



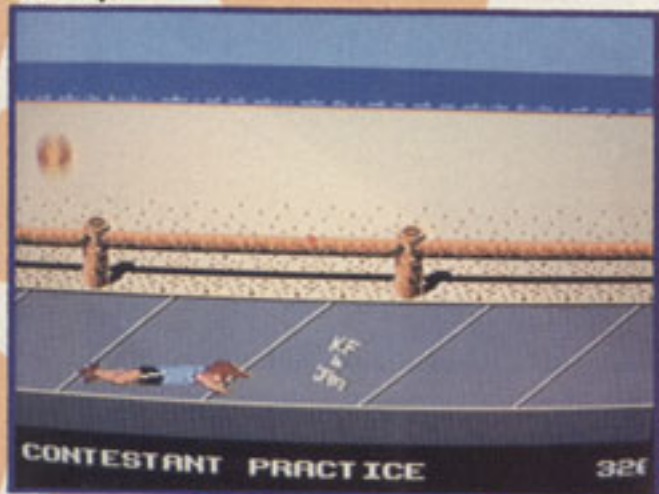
Are you gnarly? Well, if you are, I suggest you see a doctor. If you're just a cool dude, man, California Games could be the cart for you. The game involves competing in six bodacious events, namely foot-bagging, frisbee, surfing, BMX, roller-skating and half-pipe.

The object of this is to rack up mega-dabba-docious scores to impress all your pals. If your chums decide that they can do better, they can join in for up to four-player thrills and excitement. Whoever scores best here gets the coveted "Very Trendy Person Cup". Are you the raddest, baddest person in... your house, or are you just a sad and lonely pinhead who's about as cool as the planet Mercury?

California Games

★★★★★

GAMES



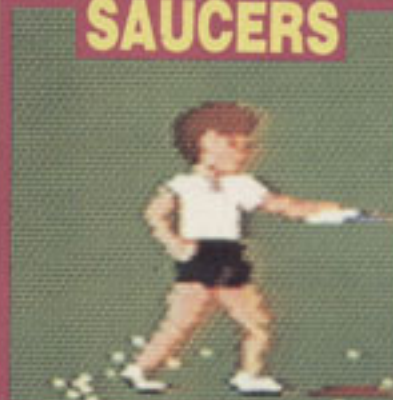
COMMENT

California Games is easily the best of the Epyx Games series, and it certainly made a successful transition to the console world when it hit the Master System. So how does the Nintendo version fare? Well, the graphics aren't bad, although the colours are very drab, and the sound is okay. But the real heart of California Games is the gameplay and I'm glad to say that that's one thing the NES version

RAD

has in abundance. Each of the events provides enough challenge to keep you practicing for ages, and the multi-player option improves the lasting appeal greatly.

