

SUPER PARK

OPEN



In early April of 1997, SNOWBOARDER sent Mike Parillo to Big White, 45 minutes north of Kelowna, British Columbia. He brought with him a sketchbook containing plans for a snowboard park he had thought about ever since designing his first one seven years earlier. It would be big. Bigger than anything he could have designed for public consumption. And it would flow. Lines where each air was a challenge and each landing was a setup for the next hit.

50 hours of cat time later...

More than 40 of North America's best riders arrived. It wasn't a contest where prize money was up for grabs, just a chance for riders to have Parillo's vision all to themselves. Over the course

of a week, there were rumors (Terje would have shown up for \$5,000 but the mag was too cheap to put up the cash), surprises (the riding of Kris Elliott and Brad Baxter), injuries (Devun Walsh flying 70 feet and catching his heel edge on the landing) and near-death experiences (angered hicks, buzzed on Molson, exclaiming "That guy's gonna get kilt," as photographer/D.J. Sean Sullivan took over the stage with his turntables at a local tavern). The next 28 pages are dedicated to what

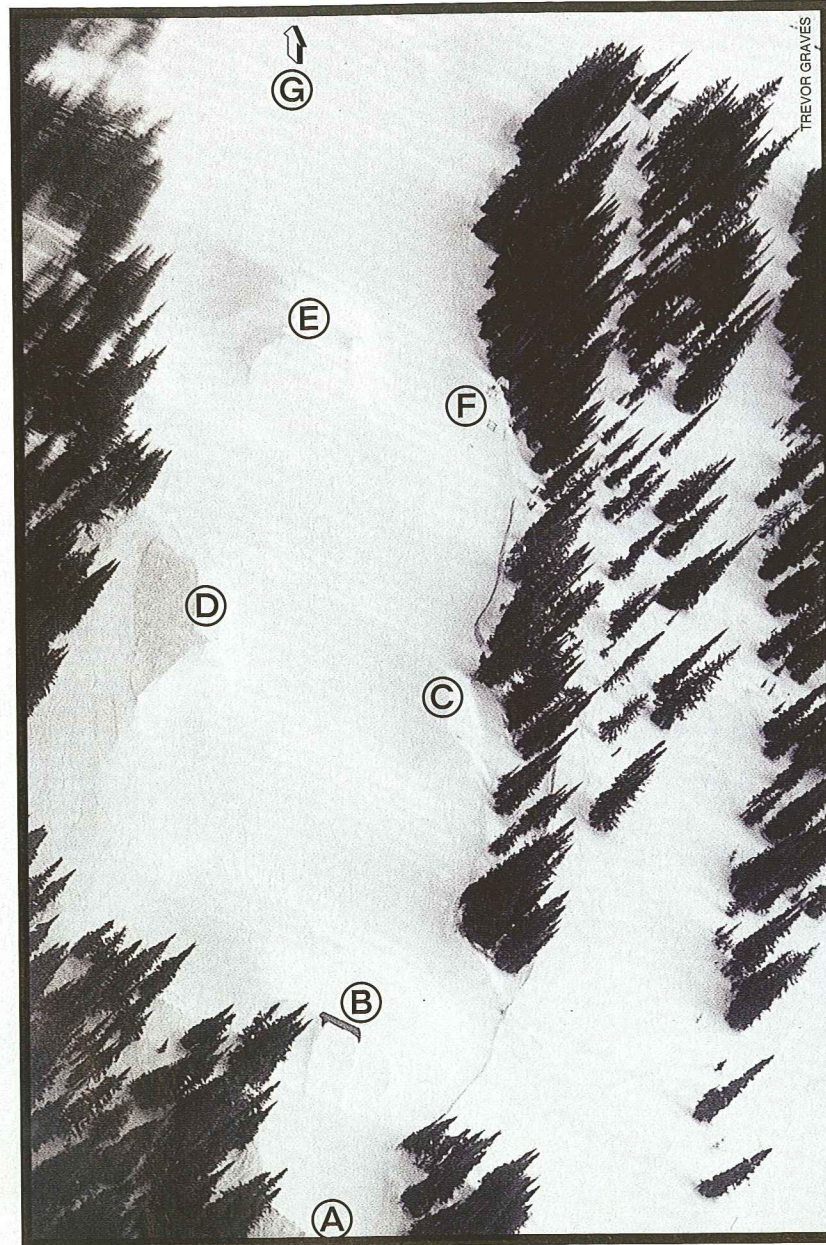
went down. A freestyle festival where old reputations were upheld and new ones born.

