BROKEN FINGERS

freestyle skateboarding quarterly



An Encounter With
Connor Burke

American
Kook

US Issue


Synopsis
BEARINGS



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freestyle skateboarding quarterly

Broken Fingers is a nonprofit collaborative project that is dedicated to the coverage and dissemination of flatland freestyle skateboarding. We as a group seek to provide content that exhibits best the variety, complexity and excellence represented in the freestyle skateboarding community.

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Cover Photo: Connor Burke (No-handed 50-50) Photo: Hollis Brumfield
top: Connor Burke (G-Turn) Photo: Benton Farquhar



Benton Farquhar (Carousel) Photo: Darryl Grogan



Mike Osterman (Floating) Photo: Ryan Banas

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Contributors:

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Ricky Rodriguez (Rail Spin) Photo: Darryl Grogan



Mike Osterman (Kooking) Photo: Ryan Banas

American Kook

By Bob Loftin

Connor Burke - the speed of the street skater, the inventiveness of the freestyler. Mike Osterman - master of flatland smoothness. Brandon Ross - throwback trickster paying homage to the past while moving forward. Sean Burke - cigar smoking destroyer of boards. Gary Holl - all around skater and spinner of 360s. Jeremy Elder - board maker and visionary who has nurtured the talents of so many. Witter Cheng - collector of humans. Terry Synnott -- Dark Overlord of Mode Skateboards.

The list goes on. It's a big country, but we're all American Kooks.

This is the "American" issue of Broken Fingers. America, and I'm including the entire North American continent here, is a big place. Bill Robertson and I live in the same state, and he's a ten-hour drive from me! So if it seems like it is hard for us to all get together for an event, be it contest or jam, well, there's a reason for that.

Besides the distance involved in traveling, and the pitiful amounts of vacation we get in the U.S., or the non-existent interstate public transportation system, lets face it. Americans (of the U.S. variety) are hard to get together on anything! So is it really a surprise that we don't agree on what a good freestyle contest is, that we can't seem to coordinate very well in putting on an event in the U.S. with more than 10 or 15 participants, or that we can't even agree on a contest format?

And yet there are many of us. American freestylers. Kooks. Don't let the footage of Connor Burke on the Ride Channel trick you. You are not cool, and you don't want to be. If we were cool we wouldn't own freestyle. Yes - WE OWN IT. IT IS OURS. We must keep it.

In case you haven't guessed, I really have no idea where I'm going with this.

America. Right. American freestyle.

American freestyler. You are not cool. You are part of a tiny group of skaters doing what you want to do, not following the crowd, and creating something new every day you skate. Embrace it. Own it. Guard it like the family jewels.

Now go skate.

BL



Connor Burke (Ollie 360 Fingerflip) Photo: Jim Goodrich



Connor Burke Photo: Hollis Brumfield

An Encounter With Connor Burke

By Daniel Trujillo

Hi Connor how are you?!

Hey man, I just ate some Chipotle so I guess you could say I'm doing alright.

Siiiiiiick. Please state your full legal name and date of birth.

Connor Robert Burke, October 21st, 1991.

Are you aware that you're working for a company called Brazz-wait... wrong interview.

Was that question was meant for Mario Steinman..? Ha ha.

You recently won 1st place at the World Freestyle Round-Up, how has being the World Freestyle Commissar impacted your life?

I never thought that I was even going to place in Vancouver. The first day I got 5th place and I wasn't skating quite like I wanted to. The second day I got a perfect run at some point so I ended up getting put in 3rd place, and then low and behold I got 1st place the last day. Whenever I got back home to Virginia I got to do a radio interview and an interview with the local news, but other than that my life hasn't changed a whole lot.

Mike Osterman, who I speculate is your friend, has also won 1st at the Round Up, of the two of you, who do you think would win in a head to head arm wrestling match?

I'd say Mike would win an arm wrestling match. I mean, come on man, just look at my arms... ha ha.

Freestyle has recently seen a pretty noticeable resurgence in popularity, what bit of advice would you give to the larvae of freestyle?

Don't get caught up with how popular freestyle skateboarding may or may not be at any given moment.

First and foremost, focus on your own skating and try to evaluate what things about you as a skater and your skating make you unique from others. Really push yourself, try to create new tricks as much as you possibly can, and constantly stay in tune with what's going on around you, not only within the freestyle skateboarding world, but also with street skating, vert skating, longboarding, whatever it might be... Watch new and old skate videos on YouTube and dig as deep as you can to find the weird tricks that appeal to you and start trying to learn them. You'll find that eventually, you will begin to create new variations or somehow make other people's tricks your own. Let me clarify that none of this is "stealing". Skateboarding is an "open source" community, we are supposed to learn from each other, so don't ever be afraid to take a trick.

