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go, speed racer

Teen wants to be a
professional race car driver

BY **Tiffannie Bond**

PHOTO BY **Ronda Churchill**

JACE MEIER WAS racing at more than 100 mph long before he had his learner's permit.

The Spring Valley High School senior began racing go-karts at age 12 and got hooked on the adrenaline.

"Some people think I'm crazy for doing it," he says. "It's literally the highest of highs and the lowest of lows."

Now, at 17, he races for two different teams, including midget cars and a NASCAR late model car. He also works to raise the \$750,000 that funds his racing.

"Now, it's become a full-time job. Between the two series I stay pretty busy with the racing," he says. "Being at the races is a very small part of being a race car driver."

Jace Meier began his racing career driving go-karts.



editor of the school newspaper, a peer mentor to freshmen and an instructor at the Richard Petty Driving Experience. When he's not driving race cars, he drives to school in his V-6 Dodge truck.

"My parents wouldn't let me get the V-8," he says with a laugh.

Racing also has become a family affair. His father, Scott, mother, Shari, and sister, Kami, travel to and from races and participate in community service activities together.

"We'll work as hard as he's willing to work," says Scott Meier. "He sacrifices a

stretch of the imagination."

Jace Meier keeps in shape by driving go-karts, running three miles a day and undergoing physical training five days a week. He plans to attend Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina, and major in motor sports management. Oh yes, he also plans to have a successful racing career. The attraction seems to be unshakable.

"When you're going with a cement wall 2 inches from you on one side and another car on the other, it's intimidating," he says. "But I think that's the fun of it. It's controlling something people