

The BMX ACTION Trick Team made history. They were the first. They started freestyle. And now (sob) . . . it's over. The impossible has happened, the unthinkable has been thought. R.L. just broke the news to us: The Nerd Herd is no more. Discontinued. Void.

But why, R.L.?

"It's kind of sad, but it had to happen. When you think about it, the BMX ACTION Trick Team has had some pretty serious names on it: Bob Haro, myself, Mike Buff, Pat Romano, and Ron Wilton. We were THE first freestyle team. People didn't realize it when Bob and I first started, but we were making the sport. That takes a lot of time."

"I've done the trick team for seven years now, and my value has gone up a bunch. I signed a really good exclusive deal with Red Line that I'm really happy with. It was strange, but after it happened, I walked out and came home and I was kind of moody. I was thinking, 'Well, the very first trick team is history.' It was bound to happen someday, and it's sad to see it die."

So what's the deal with Red Line?

"I'll be riding for Red Line immediately. Ronnie will be on Schwinn 'til the end of '85. At this point, it's a real good possibility that he'll eventually end up with me on the Red Line Trick Team. The trailer, van, and ramps will be repainted. Everything goes over to Red Line. We'll probably get a new small ramp."

"We're going to do a tour this year and make it the most quality tour out there. We'll keep it real up-to-date with the latest tricks and stuff. Instead of doing an extensive two-month tour, we're going to go two weeks at a time. Two weeks of tour, then two weeks rest, and then two more weeks of shows, etc. I'll also be competing in a lot of flatland and ramp contests."

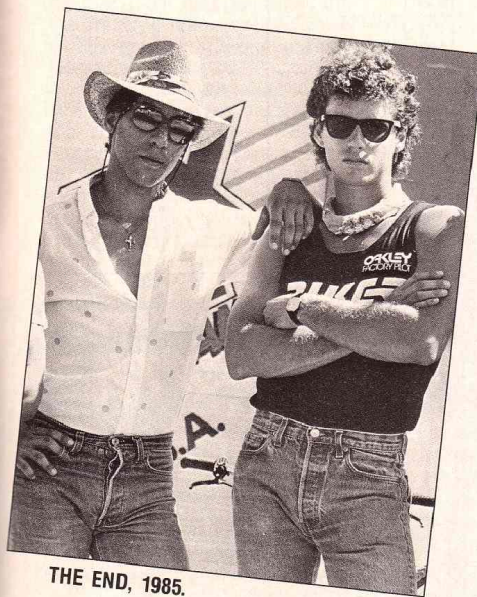
So let's talk bucks, R.L. The contract must be hefty . . . *continued*



HARO AND R.L., 1980.



BUFF AND R.L., 1981.



THE END, 1985.



THE END OF AN ERA

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IS HISTORY**

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"Ahhhh (long pause), with Red Line and my co-sponsors, I'm signed for \$100,000 a year. Shows will probably bring me another \$50,000. I don't know how much Stu Thomsen's contract is for, but mine's probably one of the largest contracts in the sport—BMX and freestyle. It's a neat feeling to be in this position at such a young age. I'm stoked. There's no stopping me."

What were the reasons for discontinuing the BMXA Trick Team?

"Well, it was getting really expensive to run the trick team. Red Line is taking all of those expenses off me. Also, because the BMX ACTION Trick Team was the first freestyle team, it was okay for us to always be in the magazine. Now all the major manufacturers have trick teams and they want to see their guys in the magazine, too. With this new deal everyone is happy—all the manufacturers have an equal shot at getting their teams in print, including Red Line, and the readers get to see more riders. And of course, I'll still be testing bikes for the magazine."

Heavy stuff, huh? Besides the team change, R.L.'s got a bunch of other stuff happening. By the time you read this, he'll be a married man. Plus, he's buying more condos and cars.

"I've set myself real well by investing all of my money in property. I've started a whole 'nuther future for myself in real estate. I just bought four houses, which we tore down and built five condominiums in their place. I just bought a Toyota 4X4—the best truck in the world! I love it—it's a tan extra-cab with an automatic and a Concord stereo. Next week, I'll probably be buying a Datsun 300ZX."

Well, we're about out of space. Any final things you'd like to say?

"I want to thank my fans, as well as fans of the BMX ACTION Trick Team, for their support, and I hope they'll stick with me now that I'm on Red Line. I'm sure that this is a shock to them, but I hope that they'll understand that it was a decision I had to make."

And thanks, R.L., for seven years of radness and valuable input on the mag. We can't wait to see what the new era has in store.

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