

FIFTY CENTS

*National*

ROLLER



Y

DERBY

YEAR BOOK

1911

Jean Hill Bobbie Johnston Carl Payne Don Lewis  
 away from Palermo Monte Dean Bill Reynolds  
 Julie Patrick Gloria Mc Auliff Hank Goldburg  
 Charles Schuchart Alice Edwards Bobbie Mateer  
 Specs Saunders Joe Kosmal June Radcliffe  
 Betty Boyard Fred Rosa Gene Gammon  
 Ann Rose Baker Elaine Benoit Mary Ciopani  
 Val Bob Satterfield Alice (Pony) Beech  
 Julie Sches Virginia Lucking Ann Gerry Murray  
 June Masco Gloria Missuch  
 Harry Ruff Jack Wilson Anna Minnie  
 Al Masello Lerio Anderson Betty Backus  
 Phil Ruff Ann Benderghist  
 Silver Lick Nancy Hinton Bob Klein Gladys Smith  
 George Kemp Freda Hoffmann Jean christner  
 J.J. Milake Anne Van Kirk Sam Norma Lisa June Agula  
 Viv Johnson Bill Laurino Sam Maurice  
 Kay Viva "Best Hall" Mary Josephine  
 Sally Antelias Ann Lervice Howe Raine  
 Midge "Toughie" Branchon Jean Porter Tommy Robinson  
 Don Ruman

STARS OF NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY

Annabelle (Sluggo) Kealey  
 Valerie Reed  
 Sid Harnesk  
 Louella Behrens  
 Betty Floyd  
 Paul Pierce  
 Annabelle  
 Sam Stobef  
 Leonard Pierce  
 George Day  
 Tommy Robinson  
 Don Ruman



FIRST ANNUAL

# YEAR BOOK

## *National Roller Derby League*

# 1951

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FRANK FINNEGAN

DICK BRODERICK

*A message from Leo A. Seltzer, managing director  
and originator of the sport "Roller Derby".*



Roller Derby is a sport that has given many young Americans, both men and women, a chance to achieve athletic fame, who, but for Roller Derby, would never have had such an opportunity. Literally, scores of our youngsters, without benefit of high school and college athletics, have gained great prominence in the sports world. Practically overnight, this new game has created national fame for the skaters associated with it.

All of us in the game know the Roller Derby has a great future in the world of sports, not only in the United States but all over the world. However, the road to ultimate national and international success is rough, and the hardship that any new athletic endeavor has to suffer will continue until such time as the Roller Derby receives the recognition it properly deserves wherever it is played.

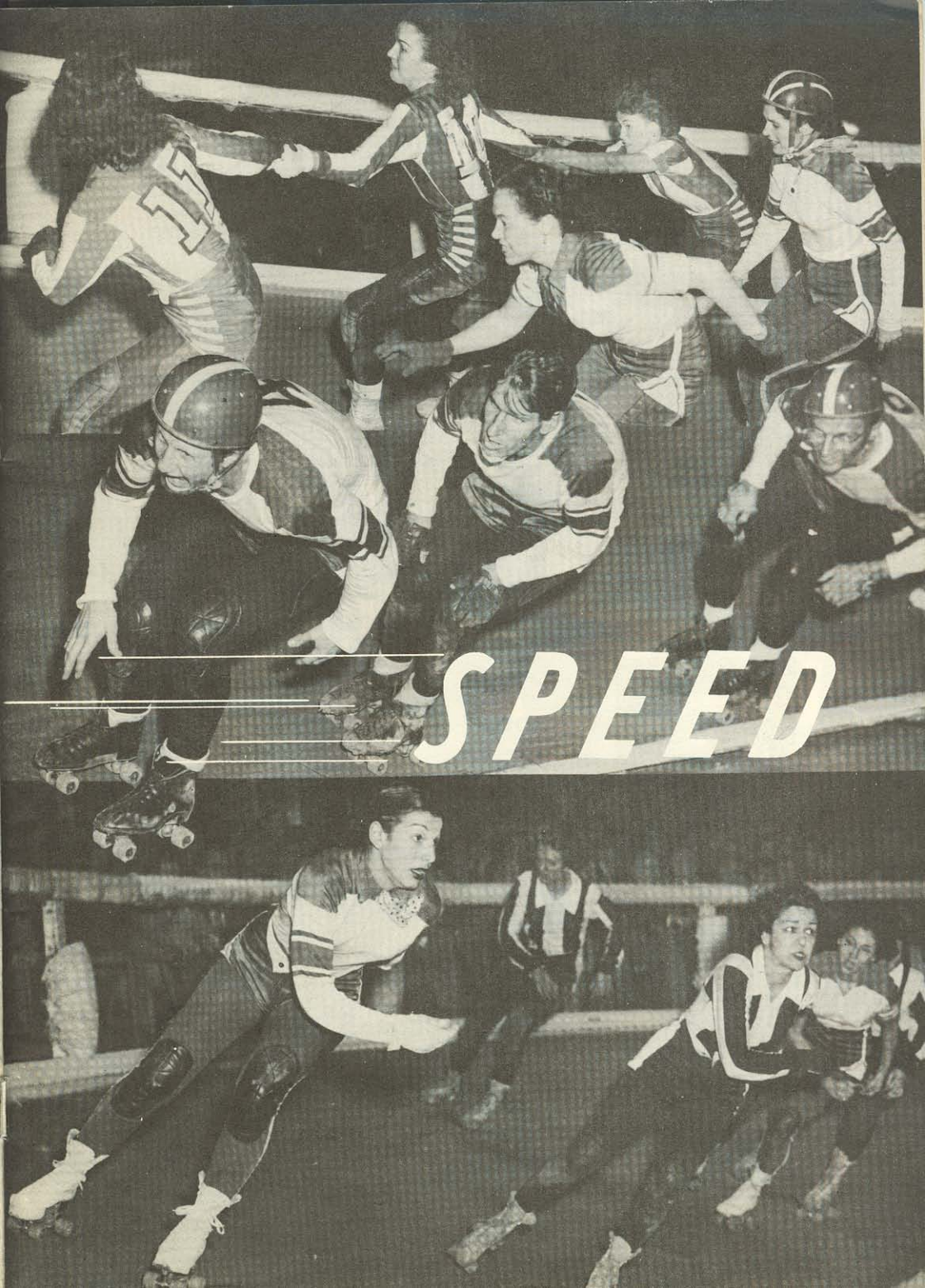
To our mind, the game itself is greater than either the people who promote it or the skaters who play it. Because of that greatness, we feel sure Roller Derby will eventually become as much a part and parcel of our American scene as basketball, baseball, football and other team sports we call our own.

