



# Boy seen as new 'speed king'

**A**N 11-year-old boy with experience in 40 dirt track events on the Arcadia track is being tipped as a future Australian motor-cycle champion.

His grandfather, 55-year-old bricklayer, Mr Harold Braund, forecast proudly: "I think we've got a champion here. Later on, he'll be 'on the road.' His style will go better for that."

The boy, Wayne Patterson, has won four of the 50 m.p.h races on handicap at the Arcadia track.

Wayne sat nonchalantly on the seat of his gleaming red racing

motorcycle at the Sydney Showground before giving an hour's demonstration ride.

"I had some pocket money the other day and I was going to get a spark plug, but I went to the beach . . . and spent it all."

Then he tucked his head down over the handlebars. The bike roared and spluttered and leapt and bucked. But Wayne controlled it all with professional aplomb.

"He practises in the backyard at home every day after school," said Mr Braund. "He's worn

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a small track behind the house."

Mr Braund, himself a veteran racing motor-cyclist — former N.S.W. hill-climb champion — added: "I bought the bike for Wayne. It's his third since he was about nine or 10.

"It's a 50c.c. machine. I tuned it a bit . . . fitted a high-compression

piston, a straight-through exhaust and so on.

"Wayne's been going to speedway since before he could walk. I can see a lot of promise. He's a daring rider. Although he's nervous in other things he seems to lose it all as soon as he's on a bike.

"He'll do anything. Got good handling, a lot of confidence."

The red racer screeched to a halt. Wayne was wearing a white, peaked helmet, a leather jacket, a pair of his grandfather's old leather racing trousers and a pair of football boots fitted with metal studs.

"Mostly I like the short circuit," he said. "Speedway's a bit too fast for me at the moment."

"You've got to be a bit older for speedway," said Mr Braund. "You've got to be 16 or 17 before you can get on — and then you'll be lucky."

Wayne said: "I suppose I'm a bit nervous when I'm racing sometimes. I'm little afraid the other blokes are going to come a bit too close to me."

● *Picture shows Wayne roaring around the track.*