There are "mini-views" with the riders whose skills and personalities made them standouts. "Local hero" tags on former unknowns who did more than hold their own among the top visiting pros. And unfortunately, a visit to the "House of Pain" for a complete report on who had to leave early.

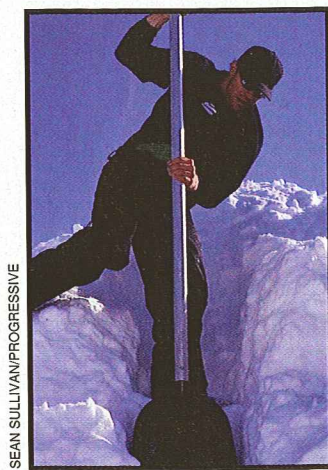
The Park is open.



J.P. Walker kicks off Supersession '97 while the scaffolding goes up and Billy Anderson looks on.



Aerial view of the park, compliments of pilot Kris Elliott.



Mike Parillo sculpts in his old medium.

Mike Parillo volunteered his time to design and oversee construction of the Superpark, a job that required nearly 50 hours of riding shotgun in the cat, plus days of manual digging. Parillo began designing parks for Big Bear in 1991 when he lived in a tent and hitchhiked to the mountain. Mike's parks soon became known for their size and sometimes unforgiving nature. Because of the mounting complications of ski resort politics and the guilt of people getting injured, Mike retired from park building around 1994, making Superpark his first on-snow project in three years. During that time, Parillo has spent his winters in Jackson Hole, Wyo., focusing on riding and painting. He'll be working out of a small studio in Laguna Beach, Calif. this fall before returning to Jackson in December.

We asked Superpipe architect Mike Parillo to provide some of the details that went into building the Big White fun zone.

A. Starting platform — A 45-degree drop-in that straight-lined for about 100 feet and led into the school-bus hit. At one point, a 6-foot scaffolding was added, creating a vertical drop for more speed.

B. School Bus Hit — The first hit in the park, located at the base of the starting platform. It was built up against a half-buried, jib-modified school bus and had three runways. The longest one in the center cleared a 45-foot table before giving way to a good, steep landing (nearly impossible to clear without straight-shooting the run-in). The side runways were not as steep and didn't require the rider to clear quite as much distance, about 30 to 35 feet.

C. Right Loaf — 12 to 15 feet tall with an extra-long 15- to 20-foot takeoff; 40 to 45 feet long.

D. Left Loaf — See right loaf.

E. Tabletop — The feature presentation (a.k.a. Supercollider). Over 60 feet long, 12 feet high and about 50 feet wide. It consisted of three runways (a really wide one at center and then another on either side) that were about 25 to 30 feet long, the sides a bit longer and less steep. It had a long, forgiving landing that was good if you had enough speed to clear the flats.

F. Media/spectator platform — Popular gathering place for spectators, filmers and photographers.

G. Quarterpipe — Very steep with tight transition. A triumphant way to end a run after sticking the three previous obstacles.

RIDERS

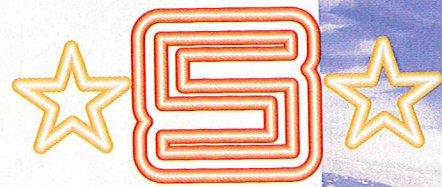
- Stevie Alters
- Billy Anderson
- Ben Ashburner
- Brad Baxter
- Chris Brown
- Darren Gengel
- Chris Dufficy
- Kris Elliott
- Rob Fagan
- Randy Gaetano
- Tom Gilles
- Dræ Glover
- Ali Goulet
- Derek Heidt
- Jesse Huffman
- Lucas Huffman
- Clark Hurlbut
- Sean Johnson
- Mike LeBlanc
- Bjorn Leines
- Thomas Ligonnet
- Peter Line
- Joel Mahaffey
- Hillary Maybery
- Ross Peterson
- Roberta Rodger
- Josh Rosen
- Blair Rusin
- Risto Scott
- Ian Spiro
- Sean Sterken
- J.J. Thomas
- Josh Vert
- J.P. Walker
- Devun Walsh
- Ryan Williams
- Wendy Wywill
- Kevin Young
- Natasza Zurek

Thank You Mike Parillo, Flynn Seddon, Michael J. Ballingall, Kristen Sullivan, Graham Sullivan, Sorren Robinson, Mike St. Clair, Jeremy Hopkinson, Matt Symons, Marcos DaRoza, Brian Joubert, Megan Pile, Jodi King, the entire Big White staff, all the riders who attended, and all the Big White locals (hope you snuck in some good hits after hours).