Literally millions of fans have been loyal to this new sport; it is up to Roller Derby to be loyal to those fans and retain their interest. We must, to survive, make new fans by giving them a sport that is clean and hard fought. An athletic activity that will hold the loyalties of the present supporters, and create the millions of new ones any sport needs to make progress.

On behalf of everyone connected with Roller Derby, we want to thank all the fans and the press, radio and television world for their backing and aid. All of us connected with the game hope we deserve it, and that we will continue to receive it.

*Leo A. Seltzer*





*SPEED*



**OSCAR SELTZER**



**FRED M. MORELLI**



**ARTHUR M. HOLLAND**



**SID COHEN**



**KEN GURIAN**



**BEN FISHER**



**KEN NYDELL**

**ROLLER DERBY  
EXECUTIVE STAFF**



**JACK BURNETT**



**C. M. MULLINS**



**ED SILVER**



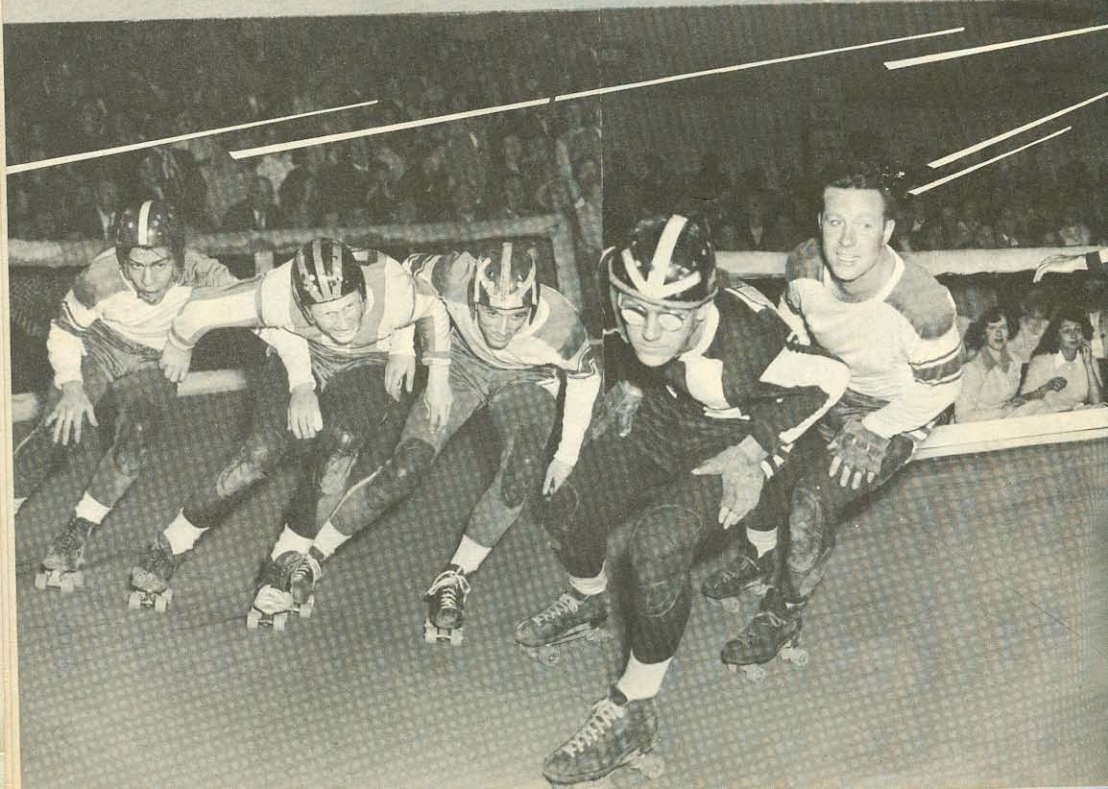
**MURRAY TANNEN**





# A T I O N









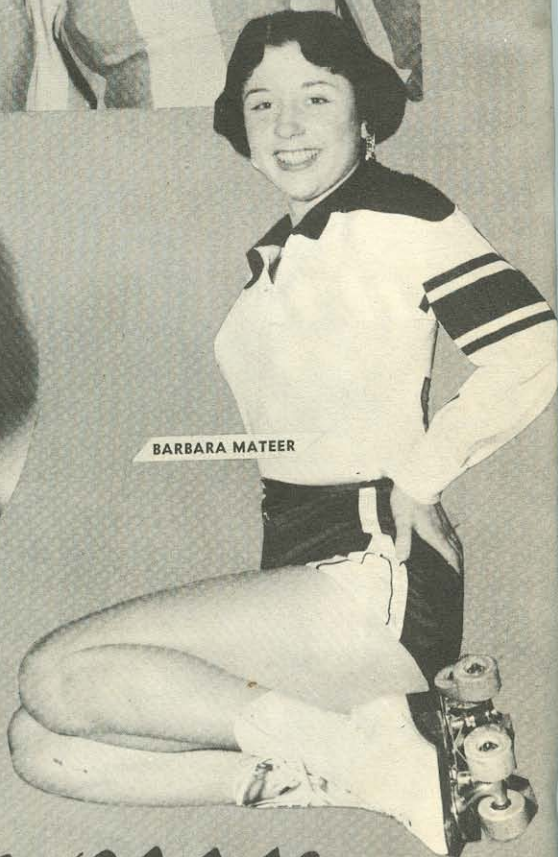
*THRILLS*



MILLIE BRUNO, JULIE PATRICK, ARLYNNE BUCHMANN, MARY LOU PALERMO, MONTA JEAN PAYNE



GLORIA CLEIRBAUT



BARBARA MATEER

# Glamour

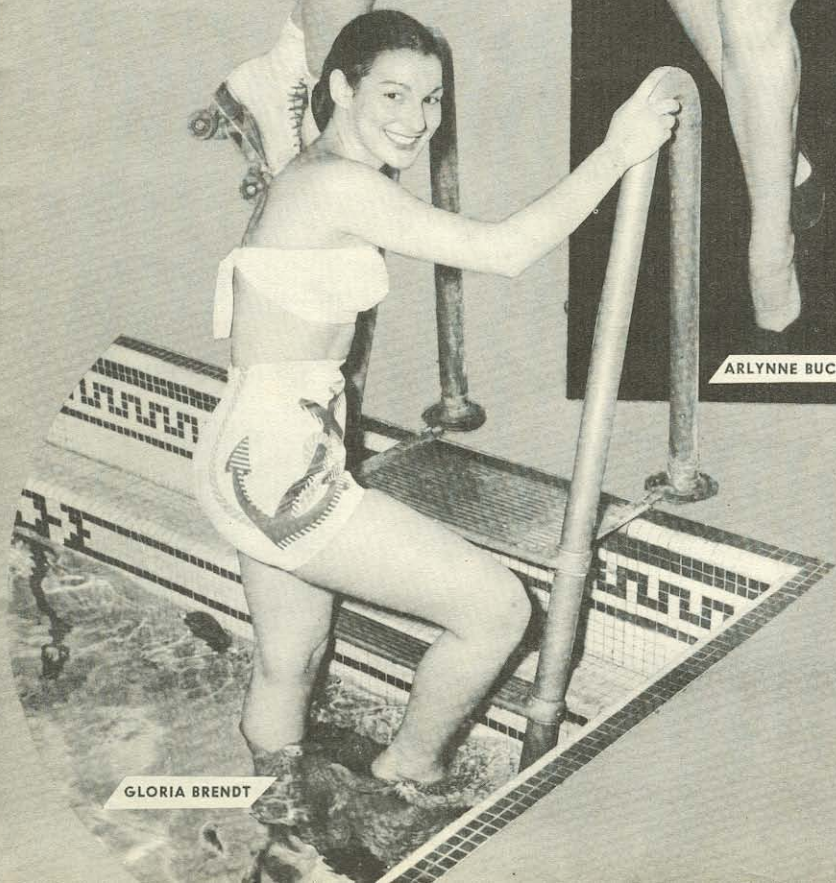




BETTY BOYD



ARLYNNE BUCHMANN, ROLLER DERBY QUEEN



GLORIA BRENDT



MARY CIOFANI, MARY GARDNER, GERRY MURRAY

# *and Charm*



DOLORES DOSS



VIRGINIA RUSHING





GINGER FOLEY, ALICE BUCHEK, GLADYS SNEATH



DAN HILL



IRENE VAN KIRK



ANN CALVELLO



EDITH BRANUM







# THE CHIEFS

**T**HE NEW YORK CHIEFS are one of the original members of the National Roller Derby League. As a matter of fact, the blue and white New Yorkers were a set team long before the foundation of regular league play.

When the Roller Derby set up a four-team league in 1948, the Chiefs made their first appearance at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York City, and were coached by Billy Bogash and captained by Gerry Murray.

