What Ever Happened to the “Free” in Freestyle?
Jonny Moseley sets out to turn the Olympic bump competition upside down

Exposed
The other side of Sun Valley

Baring it All
Kristen Ulmer ponders her next extreme move
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For many top women freeskiers, Crested Butte, with its extreme terrain and close-knit community is a major attraction.
By Stephen Gorman
Jonny Moseley unveils his new trick, the dinner roll, back at the summer X Games in 1998 in San Francisco but he’s been working singularly hard to perfect it ever since. It’s a case where precision is vital. To the untrained eye, the dinner roll looks a lot like... this is an important distinction. Since the 1970s inverted maneuvers have been forbidden in freestyle mogul competition.

To prove the move was legit, the ‘98 gold medalist threw a dozen dinner rolls on camera at Squaw Valley last spring. The footage was shipped to the 12 voting members of the International Federation of Skiing (FIS). As the governing body of World Cup skiing, FIS has the final word on what is allowed and not allowed in World Cup and Olympic competition. Initially other teams gave Moseley’s move the thumbs down. “Jonny is one of the few athletes who has the ability to do this kind of jump, so most everyone is opposed to it, they are very threatened by it,” explains Copper Schell, Moseley’s personal coach and manager. “But the rules clearly state that if the trick falls into the criteria, then it has to be allowed,” he says. In the end, the FIS agreed with Moseley. His move might look like they go over his head, but they don’t. In other words, his new trick does not classify as an invert. Jonny’s dinner roll is fair game.

Moseley’s quest is only one of many attempts to bridge the growing gap between new school and World Cup freestyle. In fact, freestyle skiing including moguls, aerials, and new school, is such a simmering stew pot of conflicts that Jonny’s dinner roll looks like a simple side dish.

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Moseley insists his piping-hot maneuver is not a flip.