

WE SCARE BECAUSE WE CARE







WELCOME

FROM OUR POINT of view this month has been pretty special. Sure, we've scoured the globe for all the latest and most comprehensive news, previews and reviews on all the latest and best GameCube and Game Boy Advance games but no, it's been even better than that. You see, on 28 January at 9am, Nintendo made an announcement regarding the launch of the GameCube in Europe, thus ending months of speculation. We now know when we'll be able to get our needy paws on it (3 May) and we can now pre-order it (whadyamean you haven't already? Are you mad?) Perhaps more importantly, though, Nintendo announced just how much you'll be shelling out for this ickle box of gaming delights a mere €250! That's £150 in old money, which for those of us not skilled in the art of maths, is half the price of the Xbox and £50 cheaper than the PS2. So, whilst we're a little dismayed that we have to wait a bit longer than we'd hoped (like you, we simply can't wait any longer for it!) we are pleased that after the jibes and suspicion that Nintendo didn't care about Europe, it would seem that quite the opposite is the case. At the price point set by Nintendo, and the fact that the GameCube will launch with the largest number of games available on day one for any console ever, it would seem that Nintendo is taking Europe – and that means us here in the UK – very seriously indeed. You can read the exact details on pages 12-15 and of course, we've spoken to all the important people in the videogames industry too - including Nintendo - to garner reaction to this exciting news.

Elsewhere, you'll find the ever-snowballing range of games, from *Starfox Adventures* to *Turok Evolution*. Both those games have been a topic of debate on the **CUBE** forum which, for those of you who have yet to check it out, is the place to be. There you'll find like-minded Nintendophiles to exchange your views on the wonderful world of Nintendo with and, if we're not overly busy, you might even get the chance to ask us a question. If you have access to the Internet we'd recommend that you get yourselves to **www.totalgames.net/forum** and click on 'GameCube'.

So there you go – the GameCube is coming, not in Autumn, not in March either... but it's on its way. We should all rejoice that Nintendo has finally gone and done what it promised all along – it has undercut all the competition and is making sure that an amazing range of games will be available at launch – what more could you possibly want? I believe that is the

Simon Phillips Group Editor

Nintendo difference...



AT A GLANCE

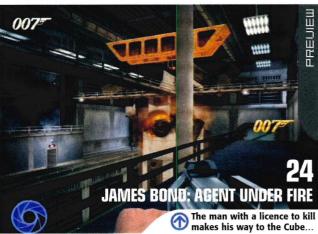
No other magazine brings you this many games – surely you know this by now?

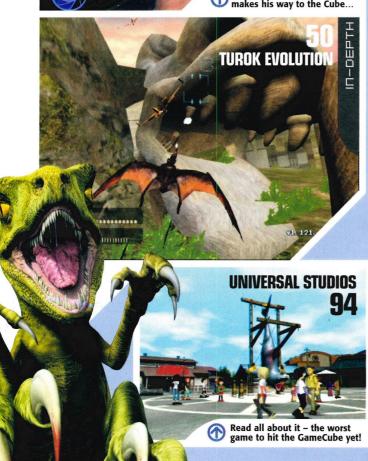
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100% UNOFFICIAL 100% UNBIASED THE ONLY MAGAZINE YOU CAN TRUST







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GCN

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Only CUBE brings you the latest news and views from the people that really matter!

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NETWORK CUBE

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UP FRONT









CLIBE **→** INFORMATION **SEGA SOCCER SLAM** PUBLISHER: SEMA DEVELOPER: ORIGIN: GENRE: PLAYERS: PERCENTAGE COMPLETE ⊕ AT-A-GLANCE SOCCER AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT CONSTANT 60FPS SCREEN UPDATE **OTT POWER-UPS ■ PURE ARCADE ACTION UNIQUE GRAPHICAL EFFECTS RELEASE DATES**

SEGA SOCCER

SEGA's ready to slam the wind out of you with its new sports game!

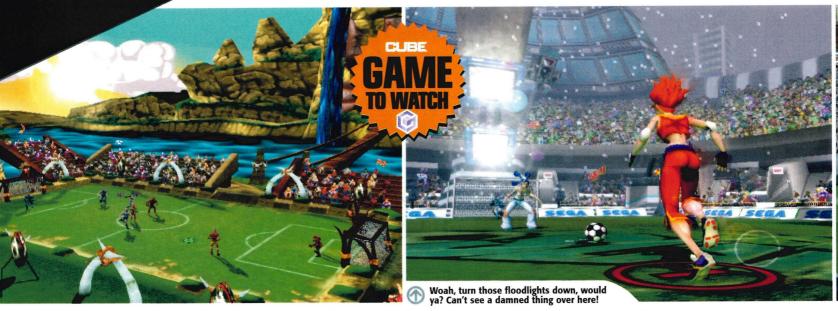
SEGA DEVELOPER VISUAL Concepts recently released a piece of artwork from its first exclusive GameCube title. Having a reputation for sports games (*NBA2K* and the like), the artwork seemed at odds with the developer's heritage, and things became stranger still when the second piece of artwork resembled a spindly Dhalsim look-alike.

It turns out that the characters are from SEGA Soccer Slam, a football game in the vein of NFL Blitz/NHL Hitz, so you can expect all manner of OTT special

moves and outrageous tackles. The controls reflect the arcade gameplay, with Shoot/Hit, Steal, Protect, Turbo and Power-Up making up the buttons on the pad. Hit and Steal are the two tackle attacks; Steal is more of a light tackle, but if your opponent is more powerful than you, a jab to the chops may be required to knock them away. The Turbo meter, meanwhile, allows you a short stint of speed, but excessive use will see it run dry, so you're better off saving it for when you really need it. The Power-

Ups are where SSS really goes all out, though – as well as having their own individual traits, strengths and weaknesses, each character also hides a power-up move. Once the bar is full you can unleash hell on whoever is nearest. Each successive goal/tackle/special combo will earn you cash, which can be used to buy upgrades and boost your skills.

A neat little touch comes in the form of real-time damage goalies. The goalkeepers start the game with armour, but as you hammer shots at them, their armour will fall off piece by piece. As you wear them down it will become easier to get shots past them. And if you

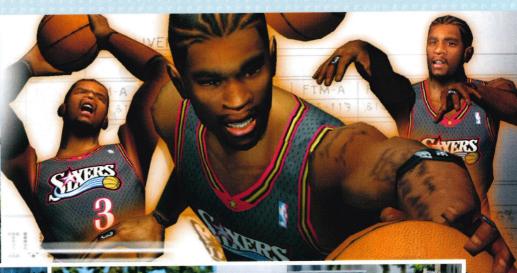


PP PP **PP**

"A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AND A WHOLE LOT OF ARCADE ACTION AT THE SAME TIME"











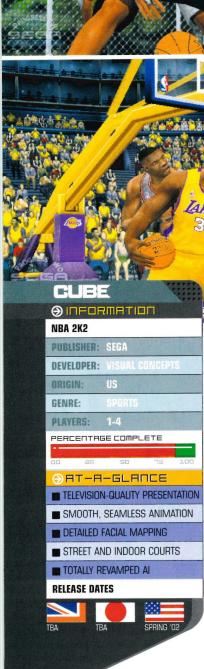
NBA 2K2

Well you can't say GameCube hasn't got the sports front covered...

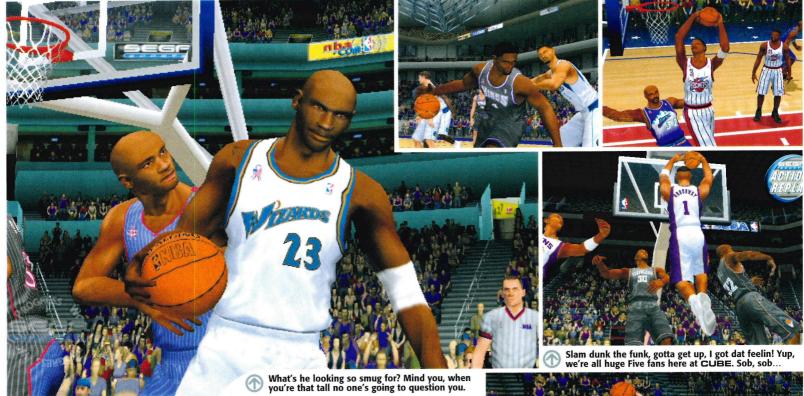
LATE LAST YEAR SEGA announced that most of the games from the its 2K2 series would be making their way to GameCube, and NBA 2K2 is the first to have surfaced. Worked on by the same studio as SEGA Soccer Slam, the two games are being developed side by side, and represent the studio's first attempt at GameCube development. The results are pretty conclusive.

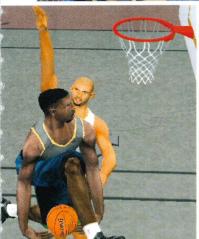
NBA 2K2 is a straight port of the PS2 version, albeit with added gloss. The added gloss comes in the form of cleaner textures and a higher frame rate. Despite not having the digitally mapped faces of Courtside 2002, 2K2 manages to look far superior in still screenshots thanks to its high polygon-count character models. On the move it looks just as impressive as Courtside too – the moves flow freely

into one another, with Steals, Blocks and Dribbles linking together without a hitch. Thanks to the improved AI and low post moves (captured by AII-Star Rasheed Wallace), you can now drop-step around your opponent, or just chill until a teammate finds an open space. The steals will put a huge smile on your face – there's nothing quite like nabbing the ball after your opponent has put together an impressive offensive. Whatever move you attempt, you know that the computer reactions will be fair. It's a joy to watch, and the surface reflections effects only add to the experience.



"THIS LOOKS TO BE THE BEST BASKETBALL SIMULATION ON THE GAMECUBE ROSTER"













All of the action is presented in a television broadcast style, with dramatic camera editing and voice-overs sucking you right into the action. The crowds react accordingly, and while they don't look as convincing as *Courtside's*, they still appear to be enjoying themselves (something which is surprisingly ill conceived in most sports games).

NBA 2K2 looks to be the best basketball simulation on the GameCube roster – if you're after a more arcade-influenced game however, you may be better off looking to NBA Street.



RESIDENT

As its release edges closer, we reveal even more new features from Capcom's spine-tingler...





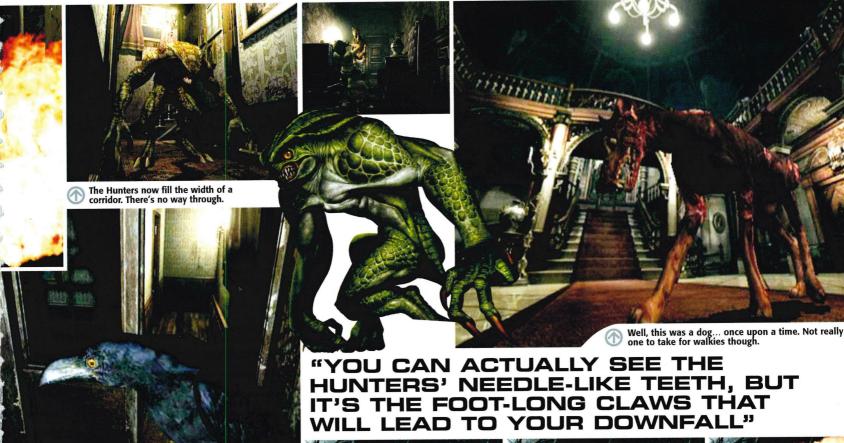
DESPITE RELEASING SCREENSHOTS of its

Resident Evil remake on a weekly basis, Capcom is still managing to keep most of the new features under wraps. We've hardly seen anything from the later stages of the game – this secrecy would suggest that a lot of changes have been made, and CUBE applauds the fact that Capcom is keeping schtum. After all, most of the fear factor comes purely from the fact that you don't know what's going to happen next.

Still, Capcom has been more than happy to shower us with examples of how the mansion section of the game is progressing. These latest shots reveal an extraordinarily high polygon count on the enemies. The in-game Hunters look far more intimidating than their pre-rendered

⊗ INFORMATION RESIDENT EVIL PUBLISHER: CHPCON DEVELOPER: JAPAN ORIGIN: GENRE: PLAYERS: PERCENTAGE COMPLETE ⊕ AT-A-GLANCE ■ ALL-NEW GRAPHICAL EFFECTS ■ GORE GALORE! **GENUINELY SCARY ENEMIES** ■ RE-RECORDED VOICEOVERS ■ LOW FREQUENCY SOUND EFFECTS **RELEASE DATES**

CLIBE



counterparts. You can actually see their needlelike teeth, but it's the foot-long claws that will lead to your downfall.

The Capcom Web site allows you to watch a movie of an unprovoked Hunter. After plodding up and down a corridor dragging its claws along the ground, it adjusts its jaw and shows off a deadly set of teeth. All of this is accompanied by a Raptor-like screeching and gurgling. In fact, a lot of the Hunters' noises consist of low frequency sounds, resulting in you 'feeling' the monsters rather than hearing them as such.

While we're on the subject of the sound effects, the intro sequence from the original game is back, but the voiceovers have been completely re-recorded. Jill, Chris and Wesker escape the

dangers of the outer perimeter, only to find

dangers of the outer perimeter, only to find themselves in the hallway of the mansion, and fans of the original will be pleased to hear that the script is just as cheesy as always!

The last of this month's updates comes in the form of the all-new weapon effects. Just when you thought the backgrounds couldn't look any better, Capcom has gone and revealed another new effect. After shooting a barrel in a well, the explosion throws water all over the camera. The water then drips down the screen in *WaveRace* style. Later on in the game you will get the chance to pick up the deadly Flame-thrower. Firing this into the screen results in heat waves distorting the image for a few seconds.

With less than six weeks to go until the game hits Japanese shelves, you'd think that there isn't much left to show, but we're sure Capcom still has plenty of surprises up its sleeve.







CLIEE

THE MOST IMPORTANT GAMECUBERELATED NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

GAMECUBE NEWS



3 MAY... S £150... NUF

Nintendo pulls out all the stops for Europe

NINTENDO HAS FINALLY made an announcement regarding its plans for GameCube in Europe. On Monday 28 January at 9am, Nintendo Europe's Managing Director David Gosen revealed all by way of a pre-recorded Webcast. GameCube will be released approximately six weeks after Xbox, on Friday 3 May at 249 (£150), half the price of Microsoft's machine. At present, 21 titles will be available on launch day, including Rogue Leader, Super Monkey Ball, FIFA: Road To World Cup, ISS2, Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 and Burnout. Software will sell

CHARLES TO A CONTROL OF THE CONTROL

Those of us too impatient for the big announcement were greeted by this.

for 60 (approximately £40). This has to be the best launch line-up in console history, catering for a broad range of users. The first-party software schedule continues on 24 May with Super Smash Bros Melee and NBA Courtside 2002. More importantly though, is the news that just after launch we will be treated to third-party gems such as Resident Evil.

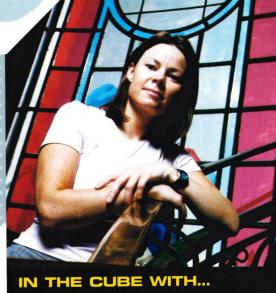
David Gosen described it well when he said that "GameCube will not be targeted at kids, it will not be targeted at teens and it will not be targeting adults. GameCube will appeal to anyone who enjoys being entertained by interactive gaming, and that is because we believe strongly that gaming is an attitude not an age." Well said, sir. He also went on to emphasise how much importance is being placed on the GameCube-Game Boy Advance interactivity issue. "We will have more than three million GBA owners across Europe who have already taken the first step towards GameCube ownership by buying a Game Boy Advance." As if to prove how serious it

is, Nintendo has now lowered the price of the GBA to £59.99.

It doesn't end there, though. What of the transition from NTSC to PAL? European gamers are getting the best deal out of everyone. For those of you with RGB SCART sockets on your televisions (most TVs have them now), a 60Hz NTSC mode will be available. Simply press and hold the B Button while the machine is booting up to enable it. GameCube will come packaged with an RGB SCART lead as standard. For those without RGB SCART compatible TVs, Nintendo is encouraging developers to provide full-screen, full-speed conversions of their games.

GameCube consoles will be available in black and the traditional purple, while the controllers will come in purple, black and a purple/clear hybrid. No price has been set for the controllers, but £25 seems more than likely. This news proves that Nintendo has indeed turned over a new leaf. Surely there can no longer be any doubts as to its success?





SHELLY FRIEND

NAME: SHELLY FRIEND POSITION: HEAD OF PR

COMPANY: NINTENDO OF EUROPE

CUBE: What would you like to say to all the doubters and the cynics out there?

SF: We were purposely not going to announce a date until we had the key things available, ie enough hardware and software. We now have one million units for launch, 500,000 for day one and the strongest launch ever for any console. We're very happy with that.

CUBE: Is this a case of Nintendo turning over a new leaf?
SF: You've only got to look at the day one launch titles to see that we really are catering for everybody – for all ages and for all different tastes. We've got Luigi, we've got Wave Race, we've got the exclusive Resident Evil series. I think we've learned from the N64 and we wanted to get it right this time. I think we've done that.

CUBE: You've announced one million units for the 'launch period'. What exactly is the launch period?

SF: The launch period is the first eight weeks. 500,000 will hit

SF: The launch period is the first eight weeks. 500,000 will hit on day one, and the rest will come in continuous shipments over the following eight weeks.

CUBE: Out of the initial 500,000 units, how many will ship to the UK?

SF: We haven't yet allocated specific numbers to specific countries, but we will let you know soon.

CUBE: Is there a specific reason for the absence of the Spice colour, and will it follow in the future?

SF: At the moment our plan is only to launch the purple and black units.

CUBE: Do you know how much the accessories such as controllers, memory cards and the like are going to be sold for? **SF:** We haven't announced those prices just yet.

CUBE: Will RF Units be available on day one for those of us who don't have SCART TVs?

SF: Yes, they will.

CUBE: Will Nintendo be making demo discs available as they did in the US?

SF: We're still looking into that.

CUBE: How soon will it be before we see official advertising in the shops, and will there be an official pre-order scheme?

SF: We haven't announced all of our marketing plans yet, but they will be big. We're spending 100 million (£60 million) on the European launch, and that will include a big in-store presence. Exact details are being discussed with retail over the coming weeks.

Big thanks to Shelly for putting up with our constant hassling over the past four months, but hey – that's what we do best!

CUBITES

THE TASTIEST MORSELS OF INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD OF MINTEMOO



EVIL DRAWS CLOSER

Capcom has revealed that Resident Evil Zero is due to be released approximately four months after the first game. Resident Evil (22 March in Japan) will be followed by a straight port of Resident Evil 2, after which Resident Evil Zero will be released.

ARAKAWA-SAN WAVES GOODBYE

Nintendo of America
President Minora
Arakawa has
announced that he will
be retiring this year. He
was previously one of
the prime candidates to
take NCL President Hiroshi Yamauchi's
position when he retires.



................

ONE MILLION DOLLARS

At the last count, Super Smash Bros Melee had sold over one million units in Japan. This means that in the space of two months, the Nintendo fighter has shifted nearly 1.5 million units worldwide. SSBM launches in the UK on 24 May.



ACTIVISION RALLIES AROUND

Activision has announced two new titles for GameCube. Race of Champions and X-Men: Next Dimension will arrive sometime this year. Race of Champions is the first confirmed rally title for the GC.

KING OF THE CASTLE

SEGA has revealed yet another sports title for GameCube. Home Run King, a baseball title, will come exclusively to GameCube, although it seems doubtful that it will make it to the UK.

CUBE quizzes the nation on its thoughts

"3 MAY. £150. 21 GAMES ON DAY ONE. RGB SCART AS STANDARD. NTSC 60HZ OPTION. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THEN?"



"When Nintendo first came to talk to us about Project Dolphin some time ago,

one of the things it stated was that it would go for a very aggressive pricing policy on its hardware. With a launch price of £150 it has certainly done that. Another thing it was keen to emphasise was how much it cared about the quality of the final television display, so the fact that it is amending the hardware to include an RGB SCART output 60Hz display is great news. And some people thought Nintendo didn't care about Europe."



JOE BOOTH

ENTERTAINMENT

"The £150 price point is fantastic news – it instantly makes the console far more accessible to a wider audience. GameCube's remarkable technical specifications also make it an incredible platform to develop for. It looks like 2002 is going to be the most exciting console year yet!"



SIMON BYRON

BASTION

"European gamers have become used to being disappointed by Nintendo – which makes the announcement even more astonishing. Obviously we'd all like to see the Cube arrive sooner than May, but apart from that Nintendo has pulled out the stops. Although the launch line-up includes some tat, there are



more than enough quality games to keep gamesplayers seriously entertained, and the inclusion of a 60Hz boot-up mode makes the European GameCube the best in the world – especially at that amazing price. All-in-all, excellent news."



"Wow! Great price point, good number of games to get the ball rolling and good news about the RGB and 60Hz mode. I think this is very aggressive and should ensure good success in the UK. The sooner the bette..."







THE LAUNCH LINE-UP

Here are all the launch games and accessories, along with a form of sorts, which will allow you to tally up your purchases and figure out exactly how much you're spending. Even a GameCube, two games, two extra controllers and a Memory Card will cost you less than a stand-alone Xbox.

| FAME | PRICE (£) | CUBE RATING | QUANTITY TOTAL PRICE (£) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|--|
| GameCube Hardware (Purple) | 150 | 10 | |
| GameCube Hardware (Jet Black) | 150 | 10 | |
| GameCube RF Unit | 19.99 | 10 | |
| Memory Card 59 | 14.99 | 8.5 | |
| Official Controller (Purple) | 24.99 | 10 | |
| Official Controller (Black) | 24.99 | 10 | |
| Official Controller (Purple + Clear) | 24.99 | 10 | |
| Luigi's Mansion | 39.99 | 7.6 | |
| Wave Race: Blue Storm | 39.99 | 9.3 | |
| Star Wars: Rogue Leader | 39.99 | 9.1 | |
| Sonic Adventure 2 Battle | 39.99 | 8.5 | |
| Super Monkey Ball | 39.99 | 9.2 | |
| ISS2 | 39.99 | N/A | |
| ESPN Winter Sports | 39.99 | N/A | |
| Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 | 39.99 | 9.0 | |
| Spiderman: The Movie | 39.99 | N/A | |
| Tarzan Untamed | 39.99 | 5.2 | |
| Batman Vengeance | 39.99 | 7.3 | |
| Donald Duck Quack Attack | 39.99 | N/A | |
| Crazy Taxi | 39.99 | 7.4 | |
| Burnout | 39.99 | N/A | |
| Dave Mirra Freestyle BMX | 39.99 | 7.4 | |
| NHL Hitz 20-02 | 39.99 | 9.1 | |
| Gauntlet Dark Legacy | 39.99 | N/A | |
| Universal Studios | 39.99 | 3.7 | September 19 Annual Control of the C |
| Batman: Dark Tomorrow | 39.99 | N/A | |
| Tetris Worlds | 39.99 | N/A | |
| FIFA: Road To World Cup | 39.99 | N/A | |
| TOTAL PRICE | | | £ |

"THE INCLUSION OF A 60HZ BOOT-UP MODE MAKES THE EUROPEAN GAMECUBE THE BEST IN THE WORLD"

SIMON BYRON, BASTION

JON MURPHY

"The price is excellent – very tempting, but a machine is only as good as its games. As a player there's not a whole lot on the release schedule that excites me. We've got some good titles on the way, like ISS2, but on day one I think you'd have a job to find a couple of must-have titles to go with your Cube.

The way things look now I expect Nintendo's machine to be a slow-burner."



CUBE THINKS...

Well, there you have it – it's official. To be honest we can't think of any other way in which Nintendo could prove its dedication to Europe. We have been given by far the best deal, what with an RGB SCART output, the 60Hz mode, an attractive price-point and a fantastic launch line-up. Don't you dare complain...

SAMECUBE.

CHOOSE YOUR WEBCAST PLAYER

o view the webcast you'll require Windows Media Player, ulukiture, or Real Player, Select your preferred bandwidth coo, Med or High) baside your media player and watch hor he Wintendo GameCube Webcast. If you can't see it, cominad a media player from the options before.





CUBE ON THE NET

NINTENDO LAUNCHES THE EUROPEAN GAMECUBE WEB SITE

The Official Nintendo GameCube Europe Web site is now open for business. Tap in www.nintendogamecube-europe.com and you'll be whisked over to the brand-new site. Eventually there will be dedicated mini-sites for every game, but at the moment there are a few games to play, the conquering of which will earn you one of four wallpaper downloads.







GAMECUBE NEWS

THEY SAID - WE SAID

CUBE EXPOSES THE MEMORABLE MUMBLINGS OF THE INDUSTRY...

THEY SAID... "I am satisfied with early GameCube sales in Japan. The recent PS2 price drop hasn't slowed things down and in the future the machine will be too big and expensive for the average gamer due to Final Fantasy XI, which requires a hard drive and a modem to play properly. American sales were stronger than expected, we thought the recent terrorism attacks may have effected sales but they didn't. The final results of the Christmas trade war are yet to come but things are looking positive." (NCL President Hiroshi Yamauchi in

WE SAID... Yamauchi-san puts a smile on our face by implying that the future of PS2 is games like *Final Fantasy XI*, and that they require a ridiculous amount of add-ons to

THEY SAID... "The Xbox launches here (Japan) in February but with its large size and hard drive loading, it's quite the personal computer!
However, it's not about the quality of the hardware but rather the software

that plays on it and the current

games aren't very interesting."
(Hiroshi Yamauchi in
the same interview)

a recent interview)

WE SAID... Ha,ha, this made us laugh even more. "It's quite the personal computer." The Nintendo President has a great sense of humour. It almost makes up for the fact that he so adamantly refuses to work with SquareSoft.

THEY SAID... "GameCube's really not worth your consideration. It's got less power than a PS2 and it's not coming out until September anyway... plus, it's by Nintendo so it's totally child-orientated. Really, it's not worth even thinking about. I'd definitely go with an Xbox. Why don't you reserve one?"

(A videogames emporium's sales assistant)

WE SAID... A sad example of the European industry's opinion of Nintendo, and general lack of GameCube knowledge. Nintendo is to blame for public ignorance of course, but specialist shops should know better. The sales assistant neglected to mention exactly how much commission he would receive for an Xbox pre-order...







THE ROCK HAS COME BACK TO GAMECUBE

THQ announces WWF Wrestlemania X8 and a whole lot more besides...

THQ HAS ANNOUNCED three new games for GameCube. First and foremost is WWF Wrestlemania X8, THQ's highly anticipated new wrestling title. As you'd expect from any WWF game, there will be a full range of wrestling talent on offer, with over 35 different superstars in total. Each wrestler comes with their own range of moves and finishers, but you can also create your own with the now-obligatory Create-A-Superstar mode. There will also be a wide range of match styles and game modes to play (THQ is keeping tight-mouthed on most of them at the moment) including a full Championship mode, allowing you to reach the dizzying heights of the WWF Championship itself. As you can see from this smattering of early screenshots, the game is certainly on a par with the recently announced WWF Raw on the Xbox.

On top of WWF Wrestlemania X8, THQ has also announced Toxic Grind and MX 2003 Featuring Ricky Carmichael. Taking the same stance as the upcoming Dark Summit, Toxic Grind is the

ultimate in mission-based BMX games. At the other end of the bike spectrum is MX 2003 (or MotoCross if you're not sure what it means), the sequel to the popular PlayStation2 scrambling game. Although both games are currently early in development, we've been assured that you'll see them on the GameCube by the end of the summer. Stay tuned for more information...



"THERE WILL BE A FULL RANGE OF WRESTLING TALENT ON OFFER"







THE CUBE EFFECT

OUR ROUNG REPORTER WENT OUT TO CAPTURE THE PUBLIC REACTION TO CUBE ISSUE 2

THERE'S JUST NO stopping it! The CUBE Effect has hit the people of the world, but no more convincingly than in London, due to a smog-CUBE reaction. Last issue our Spy Cam captured Ubi Soft's Louise Gabriel completely losing it after merely glimpsing CUBE Issue 1. Issue 2 really has taken its toll though – the Spy Cam managed to slip into Lunch PR's offices as the sun was going down, revealing none other than Tamasen Franks. Normally a shy, docile creature, Tam was seen grabbing a member of the Hollyoaks cast and riding off into the sunset on the back of a motorbike. A frightening example of the CUBE Effect.





BEFORE Sweet...

AFTER ... Sweet Jesus!

WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

...........

A lot of things happen here at CUBE Towers – some of them we like, and some we don't. Here's a look at what's bringing us joy and making us mad this month...

WHAT'S HOT

The GameCube continues to build on its strong launch as even more games appear in Japan and the US. If Nintendo keeps this up, the sour memories of the N64 will soon be forgotten... at least, we hope so

The TotalGames.Net Forum is a success! Thanks to a whole heap of interest, it's now the most popular forum on the site – if you've got something you want to say, it's certainly the place to be.

Thanks to Mart's new GBA Link Cable, we now know the delights of raising our very own Chao creatures in *Sonic Advance*. With Spanky, Nibbles and Greeny to keep us company these days, we're quite content.

The anticipation for Nintendo giving us a firm release date of the GameCube in Europe has had everyone betting on our sweepstake. Chandra's came closest in the end... don't you just hate that?

WHAT'S NOT

Having now made it through the third issue, we've worked out that if you want to put a game in the magazine, you have to try and get it at least four months in advance... unless you want to come a cropper.

Just when things were going smoothly on the TotalGames.Net forum, we had a slight hitch – one upgrade to the software later and we lost over two weeks worth of postings. Argh! All those ace comments gone!

General illness struck the very heart of the team this month, as nearly everyone in the office went down with something; Simon had the flu while Mart had food poisoning AND toothache. Ahh, poor things. Chandra was unnaturally well though...

Damn those *XBM* boys; just when we thought the GameCube was storming ahead, they go and get in *Jet Set Radio Future* for the Xbox. Now we're going to have to save up for one of those as well...

GAMECUBE NEWS

GOLDEN MOMENTS

THIS MONTH, WE'VE BEEN

SQUARESOFT'S SNES DAYS

In our opinion Squaresoft was better in the SNES days. Admittedly Final Fantasy VII, IX and X are great, but there will always be a soft spot in our hearts for Seiken Densetsu 2 (Secret of Mana), Final Fantasy VI (III in the US) and Chrono Trigger. The PSone sequels to Mana and Trigger weren't a touch on their predecessors. Oooohhhh, them were the days...



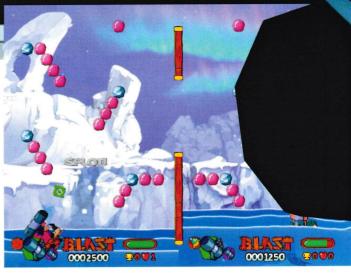






Low on graphical flair, high on innovation... ahh, we remember it well.





WORLD EXCLUSIVE

We get the scoop on the three-inch long pinkies!







YUP, THAT'S RIGHT, Worms is coming to GameCube. Worms Blast to be specific, which is nothing like any of the Worms games that you would have seen before. If you've ever played games such as Bust-A-Move, then you'll know what kind of thing to expect from Team 17's latest offering.

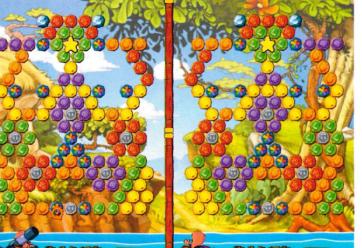
The basic premise is that you sit in a boat underneath a load of coloured blocks. Your gun can fire off coloured shots. If that shot hits a block of a similar colour, the block will burst and disappear. Similarly, if that block is connected to other blocks of a similar colour, they will disappear. Shooting an alternatively coloured block will result in that block changing to the colour of the shot. The blocks keep moving down, and if you don't get rid of them, they'll drown you. Simple really.

Not surprisingly, things get a bit complicated when you get to the later levels...

You can choose from a selection of nine wild and wacky creatures, ranging from sheep to worms to old women (sadly no monkeys, though). Each has slightly different handling, obviously.

The secondary weapons are where *Worms Blast* really comes into its own. These can be picked up by collecting question mark blocks as they fall. The Ray Gun shoots a powerful laser beam, cutting off entire chucks of blocks, the Seamonster send a giant octopus to your opponent's side and the Meteor Strike showers your enemy with flaming balls of rock. It's not just the secondary weapons that can be used offensively, though. Every now and then, the barrier between the two players will lift, giving you the opportunity to fire shots into their half. Needless to say, the action becomes quite frantic in two-player mode.

Admittedly, Worms Blast isn't going to win any prizes for technical innovation, but it looks nice for what it is, and the fantastic two-player mode makes up for it anyway.







HIT 'EM HARD

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A METEOR TO THE CHOPS

The secondary weapons really set this apart from other games of this genre. They can all be avoided in some way, and some can effect you as well as your opponent. For example, the Mines will bob up and down for a while hindering your



movement. As soon as you touch one, you'll have a few seconds to get out of the way before it explodes. In the case of the Seamonster, you'll have to watch for the top of its tentacles to see where it will surface next.



"WORMS BLAST ISN'T LIKE THE WORMS YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE"







IN THE CUBE WITH...

MARTYN BROWN

NAME: MARTYN BROWN POSITION: CREATIVE DIRECTOR COMPANY: TEAM 17



CUBE: How did you get into the videogames industry?