Remember that you are your own business. Market yourself as much as you can online, and carefully construct the videos that you share with others - by this I mean, that you shouldn't only skate in front of a tripod - find a friend to film you and maybe save those special clips for your magnum opus video part.

Let me stress that it is SUPER IMPORTANT to somehow engage yourself in the skateboarding community. Whenever you watch other people's videos leave them comments and try talking to others that skate like you as much as you can. Go out to contests as much as you can and force yourself to skate in them regardless of how much money you have or how much you hate doing it (I say that because I hate competing).

Skate your ass off, constantly push yourself to learn new tricks, and engage in the skating community and you'll notice that others will start doing it too - they will feed off of your energy. If you've stuck with freestyle for 10+ years and you've done all of the things that I have mentioned, then you will most likely realize at some point that you won't care how freestyle is or how popular it might ever be - so much of that is outside of your control - just focus on yourself and the relationships that you have built with others in the skateboarding community.

What is your preferred substrate upon which to skate and why?

I'm too stupid to understand that question.



Connor Burke (Ollie Fingerflip) Photo: Hollis Brumfield

What surface do you prefer?

I've noticed that I like skating different surfaces for different tricks. It's funny, I used to absolutely hate skating on asphalt and would avoid it at all costs, but now I really like skating on asphalt if I am doing nosehook impossibles variations, spinning gorilla flip variations, and footwork. I like skating more grippy concrete (like tennis courts or basketball courts) if I am doing stationary tricks. And then I really like to do lines and rolling tricks on polished concrete... however that is rarely available. I'm super picky about where I skate, I have my places and I usually don't change them up too much.

FAN SUBMITTED QUESTION: You have amazing hair, what product do you use?

Haha, thank you. I usually use Layrite pomade in my hair. I really want to grow it longer right now but I had an epiphany this year that I look a little bit like Ronald McDonald whenever it gets long.

Who are your biggest inspirations in skateboarding?

I go through phases where I'm into certain people's skating at certain times. The ones that have stayed constant for me through the years though are Don Brown, Mark Gonzales, and Heath Kirchart. I know that they are completely different from one another but I have reasons for each. Don Brown brought something to freestyle that I try to do, he had a smooth style and liked to string his tricks together in a natural way. I like how all of his tricks, even his stationary stuff looks like it's always moving - it's like magic or something. I love everything Mark Gonzales has done with his skate career. Watching Gonz, is kind of like watching a surfer cruise on a wave or watching a bird glide, his personality shines through his skating, and everything about that guy represents the essence of skateboarding. Finally, Heath Kirchart is a favorite of mine because his style is so damn refined - sometimes, even when it looks like he is going to fall, he somehow pulls the trick off and it is the most god damn beautiful thing I've ever seen. I like his mystique and the way that his video parts feel - they are dramatic, never have any filler in them, and they leave you with chills down your spine.

Who are your biggest inspirations in life?

Paul Thomas Anderson, David Foster Wallace, and John Steinbeck.

Do you think humanity will wipe itself out via nuclear war?

I think we might be all too self-absorbed to let that happen.

If you could choose backwards elbows or backwards knees, which would it be and why?

Have you ever seen the 1996 alien movie "The Arrival"? I saw that movie when I was like 5 or 6 years old and the aliens in that movie had inside-out knees. It scarred me as a child, so I'm going to go with backwards elbows.

Charlie Sheen saves the world from the aliens that were causing global warming. Classic film, great answer. Thanks man! See you at the next Round-Up!

Nanu Nanu! DT



Connor Burke (G-Turn) Photo: Jim Goodrich



Connor Burke (Impossible) Photo: Hollis Brumfield



5 Hot Tricks for 2016
By Tony Gale

Street skateboarding this year seems to have a more tightly-defined look and trick selection this year than ever; if you're not foot planting, wallriding and slappying with your slacks turned up, you might as well go home.

But don't think that freestyle is immune to the prevailing winds of skate trends. We might have a different terrain and a different aesthetic, but we've still got our own over-played tricks this year.

As I write this, you've still got four months left of the year, so what are you waiting for? Get on-trend, start throwing these all over Instagram now, and get your fair share of the Instahearts and unattributed reposts.

1) No Complys
Yep, these bloody things have seeped through the street/freestyle barrier. Once upon a time, even pushing was considered an abject failure in freestyle. Now, you've got people planting their feet everywhere. Worse still is the amount of actual "standing on the ground" nonsense. Trust me, one day freestyle historians will look back upon this year and wonder why the hell so many skaters didn't see the difference between a quick, snappy footplant and walking across a freestyle area, twirling a board like a cheerleader with a baton.

