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Coolboarders 2001

System: Playstation
Genre: Sports
Developer: 989 Sports

When a particular game genre becomes popular, it is natural for imitators to surface on the market. With the emergence of *Tony Hawk Pro Skater*, several extreme sport clones have popped up, trying to emulate the greatness of this sleeper hit. Unfortunately, one of those games is *Coolboarders 2001* from 989 Sports.

Coolboarders was a franchise, established in its own right before *Pro Skater* came out, that took gamers to the cutting edge of the snowboarding scene. The game was not revolutionary, but it held its own.

With the 2001 release, there is an obvious unspoken pressure to be like the *Tony Hawk* games. However, the key to copying the format of a popular game is to either do it better or add

something new and exciting to the mix. *Coolboarders 2001* does neither, and the result is a watered-down version of a potentially cool idea.

While there are several game-play options and customization of characters, those features do not make up for everything this game lacks.

The graphics are mediocre at best and do little more than necessary. The character control is awkward and lacks the fluidity necessary for fast-paced racing games.

There are only two redeeming factors to this game. One is the cool adrenaline-pumping music added to the soundtrack, and the other is the ability to punch other boarders during the race. However, while it is always fun to inflict pain on others, this is still not enough to save this game from video game redundancy.

The bottom line is that the basic idea behind *Coolboarders 2001* has been done bigger and

better by other games. Save the rental money and just play *Tony Hawk Pro Skater*. (Grade: C-)
—Ruben I.

Country singer outspoken as song climbs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — There is something disquieting in the singer's voice in the rising country music hit "My Love Goes On and On."

"It may be that the rugged Rocky Mountains don't last long/But my love goes on and on," spits out Chris Cagle like a man possessed.

The song may be about a guy in love. Or perhaps he is a stalker.

Either way, Cagle has been properly introduced to country music fans as a man who sings with the fervor of an evangelist. Nashville has not had a potential star with this intensity since Garth Brooks was

getting started 11 years ago.

In a music genre where many singers try to avoid controversy, Cagle is outspoken. He speaks frankly about his troubled childhood in Texas, and takes an occasional pot-shot at radio programmers who are not playing his single.

"I'll say this, and I don't care if it's printed in headlines," Cagle said, building up a head of steam within minutes of the start of an interview.

"If Tim McGraw sang every one of my songs on my record, he'd sell 10 million copies. Every song would be No. 1, without question," he said, snapping his fingers for emphasis.

"The thing that tugs at me is, I'm not fighting radio wanting to hear

good music. I'm fighting, 'He's new.' That's all I'm fighting."

"It's wrong. It's just wrong."

Cagle is getting all heated up while things are generally going his way. "My Love Goes On and On" is a Top 25 hit and still rising. And there's better stuff on "Play It Loud," his debut CD on Virgin Records in Nashville.

He is eager for success.

"I didn't sign a piece of paper that says I'm a star," Cagle said. "I signed a piece of paper that says I get the opportunity to make a life around music."

"I have trouble sleeping at night, thinking about everything."

His parents divorced when he

was 3. His mother then married a man Cagle says was abusive.

"There's a lot of water under the bridge," Cagle said. "I will probably have to go see somebody sooner or later to get some things straight. Right now, I suppress it."

But scars from his childhood tend to push their way to the surface.

"You know how sometimes you think you're hearing the word 'God?'" Cagle said. "I remember lying in bed and thinking, 'Why do I have to experience the things you're experiencing?'"

"And in a split second I hear your family and your children's names, and everybody who follows you, does not have to experience

People in the News

Pavarotti offers encore after performing while ill

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Luciano Pavarotti has offered to do an encore performance for concertgoers who attended a disappointing show over the weekend.

The 5,000 audience members at Saturday's sold-out show at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort had paid anywhere from \$80 to \$1,000 per ticket.

The tenor had a bad cold and knew he wasn't living up to his reputation, said Christopher Davis, a spokesman of the Rudas Organization, which produced the concert.

"He wants to come back and sing his best," Davis said.

Details of the encore performance have not been announced.

Angelou signs contract with Hallmark Cards Inc

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — For Maya Angelou, there will be many Hallmark moments.

The 72-year-old poet and author has signed an agreement to develop a line of greeting cards, gifts and other products for Hallmark Cards Inc.

Hallmark predicts the Maya Angelou Collection will generate annual sales of \$50 million after they hit stores in 2002.

"I feel about Hallmark the same way I feel about Reader's Digest or Quaker Oats," Angelou said Monday. "These are the institutions which set standards and have not deviated from the best they could do. Every year I work to not fail, to not let my standards fall. I think that's one of the things we have in common."

Tenor saxophonist gets artistic excellence award

NEW YORK (AP) — Tenor saxophonist Jacquet received the Jazz at Lincoln Center Award for Artistic Excellence.

During Jacquet's 50-year career, he has worked with virtually everyone from Count Basie to Calloway.

He came to public attention at 19 with a phone solo on Hampton's "Flying Home."

Wynton Marsalis, music director of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, presented the award Monday at a benefit concert at Avery Fisher Hall.

"He's a beacon of integrity. He believes in music. He plays with feeling," Marsalis said.

Jacquet, 78, performed Eubie Blake's "Strikes of You," and his own "Blues from Louisiana."

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