MB: I was well into the Atari VCS and the Spectrum Z80s. As far as Team
17 goes, I just thought that It'd be good to form a games company.

CUBE: What did you want to be when you were a kid?

MB: I wanted to be a chemist. I didn't do chemistry, but I just liked to mix chemicals and make things burn.

CUBE: What's your favourite food?
MB: Pizza... you can't tell though, can you?

CUBE: What's your favourite song of the moment?

MB: Country Roads by Hermy's House Band.

CUBE: Erm... who? Sorry, we don't know them – we're obviously missing out. Erm... [long, awkward pause]

CUBE: If you could be any famous person, who would it be and why?

MB: Roger Waters from Pink Floyd. I just like his lyrics and his cynical look on the world.

CUBE: How long has Team 17 had GameCube development kits for?

MB: We've had development kits since September of last year. That's roughly when we started working on it as well.

CUBE: What do you think of the GameCube hardware?

MB: Worms isn't exactly the most technical product to come onto the GameCube, so we didn't foresee any problems, but the GameCube is a very nice piece of kit.

CUBE: Have you any idea when Worms Blast will be released?
MB: It's pretty much all running now, so it won't be long.

CUBE: Are there going to be any special features for the Cube version, or will it be a straight port?

MB: It's undecided at the moment but there may be bonus bits and extra characters. The core content is very solid, so it's very tricky to pull something new out of the bag. It's more a case of special features. We're not approaching it from a technical point of view. We're not trying to show the Cube's power off – there will be plenty of other titles that do that.

CUBE: Have you looked into the GBA-GameCube link-up options?
MB: We're not planning to do it. To be honest there's not an awful lot that we can do – it's not really applicable for this game.

CUBE: Has Team 17 got anything else planned for GameCube?

MB: We've got a lot of things in mind, but we can't really say anything at the moment. I certainly believe that we will be developing a number of Cube titles, particularly in relation to Worms [he's talking about the new 3D Worms game — CUBE]. I really can't say just yet whether they'll be exclusive or not.

CUBE: What weapon from *Worms Blast* are you most proud of?

MB: Probably the Meteor Strike. Basically, loads of flaming meteors rain down on your opponent. It completely screws up your opponent, and sometimes yourself.

) GAMECUBE NEWS: TOTALGAMES.NET

What's new on the online version of CUBE?

NOW THAT ENOUGH people have had a chance to read the mag, the Forums have been inundated with messages. If you haven't visited yet, what are you waiting for? The opinions on the board are extremely varied and you're bound to find a topic that interests you...



Features
Features
Release List
Reviews
Previews
Gallery
Tips
Competitions
Charts
Forum

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE a good rant on a message-board, and a fair number of you have jumped at the chance to have your say on GameCube, Miyamoto and CUBE in general. Possibly the most popular topics this month have to be the UK launch, and the age group that Nintendo is aiming at. Just when is the GameCube coming out? What colours will be available? How much will it be? Answers range from guesses to educated opinions to the blatantly ridiculous, but no one knows for sure, so all your opinions are welcome. And if for some reason none of the topics interest you, simply create a topic of your own. You're sure to find someone who wants to talk about it, and if not, there'll definitely be someone who wants to argue about it!

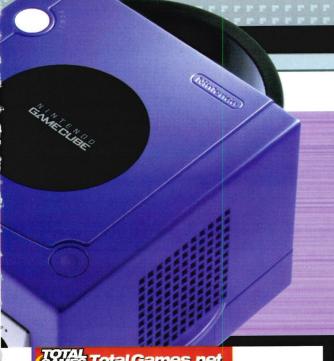
Remember that the Forum is also there to facilitate your requests for the mag. If there's something that you want to see more of, something that you can't stand, or if you have a suggestion, tell us in the Forums. We're always looking for constructive criticism, but if you just slag off something without suggesting an alternative, it doesn't really help.

Other than the Forums, you'll also find the usual updates online, such as the latest news, previews and reviews from Issue 2 of **CUBE**. The downloads page has also been updated to include new *Perfect Dark* wallpaper, and by the time you read this there may even be exclusive videos of *Turok Evolution* on there. Take it easy out there.

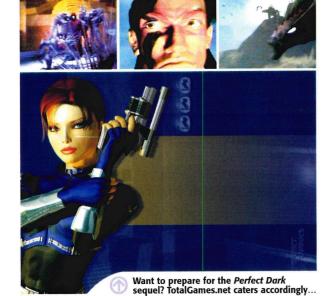




TOTALGAMES.NET









RELEASE LIST

CUBE's at-a-glance guide to what you can expect in 2002.

2002

| TERRITORY | GAME | PUBLISHER | GENRE | RELEASE DATE | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Jap | NBA Street | EA | Sports | 1 February | |
| US | Dark Summit | THQ | Sports | 6 February | |
| Jap | Jikkyou World Soccer 2002 (ISS2) | Konami | Sports | 12 February | |
| US | Sonic Adventure 2 Battle | SEGA | Platform | 12 February | |
| Jap | Virtua Striker 3 ver.2002 | SEGA | Sports | 14 February | |
| US | Smashing Drive | Namco | Racing | 21 February | |
| Jap | Doubutsu Banchou | Nintendo | Adventure | 22 February | |
| Jap | Rogue Squadron 2: Rogue Leader | Activision | Shoot-'em-up | 28 February | |
| US | WWF Wrestlemania 2002 | THQ | Sports | 15 March | |
| US | Galleon: Islands of Mystery | Interplay | Adventure | 16 March | |
| US | 18Wheeler American Pro Trucker | Acclaim | Racing | 18 March | |
| US | NFL Blitz 2002 | Midway | Sports | 18 March | |
| Jap | Biohazard | Capcom | Adventure | 22 March | |
| US | MLS Extra Time 2002 (ISS 2) | Konami | Sports | 26 March | |
| US | Agent Under Fire | EA | Shoot-'em-up | 26 March | |
| Jap | Batman: Dark Tomorrow | Kemco | Beat-'em-up | 31 March | |
| Jap | Rune | From Software | Adventure | March | |
| US | Batman: Dark Tomorrow | Kemco | Platform | March | |
| US | Virtua Striker 3 ver.2002 | SEGA | Sports | March | |
| US | Bloody Roar 3: Primal Fury | Activision | Beat-'em-up | March | |
| US | Spyhunter | Midway | Racing | March | |
| US | StarFox Adventures: Dinosaur Planet | Nintendo | Adventure | April | |
| US | NBA 2K2 | SEGA | Sports | Spring | |
| UK | Luigi's Mansion | Nintendo | Adventure | Spring | |
| UK | WaveRace: Blue Storm | Nintendo | Racing | Spring | |
| UK | Super Smash Bros Melee | Nintendo | Beat-'em-up | Spring | |
| UK | Pikmin | Nintendo | Strategy | Spring | |
| UK | Rogue Leader | Nintendo | Shoot-'em-up | Spring | |
| UK | Cel Damage | EA | Racing | 10 May | |
| Jap | Flippin' Kirby | Nintendo | Platform | May | |
| UK | SSX Tricky | EA | Racing | 14 June | |
| US | Eternal Darkness: Sanity's Requiem | Nintendo | Adventure | Quarter 2 | |
| US | Mario Sunshine | Nintendo | Platform | July | |
| US | Die Hard | Vivendi Uni | Shoot-'em-up | September | |
| Jap | Gold Star Mountain | From Software | Adventure | September | |
| US | Turok Evolution | Acclaim | Shoot-'em-up | September | |
| Jap | The Legend Of Zelda | Nintendo | Adventure | December | |
| US | Perfect Dark Zero | Nintendo | Shoot-'em-up | Christmas | |
| US | Metroid Prime | Nintendo | Shoot-'em-up | Christmas | |
| Jap | 1080° Snowboarding 2 | Nintendo | Sports | Christmas | |
| UŚ | Harry Potter: Chamber Of Secrets | EA | Platform | 2002 | |
| US | Phantasy Star Online | SEGA | Adventure | 2002 | |

MOST WANTED

THE THREE GAMES WHICH HAVE GOT THE CUBE TEAM'S BLOOD BOILING WITH ANTICIPATION.

Nothing more from Nintendo, but there are plenty of other goodies in the pipeline.



RESIDENT EVIL

Although Capcom opens up new sections on its Resident Evil Web site on a weekly basis, the latest enemy profiles have scared us once more. Next month, my pretties...



DIE HARD

We visited Bits Studios this month, and they had to tear us away from *Die Hard* kicking and screaming. They wouldn't give us anymore screenshots, the gits, so here's one of the few that we have.



STARFOX ADVENTURES

McCloud and his team are shaping up well, and this may well be THE title of 2002. You've been calling it 'Zelda' with dinosaurs' in the Forums, and you know what? You're right.

GAMECUBE NEWS





BURN BABY, BURN Acclaim will bring its PS2 smash-'em-up Burnout to GameCube this spring – it'll be a launch title in the UK, and will probably be released in the US in March -----



ETERNALLY DELAYED

Both Eternal Darkness and StarFox Adventures have been delayed. There are no specific dates yet, but both will now be released in Quarter 2 (April-June). Eternal Darkness is an extremely intricate game, so we were kind of expecting the delay.



IN THE INDUSTRY

We have so many letters from people interested in getting into the videogames industry, so here's a Web site that should help you out. Gamesjobnews.com is a new site that encompasses everything you need to know about available jobs in the industry (www.gamesjobnews.com)

PLAYCUBE ADAPTER

Accessories developer Nyko has come up with an adapter which lets you plug a PS2 controller into your GameCube. For ports of PS2 games (designed to be played on the PS2 pad) this is ideal!









GHT HONO

We dig up the dirt on GameCube Medal Of Honor!

EA RECENTLY HELD a launch event for its *Medal of Honor* franchise. The event was designed to promote the up-and-coming Medal of Honor: Frontline (PS2) and Medal of Honor: Allied Assault (PC), but we managed to sit down and have a chat with the MOH franchise Executive Producer Rick Giolito. Among other things, Rick touched on the subject of GameCube. When asked what future plans the company had, he responded with: "Allied Assault is currently a PC title, but we are looking into bringing it to Xbox, and hopefully GameCube. We'll have to wait and see where the target demographic lies - at the moment I see GameCube as 6-14, the PS2 as 14-27 and the Xbox is way beyond that."

Erm... a mixed blessing then. GameCube Allied Assault is obviously being considered, but it's a bit worrying that Rick sees GameCube owners as a bunch of kids.

Oh, come on – do at least try and look like you're enjoying yourself. Geez...

KONAMI FINALLY REVEALS SHOTS OF THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

We have known that International SuperStar Soccer was coming to GameCube for a long time, but it has taken until now for Konami to officially confirm its existence. Back in issue 1 we spoke to a Konami insider, but even they couldn't get official screenshots

However, the Japanese publisher has now revealed that ISS2 will be released in Japan at the end of February, with a US launch in March and UK launch on May 3. The game is coming to the PS2 and

ALL

Xbox, and is the sequel to the PS2 ISS. Please note that this version has nothing to do with Pro Evolution by Konami – *ISS2* is being developed by Konami Osaka, the team behind the SNES and N64 versions.

At the moment, the graphics are looking okay, but after seeing Virtua Striker 3 this month, we came away a bit disappointed. Graphically, Konami's effort isn't a touch on SEGA's game - the difference, of course, being that ISS will play like a dream and VS3 probably won't





STOP









BATS AND BALLS

Ooh, it's another baseball game!

IT'S NOT OFTEN that games publishers admit that one of their products isn't up to much, but there's always a first time – considering that Acclaim hasn't even released All-Star Baseball 2002 on this side of the water yet, it seems strange that it has already announced the release of the sequel.

All-Star Baseball 2003 (must have taken them an age to come up with that one) looks like pretty much the same kind of thing as before, only with more bells and whistles on top; what's more, it's out later this month in the US. Talk about putting the cart before the horse...



TALKING 'BOUT A GENERATION

Hudson's new Bomberman game is looking very tasty indeed

TALK ABOUT FRANCHISES that still remain as playable today as they were years ago and we bet someone brings us the subject of *Bomberman*, simply because it was so darn great. That's why we're so chuffed that Hudson Soft is bringing *Bomberman Generations* to the GameCube... although admittedly, it will mean many more nights staying indoors with controllers in our hands when we should be down the pub.

Although these new screenshots show the game retaining the cartoon style we're accustomed to with *Bomberman*, they don't demonstrate much about the gameplay, other than it involving exploring the massive landscape and blowing things up. One thing that's been clarified by the new screenshots, though, is the return to form of the multiplayer mode. Whereas previous N64 incarnations of the game tried a 3D approach (which failed miserably), *Bomberman Generations* bring it back down to the roots and gives us the tried-and-tested formula we've loved for so long. Believe us, this is one game we're dying to get hold of...



This is what we want – masses of multiplayer action and lots of explosions!







GCN GAMECUBE NEWS

FINAL THOUGHT...

SUBJECT: FND OF AN FRA

This month's announcement that Minora Arakawa is soon to retire came as quite a shock. He was one of the prime candidates for taking NCL President Hiroshi Yamauchi's position when he retired, and there are no other likely candidates that we can think of.

Nintendo solved the puzzle soon enough, when Yamauchi-san officially announced that he will be retiring in the summer, and that there will in fact be no replacement. The company will now be run by a board - decisions will no longer be made by one individual. This could be a good thing and a bad thing, of course. Yamauchisan has made the company what it is. He has seen the company through several successful generations of Nintendo gaming, and it's difficult to imagine the company without him. We don't know what goes on behind the scenes, though. Maybe it was the board who were making the decisions all along – perhaps the ageing leader has merely been a front for the past year or so, in which case nothing will change that much.

Yamauchi-san's retirement has one positive outcome, though. Perhaps now, SquareSoft will be allowed to develop for Nintendo. Yet again, we don't know how Nintendo works, so we can't say for sure. Yamauchi was personally offended by the way that SquareSoft dumped Nintendo for Sony, and this is probably the only reason why the creator of *Final Fantasy* hasn't announced anything for GameCube or GBA. With Yamauchisan out of the decision-making process, this may change. Hey, you never know.

Still, Yamauchi-san will be missed. His comments made us laugh and show respect at the same time. His confidence in Nintendo was admirable, and obviously well placed. Let's just hope that Nintendo doesn't change too much.

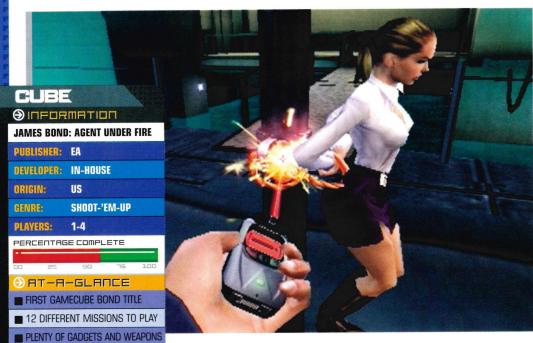


■ BLINDING MULTIPLAYER GAME

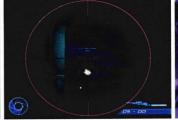
MMM, PRETTY BOND GIRLS.

RELEASE DATES

Oooh-oooh, licence to... keeeeeeeel!



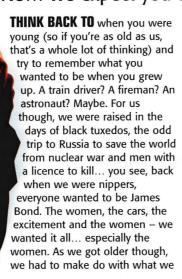






JAMES BOND: AGENT UNDER FIRE

Ahh, we've been expecting you Mr Bond. But do we expect you to talk? No... we expect you to die!



could get – watching the movies on video (and now DVD), playing GoldenEye on the N64 and mixing vodka martinis in a tupperware jug was about as close as we ever got. And now we finally have the chance to get dressed up and act all secret agent-like once again... because James Bond is coming to the GameCube!

Now, don't get all misty-eyed just yet – it's not GoldenEye and Rare hasn't got anything to do with it. Instead, what we've got coming our way is a conversion of the recent EA PlayStation2 title, Agent Under Fire; a totally brandspanking-new game that isn't based on any of the films,

meaning it can run amok with plot lines and evil villains. Of course, it's down to you as Mr Bond himself to save the world - using your vast array of weapons (including machine guns, rocket launchers and the ever-faithful Walther PPK), nifty Q gadgets and super-spy cunning, you'll have to blast, sneak and charm your way through each mission as only James Bond can. Naturally, you'll come up against beautiful ladies, mean henchmen and a megalomaniacal bad guy intent on cloning the leaders of the free world but hey... it's all in a day's work for the world's greatest spy, eh?



isn't original or groundbreaking, but it is enormous fun and that's what important!

TOTALGAMES.NET RATING: 7.8



"AGENT UNDER FIRE ISN'T BASED ON ANY OF THE FILMS, MEANING IT CAN RUN AMOK WITH PLOT

LINES AND EVIL VILLAINS"



THE CAR, BOSS - THE CAR!

URDOM, URDOM BABY

While most Bond games only feature one style of play (GoldenEye on the N64 was first-person shooting while the atrocious 007 Racing on the PlayStation was pure car action), Agent Under Fire has a healthy combination of both. Several missions focus on Bond as he tours through the streets in his Aston Martin, BMW and Russian tank - yep, we said a Russian tank – destroying anything that gets in his way. Of course, that means that everyone will be out to get you but don't let that put you off; you've got plenty of hidden car gadgets up your sleeve to help you come out on top







THINK OF THE PHONE BILLS...

Rather than a few nifty ringtones or the odd operator logo, James Bond has got something far more interesting stashed inside his mobile phone – the latest selection of Q gadgets. You'll be using the phone a lot during the game, so you'd better get to know exactly what it can do...



THE REMOTE CONTROL

Need to open an electronic door but don't know the code? Don't worry -Bond's phone has the ability to hack

into code locks and unlock them remotely. It can also be used to activate other mechanical devices.



THE DATA TRANSFER DEVICE

Vital data and other electronic information found on your travels can be downloaded to your phone, from

which it is beamed directly to MI5 Headquarters for analysis. A useful tool if ever there was one.



spots, the Q-Claw is the mobile phone equivalent of a grappling hook. Just find a grating that you can latch onto, take aim and then

grapple your way up there!



THE LASER

THE Q-CLAW Essential for reaching those

hard-to-reach

Although it can be used as a last resort when you haven't got any weapons, the Q-Laser installed phone is much

more suited for cutting through wire fences, padlocks and other metal objects.



Once again, we're treated to a port of a PlayStation2 game rather than one specifically created for the GameCube c'est la vie. Thankfully, it's a port of quite a good first-person shoot-'em-up so we'll just smile politely. We've played the PlayStation2 version to death and were suitably impressed by the whole experience; it's not GoldenEye, but as long as EA doesn't do anything silly to mess it all up, this should CUBE prove interesting.





With a yo-ho-ho and a massive SEGA RPG!











SKIES OF ARCAD





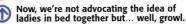
Who needs Final Fantasy when you've got incredible adventure games like this coming to the GameCube, eh?

BEING FANS OF videogames as a whole, we've always stood firm in the belief that SEGA makes some damn fine videogames - in fact, some of our favourite games of the last few years appeared on the Dreamcast. One of those was Skies Of Arcadia, an epic RPG that managed to draw on the better elements of popular games like Final Fantasy and then combine them with new concepts to create an incredible game. So, do you want the good news? Of course you do... it's coming to the GameCube! Yay!

Although the GameCube version of Skies Of Arcadia is a mere port of the Dreamcast one, actually describing the game as 'mere' does it a severe injustice. This is adventure gaming at its best, with tons of characters to interact with, a massive weapons and magic battle system and a swashbuckling plot so deep you'll be up to your chin in it. Believe us, you'll be wanting this game when it arrives... we'll bring you more in the coming months.













TASTE MY BLADE!

Like many RPGs of this natures these days, Skies Of Arcadia also features special 'Summon' attacks that can be used in mid-battle to unleash hell on an opponent. Here though, you have to charge up Spirit Points while fighting which can then be converted into an unstoppable attack, and the more Moonberries you collect on your travels, the more of these attacks you'll have to choose from.



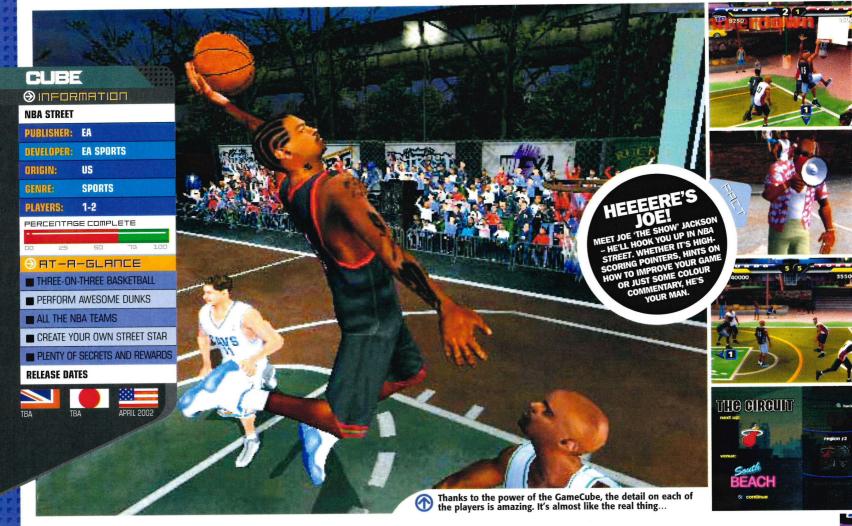




Bringing basketball to the street... word

NBA STREET

Who needs a proper basketball court when you've got a ball, some mates and a whole lot of street?



PLAYING SPORT IS all very well, but to be frank there are just too many rules that get in the way of the real enjoyment. No picking the ball up with your hands... don't hit me with your stick... you're not allowed to punch him there – honestly, they call that fun? You see, these are the problems you get from playing the 'official' versions of sport; take it onto the street, though, and you've got yourself a whole different ball game... and we mean that in the most literal sense, obviously.

And so we come to *NBA Street* – the latest of EA's confirmed PlayStation2 ports to the GameCube. Now, in the past EA has been known for sports games that are more like simulations, such as the FIFA, Madden or NHL franchises; the realism of the actual sport being important in the overall execution of the game. With the introduction of the EA Sports BIG range, though, the company has branched out considerably into more extreme and exaggerated interpretations of sport

- with SSX Tricky (reviewed last issue) being a perfect example of that. So, what can we expect from NBA Street? Well, not gentlemanly sportsmanship and oranges at halftime. that's for sure...

NBA Street features basketball at its roughest and toughest. Forget all those rules about travelling, the ball going out of play and people being kicked in the knackers – those are for sissies. Instead, you've got three-onthree basketball, with the idea being to get the ball into the hoop at the

end while making sure that anyone who gets in your way winds up on their arse. Of course, it's also about attitude and showing off; for that purpose, you've got a host of impressive fake-out moves that can be used to embarrass the opposition, as well as some truly amazing (and impossible) dunks to pull off. Impressed? Well, that's only the tip of the basketball-shaped iceberg, pal... we'll bring you even more when the game makes an appearance in the US later in the spring.



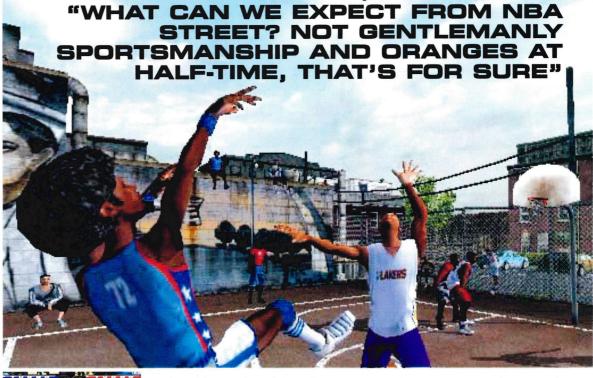


CREATE-A-PLAYA

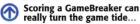
FLY FOR A MADE GUY

Not satisfied with the selection of players on offer? Well, don't panic - with a bit of patience and effort, you can create your very own street basketball star instead. Although you'll only start off with a small selection of clothing, shoes and body styles, you can unlock more by taking part in the Hold The Court mode and beating each court's win or scoring milestones. What's more, you can also earn extra Attribute points which can be used to bump up their skills... important when you start coming up against the big boys.











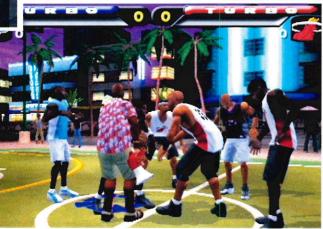
GAMEBREAKER, BABY!

As well as all the fancy fake-out moves and special dunks on offer, there's also the small matter of your GameBreaker meter to consider. Basically, it's all about flair - the more combos you manage to string together and the better your fake-outs and shots at the hoop are, the more the meter will fill up. When it's maxed out, you'll have the chance to take a GameBreaker shot; it's aptly named because it can prove the difference between winning and losing. Why? Because any points you score with your GameBreaker will be added to your score and deducted from your opponent, that's why. Use it wisely...











sports game that doesn't try to be a simulation – instead, it manages to be an action-packed videogame, which is ultimately what we enjoy the most. As with most of EA's games, we've played and enjoyed the PlayStation2 version in the past so hopefully, there's no way that

■ Much like NHL Hitz 20-02 (which scored a very respectable 9.1 last issue), NBA Street is a

the GameCube conversion will be anything less than CUBE rather special.



That's a big 10-4, good buddy!









Grab the biggest Stetson you can find and a dictionary of CB Radio jargon – we're going truckin', folks!

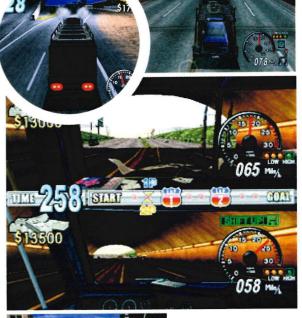
18VVHEELER AMERICAN PRO TRUCKER



WE DON'T KNOW about you, but long-distance trucking isn't something that immediately appeals to us – stuck in the same cab all day long, with no company except the static on the CB Radio and the occasional idiot doing that 'honk honk' motion with his arm as he passes by. Still, that doesn't mean that delivering piles of logs or a trailer full of cars can't be exciting; if 18Wheeler Am Pro Trucker is anything to go by, it's a seat-of-your-pants roller coaster ride!

Set across five stages taking you across the heart of the United States, it's your job to drive your truck as fast as possible to the finish line. Along the way, you'll need to negotiate those tricky roads as well as barging bonus vans off the road (to top up your stopclock) and keeping out of the way of the demon trucker – a rival who's determined to stop you from getting to the end in one piece. A near-perfect conversion of the SEGA arcade machine, we've no doubt that this will be one to keep all the driving enthusiasts out there mighty happy...

"IF THIS IS ANYTHING TO GO BY, TRUCK DRIVING IS A SEAT-OF-YOUR-PANTS ROLLER COASTER RIDE"







DANGER!

It's not just a case of keeping your eyes on the road, you know – you'll also have to watch for dangers that spring up out of nowhere. Falling boulders from the cliffs above, dangerous offroad terrain and even a tornado that drops other vehicles out of the sky are just some of the hazards awaiting you...



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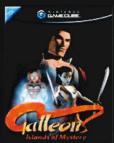
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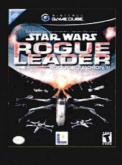


























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SEGA brings the arcade to Cube

Virtua Striker 2 on Dreamcast wasn't exactly a must-play title, so what makes this any different? Virtua Striker 2 on Dreamcast wasn't exactly a VERSION 2002

CLIE **⊕** INFORMATION **VIRTUA STRIKER 3 VERSION 2002** PUBLISHER: SEGA **DEVELOPER: AMUSEMENT VISION JAPAN** GENRE: SPORTS 2 PLAYERS: PERCENTAGE COMPLETE ⊕ AT-A-GLANCE JFA LICENCE **■** GORGEOUS GRAPHICS PURE ARCADE ACTION ROAD TO WORLD CUP OPTION ■ 64 TEAMS **RELEASE DATES**





THE VIRTUA STRIKER series has turned up on the Saturn and Dreamcast in various forms, and without a console of their own to develop for, the creators of *Super Monkey Ball* are now bringing the latest version to GameCube. If there's one comment that could sum up the entire *VS* series, it would be 'great graphics, crap gameplay' – but surely the team responsible for *Super* 'Gameplay King' *Monkey Ball* couldn't stuff this up?

Let's get one thing straight – Virtua Striker is an arcade game. It started out in the arcades, and it has its roots firmly in that territory. As such the controls are very simple – Short Pass, Long Pass, Shoot, Change Formation. When you're on defence, these buttons change to tackles. Rather than going for tactics and lengthy rosters, VS3 concentrates on out-and-out action. Amusement Vision has added various features to keep you interested in the long







WILL THE REAL JOE

VS3 has the official Japan Football Association licence, meaning that all the Japanese team names can be used. While all the international teams are selectable, the player names will be made up. VS3 gets around this in the same way that ISS does – by having a Create-A-Player mode. You can simply take a player and change



term, though. It has the official JFA licence, and the Adidas boots licence, the latter coming into use in the Create-A-Player mode. Then there's the Road To International Cup mode, which lets you handle a team over the space of four years. Mostly though, the game is all about two-player arcade action.

The team's previous GameCube experience has definitely paid dividends - VS3 looks sublime. Every stadium is beautifully rendered, and filled with carefully animated crowds. The character models are easily the most detailed yet seen in a sports game, the muscle tone especially being most impressive. All of this runs at a constant 60

frames per second too. In fact, the only complaint we have concerns the player animation, which looked a bit sketchy in the version of the game we played.

As we feared, however, there is some bad news. While VS3 plays better than any other VS game, the telltale problems are still there. You never really feel in control of what you're doing - you still have to rely on the computer to select the nearest player for you, and in today's FIFA and ISS-driven market, that just isn't good enough. There's still time though, and hopefully Amusement Vision will take note of early criticism of the game. Fingers crossed, eh?

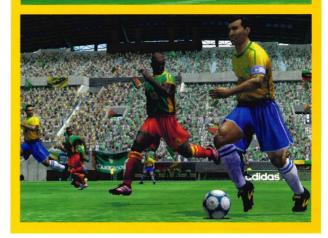


PUT THE ECOT IN

COR, WHAT A STUD!



Every part of VS3 is incredibly detailed, right down to the boots on the players' feet. The characters are easily the best sports players that



"THE TEAM'S **PREVIOUS GAMECUBE EXPERIENCE HAS DEFINITELY PAID DIVIDENDS** -

VS3 LOOKS SUBLIME"





■ It's good to see developers really using the power of GameCube, and *Virtua Striker 3* looks amazing. However, in terms of gameplay, this won't achieve FIFA or ISS status. If the Al is tweaked, VS3 will be a welcome addition to our collection, but people will choose the graphically inferior ISS simply because it's a more rewarding game to play. Still, for a pure arcade experience VS3 will always be CUBE king of the terraces







Midway gets shaken but not stirred!

SPYHUNTER

Take one classic arcade franchise, improve it massively for nextgen consoles, release it on the GameCube and what do you get?



SPIES HAVE ALL the good things in life... plenty of women, all the nicest cocktails and the very best cars (with essential weapon upgrades, obviously) that money can buy. Of course, while we can't guarantee any way of attracting beautiful women – unless you're us, that is – and cocktails are a waste of alcohol, there's one sure-fire way of getting your virtual hands on a top-of-the-line spy car; play *Spyhunter* when it comes out on the GameCube.

Taking control of the G-6155 Interceptor (the hottest spy car on the market), your goal is to foil the best-laid plans of NOSTRA – an evil business syndicate whose only intention is to take over the world with a typically maniacal scheme involving lots of satellites. Mind you, this isn't as tough as you might think; much of the time, it involves storming through numerous locations while blowing up anything that gets in your way... oh, and completing various tasks every now and then. Anyway, it was an ace game when it came out on the PlayStation2 and no doubt it'll be even better on the GameCube.

"AN ACE GAME ON THE PS2 - NO DOUBT IT'LL BE EVEN BETTER ON THE GAMECUBE"

GO GO GADGET POWERBOAT!

Being the super-enhanced spy car that the Interceptor is, it's not surprising that your ride is more than just a simple motor. Sure, it might look like one while you're on the road but take a detour though anything larger than a puddle and it'll transform into a massive powerboat, complete with jet engine. What's more, the outer shell of the car detaches when it's taken too much damage and transforms into a motorbike... pretty smart, eh?