Style Guide:
If you're going to do them, do them right. Go watch every late-80s Ray Barbee video part you can find, and if you find your front foot nearing the floor, ask yourself: "What Would Barbee Do?"

2) Coco to Foco
Cocos have been "on-trend" for a long, long time. Once people realized they're actually not that hard and freestyle wheels became easier to source, everyone and their grandma started rolling around on the side of their board - but no single variation has really caught the imagination of the freestyle population like the coconut-wheelie-to-180-primoslide-to-fakie-coconut-wheelie, otherwise known as the Coco to Fakie (thankfully, because the full description eats up too much of my word count). Why people are jumping on this hype train is beyond me, but I know you won't see it done in Europe any time soon; it's entirely dependant on a super-slick surface, and this continent isn't blessed with many of those.

Style Guide:
It seems Isamu is the progenitor of this one, so you could do a lot worse than watching his. Extra points go to anyone who holds the fakie coconut wheelie for longer than a nanosecond.

3) Flamingos
For a long time, flamingos were considered to be "just another silly ballerina trick", and you'd only ever see them in old videos of Kevin Harris or in every one of Lillis' runs. However, at some point in the last 12 months, they bled out into the general population, flowing into sequences and drifting in wide arcs across freestyle areas worldwide. Yes, for once, Lillis was ahead of the curve.

Style Guide:
Lillis once told me that the front foot position is everything for a good flamingo, and he's right. We don't want to see your toes pointing at the nose - 45º angles on the foot placement, wide arcs, and a good bit of speed, please. And keep those wheels down!

4) Railwhips
Maybe this is confirmation bias because I only started doing them myself about 18 months ago, but I swear to Mohammed (Praise Be Upon Him) that people all over the world are suddenly kicking boards into 360º spins beneath a railstand this year. And you know what? I have very few problems with this. There are only so many railflips you can watch before you go absolutely nuts, so anything that breaks that monotony is good by me.

(And no, I don't care if your railflip was switch, triple or to cross foot. A railflip is a railflip is a railflip. Sorry, folks.)

Style Guide:
Denham Hill knows how to do them properly. Fast, snappy, no waiting around, and most importantly - FULL ROTATIONS. Every time you half-and-half, spinning the board less than 360º and spinning your body to meet it, a small kitten dies. Please, think of the kittens.

5) Truck transfers
Okay, guys. Look. You know how I feel about pogos. I've made it perfectly clear multiple times that I don't get them. At all. But this year, truck transfers have come back in a big, big way, and I guess my refusal to bounce up and down on a piece of wood for hours on end is really holding me back in the global popularity contest that is Instagram. Whereas in the mid-2000s it was all Tommy Harward and Keith Renna, now you've even got little Romanian kids doing carousels on Penny boards, and it seems that if you don't have at least three truck transfers on lock, you might as well take your over-the-top shin armor off and call it quits.

Style Guide:
It's all Turi. Comrade Zoltan needs no bounce, no pause, no messing about - 50-50, truck transfer, truck transfer, casper, 50-50, truck transfer, out. And while you're still figuring out how that's possible without resetting yourself with pogos in-between it all, he's just done another combo of similar magnitude.

So who knows what 2017 will bring? Maybe it'll finally be the year of the toespin. Maybe everyone will get on Guenter's drop knee nosewheelies? All I know is that I hope it doesn't involve a sodding pogo. TG

Tai Tai Skater (Cross Foot Pogo) Photo: Darryl Grogan





Mike Osterman (Truck Transfer) Photo: Ryan Banas



Christian Heise (50-50) Photo: Marius Constantin



Andy Timmreck (360º Fingerflip) Photo: Christian Heise

Paderborn Crew Photo: Christian Heise



Paderborn 2016

By Tony Gale

From a British perspective, this year's trip to Paderborn was something of a comedy of errors; after a successful invasion last year, we planned for an even bigger and better road trip for 2016 - only for things to start going wrong almost as soon as the year begun. Firstly, it transpired that Paderborn was on the same weekend as NASS, so our regular freestyle demos had to be cancelled, and the Moonshine tour van and booth was occupied by the vert team, who were competing at the aforementioned festival.

