

Tony Hawk's Pro Skater  
Pro Skateboarder Nominations

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Non-Confidential:  
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Visitors: These are the suggestions originally posted on the THPS Nominations webpage for Planet Tony Hawk.  
Enjoy,  
Noe Valladolid

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Welcome to the Nominations Page for Tony Hawk's Pro Skater™

This page was created to help nominate pro skaters to be considered for placement in the Tony Hawk's Pro Skater videogame series.

This page was not created, nor does it reflect the opinions of Activision or Neversoft, the respective publishers and creators of the game. This is a fan site and all legal questions regarding the use of the THPS name belong to Activision. This page is only for educational purposes.

Who am I and why did I make this page?

My name is Noe Valladolid, I am the West Coast Correspondent for Planet Tony Hawk. I am the person who attends the E3 every year and brings you the news right off the show floor. I was also one of the Twelve World Finalists in the THPS2 competition in San Francisco. So I know my way around the game and I also know a little something about skateboarding.

As for why I made this page it was because of the trust Neversoft puts in the opinions of THPS game players and skateboarders whenever there is a question about the game. Whether it be soundtrack, gameplay, graphics or animation, the people at Neversoft are always listening to feedback.

During the 2001 E3 this is the direct quote that Ralph D'Amato from Neversoft told me regarding adding new pros to THPS3.

“We've got the opportunity to pick from some of the best skaters and I think that's really what it takes. You've got to be a good skater, you've got to stand your own with the other guys in the game. So anything is possible. Any old school, new school [skater].”

As a fan of skateboarding and the THPS series I decided to nominate a group of pros for consideration into the series. I created a list and have included short biographies and interesting information to those who may not be very familiar with a certain pro.

I hope you take these pros into consideration and vote accordingly for your favorite one in the Planet Tony Hawk polls. Remember that Neversoft and Activision is listening to your opinions.

You should know a few things before continuing on to the nominees on the following pages:

- The nominees are in a non-ranking order. That is my first nominee is not my best nominee and my last nominee is not my worst candidate.
- Although I am subject to my own biases and opinions I tried to be fair when nominating pros from different backgrounds and abilities.
- The pros are grouped by ability, technique and style into 9 different categories. You may find two to three pros on each page given their ability.
- The nominees are subject to my opinion and do not represent the opinions of Neversoft or Activision.
- Please forgive my ignorance, redundancy and any typos you may find.
- If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail me. My address is located at the bottom of each page.
- Biographical information and pictures are from the magazines: Big Brother, Transworld Skateboarding, Slap, Thrasher and Skateboarder. All photographs have credits.
- Yes I do realize that some of the names have already been snapped up for the other skateboarding games but I went ahead and included those names for consideration in the THPS series anyway.
- As far as I know this has never been tried before. If it works and the fan's votes get counted then we have made history with your help.
- Special thanks to Tony Hawk for being the fact-checker in the history of the 900.
- Extra special thanks to Patric R. and Eric H. for helping me with the online poll.

The First Group is made up of Mike Vallely and Ethan Fowler

The Second Group is made up of Danny Way and Andy Macdonald

The Third Group is made up of Tas Pappas, Lincoln Ueda and Rob "Sluggo" Boyce

The Fourth Group is made up of Jeremy Wray, Gershon Mosley and Kien Lieu

The Fifth Group is made up of Stevie Williams and Steve Olson

The Sixth Group is made up of Mattias Ringstrom, Colin McKay and Mike Crum

The Seventh Group is made up of Daewon Song, Ed Templeton and Willy Santos

The Eighth Group is made up of Omar Hassan, John Cardiel and Wade Speyer

The Ninth Group is made up of Tom Penny, Mark Gonzales and Lance Mountain

The Tenth Group is made up of people whom should be Hidden Characters

Nominee for the THPS Series:

### **Mike Vallely**



Mike Vallely has been a professional skater since 1986. He has toured the world over almost nonstop since that time.

So what can I tell you about Mike V that you don't already know? First off let's get his whole "image" thing sorted out.

There are a lot of posts on the internet regarding Mike Vallely as a person, both on videogame and skateboarding sites. Many of the things said about him are negative. There are rumors about what a jerk or abusive person he is online, but just about everything said like that is untrue.

What can I tell you about Mike V from experience? I know that Mike has a reputation, but it was earned through his passion of skateboarding, not because he is a mean person. I challenge anybody to meet him in person, talk to him, make some conversation and walk away with the feeling that Mike V isn't a genuine guy.

We've talked, written letters, e-mail's, shared ideas and I even challenged him a few times on his actions. He did step up to my criticisms, not by beating me up or insulting me but by talking them out. Mike does things for a reason, whether you choose to believe in the cause is entirely up to you. Mike V is misunderstood by many skaters as well as the industry as for why he skates.

Mike has contested that "skateboarding saved his life". He does not skate for fame or popularity. He does it to give back what skateboarding gave him, life. It is this life that propels him to continue touring, doing demos and meeting people.

So I suggest to his critics get in contact with him, write to him, mail him a letter. Let him know what you think, tell him your concerns or beef with him. If he's touring in your town go and watch him skate, try to meet him and talk to him before you judge him.

So with all of that said how is Mike Vallely as a professional skater and why should he be considered for the THPS Series?

Mike Vallely was one of the first street skaters to really break the established style from the early 80's. Back in a time when vert was king and freestyle was the only alternative, people like Mike V were pushing skateboarding to new levels.

The mentors of Mike were people like Mark Gonzales and Natas Kaupas, the street skaters who did things that no other skaters were trying, like handrails and freestyle tricks like kickflips on the street.

Mike carried street skating forward, defining it with power and skill. Those who have only seen Mike V from a recent contest wouldn't know the extent of his abilities. He can power through the technical flip tricks while going over a pyramid as easily as he can grab a truck crunch on a high ledge.

His skateboarding is not only powerful but stylish. He has taken elements from skateboarding in the 80's and successfully combined them with many of today's moves. Kickflip mute grab to boneless over a barrier, a Mike V original.

In addition to his street ability Mike has also been known to skate pools and vert when presented the chance. Mike is one of the most powerful skaters ever, his ability, deep bag of tricks and dedication to skateboarding should make him a heavy consideration for future THPS games.

I e-mailed Tony Hawk about how it feels to be touring on the Gigantic Skatepark Tour 2001 with Mike V after so many years (they used to be on Powell Peralta back in the day), Tony replied "It's going to be fun touring with Mike - he brings a new perspective to our lineup."

Recently I asked Tony how the tour was going and how Mike V was doing and he replied "We are now on the road and Mike V is killing it at every demo."

That is testimony from Tony himself. If Mike V were really a problematic person I doubt that Tony would have ever invited him on the tour. For many reasons I believe Mike V deserves a spot in the THPS series. For his dedication alone he deserves a spot in the series.

If you want to see videos on Mike V I recommend Black Label's Label Kills, Sponsored, a documentary on his skateboard career and Stand Strong and Drive, a road trip with Mike V.



Nominee for the THPS Series:

### **Ethan Fowler**



So is it possible to find someone who has comparable skills to Mike Vallely without the added controversy?

Although skateboarders, by definition, each have their own style an impact on the sport I believe that Ethan, by ability and approach is similar to Vallely.

Ethan Fowler is an accomplished street skater. When pressure flips and large pants were all the rage in the early 90's. Ethan was on the street skating as he always was, fast and stylish.

Ethan is one of the few who has power in his ollies, an incredible ability to kill rails and isn't scared of transitions.

Ethan has been known to skate ramps and pools as easily as he can skate street. His progression through the 90's has lead him to be one of the most well rounded, and capable skaters of today.

