COOL BOARDERS

(SCEA) **Svstem:** PSX

Much like the first and only time I ever went skiing, the first time I played Cool Boarders on the PlayStation, I tumbled almost the entire way down the mountain. My inability to make it down a Cool Boarders slope without careening off the rock walls like a human pinball is no real reflection on my skiing incompetence. But the truth is that it's incredibly difficult to remain upright while shushing down a Cool Boarders hill-primarily due to the dreadful combination of high speeds and poor control. The gameplay here, at least in theory, is relatively simple: snowboard down a long, rocky, twisty-turny mountain. Try to reach the finish line before the clock runs out and attempt a trick now and again for bonus points. You can choose a male or female boarder (each with four different outfits) and pick from four types of boards (each with four colors). Unfortunately only three courses (novice, advanced and expert) are available. The game provides a hair-raising sense of speed and some solid overall snowboarding action, despite the beating you'll undoubtedly take on the way down.--Jeff Kitts