Next casualty was Bob Loftin, who had planned to fly over for the second year in a row, but had a family crisis that led to having to cancel his trip. He was followed by more dropouts from the British team, and with the Brexit debacle having occurred only a week or two before and the complete collapse of the Pound against the Euro, those left were faced with an unexpectedly expensive trip. Still, we muscled on, only to have one of three cars in the convoy miss the ferry (which led to a very bizarre "French National Championships" in a lay-by in France), leading to a long drive in monsoon conditions on the German autobahn in the early morning.

But enough about the British contingent's consistent misfortune. When it finally came time for the event, the German crew came through again. As mentioned in these very pages last year, the Paderborn BBQ competition has been running for longer than any other freestyle event in the world, and every year the best skaters from across Europe make the trip and are treated to a well-oiled German machine - and, of course, a great time. I guess there's something about spending a weekend in a giant military-style tent in the baking sun that really brings a group together.

This year, the MC talents of Luis Max Escarate were replaced by the Dutch heckling of Paul Brunninkhuis (which also meant Erwin Shuvit actually had his real last name both used and correctly pronounced in public for once), the pro division experienced some great losses (no Mario Steinemann due to back injury and no Marco Sassi due to the grim economic reality of trying to buy your first house in the 21st century), but was bolstered by Marius stepping up out of the Am division for the first time and a rare appearance at Paderborn from Toni Medina.

Meanwhile, in the Am division, the usual suspects of Robert Wagner, Erwin Shuvit and Danny Darkslide found themselves up against a barrage of newcomers to the event; the Brazilian Kauê Araujo dropped by during his lengthy European tour and made his first competition appearance since being picked up by Moonshine, the relatively unknown German Nico Dragulescu appeared seemingly out of nowhere with some pro-level tricks, and Matt Kouba made the trip from the Czech Republic to show everyone that, in the Eastern Bloc at least, a classic 80s style is still enjoyable to watch.

So what actually happened? Who did what? Well, if we're honest, a lot of people missed a lot of tricks. Whether it was down to the absolutely shocking amounts of rain in Europe in the first half of the year or the absolutely shocking 32º heat (WE'RE NOT USED TO THAT IN NORTHERN EUROPE, OKAY), the pro division was unusually devoid of perfect runs. I was completely dead by the end of my second run, Marius' board was melting (seriously, go find the videos on YouTube and watch how it bends during his second run), and Denham and his missus, being true pasty-skinned northerners, were burned to a crisp. Meanwhile, Guenter and Christian Heise soldiered on with true Teutonic efficiency and precision and laid down perfect runs for a well-deserved German one-two.

The Am division suffered a similar plight, with last year's golden boy, Boris Staver, struggling to put together a solid run, and British newcomer Hat "the Brexiteer" Marrison letting a combination of nerves and a lack of setup familiarity get to him. Latetricks.com's Alex Foster put down a great run, continuing to progress towards his inevitable destiny as a rolling freestyler, but was (and I quote) EXPLOSIVELY indifferent to his performance, and was narrowly edged out by the long-socked Czech Surprise, Matej Kouba. After this, it all gets a bit weird. Nico Drago - a man with possibly the coolest name in freestyle - was laying down pro-level tricks and ended up in a tied fourth with the ever-beautiful Erwin Schuij - oh, sod it, Shuvit - with crowd favourite



Nicolas Dragulescu (Truck Transfer) Photo: Christian Heise

Christian Müller keeping them both out of the podium, taking third for himself. Then Robert Wagner, who should have been a shoe-in for the top spot this year with Marius' upgrade to first class, found himself still stuck in second, due to an unbelievably weird tie for first.

See, something odd was happening with the judging this year in Paderborn. I don't know what made them do it, but my man on the inside with the silly-and-not-remotely-inconspicuous-hat informs me that they scored every run on a singular category - overall performance - with a very, very low total score that may or may not have been out of twenty. As such, ties were commonplace, and there was literally no way to separate the top two in the Am division. Kaue went out there and absolutely stomped it (with a performance that now forces him into the pro division of every event following this), and Daniel Adam - the last place Am in last year's event came out of NOWHERE with an incredible run to join him in the top slot. Maybe if there would have been the classical five category judging system some way could have been found to bounce one into second place, but honestly, both runs were fantastic to watch.

So, in summary: bails, heat, wasser mit gas, new-and-improved Ams biting at the heels of the pro division, free breakfasts, jokes, Germans, and Guenter won again. A good weekend was had by all. TG

Roll on Paderborn BBQ 2017!