Touring with fellow members of the Tum Yeto family Ethan has established himself as a premier skater. While Jamie Thomas heads and represents Zero and Ed Templeton takes care of Toy Machine, Ethan is doing demos around the world and killing it for Foundation.

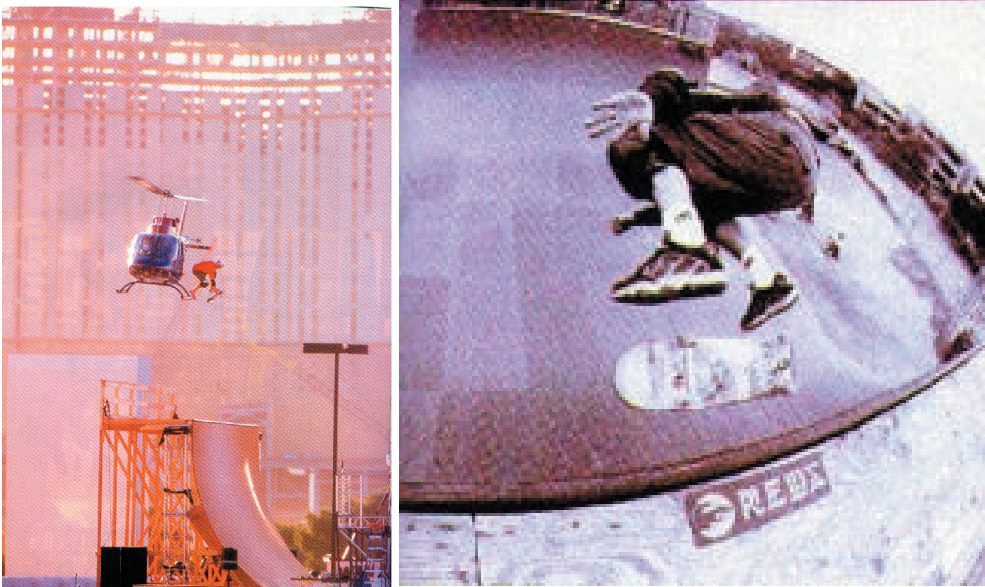
Not one to enter contests to build his name, Ethan is content with his video parts and tours that prove he has

power and ability not necessarily recognized by the world. This is why I nominate Ethan in consideration of making him a member of the THPS series.

If you would like to see more of Ethan check out the Foundation videos Art Bars: Subtitles and Seagulls and the Good Times Are Killing Me.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

### **Danny Way**



Danny Way is an absolute legend in skateboarding. He may be only familiar to the current generation of skaters as a vert-killer but Danny actually has heavy street roots.

His style and ability premiered in the Powell Peralta video Ban This along with former Powell Peralta pro Bucky Lasek. Even as a kid Danny's style and ability were evident.

His accomplishments are too many to mention. Career highlights include helping found H Street and Plan B which were then, and still, considered to be two of the best teams ever put together. Capturing the record for highest air on vert and jumping out of a helicopter on two separate occasions.

Danny has the technical ability of his friend and contemporary Colin McKay on the vert ramp and also has the ability to power heavy rotation tricks like the 720 which are rare in competition with the exception of Tony Hawk.

Danny overcame a series of debilitating injuries to his knees, shoulder and back and near paralysis which would have retired a lesser pro. Always a competitor, Danny excels at not only skateboarding but surfing, motocross and snowboarding as well.

While he was a feature skater in the THQ Skateboarding game Danny was not given the spotlight. This angered fans of Danny but he did not mind being a character under the Andy Mac title.

As competitive as Danny is he is not a fame seeker. He does not hype up every accomplishment that he has

done. he does not seek active recognition for his past but continues to skate to continue to build his quiet determined reputation.

One of the accomplishments that Danny has that not many outside of skateboarding know was the 900 he captured on film at the end of 1991. Skateboarders recognize that he was the first skateboarder to spin a 900, well before Tony Hawk in the 1999 X-Games.

If you'd like to find out more about the history of the 900, check out the Tas Pappas page.

Danny is an accomplished street as well as vert skater. His all around ability would compliment, and possibly help fill the void once held by Bob Burnquist in the all around position. Danny is admired and revered by accomplished pros like Geoff Rowley. With a numerous list of accomplishments and respect in his community Danny Way is an impressive force that should be considered seriously.

I present my nomination for the THPS series. I hope you take the accomplishments into consideration as well as the often overlooked talent of Danny Way.

If you'd like to learn more about Danny Way and see a collection of some of his best video parts check out the premiere issue of ON Video Magazine. It covers many of his Plan B, Powell Peralta, H Street as well as recent video.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

**Andy Macdonald**



As for the person whom Danny Way skated under in the “other” skateboarding game. May I suggest Andy Macdonald as another nominee?

Andy Mac has been skateboarding for more than 15 years. He’s spent 10 of those years teaching kids how to skate at Woodward skatecamp.

Having a decade’s worth of practise at the premiere skatecamp was considered an unfair advantage when Andy decided to enter competition. Andy is one of the few pros who admits to training for contests. However Andy is a talented all-around skater and gripes by those outside of the skate community can go unchecked.

One of the things that Neversoft, and Tony Hawk, look for as cantidates for the series is ability. What other skaters in the world are talented enough, have earned the respect from their peers and are not neccessarily the most popular skaters out there to be included in the THPS series.

Andy has been a featured skater in the Gravity Games and X-Games. He has his vert, street and pool tricks wired, he is 15 years dedicated and counting and would be a strong cantidate to fill out an All Around spot in the



THPS series.

To see more of Andy Mac check out his parts in the Bones Class of 2000 video, the Gravity Games Summer videos and 411VM #15 and #47.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Tas Pappas**



Tas Pappas is the vert terror from down under. Older brother of street and vert skater Ben Pappas, Tas has an absolute affinity for vert skating.

While his name may not be familiar to those just getting into the vert world he made his presence felt years ago when he won the World Championship and Triple Crown Series from Tony Hawk in 1996.

Tas was only 21 years old then.

So what happened to this one-time world champ?

A series of injuries, including blowing out both knees, a lower back injury that could have paralyzed him and almost losing an eye in a stairway fall just about broke Tas physically and mentally.

Tas lost his board sponsor and began a long road to recuperation. An eye operation, that included placing a plastic lens in the back of the eye so Tas could see again helped with his vision problems. Tas had knee surgery and worked with physical therapists on his back injury. What Tas thought to be a minor problem turned out to be something serious.

Tas had suffered a Stage 4 back injury. By Stage 6 you are completely paralyzed. It was through a trainer that Tas was able to get his back in working order and begin his long climb back to the top.

In 1997 Tas was ranked 44th in world competition. Through his hard work and long recuperation process Tas had climbed to 3rd place in 1999 rankings.

So how would I describe his skating? Tas is one of the rare breed who not only has technical ability but he also can go big in his runs. Even back in 96 Tas was throwing down technical lines that included 7 foot kickflip indys and 8 foot 540's. Today he's busting out progressive tricks like nollie flip indy 360's and kickflip varial 360's.

The other thing that Tas is known for were his heavy rotation tricks. 540 variations and even 720 spins. Plus Tony Hawk acknowledged that Tas is one of the few in the world that have enough rotation to do the 900. Tas has spun a few but was not invited into the best trick competition at the 99 X-Games. Tas said that he would have attempted the 9 but it was okay that he wasn't in. He agrees that Tony deserved the chance more than he

did. Humility is something lacking in many pros, not Tas Pappas.

Tas has continued his progression smoothly after his injuries and is throwing down technical lines in competition that rival those of people like Bucky Lasek and Colin McKay. Plus add his ability to go huge and stylish like Rune Glifberg and we are watching one of the unrecognized greats coming back into his own.

