

Pink Lady is a double world champion at the age of 15

Ski's the limit for Anya as she rules the waves to win two titles in US

BY CARINA BAILEY

cbailey@derbytelegraph.co.uk

A DAREDEVIL teenager has been crowned queen of the waves after winning two world titles in the United States for her amazing jet ski skills.

Long Eaton's Anya Colley is fast becoming a big name in the extreme sport of jet ski racing.

She may only be 15 years old but she has just won the Junior Ski Limited World Champion and Junior Drag World Champion titles – the first girl to achieve the accolades.

Also, she successfully defended her Top Girl champion title during the Jet Ski World Championship finals, held at Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Anya, dubbed the Pink Lady as she uses pink equipment, snatched all three titles after less than three years competing in the extreme sport.

The Wilsthorpe Business and Enterprise College pupil started racing after attending a European race meeting while on holiday in Portugal when she fell in love with the sport.

The Jet Sport Racing Association, which runs the British Championships, holds a winter series for rookie racers and, in January 2005, Anya competed in her first race.

"I love everything about it – the racing, the friends, the atmosphere, everything. I enjoy every minute of it," said Anya.

Her passion for jet skiing started when she was just five

GETTING AHEAD: Anya in her helmet.



OH BUOY! Daredevil Anya Colley, the Pink Lady, at full speed.



START 'EM YOUNG! Anya in Arizona and, right, when she was five years old.



years old while on family holidays.

Her parents had a caravan at Tattershall Country Park, next to a jet ski lake.

Her father, Malcolm, had no qualms about putting Anya on a 30mph jet ski when the family spent weekends there.

"It's very much a family jet skiing lake," the company director said.

"I wasn't worried because the jet skis were quite

low-powered compared with what she rides now.

"As juniors and babies, they just tootle round, as you would on a quad bike or go-kart – juniors are the safest drivers anyway."

Anya now travels at speeds of 65mph, racing against boys in the male-dominated sport.

This year, Anya's main ambition was to defend her title of Top Girl. She never dreamed that she would take two world championship titles, too.

"I just went there to do my best. Two years ago, I achieved

ninth in the same class. I just wanted to do better than that."

She was also named UIM Ladies' Superstock European Champion 2007, where girls aged 14 can compete against their older counterparts.

Anya spends much of her spare time training, going out on the water in the summer every weekend. In the winter, she spends about one weekend each month on the water.

She hopes, next time, to be competing against adults in the US.

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DERBYSHIRE is also home to another world champion jet skier, Lee Stone.

The 16-year-old first took to the water when he was just five years old and his success led him to go professional three years ago.

This year, he has been crowned the UIM World Champion in freestyle, a contest he describes as like motorcross but on water.

Now he's looking forward to the next season. "There's always something new to try, there are always new challenges," said the Chesterfield student.

"It's a good safe sport with a lot of nice people involved."