



FLY SHIF'TIN'

YEARS BEFORE FREESTYLE motocross debuted in 1999 to a dubious San Francisco crowd, Travis Pastrana dreamed of X Games gold. At 15 he got his wish—then dumped his bike into the bay. Now 25, Pastrana continues to deliver dramatic X moments. And despite countless concussions, he remembers most of them.

- 1 **I NEVER WATCHED CARTOONS.** When I was a kid, the X Games was the only TV I watched. I loved BMX. TJ Lavin, Ryan Nyquist, Dave Mirra were my favorites.
- 2 **AND I NEVER THOUGHT I'D COMPETE.** I suck on a bicycle. I need a throttle. BMX rewards people who are good. FMX rewards people willing to try.
- 3 **BUT I HAD DREAMS.** I did a school project on sky surfing. I thought it would be awesome to try.
- 4 **SO MY SECOND CAREER WAS BORN.** My sponsors said, "Don't go to X. Freestyle's a waste." I was a straight-A student, a hardworking racer. People thought freestylers were hoodlums. Then I won and jumped into the bay.
- 5 **AND MY ANONYMITY WAS LOST.** It's cool to do something my grandma and her friends watch. In 2004, I got a black eye trying the 360 at the X Games. Later, an 85-year-old woman in a wheelchair saw me at the airport. She said, "I was watching you, sonny. I couldn't believe you got up."
- 6 **ESPECIALLY AFTER THE DOUBLE.** I wanna do things no one has done, to show it's possible. It's neat that kids saw the double backflip and said, "I'll do a triple."
- 7 **X LAUNCHED MY THIRD CAREER ...** I started rally in 2004 and was in the first X event, in 2006. I needed a lot of work. Colin McRae, my hero, sat down at breakfast one morning, and I started giggling like a little kid. He took me under his wing, but I didn't think I had a chance. Then he rolled in the last stage, and I won by a quarter of a second. He walked over and said, "Welcome to rally." That was one of the greatest days of my life.
- 8 **... AND SET UP MORE GOALS.** In 10 years, I'm in the stands seeing what the next freestylers dream up. But I'll race rally. As they say, "With age, get a cage."

RALLY CHECK

IF YOU GET TIRED OF WATCHING TRAVIS PASTRANA AT THE FRONT OF THE FIELD, HERE'S WHAT HE'LL BE LOOKING AT IN HIS REARVIEW MIRROR.

WHO TO WATCH IN RALLY (OTHER THAN ME) ...

Ken Block's the fastest but crashes a lot. Tanner Foust's by far the best road course driver. Dave Mirra never listens to his co-driver; good thing we don't have one at X. Brian Deegan is a showman, but I doubt he'll be a threat.

WHERE TO WATCH ME (OTHER THAN RALLY) ...

My other event is best trick. Look for my double backflip 360. I wanted to try BMX big air, too. If Steve McCann can't land his trick on his first two runs, he said he'll give me his last run. My trick: double backflip 360.

WHO I'LL BE WATCHING ...

The mega ramp is spectacular. And I love watching Daniel Dhers in BMX park. I won't miss women's motocross. Last year I thought I'd see carnage, but they threw whips and blitzed through the whoops. I became a fan.

CATCH X GAMES 15
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