I nominate Tas Pappas highly for a spot in the THPS series and I hope that fans of the game and of skateboarding will join me in making Tas a name heard in the offices at Neversoft.

If you would like to see footage of Tas Pappas, he was profiled in 411VM #2, and has parts in most of the recent contest videos from 411. Plus a full part in the new video The Brutal Truth.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Lincoln Ueda**



Lincoln Ueda is an irresistible presence on the halfpipe. He goes bigger than any pro in competition or in practice. He has as much drive and talent as his Brazilian friends Sandro Dias and Bob Burnquist. And best of all he is probably one of the most sincere skaters to hit the scene in a long time.

When it comes to progression Lincoln is right up there with Bob. Having arrived to the US a few years ago Lincoln was never seen as a contemporary for Bob. Instead Lincoln was one of the few vert guys who threw as much air into their runs as technical progression.

Lincoln was pulling one foot smith grinds right along Bob years ago as well as flying high with guys like Danny Way, Neil Hendrix and Sergie Ventura. Growing up admiring Christian Hosoi's style, power and high airs Lincoln not only emulated the style but added his own ability to throw flip tricks into his mix.

Perhaps the biggest compliments come from Tony Hawk, who has written of Lincoln a few times in [Club Tony Hawk](#). The first quote comes from an interview Tony conducted for ESPN.



“I did an interview with Lincoln Ueda about him being one of the last guys to consistently go big. He seems to be carrying the torch left by Christian Hosoi as one of the most exciting and constantly airborne skaters. Lincoln made reference to both Christian and Sergie as being influences in his early years of skating. He has transcended simply going high by adding some technical tricks to his airtime. He always gets the crowd stoked, and he’s always smiling. I just don’t understand how he does kickflips with size 5 feet.”

Being grouped with the founding fathers of modern vert skating, Hawk, Hosoi and Ventura is a plus in the resume of Lincoln.

His ability above all else, literally, “above all else” are the incredible airs Lincoln is capable of. Tony Hawk wrote about Lincoln and the high air contest at the MTV Sports and Music Festival.

During practice Tony made this observation on the monster ramp. “ I later saw Lincoln bailing what were estimated to be 18+’ methods. He made one that looked somewhere in the 17’ range.” But during the contest nerves seem to have gotten the better of Lincoln. “Danny made a 14’6” method, but his board was over 16’. Lincoln probably would have tied him, but he bailed all of his high ones.”

The magazines Thrasher and Transworld skateboarding would say that the weekend after the high air contest was over Lincoln would be pulling the highest airs ever in best trick.



To give you a rough idea as to how high Lincoln was going during the best trick I looked up old Quicktime footage of Danny Way and his Guinness Record high air of 16’6”. Using Photoshop I tried to match the ramp, ramp deck, width, coping and angle size between his high air and that of Lincoln at the MTV S&M Festival. While this is not an exact comparison, and something that would never qualify for a book of records, I wanted

the reader to see that Lincoln himself is capable of the monstrous air that Danny Way holds the record for.

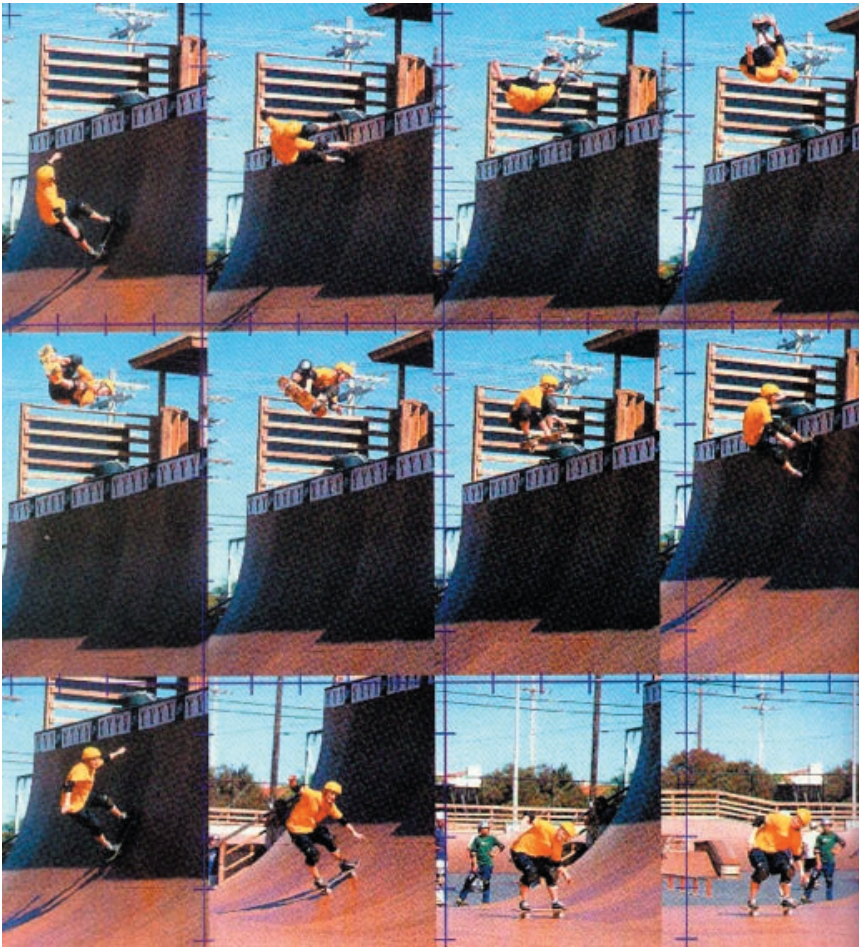
So is it a matter of time before Danny Way's record air falls? Probably, and the person to watch will be Lincoln. In the meantime Lincoln should not be considered for a spot in the THPS series because of his high airs. When his technical and switch merits come into play he is truly a standout vert gem. It just shines brighter the higher he goes.

Lincoln has been a featured skater in both the Gravity Games and the X-Games. Most recently he has been a featured skater in Konami's X-Games Skateboarding. C'mon guys, let's vote to put him in a better game.

To see more of Lincoln see his cameo at Bob Burnquist's ramp in Digital Skateboarding #5 and a short clip in the MTV Backyard vert contest in 411VM #46 and Europe 98.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Rob “Sluggo” Boyce



Sluggo will be a legend to vert skating long after many pros go into obscurity. He has contributed as much into vert skateboarding as any pro, and then some. Sluggo represents the longevity and power it takes to rule vertical skateboarding.

Known for his powerful runs in contests and videos Sluggo is never one to back down from a challenge. Progression was his strength years ago when he started skateboarding. Back when skateboarding was a rebellious activity and not very popular. Sluggo survived the rise and fall of skateboarding in the 80's. Sluggo survived the holocaust that almost wiped out all vert skaters in the 90's. Sluggo survived to see skateboarding come back into it's own.

All the while Sluggo progressed. Being known best for his mastery of the rotation tricks Sluggo absolutely has Cab and 540 variials dialed. He's stomped down some 720's and was even one of the few vert guys to attempt a 900. He had the rotation and Tony Hawk would testify to that, but couldn't stomp one down.

Sluggo also introduced the backflip into vert skating. Having some snowboarding roots, Sluggo was a natural at doing Rodeo Flips and Backflips on the slopes and it helped him bring those skills to the ramp. He influenced Canadian skaters like Colin McKay and Moses Ikonen. Being the most senior member of the infamous "Red Dragons" Sluggo is admired by his peers not only for his ability to compete at a high level, but for his longevity and innovation in a young person's game. If power, longevity and skills are requirements for being a candidate for the THPS series Sluggo has them all in spades. This is why I nominate him for consideration for being in the

future lineup.