Elvis Presley - Suspicious Minds: 3719 Eminem - Guilty Conscience: 1190 Eminem - Kim: 4878 Eminem - Marshall Mathers: 3664

Eiffel 65 - Blue: 1186

Eminem - My Name Is...: 4876 Eminem - Real Slim Shady: 1191 Eminem - Stan: 3922

Eminem - Still Don't Give A F***: 1193 Eminem - The Way I Am: 1194 Eminem - Under The Influence: 4880

Eric Clapton - Layla: 3880 Europe - Final Countdown: 5353 Eve - Let Me Blow Ya Mind: 5107 Faith Hill - There You'll Be: 4802 Faithless - Insomnia: 3867 Faithless - We Come 1: 4473 Five - Closer To Me: 5478 Five - Let's Dance: 5106

Frankie Valli - Can't Take My Eyes: 5241 Gabrielle - Out Of Reach: 3776 Geri Halliwell - It's Raining Men: 3973 Gorillaz - Clint Eastwood: 3613 Guns 'n' Roses - Sweet Child O' Mine: 3868 es House Band - Country Roads: 5832 Ian Van Dahl - Castles In The Sky: 4945

IIO - Rapture: 5731 Incubus - Privilege: 5065 Jam - Town Called Malice: 4563 Janet Jackson - All For You: 3775 S Club 7 - Reach: 1332 Savage Garden - Truly, Madly, D...: 1344 Shaggy - It Wasn't Me: 3676 Shaggy - Luv Me Luv Me: 5265 Shaggy feat. Rayvon - Angel: 4388 Sisqo - Dance For Me: 4970 Slipknot - Wait And Bleed: 4875 Snap - Rhythm Is A Dancer: 4929 Snoop Dogg - Snoop Dogg: 3844 So Solid Crew - They Don't Know: 5748 So Solid Crew / Mr Shabz - Haters: 5988 Sophie Ellis - Murder On Dancefloor: 5830 Sophie Ellis - Take Me Home: 5100 Spandau Ballet - Gold: 5311 Spiller - Groovejet: 3544 Stereophonics - Handbags/Gladrags: 5828 Sticky ft Ms Dynamite - Booo: 4722 Sum 41 - In Too Deep: 5827 Supermen Lovers - Starlight: 5217 Tina Turner - Simply The Best: 3870 Toploader - Dancin' In Moonlight: 3677 UB40 - Red Red Wine: 5022 Uncle Kracker - Follow Me: 5191 Usher - U Got It Bad: 5389 Usher - U Remind Me: 4842 Van Morrison - Brown Eyed Girl: 4935 Westlife - Queen Of My Heart: 5749 Westlife - Untown Girl: 3608 Wheatus - A Little Respect: 4906 Wheatus - Teenage Dirtbag: 3616 Wideboys ft Dennis G - Sambuca: 5450

Wyclef Jean - Perfect Gentleman: 4952

Monty Python: 3548 Muppets: 4650 en: 5914 Only Fools/Horses: 5010 Popeye: 5020 Pulp Fiction: 5236 Rainbow: 4924 Red Dwarf: 3539 Rocky: 1050 Roobarb: 1440 Royle Family: 3669 Scooby Doo: 4562 Sesame Street: 5655 Star Trek: 1427 Star Wars: 1425 SuperMan: 1429 Thunderbirds: 3529 Tigger's Song: 3891 Top Cat: 5019 Topgun: 1066 Trigger Happy TV: 5653 Twilight Zone: 5021 Wallace And Gromit: 5652 Welsh National Anthem: 3892 Winnie The Pooh: 3893 Wombles: 4675 Young Ones: 6055

THE Brian 📆 4851 ... 4846 \$**>6**€€U 4847 Kiss Me!! 4037 MENIMA 4036 Calling... 9996



Definitely nothing like a lion with tuberculosis

CLIEF **⊕** INFORMATION **BLOODY ROAR: PRIMAL FURY PUBLISHER: ACTIVISION DEVELOPER: HUDSON SOFT** ORIGIN: **JAPAN** BEAT-'EM-UP PLAYERS: 2 PERCENTAGE COMPLETE ⊕ AT-A-GLANCE **■ CONTAINS FRESH CHARACTERS** ■ REVAMPED, RECUBED GRAPHICS RUNS AT 60HZ A SECOND FEATURES FIGHTING MOLES **RELEASE DATES**

BLOODY ROAR: PR



It's almost time to hack up a fur ball and dish out a right proper beasting...

SPRING — **A TIME** when bunnies with baskets of eggs skip through meadows, feather dusters sprint round homes and seven-foot tall rabbit-women smack the crap out of mole-men in finely tailored suits. A magical time it is true, and all thanks to the glorious union of Hudson Soft and Activision.

The Bloody Roar series has already spanned both PlayStation consoles, and now it's our turn to experience the sheer spectacle of metamorphic martial arts. Sixteen combatants will face off across nine interactive arenas utilising standard attacks, combos and unique hyper-beast attacks where they take on their animalistic form and dish out some suitably animalistic pain.

Interview with a vampire?









The heroine looks an awful lot like Lara Croft... albeit with a slight reduction.

BLOODRAYNE

Agent Bloodrayne: a half-human, halfvampire goodie-goodie. Here Buffy Buffy...

CURRENTLY IN THE early stages of development, *Bloodrayne* sees you controlling a government-trained half-human, half-vampire agent, whose mission is to destroy. A deranged, pre-Nazi cult is about to unleash biological nightmares onto the world and Agent Bloodrayne must put a stop to it! Imagine a much darker *Buffy* set in the Thirties and you'll get

the idea. Not much gameplay information has been released yet, so there's little to go on aside from the substandard graphics. In that respect, the game resembles a Dreamcast version of *Eternal Darkness*, which isn't what we look for on such a capable machine. The game isn't due out for a while, so it's one to keep an eye on.

Let it snow, let it snow,





IMAL FURY



This will undoubtedly be the slickest beast-'em-up to grace any console and its mix of unrepentant aggression, strategic powerplay and... animals is sure to set it apart from the crowd. Expect captions like 'Alice delivers an unholy rabbit punch to Uranus' when we get our paws on the review code.



let it snow





INTERNATIONAL WINTER SPORTS

Button-bashing fingers at the ready!

LOOKING BACK ON the games we used to play, *Track And Field* brings back feelings of pain due to the button-bashing required. Hammering the buttons until your fingers bleed isn't exactly a gaming art but it seems to work for many sports titles, which probably explains why Konami is bringing the next in the Track And Field franchise to the GameCube...

Focused on the events of the Winter Olympics, ESPN International Winter Sports brings you ten of the best snow-based sports. It should be out by the time you read this, so expect a more extensive look at it next issue.

What are you gonna do, brother?









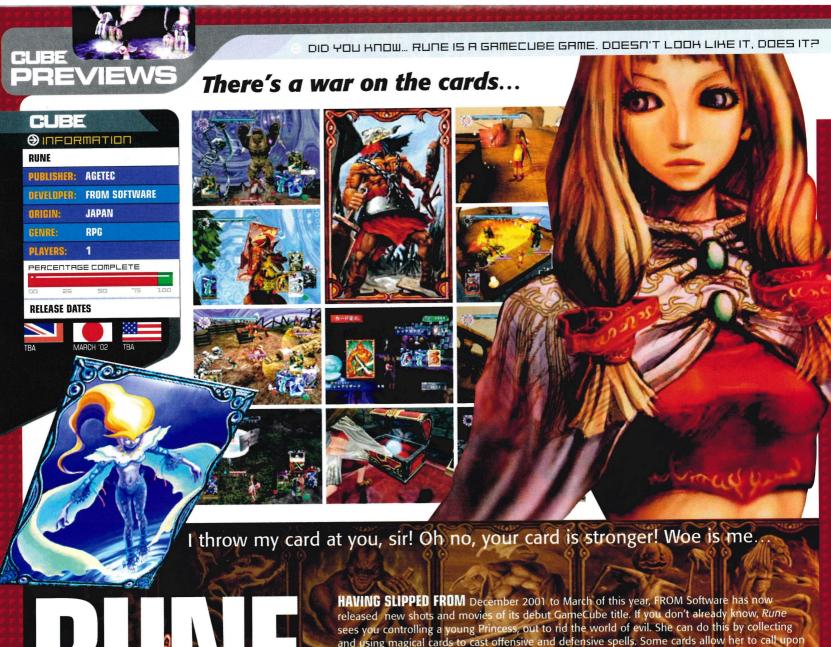
PREVIEW

LEGENDS OF WRESTLING

They might be past it now but the wrestlers of the Eighties are back, grapple fans...



IT'S BEEN A while since Acclaim last released a wrestling game (which is no bad thing, since ECW Hardcore Revolution was so bad) but with the imminent release of Legends Of Wrestling on the GameCube, it looks like it's gone back to the drawing board. Gone are the faux-realistic characters and tricky move systems, in come a nice cartoon-style and some simple-yet-effective controls. This time, we face the classic wrestlers of the Eighties – all-time greats like Hulk Hogan, Ted DiBiase and George 'The Animal' Steele show their faces. It might not be the big WWF game we're waiting for, but this will fill the void for many wrestling fans.



HAVING SLIPPED FROM December 2001 to March of this year, FROM Software has now released new shots and movies of its debut GameCube title. If you don't already know, Rune sees you controlling a young Princess, out to rid the world of evil. She can do this by collecting and using magical cards to cast offensive and defensive spells. Some cards allow her to call upon the powers of huge magical creatures, similar to the Guardian Forces/Aeons from Final Fantasy, but not nearly so extravagant. If she runs out of cards, she can always resort to her trusty blade.

The latest movies of Rune look slightly better than the last batch we saw, but it still looks like a Dreamcast game, and you can be pretty sure that it won't ever be released outside of Japan.







BIGMOUTH STRIKES AGAIN

Sometimes you will acquire Summoning Cards. These will enable you to call upon magical creatures for an OTT magic attack. The red dragon looks to be the most impressive so far, but even this isn't a touch on the Aeons from the Final Fantasy series. The Summons creatures aren't all offensive in nature - while some will engulf an enemy in flames, or rip them apart with an earthquake, others will nullify negative status ailments from your player.

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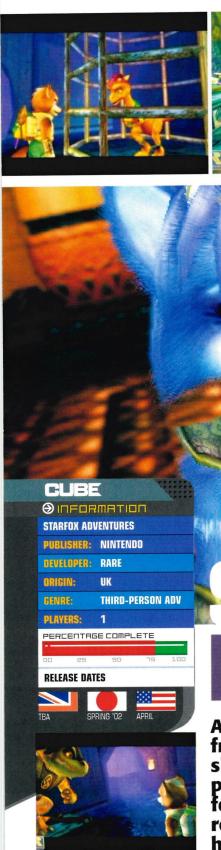
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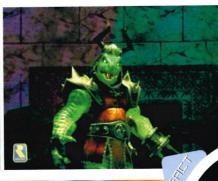


2600











General Scales' seconda escape plan. Well, maybe...



Anyone suffering from the Zelda blues should sit up and prepare themselves for Link's unofficial replacement. You have been warned...

WHETHER OR NOT you think that Miyamoto's new direction for Zelda will turn out to be good is neither here nor there right now. Let's face it - as long as Nintendo comes up with a worthy sequel to the N64 Zeldas, you're not really going to be that fussed if it experiments a bit, right? Nintendo knows this, of course. Zelda: Ocarina of Time and Majora's Mask sold bucket-loads -

054

do you really think that they would tamper with something if it wasn't broken? The answer is... maybe.

Let's go back to summer 2000. Nintendo is in a bit of a situation. The whole world thinks that GameCube will hit the shelves in time for Christmas, but Mario hasn't even been started on yet and Zelda only exists as a technology demo. Later that year, the Japanese

"FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN AND PLAYED SO FAR, STARFOX COULD WELL BE UP THERE WITH ZELDA-IN FACT, IT MAY EVEN SURPASS IT"













launch slips back to September 2001, but that still doesn't give Miyamoto and his teams enough time to complete two enormous titles. But guess what? There is already a game in development for GameCube which is extremely similar in style to Zelda. Rare's Dinosaur Planet could provide the perfect engine with which to make a sequel-of-sorts to Zelda, but the main characters are not

strong enough. The obvious solution is to introduce some big names into the fray. Link's tied up in *Celda*, and Mario and Luigi have their own games, so the *StarFox* team are the perfect candidates.

Ta da! And so it came to pass (after several big meetings between Rare and Nintendo) that *Dinosaur Planet* would become *StarFox Adventures: Dinosaur Planet*.







THE RIGHT STAFF



FOX'S WOOD GETS HIM INTO ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE...

It's quite handy that Fox stumbles across this mysterious staff, as without it he'd be pretty stuffed. Starting out as a plain-old patterned wooden staff, Fox can use it to hit his enemies or lever boulders out of the way. As he explores, he will find upgrades, enabling him to create rings of energy or fire off plasma balls. In fact, there are so many different uses for it that we've dedicated these two pages to them!



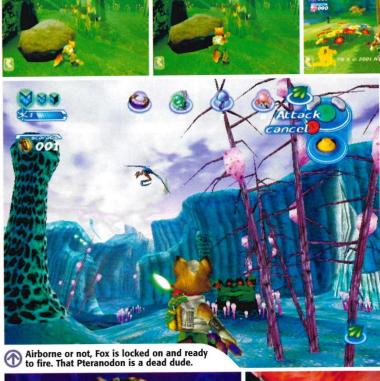
BLOCK 'N' ROLL

MCCLOUD HITS THE GROUND ROLLING

It would be great if Fox could explore Dinosaur Planet unhindered, but the Krazoa have other plans. Pretty much every area is guarded by the armoured fiends and you'll have to use Fox's evasion techniques to avoid losing vital health. At the start of the game Fox will come across a mysterious staff which, amongst other things, can be used to whack enemies around the head. Enemies can block and deflect though, so your best bet is to lock on using the Z Trigger. You can then use the staff to propel yourself into a sideways roll, skirt around your enemy and attack from the side or the rear.

This commando-style roll can also be used to evade attacks. At one point in the game you'll come across a giant mantis boss. As it spews out acid balls, Fox will have to roll so that he gets enough time to line up his next attack.









Whether it was Rare who approached Nintendo or vice-versa is unknown. Rare must have welcomed the move though, even if it means that Nintendo will be breathing down its neck like an angry parent. Dinosaur Planet was looking gorgeous anyway, but with a cast of high-profile characters, and Nintendo pushing the title as one of its biggest behind Mario Sunshine and Celda, StarFox Adventures has the potential to be huge.

The game is set eight years after the events of *StarFox 64*. The evil Andross is a distant memory, but eight years is quite long enough for a fox to live the life of a global hero, and evil has returned once more. The peaceful, primeval Dinosaur Planet has been invaded by General Pepper and his army of Krazoa. Fox is immediately sent on a rescue mission – yeah well, he was getting bored of being fed grapes anyway.

Rare is trying hard to retain the Zelda feel to the game, with enemy lock-ons (Z -Trigger), horizontal rolls, and hidden subterranean caves. Button symbols appear in the topright corner of the screen (as in Zelda) to tell you at a glance which items and commands are at your disposal. These buttons can be

"DINOSAUR PLANET WAS LOOKING GORGEOUS ANYWAY... WITH NINTENDO PUSHING THE TITLE, STARFOX HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE HUGE"











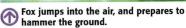


SOUND AS A POUND

BY THE POWER OF

Some enemies can't be hurt by a simple strike, and this is where the Hammer upgrade comes into use. The hammer-head on the end of the staff is so large that it can create a wave of energy. This energy is only effective against certain enemies though.

GREYSKULL!



Upon impact, a massive wave of energy is sent out in all directions.

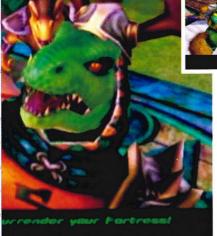


The wave goes straight through the mutant plant's leathery casing.









configured whenever you wish. A major aspect of the Zelda series is the atmosphere created, both by the music and the gloomy dungeons. The hardware has allowed for some gorgeous environments, and the likes of Jet Force Gemini prove that Rare has the musical talent required to hit the mark. Already we've seen examples of huge temples, wide open landscapes lush valleys, cave

systems, marshes, and barren wastelands, inspiration for which has obviously been drawn from N64 classics such as *Zelda*, *Banjo*

and Jet Force Gemini.



GOING UNDERGROUND

WEAPON, TOOL, VIBRATOR - WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

In a similar style to Zelda, Dinosaur Planet holds many hidden secrets, amongst which are underground caves. Your staff will vibrate when you are standing near one of these Spirit Caves, and most of the time they hold vital treasures such as staff upgrades. Getting into the Spirit Caves isn't quite so easy though, and Rare hasn't revealed how it will be done. We're assuming that bombs will come into play though.

Once inside the cave, the staff's usefulness continues. In order to open the treasure chest, you will have to insert the staff into the lock.



















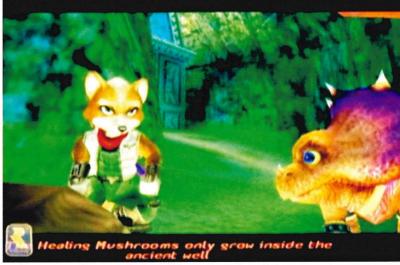
MEET THE TEAM

FOX IS BY NO MEANS ALONE IN HIS QUEST

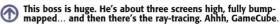
Most of the original *StarFox* cast have returned to the latest adventure, with the exception of Falco. The talented wingman has jetted off on a 'glamorous solo career' or something. Please don't read anything into that – it doesn't mean that he will be making a cameo appearance in a new Rare game! It's just Rare doing its regular wind-up-merchant impression.

Fox, as always, is the StarFox team leader. Helping him in his mission are Slippy, Peppy and Rob the Robot (you're joking, right?) Slippy provides all the latest gadgets and equipment, Peppy helps out with vital information and Rob is there in case you ever need to stock up on supplies. Sergeant Pepper also checks in from time to time by way of a holo-imaging device. During the adventure, Fox will also bump into Krystal, a foxy young lady with blue fur. What she is doing on Dinosaur Planet is a complete mystery, but her intentions are good and she is a skilful healer. Fox will also be joined by Prince Tricky, a native young triceratops who will be invaluable to the mission's success...or so he says.

Aside from these main characters, there are plenty of other inhabitants who will be willing to help you, such as other dinosaurs, mammoths, native tribes and a mysterious rock monster.











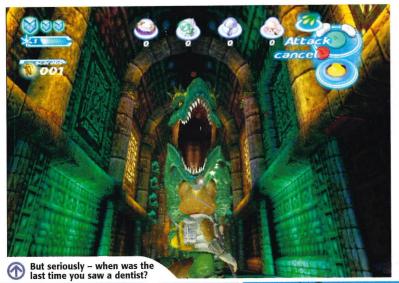
TRANSFORMERS...

DINOS IN DISGUISE!

At some points in the game, the Krazoa security will just be too tight to get through. No amount of firepower will get you past it, so you'll have to resort to other means. This is where the transformation device comes into play. All Fox has to do is step inside – seconds later he will resemble a Krazoan soldier.







RIDE 'EM, COWBOY

HANG ON IN THERE FOR THE BONUS GAMES

Rare really has chucked everything into this game. Here are just two of the alternative means of transport in *StarFox Adventures*; dino riding and hovercar racing. As usual, Rare is keeping completely schtum about them.

















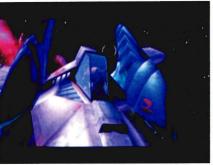


BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

FOX HANGS WITH THE RULERS OF THE PLANET

It appears that Dinosaur Planet is ruled by a family of Triceratops. Tricky is the young Prince and somehow he has managed to escape the clutches of the enemy. His parents, on the other hand, haven't been so lucky. Not only have they been kidnapped, but the Queen has been badly hurt, possibly fatally. Hopefully Krystal will be on-hand by the time you find Her Majesty, otherwise you could well be the bearer of bad tidings for young Tricky.

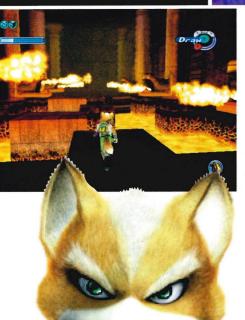














Totem Pole suggests that the inhabitants are part of some sort of religious tribe.
What's the betting that Fox happens to
look like one of their gods? 'Prophecy told
that you would fall from the sky'...

QUICK DRAW MCCLOUD

■ When Fox's staff is neatly stashed away, the A Button becomes the Draw button. As a result of this, Fox can whip it out at the tap of a button. Once the staff is out, the A Button switches to

When Fox is running and climbing, he needs to have his hands free, and the rucksack is the perfect answer. Food, items and the staff are all within easy reach. The staff even comes in a flat-pack

COMMENT

StarFox Adventures: Dinosaur Planet could well be up there with Zelda. In fact, it may even surpass it. The fact that Rare is behind the game means it will be brimming over with quality, humour and sub-games. The fact that Nintendo has jumped in with the StarFox licence means that the entire StarFox world is at Rare's disposal. This doesn't just mean the characters, either - it means the Arwings as well, and with this comes a whole new section to the game. The Arwing flying levels are basically an update of StarFox 64. This is both good and bad, though - the good news is that you won't have to wait very long to play a next-gen version of the game. The bad news is that its inclusion pretty much rules out a separate StarFox flying game anytime soon.

From what we've seen and played so far,

We've already vouched for the music, and you can see for yourself that the graphics are among the best yet on the







to Zelda (in feel) as possible. The lock-ons are there and

the button configuration is there, but the most

sensible addition has to be the situation-based controls. Aside from using items, there are

actions such as putting away, putting down etc. It

may sound simple, but you'd be amazed at

too many actions in the game to have

each one on a different button. The A

Button's use will change depending on the situation, and will account

for talking, attacking, selecting,

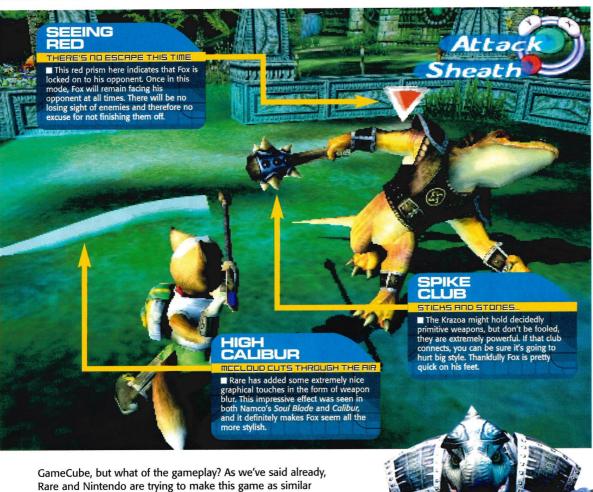
picking up, levering etc. The B Button will be used for negative

how many games fail on this level.









CLIBE

Hi Fox. It's, Slippy.
This is gonna be a dangerous mission! You and Tricky must fight the huge and deadly Dark Ice Mines Boss.
Try using Tricky's sidekick commands. I've got a feeling that they may hold the secret to defeating the boss! Good luck, Fox.
Slippy out.



Slippy pops his head in from time to time to offer valuable mission advice.



CUBE THINKS...

FIRST IMPRESSION

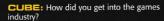
■ The only negative thing that we can say about this game is that it's had its release pushed back to April in the US. Yet another month will have to pass in the CUBE offices without this highly anticipated game. Ah well, we'll have Resident Evil to play, won't we?

Rare is about to enter a new dimension of gaming. Forget all those rumours of Rare developing for PS2 and Xbox – Rare is at its best with Nintendo and everyone knows it.



"I WAS INTERVIEWED FOR A DESIGN POSITION. NEXT THING I KNEW THEY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE MAKING TUROK AND THAT I WAS IN CHARGE"





D: I've loved videogames my entire life. I went to college and got a Fine Arts degree, but it's very hard to get a job with that. I was working in an advertising agency as a Junior Creative Director, shortly after which I decided that I must get out of advertising. My brother lives in Austin, and he sent me an advert from Iguana Entertainment, who was recruiting programmers, designers and artists. I drew up a game concept, with all the characters and the internals, and I described how it all moved. I sent it to the company and it landed on the desk of Mr Nigel Cook, who is now our General Manager. Since they thought it was one of the better concepts they had seen, I was interviewed for a design position. Next thing I knew they told me that they were making Turok and that I was in charge. The rest is history — learn it as you go!

CUBE: What are your top three videogames of all time?

DD: Wolfenstein 3D (PC) Tempest 2000 (Jaguar) Metal Gear Solid 2 (PS2)

CUBE: What did you want to be when you were a kid?

l actually wanted to get into film, and make movies. I got close.

CUBE: If you could be any famous person, who would it be and why?

□□: Jacques Cousteau, because the man is one of the greatest explorers that ever lived. I'm not a big risk-taker, but I do have a dream of being in a shark cage and having Great Whites swimming outside it.

wanting to get into the videogames industry?

D: The most important ability to have is understanding that there is a huge difference between being a food critic and a chef. There is an idealised, dreamy vision of what making games is like, and then there is the reality. People should



DAVID DIENSTBIER

spend time learning to listen, to take advice and to be patient. A lot of these things take time – we did so much wrong during the course of developing the first *Turok*, it just wasn't funny. It doesn't mean that you fail, as you benefit from the experience. Be an information sponge. Do your research, get on the game development sites out there. If you want to be an artist, you need to get your hands on 3D art packages, otherwise you don't stand a chance. Very few companies will hire purely conceptual artists.

GUBE: Which games have you worked on since *Turok: Dinosaur Hunter*?

my involvement on Rage Wars, though my involvement on Rage Wars was minimal. Let me see... South Park: Chef's Love Shack, and I've done voice work on lots of our games. I did the Campaigner's voice, all six voices of the Oblivion in Turok 2, and the gurgling blood guy. As far as our new project Jinx [now called Vexx] is

concerned, I'm Director on that. That project is going so well at the moment. They've done a fantastic job on the world maps. I'm all over the place really.

CUBE: What do you think about Nintendo as a videogames developer?

in thing with Nintendo, specifically with anything that Miyamoto-san has ever done, is that if you spend a small amount of time with it you might get the impression that it's very one dimensional. 'Oh, I'm running around and hopping on things.' That's what Mario is... if you're an idiot and you only spend a few minutes playing it. The complexity of the game is built around this very focused core set of abilities that your character has. The experience just becomes deeper and deeper and deeper. A game like Pikmin makes me so curious to get in there and see what it's all about. It's so much fun and I just have to spend more time with it.

in Europe, and received universal praise. The sequel became the first game to use the N64 Expansion Pack, and with it came glorious, high-resolution graphics. These two games, backed up by Extreme G and the NFL Quarterback Clab series, brought Acclaim back into profit. By the third instalment, Iguana had officially become Acclaim Studios Austin. Sadly though, Turok 3 had strayed too far from its original roots—and this, combined with an extremely choppy frame rate, ruined the game.

Fear not though, because Dave Dienstbier and his team are back with two potentially huge titles. We had a chance to sit down with both of them for a bit of a chat...

AT A GLANCE...





IN-DEPTH: TUROK EVOLUTION

Finally... Turok has come back to Nintendo! Get the lowdown right here...

IN-DEPTH: VEXX

A tale of one boy and his gloves of mass destruction – just what we want to see!



"ANYONE WHO TRIES TO CLAIM THAT 'NINTENDO IS FOR KIDS' NEED ONLY TAKE A PEEK AT THE DINOSAUR HUNTER IN ACTION" DAVID DIENSTBIER, ACCLAIM

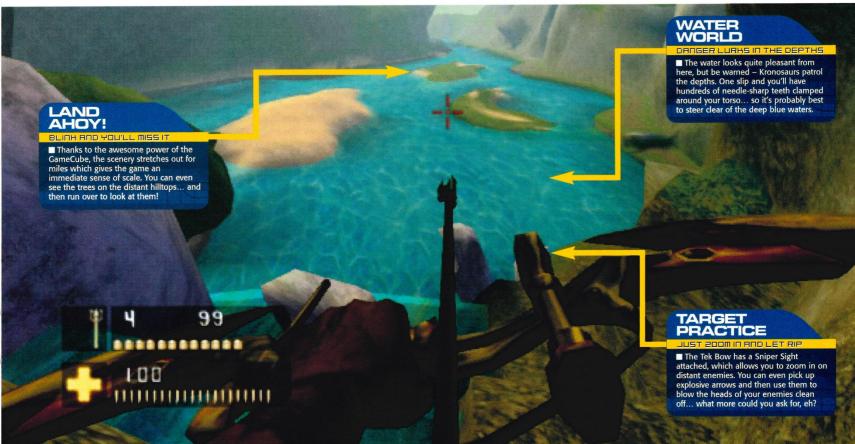












your enemies, Turok enabled you to put an enemy through absolute agony before he finally keeled over. A shot to the neck would see blood spurting everywhere while the crazed gunman desperately tried to stem the blood flow. A shot to the groin? Well, you can imagine, can't you?

Turok was also one of the first games of its genre to give the player such an impressive sense of scale. The levels were absolutely enormous (this was detrimental to Turok 2, though its levels were simply too big). As you progressed through the jungle, you would be jumping and climbing, not really noticing how far up you were going. About ten minutes later, you would find yourself in the same general area, but on a ledge 20 metres up from where you were. The N64 hardware allowed you to see it all below you as well.

Turok: Dinosaur Hunter was a mindblowing experience, and guess what? It's coming to GameCube...



CUBE IN-DEPTH SPECIAL

HEADS UP

THE ENEMY MAY NOT BE AS STUPID AS IT SEEMS...

Several weapons in the game have sniper attachments on them. At no point in the game are you ever safe, so when you find yourself in an open area you can expect to be ambushed. The solution to this is simply to hang back and find a good vantage point. Whip out your Sniper Rifle/Tek Bow and scan the surroundings. A quick sweep won't be good enough, as more often than not the dinos will be lurking in the undergrowth. The reptilian guards are a different matter, of course. They're as thick as two short planks, and will simply stand around in the open, unsuspectingly. On the opposite side of the scale, the Raptors are extremely cunning. If you come across a Raptor that seems to be completely unaware of your presence, chances are that it's up to something. These guys hunt in packs, and if you're not careful you'll end up with one on your back.









SCARY MOVIE

YOU'LL NEED A CHANGE OF PANTS FOR THIS ONE!

Dave Dienstbier and his team are renowned for their genuinely scary enemies. The most frightening so far have to be the six creatures of the Oblivion from *Turok 2*. It was Dave himself who did the voiceovers for these disturbing creatures, but he could well have bettered himself in *Evolution*.

The Six Points are Tarkeen's guardians, and they are extremely dangerous creatures. Hiding in the shadows, they will make themselves known if they need to. As long as Tarkeen is bound by oath, they will not bother Tal'Set. Lord only knows what they would do to someone who got in their way...





As seems to be the current trend with videogame sequels at the moment, *Turok Evolution* is actually going to precede the other stories. There have been several 'episodes' in the Turok saga, but this game is centred around the very first, Tal'Set.

The game begins with Tal'Set's tribe, the Saquin Nation, attempting to escape to the relative safety of Mexico, away from the clutches of the crazed Captain Tobias Bruckner.

The renegade Captain has already slaughtered most of the Red Indian tribe. He has only to hunt down the remaining few survivors, headed by Chief Grey Bear, to satisfy his bloodlust. An ambush sees the two sides engaged in battle - Tal'Set knows that without Bruckner, the Cavalry troops will be significantly weakened, so he heads straight for the enraged Captain. Seeing Chief Grey Bear falling to a sniper, Tal'Set fights with an other-worldly strength the strength of a Tu-Rok. The ground beneath the two warriors caves in and they find themselves in an underground ruin. Tal'Set's blood sets off a strange reaction, and in the blink of an eye, a huge explosion erupts in the cavern. The Indian warrior is sucked into a portal, and dumped into

"ONE OF THE STANDOUT POINTS OF THE TUROK SERIES IS THE WEAPONRY, AND **EVOLUTION PROMISES TO IMPRESS"**













CHARACTER PROFILES

HERE'S A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS. WHAT A SURPRISE - THERE'S EVEN A LOVE INTEREST FOR TAL'SET...

TAĽSET

ORIGIN: SAQUIN NATION NORTH AMERICA

A member of the now nonexistent North American Saquin Nation tribe, Tal'Set was sucked through a portal into the Lost Land while fighting the insane Bruckner. Exactly why this happened is a mystery, but Tal'Set now believes that fate has brought him here, and that the events leading to his tribe's extinction occurred for the greater good. He sets out to uncover the truth, and to face the evil overlord Tyrannus. He must restore balance to the Lost Land by becoming that legendary 'Turok.'

ORIGIN: NORTH AMERICA Nicknamed 'Red Snake' by the native Americans, Bruckner's hatred for the Saguin Nation and their kind has driven him to madness over the years. He now lives only to see every one of them slaughtered like animals. Despite being next to Tal'Set when the portal opened, Bruckner appears not to have been sucked in. Yeah, right... if you believe that you'll believe anything. Like Tal'Set, Bruckner has been guided by fate. After being healed by Tyrannus's minions, Bruckner will return to finish off the job that he set out

TYRANNUS

ORIGIN: THE LOST LAND Driven by a twisted belief that he is destined to rule the Lost Land, Tyrannus has managed to muster up thousands of reptilian soldiers to do his bidding. These mindless drones are hellbent on death and destruction, driven only by inbuilt instinct. Tal'Set will eventually face Tyrannus - it is

TARKEEN ORIGIN: UNKNOWN

the dark world.

This dangerous being is bound by oath to the God 'Stone,' who has charged Tarkeen with aiding Tal'Set on his quest to become Turok. As long as Tarkeen is under oath he is not able to harm Tal'Set. The mysterious being is protected by the terrifying Six Points, hideously chilling creatures of

DJUNN

ORIGIN: RIVER VILLAGE. THE LOST LAND

As leader of the River Village people, Djunn is a wellrespected, well-balanced individual. Strong as an ox in battle, Djunn and his followers have seen off various attacks, but the pressure is wearing them down. It is the villagers that rescue and heal Tal'Set when he first arrives in the Lost Land.

