

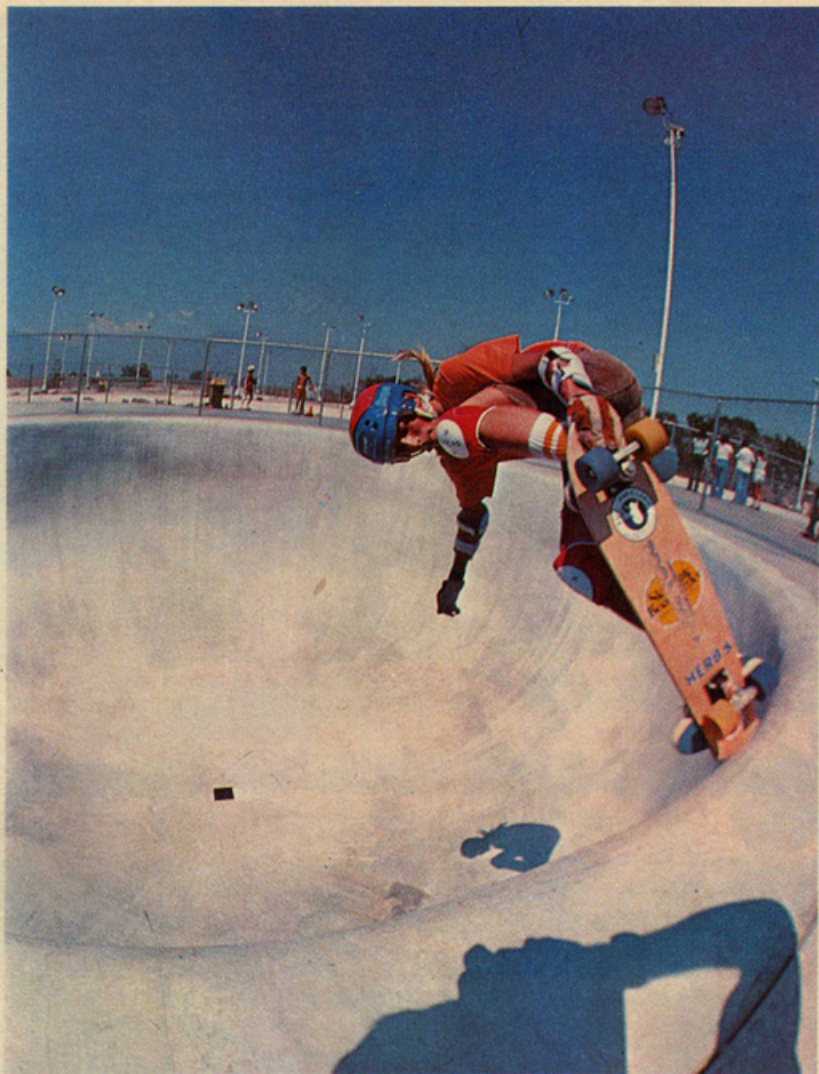


TAY HUNT

15 years old, rides for Tube Skateboards/Pool Tool

There's something almost hypnotic in watching a skater who rips vertical with a light touch. As he unweights, you hold your breath. When he begins to weight again, you're carried along with his flow. Of course, a rider who drives hard, punching turns and jamming slides, can be impressive for the force of his movement, the sheer power. But a hot skater who maintains a light feel, often makes it look so easy—which can be all the more deceiving when he is a young master of vertical slides, as is James (Tay) Taylor Hunt.

Tay, who lives only two miles from the Pipeline Skatepark of Upland, is a local favorite at that course. Not only is he one of the finest skaters in the "Badlands" (as Tay refers to the Upland-Ontario-Pomona area), but he is unpretentious about it. As one local put it: "He doesn't have to say anything. He just goes out and shreds and walks away." Thus, probably more so than any of the luminaries who frequent the park, all the regulars know Tay, speak well of him, often emulate his style and manner.



Son of Badlands makes good. Tail tap in Upland's 13' bowl. Photo: Jim Cassimus.

A master of weightless moves, Tay is not one to be outdone in his home park, the Upland Pipeline. Photos: Bolster.