To see more of Sluggo check out the 411VM Slam City Jam videos and the RDS Video.



## The History of the 900



Left to Right: Danny Way, Giorgio Zattoni, Rob "Sluggo" Boyce and Tas Pappas

If you think that the 900 was thought up and then executed in the spur of the moment at the 1999 X-Games by Tony Hawk then you are mistaken. The 900 is, perhaps, the most elusive vert trick in skateboarding, however it does have an extensive history.

For as long as vert skaters have been able to pull rotations in transitions, there has always been a challenge to spin faster and higher.

Steve Caballero invented the frontside arial 360 back in the late 70's. An arial 360 was unheard of and the move was dubbed the Caballerial. By 1983 Mike McGill learned the 540 by watching roller skater Fred Blood do one. Later Mike pulled the first inverted 540 at Del Mar in a contest. It was dubbed the McTwist. Tony Hawk learned the 540 about two months later and began spinning 720's by 1986.

It was in France in 86 that Tony decided to try a 900 by approaching the ramp as fast as he could and trying to spin a high 540 and then winding up another 360. He missed the rotation and slammed. He stopped trying a spin that crazy for a while. But demos and time persisted and Tony would try and spin the 9 at the end of his demos when it didn't matter if he bailed or not. Tony would get the rotation but would always chicken out and never try and stick the landing.

This went on and on for years. A few of the talented vert stars who were great at rotation tricks began chasing the elusive 9. Danny Way, the phenom, was spinning 720's as consistently as Tony at the same age. He first spun a 900 in an H-Street video back in 1991. He made the rotation but fell on the flat bottom. But thanks to Danny, it proved to the world that the 900 was possible.

In 1996 Tony committed himself to spinning a 900 at an ASR Trade Show in Long Beach. He had a solid rotation but bailed and smashed his shin. As he was recovering he decided to actively pursue the 900, as did the rest of the vert community.

Tas Pappas began attempts at the 9 in 1996 but stopped for a while because of his injuries. Tas began spinning 9's again in 1999 and still has problems sticking them on the wall. He continues to spin them in the hopes of becoming an acknowledged member of the 900 club. Rob Boyce can also spin the 9 but the beast of landing it made his moment of fame come and go.

In 1997 Rob "Sluggo" Boyce called on photographers and filmers to the YMCA to watch him spin and land the 900. Tony went, hoping that Sluggo would kill the beast that eluded him so. But bail after bail kept Sluggo from

sticking it for the camera. He was so close and yet so far. When Tony landed the 9 in the 1999 X-Games Sluggo decided to stop trying and give Tony the credit for being able to do a trick that was not only difficult for a select few, but an absolute terror to the mind and body.

Tony has acknowledged that Giorgio Zattoni and young phenom Richard Lopez are two other talented vert skaters who have the rotation for the 9. Giorgio is a long time vert pro despite his young age. The brother of street skater Gianni Zattoni, Giorgio is a well rounded vert ripper and great at rotation tricks.

Richard Lopez on the other hand is an even younger vert ripper. Tony discovered him during one of his skatepark tours. Richard was a local hero and had a claim to also have landed a 900. So Tony and the visiting pros pooled some money together to see Richard pull the 900. Tony stated that Richard did indeed have the rotation, but did not carve far enough on the ramp to land it while he was visiting. After a few attempts Richard stopped but the pros gave him half the money for proving he had the spin down and all he needed was work on his landings.

This is the condensed history of the 900. Credit from skaters goes to Danny for being the first to spin it and show it could be done. Tony has acknowledged that he isn't the sole 900 spinner, the one who has landed it clean, yes, but he's also member of a club that includes Tas, Danny, Giorgio, Sluggo and Richard. The people dedicated to wrecking themselves in the pursuit of the 9. To read more on the history of the 900 read the Tony Hawk autobiography.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Jeremy Wray**



Jeremy Wray is one of those quiet people who lets his skateboarding do all of the talking.

Jeremy appeared in the mid 90's and has been a contributing member of some of the most influential skateboard teams ever. Once a rider for Danny Way's team Plan B, Jeremy now rides for Element with other legends like Natas Kaupas.

Known mostly for his incredible power Jeremy has taken the power of his ollie to make gaps that were previously thought impossible. But Jeremy is not just an ollie machine, he was also one of the switchstance and progressive technical street skaters who left the contest circuit behind.

Jeremy is a rarity. He, like Jamie Thomas, spends most of his time skating and filming and choosing not to enter in contests. Jeremy is one of the skaters whose influence is felt even if you realize it or not. He is responsible for filming 411 parts that have pushed street skating to lean away from pressure flips and late flips and concentrate on a variety of things. The way we perceive ledges, gaps, transitions and rails has at one point or another been influenced by Jeremy.

Yes Jeremy is one of those rare street skaters that isn't scared of transitions and can hold his own on a mini ramp, pool or halfpipe. Jeremy has built his name because he chooses to keep his skateboarding secretive, appearing on tours and in video but seemingly being hard to pin down to a specific spot or park. It is Jeremy's ability and humility that makes him a candidate for the THPS series.

To see more of Jeremy check out the Element tour videos. Also be sure to check out his part in the Adio video







One Step Beyond.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Stevie Williams



Stevie Williams is possibly the East Coast's most technical and stylish skateboarder.

Hailing from Philadelphia where his talented friend Josh Kalis and other talented rippers like Kerry Getz, Mike Maldonado and Bam Margera cut their teeth learning tech and switch on the ledges of Love Park where Stevie absolutely rules.

A member of the Chocolate skateboard team Stevie has established himself as one of the best pros on the team as well as Chocolate's sister team Girl.

Stevie had gained a reputation for his street ability while he was still an amateur. Well before there was a Lil' B (Brandon Turner from Shorty's) There was a Lil' Stevie from Girl. When Stevie grew up he was placed on the Chocolate team given his ability he would be one of the strongest members of the young team.

In video parts and reputation Stevie has not let fans of skateboarding down. Easily one of the most gifted skaters ever to have a video part Stevie makes the technical, switch ledge tricks look easy.

Stevie has one of the best personalities for pros and has said in interviews that he understands the role of the pro

skater in skateboarding.

While it isn't necessarily about contests, he is out there promoting his sponsors by pursuing video parts and photo shoots.

All the time Stevie seeks coverage and films he builds his and his team's name as a professional whose ability has to be seen to be believed.

I nominate Stevie for a place in THPS where I think he would hold his own against the best street skaters already in the game.

If you would like to see more of Stevie Williams you can see his parts in the Chocolate videos The Chocolate Tour and Las Nueve Vidas De Paco. As well as in the Transworld's skateboarding video The Reason.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

**Steve Olson**



In all honesty this spot should be more of an accurate reflection of someone who has more of the super-technical skills that mirror Stevie. Someone like Aaron Snyder or Peter Smolik. Based on personality alone Steve should be in the group with Jeremy, Gershon and Kien.

But there was a reason that Chad Muska choose Steve to be the very first member on his team. Steve is the kind of person who is actively changing the way we see street skating in his own quiet way. Not unlike how Stevie is directly influencing street skating.

Judging from his early sponsor me footage (which appears in Fulfill The Dream) it was apparent at an early age that Steve had the drive, ability and style to be one of the most progressive and talented skateboarders ever.

Steve gets video parts and coverage without actively pursuing them. Most of the tour articles with the Shorty's team attribute Steve's ability to his personality. He is easy going, intellectual and it is reflected in the way he skates. Natural ability combined with style and focus.



He acts as the team doctor and always is willing to share his food or books with whomever he's touring with. Despite this laid back behavior Steve is as dedicated professional as I've seen in years. He is focused at the task, whether it be rails, ledges, parks or demos and always seems to let his natural ability show.

