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Gilbert twins to race in soapbox Indy 500

Osbornes named Family of the Year

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Karla and Krista Osborne feel the need for speed.

The 15-year-old Gilbert twins will compete next week in the All-American Soap Box Derby Championship races in Akron, Ohio.

It's the Indy 500 for soapbox derby racers, and they're hoping to win big.

The Osborne twins are seasoned vets on the soapbox circuit, having competed for a few years now.

They travel with parents Carl and Peggy to weekend rally races all over the country.

The Disney movie *Miracle in Lane 2* launched their interest in the sport.

Carl, a former motorcycle racer, said he was excited to teach his girls how to use tools. Now they can fix brakes and help him build cars from kits in hotel rooms on the fly.

The family's devotion to the sport won them the honor of Arizona/Regional Family of the Year from the races' sponsor, Levi Strauss Signature.

The girls, who race under the team name "Double Trouble," said they like the trophies and awards the sport has earned them. But more than that, they love traveling and making new friends, they said.

They keep in touch with pals from Maine and New Hampshire through e-mail and instant messaging. Both will be sophomores at Mesquite High School in the fall.

Traveling so much has made them fond of Gilbert, their hometown since 2000, because of its friendly people and small-town feel, they said.

The only drawback is there is no practice area for soapbox cars, so the girls have to get their practice on the road.

They would like to have a soapbox race in Gilbert someday. They'd like to race their soapbox cars on the section of South Greenfield Road that slopes as it winds around the Santan Freeway south of Warner Road, they said.

Until then, the Osbornes' friends and neighbors may have to settle for possibly watching them race on ESPN. The final two hours of next Saturday's race will be broadcast on ESPN at 1 p.m. Arizona time.

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