jamie Cipalla), Warren (Brandon Falk). There's been no word on what will happen at Reynolds (Tim Scarvel).

ã New Castle-Union High graduate Matt DeSalvo, 27, has signed a minor league contract with the Atlanta Braves.

DeSalvo, a 6-foot, 170-pound righthanded pitcher, spent the past 5 seasons with the New York Yankees organization. He became a free agent on Dec. 13 when N.Y. didn't offer him a contract.

DeSalvo, who went to Marietta College, was the Yankees' Minor League pitcher of the year in 2005.

At Class AAA Scranton-Wilkesbarre last season, DeSalvo went 9-5 with a 2.70 ERA in 113 1/3 innings. He struck out 102 batters and walked 56.

In 7 appearances for the Yankees, he was 1-3 with a 6.18 ERA in 27 2/3 frames. He fanned 10, walked 18, gave up 34 hits and allowed 19 earned runs.