While Steve may be younger than the other pros in consideration for the spot in THPS I believe that he has the ability, talent and wisdom to carry his career for many more years.

To see more of Steve Olson check out his parts in the Shorty's Hardware, Guilty and Fulfill The Dream videos.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

### **Gershon Mosley**



Gershon is easily one of the most gifted street skaters ever. In fact, I have yet to see a video part in which he was not absolutely killing it and holding his own against other pros.

Once a member of the A-Team led by Rodney Mullen, Gershon toured the world bringing his own powerful and

graceful style of skating with him wherever he went. When technical and stylish pros Dave Mayhew and Marc Johnson are your teammates it is difficult to stand out. But Gershon did stand out from a team of different styles and techniques.

Whether on a ledge, rail or quarterpipe Gershon always skated to the best of his abilities while on the road. He has a solid foundation in switchstance and technical skating. Gershon does not enter contests but like Wray lets his video parts and coverage do all the talking for him.

Remember that contest rankings is not an accurate measure of a skater's ability. Many professional skaters choose to shy away from television and sometimes even videos to work on their skating. Gershon is an avid filmer but not a competitor even though he is definitely schooled in what it takes to be a world level skater.

To answer redundant questions, yes Gershon can do handrails, ledges, transitions and flip tricks. The three names on this page are all well rounded skaters with worthy street cred.

If you'd like to see more of Gershon check out the 411 VM #28, The Friends video, Transworld's The Reason, the Globe Opinion video and look for an upcoming Blind video with Gershon.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Kien Lieu**



Kien Lieu is Mr. Ollie. “The Donger” is his nickname and he is known for his massive pop.

While the kids who believe only what they read in magazines about contests would think that Danny Wainright, Reese Forbes, Rob Gonzales and Stacy Lowrey are in descending order the highest ollie champions. Let me tell you that the Donger was not made for sanctioned events.

He has been recorded in photos and videos ollieing heights that you could not imagine. In fact he has been known to ollie over cars when they get in the way.

But the amazing power of his ollie is not the only thing that makes him a pro. Kien is an established, consummate professional. He has toured the world over, and like Jeremy and Gershon, Kien absolutely rules at demos.

For more than a decade Kien has toured with his Dynasty team and tending to shy away from competitions and television appearances.

Again, a quiet person who lets his skating talk for him. The Donger has technical ability, power and style that must be seen to be believed. Based on his dedication to skateboarding, his ability and proven performance Kien would make a great addition to the THPS series.

To see more of Kien and the Dynasty team check out 411 VM #37.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Mattias Ringstrom**



For those of you who are only familiar with Rune Glifberg as the only European Vert star let me introduce you to Mattias Ringstrom. He hails from Sweden and is possibly the most technical vert skater ever.

He is sometimes thought of as the Daewon Song of vert skateboarders. Putting flip tricks and combinations into his runs that are done by practically nobody else.

Mattias first made his presence felt in America about 6 years ago. His early sponsor Chapman recognized his talent and brought him over to the states. He currently rides for World Industries and can hold his own among accomplished teammates Rob “Sluggo” Boyce and Mike Crum.

Mattias has an absolute foundation in the flip tricks and has accomplished just about all of the flip combinations you can think of and some of the vert tricks you never thought possible. Heelflip varial cabs, no handed front foot impossible, no handed vert Casper, as well as varial heelflip to fakies are some of the amazing things he can

do.

More impressive is the fact that he can do the technical tricks that give Tony Hawk problems. Tony has only done the Kickflip McTwist twice in his career, they are that difficult and frustrating for the Birdman. However Mattias has accomplished this feat a number of times as well as other difficult flip, rotation grabs that have been made popular by skaters like Bucky Lasek only recently.

Mattias has been at it for a while now and his technical ability above the lip is almost unrivaled. I say unrivaled because at the lip trick people like Colin McKay really shine, doing tricks that are difficult for other talented pros to do.

But I digress. While Mattias is an absolute master of technical vert skating he does lack many street skills. Although I do not hold this against him I know his ability on the ramp is more than enough to put him in the running for the THPS series.

Mattias is my nomination for the THPS series. He is a strong vert presence and would compliment the other vert characters in the game nicely.

If you would like to see some of the amazing things that Mattias is capable of check out 411VM 28, The Bones Bearing Video Class of 2000 or Osiris The Storm.



Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Mike Crum**



Mike Crum was one of the talented vert flippers who was a foundation for modern vert skating in the early 90's. When vert has all about died in the mid 90's it was people like Mike Crum who continued to keep it alive, and furthermore, push vert skating into the technical and switch world that we know it today.

Mike is one of the pioneers of switch stance technical tricks and it is performing these risky tricks in competition that has earned him a solid reputation. Along with Sluggo and Mattias, Crum is the driving force behind the World Industries vert talent.

Many vert pros today would credit Mike for pushing vert skating to what it is today, heavily influencing pros to try more technical and progressive lines in contests as well as video parts. It may be hard to think of a time when vert skating wasn't as technical as it is today. But before Mike switchstance runs and flip tricks were few and far between on vert. Mike was one of the skaters who really pushed for more street-oriented flip tricks on vert and then went one step further by going for switch flip tricks on vert.

Mike is a very talented technical vert skater that has progressed and pushed vert skating in general to progress with him. Thus making him my nomination for the THPS series.

If you'd like to see more of Mike Crum check out the Big Brother videos Boob, Number Two and Crap.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

### **Colin McKay**



Colin McKay has absolutely been pushing technical vert skating for years. But what many may not know is that Colin is an accomplished street skater as well. A contemporary of Danny Way, Colin was seen destroying street and vert parts in this Plan B parts.

With more than a decade's worth of experience under his belt Colin quickly moved up in the ranks of the vert community to be one of the top skaters ever. His ability to come up with lip tricks and combinations that can virtually be done by no one else makes him stand out from his peers.

Based on his technical ability alone Colin should be a strong candidate for the THPS series. Throw in the fact that he is also a great street skater and we certainly have someone who is capable to cover both bases not unlike Danny Way or Bob Burnquist.

Colin did have a spot in the Andy Mac game, which is why I nominate him for a more widely accepted game. He certainly is talented enough to hold his own in the THPS world.

If you want to see more of Colin check out the Plan B videos, Virtual Reality and Second Hand Smoke as well as the recent RDS video. Colin is also a featured skater in the X-Games and Gravity Games.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Daewon Song



Hopefully you have seen video of what Daewon is capable of. A master of the technical, Daewon makes the most difficult lines look easy.

Skating for more than a Decade, Daewon took technical street skating and pushed it into almost absurd levels. Not only a master of the technical, Daewon was an early adopter of switch skating to compliment his ability.

Readily apparent that he was a standout in the early World Industries, a video showing his ability rivaled that of Rodney Mullen. And at that time Rodney was considered untouchable by his peers, let alone a new generation of skaters younger and less experienced.

In the first Rodney versus Daewon video it was Daewon who had to leave his mark on the skateboarding community. Rodney already had an incredible reputation not only for his freestyle ability but for being the foundation of modern street skating. Daewon was demonstrating his ability to take street skating to new levels, never before thought of by even people like Rodney.

Daewon proved himself the technical equal of Rodney in Round 1 and 2. And has since gone on to inspire and set the standard by which technical and difficult tricks are measured. Whether it's table stacking, roofgap transfers and even the occasional transition skating Daewon is there to meet the challenge.

Until recently the advantage was given to Mullen because he was not only a great street skater but also the greatest freestyler ever. Thus having two disciplines of skateboarding under his belt. Daewon stepped up and added transition skating to his resume, and while he's no Mattias, Daewon is quickly learning and improving his skateboarding in disciplines other than street.