Results (Professional)

1. Gunter Mokulys
2. Christian Heise
3. Tony Gale
4. Joachim "Yoyo" Schulz
4. Turi Zoltan
5. Marius Constantin
6. Felix Jonsson
7. Denham Hill
7. Toni Medina

Results (Amateur)

1. Daniel Adam
1. Kaue Araujo
2. Robert Wagner
3. Christian Muller
4. Erwin Schuijtvlot
4. Nico Drago
5. Matej Kouba
6. Alex Foster
7. Danny "Darkslide" Klahold
8. Lennart Van de Peppel
9. Mat Harrison
10. Boris Staver
11. Kevin Hegemann



Simon Kux (50-50 Fingerflip) Photo: Christian Heise



Vladislav Kanin (50-50) Photo: Evgeniy Vasiliev



Isamu Yamamoto (No-handed 50-50) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Mike Osterman, Isamu Yamamoto, Connor Burke - Photo: Jim Goodrich

Rounding-Up The Best

By Hippie Mike

Now in its fifth year, the World Freestyle Round-Up Skateboarding Championships at the Cloverdale Rodeo & Country Fair, has become more than just a stage where the world's best freestyle skaters compete. The four day event is like a skate camp where good friends meet for a reunion of sorts to showcase their skating skills and to learn from one another. Over 45 skaters from 11 different countries made it their top priority to be there this year, and those who were unable to attend said they are saving their money so they can be there in 2017.

Besides striving to put on a great contest, co-producers Kevin Harris and Monty Little also want to help the sport of skateboarding grow. One of the ways they are doing this is by setting up several informative displays that feature photos, skateboard memorabilia and videos that people can enjoy. Among them are the very popular Skull Skates Skateboard Museum, Jim Goodrich's Skateboarding Legends Collection featuring a video of over 120 of his award- winning photos, and the Art Work Of Powell-Peralta display showcasing the iconic artwork of VC Johnson whose fine line drawings started a graphic revolution. New this year was the Masters Of The Art Of Freestyle display highlighting the life of Guenter Mokulys from Germany, who at age 51 has competed in over 100 freestyle contests and placing 1st in over 60 of them. Monty has already started work on next year's display which is dedicated to Russ Howell's incredible story.



Connor Burke (Railflip) Photo: Jim Goodrich



Brownzinho (Primo Slide) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Alex Foster (Pogo) Photo: Matheus Navarro

Speaking of Russ Howell, each year contestants have a chance to meet and skate with some of skateboarding's most endearing legends. This year it was two-time World Freestyle Champion Per Welinder who doubled for Michael J. Fox in "Back To The Future," and who went on to launch Birdhouse Skateboards with Tony Hawk. Other notable skate celebrities have been Lynn Cooper who won last year's Legends Freestyle Classic, and Kilian Martin and Brett Novak who have held the world premieres of their "Altered Route" and "Searching Sirocco" videos at the World Round-Up.

This year's Round-Up was really global in nature, as was the disbursement of trophies. The caliber of skating was definitely up a notch or two this year with a lot of drama taking place in the Pro Division. Isamu Yamamoto, the 13 year old wiz-kid from Otsu City, Japan was favoured to win as he had laid down flawless runs in both the preliminary and semi-finals. Then in the finals Connor Burke, from Richmond, Virginia edged him out by two points to take home the 1st place trophy and $3,000, leaving Isamu in second, with 3rd place going to Mike Osterman from Los Angeles. The contest judges really had their work cut out for them as the next four placings were also a very tight race with only a one point difference between each skater. Guenter Mokulys from Germany took 4th, Tony Gale from England came in 5th, Sweden's Lillis Akesson walked away with 6th, and 7th place went to Canada's Ryan Brynelson.

In the Amateur Division, Canada's own Andy Anderson once again walked away with 1st place, followed by those crazy Brazilians, Diego Pires Afonso in 2nd, Kaue Araujo in 3rd and Marcio Torres in 4th place. The trophy for 5th place once again went to Dillanger Kane from Canada followed by Derek Elliott from the USA, whose Jaw Breaker hand-stand clinched him 6th place honors. New comer Josh Dunstone from Australia placed 7th.

Other awards handed out were the Ambassadors of Freestyle Award which was presented to AJ Kohn for his dedication to the sport of skateboarding. Andy Anderson took home the Henry Candioti Skate-4-Fun Award which is given to the freestyle skater who best embodies skating with style. The trophy plus a cheque for $500 was presented to Andy by Henry's brother Alejandro. Takashi Suzuki and Stefan Albert, who had both won the award in previous years, also joined the presentation circle.

At the conclusion of the contest, staff and contestants alike helped to break down the contest site. What took 3 1/2 days to set up all came down in one hour and was stored away for next year. It was then off to the Holiday Inn for the Skate-4-Fun After Party for a buffet style pizza party, video presentations and awards being handed out to all the staff. A special presentation was also made by the party's host, Alejandro Candioti, to Kevin Harris who was given a Lifetime Award for his fluid skating style.