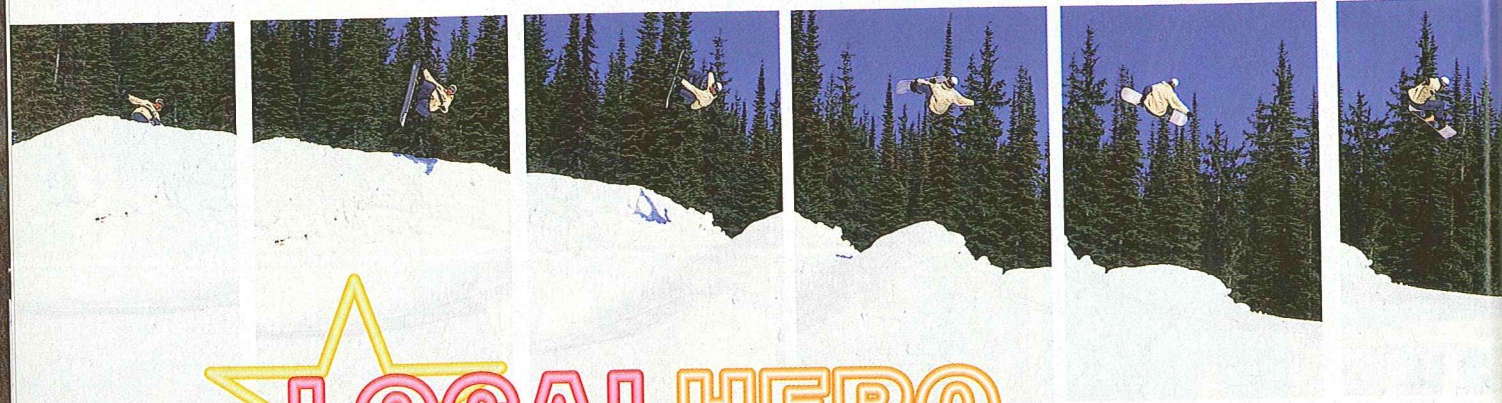
Kris doesn't disappoint at center-stage with a switch 540.



SEQUENCE: SEAN SULLIVAN/PROGRESSIVE



Kris Elliott didn't even have a sponsor when he showed up at Superpark. But after seeing his smooth corkscrewed spins and flashy studded belt, Josh Rosen gladly donated a board and welcomed him to the K2 team. The day after it all ended and the traveling circus of pros moved on, Kris returned to Big White with his new board for a big air contest and walked off with the \$3,000 first prize.



SEQUENCE: DANO PENDYGRASSEDSP PHOTO



The stuff every grom's dreams are made of: show up to ride with a bunch of well-known pros, corkscrew a frontside 720, and by the time you land, you're sponsored.



SEQUENCE: TREVOR GRAVES

Another piece of the performance that earned Billy Anderson the award for best lines. Indy 360.

Billy Anderson

Age: 20

Hometown: Mammoth Lakes, California

Currently resides: Mammoth Lakes, California

Stance: goofy



Same trick, different angle. This time from the tower.