MAYANA

ORIGIN: THE LOST LAND Mayana arrived in the River Village shortly before Tal'Set was discovered. Nobody actually knows where she comes from, but all that matters is she is against Tyrannus and, as such, is a valuable ally. Her close combat and healing skills will make her a great asset to Tal'Set in his quest.

Turok Evolution sees Dave Dienstbier finally putting one of his original ideas into the game - a Pteranodon level. The concept of flying a giant winged dinosaur was one of the ideas for the original game, but sadly it was never realised. In Evolution, jumping on the back of a friendly Pteranodon is the only way to take out Tyrannus's air-born forces. Having created a very basic glider contraption made from skins and bamboo, the reptilian troops are attacking villages from the air. The Pteranodon model looks fantastic as it swoops through the air with Tal'Set and his mounted mini-gun. Oh, did we forget to mention the onboard Rocket Launchers? He he.







a timeless world, 'The Lost Land'. As for Bruckner, he must be dead, right?

Despite the taste of revenge being so fresh in his mouth, Tal'Set knows that he has to figure out where the hell he is. So he begins his quest in the land of the dinosaurs.

You soon find out that the Evil Lord Tyrannus has been building up his troops for years, and is slowly but surely wiping out every human on the planet. Tal'Set has no choice but to take part in the raging battle between the people of the Lost Land and the evil overlord. The Lost Land itself is an untouched, lush rainforest. The deep undergrowth makes every

Every now and again you'll come across village ruins, and as you get closer and closer to Tyrannus's dwelling, the surroundings become suitably technology-led.

One of the standout points of the Turok series is the weaponry. Evolution promises to impress we've only seen a small selection of the guns, and we probably won't see the likes of the Cerebral Bore and its gory brethren until this year's E3 show (May). Needless to say, the Tek Bow with its Sniper attachment and explosive arrowheads is still one of our long distance favourites.













SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

9 A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TAKING OUT SOME OF THE DINOSAURS IN EVOLUTION

So far, Acclaim has revealed eight different dinosaurs for *Evolution*. All of the enemies in the game have been soft-skinned, so the limb movement doesn't result in any

glitches. The way that the creatures move, and the way in which the flesh sways when they move, is very close to the creatures from *Walking With Dinosaurs*. Each

dinosaur will need to be handled differently – if you treat a Velociraptor in the same way as an Ankylosaurus, you're history.

STYRACOSAURUS

ATTACKS: CHARGING HORN ATTACK

Info: These guys tend to travel in small groups in order to protect themselves from ambushes. Being herbivores, they won't make a concerted effort to attack you, but if you disturb them they won't be too happy. The huge horn on their snouts will make short work of your insides. Keep your distance and you'll be fine. If you have to go through them, make it quick and don't stop moving.



ATTACKS: BITE
Info: Silent mincing machines that patrol the
lakes of the Lost Land. These opportunists
normally have to make do with fish, so when
something larger drops by they'll be straight in
there. They are extremely fast-paced and attack
with a mouth full of needle-like teeth. The only
way to avoid their mouths is to stay still until the
last minute, then quickly dart to the side.

VELOCIRAPTOR

ATTACKS: BITE, CLAW

Info: Hunting in organised packs, Velociraptors are clever creatures, so don't underestimate them. You will very rarely find them out in the open – if you do, it normally means that one of the pack is trying to lure you into a false sense of security, while the others position themselves. Each Raptor comes equipped with two large, retractable talons designed for ripping flesh apart. The best tactic is to find a corner so that they can't sneak up on you, then just let rip.

PTERANODON

ATTACKS: AERIAL DIVE

Info: If you're around trees these guys won't bother you — after all, they do have a 15-metre wingspan. They can only attack in open expanses, so if you find yourself in a bad situation, try to find some cover before you start shooting. Pteranodons don't have a specific attack — they simply dive-bomb you, but having something that big hitting you at 60kph is going to hurt.



ATTACKS: CHARGING HEAD-BUTT

Info: Similar to Iguanadons in nature, these herbivores travel in herds. Like most herbivores they won't actively go out to attack you, but they are more edgy than the Styracosaurus. Because of this the entire herd is likely to charge at the smallest disturbance, at which time you really don't want to be in their way.

COMPY

ATTACKS: NIBBLE, SCRATCH

Info: Compy are among the smallest of the dinosaurs. They couldn't possibly kill anything themselves (apart from dragonflies) so most of the time they act as scavengers. Travelling in packs of ten or more, you will normally find them huddled around the remains of a larger predator's meal. Stand about for long enough and they'll jump on you, so don't stick around. If they do decide to annoy you, one shot from a pistol will floor them.

ANKYLOSAUUS

ATTACKS: TAIL SWING

Info: Aggressive little buggers these guys! It's understandable though. They only ever travel in twos or threes, and so are extremely paranoid about anything out of the ordinary. As soon as they see you they will adopt a defensive stance, lashing out with their club-like tails. One swing could easily break your ribs or even your femur. Stay out of their way.

ANKYLOSAUUS TANK

ATTACKS: MISSILE BANKS

Info: Adapted by Tyrannus's troops, the tanks don't lash out with their tails when they get scared – they simply fire off a group of missiles! Hide behind something solid, then strafe out and blast them with your most effective weapon. There are no two ways about it – you need to take these guys out fast.



"WE'RE GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS WITH THIS GAME IN TERMS OF THE PUREST VISION THAT THE SERIES ORIGINALLY HAD"





BACK IN THE CUBE WITH... DAVID DIENSTBIER





NAME: DAVID DIENSTBIER
POSITION: CREATIVE DIRECTOR
POSITION: ACCLAIM

CUBE: Can you tell us more about the time frame which *Turok Evolution* is set in?

D: It's actually *Turok* 'Episode 1' – it's the original

Pi: It's actually *Turok* 'Episode 1' – it's the original story. The game begins in 1886 in Texas. Tal'Set and the remaining members of his tribe are trying to escape to Mexico, and during the course of an ambush by a bloodthirsty group of US Cavalry men, a maelstrom erupts, a supernatural storm if you like, and Tal'Set is yanked into the Lost Land. The Lost Land doesn't really have a time, it's this genesis of the Universe, a nexus point. What we have spent time on, and what the art team has made a magnificent job with, is establishing a style for the world that is much more specific. Rather than just a hodgepodge of 'oh look, there's a downtown New York level, and oh look, there's this level' they've created different parts. There are high technology parts of the world, there are primitive parts of the world, but it's all got this style to it. The world has never been so beautifully visualised and realised as in this game.

was released, people had no idea what the N64 was capable of. We had this vision of luscious forest settings, which wasn't completely possible due to hardware limitations. Looking at *Turok Evolution*, this is what we visualised five years ago.

□□: That's what I visualised too.

CUBE: So many people have said that the GameCube hardware basically does all the work for you. How has it been for you?

but it makes some components much simpler. With the N64, the fog was partly an atmospheric thing, and also a case of 'hell, this thing just can't draw that much at one time.' You don't have that problem with the GameCube, but as with any platform, you can choke it as soon as you want to. If you ask it to do too much it will just say 'okay, that's enough', but we've managed to overcome those sorts of problems simply because we've been doing this for so long. While there's this exponential increase in the power of these new systems, what you're asking them to do is also exponentially greater, but our engine guys are quite pleased with the GameCube.

CUBE: What were you able to achieve with the GameCube that you couldn't realise on the N64?

D: Simply that the game can be how I visualised it. We're getting back to the basics with this game in terms of the purest vision that the series originally had. The fact that the GameCube has the performance abilities that it does lets us do that. The effects such as the luminescence and the lighting are fantastic, and the transparency stuff is great. It does some really neat colour blending too.











Acclaim release the first info on what could well turn out to be a

serious rival to **Mario Sunshine!**

WHEN CUBE SPOKE to Dave

Dienstbier at last year's E3 show, it wasn't Turok Evolution that he was most excited about. It was another new title, going by the name of Jinx. Nothing had been said about it before the show, and the only information came in the form of a 20-second long video teaser. The video showed a young boy clawing his way up a mountain face, using a pair of spiked gauntlets to make the ascent. And that was it... until now.

Eight months after the game was originally announced, Acclaim has released new information and screenshots on what is now called Vexx.

"ACCLAIM'S NEW MASCOT VEXX COULD WELL BE A DIRECT COMPETITOR TO MIYAMOTO-SAN'S VERY OWN MARIO"







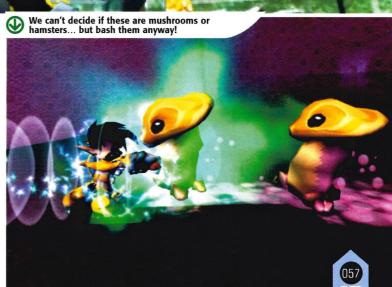






Based on the planet Astara, the story revolves around the young Vexx and his epic struggle against the Shadowraith, the 'Dark Yabu.' Vexx lives with his grandfather in the village of Rockhaven. One day, the Dark Yabu strikes for no apparent reason. His forces capture the villagers and put them to work in the nearby mines. What they are mining for is anyone's guess, but the Dark Yabu is obviously desperate to find it. One by one the villagers fall to the whip of the guards, but one day an uprising takes place and Vexx is able to escape onto one of the enemy ships. As he escapes, he sees the Dark Yabu killing his

grandfather. But hey, what can he do, he's just a kid right? After creeping around the ship for a while he comes across a mysterious chest. No sooner has he opened the chest than a pair of gauntlets spring out and attach themselves to him. For what seems like an age, Vexx experiences pain like he has never imagined, as the Astani Gauntlets become one with the small child. Streams of lightning emanate from his body, building to a climax until a sudden pulse of energy blows the ship apart. Vexx lies semiconscious among the wreckage, hearing only the words 'Gather the villagers, we'll have to take them to the Landspire now.'







VEXX

WEAPON: Astani Gauntlets LOWDOWN: The Astani Battlegauntlets did more than just attach themselves - they became a part of Vexx's body. Their energy pulses through his veins, and he now resembles some sort of mutant Wolverine rather than a young boy. Vexx is full of rage since the Dark Yabu enslaved his people and slaughtered his grandfather. The gauntlets merely offer Vexx the power to do what his heart wants; to destroy the Dark Yabu.

REIA

WEAPON: Astani Magic
LOWDOWN: The Astani are an ancient race, who were responsible for creating the Battlegauntlets in the first place. The Dark Yabu fears them, but only one member remains – Reia. She is locked away high atop the Landspire, well out of reach. If Vexx is able to get to her she will unlock the true secret behind the Battlegauntlets.

DARBY

WEAPON: Wisdom
LOWDOWN: Darby is an old
hermit who stumbles across
the injured Vexx after the
explosion. Nursing him back
to health, Darby decides to
help the young boy by
teaching him everything he
knows about the Astani, and
advises him on how best to fix
the Astani Riftgate.

DARK YABU

WEAPON: Shadow Magic LOWDOWN: Dark Yabu arrived in this system after a cataclysmic event created a rift in space, which opened up a direct path to the Shadowrealm. The Shadowrealm. The Shadowraiths came through, and Dark Yabu picked Astara as his planet to conquer. Dark Yabu is a shapeshifter of immense powers, who fears only one thing – the Astani and their weapons.





Eventually the pain of the gauntlets will subside and as time goes on, it will become second



"THE TEAM IS SO PASSIONATE, AND THE CALIBRE OF THE PRODUCT IS SO GOOD. THE CHARACTER VEXX IS JUST AWESOME"

DAVE DIENSTBIER, ACCLAIM STUDIOS AUSTIN











nature for Vexx to use their special abilities. Climbing sheer cliff faces and hanging from any surface will become essential requirements when searching for the orbs.

As far as offensive abilities go, the team has introduced a refreshing new cancellation system. If you go for a punch combo and miss, you won't have to wait for Vexx to finish his combo before he turns around. At any point in a combo you are able to cancel the move and adjust your attack accordingly.

Vexx borrows from games like Zelda and Castlevania 64, in that it

has a real-time day/night system. As the sun sets, some enemies will become weaker, but others will come out from the shadows fully charged from resting. It will be essential to hit the right enemy at the right time. The lighting changes are superbly reflected on the environments and character models, and even at this early stage the graphics in general are quite pleasing. Sadly though, this is all we can tell you at the moment, but expect more details and screenshots to dribble over in the coming months.

CUBE CONTRIBUTE OF THINKS...

FIRST IMPRESSION

It's very hard to say very much at this point without being purely speculative, but Vexx has a great foundation on which to build. The main character is memorable, and the graphics are nice, but with this sort of game it all comes down to how it plays and how the camera works. If Acclaim Austin can manage to build an absorbing game around the promising start it has got, Vexx could turn out very nicely.

WISH UPON ASTARA

A FIRST LOOK AT SOME OF THE LEVELS IN VEXA

DRAGON'S REACH

A settlement based around the skeleton of a huge dragon. The surrounding landscape is made up of red rock and sandstone, which forms huge columns. No regular life can survive here, but the narrow platforms and cave systems are ideal for Vexx's Battlegauntlets.



SUBMARILIS

A temple set in the centre of a mystical lake, shut away from the rest of the world by sheer rock faces and raging whirlpools. The interior consists of intricate walkways and beautiful waterfalls.



SUMMIT OF THE SAGES

This level is the ruined home of the Astani. Inside, Vexx will uncover many of the secrets of the Astani race, and may even learn some of the secrets of the Battlegauntlets. Since the evacuation strange creatures have made this place their home.



THE BELOW

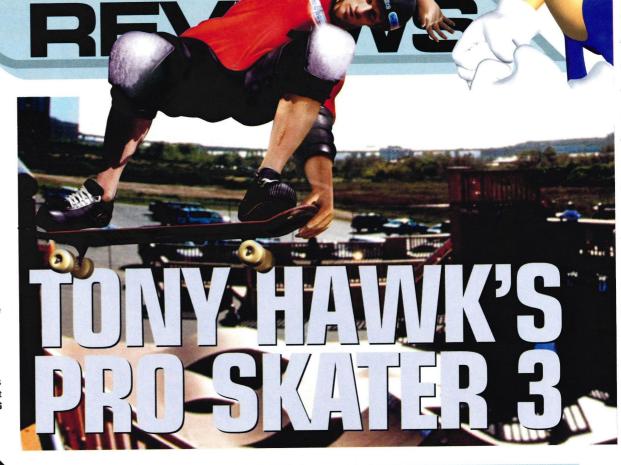
A strange, underwater world which holds many secrets behind the forests of Kelp that invest the darker parts. Sharks and giant, voracious amphibians patrol the calm waters.



ISSUE THREE

EDITORIAL

AND SO THE onslaught continues... thankfully, the sceptics among us who thought that games for the Cube would be harder to come by than tickets to one of Chandra's gigs have been put in their place. Not having to struggle to fill the magazine with glorious reviews (and some not so glorious ones... Universal Studios and Tarzan Untamed, take note!) is one of those things people like me enjoy so much - hey, it's not like I want to be running around like a headless chicken at the very last minute, looking for something to fill the space with. After the shambles that was the first few months of the N64 though, I will admit I had a few nagging doubts about how well Nintendo would pull off such a critical 'honeymoon' launch period... and it's gone and done it with style. Think about it - if this is how well the GameCube has been delivered in Japan and the US, imagine what kind of line-up the European launch is going to have! You won't have to worry about a lack of choice, that's for sure; what you will have to think about, though, is exactly which games to buy. After all, it's not like we've got bottomless pockets full of cash, is it? Well, maybe our Group Editor Simon has, but MARTIN MATHERS that's besides the point...



CUBISTS

Eight stout men on a dead man's CUBE... yo ho ho and many, many bottles of beer.

SIMON PHILLIPS



SAYS: "I'm working all night"
MEANS: He's got nowhere else
to go
THIS MONTH: Love is in the air for

INIS MUNIH: Love is in the air to our bachelor Editor – he's already got tons of valentine cards all over his desk with more arriving daily. He's quite happy, despite the fact they're all in his mum's handwriting.

SIMON GRIFFIN



STAFF WRITER

SAYS: "Grrr... ruff, ruff!"

MEANS: He's coughing up a
furball

THIS MONTH. Mr. Criffin's Jane

THIS MONTH: Mr Griffin's lawyers would like us to state that although he is slightly hairier than the average man, he has no animal tendencies and has never chased a car... now can you put us down please, sir?

MARTIN MATHERS



SAYS: "Cor blimey, love-a-duck" MEANS: No, we don't know either

THIS MONTH: Mart was encouraged to move back to London by his close friend Susannah. She may have wanted him to move so she had her own excuse to leave though... we just don't know.

NICK TRENT



SAYS: Lots of rude words
MEANS: He's back to working
on CUBE
THIS MONTH: Despite his sterling

THIS MONTH: Despite his sterling work with the last two issues, Mr Trent refuses to be complacent. Just because he's designing with one arm tied behind his back, it doesn't mean he's showing off...

CHANDRA NAIR



SAYS: Dirty things on the phone MEANS: He's talking to Helen at TDK again

THIS MONTH: Chandra's hardly been in the office, thanks to a stream of PR trips that took him all the way to London. Mart's now not the only one who talks with a thick cockney accent now.

MIKE RICHARDSON



SAYS: "It doesn't look that bad" MEANS: We're slagging off Halo again

again
THIS MONTH: Mike's contempt for people who don't like the
Xbox came to a head when he challenged us to pistols at dawn – complete with a slap across the face with a studded gauntlet. Some people...

WILL JOHNSTON



SAYS: "I've done your freelance"
MEANS: He was rather drunk at
the time

the time
THIS MONTH: Will's efforts to
master the arts of alchemy
failed miserably – instead of
turning a block of lead into
gold, he managed to reduce it
to nothing more than an Xbox.
An Xbox! Ha!

RICHARD CASELLAS



SAYS: "Aaaaaaaarrrrrggghhh!" MEANS: He's broken his leg... dumbass! THIS MONTH: We ditched the

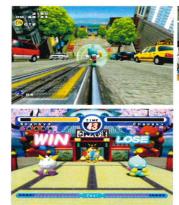
ninja design stylings of Rob in favour of Richard – he's lean, mean and makes a damn fine coffee. Not that we'd know, of course, we don't keep sending him off to make it for us...

100% UNOFFICIAL 100% UNBIASEI THE ONLY REVIEWS YOU CAN TRUS



You knew it was coming

- Sonic's landed on the GameCube at long last and he's brought his fastest running shoes with him. The question is, can SEGA manage to overcome the hordes of Mario fans and show them the light?









FIFA SOCCER 2002

Trust EA to be at the front of the line with the very first GameCube football game. It might be a simple conversion of the PlayStation2 title, but we'll certainly hazard a guess at this one flying off the shelves...

NBA COURTSIDE 2002

As the old saying goes, 'bouncy, bouncy cheeky monkey'... or something like that. In any case, it certainly applies to the GameCube's first basketball title. Ten men fighting over a bouncy ball... honestly, whatever next?

BATMAN VENGEANCE

Appearing in no less than two different games on the GameCube, the Dark Knight has got his work cut out. Can Ubi Soft come up with the goods when it comes to the saviour of Gotham City? Maybe, just maybe...

TARZAN UNTAMED

There are many words that we can think of to describe this game, but 'untamed' certainly isn't one of them. Instead, we'd like to offer up some of these alternatives unimaginative, unfinished, un-please turn it off... get the drift?

ALL-STAR BASEBALL 2002

Take me out to the ball game - or in this case, sit me in front of a TV with the ball game on it. Acclaim hits the ground running with the GameCube release of All-Star Baseball 2002, but will it hit a home-run with us?

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS EME PARKS ADVENTURE

Well, it had to happen sometime - may we officially introduce to you the very first truly 'bad' GameCube game to be released. If only they'd based the game on Thorpe Park or the Butlins Holiday Camp in Minehead instead...





He's always been the king of the skateboarders and now, after an aeon of waiting, we finally get to see him on a Nintendo console that isn't in the process of being killed off! Can we get a 'hallelujah' on that one, brothers and sisters?

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

If you're feeling a bit daunted by all the information we've got on offer, don't panic - it's pretty easy to find what you need once you know where it all is...

INFORMATION

This is the place to look for all the essential statistics on the game including release dates, players, publisher/ developer and some vital bullet points summing it all up.

COMMENT

The reviewer's frank and honest opinions on what he or she thinks of the game will be right here; you'll be needing this to make up your own mind..



If you want the finest information on what the game's all about or hot tips on some of the tougher bits, the wide selection of box outs are ideal for you.

2ND OPINIONS

If you're still not 100% sure whether you're going to take one expert's opinion, you'll find not one but two more snippets of advice right here

ALTERNATIVES

Obviously not every game will be to your taste so if there are titles that might be of interest instead, they'll be outlined here for you to think about.

Sure, every game gets a rating but do they really mean anything? Of course they do – here's a detailed look at what we're saying in those all-important numbers...

RATING

9.0 OR ABOVE

Naturally, games scoring a 9.0 or over are well worth your hardearned cash... otherwise they wouldn't score so highly. Hey, we're professionals – give us a bit of credibility here, okay?

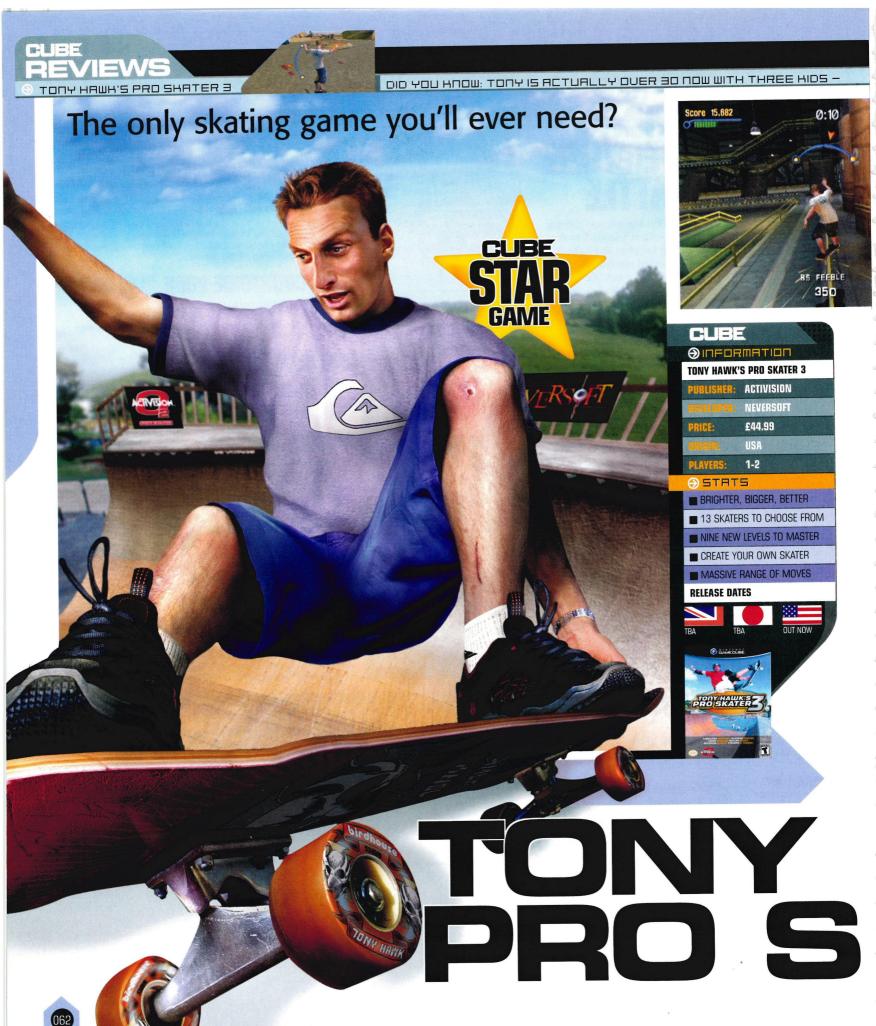
Although they haven't quite made it to the dizzy heights of greatness, games with this kind of score are still worthy of your attention and will no doubt keep you happy for a fair old while.

5.0 > **7.4**Yep, it's that tricky middle ground that a lot of games walk; with 5.0 branding a game decidedly average, scoring up to 7.4 means you might want to try it if you're into that sort of thing...

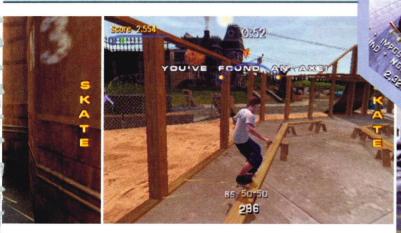
If your granny gets you a game with a score like this, it's probably because she doesn't know any better... or you just didn't tell her what you actually wanted. It's all your own fault really.



It's a sad fact that we have to review games this far down the scale but believe us – it's for your own good. Otherwise, you might actually go out and buy one of them... shame on you!



NOT EXACTLY THE TYPICAL SHATER IMAGE!



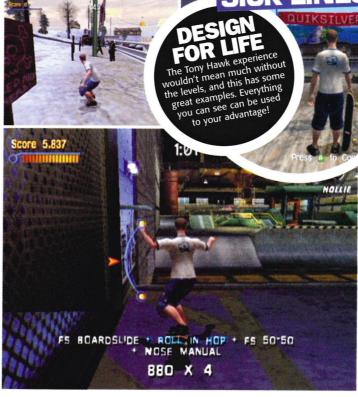
"DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SKATER"

A legend in the real world, Tony Hawk is a huge hit with gamers too... but can he cut it on the Cube?

Has the Tony Hawk franchise reached trilogy status already? To add insult to a rather nasty injury, the fourth instalment has already been announced too!

Usually by this point alarm bells are ringing loud enough to scare a whole field of cows right into that familiar milking shed; however, we can happily report that this is by no means a cash cow. Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 is, in fact, the best game in the series to date... and this is saying something, considering the first two games were on a par with finding your girlfriend in bed with Sarah Michelle Gellar.

The same addictive fun and superb level design has been kept from the previous games, whilst the gameplay has been tweaked, chiselled, polished and generally tidied up, so what you're left with is a game that expands your mind and forces a fixed smug grin on to your face for hours at a time. The most amazing thing about this, and all the previous games, is the mass appeal. It doesn't matter if you're a hardcore skater or not, this game is still fun to play, which means (thankfully) that a beany, some baggy trousers and a chain are not required before you get on your board.



LINKING PARK: If you're the kind of person who likes to show off, this game is the one for you. Link tricks together to rack up high scores – and respect

MR T RICK

Loads of new tricks have been added into *Tony Hawk's 3* for you to learn – and as you might expect, the animation that plays out as you execute each one reduces all other extreme games into a quivering mess in the corner of some charity shop. The biggest new addition comes in the form of the flatland freestyle moves, such as the Anti Casper and Truck Stand.

HAVK'S KATER 3





TONY HAWK'S PRO SHATER 3





"WE CAN HAPPILY REPORT THAT THIS IS BY NO MEANS A **CASH COW"**

THE PROFESSIONALS

PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM AND ALL TASTES COVERED!

This game probably wouldn't be what it is today without the back-up of some of the biggest names in the sport. Of course, they only lend their names for hard cash but that's beside the point! Not including the hidden skaters (like Darth Maul!) there are 13 pros to choose from in this game...

STEVE CABALLERO

An extremely technical skater, Steve is a role model to many wannabe professional riders.

ELISSA STEAMER

The only female in the group, but don't let that put you off as she can hold her own with the best of them.

RUNE GLIFBERG

A Danish legend, Rune mixes it up wherever he can and is at ease whether it be the park or street.

TONY HAWK

He didn't get this game by being the worst skater in the world! Show him the respect he deserves.

KAREEM CAMPBELL

A street skater with more style than you could shake a bag full of branded skate clothes at.

ERIC KOSTON

Many pro skaters innovate and push the sport but Eric is firmly set at the front, leading them all.

BUCKY LASEK

Fortunate enough to have trained with Tony Hawk when he started out, Bucky has fast developed his own style.

BAM MARGERA

Best known for his exploits on hilarious TV programme Jackass, Bam is what you might call the pro at crashing.

RODNEY MULLEN

Frequently copied by other pros, Rodney has made a name himself thanks to his amazing flatland abilities.

CHAD MUSKA

A hardcore street skater with a passion for music, Muska laughs in the face of the fear that stops others.

ANDREW REYNOLDS

One of the tallest skaters here, drop-in king Andrew definitely isn't afraid of heights.

GEOFF ROWLEY

As the only British skater in the game, you should play with him out of sheer patriotism alone.

JAMIE THOMAS

If you've got a gap that needs jumping then Jamie 'No Fear' Thomas is the one to do it for you.

SHH... IT'S A SECRET: Back by popular demand, it's the secret tapes. Limbs will be broken, pads will be thrown down and you'll go back to do it all again!

CANADA



Hit the ramps and the camera switches to give you a good view of the trick.







Collect the Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 logos scattered around the level and you can then bump up your skater's stats.









The eyeball of the Neversoft logo spots a decapitated body lying on the floor – not to mention a handy skateboard.



Not wanting to waste the opportunity, the all-seeing eye jumps down and attaches itself to the lifeless corpse.



Not the most appealing skater but right away he starts showing off and launches into the perfect Truckstand.



By this point you're afraid to blink just in case you miss what this undead professional does next.



A few kickflips and flatland tricks later and it's on a roll. What happens next? Buy the game to find out!



ONE WE MADE EARLIER

There are plenty of real stars to choose from in this game but the option is there if you want to create your own skater. Loads of silly costumes and colour schemes can be adopted but best of all, you can name your skater what you want. Create yourself and go head to head against the pros in one of the competitions.



HARDFLIP

If you've got enough air, the kickflips are a great way to link tricks together.

YOU'RE OVER THE HILL ! IMPOSSIBLE

2,036 X 5

Skater 3, you get an incredible sense of well-being that washes all over you. Deep down, you know you're never going to become a professional skater, pull off a 900° spin and land a sponsorship deal that sets you up for life but for those couple of hours of game time, you can at least live the dream.

Unfortunately, this dream is shattered occasionally by the odd gripe – but unlike real dreams, this game won't be forgotten by the next day. The first (and most noticeable) gripe is the slowdown. When the camera takes in a large section of an outdoor level, the game clearly has a couple of problems drawing it all in. This is a great shame – especially since the texture quality isn't quite as crisp as that found on other consoles, so there is no excuse.

The other main gripe here is the lack of online play. This is something that can be found in

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Not as crisp as it is on some of the other consoles but nonetheless it

Some fantastic music mixed with authentic skating sounds to inspire

FIMEPLEY
Incredibly addictive – this is the kind of game that gets you saying "just

looks good.

body and soul.

one more go".

NX SUDE

CORNER STOMP

BY FAR THE BEST TONY HAWH GAME TO DATE

POWER TRIP

The GameCube controller is a brilliant invention. It's comfortable to use and the buttons feel as if they should be where they are. Unfortunately, this game manages to take the joy out of joypad.

The whole idea of a Tony Hawk game is that it moves fast and requires smooth, thought-out button presses to link the big tricks together. Sadly, the Grab and Kickflip buttons are too far away to the Grab and Kickflip buttons are too far away to allow smooth transition. You will get used to it after a while but if you've ever played Tony Hawk's on the PSone, the odd tear or two may slide down your cheek.



"A GAME THAT EXPANDS YOUR MIND AND FORCES A FIXED SMUG GRIN ONTO YOUR FACE FOR HOURS AT A TIME"

both the Xbox and PlayStation2 versions. However, quite why you'd want to play online with Tony Hawk's is a complete mystery - it's not exactly a competitor to a blood-thirsty, gun-toting firstperson shooter.

If you can look past these small flaws (something that is easy to do) you'll be one of the privileged many who get to enjoy this game. If you've ever played a Tony Hawk title before you'll know what we're talking about when we say that this is the best extreme sports game you can lay your hands on. Any competition is so many laps behind, it hasn't even threaded its shoe laces, let alone tied them up yet!

Drop this game into your GameCube and we can guarantee it will stay there for a very long time indeed. So many games nowadays fall short when it comes to life span, but Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3 is the very definition of value for money.

Soccial Grind

SED

60

To say that there is a shedload to unlock in this game would be a major understatement.



ORIGINALITY

When the first game came out it was original, but this just builds on the winning formula.

ALTERNATIVE

TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER

The original game on the N64 was so popular it sold out! Still worth getting if you can find it.



TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER 3

TONY HAWK'S PRO SKATER 2

surprisingly fun game on the GBA, this is an absolute must-buy for skating on the move.



OPINION

"One of my favourite games EVER... but the nasty control and bouts of slowdown leave me feeling just a little underwhelmed!"

COULD BE BETTER! "A

fantastic game, but you can't help but think that it hardly takes advantage of the hardware."

FINAL SCORE



IF YOU DON'T HAVE THIS GAME ON ANY OTHER FORMAT, YOU MUST ADD IT TO YOUR SHOPPING LIST.

MIKE

REVIEWS

SONIC ADVENTURE 2 BATTLE







Faster than a speeding hedgehog!

SONIC ADVENTURE BATTLE

Finally, Sonic defects to a Nintendo console! The move might have been twenty years in the waiting, but it's been worth it...



there are some people who you know you can always trust when it comes to delivering the goods – and we're not talking about parcels here, obviously. With games especially, there are certain groups of developers who always produce grade-A titles; Nintendo (who hasn't produced a bad game yet... maybe some average ones, but never a bad one), CodeMasters and Namco are all names that have a reputation for quality. If you take a look in SEGA's direction though, one name stands out clearly above all the rest... can you guess who it is yet? If you said Sonic Team, you're right – well done, two points.