One of the featured skaters in the Sony game Grind Session Daewon earned his ranking with established world champions Willy Santos and Ed Templeton. I believe his abilities should be carried over into the THPS Series where he does have the ability to stand his own against the other pros already in the game.

Daewon is my strongest nomination for THPS street skaters. I believe he has proven himself a capable pro and would be a welcome addition to the series.

If you would like to see more on Daewon I recommend the videos Rodney vs. Daewon Round 1 and 2. Transworld's I.E. And the DecaVision video.



Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Ed Templeton**



Ed Templeton is one of the most creative people ever to step on a board. He is a World Champion skateboarder so his contest record is undeniable.

Ed first appeared when the era of pressure flips and late flips was beginning to take off. What separated Ed from his contemporaries is his ability to be as technical as any street skater, he has performed every flip combination imagined, including some moves you never thought possible, as well as being a handrail and park killer.

Ed's toured all over the world with his teammates on Toy Machine. His skateboarding is not only known because of contests but because of his progressive filmed parts in videos like Welcome to Hell and Jump Off A Building.

These videos helped push the filming to higher qualities and also forced contemporaries to go bigger and more technical in their stunts. Guys like Chad Muska and Jamie Thomas cut their teeth and built their names while on

Toy Machine. Both of course went on to do their own big thing.

But what about Ed Templeton? Ed still gets tech on the rails and tours around the world with his team bringing ability and experience with him wherever he goes.

In a generation of skaters that went from super tech flip tricks to handrails Ed has managed to keep his skating fresh and constant. Never falling behind the pack or the latest skaters Ed has managed to hold his own for years.

On top of everything Ed is also a World Champion street skater. I believe Ed is qualified to hold his own in the THPS series on all of his street qualifications.

To see more of Ed check out 411 VM #30 and the Toy Machine videos.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Willy Santos



What another world champ? That's right, Willy Santos, who has as much street cred as any pro street skater out there is also a rare World Champion.

Willy has let his skateboarding do the talking for him since day one. A member of the Birdhouse team, Willy is in the company of some of the best street skaters ever.

One of the first street skaters to go technical on handrails and ledges Willy built his name by being able to keep progressing on many terrain's.

Willy has switch technical ability and one of the cleanest styles ever. Known for making the flip tricks look easy he has taken that style on the road and wowed thousands of kids in demos over the years and the judges in competition.

Willy earned a spot in Grind Session based on his ability and street cred. A long time established pro, not many pros have had as long a career without having any sign of slow down. Santos is gifted if not lucky in those aspects.

Always on the edge of street style Santos has managed some of the best if not widely recognized video parts in skating history.

It was his ability that drew Tony Hawk to make Willy the very first pro skater that he hired on Birdhouse. Willy has continued touring and shooting parts for Birdhouse for almost ten years.

In addition to being an absolute master of street skating Willy also has some history with vert skating. In fact up until recently Willy was a regular on the very ramp. But chronic ankle pain kept Santos from hitting the halfpipe as often as he'd like.

If you'd like to see more of Willy check out his part in the Birdhouse video The End and Bones Class of 2000.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Omar Hassan



Omar Hassan is an all around skater who excels at not only vert and street skating but pool skating as well.

Omar has killed some hefty ledges and rails. The big kinked rails that few of the best rail skaters tackle are taken care of by Omar. Boardslide, 50-50 or 5-0 on killer rails come to him as easily as 540's come to Tony Hawk.

In fact, the rarity in Omar's ability to skate vert and street is not that special when he's in the running with people like Colin McKay and Danny Way as my other nominations.

So what makes Omar special? I'd have to say his ability to skate pools. Transition skating varies from ramp to pool. In vert ramps skaters have the chance to set up tricks on the flat and go wall to wall. Pool skating offers a completely new approach to transition skating.



Instead of just being locked into the back and forth motion of vert skating, pool skaters have the ability to grind and slide around the pool coping as well as using the walls of the pool in a three-dimensional transition.

Pool skating takes discipline. Having the ability to carve around the wall, control your board and stick tricks is extremely difficult. Omar can not only get technical in the pool he can also go big.

In contests around the world with some of the best pool skaters ever Omar is a standout. He has his inverts, tail taps and ollie to fakies dialed. But he also reaches into the bag of tricks he's picked up from vert and street skating.

Omar has pulled 540's in the bowl, kickflip indy's over pool spines and a host of other vert and street big gun tricks in the pool.

While these accomplishments may not sound like much you have to consider that some of the best skaters ever are also pool skaters. Steve Caballero, Rune Glifberg and Bob Burnquist are three big names who can skate pool.

But when you can stand out from the above three names and absolutely rule pool skating, not just in America but around the world, in the way that Omar does you have to give him credit.

In the early 90's when vert was dying and street was beginning to explode on the scene. People who could go big and technical in both aspects were looked up to.

People like Danny Way became sensations for what they were able to do on the ramp, on the street, over huge gaps and rails.

Omar became a name back in the early 90's and was considered the rare contemporary of Danny Way. He was and is that good for his ability to go up against Danny in vert and street competitions.

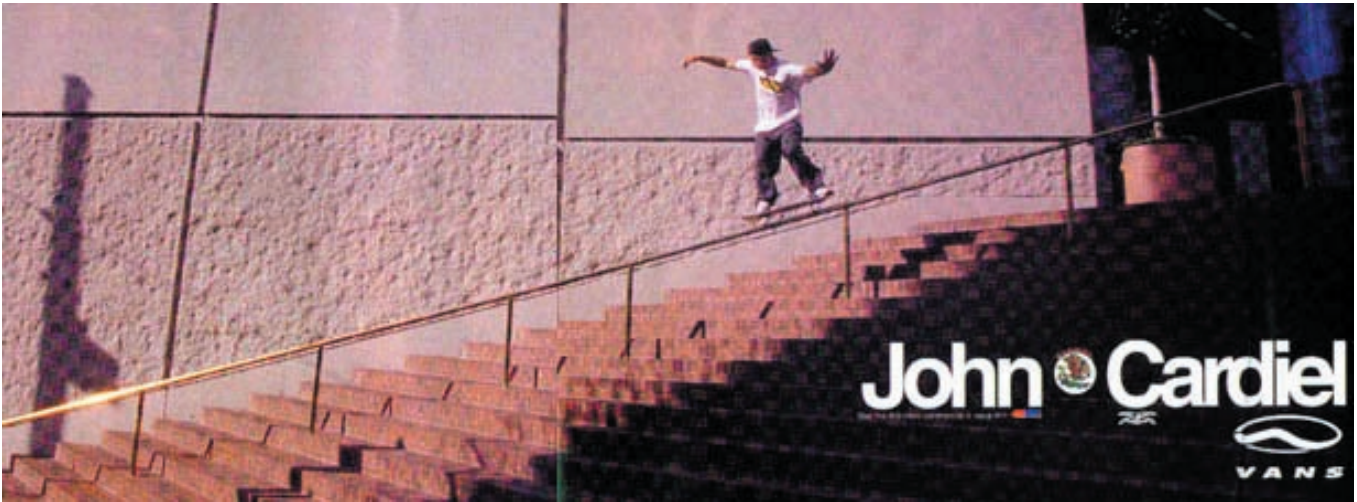
Omar has been competing in vert contests for a decade, always progressing and being able to maintain a high level of skating even compared to the newest and best pros of today.

However it is Omar's ability to rule pool skating that separates him from Danny, and other all around skaters.

In my opinion this gives Omar an even bigger advantage as being considered and All Around skater than anyone else nominated for the THPS series.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## John Cardiel



John Cardiel skates with as much fire, if not more, than Omar Hassan. Between John and Omar a contest can go either way depending on the judges.