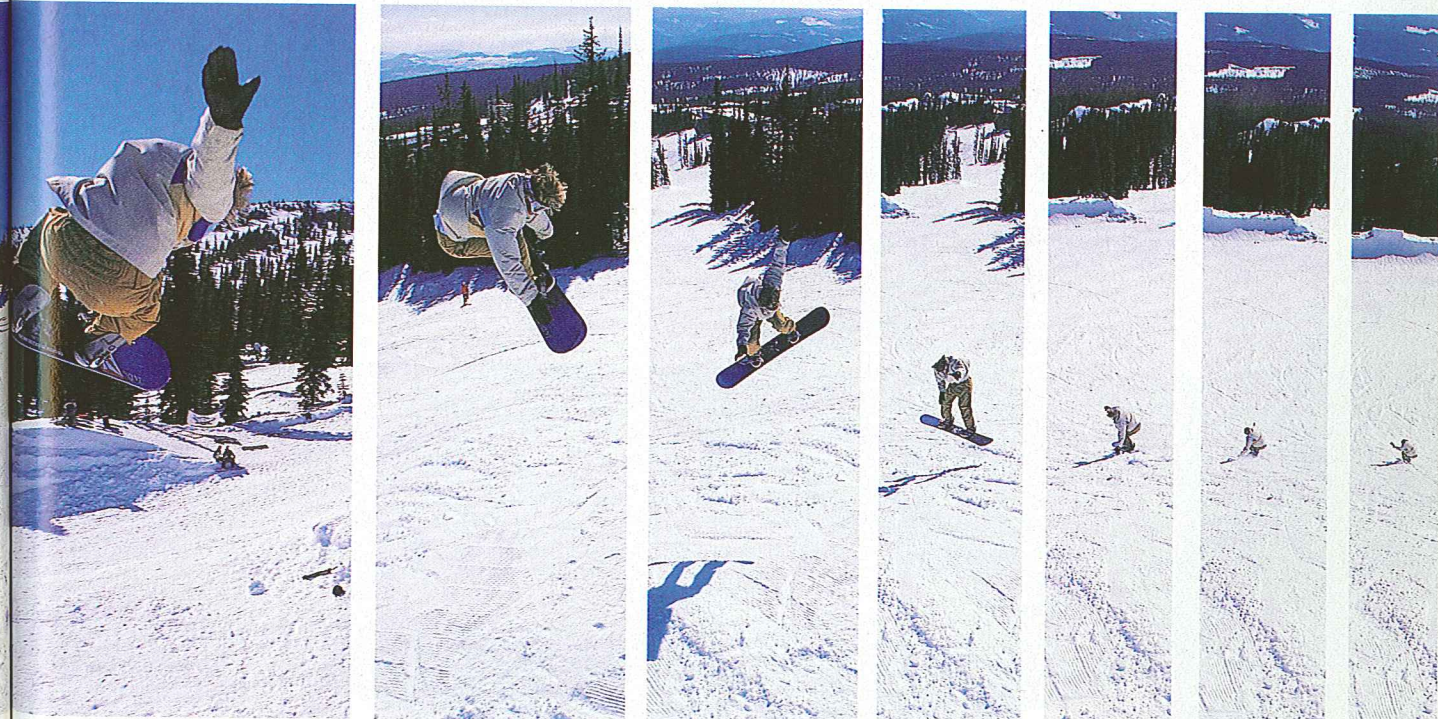


Billy Anderson brought a lot of history to the park for a 20-year-old. He was the only rider to return from SNOWBOARDER's first super-session three years ago at Squaw Valley. Back then he arrived as a promising groom in his huge blue Cadillac with female park-prodigy Janna Meyen riding shotgun. But the Billy who showed up at Big White this year hadn't been seen much since his cameo acting role in the movie *Dynasty* two years ago, when he ran naked through the dark streets of Chile to collect on a bet. "I think my mom panicked on it more than anything," Anderson admits to reaching an apathetic stage like so many kids who achieve early success. "I just wasn't getting it done for a while. I was burned out. But then I took a whole summer off and got super-amped to come back."

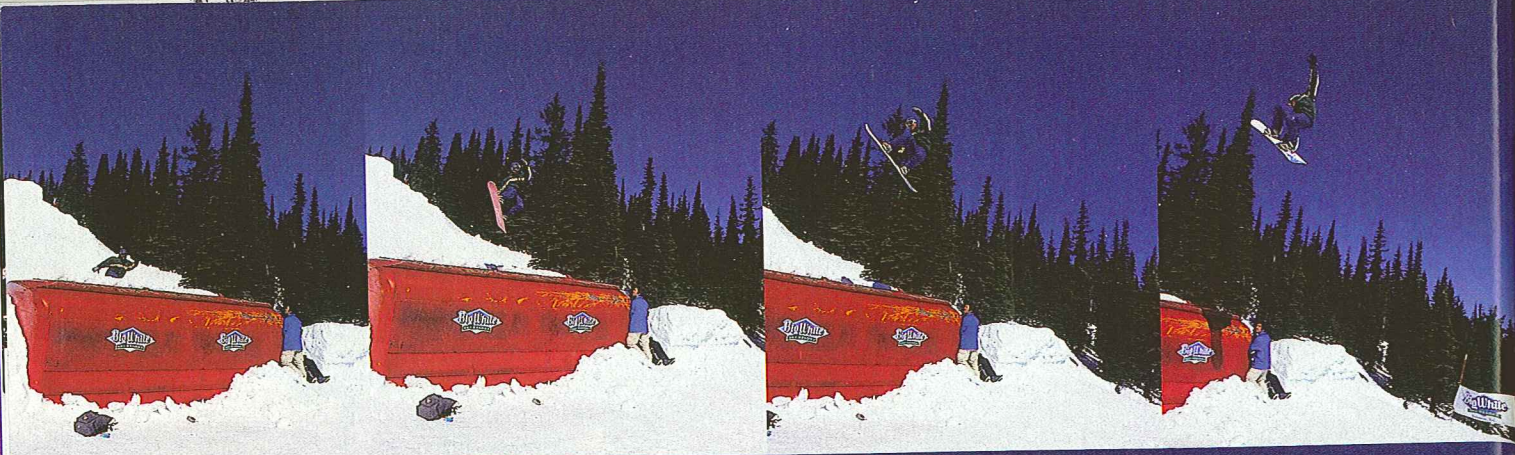
Billy's enthusiasm was cruelly snuffed, however, when he broke his leg on just the third day of last season. He was sentenced to a couch and heavy leg cast while Mammoth was continually dumped on during the early winter months.

