

## Gilbert cheerleader races to Soap Box Derby title

by *Brian Duggan* - Jul. 31, 2008 12:49 PM  
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Gilbert teen Krista Osborne is a varsity cheerleader at Mesquite High School and an aspiring fashion designer.

She's also the fastest Soap Box Derby racer in the world.

"No one would expect it from me because I'm a cheerleader," Osborne, 17, said Thursday after winning the Ultimate Speed division at the Soap Box Derby World Championship in Akron, Ohio on Saturday. "People don't think I would do something like this."

Osborne took first place and a \$1,500 college scholarship with her sleek, pink racer that looks more like a rocket than a car. She beat the second place car by .014 seconds.

She topped 19 other competitors from the United States, Germany and Canada and was among the five girls who took first place in the six division races.

Some of Osborne's opponents spent upwards of \$10,000 to compete in the ultimate speed category, which allows racers to use their own materials such as carbon

fiber to build their cars rather than construct it from a kit.

Jack Barr, a retired Soap Box Derby enthusiast who lives in Scottsdale, built Osborne's car for about \$2,500. He used technology developed by Carnegie Mellon University for the car's tires.

"There's a lot that goes into these cars, just like NASCAR for crying out loud," Barr said.

The course is a 989-foot long hill, which took Osborne 27.009 seconds to roll down at a top speed of about 40 mph, she said.

Osborne and her twin sister Karla began racing in 2003 after they watched Disney's *Miracle in Lane 2*, a movie about Soap Box Derby racing.

"My dad always wanted to do it when he was little," said Osborne, who has competed in dozens of Soap Box Derby races around the country, building up points to travel to the championship race in Akron each year.

Her parents, Carl and Peggy Osborne, help run the Superior Soap Box Derby Club in Arizona.

For now, Osborne said she's focused on getting into a California fashion school, but added she still has an itch for speed.

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"I told my dad this summer I kinda want to do drag racing," she said. "But I'm not really sure because it's kind of expensive."

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