

Balance is golden

• Achievement

By JAMES DESSENT

Ennio Folini recently returned from competing at the world unicycling convention and championships in Italy with a gold and silver medal for his efforts.

With around 2000 competitors from 32 countries, the 12-year-old Bedforddale resident was the only West Australian in a national team comprised of 19 competitors mainly from the eastern states.

Ennio won gold in the under 12s muni

(mountain unicycling) category and silver in the uphill discipline and said it was great to meet other children from different countries who shared his passion for the sport.

"It was really cool to meet all the people from different countries and to see the different techniques they used," he said.

"During the competition I watched the other riders carefully to learn from their mistakes before it was my turn."

The muni category involved a series of

obstacles to overcome but the year seven Mazenod College student said he was lucky to be able to train on his own course at home.

"We have a track and some obstacles here at home for me to practise on so I am very used to them," he said.

Ennio's mother Daniela said her son showed signs of excellent balance when he was young.

"At three years of age he was riding a bike without training wheels around the edge of the road on the gutter," she said.

"Every child has different gifts and attributes and Ennio has great balance, like his father."

Mrs Folini, whose husband Marco is also an avid unicyclist, was happy to see her husband and son sharing a common interest.

"We go on trips on the weekend to bushland tracks, Ennio and my husband on their unicycles and I follow on my mountain bike," she said.



Ennio Folini combines balance, strength and skill in the unusual sport of unicycling. Photograph — Matt Devlin.

"It's great to see Ennio enjoying the outdoors and being active." Ennio was aiming to participate in the next world championship in Montreal in 2014.

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