



Joshua Buck/Times-Call

Alex Brunelle, 16, obtained his first sponsor, Sol Skateboards, while in fifth grade. The soon-to-be junior at Longmont High School now adds Quiksilver, Globe, Woodward Skateparks and Izze to his list of sponsors. He frequently travels around the country competing, all the while holding down a part-time job with the City of Longmont's Recreation Department.

Skating fever

Longmont's Alex Brunelle has dreams of becoming pro

By Aaron Gonzales
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LONGMONT — For many, the summer before sixth grade is spent worrying about the leap from elementary to middle school. Alex Brunelle was getting his first skateboard sponsorship.

Five years later, his skating has only improved. Brunelle, who will be a junior at Longmont High School this fall, was ranked 31st in the World Cup of Skateboarding North American Pro Bowl Series in 2007. So far in 2008, he has won four competitions.

Brunelle began skateboarding at age 9. He began as a way to hang out with the older kids in his neighborhood. When he became sponsored, it took his skating to the next level.

"It was awesome; another step in my skateboarding career," Brunelle said.

After he received a spon-



sorship, he was able to travel and compete in more competitions across the country. When Brunelle was young, he was given the nickname "The Kid," because of the difficulty of the tricks he was doing at such a young age.

Brunelle describes himself as an all-around skater. He competes in both vert skating on half-pipes and bowls and on street-style courses.

While traveling and skating, Brunelle has placed in more than 100 competitions. He is currently sponsored by Quiksilver, Globe, Izze Bev-

erages and many more businesses. His sponsors pay for all the skateboarding gear and clothing he uses for competitions.

Brunelle's success has not come without a price; he has had many injuries throughout the years. He has dislocated his elbow and broken his knee. He had shoulder surgery last year. This season alone, he has suffered four concussions.

Through all the injuries and hundreds of skateboarding competitions, Brunelle enjoys the little things of skateboarding.

"You can do your own

thing," he said. "Do whatever you want with the sport, and take your mind off everything."

Brunelle is not only a great skater. He is an honor roll student at Longmont High. He gets plenty of support from his teachers and staff members. Many times when he is out of town competing, he is allowed to turn in his school work when he returns.

Along with traveling to competitions, Brunelle teaches young kids how to skateboard. On Mondays and Tuesdays, he teaches beginner skateboard classes at the Longmont Recreation Center.

The ultimate goal for Brunelle is to become a professional skater. He thinks that within a year, he should be able to skate professionally, and he hopes to get more sponsors by that time as well.

Brunelle has accomplished a great amount in a short period of time. Still, those feats are secondary in his mind.

"I am most proud of being able to travel and having sponsors that support me and great friends to skate with," he said.

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