

6-year-old magician becomes youngest winner of tourney

Eli Portala, son of West Toledo residents Andrew Martin and Melissa Mickel, became the youngest winner ever at a national magic competition last week in Colon, Mich.

Eli, 6, performed with his 5-year-old cousin, Gabriella Mickel, in the competition for magicians 18 and younger at Abbott's Magic Get-Together. The convention attracts magicians from around the country.

"He won by a pretty good margin," Gordon Miller, the competition's emcee, said. "He was cute, and all his magic worked. For a 6-year-old, that's amazing."

As the grand prize winner, Eli received \$300 and performed at the convention's headliner show for a crowd of more than 2000 people.

"He seemed pretty confident," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Martin, Eli's father, is a magician in the Toledo area. He helped Eli smooth out his routine and perfect several tricks.

Other recent performances by the young musician included

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*Gordon Miller,
competition emcee*

appearances at Wildwood Manor House and the Toledo Zoo. Eli, who attends Grove Patterson Academy, will perform on Aug. 31 with the Toledo Symphony at Maumee Bay State Park.

Eli was featured in Neighbors editions in July.