

# Southern Charm: Danielle Wilson Earns Ms. Motorsports 2010 Title



**By JERRY REIGLE**  
**OAKS, PA** – For a town of 1146 residents, Stephens City, Va., has quite its share of notable residents.

There is Kelly Washington, a wide receiver for the Baltimore Ravens; Edna Lewis, a chef and author who is commonly referred to as the South's answer to Julia Child; and Jeff Cesnik, who starred in TLC's *Robotica*.

And now, the town has a Ms. Motorsports winner.

Danielle Wilson, 20, was awarded the prestigious honor during the BPG Racing Ms. Motorsports pageant during last Saturday night's Motorsports 2010 Presented by StreetBlaze 100 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pa.

"I feel so fortunate to be the next Ms. Motorsports," Wilson said. "I am so grateful and I look forward to being a representative over the next year."

Wilson, who is currently a junior at Lord Fairfax College

in Middletown, Va., represented the Steel Block Bandits, which sanctioned dirt Late Model racing in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Her parents Danny and Patti operate the traveling series.

"We were back in the seating area and watching the entire pageant," said Danny Wilson. "When they announced our daughter's name, we were like, 'Wow, this is incredible.'"

"We never did expect it. I knew most of the contestants were from Pennsylvania or nearby, so we figured the winner would be from there. It was pretty incredible when we heard his name announced as the winner."

She received \$1,500 from BPG Racing, a beautiful watch from Golden Pleasure Jewelers in Bordentown, N.J., a custom made jacket from Design 500 and a poster deal from Area Auto Racing News.

The first runner-up was Kelsey Johnson, an 18-year-old

student from Elmer, N.J.

Johnson is a Micro Sprint Car driver. She received \$500 and a watch from Golden Pleasure Jewelers.

The second runner-up was Raven Reed of Grafton, Ohio. The 18-year-old student received \$250 from BPG Racing and a watch.

The fans, a huge turnout, voted Melissa Hassall as the best in the A1 Racing Products-bathing suit category. The judges gave Wilson the top vote in the swimwear category.

Lauren Culbertson earned the top honors in the photo category. Lorilyn Brinster was tops in interviews. Reed won in sportswear while the honors in the congeniality category went to Mindy English.

"When I heard my name announced, I was in total shock," she said. "I couldn't believe it."

"I was talking to some of the girls before, and they were in this competition before. I didn't know what to expect or how it would turn out."

Prior to the Ms. Motorsports competition, Wilson experience in competition consisted of the Ms. Newtown pageant – which she won – a Memorial Day festival held in Stephens City, and the Dangerous Red Wine model search, which was held on the opening night of Motorsports 2010 last Friday night.

"I was pretty nervous the entire time (up there on stage)," Wilson said. "I even felt nervous during the pre-interviews." Part of it was probably be-



cause Wilson was in a whirlwind spiral during the days leading up to the competition.

The decision to compete was made only a few days before hand.

"It was a spur of the moment decision," Wilson said. "I got talking to my father about it and decided to enter."

Wilson said she is excited to represent the Ms. Motorsports honor over the forthcoming year. One of her major focuses is to intertwine the title with charity work.

"That's very important to me," Wilson said. "My father once hosted a golf tournament and we raised money for the Victory Junction camp. I really enjoyed it and hope to do the same in my role as Ms. Motorsports."

Wilson was a hit throughout the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, she took part in an autograph session at the Steel Block Bandits booth, which included series champion Kris Looney, series regular Jonathon DeHaven, Young Bandits contender Kyle



Merkel and Ms. Motorsports '09 Alyssa Sharman.

By Saturday night, she was mobbed by well-wishers who offered congratulations en masse.

Her popularity will continue to rise over the upcoming racing season.

"I am very anxious to get out to the different tracks and to see the different divisions," Wilson said. "I've seen the VSS Sprint Cars and Late Models but I am



very excited to see the Modifieds. They seem to be very popular."

BPG Racing's Chad Sinon was very excited about the great interest in the pageant and the wonderful support given the event by the young ladies that participated.

He has agreed to sponsor the pageant in 2011.



MS. MOTORSPORTS 2010 1) Danielle Wilson (right) is joined by Ms. Motorsports 2009 Alyssa Sharman; 2) (From left to right) Raven Reed, second runner-up; Danielle Wilson, Ms. Motorsports 2010; and Kelsey Johnson, first runner-up; 3) Melissa Hassall won the A1 Racing Products best bathing suit fan vote competition; 4) Ms. Motorsports 2009 Alyssa Sharman; 5) Danielle Wilson sits behind the wheel of a Midget Car; 6) Danielle Wilson and the rest of the contestants celebrate her new Ms. Motorsports title; 7) Lauren Culbertson won the photo category; 8) Mindy English won the congeniality category; 9) Lorilyn Brinster was named tops in the interview category.

(Photos by 1-Paul Morales; 2-Chris Budihas; 3-Gary Shrey; 4, 6-9-Bob Yurko; 5-Bob Armbruster)