Until recently, all of Sonic Team's greatest works could be found on SEGA systems; from the original Sonic games on the MegaDrive and NiGHTs: Into Dreams on the Saturn to more recent efforts like Chu Chu Rocket! and Phantasy Star Online on the Dreamcast, each was a classic in its own right. With SEGA making the decision to become a software publisher only though, it opened all sorts of doors to Sonic Team... in particular, the doors that meant we'd finally get to play games like Sonic Adventure 2 on the GameCube. Yay! True, it might look like a simple port over from the final days of the Dreamcast but don't be

fooled by looks alone – on top of the conversion, there are some all-important changes and additions that make this a totally desirable title...





THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS

In a first for Sonic games, you can now see the unfolding plot from two different angles – when you begin the game, you can choose to play through either the Hero story or the Dark story. While fans of the blue hedgehog himself might prefer to stick to the Hero side, it's good to see that Dr Eggman (who finally gets an official name change after all these years) is getting his dues, with players now able to take control of the evil doctor himself. Each side of the story features unique levels and plot threads that all tie together in time for the big finale; the very last level features all six characters together and goes on for absolutely ages!





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SONIC ADVENTURE 2 BATTLE

No matter which side of the story you choose to play through, you'll have the chance to experience several different styles of gameplay as you take control of either Sonic, Tails and Knuckles or Shadow, Eggman and Rogue. Here's how the game breaks down...

RACE TO THE FINISH - SONIC AND SHADOW

In true Sonic style, the levels featuring the twin hedgehogs focus mainly on speed; the faster you can sprint through each level as you grab rings, the higher your grade will be. Of course, that doesn't mean you shouldn't stop every now and then to check out suspicious bits of scenery... you might just be missing something really important!





BLASTING FRENZY - TAILS AND EGGMAN

Reminiscent of the E-102 stages in the original Sonic Adventure on the Dreamcast, Tails and Eggman now have to plough through hordes of enemies en-route to the end of each level. Luckily, they're both riding in a mechanised walker armed with a lock-on blaster cannon – simply point the targeting laser at an enemy, then let rip with flaming death!





TREASURE HUNTING - KNUCKLES AND ROGUE

Slowing down the pace a bit, you'll get the chance to go looking for shards of the Master Emerald when controlling Knuckles and Rogue. Three shards are hidden somewhere on each level, so you'll have to track them down through careful use of the Hint Monitors dotted around the place and your incredibly sensitive Hot/Cold Emerald Meter.





BONUS - SONIC KARTING?!

Never one to be outdone by Mario, Sonic now has his own karting game on the GameCube! It's not quite *Sonic R* from the Saturn, but getting to race down the streets in a customised Sonic go-kart is pretty cool. You'll play the kart racing as a separate level while controlling Rogue or Tails, but once you complete the level it'll be available as an option on the main menu.















DOWN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GARDEN

Look carefully in each stage and you'll find Chao Boxes - large blue crates containing all manner of goodies. Much of the time, you'll just get a collection of small animals but the first box you smash on each level will contain the Chao Key. This is your means of accessing the Chao Garden and raising your very own Chao! Of course, if you've never played Sonic Adventure before, you might not know what we're on about... don't worry though, because we're here to take you through it all!

WHAT IS A CHAO?

Pronounced 'Chow', a Chao is a small creature capable of independent thought that inhabits the Chao Gardens of Sonic Adventure 2. Once hatched from its egg, the Chao will come to think of you as a friend and provider... unless you treat it badly, of course!

HOW DO I RAISE MY CHAO?

Simple - you can collect small animals from each level and Chao Boxes, or grab the Chaos Drives dropped by each enemy you kill. Both will raise your Chao's ability levels when given to it, although each animal will give your Chao new physical traits as well (bunny ears, dragon wings and so on). You can also feed your Chao fruit from the trees in each garden.

WHAT ELSE CAN MY CHAO DO?

All sorts of things! You can take part in the events at the Chao Stadium in order to win prizes that your Chao will play with, or even download him to your GBA copy of Sonic Advance to take with you on your travels. There's also the Chao Kindergarten, where you can check the health of your Chao, or you could buy new goodies for it from the GameCube-exclusive Black Market, get it a lucky name from the Fortune Teller or even teach it new tricks in the Class Room. How wonderful!









Of course, Chao are pretty much like greyhounds... while raising them is fun in its own right, the best part is when you get to race them! That's why you'll find an entrance to the Chao Stadium located at the rear of every Chao Garden - nip inside and you can put your Chao to work against other Chaos for fame, glory and even prizes!





CHAO RACES

A popular favourite since the first Sonic Adventure game on the Dreamcast, the Chao Races test the skills of your Chao to the limit. Each race requires certain abilities to be used – power for climbing up walls, speed for running and swimming and flying for... err, swimming and flying - so you'll need to make sure that your Chao



is prepared. What's more, you can cheer it on as it races - just make sure you don't cheer too much or you'll wear it out!





CHAO KARATE

Especially created for the GameCube version of Sonic Adventure 2, the Chao Karate tournament sees Chaos battling it out to see which one is the next Bruce Lee! Although there are three levels of tournament to choose from, the objective remains the same – pound on your opponent until he falls out of the ring or collapses from exhaustion. When your

Chao sits down, it means he's not

interested in fighting any more...











GOTTA COLLECT 'EM ALL!

While there are over 30 levels in the game, the Story mode of the game can be played through in a relatively short time (we managed to complete the Last Chapter section by the middle of our second day of play). Of course, that doesn't mean it's over... good lord, no. Every time you complete a level in Story mode, you'll receive a Sonic Emblem - however, there are a total of 180 Emblems in the whole game to find! As well as the Story mode, each level has additional missions - initially, you only have to complete the first mission of each stage but there are actually five on each one including tasks like collecting a set number of rings,

rescuing lost Chao creatures and even completing the level in Hard mode (which can be rather tough... believe us!). If you thought the game was far too easy the first time you played through it... well, this should shut you up for quite a while.

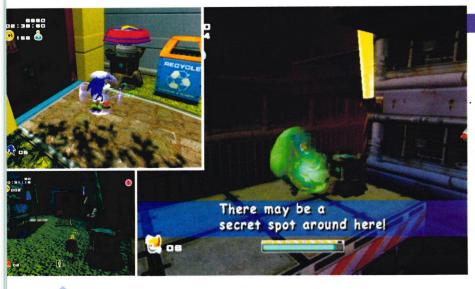
AMONG THE RUINS

No matter which character you're playing as, you'll find at least one ancient ruin hidden on each level of the game. If you've played the first Sonic Adventure on the Dreamcast, you'll recognise that it has the same design as the Ancient Ruins where Tikal lived... but that's beside the point.

Usually, you won't be able to do anything with these ruins but once you've discovered the Mystical Melody power-up for each character - which is rather tough to find in most cases - you can return for some secret goodies. It might reveal a horde of rings or even unlock a whole new path through the level... you won't know until you try it. Certainly in the case of completing the later missions of the levels, you'll need to use them at some point... especially if you want to find that poor lost Chao!







Now that there's COMMENT no console rift between them, the question that has plagued gamers worldwide for years can finally be answered - if Mario and Sonic both appeared on the same machine, which one of them would come out on top? Unfortunately, it's a bit of a mute point right now; with no pure Mario title to compare to (and no, Luigi's Mansion doesn't count), Sonic wins hands down. Why? Because his first appearance on a Nintendo console is a doozy, that's why!

For fans of the original Sonic games, Sonic Adventure 2 Battle is sure to bring back some memories, thanks to the return of fast-paced consecutive levels with none of the

namby-pamby adventure rubbish that the first Sonic Adventure game offered. However, it also manages to throw in enough extras (especially thanks to the replay value offered by the Chao breeding and Emblem collecting) to offer something for everyone. Not surprisingly though, there are a few gripes along the way - for starters, the treasure-hunting stages featuring Knuckles and Rogue feel like more of a chore than anything else thanks to the massive scale of the levels. More often than not, you find yourself running around in circles trying to track down the treasure - even with the help of the monitors which give clues ranging from incredibly cryptic to 'might as

DOING THE BOSS-ANOVA: You'll face many bosses through the game, although much of the time they'll just be one of the other characters you can play as.



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TWO PLAYERS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

When Sonic Adventure 2 appeared on the Dreamcast, it had a newly-included two-player mode – however, it was pretty lacklustre and felt tacked on at the last minute. With the GameCube version though, Sonic Team has worked hard to make vital improvements. The result? A two-player mode that's great fun to play and packed with surprises. There's a wide range of challenges on offer (including speed trials, shooting battles, treasure hunts and multiplayer versions of the Chao Races and Karate) and even a host of new characters above the six already on offer. Want to hunt for emeralds as Tikal or Chaos from the first Sonic Adventure, race along as Amy Rose or Metal Sonic or battle it out in Chao Walkers? Well, now you can!

"WITH NO PURE MARIO TITLE TO COMPARE TO, SONIC WINS HANDS DOWN BECAUSE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE ON A NINTENDO CONSOLE IS A DOOZY"

VERDICT

SONIC ADVENTURE 2 BATTLE

A GREAT DEBUT FROM EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE BLUE HEOGEHOG!

well place a neon arrow directly above it' obvious, it's a frustrating experience. Frustration also sets in during a few of the boss fights, which seem to have no strategy to them other than sheer luck and button-mashing. Still, these are, in truth, minor gripes when taking the whole game in context – for the most part, *Sonic Adventure 2 Battle* is a particularly good example of why SEGA and Sonic Team are so revered within the games industry. If this is the standard of games we've got to

look forward to then here's to the

future, eh?

MARTIN

HEHELE

Not much has changed since his last appearance on the Dreamcast, but Sonic looked pretty good back then!

BUD

Japanese guitar tunes, hip-hop and other rhythms make this a suitably eclectic selection.

GAMERLAH:

Well, it's Sonic, isn't it? It doesn't quite have the depth of a Mario title, but Sonic's latest game is still great fun.

CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

While you could probably whizz through the main game, collecting all the emblems will take a long time...

DEIDEITH

As Sonic evolved, so did his games – this one proves the best of the bunch, even if it does follow the same formula

SUPER MARIO 64

ALTERNATIVE

The man who caused SEGA to come up with Sonic the

Hedgehog in the first place... and he's always been one step ahead. For now though, this is the best alternative.

RAYMAN 2: THE GREAT ESCAPE

Another rather blatant attempt at the 3D platform adventure



genre, but one that actually works well. It's still not as good as *Sonic Adventure 2* or *Mario 64* though...

OPINION

TOP HOG! "If you've never had the chance to play the Dreamcast version, this makes a great addition to the pile."

Sonic on the GameCube we still love it to bits.0 We want Mario more, though."

FINAL SCORE



A RETURN TO FORM FOR SONIC... IF YOU NEED A DECENT PLATFORMER RIGHT NOW, THIS IS THE ONE TO GET!



Think it's all over? It's only just started...



⊘INFORMATION

FIFA 2002

PUBLISHER: EA

DEVELOPER: EA SPORTS

PRICE: £44.99

origini: UK

BLAVEDS: 1.A

→ STATS

- CREATE YOUR OWN PLAYERS
- MORE THAN 400 TEAMS
- VOICE OF JOHN MOTSON...
- ...AND ANDY GRAY
- 29 MEMORY BLOCKS REQUIR

RELEASE DATES







IT'S BARTHEZ: Though the players seem not to be modelled on their real-life counterparts, some actually do bear more than a passing resemblance.

IT'S SNOW GOOD!

For such a comprehensive game (certainly in all other departments) we were surprised to find that the weather and stadium choices are somewhat limited. There are only five stadiums on offer, which seems odd considering the incredible number of teams and leagues on offer – surely EA could have included stadiums from around the world? You can also only choose from 'Day' and 'Night' as times to play – so no evening games, then? Surely some rather tasty sunsets would have shown off GameCube's graphical abilities rather nicely? The option of 'Clear' or 'Rain' (which is always torrential, by the way) seems a little poor. Surely FIFA 2002 wasn't rushed out...





002

2 Arsenal

FRIENDLY

Continuing the support for the GameCube, EA sticks the boot in with a footie game. Can they kick it?

Second Half

Manchester United 0

trained knowing that the moment the Japanese get wind of our man Becks they'll go wild and riot (presumably in an orderly and graceful way). With this celebration of football comes the inevitable glut of footie games all promising to distil the experience for you without the need to ever train, get paid £40,000 a week or at the very least travel halfway around the globe to watch 'our lads' get knocked out in the early rounds.

Unfortunately, thanks to the delay in launching the GameCube in Europe, EA has seen fit to release a UK-developed football title in the US – the lucky blighters. We reckon that it's more of a test run for the inevitable 'Road To The World Cup' footie game that will be released here in the UK – after all, it's not exactly the US's favourite sport but EA might as well try to cash in early and then do so again in the States with cash in number two. They're in it for the money, and why not?





The state of the s

HANDLING THE BALL

Apart from the lush graphics, one of the most noticeable aspects of FIFA 2002 that has changed from its predecessors is the passing method. No more can you simply press the Pass button and hope that the ball reaches its intended target. Here, you have to control the direction of the ball with the analogue stick whilst also pressing the A Button to control the strength of the pass - the further the pass, the longer you hold the button down. Whilst this gives you much more control, it takes some getting used to, especially for those of you used to stabbing at the Pass button and hoping. Thankfully though, the training video gives ample explanation of how to master this technique. Watch and learn, as on higher difficulty levels you'll need it!

"THE OFFICIAL LICENCE MEANS THAT YOU WON'T FIND 'DAVID BACKHAM' PLAYING FOR MAN UTD, WHICH IS ODDLY REASSURING"













IT'S ON DVD!

It's good to see that even with a game shoe-horned onto the tiniest DVD that you ever laid your eyes on there's still room enough for some added extras. Sure, there's the customary advert for some of EA's up-and-coming titles and there are credits too. However, we were mightily impressed by the natty training video and most of all, by the hugely funny FIFA outtakes. Like the sort of thing that you see at the end of Pixar's animated movies, it features a series of bloopers and muckups all done in a comedy stylee... we like it, we like it a lot – more please!



FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME

O COME ON YOU ENGLAND!

What's particularly odd is that whilst we know that there will be a World Cup-specific FIFA game on the way, FIFA 2002 does offer a World Cup Qualification mode. Thankfully, and no doubt thanks to the fact that the game was developed here in the UK, the England squad are, according to the stats, just a little bit good. In fact, judging by them, you'd think that England had half a chance at winning... Oh well, when FIFA Road To The World Cup does finally make it we can all do what our 'winning eleven' will no doubt fail to do.











CASPORTS

A SPORTS

Now that EA has committed itself to developing games for the GameCube it's almost heart-warming to see a FIFA game so early into the life of the console. Clearly, FIFA 2002 is peerless at present, having just managed to hit release before ISS2, which is good news for EA.

Ordinarily we'd balk at playing another FIFA game but as EA dropped the N64 after FIFA '99 – presumably in favour of the more lucrative PlayStation market – it almost feels like welcoming an old friend back home. Little has changed over the last three years; sure, the graphics have significantly improved and as always, the official licence means that you won't find 'David Backham' playing for Manchester United, which is

always oddly reassuring. However, when you've pored over the familiar wealth of options – most of which will be initially eschewed in favour of a quick friendly – you will find that the game mechanics have changed, as EA continues to pursue that elusive goal of being considered every bit as good as ISS. What this means is that 'soft' goals are no more and the passing controls have been made that little bit more fussy – at least it gives FIFA fans something to challenge them...

When you've mastered this, played a few games and got a little comfortable with it all you begin to realise that, all told, the over-familiarity of the FIFA games has begun to weaken the licence. We expect the wealth of options, we expect John Motson to crone on – though to be

AND IT COMES TO THIS: We hate penalties – they're not fair! Nevertheless this seemingly random way of deciding the victor is nail-biting stuff!

A TOTAL OF THE STATE OF THE STA



"IF YOU WANT AN INVOLVING, DEEP AND HIGHLY PLAYABLE FOOTIE GAME THEN THIS IS IT"

CHEATER! World Class mode? All you have to do is pause the game and choose 'Side Select' from the menu to choose your opponent's team. Sorted!







MAKE MINE

What sports title would be complete without the option to make your own freakish football player? Without it, it wouldn't feel right, would it? However, EA has gone so much further than that, allowing you to create not only individual players but also teams, tournaments and leagues, which is nice... You can even enter the transfer market, dabble with the formation - dammit, it's got the lot! Were it not for the certainty that the FIFA series will be making further return visits to the GameCube with further improvements to graphics and gameplay, we'd almost be inclined to say that with such a wealth of options you'd never need to buy another FIFA game again...

IT'S THE FIRST, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE LAST...

fair, the commentary and sound effects are spot-on - but the entire package fails to really excite, apart from the rather brilliant FIFA outtakes which, at least on first showing, had us all in fits.

There's nothing much wrong with FIFA 2002; it does the job well enough and, believe us, we're pleased that EA has seen fit to support the GameCube because it does produce some excellent games whilst also milking the odd licence here and there. So, if you have an import machine and want an involving, deep and highly playable footie game then this is it. It'll certainly keep you busy until the next FIFA game comes out (in a few months), just don't expect to be too excited by it...

SIMON



There's a lack of weather effects and stadiums and the character models are a bit odd. Otherwise, it's pretty tidy.



Great atmosphere and a pretty comprehensive commentary. It's all you could ever ask for.



To get the most out of the game you are going to have to work at it - but that's a good thing, no?



A wealth of options that would keep footie fans busy forever... or at least until ISS2 or the next FIFA comes out.



ORIGINALIT

Though there have been tweaks, there is little here to surprise or excite - but then what do you expect?

SSX TRICKY

It's a port but it's also a breath of fresh air on the GameCube.



TERNATIVE

Another game that ably demonstrates EA's welcome commitment to the GameCube.

NHL HITZ 20-02

We have something of a soft spot for what

Midway does to sports games ignore the rules and



crank up the fun-o-meter. It's just the way we like it! Still, it's not football, is it?

OPINION

my cup of tea, but FIFA 2002 is one of the better footie games around today."

SCORED! "All credit to EA for getting a good footy game out so quickly. ISS it is not, but it still plays well."

CHANDRA

FINAL SCORE



COMPETENT. FOOTIE FANS WILL APPRECIATE THE AUTHENTICITY - IT JUST FAILS TO TRULY EXCITE...









To the hoop... and it's blocked!

COURTSIDE 2002

CLIBE

∌INFORMATION

NBA COURTSIDE 2002

PUBLISHER: NINTENDO

LEFT FIELD PRODUCTIONS

£49.99

1-4

STATS

- **ULTRA-REALISTIC GAME**
- FEATURES ALL THE NBA TEAMS
- **DETAILED PLAYER MODELS**
- FULL-ON NBA SEASON OPTIONS
- **CREATE YOUR VERY OWN PLAYER**

RELEASE DATES



It's not a first-party title, but seeing Nintendo's name on a rather average game is still a bit of a letdown...

> - in essence, one of the main reasons why many of us stay indoors and play videogames. Not that we're lazy, you understand; it's just that ever since high school, we've never been particularly good at pulling on a pair of tight shorts and running around until we're soaked with sweat, covered in mud and on the verge of having some kind of coronary arrest. In fact, the closest we come to any kind of sport these days (besides flicking on the TV or going along to a match every now and then) is from picking up a game controller. Blimey, how unhealthy are we?

> In any case, the very first GameCube titles based on the sport of basketball (one of the sports we actually quite enjoyed before we got too old to go out in shorts and a vest) comes in the form of NBA Courtside 2002. Now, while it's not a first-party title - the big N isn't known for its homegrown sports games - it IS a Nintendo-licensed product coming from second-party developer Left Field Productions. The guestion is, should Nintendo have lent its name to this game? There's no denying it looks very pretty but underneath... well, it's not really as divine as you might think. Maybe the fact that Nintendo has dropped Left Field from its books speaks louder than words ever could.













KEEPING IT REAL

● ALMOST LIHE PLAYING IT YOURSELF

Oi, you – yep, you with the clipboard and rather nerdy look on your face. You're one of those people who likes stats, rules and keeping your game rosters up-to-date with the real-life ones, aren't you? Well then NBA Courtside 2002 will have you grinning from ear to spotty ear; it features every possible basketball rule in the book (from Backcourt and the Shot Clock to 3 Sec In The Key... eh?), ready for you to turn on and off at will. What's more, you can even shuffle players around as they move from team to team just to make sure you're playing with the correct squad. Honestly, the bods at Left Field couldn't have done any more if they tried...





"NBA COURTSIDE 2002 IS IDEAL FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE THEIR SPORTS GAMES A LITTLE BIT MORE CEREBRAL"







3-POINT BREAK

In-between fiddling with the options, playing the Season mode and creating yourself in basketball-player form, you might want to try your hand at the Skills mode. This is split into two sections - 3-Point Contest and Practice mode - which you can use to hone your playing abilities. Practice mode is exactly what the name suggests, with the game giving you handy hints on how to improve your game; the 3-Point Contest, on the other hand, is a challenge against a bunch of your mates (or computer players, if you don't have any mates) to score as many 3-point baskets as you can in the allotted time. Is it fun? Well, no - not really. If there was any skill or technique to it, we might have enjoyed ourselves; instead, it's totally hit and miss... usually resulting in you losing. Bugger.



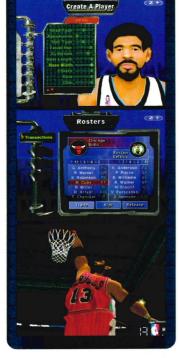


him. Ah, c'est la vie

NEW KID ON

NBA COURTSIDE 2002

What realistic sports game these days would be complete without the highly pointless and tacked on Create-A-Player mode? None of them, that's what. Luckily NBA Courtside 2002 does feature one and for the most part, it's pretty comprehensive; you can change almost all the details of your player and make him look as normal or mutated as you wish. Once you've done that, it's a simple matter of signing him up to your favourite team before he can take to the court – however, the lack of an option to create your own team means he'll almost always be replacing someone much better than







Hoorah!



Playing the occasional game of basketball is all very well, but spare a thought for those poor souls in the NBA - they have to do it all year round (aww, the poor loves). Still, you can share their pain by having a go at the NBA Season mode; much like those Le Mans racing games where you can race for 24 hours nonstop, this offers a full season of 82 games for you to play through, as well as offering you the chance to manage the team. Needless to say, this is the ideal choice for people looking to put in the effort in the long haul, as well as those that fancy bringing a sense of achievement into their lives.

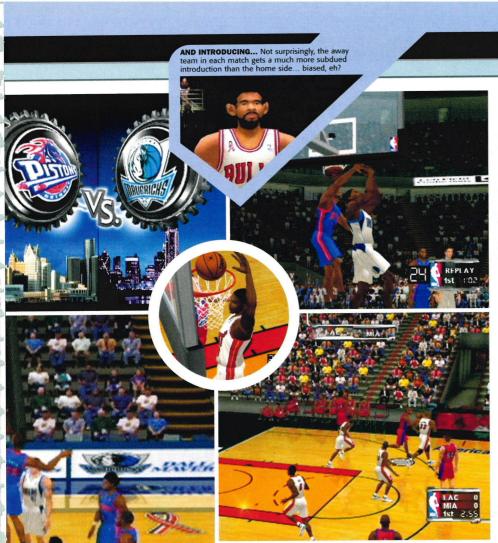


No doubt many of COMMENT you will disagree, but in our mind there are some sports that don't translate well into the realms of videogames unless they're exaggerated and stretched beyond the laws of nature. Realistic basketball, for example, is full of far too many rules and other boundaries to prove an exciting videogame - it's something that should be played for real rather than simulated. That, for the most part, is why NBA Courtside 2002 just doesn't manage to ring those bells with us; in comparison to older basketball games that we've played in the past (from the recent NBA

Street and NBA Hoopz to classics like the original NBA Jam) it's just too bogged down and sluggish to be anything more than average.

One thing we will say, though, is that the whole game looks gorgeous - Left Field has really done itself credit with the GameCube technology, as NBA Courtside is incredible to watch. The same could also be said about the control system; in particular, the use of the C-Stick to pass the ball (meaning you can toss the ball without having to face your team mate) works very well indeed. Unfortunately, these great points are marred by the fact that the remainder of the game is uninspired

Back that ass up, big boy! Our custom-made fat man plays ball like a real pro.







ARCADE CRAZINESS

Tired of all those realistic pump fakes, wimpy tip-ups and low scoring baskets that make up the usual basketball fare? Then don't panic -Arcade mode is here! Taking the basics of NBA Courtside 2002 and warping them ever so slightly, the Arcade mode allows for some insanely unreal dunks (meaning your players will usually jump twice as high as they would normally... not exactly physics-shattering, is it?) and scoring spots that allow you to notch up more than the usual amount of points for each shot you take within them. It's certainly a break from the norm, but not quite enough to lift Courtside into the same category as some of the more enjoyable sports games.





"IN COMPARISON TO BASKETBALL GAMES THAT WE'VE PLAYED BEFORE, IT'S TOO **BOGGED DOWN AND SLUGGISH"**

NBA COURTSIDE 2002 MORE 'ALLEY... DOPS' THAN ALLEY-DOP

and... well, dull. Even the inclusion of a lacklustre Arcade mode to make things more 'game-like' doesn't help much.

It's not that NBA Courtside is a terrible game; certainly, it's ideal for people who like their sports games a little bit more cerebral. However, we can't help but feel that videogames should be exciting and exhilarating to play, rather than have the slightly plodding pace that this game offers. It's a personal grievance, but one we're prepared to stick with when you consider that you'll be forking out nearly £50 for this.

MARTIN

UISURLS
The highlight of the game; technically stunning and use the GameCube's abilities rather well overall.



The commentary isn't exactly ground-breaking, but it's alright for this. We adore the intro music though.



Realistic is the best word to describe it, though that's not necessarily a good thing - we like things exciting.



The fact that you can play with your mates and enjoy an 82-game season should keep you going for a while.



As EA has demonstrated, there isn't much you can do with a sports game if you're trying to make it realistic.

ALTERNATIVE

NBA STREET

EA's take on the actionbasketball genre isn't due out for another



when it arrives you can bet it'll be the king of all the dunkers out there on the GameCube..

NHL HITZ 20-02

Another great example of the classic sports game, moved into a more arcade-style



environment. Midway is known for this kind of game - violent, brutal and full of action... we love it.

OPINION

BALLS! "Maybe it's just that we're not basketball fans, but it's not as enjoyable as we were hoping for."

DUNK! "If you love basketball then you will probably want this. However, it just enough fun for the rest of us."

FINAL SCORE

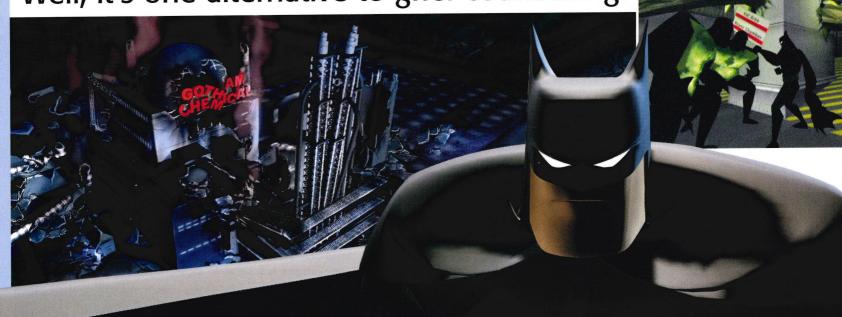


LOOKS GREAT, BUT IS TOO TECHNICAL AND BLAND TO PROVE ANYTHING MORE THAN A MINOR DISTRACTION.





Well, it's one alternative to grief counselling!



CLIEE

⊕INFORMATION

BATMAN VENGEANCE

PUBLISHER: UBI SOFT

DEVELOPER: WARNER BROS

PRICE: £59.99

CALLES AND

PLAYERS:

STRT5

- PLAY AS THE DARK KNIGHT
- OVER 15 DIFFERENT LEVELS
- USE THOSE PATENTED GADGETS
- JOKER, MR FREEZE AND MORE
- VOICES OF THE ANIMATED SERIES

RELEASE DATES



BATMAN VENGEAN

Who said that superheroes make for bad videogame characters? Not us, not never...

IT'S NOT MUCH to ask, is it? Videogames allow us to play as highly stylised characters with amazing powers - it should be simple to transform our favourite superheroes into pretty damn fine games. But no, history has shown us that this is just not the case. By all means you can have an excellent comic, you may even get a so-so movie. But should you try to get a tight-wearing vigilante into the gaming arena, the effect is similar to what they'd get if they had just stumbled into a branch of Boots. They'd just look totally out of place and would just end up getting laughed at by man, woman and incontinent old lady alike. An embarrassing, damp and smelly business indeed, but there are notable exceptions. Activision did a fair job with Spider-Man and now it's Ubi Soft's turn to light up the Bat-signal and show us what's possible when the right people take on the animated series.



JUSTICE WEARS TIGHTS

Years ago when our parents had us in nappies and we owned 16-bit Commodore Amigas (ah, how we remember the innocence of sweet sixteen!) games designers went through a fad of making licensed games into different levels based on different genres. For example, you'd have a racing level, a platform level and one that consisted of working out a logic puzzle or two. Batman Vengeance follows this ancient model with an almost unholy relish. So much so that — okay, we're going to say it — the game feels like a modern reworking of Ocean's Batman: The Movie from way back in 1989. The similarity is profound and only goes in Vengeance's favour since the older game was one of the few that actually managed to make the varied-level approach work.



"THE GAME'S
VARIED
ELEMENTS
HOLD
TOGETHER
VERY WELL,
AND COMBINE
TO GIVE THE
PLAYER
SOMETHING
GREATER THAN
THE SUM OF
THE INDIVIDUAL
PARTS"



Whilst you're busy bringing a variety of supervillains to task, you'll find that most of your time is spent negotiating basic platform levels and introducing villains to the clenched fist of justice. You climb ladders, jump between ledges and zip up to higher levels using your grapple line. Naturally enough, you have access to extra Bat-gadgets like Batarangs, smoke bombs and netlaunchers, but mostly you'll just be working out how to get to the level's exit while decking a variety of henchmen with hand and foot. Combat is basic yet effective, and relies on you getting near enough for the action to focus on an enemy, allowing you to automatically circle them in a Ztargeting style, then close in to dish out some Bat-pain. Batman may be versed in most of the world's fighting styles but here it's basic meat and potato stuff involving a few standard attacks, blocks and combos. It works, but could be better. You can only effectively fight against one opponent at a time and once you've entered into melee combat you can't access any of your 'wonderful tools'.

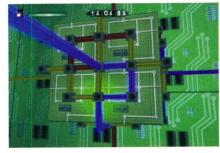
Still, animation is fast and pleasingly fluid and once you've KO'd your felon you can cuff them to stop them getting up to be a further nuisance.





VIGILANTISM MADE EASY

In-between the various other challenges comes the occasional puzzle. They're not hard to describe – imagine a door that's locked by a Rubik's Cube and you've already understood far more than these sections involve. Initially they seem tough, but as with the rest of the game, they are actually deceptively easy, only really serving as an interesting



holiday away from leaping, punching and grappling – just as in the old days there was always a high chance that making a game out of such varied elements would make for a very unbalanced experience. Happily, the game's varied elements hold together very well, and combine to give the player something greater than the sum of the individual parts.

An apple glints beneath an exploded jeep. Could it be a clue or just fruit?

IF... I... COULD... JUST...

DO AS WE SAY OR ELSE!

Vengeance feels like an old game (or rather, 'old-skool') and it's worth noting that it is defined more by what you can't do rather than what you can, especially in the platform sections. If you have to get to the top of a building and there is a ladder, YOU WILL USE IT. Yes you will here is no choice, despite the fact that you are equipped with a grappling line. Tough Bat-titties, you can only use the line when the game marks a ledge with a symbol, and you will obey or you'll never get off the level. Ever. Similarly, if you fancy jumping on, say, the bonnet of a truck just for the hell of it and the game doesn't want you to – you can't, though you can obviously jump that high. Even though you're Batman, for Chrissakel But the winning stroke is that you'll actually find yourself playing the way the game wants, as happy as a mouse in a maze. Dead end? Turn back. What about that box? I could jump on that... Shut up, turn around and find the route. If I could just fire a grappling line at that ledge... You can't – turn back, shut up and



get on with it. You never complained that the Grenade Launcher in *Resident Evil* couldn't blow open a rickety wooden door, this is really no different. It's only the fact that you're Batman, and move in such a beautifully animated Batman way, that you think you've got more freedom than you actually have.



Decent superhero COMMENT games turn up about as regularly as women who find smelly, fat, antagonistic games journalists attractive, so when one does they really should be made the most of and treated with some respect. Batman Vengeance is by no way a perfect game, but it holds together well, and it is at this point we really should look back and count how often we've said 'basic' and 'simplistic' - then changed them. These two words are in no way an insult to the game and, as it turns out, they actually make it what it is.