That year, The Chiefs were really powerful and romped off with the World Championship in the first World Series at Madison Square Garden. They racked up seven wins in eight games and soundly trounced the Brooklyn Red Devils in the finals.

On that first championship team were such greats as Billy Bogash, Moose Payne, Russ Massro, Johnny Karp and Gene Gammon, as well as Gerry Murray, Mary Lou Palermo, Monta Jean Payne and Annis Jensen among the girls. Also on that first championship squad Gloria Brendt, Val Panzitta, Fred Noa and other stars of today saw action as fast-moving rookies.

In the 1949-50 season, the Chiefs were hit hard by injuries. They were handicapped severely by the loss of Billy Bogash through eye trouble. Although they finished second in the pennant race, they were eliminated by the Jersey Jolters in the semi-finals of the Madison Square Garden World Series.

After losing the World Series, co-coaches Bogash and Gene Gammon decided the only solution was a mass shakeup. The two leaders traded away such favorites as Mary Lou Palermo, Russ Massro and Gloria Brendt, but added power with two husband and wife combinations—Billy Reynolds and Mary Gardner from the Jets, Howie

Raines and Mary Ciofani from the Westerners.

At present, the Chiefs boast one of the strongest girls teams in the league. With such standouts as Gerry Murray, Alice Edwards, Mary Gardner, Mary Ciofani and Barbara Mateer, the Chiefs are a tough team to beat.

The return of Billy Bogash to active competition on Friday night, April 6 was the big news for the followers of the Chiefs. Bogash, who was sidelined early in 1950 when he acquired double vision as a result of a concussion received in a bad spill on the masonite track, returned at the beginning of the present season, but had to give up skating again because the glasses he was wearing did not completely correct his sight. After that, he experimented with different types of lenses and finally his eye doctor came up with a set that did the trick.

