

MattKass

Pro Snowboarder

Age: 22

Home base: Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

Accomplishments: 1999 American Snowboard Tour Overall Halfpipe Competition. In '99 Matt came in 5th in the Vegetate Competition, an event that benefits a wildflower re-vegetation program in Mt. Hood Meadows, Oregon.

"Dirty Jersey" Kass, who's sponsored by Joyride, is another rising star in the world of snowboarding, and this year he'll tackle the half-pipe at the X Games. Originally from New Jersey, Kass relocated to California three years ago. His boarding back east included competitions like the Mid-Atlantic Snowboarding Series, his favorite event, in which he and his fellow 15- and 16-year-old buddies would ride against each other. Going out on the slopes is not just practice, it's a way of life for Kass, who loves to skateboard as much snowboard—that's what you'll find him doing all summer. If Kass had his way, the world would consist of nothing but snow covered mountains and skate ramps. Recently named team manager for Mission Six, Matt is his known for his energy and extreme performance level in the pipe, where he effortlessly busts out big tricks like monster side airs.

Favorite web site: transworldsnowboarding.com •

Craig Leske

AaronBishop

Pro Snowboarder

Age: 24

Home base: Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

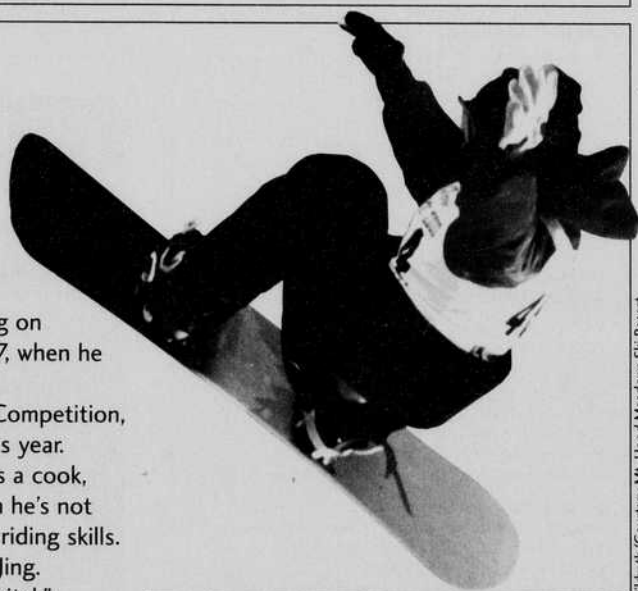
Accomplishments: 1999 1st place in the Vegetate Slopestyle competition, Mt. Hood Meadows, Oregon; 1999 2nd place in the Cuervo Quarterpipe competition, Tahoe, Calif.

Bishop, who is also sponsored by Joyride, is very much the Zen rider, relying on both mental and physical skills to increase his talents. He's been at it since 1997, when he came in 10th in the halfpipe competition at the X-NIX U.S. Championships at Mammoth/June Mountain. So far his favorite event is the Cuervo Quarterpipe Competition, in which he's placed 7th and 2nd—look for him in the Big Air competitions this year.

In the summertime Aaron is usually cross training and perfecting his skills as a cook, but this past summer he traveled in Europe with his Norwegian girlfriend. When he's not catching huge air, Aaron's surfing or skating, both of which he says improve his riding skills. If he wasn't competing, Bishop says he'd be doing volunteer work for kids or DJing.

In his CD player: "Anything drum 'n' bass, reggae roots, tribal drumming or digital."

Advice: "Stay true to yourself and never give up." •



For more X Games info, go to steamtunnels.net and search using keywords "X Games."

Michael Hildreth/Courtesy Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort

find the

**BEST DEALS ON
TEXTBOOKS**

at steamtunnels.net

Steamtunnels

FREE TEXTBOOK COMPARISON SHOPPER

<http://www.steamtunnels.net/textbooks/>

4 steamtunnels.net