

HOT AIR

by Brooke Geery

NEXT: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Since the second issue of *SNOWBOARDER*, up-and-coming riders have been recognized in a section originally titled "The Young and the Fearless," and now simply referred to as "Next." While many of the riders obtain fame and fortune, there are a great many others who waste off into oblivion, never to be heard from again. Some get industry jobs; others move onto other sports, and some settle into a lifestyle that doesn't fit in with the fast-paced world of snowboarding. The following are some of the more interesting stories as well as some facts you might only learn from one rider's first-ever interview.

November 1989 issue: Ross Rebagliati was featured doing a method on a Craig Kelly Air. He listed his goals as, "Being on the cover of a magazine, having a household name and being the best Canadian in the world."



4-STAR CATALOG

Favorite of the up-and-comers, Todd Richards. Mt. Hood, Oregon.

So, where is he now? He switched his focus to racing and successfully attained a household name nine years later when he was awarded the first Olympic gold for snowboarding, then had it taken away after testing positive for marijuana. If the timers were correct, Ross is the best Canadian in the world, in racing at least, and he's also made plenty of magazine covers, mostly with weekly news journals featuring him and weed. Looks like dreams really do come true.

December 1989 issue: Twenty-year-old Shaun Palmer announced to the world that he, "likes lookin' good." Performing a 1-foot air on his Sims snowboard, Palmer wasn't afraid to say that he loved to ski. He also announced that his goal was to be No. 1 in the halfpipe.

So, where is he now? He shifted his focus from halfpipe to boardercross, where he's soared to No. 1. Shaun has also become the No. 1 X Games sweetheart. Ten years later, he can still win any boardercross he enters and continues to push his athletic skills in other

sports like motocross, mountain biking, snowmobile-cross and the made-for-ESPN sport, Skier Cross. One thing is for sure, he hasn't lost his "Bad Boy" image.

September 1990 issue: Brandt Todd Richards made his first funny face in *SNOWBOARDER*. He announced to the world that he was a fan of Bad Brains and *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* and hated Day-Glo and people who don't use turn signals.

So where is Todd now? After many years of being just another good halfpipe rider, Todd became a two-time U.S. Open winner and Olympian.

September 1992 issue: Matt Schlingman, famous for his love of low backs and really short boards, burst onto the scene with his "The Young and the Fearless."

So where is Matt now? After a short-lived career encouraging bad snowboard equipment technique, Matt moved on to an industry job and became the team manager for Morrow Snowboards. Soon after, his love of another sport, motocross, overwhelmed him, and he started the magazine *Wide Open*, which he still publishes today.

September 1993 issue: John T. Camp, the 7-foot New York wonder told the world to follow its own advice with his Next. At the time, he was attending Syracuse University's Environmental and Forestry School and was literally the Big Man on Campus. After a few years of "representin'," John's days in the snowboard spotlight were over.

So where is John now? After being the team manager for Generics, dealing with Jeremy Baye's desire to expense cigarettes and Jamie Macleod's lack of acting ability, John found himself jobless with Generics' U.S. demise. He took the opportunity to go back to school and finally graduated from Syracuse. Close friend Brian Derosia says you are most likely to find John, "Crusing in old cars and picking up ladies."

Next: The Stats

Total number of Nexts in the first 10 years of *SNOWBOARDER*: 89

Average number of Nexts per issue: 8.9

Number of Nexts per year: 24

Chance of actually becoming pro after getting a Next: 59%

Total number of snowboarders in the world: 4,000,000

Chance of getting a Next this year: 1:167,000

Chance of becoming a pro in the snowboard industry: 1:283,050

Only person to get two Nexts: A Merriman (November 1989 and November 1991)

Up-and-coming riders' favorite rider: Jamie Lynn, Todd Richards, Jimi Smith

SNOWBOARDER picks some winners: Mickey Albin, Dave Downing, Gregory, Andy Hetzel, Johan Olsson

Shaun Palmer, Todd Richards, Sommers, Devun Walsh, Nat Zurek.

Johan's real first name: Karl

I'm the king of the world. Shaun Palmer. Crested Butte, Colorado.