Obviously there are parts that could have been improved. It would have been good to be able to engage multiple bad guys at the same time by using whatever limb or Batarang you had available, and the linear nature of the levels does take some getting used to – especially when you can see where you need to be going, and the only reason you can't get there directly is because the game wants you to follow a certain path that you have yet to understand.

We have to admit that when we first started playing *Vengeance* our initial thoughts were not favourable, but then the whole styling of the game took over. It looks and sounds as much like the animated series as you could hope for and it's obviously designed for that show's younger core audience. It features star performances from Poison Ivy, Dr

QUIT YER GRINNING: Pre-rendered cut-scenes intercut the game and show a rather nice three-dimensional take on the animated series' stylish visuals.



BATWING AND A PRAYER

The Batmobile levels are an almost welcome return to the try-or-die style of old where one mistake will cause a fat, black 'Game Over' screen to pop up should you lose your way. 'Basic' doesn't really cover it by today's understanding, since all you're doing is avoiding civilians, chasing a target and busting their armour down with bullets. Most turns are 90 degrees and require you to fire a harpoon line either left or right before the junction, allowing you to swing around at speed. You've got plenty of time to react, giving the whole section the same hypnotic feel of playing a two-button dancing game – on wheels, and with guns.

Flying the Batwing is even simpler. Dodge buildings and enemy fire, keep up with your target or get sent back to try again, without so much as an explosion to tell you that you've screwed up. Both of these sections are as frustrating as they are pleasing, and they work precisely because they are so unforgiving.











"IT LOOKS AND SOUNDS AS MUCH LIKE THE ANIMATED SERIES AS YOU COULD HOPE FOR, AND IS DESIGNED FOR THAT SHOW'S YOUNGER CORE AUDIENCE"



VERDICT

BATMAN VENGEANCE

🗇 AN ELEMENTARY INITIATION IN HOW DUALITY LICENCES CAN BE HANDLED

Freeze and the Mark 'Slipstream was the final nail in my movie career's coffin' Hamill-voiced Joker. As a package for fans it's a must. As a game for people who wanted the next level of digital entertainment design to come in the form of a Batman game it is a mild distraction but obviously not the answer.

This could have gone so very wrong and it's worth pointing out again that comic licences usually do in quite spectacular ways – anyone remember *Superman* on the N64? No? Good. Don't worry about what it isn't, just enjoy it for what it is – one of the few playable and yep, fairly enjoyable superhero games out there.

WILL

UISURLS

Suits the animated series perfectly. Dark, stylish, broody and mysterious, as well as suitably tongue in cheek.



Sounds just like the show, in Dolby too! Combat could do with more varied grunts and slaps to truly fly.



Approach with an open mind and expect to be surprised. You've been here before, now it's *Batman flavoured*.



Once it's over you won't want or need to go back. But you will at least want to finish it.



Ho ho! This is a rethinking of a 1989 Amiga title! Still, it's original in respect that it's a playable superhero game.

ALTERNATIVE

SPIDER-MAN

Activision had our spidery senses quivering with this classic web-



slinger. Hey, it's one of the few decent superhero games available and features Spidey – perfect!

BATMAN VENGEANCE

what we have here, but decidedly smaller.

Just like



flatter and generally cuter. Shame that the Batmobile relies on top-down 2D-scrolling really.

OPINION

BAT-ULENCE! "However flawed, being a videogame superhero still has a certain charm so it's worth a look."

SIMON

HOLY CUBE! "Despite not being obviously great, Batman still manages to be worth a look if you're a fan."

MARTIN

FINAL SCORE



A HALF-DECENT BATMAN GAME? WE LIVED TO SEE IT AND NOW WE CAN DIE MILDLY CONTENTED. DID YOU HOOW: THE CHARACTER TARZAN WAS DRIGINALLY CREATED

CUEE

∌INFORMATION

DISNEY'S TARZAN UNTAMED

PUBLISHER: UBI SOFT

DEVELOPER: IN-HOUSE

PRICE: £49.99

IRIGIN: US

PLAYERS:

STATS (

- CONVERSION OF THE PS2 GAME
- BASED LOOSELY ON THE MOVIE
- THREE STYLES OF GAMEPLAY
- 15 LEVELS TO PLAY THROUGH
- STORY AND CHALLENGE MODES

RELEASE DATES









Me Tarzan, you Jane... us bored

DISNEY'S TARZAN

"IT'S NOT THAT TARZAN UNTAMED IS A TERRIBLE GAME... IF YOU'RE UNDER THE AGE OF TEN YOU MIGHT FIND IT QUITE ENJOYABLE" NICE LUNGS!

AAAAAAA

AAAAAARGH!

Of course, no Tarzan game
of course, no Tarzan game
would be complete without
would be complete without
strademark yell – by
his trademark yell – by
standing still and hitting the
still and still and hitt







UNTAMED



If any game is guilty of making the GameCube seem like a kids' machine, it's this one...

it is that keeps deciding that all games based on films (especially animated ones or kids movies) should take the form of platform adventures needs a severe talking to. There's only so much you can do with the genre before it starts getting old – but then there's the argument that kids never get bored of it, so that makes it alright then. No, really it does... otherwise, Ubi Soft wouldn't have made the decision to release *Tarzan Untamed* into the wild.

Despite the Disney movie being over two years old, what you've got here is a game based loosely on it... with the word 'loosely' highlighted in six-foot high neon lettering. Being the Lord of the Jungle and all that, Tarzan likes to look out for his animal chums; that's why it's his job to rescue all the monkeys that have been imprisoned by the evil poachers (who naturally all have either foreign accents or big twirly moustaches). Not surprisingly, this task involves a lot of running along tree branches and swinging on vines, but also manages to squeeze in some river surfing, bungee jumping and makeshift waterskiing to boot. Believe us, Tarzan's one versatile guy...



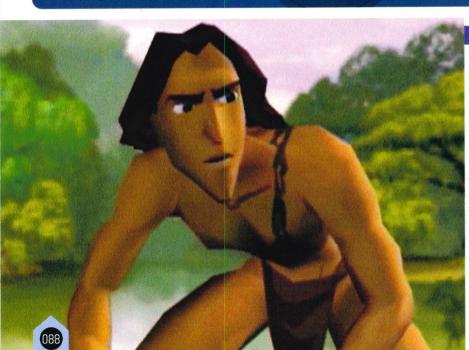
UNDERGROUND, OVERGROUND

Although the game is split into three sections, the one you'll experience the most is Jungle Exploration — as the name suggests, it generally involves you running through the jungle (or in some places, caves as well) trying to rescue the baby apes. You'll find a number of distractions along the way including vines to swing on, tree branches and mud slides to skid down, spears to collect — which can then be used as weapons or to cut down vines that are hung up — and enemies to dispatch. When you find a baby ape, you'll have to smash the cage open and then carry it to its mother who luckily waits a little way down the path. Sound incredibly simplistic? Well, we told you it wasn't rocket science...

" If your arse isn't red, you're not coming in." Honestly, they'll hire anyone to work on the doors of nightclubs these days...

HING OF THE SWINGERS





Bungee Challenge.

■ Collect all the baby apes from a single level and you'll get the chance to try your hand at the

earned the respect of the simians involved, be they adult gorillas, young gorillas or baboons. How do you do that?

By completing each of the Bungee Challenges, of course... how else can you

earn a monkey's trust?

COMMENT

■ Simply dodge all the obstacles that block your

descent to build up enough speed and reach the

Film Reel at the bottom of the lake.

You knew it was going to happen sooner or later - after a relatively successful start, the GameCube finally has a totally average game slapped onto it. Of course, it's not that Tarzan Untamed is a terrible game... if you're under the age of ten you might find it quite enjoyable. However, the fact that it's totally linear with no chance of exploration, the different game styles feel tacked on and it's easier to get through in one sitting than a whole tub of Lemon Cheesecake Haagen-Das ice cream leaves us wondering why Ubi Soft even bothered in the first place.

To be blunt, this isn't the one to go for if you're looking for longevity in a game; we finished

most of it in an afternoon and only had the annoyingly repetitive (and frankly pointless, considering we'd already been through the game once) task of completing the challenges to go through. The biggest problem out of the three, though, is how linear the game is - it's almost like Tarzan's on rails as you play. What do we mean? Well, you only run in one direction (forwards, into the screen) so there's no opportunity to explore the jungle... not that the game would let you if you wanted to, that is. It's so rigid, you can't even fall off the narrowest of branches, for goodness sake! Aside from collecting the Film Reels (which is so easy, it's painful), there's absolutely no reason to go back to

■ Now when you find one of your friendly apes

give you a helping hand...

within a level, you can call out to them and they'll



BOSS DANCE REVOLUTION

If you want an example of just how basic *Tarzan Untamed* really is, just take a look at the boss stages located at the end of each world. In a display of uncomplicated gameplay the likes of which we've never seen before, beating each boss is reduced to pounding on the B Button like crazy to empty the bar at the bottom of the screen before quickly tapping in the button sequence that appears, à la Dance Dance Revolution. Not exactly taxing, is it? Having simplistic boss fights is one thing, but this really does take the cake... after all, who needs exciting and strategic battles against a massive enemy when you can subject yourself to a two-minute bout of button-bashing?

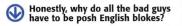
SLIP-SLIDIN'!

combinations of buttons at certain times, you can pull off special Tarzan-style stunts. He's just so acrobatic.











"THIS ISN'T THE ONE TO GO FOR IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR LONGEVITY IN A GAME"

DISNEY'S TARZAN UNTAMED

THE DUESTION THAT LEAPS INSTANTLY TO MIND IS... WHY?

a level once you've completed it which is exactly what can be said about the whole game as well. It's almost an insult to the GameCube if Ubi Soft feels that this is the kind of game suitable for it... while we accept that quite a few younger gamers will be picking up the console, this is just plain wrong. The thing that we can't understand, though, is that rather than being a totally new game, Tarzan Untamed is nothing more than a straight conversion of the PlayStation2 game Tarzan Freeride; the only difference being the slight tweak in the title, as though Ubi Soft wants to hide the fact that it's the same game. Can't think why...

MARTIN

LUSUFL

It's a conversion of a PlayStation2 game so it certainly isn't pushing the GameCube. Pretty, but disappointing.



Well, it's Disney, isn't it? Typical bongo music combined with some decent acting makes this just above average.



Why is it that when developers turn a film into a game, it ends up being a roaming platform adventure? Yawn.



We had 60 percent of the game completed in the space of four hours. Mind you, it is aimed at the kids...



Coming straight from the bottom of the film/game conversion barrel, this really is as generic as they come.

SONIC ADVENTURE 2 BATTLE

If you're going to do an action/ adventure game, at



least have the decency to try and make it as good as this one...

BATMAN

VENGEANCE Yes, this

also manages to change a popular licence



into a platform game - but this one's actually fun to play.

OPINION

SWINGING! "I think I might just close my eyes for a while until all these below-average ports go away."

CHANDRA

CHEETAH! "A lazy port and a dull game. Anyone desperate for some Tarzan action should seek counselling."

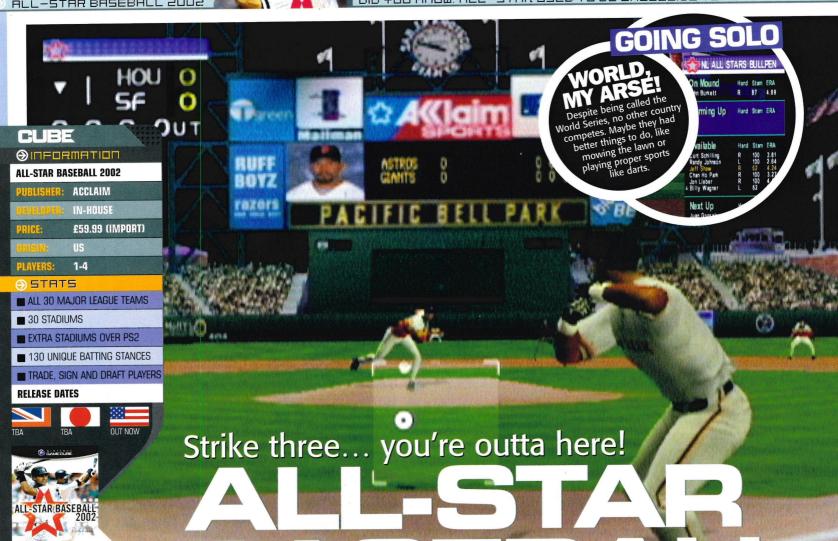
FINAL SCORE

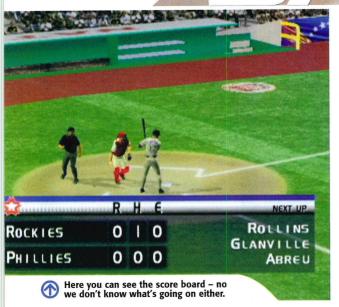


IT'S A GIANT PIECE OF BLACKPOOL **ROCK WITH 'AVERAGE' WRITTEN ALL** THE WAY THROUGH THE MIDDLE.









Another baseball game comes up to bat. Does this one manage to be playable or fun? Er, no...

THE ALL-STAR BASEBALL franchise is no stranger to Nintendo and various versions were released on the N64 during the console's lifetime. Not surprisingly, the games always did well with fans of the sport but never really managed to create any new believers.

You see, baseball games are often uninspired and boring – especially to us Brits who generally care less about it then we do American football. However, the thing about American football is that it can sometimes be a fast-moving and exciting game (which translates well to videogames) whereas baseball isn't. Can you see where this is going?

Rather than a brand-new title, this is a port of the PS2 version and boasts few changes aside from two extra stadiums (woo-hoo). Nothing much has been altered to the formula of the original game apart from improved graphics – over 1,500 motion-captured animations and lifelike facial textures. However, the original did suffer from a lack of effort in the overall presentation, which seems to have been carried over to this GameCube conversion.

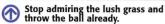
What All-Star Baseball does manage to offer up, though, is a wealth of features that many sports games would be jealous of. There are a host of different game modes including Quick Play, Exhibition, All-Star Game, Season, Series, Home Run Derby and Batting Practice. The games themselves have many different options, too, enabling the player to control the time of day, weather and difficulty. But are these enough to make it all worthwhile?



As with most sports games these days, All-Star Baseball includes the obligatory Create-A-Player option. We decided to create the ultimate batter to try and spice things up a bit... but unfortunately (as you can see) we failed miserably.

- [1] First off we gave him a name and made him a 6'11" giant ready to take on the big boys.
- [2] Next we put some meat on him and made him a 300lb monster so he could get some weight behind his shots. Then we equipped him with all the latest, most fashionable baseball accessories.
- [3] Now we have to choose which areas our guy is skilful in. Obviously we want him to be an awesome batter so we used all our points on power and hitting.
- [4] Now we see his stats to make sure we're happy with the choices we have made. We're more than content with our monster creation so we eagerly continue.
- [5] Before we can use him we need to trade one of our existing players, so we just pick the one with the lowest rating and swap them over.
- [6] Finally we get him out on the pitch and as we expected, he's a resounding failure, so we switch off the game and do something else instead.

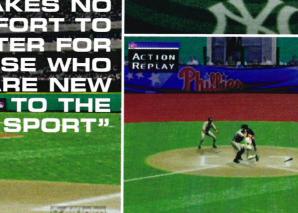








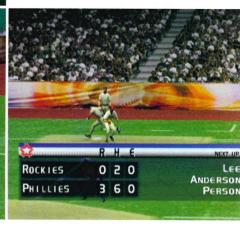






HIT A HOMER The only part of the game that actually

caters for the beginner is the Batting Practice option. Select this from the main menu and you get to hit endless balls thrown by a guy standing behind a protective fence (wimp). We tried our hardest to hit his head, which is poking out, but without success; if we had managed to hit him the game may have got a higher score for sheer comedy value. Alas, it wasn't to be.







ALL-STAR BASEBALL 2002

TOP OF THE...

Welcome, pop-pickers, to the top five rundown of activities more interesting than baseball.

1. At the top spot is the all-time favourite 'Watching Paint Dry'. Spend hours staring at the same spot until your eyes go hurty.

2. Just shy of the top is Britain's favourite pastime, 'Mowing The Lawn'. Listen to the sweet, sweet sound of metal blades cutting through nature – divine.

3. Sticking close to mowing the lawn is another popular choice – 'Washing The Car'. This may be great for people who own Ferraris and the like but for the rest of us who own clapped-out rust-buckets, it's definitely a pain in the ass.

4. This favourite slips near to the bottom as it can be over reasonably quickly, therefore reducing the tedium factor – of course, it's 'Doing The Washing Up'. A popular choice for a long time but with these new Fancy-Dan washing up liquids that do half the work for you, it's no longer the chore it used to be.

5. In at the bottom is something that only just manages to be more interesting, 'Reading The Dictionary'. Well, apparently, anyway. Being lazy writer-types, we've never actually opened one, but we're told they have words in and stuff.

Some player from who knows what team gets ready to swing - oh, the excitement is too much for us.

MLB is split into six division.

MLB is split into six division.

It have National League and

- three National League. What three American League. What three American and American national and American is we're not team is we'r

PAY ATTENTION, CLASS! The National Baseball League was founded in 1876, followed by the American League in 1891, and they've been thrilling Americans ever since.

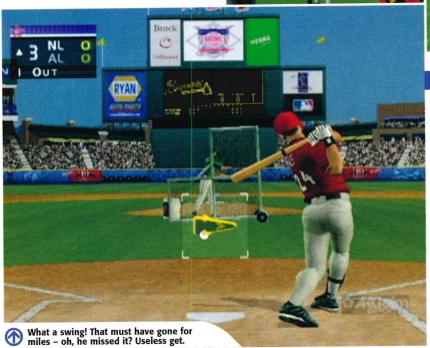
pie but less interesting and not nearly as tasty. You know the score: the pitcher pitches, the batter bats and they all run round in circles, whooping and hollering. However, baseball has never really taken off over here and playing this game, we can see why... and we thought cricket was boring!

Whether baseball is more interesting in real life we're not sure, but this game makes no effort to cater for those who are new to the sport. Yes, it has lots of different modes, but not one involves training that explains what the hell is going on.

When it comes to actually playing the game, you'll find that for the first

few hours (if you can stand it that long) you probably won't hit a single ball. When you finally do, it either rolls along the ground pathetically or goes ridiculously high, making an easy catch for the opposing team.

When fielding, you get the impression that you are little more than an observer, what with the wide camera angles and the computer controlling half of the action. You can decrease the computer control but it doesn't really do much to improve things. Speaking of the camera, there are no options to change the angle even in the replay so when a replay is shown (after every hit) you see it from so far away that most of the time all you can make out is a guy running into a mass of green to catch an almost invisible ball.





CAN YOU

One of the most exhaustive sections of the game for the die-hard fans is the Team Management option. This allows you to change nearly every aspect of the team, including trading and drafting players, managing line-ups and rosters and creating your own players. Suffice to say we fiddled around with it for a few minutes and soon realised we didn't know what we were doing. We have to say, though, for fans of the sport this is probably a dream come true.

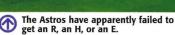
"WE THOUGHT **CRICKET WAS BORING**"





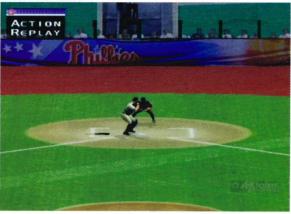












The catcher lives up to his name and catches the ball, but can he throw? We're not telling.

AR BASEBALL 2002

NO BASE, ALL BALLS... PLEASE, TAKE IT AWAY

Graphically, you can see this game is a port as it in no way makes any effort to take advantage of the GameCube's advanced hardware. The character models look reasonably good... and that's it. The pitch is poorly detailed, the stadiums are adequate and the crowd... well. the crowd is just horrible. They move like they've just eaten a dodgy hotdog and are blurry and

If you love baseball then this game has plenty of features and stats that will interest you, but even for a baseball game it's boring. Everyone else should avoid it if they know what's good for them.

pixillated, as if they've been taken

straight from the N64 version.

SIMON G

UISUFLS The character models are good but

that's about it. The rest is just sloppy and uninspiring.



Annoying music, boring commentary, functional sound effects... an aural assault on the senses this ain't.



BAMBALAH

If you like baseball then this may be heaven but for the rest of us normal folk it's boooring.



LIFESPAN
The Season mode will keep you going for a while if you can actually be bothered.



Well, it's a baseball game (and a conversion of one at that), so it rates a big fat zero on the originality scale.

NHL HITZ 20-02

Ice hockey with knobs on, Midway's latest is so enjoyable

we even



recommend it to people who don't like sports games.

WORLD SERIES BASEBALL 2K2

Even this effort on the Dreamcast was better than All-Stars. Here's hoping it



gets a GameCube conversion... actually, here's not.

OPINION

STEEERIKE! "A cheap and nasty conversion of a substandard game. Wait for one of the SEGA Baseball games."

THE PAIN... "Why on earth did Acclaim even bother? If this is the best it can do, we shudder at the thought...

FINAL SCORE



BASEBALL FANS MAY FIND SOME REDEEMING FEATURES IN THIS GAME. ANYONE ELSE SHOULD STEER CLEAR.

£39.99 JAPAN

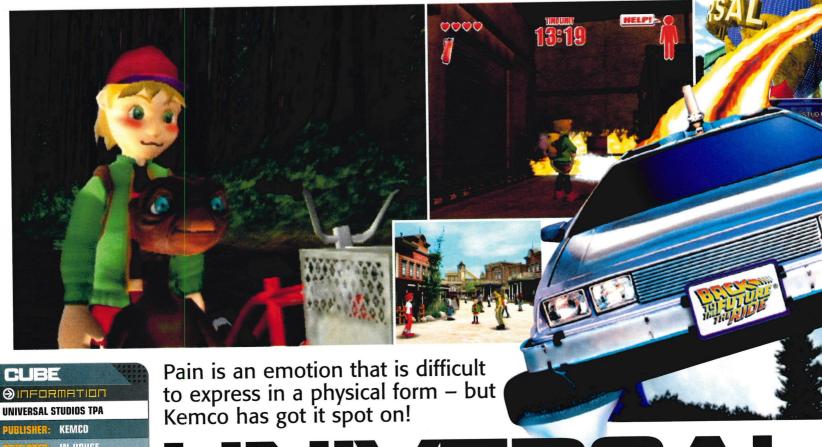
STRTS

RELEASE DATES

TRY NOT TO GO MENTAL



Give us Alton Towers any day...



UNIVERSAL















STUDIOS THEME PARKS ADVENTURE

THEME PARKS

are great places, especially when you're young – the magic of the atmosphere and the thrill of the rides make it a once-in-a-lifetime experience... unless you go there again the year after. However, suggest the idea of bringing a theme park into a videogame and alarm bells start ringing. Taking the management route (as with the excellent Theme Park series) is all very well, but making it a theme park simulator where you have to spend time in the park just like real life? Err, right...

Not surprisingly though, this is exactly the premise that *Universal Studios Theme Parks Adventure* offers on a platter – a platter filled with stinky fish, useless dinosaurs and a *Back To The Future* experience that'll have you wishing they'd never invented time travel. Strictly 'one for the kids' (and even then, they'd be hard-pressed to endure it long enough to finish it), the collection of mini-games and other 'exciting' tasks tries to recreate the Universal Studios theme park in all its glory... although to say it falls flat on its arse would be a severe understatement. Need convincing? Well, come with us for a stroll through the park – just don't say we didn't warn you.





CANT GET ENOUGH (OF THAT MINI-GAME STUFF)

The meat of *Universal Studios* (if you can call it that, maybe it should be gristle?) is focused on playing a selection of mini-games inside the rides of the park. Each ride has a different style of game, so there's plenty to do... but it's mostly complete arse. In order of enjoyment, here they all are...

BACKDRAFT

The best of all the mini-games – run around a burning building putting out fires with your hose and saving the stranded civilians. Quite cool.

THE WILD, WILD, WILD WEST

Just like those arcade shooting ranges (hit the targets as they appear) only not as good, because you haven't got a lightgun. Annoying, really.

ET: THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL

Think *Paperboy*, but without the papers or fun; yep, you ride a bike over obstacles to reach the spaceship before the time runs out.

JAWS

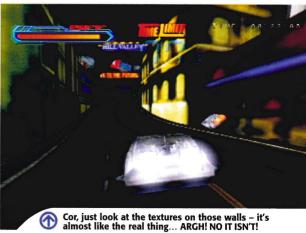
Oh lordy... using the various objects littering the deck of your boat, stop Jaws sinking you by bashing him on the nose. Oh, it gets worse...

JURASSIC PARK

An on-rails shoot-'em-up where pummelling the A Button to blow up hordes of badly animated dinosaurs is the order of the day. Not as bad as...

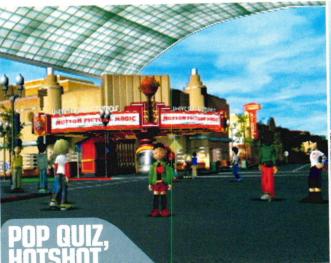
BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE RIDE

An insult to everything that *BTTF* stands for – chase Biff through time in your DeLorean, while ramming into the back of his vehicle to stop him. Dire.



Well, actually it's more like a film quiz... but that's beside the point. The final stamp for you to earn around the park comes in the form of a quick-fire quiz – once you find Winnie Woodpecker hanging around in the street, you can get her to ask you questions in return for a stamp. You need to answer ten questions correctly to win, while you've got three lifelines if you get one wrong. The only problem? The fact that most of the questions are stupidly tough; they're all about Universal movies such as Patch Adams, U-571 and Out Of Africa (no, seriously), so if you haven't seen the relevant film then you're screwed. Consider the target audience – how many children do you know that have seen The Sting? Talk about bad judgement...

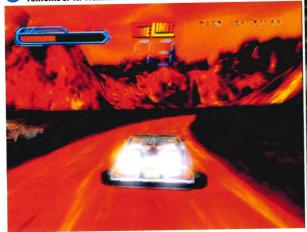
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS THEME PARK ADVENTURE







Here's that famous lava scene from BTTF... what? You don't remember it? Neither do we. DAMN YOU, KEMCO!



PICK A LETTER

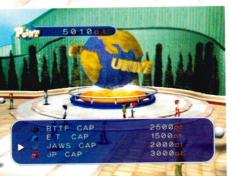
Fancy a different challenge to playing those pitiful minigames? Well, those of you with keen eyes might like to try hunting down the 16 magical letter tiles hidden around the park — spelling out 'Universal Studios' as you'd expect. They're dotted around in the most obvious of places. The problem is, they're all about the size of a pinhead and unless you've got your face pressed up against the screen, you might miss them. What's more, some of them don't appear until night-time, so you have to play through most of the park before you can grab them... damn you, Kemco!



THE CAT IN THE HAT

Going on holiday to a theme park is a real nightmare. Unless you get up especially early (which defeats the object of having a holiday) you have to spend hours standing in line for the rides. The park in Universal Studios has the same problem, but now there's a way round waiting for hours... the Queue Pushing Cap! Using the points you earn from completing rides successfully and various other tasks, you can buy different caps from Woody; each one represents a different ride and allows you unlimited access to the rides you own the caps for. If only that worked in real life...





Having prepared COMMENT ourselves for the worst, when we sat down to play Universal Studios even we were shocked at how bad this game really is. Everything about it is wrong, from the shoddy graphics and uninspired gameplay right down to the fact that it can be completed in less than three hours. Even the argument that it's aimed at younger gamers doesn't wash here - while that's plainly obvious for all to see, what makes the game awful isn't just how basic the gameplay is but also that it's so badly executed, it could be running on an N64 rather than a GameCube.

Put it this way – *Universal Studios* is little more than six rather poor (or in the case of some of them, very poor) mini-games, a bizarrely tough film quiz and a few other menial tasks, all tied together with some average renders of a theme park for you to explore. Does that sound compelling to you? No, of course it





WATER PILE OF ARSE

If all the ridiculously short and uninteresting mini-games aren't enough for you, there's something even worse hiding on the far side of the park... really, there is. Head for the Waterworld exhibit and you'll be treated to one of the most pointless inclusions in a videogame ever - the chance to watch the same five-second FMV clip over and over again from different angles. You enter the exhibit, pick your seat, watch the clip... and that's it. No stamp, no reward, nothing for watching all five clips: it's even more pointless than building a snowman in the Sahara desert. What were the people at Kemco smoking when they





UNIVERSALLY NAFF! "Got an N64? What do you want a GameCube for then? The graphics are THAT BAD!"

MINTY! "Help! The turgid games have arrived on our beloved GameCube. Go to Altom Towers intead."

FINAL SCORE



NEED YOUR INTELLIGENCE INSULTING? THEN WHIP OUT £40 AND GET THIS ONE RIGHT AWAY.

doesn't. The thing is, it's even worse than it sounds because there really are no redeeming factors about the game; we tried our hardest to find one but ended up drawing a blank. Just watching this game makes you wonder if Kemco actually developed it on the GameCube, or simply used some kind of Fisher Price play set to programme the game before burning it onto several hundred CDs... honestly, it really is that basic. Oh, and the biggest gripe? The graphics within each mini-game look like it's running on a SNES, for goodness sake! What on earth were they thinking?

nice bonus

Ultimately, a game needs to justify the asking price in order for people to buy it - to think this dire piece of programming is worth 40p, let alone £40, is an insult to everything we believe in as dedicated gamers. Buy it... go on, we dare you. You'll be the only fool that does...

MARTIN

UNIVERSA

IT TAKES REAL EFFORT TO MAKE A GAME THIS BAD.

A hard blend of 'nice but rendered' backgrounds and absolutely awful single-texture slabs. Urgh.



The single redeeming factor of the game – all the proper movie tunes, blasted out in solid stereo.



We would make a comment about the gameplay but we couldn't find any, even after scraping the barrel dry.



We finished it in three hours; the average gamer that this will appeal to will be tired of it in half the time.



Kemco worked hard and still came up with one of the worst GC games so far... that's pretty original

ALTERNATI\ **BISHI BASHI**

If it's decent

mini-games that you're after (and a top twoplayer mode to boot)



then you'll need to get a PSone yep, it's that old - and manage to find a copy of this somewhere.

MARIO PARTY

Ahh, the classic (and the final) game on the N64 plenty of



mini-games to get your teeth into and an enjoyable board section to boot. Nice. Would you be happy if we said there's a GameCube sequel coming? USA PlayStation 2.

Japanese Ps2
Japanese Ps2 currently only runs Japanese
PS2 and Japanese PSX Software

USA Ps2 Console USA Ps2 only rurs
USA Ps2 games & Region 1 movies
Ps2 Stepdown Transformer

JAP Virtua Fighter 4
JAP Xenosaga
JAP Gundam Fed vs Zeon DX

JAP Moto GP 2 JAP Kingdom Hearts JAP Gran Turismo Concept JAP Space Channel 5 pt 2 JAP Project 7ero

USA Metal Gear Solid 2

USA Devils May Cry USA Capcom vs SNK 2

USA ICO

USA Grandia 2

USA NBA 2K2 USA Run Like Hell USA Deux EX USA Salt Lake 2002

SHADOW HEARTS

USA Jade Cacoon 2

USA Final Fantasy X

USA Hot Shot Golf 3

JAP Project Lete
JAP Samurai
JAP Samurai
JAP Sidewinder F
JAP Metal Gear Solid@heck Online
LAP Wild Arms 3 Check Online

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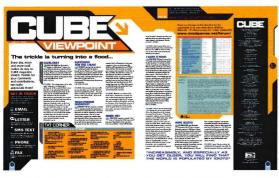
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Take part in the world's biggest GameCube magazine!

If it isn't a review, the latest news or a preview, chances are that you'll find what you're looking for here. This month the letters, texts and emails have engulfed the little space we like to call home. Come 'em coming 'cos we love to hear your opinions!

UIEIIIBIII

You've gushed praise on the mag, made the odd criticism too, but this month the tension of Nintendo not making that announcement has been getting to you. Patience dear friends, patience...





Got through the first part yet? If you have, or giust want to see exactly what Roque Leader has in store for you, then check out part two of our guide, which takes you through the Battle Of Endor and into those hard-to-get-to bonus levels. It's indispensable!



More Game Boy Advance goodness to tempt you. This month's gaming delights include an amazing and unexpected fighting game, a classic puzzler and a lovely RPG for you to get your teeth into!



snoop to check out the folk at Bits. Don't know who they are? Well, let's just say that these are the fine chaps who are bringing Die Hard to the GameCube. Interested? You should be!

The games are still coming thick and fast but next month we'll wade into the exciting world of the PAL launch! Thank heavens! That and much, much more next month!

If you don't want to miss out on the best GameCube magazine on the planet and you want to save money, we seriously recommend that you subscribe to ensure that you never miss an issue. More details, and a lovely form to fill in, can be found here!

The very last page of the mag... This month we bring to you everything that you ever wanted to know about Turok. Don't mess with him. He might be dead but he's still hard!



The trickle is turning into a flood...

Every day, more and more mail makes its way to **CUBE** magazine towers. Thanks for vour comments and contributions, we really appreciate them!

IN TOUCH

Come on then, join in the fun! There are loads of ways to get in touch with us so there's absolutely no reason not to.



Drop your question in to us via email at CUBE@paragon.co.uk.



CUBE Magazine, Paragon Publishing, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS



We've got an exclusive SMS text service sponsored by Orange. Simply text us your question or comment on 07866620761.