Although sponsor George Powell was unable to attend the After Party, the reading of his letter to the contestants was definitely the highlight of the evening.



Andy Anderson (Tuck Knee G-Turn) Photo: Jim Goodrich



Günter Mokulys (Rail Handstand) Photo: Jim Goodrich

"As the elite members of a skating discipline of the heart, I thank you for being a beacon of light and an on-ramp to skateboarding for those who watch you in wonder and admiration. It is my pleasure and honor to present you with a symbol of your creativity, discipline, and joy, a classic Rodney Mullen freestyle deck with his classic graphic by Vernon Court land Johnson. Rodney was not the first to choose freestyle, but he soon took up the mantle of leadership and the joy of creation to become the most famous member of this special group. May you all continue to enjoy skateboarding, and experience the growth, joy and rewards that it offers those who love and practice it."

That's right, over 45 bright red Rodney Mullen decks were handed out to the contestants.

If you have been missing out on all the excitement happening at the World Round-Up, be sure to mark these dates down on your calendar, May 19 to 22, 2017 and start planning to be there. For full details visit: www.theworldroundup.com ML



Marcio Torre (Cross Armed Rail Handstand) Photo: Matheus Navarro

Marius Constatin(Crooshand croosfoot 50 to casper croosfoot) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Stefan Albert (50-50) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Good Friends TaiTai, Marcio, Isamu, Daniel and Brownzinho - Photo: Matheus Navarro

AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Andy Anderson - 280 - Canada
2. Diego Pires Afonso - 263 - Brazil
3. Kaue Araujo - 260 - Brazil
4. Marcio Torres - 253 - Brazil
5. Dillanger Kane - 244 - Canada
6. Derek Elliott - 237 - USA
7. Josh Dunstone - 223 - Australia
8. Eduardo Bandeira - 222 - Brazil
9. Riley Allen - 220 - Canada
10. Brandon Ross - 218 - USA
11. Kristopher Abramovic - 212 - Canada
12. Daniel Trujillo - 199 - USA
13. Ben Farquhar - 197 - USA
14. Chadd Sinclair - 186 - Canada
15. Alex Foster - 185 - England

360 SPIN-OFF
Guenter Mokulys - 25 - Germany
Russ Howell - 24 1/2 - USA
Kevin Harris - 24 - Canada

BEST TRICK
Derek Elliott - USA

BEST HANDSTAND TRICK
Marcio Torres - Brazil

LONGEST COCONUT WHEELIE:
Matheus Navarro - Brazil

WORST TRICK CONTEST
Felix Jonsson and Stefan Akesson

PRO DIVISION

1. Connor Burke - 283 - USA
2. Isamu Yamamoto - 281 - Japan
3. Mike Osterman - 270 - USA
4. Guenter Mokulys - 263 - Germany
5. Tony Gale - 262 - England
6. Stefan "Lillis" Akesson - 261 - Sweden
7. Ryan Brynelson - 260 - Canada
8. Christian Heise - 256 / 246 - Germany
9. Matheus Navarro - 256 / 245 - Brazil
10. Per Canguru - 249 - Brazil
11. Lucio de Lima - 248 / 243 - Brazil
12. Jacob Whitt - 248 / 227 - USA
13. Marius Constantin - 246 - Romania
14. Takashi Suzuki - 245 - Japan
15. Felix Jonsson - 244 - Sweden
16. A.J. Kohn - 230 - USA
17. Bert Mathieson - 226 - USA
18. Dan Garb - 225 - USA
19. Pete Betti - 221 - USA
20. Denham Hill - 199 - England

NOTE:
Ties were broken by using the 2nd highest scoring runs.

NOTE:
There were not enough skaters registered in the LEGENDS FREESTYLE CLASSIC to hold the event this year.

HENRY CANDIOTI SKATE-4-FUN AWARD
Andy Anderson - Canada

AMBASSADORS OF FREESTYLE AWARD
A.J. Khon - USA



Derek Elliott (English Handstand) Photo: Benton Farquhar



Felix Johnson (Rail Flip Body Varial) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Bert Mathieson (English Handstand) Photo: Matheus Navarro



American Perspectives

Freestyle skateboarding has been one of the most constant things in my life. I may get busy with life and take an unofficial break from skating but I always end up coming back. The 2016 World Roundup ended my six year break from competition. Every year I would see the pictures and videos from the roundup and every year I was jealous of everyone who got to go to the competition. This year my time in the military ended only a few weeks before the competition and I decided to go. The experience was amazing and getting the chance to be around the global freestyle community was a reminder of why freestyle has been a part of my life for more than 13 years. Language and culture barriers all fall as soon as we step on a skateboard. Watching skaters of all skill levels help and support each other is always inspiring to me and I feel that approach to skating is what has made freestyle skateboarding successfully grow as a grassroots discipline in the skateboarding world.

