

Athlete's Profile: Andy David

At twenty two, Andy David, is already one of Britain's leading freestyle mogul and freeride competitors, as well as being an internationally certified performance coach. As a current member of the British team only three years after he started in the sport of mogul skiing, Andy competes all the year round with the Team on the Europa and Continental Cup circuits.

Andy took up mogul skiing while teaching out in the States. 'I was looking for a new challenge for my personal skiing as I was getting bored with teaching others all the time. Moguls was always an area that I had found a serious challenge and that interested me. The slightly more relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the competition scene appealed to me more than the ultra competitive side of the Alpine scene.'

Andy established himself very quickly and within six months he got the recognition from the England squad. Andy put this down to two things: his strong technical understanding and the base he had already established from his instructing background. "I wish that I had started earlier, but with my background that would not have been possible as neither of my parents ski. To this day I have not been on a skiing holiday as such.

However, all this does not faze me, if anything it makes me more determined to succeed. The satisfaction when I beat members of other national teams is greater for

me as it is under my own steam that I have got where I am today. Coming from a non snow nation, like England, makes it even better!"

At present Andy receives no financial help from anywhere to help with training and transport costs. Completely self sufficient, he funds his goal by coaching others and some part time ski modelling. If the talent is to emerge, the goal is to represent Great Britain on the World Cup circuit and compete at the Olympics.

"I am not alone in this situation, many others are in the same boat. We are currently not in a position where we qualify for lottery funding or sports aid funding, so raising our profiles and seeking sponsorship is an ongoing thing.

One has to stay optimistic that things will change in the future, especially with the amount of young talent coming through. I believe that the profile of mogul skiing will soon crawl back out of the shadow of Alpine where it has been for so long."

Anybody that is interested either in helping Andy, or the rest of British Freestyle skiing, can contact him during the season through his email address (ad_freestyler@hotmail.com) or if you are in the Val Thorens area in March go along and see the best of British compete!