Call the CUBE team any time between 4pm and 6pm weekdays on 01202 209342



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CLUELESS?

DON'T YOU THINK that Nintendo is cutting it a little close? I mean, I've been talking to friends in school and they asked for Xbox because Nintendo is taking too long. They've pre-ordered an Xbox for 14 March and now there are rumours that the GameCube will be coming out in April or even May. What's the deal? JAMEZ, VIA EMAIL

CUBE: 'Everything comes to he who waits' appears to be Nintendo's philosophy at the moment. Some argue that this is an indication Nintendo is continuing to disregard Europe in the same way it seemingly did with the N64. Compared to the way that Microsoft has handled the run up to its launch of the Xbox we feel every bit as frustrated as you lot out there. However, Nintendo relies on the fact that hundreds of thousands of us will buy any Nintendo game or console, whether it is released first or last, which is a luxury that only a company that has delivered consistently high-quality products for over 20 years can rely upon. You'll have to wait until next issue to find out what exactly Nintendo's up to.

SUFFERING **FOR THE CAUSE**

I'M SICK OF coming into my school and being taunted for being a GameCube fan. People say: "It can only do 4m polygons per second". Rubbish! I don't go around insulting PS2 fans (much). How can they judge a console that hasn't even come out yet; why can't these misinformed PS2 zealots keep themselves to themselves? **ALEX YOUNG, VIA EMAIL**

CUBE: Increasingly, and especially as you get older, you will find that the world is populated by idiots... You just have to remain strong and wait for the release of the GameCube - then we'll see who's laughing...

MULTI-FORMAT MADNESS?

LOOKING AT THE list of games currently in development for the GameCube, I can't help but notice that quite a few have also been, or will be released on the PS2. Don't get me wrong - this isn't a bad thing (I don't want to see another N64style drought). What it does mean is that those of us who aren't zealous fools are faced with the decision of which version of a game to buy. One of the main

reasons that I will continue to buy your magazine is that you don't write like children (all Grevstation this and PSPoo that) and have the decency to actually give reasons why you prefer GameCube to PS2 and XBox. So with this in mind, are you going to say when you think the GameCube version of a game is better or worse than that of a different console? I wouldn't want to buy Soul Calibur 2 for GameCube and then find that the PS2 version has more to it. After all, as much as I like Nintendo, it's games that I love and I want to play the best. ANDREW SKIDMORE, VIA EMAIL

CUBE: Most of our reviews will tend, where appropriate, to point out why a GameCube version is best and you can guarantee that if a GC version has extra modes or characters, we'll say so. Likewise, if the GameCube version of a game is missing something, or has been stripped down in any way, we'll make you aware of that also. Is that okay?

BRIBE ME!

I THINK YOUR magazine is great. It has loads of information-filled pages and I love your 'Pass Notes' at the end, but I have one problem - when will there be

So, what have you sent in to us this month?

What has happened 2 Advanced Wars, i cant find it anuwhere. I also cant find Ecks US Sever anywhere, is it 100% been released? Top mag, keep up good work guys.

5 THLH RBOUT

CUBE: Both should be found at your favourite games store...

HOW MUCH IS THE GAMECUBE CUBE: Priceless

Gamecube is going 2 kick ps2s ass and is going 2 b better then the xhox nintendo rules CUBE: We hope so, it will be and we all agree (or something)

When will the gamecube be out in england? **CUBE: When it is good and ready!**

IS THERE A WWF GAME COMING **OUT ON GAMECUBE?IF THERE IS** WHEN IS IT RELEASED? CUBE: Acclaim and THQ will have all the wrestling corners covered

I have noticed the lack of anticipation rating of some sort in ur previews section. sort it out! **CUBE: Hello... Game To Watch?!?!**

How can any one say that the gamecube is rubbish! It's better than the greystation. When will it arrive over here? Thanks Jas H, (from east sussex) CUBE: We love it too! No-one, save Nintendo, knows!

I HAVE THE MUNEY 4 A CUBE **WOT IS THE EXACT RALESE DATE** AND WOT GAME SHOULD I BUY FIRST. **CUBE: Keep hold of your money and** wait for issue 4 of CUBE to find out.

Hey i just wanna ask if any of the king of fighters title would come out to the NGC? Thenx, AlecW. CURF: Nothing as uet but you can bet it'll hannen

Is their any chance that grand theft auto 3 will be out for the game cube? CUBE: It would be an absolute crime if it didn't

1st place GameCube 2nd place Xbox 3rd place PS2 ..PS2 the third place CUBE: We liked that, we liked it a lot.

THANK THE LORD 4 HANAFUDA **CUBE: Nintendo likes them more than**



www.orange.co.uk/multimedia

more freebies? I thought the video was brill, but don't stop there! Free stuff is what makes a mag fantastic. Thanks. LIZ LOVATT

CUBE: Don't worry, there are a whole load of promotions planned for the year for CUBE so if it's freebies you're after then we'll certainly be keeping you happy!

I WANT IT NOW!

GREAT MAG, THE best I've seen for a good while, probably since Crash for the Spectrum. I've played an Xbox and the GameCube and although the Xbox has Halo, which you can't deny is good (although they have borrowed a lot of its ideas from other games, such as GoldenEye and Perfect Dark), the other games - like Dead or Alive 3, Gotham Racing - are nothing new and get very repetitive very quickly. On the other hand, anything I've played on the GameCube has been really good Roque Leader is outstanding and I've only played the first Death Star level, Pikmin is just cool and Smash Bros Melee is so playable. I enjoy reading your guides on the games as it gives me more of an insight into them, which is cool. But your reviews are excellent as well. Keep up the good work, it's going well. All we need now is an English Cube, Resident Evil and some Rare games (absolute heaven). DAVE A, VIA EMAIL

CUBE: Cheers for the kind words - it's always nice to be appreciated! As for the Xbox/GameCube debate, we would tend to agree. Though we respect the relative merits of all the consoles (most of the team have all of them) we generally agree that Nintendo's games are the ones we enjoy the most. Halo, whilst being a technically amazing game, seems far too derivative to warrant the praise heaped upon it and considering that Perfect Dark offered more bang for your buck, we're not entirely convinced that the excitement generated by it is appropriate. We doubt very much that the Xbox will be home to anything like as many stunning and original games as the GameCube, and we think that everyone who reads CUBE magazine wholeheartedly agrees.

Point your browser in this direction for the opportunity to air your views about all things Nintendo – it's like your very own online community!

www.totalgames.net/forum

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Group Editor Simon Phillips

Games Editor Martin Mathers

News Editor Chandra Nair

Group Art Editor Nick Trent

Senior Sub Editor Karen Hollocks

CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Ridley, Daniel Wilson, Alison Frith, Richard

St Peter's Road, B

Marcus Reeves, Nick Welch 01202 209366 • 01202 209308 narcus@paragon.co.uk • nickw@paragon.co.uk

Tim Sellers 01202 200222 • tims@paragon.co.uk

Copy Controllers

Jo Spick, Lorraine Troughton

Louise Chorley

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

oduction Manager **Dave Osborne** Bureau Manager **Chris Rees** Tel: +44 (0) 1202 200200 Fax: +44 (0) 1202 200217

INTERNATIONAL LICENSING CUBE is available for licensing overs International Manager Cathy Blackman

Tel: +44 (0) 1202 200205 Fax: + 44 (0) 1202 200217

DIRECTORS

Editorial Director Damian Butt Production Director Jane Hawkins lation & Marketing Director Kevin P Advertising Director **Peter Cleall**Art Director **Mark Kendrick** Finance Director Steven Boyd

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Nintendo and every Nintendo resource has claimed that the next generation cosole that is coming from our favourite Japanese giant is to be aimed at both adults and kids, but with the emphasis on the more Rate Member mature audience. Certainly it seems that this is what Nintendo were aiming for when they signed on 5 exclusive Resident Evil titles, but is that really the outcome we will achieve?

> Of the top titles everyone is hoping for or are already raving about it seems that all these are aimed at the younger audience. Let's take a look at some of these: Pikmin, Super Monkey Ball, Luigi's Mansion, Starfox Adventure's and of course let's not forget Mario Sunshine and Celda (Cel Zelda – go figure). I myself am indeed wanting most of these games, but where does Nintendo really stand? All these have (will have) simplified controls and a main use of primary colours, all suggesting the audience of a younger age

Whenever I look at games coming out for this machine I see N64 games with better graphics. I really don't want to be seeing this but I cannot help it. No one can deny that the N64 was a flop and a mistake. It had some good games yes, but they were all made by Nintendo themselves and could be counted on two hands. All the thrid party games were terrible, even when they were conversions from other platforms. Then all the games from Nintendo all pretty much looked alike. They all seemed to use the same engine rather than creating their own and perhaps this is what we are seeing with the Gamecube?

Not exactly a point we agree on, but everyone's entitled to their opinion... can you do better?

AWW. BLESS!

IT'S ABOUT TIME that Nintendo gamers in the UK had a proper Nintendo magazine. Well done. I hope that over the coming months and years you stick to the promise you gave in CUBE's first editorial: a proper magazine for the hardcore gamer. We already have a couple of comic-type magazines for the very young gamer, but for the older gamers or the hardcore gamers we need the GameCube and the GameCube needs CUBE magazine. The N64 suffered because it did not

have a proper magazine and got the reputation of being a young person's game machine. I am an older gamer left over from the Amiga days. The N64 was accused of not having enough adult games, games with blood and guts or Lara Croft types, but this is not what makes a hardcore gamer's game. What does is a very good game, like Super Mario 64. Keep up the good work. CHRIS, VIA EMAIL

CUBE: Again thanks, and we do indeed intend to provide you with the kind of magazine that you most want.

"INCREASINGLY, AND ESPECIALLY AS YOU GET OLDER, YOU WILL FIND THAT THE WORLD IS POPULATED BY IDIOTS"

BONUS CHARACTERS

ISSUE THREE

CHEATING MONKEYS

Taking a break from their PG Tips duties, the Cheating Monkeys are back to bring you the very latest in tips and cheats for the GameCube. If you've found a cheat that the monkeys have missed, send it along to the usual address and if it works, we'll squeeze it into these pages!

DAVE MIRRA FREESTYLE BMX 2

Tough little game, isn't it? Don't worry though – with this rather wonderful cheat, you'll be the best biker in the neighbourhood!

ACTIVATE CHEAT MODE

If you're looking for a quick way of unlocking all the levels, riders and bikes in the game, you'll need to access the Cheat mode. To do this press Up, Right, Down, Left, Right, Right, Up, Down, Left, Right, Up, Left, Right, Right, Down on the D-Pad and then hit the B Button. If you get it right, you'll hear a sound – now you can ride around to your heart's content!

XG3 EXTREME

If all that extreme speed is going to your head, you might want to try out some of these cheats – they'll help you out, big time!

CHEAT CODES

To unlock any of the following cheats, simply enter the corresponding code on the title screen (the one with all the racers sitting in a group and the words 'Press Start' on it).

| EFFECT | CODE |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Race Winnings x2 | L, R , Z, L, R, Z, L+R |
| Infinite Ammo | L, R, L, R, L+R, Z |
| Infinite Shields | L+R, Z, L+R, Z |
| Win Race Regardless | L+R+Z, L+R, Z, L+R+Z |
| Unlock All Teams and Tracks | L, L, R, R, Z, Z, L+R+Z |
| Extreme Lap Challenge | L, R, L, R L, R, Z, L+R |

SIMPSONS ROAD RAGE

If all the regular characters aren't enough for you, here's how you can get your hands on some very special Springfield racers instead...

THE CAR BUILT FOR HOMER

To unlock Homer's custom-made car (built for him by his millionaire brother, no less) just complete all ten stages in Mission mode. Now just pick Homer in any game mode to be given the option of riding in his regular car or the custom-made one.





TIME-RELEASE CHARACTERS

There are also a number of secret characters who will only appear if you play the game at certain times of the year. Just reset the clock inside your GameCube to these dates to get the respective characters...

| CHARACTER | DATE |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Frankenbart | 39 October (Halloween) |
| Pilgrim Marge | 22 November (Thanksgiving) |
| Santa Apu | 25 December (Christmas Day) |
| New Year Krusty | 1 January (New Year's Day) |





CRAZY TAX

SEGA's original masterpiece is now on the GameCube, so naturally you'd be right to suspect there are some cheats hidden away in there somewhere...



NO DIRECTIONAL ARROW

To remove the directional arrow that points you in the right direction from the top of the screen, hold down the R Trigger Button and press Start immediately after selecting Arcade or Original mode from the main menu. If you get it right, you'll see the words 'No Arrows' appear on the Character Select screen.

NO DESTINATION MARK

To remove the destination marks around each building that you have to drop the passengers off at, hold down the L Trigger Button and press Start immediately after selecting Arcade or Original mode from the main menu. If you get it right, you'll see the words 'No Destination' appear on the Character Select screen.

GET ON YOUR BIKE

On the Character Select screen, hit both Trigger Buttons three times in quick succession and then begin the game - if you've done it correctly, you'll be riding in the Taxi Bike rather than your usual car. Alternatively, complete all 16 Crazy Box challenges and you'll be able to press Up on the D-Pad on the Character Select screen to find it instead.

EXPERT MODE

If you're looking for an extra special challenge that'll test your skills to the limit (with no directional arrow or destination marks), hold down both Trigger Buttons and press START immediately after choosing Arcade or Original mode from the main menu. If you get it right, you'll see the word 'Expert' appear on the Character Select screen.



As well as digging up cheats, there's nothing the monkeys like more than solving your game-related problems - it really does make their day. Sadly, they can't answer any personal correspondence (well, they are monkeys) but if you send your question in, it might just get answered here. Jot down the problem and send it along to Chimp'll Fix It, CUBE magazine, Paragon Publishing, Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth BH1 2JS or send an email to cube@paragon.co.uk. This month, we've been trawling through the TotalGames.Net forum to see what sort of gaming problems you've got in your lives...



SUPER, SMASHING, GREATDear Cheating Monkeys

I've got Super Smash Brothers Melee and have been playing it for quite a while now, but I can't work out for the life of me how to find all the trophies. The chances of getting a new trophy through the Lottery are nearly zero, but there are still loads missing - how do I get them? Nigel Musson, Derbyshire

The monkeys say...
"We wish we had the time to tell you how to get all the trophies, Nigel – but it'd take a whole chunk of the magazine! Basically, there are three trophies for each character (earned by completing Classic, Adventure and All Star modes respectively), as well as some that require you to finish the game on the harder difficulties without using continues or with all the characters. There are also trophies available for completing certain tasks in the Stadium and playing certain amounts of VS battles. Only 168 of the trophies can be won on the Lottery, but there are 290 in total (or 291 if you've got the Japanese version of the game). Believe us, you've got your work cut out...

SOAKING WETDear Cheating Monkeys

I love racing games, so WaveRace: Blue Storm is my favourite game on the GameCube at the moment. However, I'm having real trouble winning races on the Southern Island track - especially at the higher difficulty levels. Any tips on what I can do to be a better jet ski racer? Thanks very much,

Steven Culverwell, Edgware

The monkeys say...

"Considering the Southern Island course is pinched straight from the original N64 version of WaveRace, you should have had enough time to practice the short cuts! Still, we're here to help.

There are four main short cuts you can take: on the first lap, you can turn early just before the big U-turn near the start to fly through a barrier and over some stairs. Further down the course past the sunken ship, use the massive ramp to fly up before slamming forward on the Analogue Stick and diving under the pier. The tide goes out on the second lap, revealing two more short cuts - you can fly over the sunken ship now blocking the track via the ramp nearby, plus you can race through the sewer outlet by smashing through the grating with a well-timed boost. That should be enough to help you win, Steve!"



SECOND COUSINS, TWICE REMOVED

Dear Cheating MonkeysSuper Monkey Ball rocks, but I just can't get to the final hidden Master levels beyond the Expert mode. I know that you're supposed to complete Expert mode and the EX levels beyond them without continuing, but I just can't do it. Any chance of some help?

Merci beaucoup

Lee Heywood, Wakefield

The monkeys say...

"Err... how about practice, practice and more practice? We hate to say it Lee, but completing all 50 levels of the Expert mode (plus the ten EX Expert stages that you get afterwards) is a tough enough task. Finishing them all without continuing though? That's just mad. The only advice we can give is to sit down and learn EVERY single level inside out, then take plenty of Diazepam to calm your nerves - or several bottles of Stella if you can't get down to your local chemists - and go for broke. That's about all we can do, short of us coming round to do it for you... but we don't get out of our cages much these days."



♦ STAR WARS ROGUE LEADER: ROGUE SOURDRON 2

CLIBE

∂INFORMATION

STAR WARS ROGUE LEADER

PUBLISHER: NINTENDO

SHOOT-'EM-UP GENRE:

CUBE SCORE: 9.1 (ISSUE 2)



HOOW YOUR FIGHTER



FIFILDELE

Naturally, you use the Analogue Stick to pilot your ship – left and right turn the ship while up and down make you dive and climb.



Whichever viewpoint you're using (external or internal), moving the C-Stick allows you to rotate your camera around.



FIBUTTON

The button you'll be using the most

by rapidly pressing the A Button,
you can fire off a volley of laser
blasts from your ship.



B BUTTON

Whether you're armed with an Ion Cannon, Photon Torpedoes or Bombs, this is the button that you'll need to fire them off.



R BUTTON

Use the R Button in order to speed up your craft – hitting the digital click will then lock your craft at the



L BUTTON
Use the L Button in order to slow down your craft – again, hitting the digital click will lock your craft at the set speed.



Y BUTTON

Can't see the enemies? Then hold down the Y Button to bring up your Targeting Computer and highlight them in luminous colours.



H BUTTON

By tapping the X Button, you can switch from the external 'behindthe-ship' view to an internal cockpit viewpoint and back again.



Hold down the Z Button and move the Analogue Stick left or right to roll your ship around the central axis without turning.



Still having problems dealing with the dark side of the Force? Well, don't panic - here's the conclusion of our massive guide!











VENGEANCE ON KOTHLIS

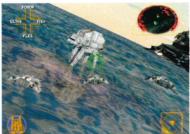


The crashed Star Destroyer containing the Razor is yours for the looting... but the Empire won't give it up without a fight!

AS SOON AS you begin, you'll be facing a swarm of TIE Fighters; send your wingmen off to attack them before starting after as many of them as you can yourself. You'll have to get rid of them as quickly as possible to stop the Rebel transport being destroyed – this applies both here

and once you turn the corner near the Star Destroyer. Be sure to take care of the huge cannons on the side of the downed ship as well or the transport will be toast before you know it. When it lands, fly into the Rebel symbol that appears to jump into a Speeder; you'll need the Tow Cable it





TECH UPGRADE: HOMING PROTON TORPEDOES

♦ LOCH ONTO THREETS WITH THESE.

As the Rebel transport is coming in to beach, head over to the bridge of the Star Destroyer look closely and you'll see that there's a hole in the right-hand side that you can fly through to collect the **Homing Proton** Torpedoes Tech Upgrade before the battle continues. Fly slowly to avoid slamming into the sides





offers to get rid of the AT-ATs that come stomping out of the Star Destroyer. When all three are gone, switch ships again to get a Y-Wing and use the bombs it offers to destroy the AT-PTs heading through the water to the shore, the Stormtrooper gunners on the beach and the cracked hull of the Destroyer itself. Clear them all and you'll complete the mission!

The Gold Medal here requires a ship with some serious firepower –if you can get your hands on the Slave 1 with Homing Cluster Missiles, you'll be laughing. Use the Cluster Missiles to take out the squadrons of TIE Fighters that attack the Rebel transport, making sure you keep your distance to save your shields. Once you reach the Star Destroyer, take out the next batch of TIEs and use your remaining missiles to destroy the larger guns on the downed ship. As

soon as the transport lands, switch to the Speeder and take out the AT-ATs as quickly as possible to remove the threat they pose. Now you can change again into the Y-Wing – head straight for the Star Destroyer and bomb the hull to breach it, getting an objective out of the way before you even have to do it. Now you spend your time blasting gunners and AT-PTs away with your bombs, as well as taking out the remaining guns on the Destroyer to notch up your kills.

MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

| GOING FOR GOLD! | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|------|
| ACHIEVEMENT I | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
| Time | 13:00 | 11:30 | 9:55 |
| Enemies | 45 | 75 | 100 |
| Accuracy | 7% | 14% | 27% |
| Friendlies Lost | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Lives Lost | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Targeting Compute | er 12% | 42% | 85% |



STAR WARS ROGUE LEADER: ROGUE SOUADRON 2









The assault on the Imperial Academy changes depending on when you play it. You need to master both to succeed!

IN THE NOON-DAY SUN

STAY LOW TO the ground as you speed down the valley, using your Ion Cannon to blast each sensor tower as you approach it; don't get too close or you'll be picked up on radar. Slow down slightly to take on the final four sensors, then head right at the last tower to reach a clearing with three launching platforms in it. Try to take out the TIEs as you approach before they get the chance to take off, otherwise you'll have them chasing you all the way down to the academy. Now follow your radar to find the path through the mountains until you reach the academy installation itself head for the back of the base to find the shuttle you need to steal. There are four sentry turrets surrounding the shuttle; use your Bombs to destroy all of these before you attempt to steal it or you'll be shot down. Now use your radar again to head for the rendezvous point - head down the



Killing these early TIEs is the only way you'll be able to get the Gold.

valley on the right after take-off and dodge the incoming laser fire until you reach the clearing at the end.

For the Gold Medal, you'll have to concentrate on speed and accuracy, as well as knocking out a whole bunch of TIE Fighters upon your entry to the academy. There's a whole lot of them parked on the ground around the base, so make a quick circuit around while shooting them and bombing any sentry turrets you come across. Don't bother trying to shoot any down once you're in the shuttle – your shields won't be able to take the battering!





Take out the TIE Fighters before they can lift off from the platform

TECH UPGRADE: ADVANCED CONCUSSION MISSILES

→ THE R-WING AND MILLENNIUM FALCON USE THESE

Once you make it Imperial Academy, ignore the shuttle and instead make a beeline for the right-hand arm of the base. Now you have to fly low to access the small hanger at the furthest tip of the base. Dodge the will be all around as you approach inside, you'll find the Tech Upgrade sitting against the wall on the left. Fly slowly to avoid crashing



DAYLIGHT (AND NIGHT-TIME) ROBBERY

(A) IT'S A STEAL

In each time setting of the mission, you'll have the chance to steal a TIE Fighter which will a) allow you to sneak into the Imperial Academy without being noticed and b) unlock the TIE Fighter on other missions.

DAY

Once you've knocked out all the sensors, turn around and fly over the mountains into a large clearing with a single communications dish. Just next to it is a lone TIE Fighter – let it take off and then blast it a couple of times with your lon Cannon to force it down again. Now you can fly into the Rebel symbol that appears and switch ships.

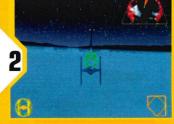


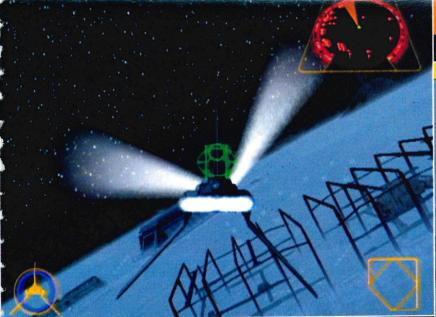


NIGHT

Dodge the sensors and head down the left valley after the last one to reach an outpost. Quickly fly over and blast the lone Stormtrooper marching around before he can trigger the alarm or climb aboard the TIE Fighter – a Rebel symbol will now appear above it and you can switch the Speeder for the TIE.







UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS

IF YOU PLAY the Imperial Academy Heist mission after 10pm (or set the clock on your GameCube so that the console thinks it's late in the day), you'll find that you'll no longer be able to pilot the Y-Wing – instead, you'll be behind the controls of a Speeder and the whole valley will be blanketed with fog. While this gives you an advantage of stealth, it also means you'll have to take care when flying through the mountains as the Speeder cannot fly



high off the ground, leaving you vulnerable to attacks from TIE Fighters. Start by weaving down the sensor-filled valley, using the fog to hide your from the Empire; you'll have to give each sensor a wide berth to avoid detection, so stick to the valley walls when you can. Be careful not to fly too high or crash into any outcrops that spring out of the fog at the last minute. At the last sensor, stick to the left-hand side of the valley to allow you a clear run into the academy itself - take out the sentry at the outpost so that he doesn't alert anyone to your presence, then rush down the valley as quickly as you can. Once there, you'll find yourself on the left-hand side of the base (the opposite side to where you entered during the daytime). Because of the thick fog on the ground below, you'll have trouble taking out the grounded TIES - instead, simply head for the





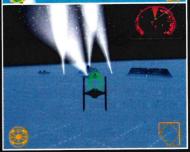
back of the academy where the shuttle waits. Remember to take out the four sentry guns surrounding your target before you try to steal it or you'll be blasted out of the sky upon take-off! Now head for the rendezvous point as before, this time flying straight through the empty clearing at the end of the mountain path and into the valley opposite to meet the oncoming Rebel fighters.

MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

SOING FOR... GOLD!

| ONZE | SILVER | GOLD | |
|------|--------------------|--|--|
| 7:20 | 6:05 | 4:12 | |
| 15 | 29 | 51 | |
| 7% | 25% | 49% | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2 | | 0 | |
| 15% | 45% | 100% | |
| | 15 7% 0 2 | 7:20 6:05 15 29 7% 25% 0 0 2 1 | |





TECH UPGRADE: ADVANCED SPREAD PROTON BOMBS

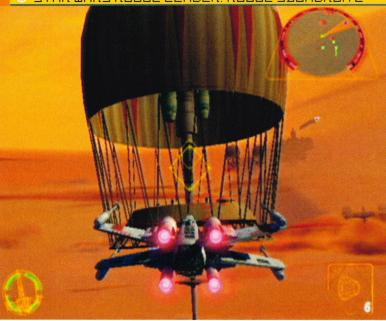
♦ SPREAD BOMBS HIT TARGETS TWICE

Exactly the same as when you got the Advanced **Concussion Missiles** Tech Upgrade, only this time you'll have to head over to the left-hand arm of the base and fly low to access the small hanger at the furthest tip. Dodge the enemy fire that will be all around as you approach inside, you'll find the Tech Upgrade sitting against the wall on the left. Fly slowly to avoid crashing.



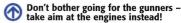
SOLUTION

🗦 STAR WARS ROGUE LEADER: ROGUE SOUADRON 2















RAID ON BESPIN



Imperial troops have raided Lando Calrissian's base to steal the Tabanna gas... or destroy it before you can stop them!

BEGIN BY SENDING your wingmen off to take out the TIEs, then concentrate on destroying the gunners – rather than hitting each one separately though, simply aim your lasers at the engines of the balloon above and take out the whole platform in one go! Repeat this process for the remaining six platforms (two at the next gas platform and four at the last), before heading for the city area. There are three power generators

here to blow up, but they're hidden in the narrow trenches between the buildings; to get them, you can either attack from above or switch to the Cloud Car by flying into the Rebel symbols on the landing platforms. Finally, you'll need to protect the two remaining gas platforms – destroy the balloons and take out the TIE Bombers to end the mission.

Accuracy and Enemies are the two key factors when going for the Gold

Medal on Bespin, although it's not as tough as you might think. First of all, use the X-Wing - it's fast enough to complete the mission, but has much tougher shields. Now take out the early balloons as quickly as possible while your wingmen deal with the TIEs; you can't afford to go for them yourself if you want to hit the Accuracy target. Each balloon you destroy is worth a whopping seven kills (six gunners, plus the balloon itself) so you'll also want to take out as many of them above the city when you finally get there. Use your Targeting Computer briefly to spot the power generators, then blast balloons as you head for each one – when all three generators and most of the balloons are gone, head for the gas platforms. Use your Homing Proton Torpedoes to take out the TIE Bombers and complete the mission with the gold...

MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

GOING FOR... GOLD!

| ACHIEVEMENT | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
|--------------------|--------|--------|------|
| Time | 11:00 | 8:55 | 6:40 |
| Enemies | 45 | 75 | 110 |
| Accuracy | 12% | 30% | 65% |
| Friendlies Lost | 41 | 32 | 29 |
| Lives Lost | 2 | | 0 |
| Targeting Computer | er 10% | 32% | 72% |

TECH UPGRADE: ADVANCED HOMING MISSILES

→ CONCUSSION MISSILES CAN NOW LOCK ON

Once you have managed to destroy the first solitary turbolaser balloon, look up to where the next set of balloons are to see an Imperial vessel docking near the gas canisters (it's long and thin... you can't miss it). Quickly fly over and aim for the engines to blow it up, destroying a bunch of canisters in the process - doing so will reveal the Tech Upgrade beneath for you to collect. Be careful not to fly into the other canisters











BATTLE OF ENDOR

The Rebels are moving in to finish off the incomplete Death Star, but something doesn't seem right. Oh no... it's a trap!

THERE'S ONLY ONE way to survive here... fight! There are tons of TIE Fighters and TIE Interceptors to duel against here, but it's the Interceptors you have to watch out for – they'll concentrate on hitting the Rebel Medical Frigate, so get rid of them to make sure it's safe. Keep fending off

TIEs until one of your wingmen notices the incoming TIE Bombers; immediately head for the Imperial Fleet and try to head them off at the pass. You have to get rid of them all, so use your Targeting Computer to distinguish the Bombers (in green) from the regular TIES (in purple).

(L10)

TECH UPGRADE: HOMING CLUSTER MISSILES

♦ THE TIE ROURNCED AND SLAUE 1 USE THESE.

The best Tech Upgrade is the toughest to get – you need to knock out the left-hand Star Destroyer and watch it plummet towards Endor before flying along its underside to grab the upgrade. Then you've still got to complete the level...



Once they're all gone, you'll have to take on two Star Destroyers at once; go for the right-hand one first as it's more of a threat. Take out the shield generators as before and then go for the bridge to destroy each one until both are down.

Ooh, it's another tough Gold Medal. Break right as soon as the mission begins to get the jump on the incoming TIEs, flying straight for the squad of Interceptors on the right to take them out early. You can't afford to lose a life in this early section of the battle, so take care not to crash into any ships as you turn. Get behind each group of ships to save your accuracy, breaking off as soon as the TIE Bombers approach to get those early as well. Try to get them in squads, using a few Homing Proton Torpedoes to take out the stragglers. Don't use your Targeting Computer unless you have to... the requirement is rather strict. When the Star Destroyers arrive, go for both of them at the same time (take out the underside shield generators first, then loop around for a rear attack on the rest) to save time. Send your wingmen after the guns to reduce the risk of attack, getting rid of a few yourself to rack up some extra kills



GOIDE FOR GOLD!

| GOING FOR G | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| ACHIEVEMENT I | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
| Time | 13:00 | 11:20 | 10:00 |
| Enemies | 31 | 46 | / 60 |
| Accuracy | 8% | 20% | 31% |
| Friendlies Lost | 10 | 9 | 6 |
| Lives Lost | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Targeting Compute | er 10% | 40% | 80% |















Thanks to Han Solo on the surface of Endor, the shields of the Death Star are down. Begin the attack on the main reactor!

THIS IS YOUR only chance to take down the entire Empire... don't let the Alliance down here! The mission is split into two sections – one on the surface and one actually inside the Death Star – but in both of them, your job is to protect the Millennium Falcon from attack. Squads of three TIE Fighters come in from behind you at all times, so stay out of the way until they zoom past and then get

behind them for an easy kill. You'll have to stay quite high on the surface of the Death Star to avoid all the turbolaser fire, before diving down to save the Falcon. Inside the Death Star, try to keep up with the Falcon so that you can pick off the TIEs as they appear; keep doing this all the way down the passage until you reach the reactor. Now blast the small tower on the right of it before

MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

| GOING FOR GO | LD! | | |
|--------------------|-------|--------|------|
| ACHIEVEMENT BE | RONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
| Time | 7:00 | 6:15 | 5:05 |
| Enemies | 29 | 36 | 41 |
| Accuracy | 10% | 21% | 32% |
| Friendlies Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lives Lost | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Targeting Computer | 20% | 45% | 95% |

racing as fast as you can back outside – just storm ahead of the Falcon and try not to crash!

Although the tactics for getting the Gold Medal aren't that tough, it's all about keeping everything tight making sure that you only fire shots when you're sure of hitting something, moving as fast as you can with your S-Foils closed when you don't need your guns and generally being great all over. The important thing to note is that if you want to hit the target for Enemies Destroyed, you'll have to take out several of the gun turrets on the surface of the Death Star - there aren't enough TIEs to meet the guota. Aim for the tower part of the turret rather than the guns themselves to score a quick kill, being sure to watch for the Falcon being attacked. Remember also that you can only afford to lose one life... try to reach the tunnel without dying so you've got a fighting chance!



TECH UPGRADE: ADVANCED TARGETING COMPUTER

→ TARGET ENEMIES FOR YOUR WINGMEN

As you race through the inside of the Death Star, keep your eyes open reactor for this Tech Upgrade it's hidden under a section of pipes on the right, just before you reach the entrance leading into the reactor chamber. Be sure to have blasted the TIEs behind you, as you'll have to slow down in





DEATH STAR ESCAPE

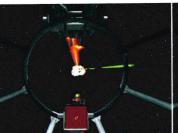
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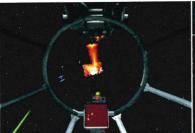
A squadron of TIEs is coming. Lasers at the ready!

