

JAMES MACHON

Pro FreeStyle Skier

Age: 16

Nationality: British

Sponsors: Smith Optics,
Line Skis,

Junki Gear,

Drop Gloves,

Five Fourties,

VIST,

Lafarge,

FIS World Halfpipe Ranking: 54th



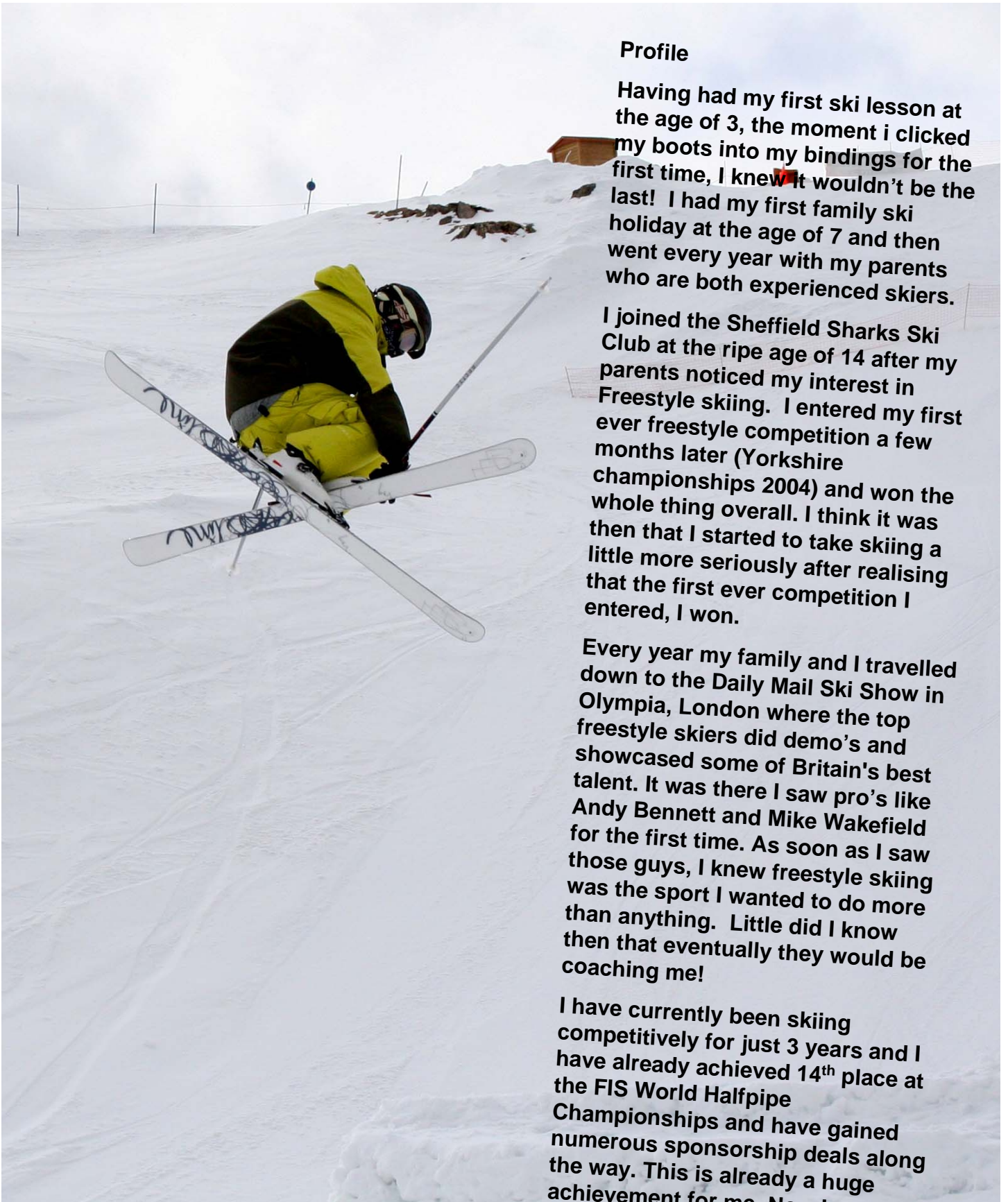
Profile

Having had my first ski lesson at the age of 3, the moment i clicked my boots into my bindings for the first time, I knew it wouldn't be the last! I had my first family ski holiday at the age of 7 and then went every year with my parents who are both experienced skiers.

I joined the Sheffield Sharks Ski Club at the ripe age of 14 after my parents noticed my interest in Freestyle skiing. I entered my first ever freestyle competition a few months later (Yorkshire championships 2004) and won the whole thing overall. I think it was then that I started to take skiing a little more seriously after realising that the first ever competition I entered, I won.

Every year my family and I travelled down to the Daily Mail Ski Show in Olympia, London where the top freestyle skiers did demo's and showcased some of Britain's best talent. It was there I saw pro's like Andy Bennett and Mike Wakefield for the first time. As soon as I saw those guys, I knew freestyle skiing was the sport I wanted to do more than anything. Little did I know then that eventually they would be coaching me!

I have currently been skiing competitively for just 3 years and I have already achieved 14th place at the FIS World Halfpipe Championships and have gained numerous sponsorship deals along the way. This is already a huge achievement for me. Now I am considering this for a potential career, then i have to seek companies with financial support to drive my skiing into higher levels.





Future Plans:

This winter season I have been competing in many places around Europe in European and World Championship events. Next season, I am training towards the FIS Junior World Halfpipe Championships where this season I achieved 14th place. Therefore, my aim is to ski at a higher level and to improve on my position.

My long term goals are to continue competing in FIS competitions and to achieve a high enough point score to enable qualification for the Halfpipe in the 2014 Olympics.

Exposure:

Dark Summer Young Blood Section (2007) .

Fall Line Magazine (January 2007)

Drop Magazine (April 2007)

Derbyshire Times

The Sheffield Telegraph



The North Face Challenge (European)	Slopestyle	06	U18	7th
Val Thorens Boarderweek (European)	Slopstyle	06	Overall	1st
Val Thorens Boarderweek (European)	Slopestyle	06	U16	1st
Verbier Ride (International)	Big Air	07	Overall	11th
The British Championships	Slopestyle	07	Overall U16	4th 1st
The British Championships	Halfpipe	07	Overall U16	2nd
The British Championships	Skier X	07	U16	1st
FIS World Junior Halfpipe	Halfpipe	07	Overall	14th
Saas Fee Ride (International)	Big Air	07	Overall	11th

Pat Sharples
 (Head coach of the British Freeski camps & World cup halfpipe coach)

I've had the pleasure of coaching James over the last couple of years and watched how he has progressed into one of the UK's best freestyle skiers! I believe it is a combination of natural talent and hard work that has got him where he is today and he is totally determined to push himself to the next level and compete with the best skiers in Europe. Even though James is still one of the UK's younger athletes he proved that he was still one of the best at this year's British championships where he was in the finals in each discipline and one of the top in his age group. He is always very focused in major competitions and is never scared of going for it 100%.

Now that Halfpipe freestyle skiing is going to be an Olympic event and freestyle skiing is getting more recognition each year, I do believe that James has got a very exciting career ahead of him. If he keeps going the way he is now I have no doubt that he could go on to represent Britain at the highest level. I am looking forward to helping and watching James along the way.