

# Boy too young for license is old enough to race — and die

BY SCOTT WILLIAMS  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

The weekend death of a 15-year-old boy competing at Lake Geneva Raceway has some onlookers wondering whether anyone too young to get a driver's license should be allowed to race at deadly speeds.

James Olson Jr. of Woodstock,

**Illinois 15-year-old was killed when the pickup he was driving crashed into a wall at Lake Geneva Raceway**

Ill., was killed Friday night behind the wheel of a Ford pickup that had been converted for racing at speeds up to 60 mph. Officials said that although the boy was wearing a helmet, he suffered a fatal head injury when

his vehicle smashed into a wall at the racetrack.

The young driver's father, who was competing in the same race but now plans to give up the sport, said Monday that his daredevil son had been racing

since age 7 and was experienced beyond his years.

"We never pushed it on him, and it didn't matter if he came in first or last," James Olson said Monday from the family's home in Woodstock. "He loved it with a passion."

Others questioned why a high

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James Olson,  
father of James  
Olson Jr. (left)