

THE BEST UPCOMING KIDS

By David Swarts

Roadracing World started this exclusive special feature recognizing the most promising young road racers as an answer to pessimists who claimed North America had no new, up-and-coming young racers. This edition of the Roadracing World Young Gun Awards marks the 28th consecutive year of showcasing what is actually an abundance of new talent.

The young riders recognized here are the top 27 most promising young road racers under age 19 in North America. Each is being featured individually on www.roadracingworld.com. In alphabetical order, here are the Roadracing World Young Guns, Class of 2024.

► **Eli Banish**, 15, of Burlington, Kentucky, took a best race result of seventh on his way to placing 17th in the 2023 British Talent Cup, in England. He plans to race in the same series again in 2024.

► **Hayden Bicknese**, 17, of Defiance, Missouri, finished fifth in the 2023 MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship with five podiums. He is moving to MotoAmerica Supersport in 2024.

► **Chase Black**, 17, of Round Rock, Texas, placed 15th in the 2023 MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship with two top-five finishes. He is stepping up to MotoAmerica Supersport this season.

► **Mathew Chapin**, 16, of Damascus, Maryland, won several races and Championships with ASRA in 2023 and is joining the MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship in 2024.

► **Torin Collins**, 18, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, scored points in the 2023 FIM JuniorGP World Championship and finished on the podium in his MotoAmerica Supersport debut at COTA. He's racing MotoAmerica Supersport.

► **Julian Correa**, 15, of Jupiter, Florida, had three podiums and 11 top-10 finishes on his way to fifth in the 2023 British Talent Cup. In 2024, he hopes to win the BTC Championship and earn a spot in the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup.

► **Kristian Daniel, Jr.**, 15, of Los Angeles, California, (now living in Barcelona, Spain), took a best race finish of seventh on his way to 20th in the 2023 FIM JuniorGP European Talent Cup (ETC). He will race ETC and the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup.

► **Blake Davis**, 17, of Lynchburg, Virginia, won his second consecutive MotoAmerica Twins Cup Championship, took four top-10 finishes in MotoAmerica Supersport, and co-rote to the N2/WERA Mediumweight National Endurance Championship in 2023. In 2024, he is competing in MotoAmerica Supersport and N2/WERA endurance races.

► **Ryder Davis**, 14, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, won the MotoAmerica Mini Cup 190 and FIM Mini Cup Ohvale 190 Championships and placed fourth overall in the FIM MiniGP World Series 190cc Championship. He plans to race in the 2024 MIR Racing Cup Pre-Moto3 Spanish series.

► **Alessandro Di Mario**, 15, of Lexington, Kentucky, stood on the podium twice and finished eighth in the 2023 MotoAmerica Junior Cup, and co-rote to four N2/WERA Lightweight National Endurance Championship race victories. He is racing in MotoAmerica Twins Cup in 2024.

► **Avery Dreher**, 17, of Rockledge, Florida, took six wins on his way to claiming the 2023 MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship. In 2024, he plans to defend his title as well as race in MotoAmerica Twins Cup.



(Top) Kensei Matsudaira (74) is racing in Spain. Photo by Dani Vela. (Above, Left) Hayden Bicknese is racing in MotoAmerica Supersport. (Below) Avery Dreher is racing in MotoAmerica Twins Cup.

(Above) Blake Davis is concentrating on MotoAmerica Supersport. (Left) Julian Correa (40) is racing in the British Talent Cup series. Campix photo.



(Left) Alessandro Di Mario is racing in MotoAmerica Twins Cup. (Below) Torin Collins is competing in MotoAmerica Supersport. MotoAmerica photos by Brian J. Nelson