IF YOU'VE SEEN the original *Star Wars* movie, you'll recognise this one straight away – there's a whole swarm of TIE Fighters attacking the Millennium Falcon and as Luke Skywalker, it's your job to destroy them all! The controls change here; the Analogue and C-Stick move the gun, while the L and R buttons fire your laser. There are five squads of TIEs in total, with each one getting

progressively harder and therefore more difficult to pick off. Try to take them out as they pass in front of the main window rather than following individual ships around the screen; this is especially important if you're going for a Gold Medal. Don't spend too long destroying each squad – if you don't get them all in time, the Falcon will be destroyed. Most importantly, don't forget that there are two lone fighters that jet in after you wipe out the last squad!





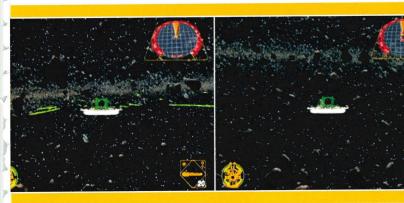




MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

GOING FOR... GOLO!

| ACHIEVEMENT B | RONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|------|
| Time | 2:45 | 2:07 | 1:20 |
| Enemies | 34 | 34 | 35 |
| Accuracy | 4% | 9% | 16% |
| Friendlies Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lives Lost | 0 | 0 | C |
| Targeting Compute | r 100% | 100% | 100% |



THE ASTEROID

(L13)

A bunch of rocks won't stop the Empire in their pursuit of the Falcon!

STRAIGHT OUT OF The Empire Strikes Back, this mission sees you take control of the Millennium Falcon as it escapes from the Empire fleet. You'll have to fly through the asteroid field ahead, so watch out for any large rocks that might get in your way. There's also the problem of the TIE Fighters that follow you – pull down on the C-Stick to zoom the camera out, only pressing the A Button to fire your rear-mounted laser when there's a TIE directly behind you (it locks on automatically, so don't worry too much). Keep on a straight path by following your Radar, repeating the process after the first cut-scene. Eventually, you'll reach the Imperial Star Destroyer on the other side of the field – fly past it to reach the back of the bridge, then speed straight into the Rebel symbol to latch onto it and complete the mission.



As well as watching for TIE Fighters behind you, take care to avoid the oncoming asteroids...

REQUIREMENTS

GOING FOR... GOLD

| ACHIEVEMENT | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD |
|-------------------|---------|--------|------|
| Time | 6:00 | 5:25 | 4:35 |
| Enemies | 25 | 37 | 50 |
| Accuracy | 2% | 5% | 10% |
| Friendlies Lost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lives Lost | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Targeting Compute | er 100% | 100% | 100% |

⇒ STAR WARS ROGUE LEADER: ROGUE SOUADRON 2



TRIUMPH OF THE EMPIRE



How do you stop the Rebels attacking? Wipe them out... all of them!

FINALLY, YOU GET to be the bad guy! This mission puts you back above the original Death Star, ready to take on the attacking Rebel forces – sadly, the Rebels are somewhat tougher than you might think and unless you've managed to collect the Advanced Homing Cluster Missiles Tech Upgrade, you might have a problem here. Start off by ordering your wingmen to attack and then hunting down the squads of Rebel fighters; you'll only have your Radar to rely on,

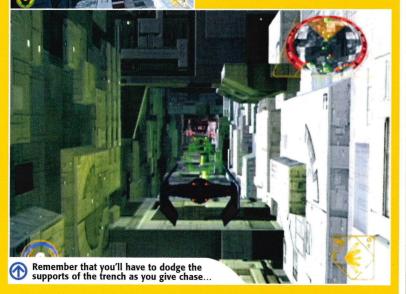
so don't get cocky.
Settle in behind the squads of Y-Wings and X-Wings, letting your Cluster Missiles off to take them out – when you've got rid of all the fighters, you'll head for the trench. There are three squads of Rebels here; don't let them get too far down the trench or you'll fail the mission. Use your remaining missiles to destroy them and crush the Rebel attack in one swift blow!



MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

GOING FOR... GOLD!

| ACHIEVEMENT | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD | |
|-----------------|----------|--------|------|--|
| Time | 8:00 | 6:00 | 4:00 | |
| Enemies | 18 | 23 | 32 | |
| Accuracy | 12% | 20% | 35% | |
| Friendlies Lost | 5 | 4 | 3 | |
| Lives Lost | 2 | | 0 | |
| Targeting Compu | ter 100% | 100% | 100% | |
| | | | | |







REVENGE ON YAVIN







MEDAL REQUIREMENTS

GOING FOR... GOLD!

| ACHIEVEMENT | BRONZE | SILVER | GOLD | |
|-----------------|----------|--------|------|--|
| Time | 7:45 | 6:30 | 4:33 | |
| Enemies | 15 | 22 | 36 | |
| Accuracy | 24% | 45% | 65% | |
| Friendlies Lost | 23 | 19 | 15 | |
| Lives Lost | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| Targeting Compu | ter 100% | 100% | 100% | |
| | | | | |

Revenge is a dish best served cold... especially if you're Darth Vader!

IT'S TIME TO dish out some punishment, Imperial style! Down on Yavin, there's a whole bunch of Rebel transports that need to be destroyed send your wingmen off immediately to deal with the smaller ships, then fly straight ahead from your starting point and take out the two transports in the small clearing on the ground. Turn left and go as fast as you can forward; be sure to get rid of the parked fighters in the clearing as you go, then blast the three transports in the large clearing when you get there. Make a U-turn, going slightly left to find another two clearings full of parked fighters before you reach the final transport clearing. Now you can head for the temple - the doors will have open after a short while, so you can fly inside and take out the remaining transports. Go for the ones nearest the doors first or they'll get away... don't let a single Rebel survive!



DARTHUR DALEY'S USED SHIP LOT

Not surprisingly, there are more than just a few hidden craft tucked away inside *Rogue Leader* but they're reserved for only the very best starpilots. Here's how to get your hands on them...





SELECT CRAFT TIE FIGHTER



N-1 NABOO STARFIGHTER

The vast, agile starfighter that is used by the Naboo space fighter core is armed with twin laser cannons and a full complement of Proton Torpedoes. However, the vehicle is reserved for routine patrols and escorting the Queen's starship to other worlds. Designed by Naboo engineers, the N-1 incorporates many new components, which include a Monarch C-4 hyperdrive.

Requirements: Complete the Tatooine Training stage (as detailed in last issue) in all four time settings, then complete all ten main missions to unlock the Naboo craft.

TIE FIGHTER

The first in a series of advanced twin ion engine starfighters, the original TIE Fighter was developed by Sienar Fleet Systems. The agile single-pilot craft has a titanium alloy hull and steel-armoured solar panels, but lacks a deflector shield and primary life support systems. The TIE Fighter is intended to be used as a short-range attack craft, launching from nearby Imperial installations.

Requirements: To access the TIE Fighter, you must play the Imperial Academy Heist mission in both time settings and steal a TIE Fighter in each before completing the mission.









MILLENNIUM FALCON

An illegally modified Corellian-engineered YT1300 transport, the Millennium Falcon is one of the most formidable starships in the galaxy. Owned and piloted by Han Solo and his Wookie partner Chewbacca, the Falcon supports a top-of-the-line Imperial deflector shield system, two quad laser cannons and two concussion missile launchers along with a retractable light laser cannon.

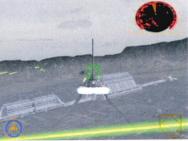
Requirements: Complete all the levels with enough success to earn a Bronze Medal on the ten main missions – doing so unlocks Han Solo's modified starship.

SLAVE 1

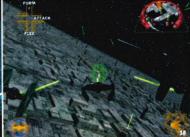
The personal starship of the bounty hunter Boba Fett, the Slave 1 is a drastically altered Firespray-class patrol craft. The starfighter has been rebuilt with holding cells, a dedicated tracking system, improved deflector shields, a massive hyperdrive engine and numerous hidden weapons. The craft is unusual because it flies upright with the pilot standing at the controls.

Requirements: Earn a Silver Medal on the ten main missions, plus the two Millennium Falcon bonus missions – Death Star Escape and The Asteroid Field – to unlock it.





SELECT CRAFT TIE ADVANCED SECONDARY WEAPON : ADVANCED HOMING CLUSTER MISSILES



IMPERIAL SHUTTLE

The Lambda-class shuttle was designed to swiftly transport Imperial personnel and cargo between starships and various installations across the galaxy. Sienar Fleet Systems built the shuttles to carry up to 20 passengers in relative safety, protected by standard reinforced hull plating and multiple shield generators. The Lambda-class is also equipped with several basic laser cannons.

Requirements: Earn a Gold Medal on both Empire bonus missions – Triumph Of The Empire and Revenge On Yavin – to unlock the shuttle for those missions only.

TIE ADVANCED

The prototype starfighter used by Darth Vader at the battle of Yavin and the basis for the frighteningly efficient TIE Interceptor, the TIE Advanced x1 is easily recognisable due to its distinctive bent wings. Unlike all other TIE Fighters the prototype is equipped with a deflector shield generator and a modest hyperdrive system, as well as twin fixed heavy blaster cannons.

Requirements: You can play as the TIE Advanced in the two Empire bonus missions, but earning a Gold Medal in all 15 missions lets you fly it in others as well.

GAME BOY ROURNCE

WELCOME TO ADVANCE...

Once again, this is the part of the magazine where we focus on the best handheld console money can buy – the Game Boy Advance. Now that the GBA/GC Link Cable is out to buy (as well as two games out that'll link – *Sonic Adventure 2 Battle* and *Animal Forest Plus...* reviews next month!), you can't deny that you need to own a GBA. Of course, it's got more than enough great games of its own to make it worth owning in the first place, and that's what we'll be looking at here. As we said before, we're hoping to expand the Advance section to cover even more top games, as well as bringing you the latest previews and news from the world of the Game Boy Advance – if you want to see more, just write in and tell us! For now though, let the great games begin...



ADVANCE

→ Only the best make it into ADVANCE – if it isn't here, it isn't worth buying...







COLUMNS CROWN

'Old-skool game does good', as the saying goes...



COLLECT THE MAGIC GEMS

HARDCORE GAMERS (or those older than 20, if you're being cynical) will no doubt remember SEGA trying to emulate the success of the *Tetris* phenomenon by coming up with *Columns* – pretty much the same game, but with matching colours rather than shapes. Although it did well, it was never as popular... but that hasn't stopped SEGA from resurrecting the game for its next release on the GBA.

This time around, there's actually a point to all the tile-matching – Princess Dazzle's crown is missing most of its magical jewels and it's your job to get them back! To be truthful, while the game itself hasn't

changed much, the added concepts contained within the Flash Columns and Versus modes make for a refreshing blast of déjà vu rather than a stale one... it's the perfect game for the GBA until a snazzy new version of *Tetris* comes out!





"When you finish, you will become Queen of the <u>land."</u>



D

Now, that's what we call motivation to finish a game. Just imagine the things you could have, and all you need do is match up a few coloured blobs...



→ GAME BOY ADVANCE



tougher characters from the Tekken series makes a reappearance as the final boss. yep, Heihachi's back and this time, he's angry! The man with pointy hair can deal out some major punishment, so be on your guard against him - he's also playable as a secret character, but unlocking him takes a whole ton of work



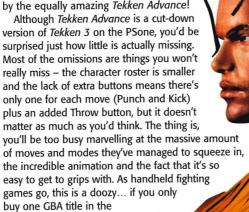




TEKKEN ADVANCE

Why buy a Playstation2 when you can play this game on the GBA, huh?

WHEN IT COMES to beat-'em-ups, most people fall into one of two camps - either StreetFighter or Tekken. Of course, there are some of us who are lucky enough to like both, and that can only be a good thing... especially when the incredible Super StreetFighter 2 Turbo Revival on the GBA has now been joined by the equally amazing Tekken Advance!





next six months, you





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CUBEFEATURE

© CUBE DONS ITS TRENCH COAT AND SHADES, IN AN ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE THE WORLD'S MOST HEAVILY GUARDED DEVELOPMENT STUDIOS...

STUDIO EYE

THIS MONTH... BITS STUDIOS

Old habits die hard, and as always, London-based Bits Studios is pushing forward the boundaries on all platforms...





UNTIL RECENTLY, YOU could be forgiven for not knowing of Bits Studios' existence. Like most British development houses, it's extremely reserved, preferring to keep quite and let its games do the talking. This is reflected in the front end of the studio – the lack of any sort of sign would lead you to believe that the building was just an old warehouse. Situated on the main road through Cricklewood, you could walk past the old, redbrick building and never know that a potentially huge GameCube title was being developed inside.

Having worked on film licences for most major platforms since the days of the Master System, the teams are extremely experienced. Titles such as Terminator II and Wolverine (SNES), and Spider-Man, Robin Hood, Chase HQ and Alien3 (Game Boy Color) are displayed in the main meeting room. Two N64 titles, Riqa and Die Hard were started on, but sadly never completed. Still, it means that GameCube Die Hard will contain ideas from both these games.

The company's previous successes have enabled it to upgrade the studio for the next generation, with a dedicated motion-capturing studio and a Dolby Digital recording studio. Current projects include *Die Hard* (GC), *Wizards* (GBA), *Jet Riders* (GBA), a PS2 title and an Xbox title. Having had GameCube development kits since May of last year, the *Die Hard* team has had time to get to grips with the hardware – a fact that is clearly demonstrated by the latest build of the game.

Other company products include the Games Magnet Web site (www.gamesmagnet.com), where you can download games such as Lab Rat and Virtual Athlete, and compete against up to 30,000 other fans. Then there's the extremely ambitious Amber technology – a toolset, which allows you to navigate through the Internet in full 3D format. This technology is currently being integrated into current Bits game projects as well. Quite a busy little company then...

"THE TEAMS AT BITS ARE EXTREMELY EXPERIENCED"

TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE EYE





FOO KATAN FOUNDER/CEO

CUBE: How did you get into the games industry to start with?

on my TRS-80. I used to play a lot of games, so I thought I might try and write them on my own. The first game I wrote was a rip-off of Robotron.

CUBE: What are your top three videogames of all time? FK: Zelda: Ocarina of Time (N64) Super Mario 64 (N64)

Scud Racer (Arcade)

CUBE: What did you want

FK: My mum wanted me to be an accountant, but I always wanted to go into games.

CUBE: If you could be any famous person, who would it be?

FK: James Bond

CUBE: What advice would you give anyone trying to get into the industry?

FK: Do it because you love it, and focus on the details. Focus on making every little piece a great piece, and the rest will come together.

CUBE: Can you tell us a bit about the company? FK: The team has been running for over 14 years. I've been making games since I was 16, so that's a couple of years ago (laughs). We now have two offices - one in France and the main office in London, where we have 63 people. We've worked with multiple platforms and licences over the years, which involved work with Nintendo, Sony and Midway. We're a multi-platform developer - we develop for Xbox, GameCube, PS2, GBA and GBC.

Over the past two years we've put a lot of effort into our new technology, some of which you will see in *Die Hard*.

CUBE: Can you tell us a bit more about the general story behind Die Hard? FK: I'd just like to emphasis, this is a console version of Die Hard. It's nothing to do with Die Hard Trilogy or Nakatomi Plaza - it's a whole new idea and concept. A whole new game and a whole different story. It has been designed from the word go as a console shooter. A lot of people play first-person shooters, and a lot of people realise the difference between a PC first-person shooter and a console first-person shooter. We have tried to really push the genre in terms of control and in terms of content.

The story itself follows on from Die Hard 3. If you remember, he was in Europe causing a lot of trouble and mayhem. At this point in time (in the game) he comes back, and his daughter Lucy has joined the Police Academy. He's back in trouble, always in the wrong place at the wrong time, and very much the reluctant hero. We've brought back some aspects of the first film too. Do you remember Hans, the bad guy who gets it at the end? Well, his son has come back to avenge his father's death.

As far as the technology is concerned, we're using facial animation systems with lipsyncing. The lip-syncing also works with five different languages.

CUBE: Why did you decide to bring Die Hard to the GameCube first? FK: The reason we've decided to start this game on GameCube is because we're big Nintendo fans. We're very much influenced by GoldenEye and Half Life. We aim to use the features of the GameCube, the graphical effects, the multiplayer capabilities, and the cool features of the controller, and are aiming for this to be a leading product on the GameCube.





EXPECTED RELEASE **GUARTER 2 '02**

Wave Race...

The icing on the cake is the

handicaps mean that the leading

racer will never be too far ahead, making for exciting races every time.

Tut... you have to wonder why

Nintendo didn't ask Bits Studios to make this an official GBA version of

multiplayer mode. The well-balanced

CUBE: Jet Riders looks very similar in style to Wave Race. Is there a reason for that?

SC: When we started the game, we were going to go for the official Wave Race licence, but as time went on we decided to go along our own path.

CUBE: What part of the game are you most proud of?

SC: I really like the variation in there. With the Challenges, the Time Attacks and the Stunts, there's a lot of varied gameplay.



Feel my fiery wrath!

BASED ON THE Game Boy Color game Warlocked, Wizards takes the form of an action RPG with added real-time strategy elements. You start the game as an Arch Wizard – your quest, to free the land of Talismania from the evil Sorceress, Kun-Mara. To start off with the game is a simple point-and-click affair. Use the D-pad to move the cursor about. Click on a place with the A Button and your character will make his way there. Tapping the B Button will see you shooting off fireballs in that direction. As you explore the dungeon you will find chests, traps, enemies and allies. Once freed, the allies will join your party, and you can end up commanding a small army of people.

Every single one of these can be made to attack, and 20 wizards simultaneously attacking is tremendous fun. As you progress through the game, you will also learn new magic spells, which are performed by holding down L and tapping B. These spells are essential if you're to take out the protected enemy turrets.

As with Jet Riders, Wizards has a fantastic four-player link-up mode, all running off the one cartridge. Capture the flag is probably the most fun, and the team have obviously spent a lot of time on this section of the game.







IN THE CUBE WITH...

CUBE: Tell us a bit about Wizards. SC: Wizards is an Action RPG/RTS (real-time strategy). It has elements from both the Command & Conquerstyle games and the Zelda-style games. It started out as an RTS but we've brought in a lot of action elements, and now it's a hybrid of the two.

CUBE: Do you think fans of traditional Japanese RPGs (Final Fantasy, Breath of Fire) will get into this game?

sc: I would hope so. We've tried to make it as accessible as we possibly could.

CUBE: You showed us one of the big magic attacks. What others can we expect to see?

SC: Rest assured there will be plenty of spells at your disposal, but we haven't revealed them just yet. Watch









■ Although we have only featured GBA titles in this article, Bits Studios is a GameCube developer worth watching. Its Die Hard title, for example, has the potential to be one of the best first-person shoot-'em-ups ever, and as you can see, the company is pretty nifty in the GBA department as well. This year will be Bits Studios' year, you wait and see. If you still don't believe us, wait until you see our special *Die Hard* coverage in Issue 4. You have been warned...

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FOR THE

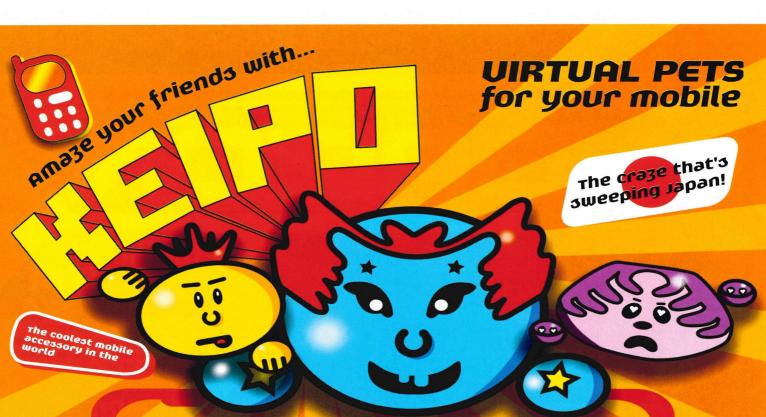
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THE BIG GC LAUNCH GUIDE

SAUE THOSE PENNIES!

We'll have the biggest feature on the GameCube launch around – which games you must own, what peripherals to buy and how much it'll all cost!

DIE HARD

→ HEEEEEEERE'S BRUCE

Yipee-ki-ay, muddy funsters – it's time to don those dirty vests and grab the nearest weapon you can find as we finally head off to investigate the finer details of this incredible action game.

Definitive reviews of ALL the latest GameCube



ANIMAL FOREST PLUS

It's cute, cuddly and totally retro – let's go down to the woods today!



VIRTUA STRIKER 3

Goooooooal! SEGA scores a blinder with its first GC soccer title.



CFI DAMAGE

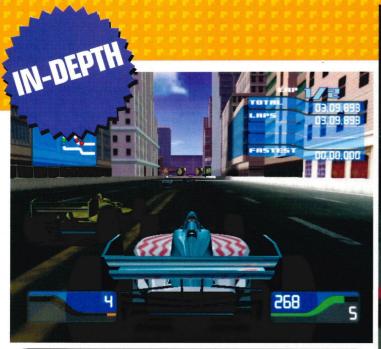
Just like driving around inside a cartoon... complete with violence!



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Acclaim goes for the tackle with its latest American football smash.

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INTERVIEWS

IT'S GOOD TO TALH

THE BIG LAUNCH

We talk to all the major players involved in the upcoming launch of the Nintendo GameCube. Can you believe we got hold of them all?

DRIVEN

⊕ IΠ-DEPTH

What do you get if you cross a racing game with Sylvester Stallone himself? Well, you'll have to come back here next month to find out...

All the latest information and screenshots for all the greatest games!

- Eternal Darkness
- ResidentEvil
- Soul Calibur 2
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- WWF Wrestlemania X8
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titles, including...



DARK SUMMIT

Snowboarding with attitude? That'll be THQ's new GC game then...

PLUS 🔽

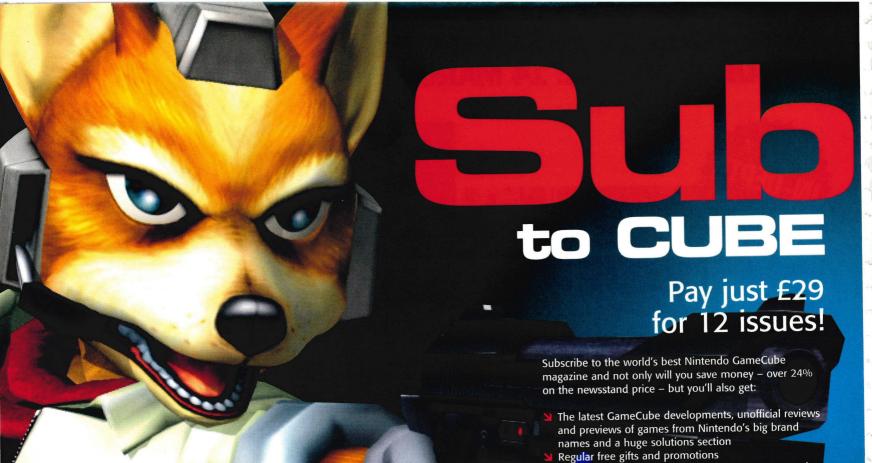
International Superstar Soccer L Toxic Grind L

Bloody Roar: Primal Fury & Legends Of Wrestling & The Scorpion King & BloodRayne &

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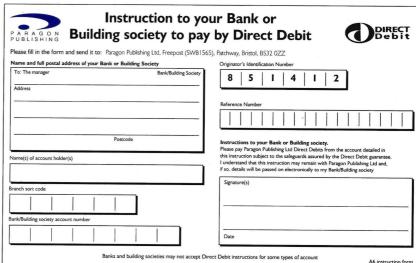
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Blood Wake

Shrek

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Tony Hawks Pro

and loads more...

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PASS NOTES

NAME: TUROK/JOSHUA FIRESEED

NICKNAME: Shirley (but only at the weekend)

IN A SENTENCE: Dead 'ard dino-hunter of Red Indian extraction, very possibly smelly on account of him being, er, dead...

AGE: Joshua was but a wee bairn when he was plucked to herodom. There he was, 20 years old and still working out what girls were for... three years later and he's dead. Better to be a live coward than a dead hero, eh?

APPEARANCES: There were four games on the N64, the first two made it to the PC, and there were also companion Game Boy and Game Boy Color games that we prefer not to dwell upon. Ewwwww... A PR bod described them as "a very different experience". Why use four words when one will do?

HIGH POINTS: Turok: Dinosaur Hunter - it might have cost £60 and have been the only game to utilise the memory pak (at the time) which meant further expenditure however, it showed the world that the N64 wasn't just going to be home to cutesy platformers...

Turok 2 – It was the first game that actually made use of the expansion pak...

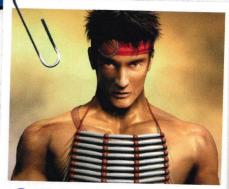
LOW POINTS: ... which, when the game was released, could not be found in any shops anywhere. Oh, how we wanted those improved medium/high-rez graphics... Joshua Fireseed being killed off in Turok 3: Shadows of Oblivion. Thanks for that...

DON'T MENTION: Walking With Dinosaurs, Jurassic Park and Puff the Magic Dragon

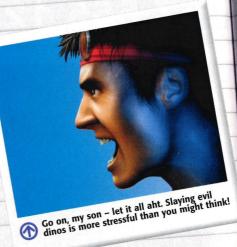
NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH: The Rock, some rocks, Rocky Balboa

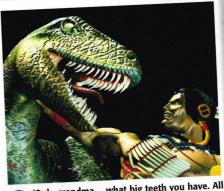
MOST LIKELY TO SAY: "Want a big, fat juicy dino-steak?"

LEAST LIKELY TO SAY: "Can't little Fireseed do it, I'm busy!"



We've heard of a wash board chest before, but that's just going too far, isn't it?





'Ooh, grandma... what big teeth you have. All the better to rip my throat out with, eh?'

THE WORLD'S NUMBER 1 CHOICE FOR CHEATS & GUIDES

TOP WALKTHROUGHS OTHER TOP GAMES

CHEATS & TIPS GAME GUBE

A = 0 1
Abe's Oddysee
Abomination
Action Bass
Action Man Dest. Age of Empires 2

Agent Order File Airblade Alex Fs Player Manager Alien Resurrection Alien Trilogy Alienator: Evolution Cont Alone In the Dark 4

Alundra
Alundra
Alundra
Alundra
Alundra
Amerzone
Aquanox
Armoured Core 2
Army Men 3D
Army Men Green Rogue
Army Men S's Heroes 2
Army Men: Land Sea Air
Army Men: Lock & Load
Atlantis
B = 0 2

Baldur's Gate

ade oody Roar 3 lue Stinger ond: Agent Under Fire

Bouncer
Breath of Fire
Breath of Fire 4
Brian Lara Cricket
Broken Sword 1
Broken Sword 2
Burnout

Broken Sword 2
Burnout
C = 0.3
C & C: Red Alert
C & C: Retalication
C & C: Tiberian Sun
C-12 Final Resistance
Capcom vs SNK 2
Champ. Manager 2000
Champ. Manager 2001
Chase the Express
Chicken Run
Citizen Kabuto: Giants
City Crisis
Civilisation 2

Civilisation 2

Colin McRae Rally
Commandos 2
Commandos B. En. Lines
Conkers Bad Fur Day Constructor
Crash Bandicoot
Crash Bandicoot 2
Crash Bandicoot 3
Crash Bash
Crash Team Racing
Crazy Taxi Crusaders of M&M

D = 0.4
D Mirra BMX: Max Remi
D. Mirra Freestyle BMX
D. Nukem: L. of Babes
D. Nukem: Time to Kill

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Dragonball Z: Final Bout
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Druuna
Duke Nukem 64
Dune

Dune Dungeon Keeper Dusk 'Til Dawn Dynasty Warriors 2

E = 0 5
Ecks vs Sever
Eighteen Wheeler
Empire Earth

Escape Monkey Island

Etherlords Evil Dead: Hail to King Evil Twin Extermination Extreme G3

FA P.L. F'ball Man. 2001 Fear Effect Fear Effect: Retro Helix FIFA 2001 FIFA 2001
FIFA 2002
FIFA 2002
Final Fantasy 7
Final Fantasy 8
Final Fantasy 9
Formula 1 2001
Frank Herbert's Dune
From Dust Til Dawn
Front Mission 3
Front Mission 3
G = 0 7
Giants: Citizen Kabuta

Giants: Citizen Kabuto Goldeneye Golf Resort Tycoon Gran Turismo

Gran Turismo 2
Gran Turismo 3
Theft Auto Grand Theft Auto 3

Gun Griffon Blaze

Half Life Halo Harry Potter Headhunter
Hidden & Dangerous
Hitman: Codename 47 Hogs of War

LAA Manager
Lotus Challenge Runescape
Mario Advance
Mario Kart Super Circuit
Martian Gothic
Mat Hoffman's Pro BMX
Max Payne
Mech Warrior 3
Medal of Honor
Medal of Honor Underg.
Medil Evil
Mat Martin Gothic
Medal of Honor Underg.
Medal of Honor Underg.
Medal of Honor Underg.
Medil Evil
Max Payne
Medil Evil
Max Payne
Silent Bomber
Silent Hill

MediEvii MediEvii Zi Men In Black Men In Black Men In Black Crashdown Metal Gear Solid Metropolis Street Racer Midnight Club Midtown Madness 2 Mission Impossible Monkey Island (Escape) Monster Rancher Mortal Kombat Trilogy Moto Racer 3 Ms Pacman Mummy Returns MX 2002 Myth 3 M = 1.4

N = 1 4
No-One Lives Forever
Nox

Oddworld: Munch's Odd.
Off Road Wide Open

Oni Onimusha: Warlords OO7 Agent Under Fire

P = 1 6
Parasite Eve 2
Paris-Dakar Rally
Perfect Dark
Plaza Connection 2
Planet of the Apes
Pokemon Crystal
Pokemon Gold
Pokemon Snap
Pokemon Snap
Pokemon Yellow
Premier Manager 20

Premier Manager 2000 Premier Manager '99 Pro Evolution Soccer Project Eden

R = 1 8 Railroad Tycoon 2 Rainbow Six

Silent Hill 2 Silent Hill 2 Silent Hunter 2 Silent Scope Sim City 3000 Sim City 2000 Simpson's Road Rage Simpsons Wrestling Sims Sims: Livin' It Up Sky Odyssey Smackdown 2 Smackdown! J. Brint

Stary WalsStingl Zorro
Stronghold Zorro
Submarine Commander
Summoner 007 Agent Under Fire
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Super Mario Advance Super Runabout Supercar St. Challenge Syphon Filter

Hogs of Yun | 0 9 | In Cold Blood | ISS Pro Evolution | Rally Trophy | ISS Pro Evolution | 2 | Rampage Puzzle Attack | Syphon Filter's | S

Time Crisis 2
Time Splitters
TOCA World Touring Cars
Tokyo Extreme Racer
Tomb Raider
Tomb Raider 2
Tomb Raider 3
Tomb Raider 4
Tomb Raider 5
Tomy Hawk's 2

Tony Hawk's 2
Tony Hawk's 3
Top Gun: Combat Zones
Toy Story 2
Turok: Dinosaur Hunter
Twisted Metal Black

Vagrant Story Victorious Boxers Voyager Elite Force

Sims: Livin' It Up
Sims: Livin' It Up
Sky Odyssey
Smackdown 2
Smackdown! J. Bring It
Smugglers Run
Smugglers Run
Soldier of Fortune
Sonic Adventure 2
Sold Reaver
Soul Reaver
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Soul Reaver
Spec Ops: Covert Assault
Spec Ops: Stealth Patrol
Spiderman 2
Spy Hunter
Soyro 2: Ripto's Rage

Voyager Elite Force
W = 2
War Hammer: D Omen
Warzone 2 100
Wild Thornberry C Chase
Wolfenstein, The Return
World C Snooker 2002
World Is Not Enough
World's S. Police Chases
Worms Armageddon
WWF C: World Rally Champ
WWF No Mercy
WWF Rackdown
WWF Smackdown
WWF Smackdown Smackdown! J. Bring:

Smugglers Run
Smugglers Run
Sunugglers Run
Soli Adventure
Soul Calibur
Soul Reaver
Soul Reav

Agent Under Fire B = 0.2

Batman Vengeance

Crazy Taxi

D = 04Dave Mirra Freestyle BMX 2 E = 0.5

Extreme G3

F = 0.6FIFA 2002

G = 07

Gauntlet Legends

Luigi's Mansion

Madden NFL 2002 N = 14

NHL Hitz 2002 NFL Quarterback Club 2002

P = 1.6

Pikmin R = 1.8Rogue Leader

5 = 19Simpsons: Road Rage Sonic Adventure 2 Battle

Spy Hunter SSX Tricky

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The Simpsons: Road Rage
Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 3

Wave Race: Blue Storm

007 Agent Under Fire

18 Wheeler

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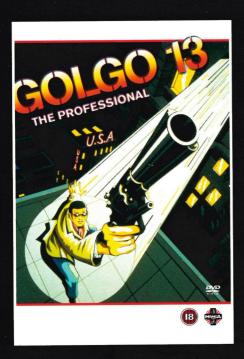








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