Benton Farquhar

I love the roundup. It has so little to do with competition and so much to do with seeing old friends. I've gone on rants about that before. You can buy back issues if you really want to read that. We got to see a bunch of new folks skate the roundup this year. Dudes like Tony Gale, Brandon Ross, and Marius Constantine are just a few of the new shredders who joined the WRU club. New friends are dope.

For me, the atmosphere this year was way less tense than it was in 2015. I guess I entered last year's contest with the goal of defending a title. It sucked a lot of the fun out of it. This year was much more lax. The Roundup also felt younger. That was trippy. Freestyle isn't a young man's game. That's what the internet has been telling my friends and I since 2005. The top 5 are supposed to be seasoned pros with 20+ years of competitions under their belts. But this year I got to see Isamu – you may know him as "Amazing 12 Year Old Japanese Skateboarder" – put down at least 5 unique, flawless runs. And things only got gnarlier with the runs that Connor and Tony put down. Seeing a top five lineup mostly under 30 was really cool.

Mike Osterman

Continued...

Most calendars (Gregorian, not Hijri) reset on January 1, but for some, perhaps I'm the only one, my calendar resets at the World Round-Up. Skateboarding has been a part of my life longer than some family members, longer than the Patriot Act, and longer than most of my dearest friends. My year revolves around the Round-Up where-in the great conjunction of freestylers occurs. Many of us have "known" each other (in the internet sense, not the biblical) for 10+ years without having seen the other in person. Many may also have internet rooted loathing for another, only to come to the Round-Up and realize how much we actually love Tony Gale. Whether we like it or not, we are family. There are some genetic brothers, and there are some Eskimo brothers, but at the end of the day, we're all part of a family large enough to span the globe, but small enough for us to know each other. The Round-Up is a time, and a place for us all to come together, be merry, talk smack, party, and further spread the malignant cells of the global cancer we call Freestyle Skateboarding.

Daniel Trujillo

The night before I was flying out to this year's World Round-Up, I saw a dead bird on the ground outside of my apartment. This didn't help me cope with my fear of flying - I took this as a bad omen not to get on a plane and go to the contest. Other than a little bit of turbulence on the flight there, I made it there safely, skated my ass off for a few days, and then went home. Everything happened so fast.

Three months later, I'm hardly thinking about the actual contest and more so about the people I got to see and talk to; getting sushi with Brett Novak, drinking beer in Takashi Suzuki's hotel room, and getting the chance to meet Per Welinder. The most memorable thing was getting to session with everyone after the finals; it felt like a normal skate session where I was trying tricks that I didn't know how to do and I got to witness others do stuff that that they may have found too risky to do in their contest runs. What makes the world round-up so unique is hospitality that you receive from moment you get there - Monty and his guys do a brilliant job with making everyone feel welcome.

If you are ever debating whether to go to the world round-up or not, do your best to ignore the dead bird on the ground and head there immediately. This was the best contest that I've ever been to.

Connor R. Burke



Mike Osterman (50-50 Fingerflip) Photo: Ryan Banas



Derek Elliott (TV Stand) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Connor Burke (Nose-hook Impossible) Photo: Jim Goodrich



Darryl Grogan (Ollie 360 Fingerflip) Photo: Benton Farquhar


AJ Kohn (Pogo) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Connor Burke (Impossible) Photo: Jim Goodrich