Having only been back on the snow for two months, Anderson became one of the most welcome surprises at Big White. His clean, slow-spun 360s and use of the whole park gave him the distinction of having ridden the best lines. He capped off a true comeback story by going hit after hit with an amazingly smooth style, drifting past the top of a 12-foot scaffolding and landing perfectly in the transition almost every time. "You go to a park any place in the world and there might be one super-booter that might be as big as one of those hips. Three hits in a row that big was definitely more my style of riding."

Anderson now looks poised to fulfill the expectations that were set for him before he could even drive. The favorite son of Mammoth will be spending the winter back home with super-ripper younger brother Jeff in a new three-bedroom condo that he just purchased. Billy's hoping to continue the momentum he gained in Kelowna by traveling as well as riding locally, looking to exploit some new secret spots that even the graduate of Mammoth Lakes High has yet to check out.



SEQUENCE: DANO PENNYGRASSEDSP PHOTO

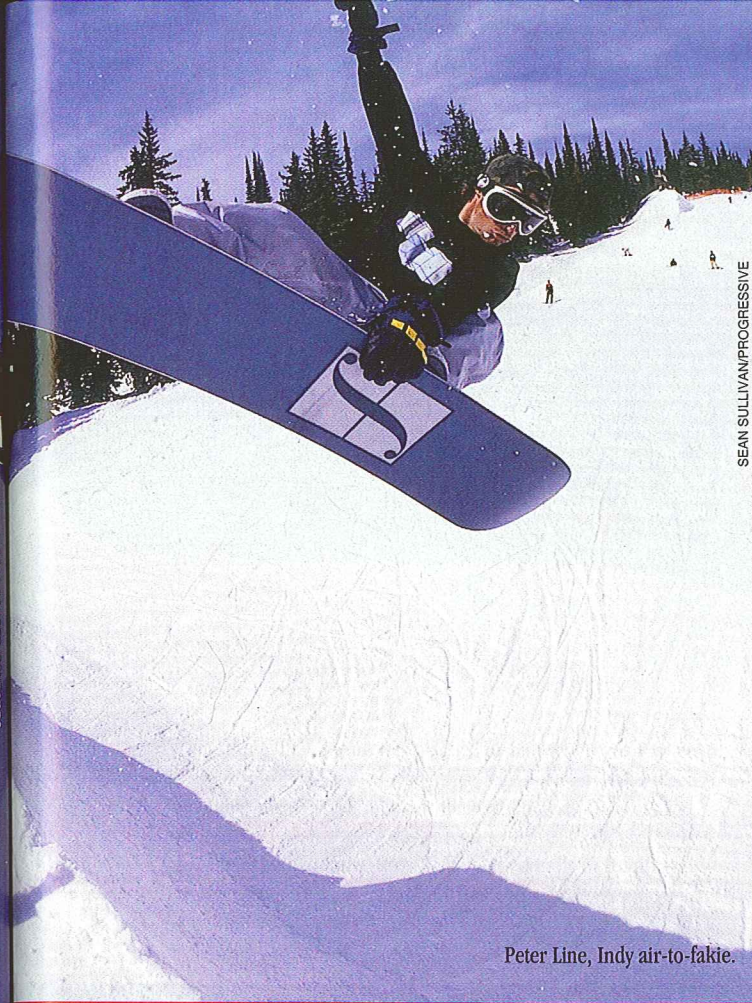
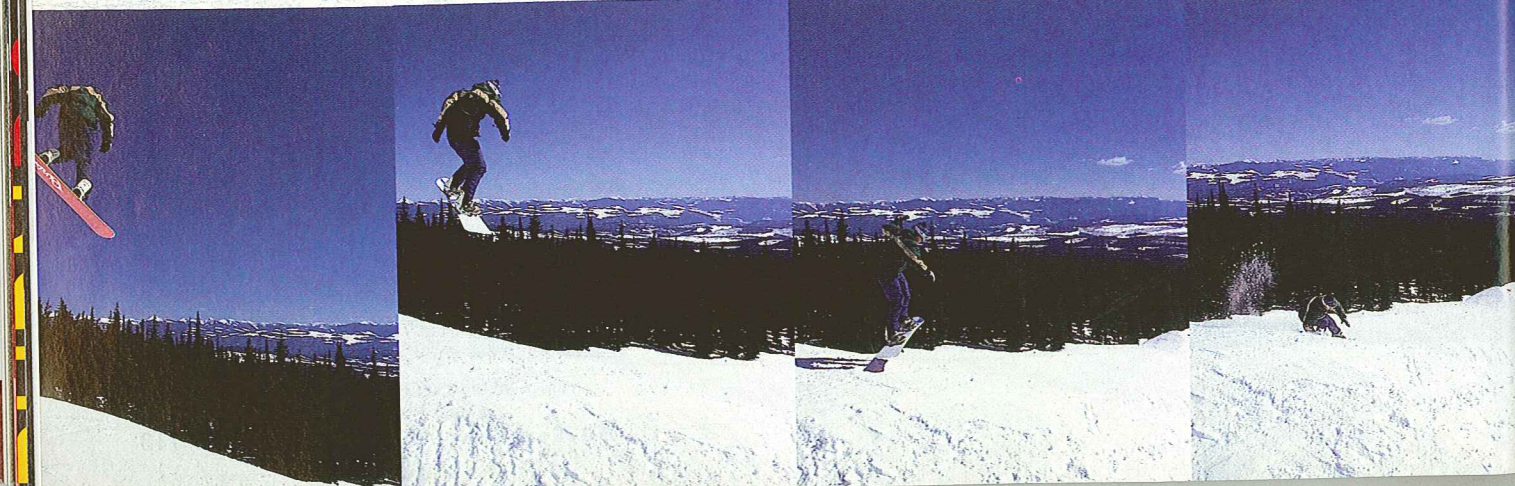
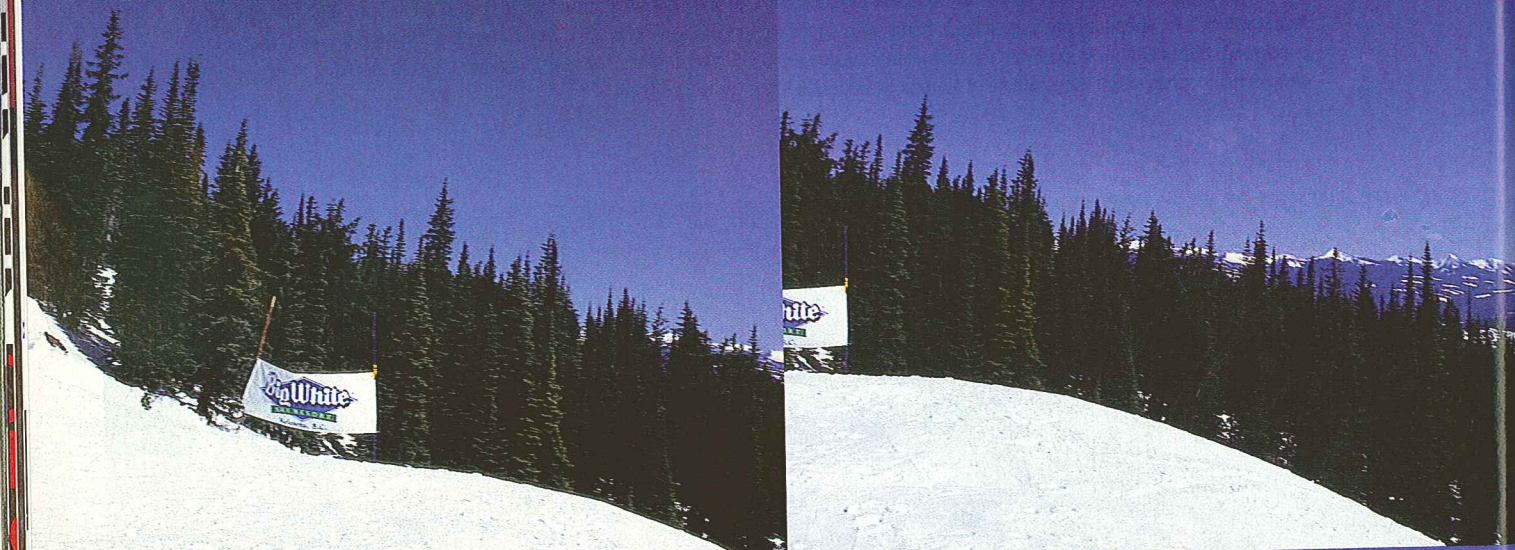


★ SUPER PARK ★

Natasza Zurek pulled out this lien 540 to one-up the large 360 that earned her a win at the Westbeach big air contest in Whistler just days before.

