

PROFILE

Kevin Carbone

WARRIOR • THE MAKER • DOG DAD

By Annie Paschal

When Kevin Carbone was just 5 years old, he spent time building a lemonade stand with his dad, Jerry, in their Alpharetta home's backyard. It was then that Kevin developed a passion for building things from scratch. Little did he know, this ground training would prepare him to create an obstacle years later for NBC's reality television show, "American Ninja Warrior."

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In its sixth season, the contestants faced a number of physical obstacles that tested strength and endurance. Participants must make their way through the course without falling into a pool of water underneath. If you get wet, you're out. As a first-year competitor (aka The Maker), Kevin played an especially interesting role in this year's competition. He created an obstacle known as The Wing Nut (see Kevin and his creation on page 13 of the fall 2017 edition of *My Alpharetta*). He is the first athlete in the show's history to compete on an obstacle he personally designed.

He got the idea for The Wing Nut while working on an "American Ninja Warrior"-style obstacle course he built by hand in his family's backyard. He credits his father for the innovative names of his designs. "He's really creative so whenever I think of an idea, in 10 seconds, he has a name for it. He's my creative partner. I'll hire him for free," Kevin laughs.

After making it through three tough rounds, the Jumping Spider got the best of him. He slipped up on the notoriously difficult section, which consists of two parallel walls with just enough space for the competitor to straddle, requiring total body strength and precision. But after a year of training, the setback has pushed him to train even harder. "I'm hoping to become the strongest athlete I can, take in all the knowledge, and train as hard as I can to win the show," he says. And with a \$500,000 prize within reach, should he win, Kevin plans to use the money to build ninja warrior-type gyms countrywide and foster the next generation of ninja athletes.

When he isn't training or building inventive obstacles, he's hanging with his dog Roxy, a lab mix, at **Newtown Dream Dog Park**. His family also loves to dine at **Village Tavern**. "They have some of the best steaks," he says. Another new favorite is **Avalon**, which he says is great for shopping, eating, or just hanging out with friends. 

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR "DAYTONA BEACH QUALIFIER," PHOTOGRAPHY BY MYRON LUZNIAK / NBC.

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