

Martin Carr

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Sent: 30 December 2005 00:36
Subject: Press Release: Ski Halfpipe Medal Hope Wakefield out with Collar Bone Injury

British Half Pipe Champion Mike Wakefield (Line Skis and star of Brit Ski Movie "Dirty Laundry") has had to pull out of the Season Opening World Cup Halfpipe in Les Contamines after breaking his collar bone whilst training in Park City.

Mike, who was looking for a podium finish at the competition broke his collar bone whilst training technical spins on and off of metal rails in the American Resort.

Mike stated, "They had a flat down box set up which I did a cab 270 on then a 360 switch up, I landed it but then about a meter after the rail I hit my edge and smacked my head and shoulder on the floor. I'm out for about 6 – 8 weeks, but I'll be back for the Brits (Orange British Championships) and the European Open too."

British Team Coach and Manager Simon Ashton said, "This is a big disappointment for us, for the first time we had the countries two best Halfpipe skiers in Mike Wakefield and Andy Bennet (Line Skis, The North Face and star of Brit Ski Movie "Dirty Laundry") competing together at a major International competition. I'm gutted for Mike, he's put in a lot of hard work over the last year and has been unfortunate with accidents and injuries. Fortunately we still have Andy and our two younger skiers Richard Martin and Will Burrows competing in the men's. Andy's competed at this level before and has a cool head and leads by example."

The Half Pipe event will take place in Les Contamines on the 15th of January.

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