

YOUNG PILOT FLYING FOR A WORLD RECORD

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Cairo for News

Barrington Irving talks about his round-the-world flight yesterday in Jamaica, Queens.

When 23-year-old pilot Barrington Irving screams through the skies at 270 mph, his childhood on the mean streets of Miami must seem like little more than a blip on the radar screen. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The precocious pilot is attempting to become the youngest person and the

first African-American to fly solo around the world - and he says his motivation in the high-speed quest is to inspire inner-city youth and minorities to aim high and take up flight.

"I started with nothing. ... I didn't expect to be flying around the world in a \$600,000 plane, but it happened somehow," Irving said yesterday at York College in Jamaica, Queens.

"Hopefully, this flight serves as a beacon to attract students to the career opportunities available in aviation," he said.

Irving said he passed up scholarships to play college football after a chance meeting with a United Airlines pilot, Capt. Gary Robinson, turned him on to the wonders of flight.

"The same thing that Capt. Robinson did for me, I am trying to do on a greater scale," he said.

Irving, a senior aeronautics major at Florida Memorial University, launched his four-continent, 23-stop journey on Friday, taking off from Miami in the Inspiration, a Columbia 400 that its manufacturer bills as the world's fastest single-engine piston aircraft.

He touched down on Sunday at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, L.I., where he is expected to depart this morning on the next leg of the expected 41-day trip.

John Lauinger



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