Matheus Navarro (Tweaked No-handed 50-50) Photo: Renato Jr

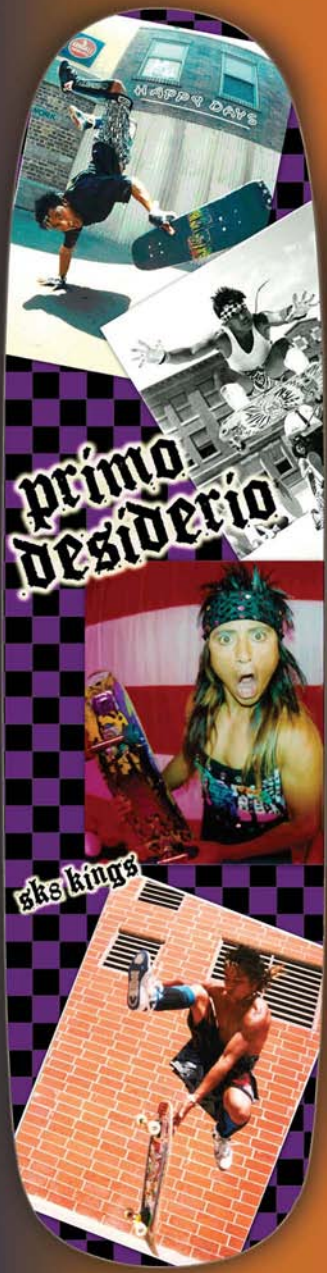
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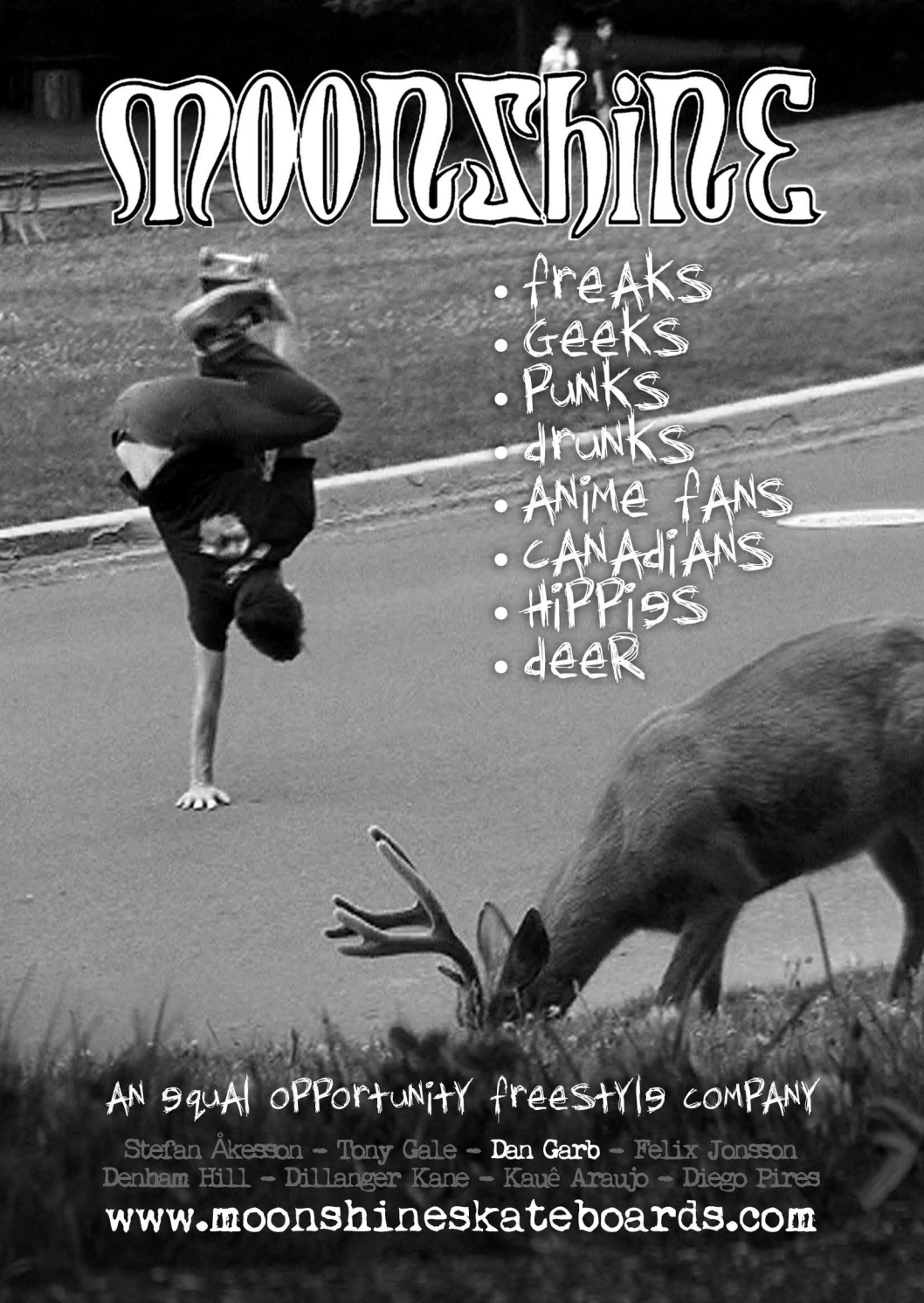




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