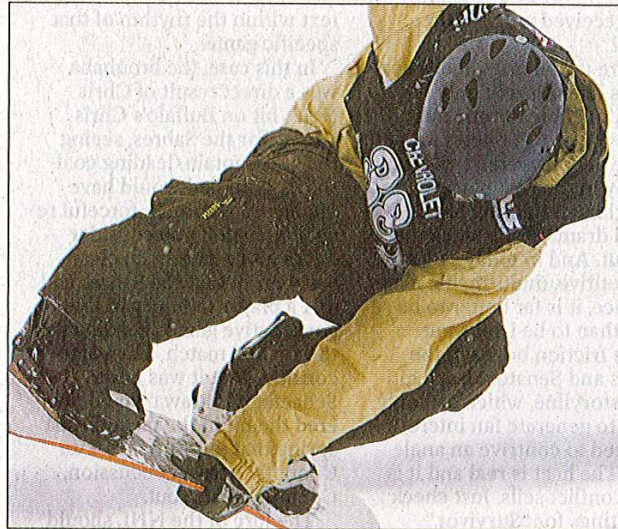


SundaySports

- VARSITY EXTRA SPORTS 4
- BSU wrestling & track SPORTS 5
- NBA & NHL SPORTS 7

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BOARD GAMES

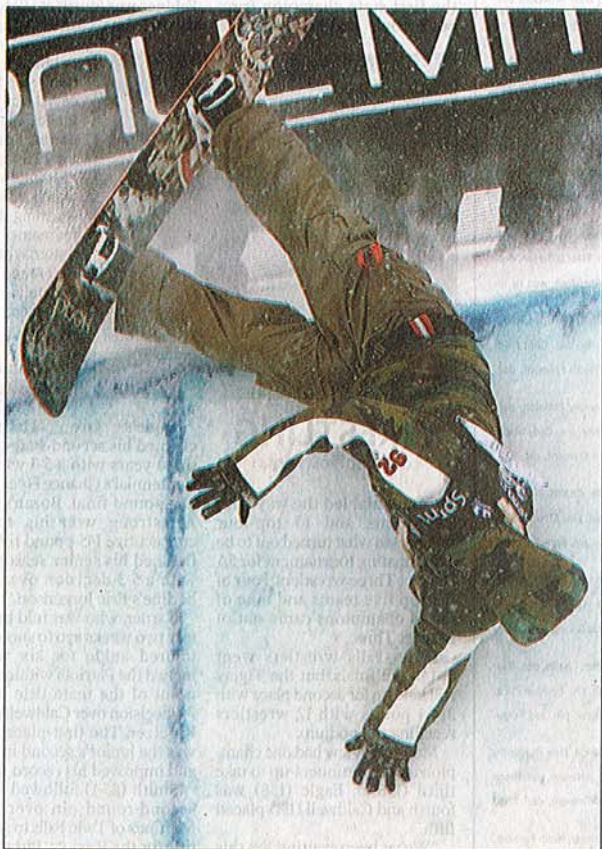


Joe Jaszewski / Idaho Statesman

Jeremy Thompson catches some air in the halfpipe competition at the U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix Series event at Tamarack Resort near Donnelly on Saturday. Tommy Czeschin won the men's event and Thompson finished ninth. Gretchen Bleiler won the women's halfpipe and Lindsey Jacobellis finished second. The competition continues today. **STORY, SPORTS 3**

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Snowboarder Jeffrey Meon takes a spill during a practice run before the finals of the snowboard halfpipe competition Saturday. Meon finished 15th.

PHOTOS BY JOE JASZEWSKI
IDAHO STATESMAN

PHOTO GALLERY FROM SATURDAY'S COMPETITION
AT IDAHOSTATESMAN.COM

Snow day: Boarders tackle Tamarack

Some of the best snowboarders in the world got together with more than 4,000 fans, a little rock n' roll music and some big air Saturday as the U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix kicked off with the first day of competition at Tamarack Resort.

Former Olympian and World Cup winner Tommy Czeschin of Mammoth Lakes, Calif., conquered

cold temperatures and a massive 22-foot halfpipe to capture first place in the men's competition, while 2006 Olympic silver medalist Gretchen Bleiler of Aspen, Colo., won the women's crown.

The event continues today with snowboardcross, a new Olympic sport where competitors race motocross style through a tight downhill course that includes

turns, jumps, berms and drops. Expect contact. First one to the finish wins.

Practice starts at 8 a.m., followed by time trials at 9 and finals from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The final stop on the season-long \$300,000 Grand Prix series will be broadcast March 10 on NBC.

For more results and today's fan information, see Page 9



Tricia Byrnes gets high-fives from fans after her run in the finals of the snowboard halfpipe competition Saturday afternoon. Byrnes took third in the event.



Snowboarder Gretchen Bleiler soars over the crowd in the finals of the snowboard halfpipe competition at the U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix at Tamarack on Saturday. Bleiler, an Olympic silver medalist, finished first in the women's competition.



Fans came prepared for the snowstorm and high winds they had to endure while taking in the action at Tamarack Resort on Saturday.



Luke Wynen makes his first of two runs in the finals of the snowboard halfpipe competition at the U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix at Tamarack Resort on Saturday afternoon. More than 4,000 spectators lined the 22-foot high SuperPipe at Tamarack Resort to watch Olympic and X Games medalists compete. Wynen finished fourth in the men's competition.