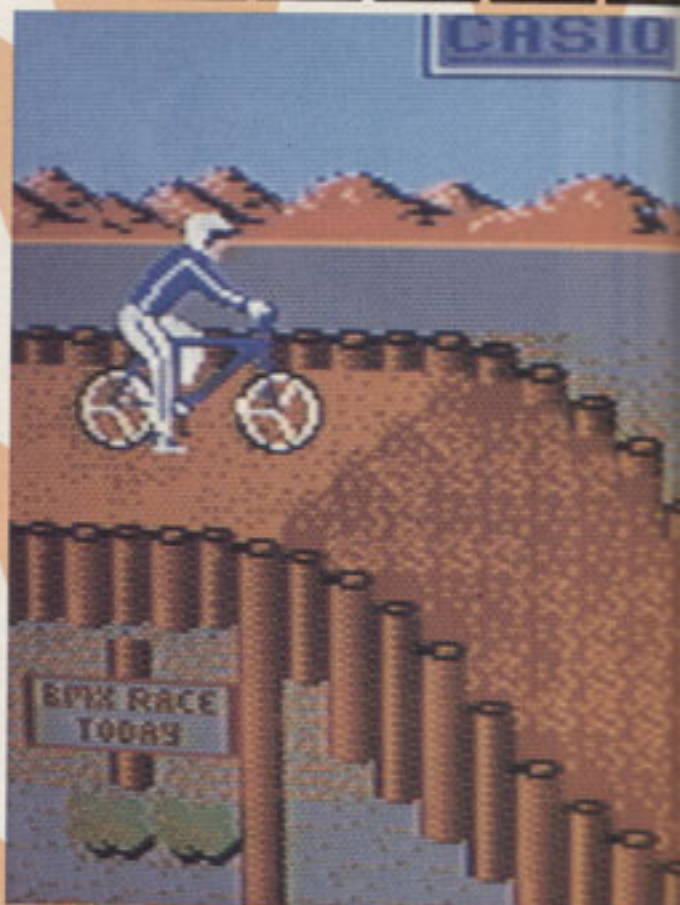
FLYING SAUCERS



Grab the circular flying item and send it whizzing towards your partner some 300 metres away. Points are awarded for a good, long throw and a stylish catch (dive for it for extra pose value!).

ON YER BIKE, MAN

Take to this hilly assault course and test out your BMX skills (even if the coolest dudes have got mountain bikes these days). The judges mark you according to the quantity and skill of the BMX-related stunts you pull off during the event.



A KICK IN THE SACK

These days, foot-bagging may rank just above flared trousers in the trendiness department, but it's still an integral part of California Games. Amass those points by keeping the small sack in the air using every part of the body - apart from your hands.

AERIAL ANTICS

If finger flips, McTwists and Aerial Airs are your bag, doubtlessly you'll head straight for the half-pipe. With cunning use of the joypad, you can make your on-screen skateboarder perform hand-plant inverts. But if you're a real skill dude, awesome aerial jumps and swivelling kick turns are the ones for you! The faster and more precisely you do these, the more points you get.





BOGUS SHRED, HOMES

After the completion of an event, a panel of judges award marks reflecting your skill. If you notch up a ten, you're a true pro California head, but a score of only two or three is a most heinous failure, which should be rewarded with a smack around the head with a rolling pin.

YO! HANG EIGHT!

Surfing is similar in format to the half-pipe, with your surfer performing aerial twists whilst avoiding being swallowed by the roll of surf catching up with him... and the shark swimming below!



COMMENT



JULIAN

California Games is one of my all-time favourite Master System games, and I was interested to see whether this version would be as good. Well, at first things don't look promising. The graphics aren't as good as the ones on the Master System version and the sound is roughly the same. However, play it and your fears soon evaporate - the gameplay offers even more fun and challenge! Each event is almost like a game in itself, especially the foot-bag, and there's plenty of potential to knock up huge scores. With its multitude of options, including the multi-player mode, California Games offers plenty of challenge and lasting appeal and shouldn't be missed by crazy dude sports fans.

AYE CARUMBA!

This event gives you control of a buxom skating type, travelling over a horizontally-scrolling beach-side pavement. Simply skating to the end quickly impresses the judges, but watch out for cracks in the pavement, sand and other obstacles guaranteed to send your chick flying!



BY: MB GAMES
PRICE: £39.99

RELEASE DATE: TBA
GAME DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM
LIVES: N/A
CONTINUES: N/A
SKILL LEVELS: 1
RESPONSIVENESS: GROOVY



PRESENTATION 86%

Loads of options, a choice of sponsors and excellent in-game touches.

GRAPHICS 79%

Dull colours, but terrific animation.

SOUND 75%

Good, though sparse effects and catchy ditties.

PLAYABILITY 91%

As playable as heck, with plenty of challenge and variety in all of the events.

LASTABILITY 87%

Lots of practice needed to master each event, and the multi-player mode adds plenty of extra lasting appeal.

OVERALL 90%

A fab and generally wondrous game which should appeal to any Nintendo owner who lives east of Beverly Hills 90210.