

Small package, powerful punch

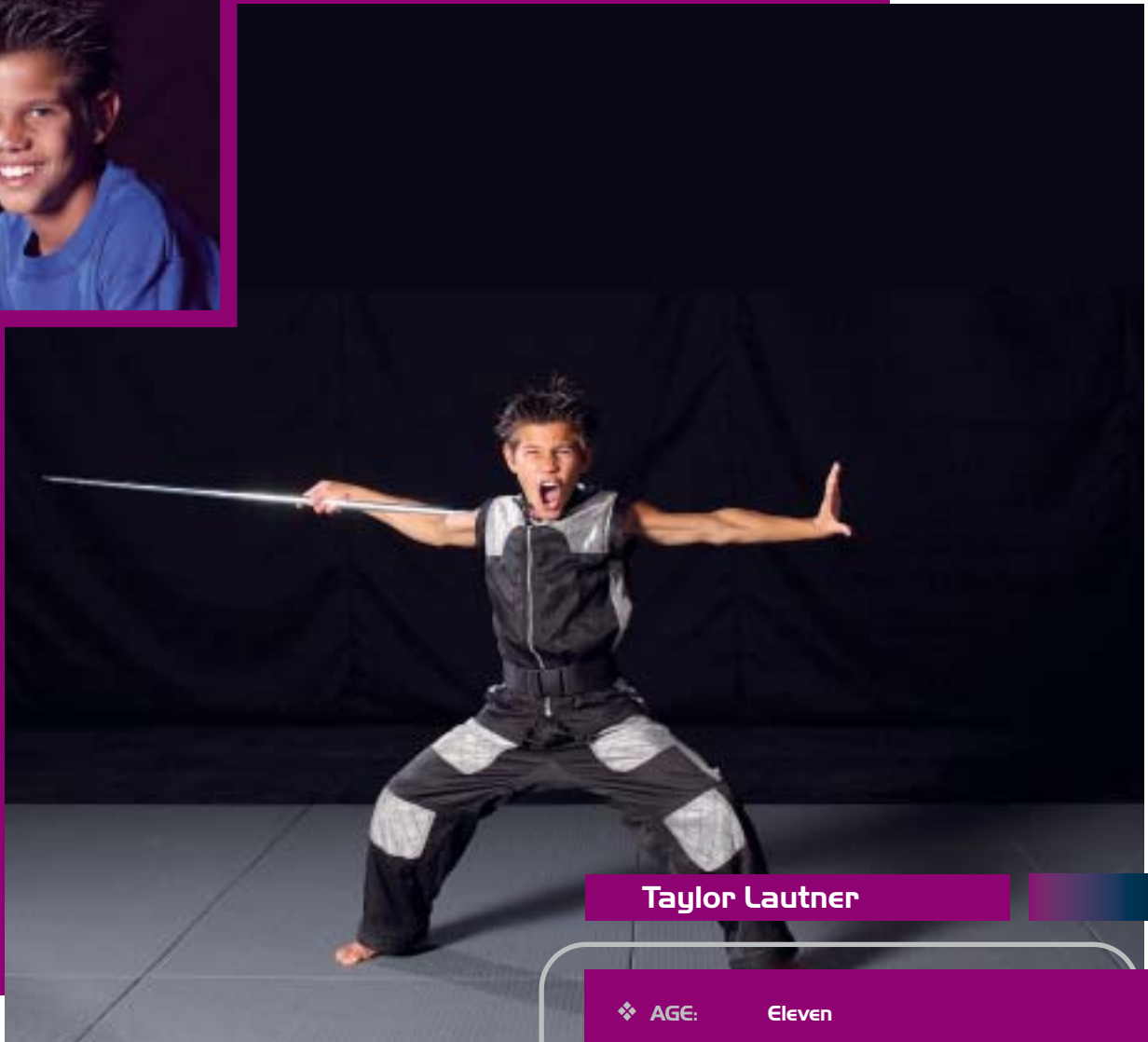
Martial arts. Football. Baseball. Acting. This won't be the last time you hear 11-year-old Taylor Lautner's name.

by TINA D'AVERSA-WILLIAMS

Anyone who thinks a fierce flurry of kicks and punches from a kid is sneeze-worthy probably never met 11-year-old Taylor Lautner. Never heard of him? At the rate he's progressing, he might be the next big Martial Arts star of "Generation Y." Big enough to be a Martial Arts champion, you ask? Been there, done that. Silver screen big, you wonder? That's a work in progress. Did we mention he's 11 years old?

Taylor's Martial Arts pursuits began when he started training at Fabiano's Karate School in Holland, Mich., when he was 6 years old. After winning numerous local tournaments, Taylor competed in his first national tournament at age 7. He fared pretty well, coming home with three first-place trophies. More important than the hardware, however, he met seven-time World Champion Mike Chat, someone who would challenge and help develop his Marital Arts skills in a way Taylor didn't even think was possible. Through a disciplined training program, Taylor





Taylor Lautner

- ❖ **AGE:** Eleven
- ❖ **SPORTS:** Martial Arts –Xtreme Martial Arts (XMA) Team, Football, Baseball
- ❖ **ACHIEVEMENTS:** Junior World Forms and Weapons Champion, triple gold medal winner. 2001 Warrior Cup Champion for ages 17 & under. Performed at the MAIA Supershow in Las Vegas.
- ❖ **PASSION:** Studying acting in Los Angeles

continued winning and growing in his sport. When he was 8 years old, he was invited to represent the United States in the 12-and-under age division for the World Karate Association. Taylor became the Junior World Forms and Weapons Champion and triple gold medal winner. Moving forward, he also became the 2001 Warrior Cup Champion for the 17-and-under age group.

Taylor has reached champion status by dedicating 110 percent of his efforts to the Martial Arts. In fact, he recently joined the Xtreme Martial Arts (XMA) Team, coached by Chat. The team, which performed at the MAIA Supershow in Las Vegas and at the Big 5 Sporting Goods Show, is making history with a new, growing extreme sport. "I am very excited to be a part of Team XMA," Taylor says.

Taylor also applies his training disciplines to the other sports he loves. "I love to play football, especially playing running back and outside linebacker," he says. "I am also on the All-Star team in baseball. I especially love team sports because I love people and meeting new friends."

One of the more recent of myriad developments in Taylor's life has been his pursuit of an acting career.

Having been in Los Angeles for about five months, he has appeared in a Nickelodeon "Rugrats" promo, a few commercials and a feature film.

And though the Martial Arts competitions and tournaments are fun for Taylor, he finds true enjoyment through meeting people and having fun, which are two things he loves best. But with such a cornucopia of sports interests and a budding acting career, why Martial Arts? "With Martial Arts, no kid sits on the bench," Taylor says. "That is very important to me." 