



## PAUL THACKER

### SPORT: SNOWMOBILING

Pro snowmobiler Paul Thacker is lucky to be alive. Like most of his extreme sports counterparts, he's had his share of near-death moments; one backflip in particular knocked him out of commission for a year. And when he got back on the sled? He promptly relearned how to backflip. "That's one of the pieces on my arm," he explains of his tattoos, "a photo of me backflipping from my first X Games."

Thacker wears his achievements proudly, marking his accomplishments like a fighter pilot might notch enemy kills. "It's a collage of different time periods in my life, from nicknames I've been called to a tape measure with my world record distances over the years," he says. "The idea was always that if I hit my head hard enough, I'd want to remember the cool things I've done in my life."

Thacker was drawn to tattoos early on by seeing BMX rider Rick Thorne covered in ink. "All his tattoos had some sort of meaning," he remembers. "Action sports guys always have a good story to tell ... usually a really good story."

PHOTO BY BRIAN ADAMS