



# F1 no lure for speed demon

**MOTOR RACING**  
■ Josh Chiat

He may have once tried a “shoey”, but do not expect motorsport champion Anthony Martin to retrace Daniel Ricciardo’s path into Formula One racing any time soon.

The former Kalgoorlie-Boulder go-karter, who was a special guest at the Goldfields Sports Star of the Year Awards on Friday night at Kalgoorlie Town Hall, remains focused on the US IndyCar circuit, where the 21-year-old made his first big wave this year by winning the fourth-tier USF2000 series.

The reward was a \$US368,000 scholarship for the third-tier Pro Mazda series in 2017, which carries a winner’s purse of more than \$US790,000.

Martin told the *Kalgoorlie Miner* he found Formula One competition too uneven to aspire to.

“Formula One is not very exciting and I’m not about that, I’m more about the raw passion about motorsport,” he said.

“Formula One you can go into a weekend and basically one of two drivers are going to win, and for me that’s just not right.

“IndyCar, going into a weekend pretty much any one of 15 drivers can win.

“We did think about the European route, but for us with the amount of money that we had, the US route is better.”

Rather than Ricciardo or Mark Webber, Martin has been drawing inspiration from Will Power, the Queensland veteran who finally broke through for his maiden IndyCar Series championship in 2014.

“He was actually really good at Mid-Ohio (June 24 and 26). After I won all three races over the weekend, he came up to me after each race, which was really great,” Martin said.

“A lot of people didn’t know that we had a connection and him coming up after each race really showed everyone that there is a connection between us.

“He was giving me a few pointers and tips in terms of the championship this year and really letting me know I just had to finish and be consistent for the next year.”



**USF2000 champion Anthony Martin was a special guest at the Goldfields Sports Star of the Year Awards on Friday night.** Picture: Josh Chiat

Martin received a shock on Friday when MC Steve Mills revealed he was named as a finalist in the RAC WA Sports Star of the Year Award.

It marked five years since he claimed the Goldfields Rising Sports Star of the Year Award in the same venue, and just four years since he was named Goldfields

Sports Star of the Year as the Australian Clubman Light Karting Champion.

“It was awesome just to be there as a special guest, and to let everyone know and see everyone that has helped me in the few years that I’ve been racing,” he said.

“I didn’t actually know until he said that at the awards night there.

“It was great to know I was a finalist for the WA Sports Star of the Year at the Goldfields Sports Star of the Year.”

At the moment Martin is remaining tight-lipped on which team he will represent in the Pro Mazda series next year.

He said all should be revealed within a couple weeks, but he has

already taken one of his new rigs out for a spin.

At 260-270 horsepower with a rotary engine, the country boy’s new wheels will provide a real thrill.

“Overall it’s a faster car,” he said. “I’ve already done a test in it and it definitely put a smile on my face.”