John has absolutely been terrorizing streets, ramps, pools, you-name-it for almost 15 years. Skating with raw power and speed John tackles transitions as hard as he tackles rails and ledges.

John goes big each and every time he skates. He isn't scared of getting technical either. "Cards" as he's known can kickflip melon a wall at Burnside just as easy as he can switch 50-50 a double kinked rail in San Francisco.

I feel strongly that Cards is qualified to be in the THPS series. He is an accomplished and established pro that has been killing it for years and is easily a contemporary of Omar and more so because of his style and ability.

Comparing the skating of Cards to Omar is night and day. Each one has their strengths and weaknesses. But neither budes an inch when it comes to ability.

Rodney versus Daewon? Nah, in the perfect THPS world I'd like to see Cards versus Omar. But it won't happen without your votes. So please let the people at Neversoft know that Cards and Omar need some serious consideration for the series.

If you'd like to see more of John Cardiel check out his part in the Antihero videos, The DELUXE video and the Transworld video Sight Unseen.

"I wish I had Cardiel's style a little more. I wish I could fall like Cardiel falls. There's only one Cardiel... He's found himself as Cardiel, and he's gnarlier than anyone. John's in his own world, doing his own thing, and I think that's what everyone should be doing."

- Omar Hassan

Big Brother Magazine Oct. 2001

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Wade Speyer



Okay, let's say you cannot decide between John and Omar. Who the heck is left that can skate with as deep a bag of tricks as either?

Wade Speyer is your man. He goes fast, he goes big and he can get technical. Wade has been known to tackle rails and ramps. But just like Cards and Omar he is also known as one of the highest caliber pool skaters in the world.

Wade is a member of the "Blue Collar" Black Label team along with Omar. However Wade really earns his Blue Collar title because he is also a truck driver.

Wade has been skating fast and reckless for more than a decade but also has the recognition of his fellow pros in everything he skates.

He's toured with Tony Hawk, Christian Hosoi and Omar Hassan. He's motocrossed with Danny Way. Wade's been everywhere from Japan to France and all points in between. Just like Omar he can kill a pool a ramp and a rail. Just like Cards he has the approval from his fellow pros even if you've never heard of him.

How is his contest ability? Wade's beaten out Cards, Omar and a dozen of the worlds greatest skaters in the world premier bowl contest at Marseilles. Not bad for a truck driver, family man and one of the most powerful skaters ever.

If you simply could not choose between Cards or Omar yet still wanted a powerful skater to be in the ranks of the THPS series may I suggest Wade Speyer.

To see more of Wade Speyer and Omar Hassan check out the new Black Label video Label Kills.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Tom Penny**



There has been no skater in recent memory that compares to the almost mythical Tom Penny.

Hailed as possibly the best skater ever by people like Chad Muska, Geoff Rowley, Elissa Steamer and Andrew Reynolds (hmm, all pros from the THPS series). Tom Penny is a certified skateboard enigma.

Penny hails from England and is good friends with Geoff Rowley and Rune Glifberg, the three along with Ali Boulala were the founding members of Flip.

Tom first appeared back in 94 along with Geoff and both quickly made their presence felt in contests and videos. In fact, Penny's video parts were so revolutionary seven years ago that to this day they could still hold their own to any great part from 411.

Penny became notorious in contests for being able to put together flawless, stylish, technical runs with almost no warm up time. As much as he was admired by his contemporaries he also frustrated them.



Tom could not only show up to a contest and dominate it with one run, but he was also known for showing up at spots made famous in videos and destroying them with technical tricks on his first or second attempt.

An absolute natural at skateboarding Tom was eating up stairs, ledges, rails and gaps at an alarming rate. And then suddenly, as quickly as he exploded on the scene, he disappeared.

Tom shied away from the limelight, the fans declaring him the greatest ever and the pressures of the contest circuit and sponsor requests.

Penny moved back to England in 97 and has since lived there and France. He didn't stop skateboarding as many speculated, but continued doing his own thing, learning as he went along.

Tom is such a gifted skater that many times he learns new tricks without having the terminology down. He'll do a trick and ask his friends what he just did and they'll tell him something like "that's a fakie inward heelflip" and Penny will reply "Oh, okay. I can do fakie inward heelflips now." Penny has solid technical and switch abilities on the street and on the ramp. In fact the second time Penny ever dropped in on a vert ramp he was already spinning fakie 540's.

Bucky Lasek once bragged to Tony Hawk that he was going to "Pull a Penny" at a contest. To do so Bucky would have had to have a flawless first run filled with the hardest tricks he's ever done and skate right through the exit doors without coming back for the other two runs. Tom won a contest that way and seemingly disappeared without even collecting his trophy.

Needless to say Bucky needed all three runs to win because he could not stick his hardest tricks. Proving that it isn't easy for even the best pro to win a contest in the ease as which people like Penny had done.

One thing that amazes me is that Penny was not in the first or second THPS. It might have caused a stir having that many members of Flip in one game, but truth be told they really are that good and Penny should certainly be a strong contender for the series.

To see footage of Penny you should see The Transworld video Uno, or Anthology (which replays Tom's bit from Uno with additional commentary) and Etnies High Five which is also reprised in 411 Best of 6 along with Geoff Rowley footage.



Nominee for the THPS Series:

## Mark Gonzales



I feel like a blasphemer for putting Mark Gonzales and Tom Penny on equal footing. Based on his contributions to skateboarding no one even comes close to beating the Gonz.

But I am not rating the skaters based solely on history, but on ability. There are no two skaters in the world that are better than Mark Gonzales or Tom Penny, when it comes to natural ability that is.

What makes Mark and Penny stand out from their peers is their natural ability. A pro skater earns his rank from the time he invests in skating. The touring, the demos, the videos and contests all add up. The fact that Mark has invented his fair share of tricks and introduced the world to handrails and ledges way back in the day makes him a certifiable legend.

But what groups Penny and The Gonz in the same boat is their approach to skateboarding. The tricks and stunts that pros do are hard. By definition pros do technical, stylish and difficult stunts with greater ease than the average skateboarder. What separates Penny and The Gonz from the pros though is their ability to make even the hardest trick or stunt look easy.

That's style my friends. Making ledges, rails, flips or gaps look natural and almost too easy has been Mark Gonzales job for more than 15 years. While other pros were busy trying to figure out how kickflips work the Gonz was bombing hills and busting huge gaps with a kickflip thrown in for good measure.

Some skaters are locked into categories. Street, technical, switch, vert, pool, handrail, ledge, etc... but the Gonz defies all of the categories and is just as comfortable skating pools as handrails. To say that Mark Gonzales is a candidate for an All Around spot in the THPS series would be a serious understatement on his abilities.

Aside from introducing skateboarding to handrails, with the help of his friend the other certifiable legend Natas Kaupas, the Gonz introduced innovative tricks into skateboarding including the Darkslide. Yes, I know kiddies, almost everywhere you look it says that Mullen invented the Darkslide, but trust me, it was the Gonz and he hit the Darkslide on a ledge with a Caveman way back in the day.

Given all of the big names supporting Penny you have to ask yourself who says that the Gonz is the best skater ever. The pros Tony Hawk (Gonz after Cab), Ed Templeton, Mike Carroll, John Cardiel, Rick Howard, Brian Anderson, Andrew Reynolds (over Penny), Max Schaaf and Keith Hufnagel are just a small sampling of pros who all testify that the Gonz is an absolute legend that continues to inspire.

Mark Gonzales has inspired the skate community not only through his skateboarding but also through his art. He is an accomplished poet and painter. Having toured the world and given lectures on his books and paintings not necessarily on his skateboarding, which he also considers a form of art.

