
Athlete letter of recomendation for Hayes Livernois

1 message

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To: "adventurers@flyinryanhawks.org" <adventurers@flyinryanhawks.org>, "hayeslivernois@gmail.com" <hayeslivernois@gmail.com>

Hello, my name is Robert Hawthorne. I have been lucky enough to be Hayes Livernois freeride coach over the last 4 years at Big Sky Resort. I have always been impressed with Hayes's composure from day one. At a younger age entering the team, he was better behaved than the rest of his peers. Still, with plenty of room for his goofy side to show, Hayes showed up to train, and that's exactly what he did. Always remaining within his abilities, Hayes, worked on the basics of freeride. He feels no rush to make an impact with the biggest cliff in the venue, but he will undoubtedly link up the maximum number of features within his skills and strengths whilst adding in his own style and energy. Hayes inspects venues with a real purpose. Often quiet, holding his questions or concerns to himself, Hayes will slowly inspect with his peers and coaches while he builds his own plan in his head. Once Hayes has a game plan in his head, he works with his coaches. I don't think in the years I've coached Hayes that he has pitched me anything about his competition run that I wasn't confident in him about. This is a powerful attribute for a freeride athlete on our team. Our venues at Big Sky are very dangerous and sound decision making is an utmost important. I always allowed our other athletes to seek counsel with Hayes as they talked through features. I could trust that he would not encourage any fellow athletes outside of their comfort zone. When it came time to perform and compete, Hayes is dialed in and focused. Both he and his sister maintain a low energy composure until they click into their skis and do what they came there to do. In the few years Hayes has competed, he has made quite a statement across our region, and in turn, he has been introduced to some of the best freerides of his age group and grouped up to ski with them. I have been stoked to see Hayes skiing with the select few most talented athletes in North America. This is what he needs most, peers who push him. Hayes is very coachable, and I have always appreciated his listening ear, however, I see a bit of myself in Hayes as well. Like myself, Hayes will push himself the most when he is around his peers or on his own. He has told me about his specific goal for that day of skiing many times, and ill be darned if he hasn't accomplished them each day. This season Hayes has opted to not be on the freeride team, this is a letdown for his peers and his coaches. Myself included. But being asked to write this letter for him has caused me to see things from his perspective more. Hayes was leading our team and his peers in many ways, and he desires to be pushed more than anything. Competing at the level Hayes is at, the pool of comparable athletes to train with slim. So while I am bummed that Hayes has decided not to be in the Big Sky Freeride team this year, I am happy for him as a individually driven athlete. It isn't training he's skipping out on, its all of the extra training he wants to fit in that doesn't coincide with our freeride team's schedule. That I can get behind. So as you consider who to award with the Flyin Ryan award, I ask that you consider Hayes. His competition history speaks for itself, his reputation for seeking bigger and better things, and dragging others along with him to greatness is a mark of a Flying Ryan in my opinion.