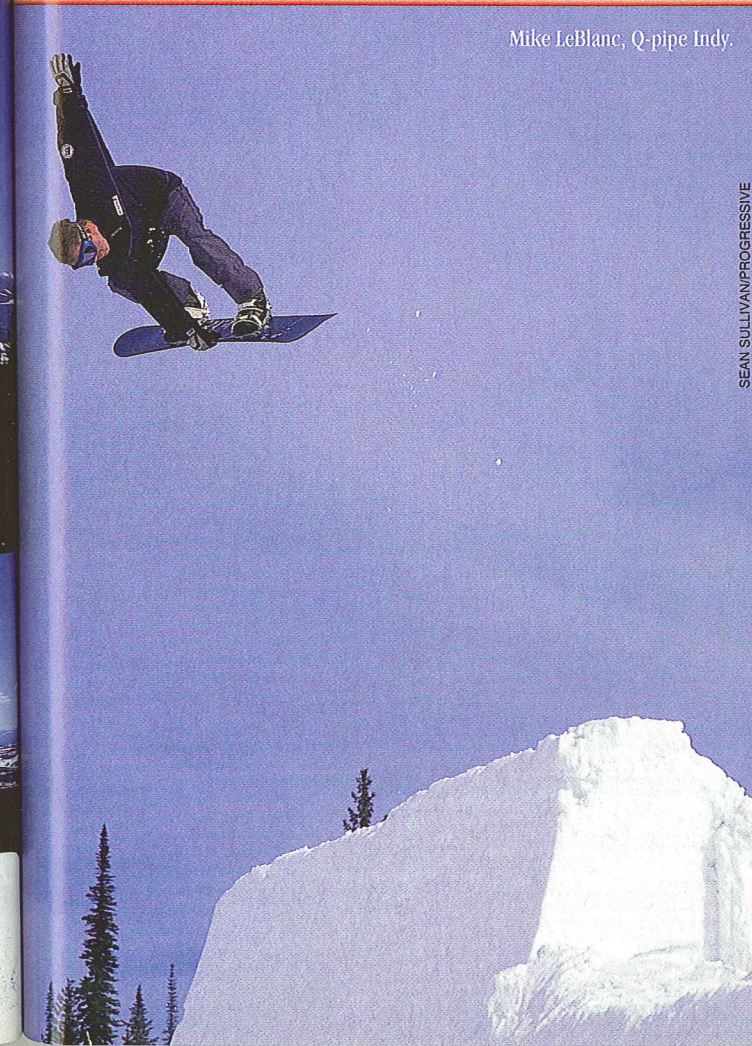


SEQUENCE: GEORGE C. COVALLA III



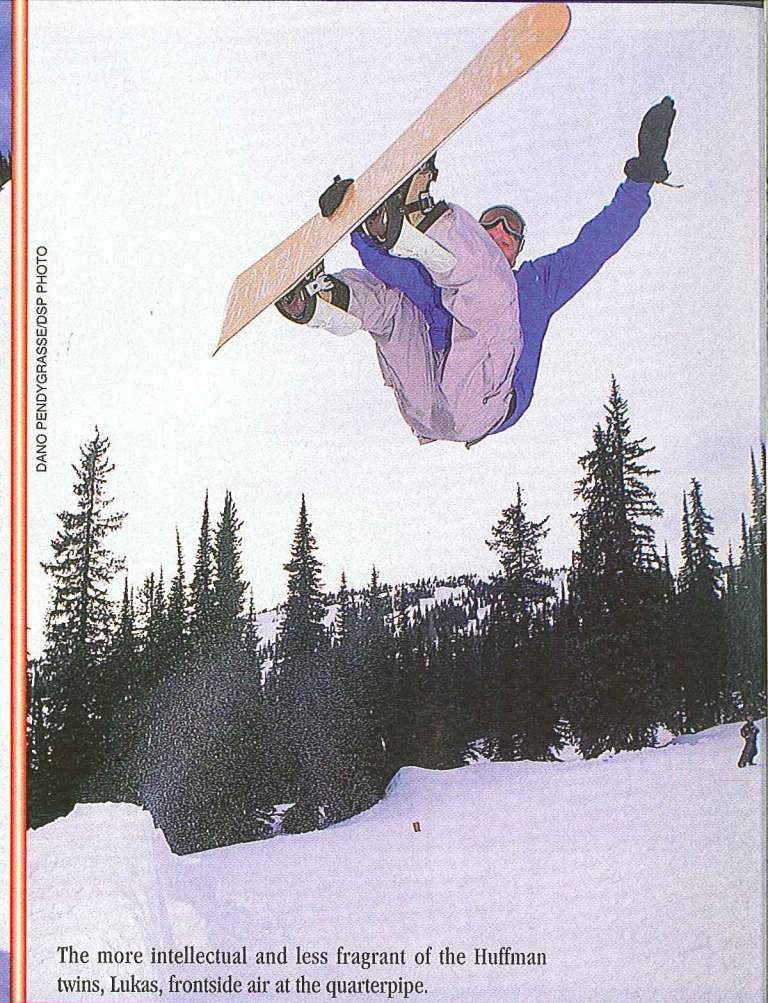
Peter Line, Indy air-to-fakie.