Penny, Gonz and Lance are the last of my group of nine recommendations for a reason. All represent the ideals of being a professional skateboarder. They have the ability to do things on a skateboard that almost no other pro can do and make it look easy.

Rather than actively pursuing the spotlight and hyping themselves up on television both are busy looking after their own pursuits. Doing the things that make them happy, and peripherally, make the skateboarding fans happy.

Mark, Lance and Tom deserve a spot in the THPS series for all that they have contributed and for the future they have given skateboarding. Sometimes it isn't about being the most famous, richest or popular skateboarder. But instead being the best skateboarder that you can be.

These three truly are the best skateboarders they can be and I nominate them for All Around Spots in the THPS series. It is doubtful that there is a better trio more suited to represent the freedom that skateboarding can give you than the Penny, Lance and the Gonz.

If you'd like to see more of Mark Gonzales check out his video part in the new video from Real, Reel to Real or for what many consider to be the best skateboarding part in video history the Gonz in Blind's Video Days.

I know Video Days is rare but if you have a fast internet connection you can download the entire movie from [worldindustries.tv](http://worldindustries.tv) In fact, check out the other great old video footage while you're there and you might be inspired to nominate a pro that I haven't talked about.

Nominee for the THPS Series:

## **Lance Mountain**



Lance could possibly be the most talented and creative skater ever to step on a board. Before The Gonz and Penny were a household name it was Lance Mountain who was bringing skateboarding to you.

Being the introductory skater in the early Bones Brigade videos Lance influenced early street skating and held his own skating vert along with his fellow Brigade members Tony Hawk, Mike McGill and Steve Caballero.

Lance learned many things while in the business. The most important things he's learned are reflected in everything he's given back. That is his creativity and influence to modern skateboarding.

Lance is responsible for establishing 411 as the video magazine to see trends in skateboarding and discovering new talent and keeping existing pros covered.

As an artist Lance was influenced heavily by his friends and mentors Alan Losi and Neil Blender. Neil who now runs Alien Workshop and is their artistic director.

It was his Lance's natural creativity combined with his friends that pushed him to innovate the way we see deck graphics, videos and skate companies.

His artistic ability is reflected in the way he skates. One of the naturals Lance makes skating the street look as fun and easy as skating vert. Lance is also a certified Bowl Master. Having the rare ability to skate any transition with power, speed and technical ability.

Currently Lance runs The Firm which is known for its eclectic group of talented pros, including Bob Burnquist, Matt Beach and Ray Barbee. Lance helps round out the team and is not only the seasoned veteran but also

maintains the image of the Firm by creating and directing the art on all of their ads and deck graphics.

Of every nominee on the pages Lance might very well be the most overlooked pro. Not only that, but Lance might be the most overlooked legend in skateboarding.

It was Lance who first pushed street skating on the video screens. His playful and cartoon artistic vision complimented and contrasted the skulls and dragons on the early Powell Peralta graphics. Lance skated ramps and pools with as much power and style as Caballero ever could.

To this day Lance maintains his great sense of humor and creativity and it is still reflected in his skating. He still skates ramps and pools and is still learning new tricks and pushing skating forward. Be it quiet and behind the scenes it really is the talent of people like Lance who make skateboarding as fun and widely accepted as it is today.

Mike Vallely named Lance as his favorite pro of all time. While the rest of the skating community was voting on the names and images of people like The Gonz, Tony Hawk and Christian Hosoi as their favorite skaters it was Mike who made his fellow pros that we've forgotten how much Lance has contributed and still contributes to skateboarding.

The legendary Lance Mountain is my nomination for the THPS series. Where I know he will fit in nicely with his old friends Tony Hawk and Steve Caballero.

To see more of lance check out his parts in the first three Powell Peralta videos, the Bones Brigade Video Show, Future Primitive and The Search for Animal Chin. More recently Lance has a part in the Adidas promo video and an upcoming Firm video.

Thank you for visiting Planet Tony Hawk. Voting has been suspended temporarily on the Nominees for Tony Hawk's Pro Skater. Activision has recently announced that Bob Burnquist has been signed and is returning to the THPS series. Given that announcement I am making the results from the first three month's voting available to the public. This is in the hopes that Activision also reads the numbers and considers adding one (or three) new names to the THPS lineup.

Peace,  
Noe V.

Results\* from the Planet Tony Hawk Nominations web page:  
These results reflect three months of voting.

Total Number of Votes: 15690

Total Number of Professional Skaters Nominated: 24

Number of groups: 9

Average Number of Votes Per Page: 1743

Highest Number of votes:

- 1st: Mike Vallely, 1372 Votes
- 2nd: Daewon Song, 1244 Votes
- 3rd: Tas Pappas, 985 Votes

Highest percentage of votes per group:

- 1st: Mike Vallely, 79%
- 2nd: Daewon Song, 62%
- 3rd (tie): Danny Way/ Tom Penny, 60%

Highest number of votes per skate style (street, vert, all-around)

Street:

- 1st: Mike Vallely, 1372
- 2nd: Daewon Song, 1244
- 3rd: Tom Penny, 947

Vert:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Tas Pappas, 985
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lincoln Ueda, 549
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rob "Sluggo" Boyce, 479

All-Around:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Danny Way, 957
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andy Macdonald, 630
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: John Cardiel, 516

Closest group voting margin:

Group 4

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Jeremy Wray    | 505 / 39 % |
| Gershon Mosley | 509 / 40 % |
| Kien Lieu      | 274 / 21 % |

Closest individual voting margin:

Vert Skaters:

Lincoln Ueda, 549 Votes

Rob "Sluggo" Boyce, 479 Votes

Street Skaters:

Gershon Mosley, 509 Votes

Jeremy Wray, 505 Votes

All-around Skaters:

Andy Macdonald, 630 Votes

John Cardiel, 516 Votes

\*Numbers prepared by Noe Valladolid. The voting engine records IP Addresses and prohibits multiple votes. All of the skaters in Group 6 (Mattias Ringstrom, Colin MacKay and Mike Crum) were disqualified when over 1000 votes came in from the same IP address and were split to both Mike and Colin. I hope to solve the "ballot stuffing" issue when voting resumes in December. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me.

Here are the totals so you can see how many votes each person received.

Group 1

Mike Vallely 1372 / 79 %

Ethan Fowler 369 / 21 %

1741 votes total: 100 %

Group 2

Danny Way 957 / 60 %

Andy Macdonald 630 / 40 %

1587 votes total: 100 %

Group 3

Tas Pappas 985 / 49 %

Lincoln Ueda 549 / 27 %

Rob "Sluggo" Boyce 479 / 24 %

2013 votes total: 100 %

Group 4

Jeremy Wray 505 / 39 %

Gershon Mosley 509 / 40 %

Kien Lieu 274 / 21 %

1288 votes total: 100 %

Group 5

Stevie Williams 751 / 58 %

Steve Olson 547 / 42 %

1298 votes total: 100 %

Group 6 (DISQUALIFIED)

Mattias Ringstrom 440 / 14 %

Colin McKay 992 / 31 %

Mike Crum 1743 / 55 %

3175 votes total: 100 %



Group 7

Daewon Song	1244 / 62 %
Willy Santos	354 / 18 %
Ed Templeton	414 / 20 %
2012 votes total:	100 %

Group 8

John Cardiel	516 / 51 %
Omar Hassan	343 / 34 %
Wade Speyer	144 / 15 %
1003 votes total:	100 %

Group 9

Tom Penny	947 / 60 %
Mark Gonzales	357 / 23 %
Lance Mountain	269 / 17 %
1573 votes total:	100 %