SEAN SULLIVAN/PROGRESSIVE



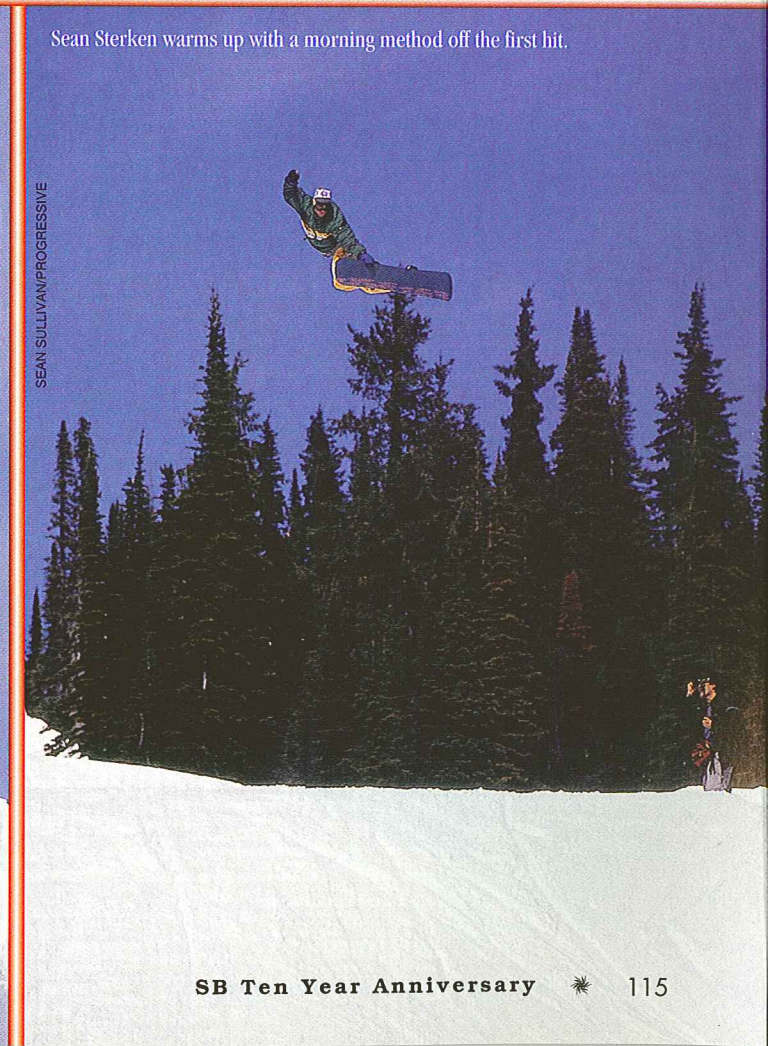
Mike LeBlanc, Q-pipe Indy.

SEAN SULLIVAN/PROGRESSIVE



The more intellectual and less fragrant of the Huffman twins, Lukas, frontside air at the quarterpipe.

DANO PENDYGRASSE/DSF PHOTO



Sean Sterken warms up with a morning method off the first hit.

SEAN SULLIVAN/PROGRESSIVE



SEQUENCES: TREVOR GRAVES

This spring the K2 team was plagued by injuries. Travis Parker and Lance Pitman canceled their flights to Kelowna after breaking three wrists between them at contests the weekend before, and Josh Rosen was forced to leave Big White early because of a bad knee. Ross Peterson had to fly in from Bend to overcome the K2 curse with 60 feet of b/s 360.



Before he was retired to the injured reserve list by a bruised shoulder, Whistlerite Kevin Young made the drive worth it during a heavy morning session which included this switch 720 over the tabletop.

SUPER PARTY