These lenses installed in special frames made it possible for Bogash to get back in action and try to spark the Chiefs to the league and world championships.

Bogash, head man for the IPRRA, had devoted much of his time to the promotion of the game in all parts of the country, and he was also very active in legislation enacted for the betterment of the skaters and the game.

Bogash was directly responsible for the twelve minute periods, a new rule that enables the skaters to sustain their speed for the entire skating time, and rule that has made the game of shorter duration, but much faster from the point of view of the spectator.

The first All-Time All-American in the sport also assisted in the development of a crop of rookies who bid fair to make the stars of the present hustle to retain their hold on the affections of the fans.

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**Top Row, L. to R.:** Howard Raines; Bill Reynolds, Capt.; Bob Lewis; Bob Klein; Gene Gammon, Coach; Jim Kilmartin; Joe Kosmal; Fred Noa; Lou Guzman.

**Bottom Row, L. to R.:** Mary Gardner; Nancy Hinton; Barbara Mateer; Alice Edwards; Gerry Murray, Capt; Mary Ciofani; Helen Gardner; Blanche Lopez; Irene Rygula.





Mary Gardner

Gerry Murray

Helen Gardner

Barbara Mateer

Alice Edwards



Bill Reynolds

Joe Kosmal

Lou Guzman

Gene Gammon

Fred Noa

## CHIEFS

**Billy Bogash**... Co-Coach... Age 34... Home Chicago, Ill... Married to Helen Gardner of the Chiefs and has a son Billy Jr., Age 8. Was organizer and first president of the International Professional Roller Racers Association. Considering the fact that they hired him in a package deal as a means of satisfying his mother, the famed Ma Bogash, Billy has come a great distance in etching his name as the Supreme Potentate of the Roller Derby. It was tough sledding at first but hours of practice and the continual prodding of his mother smoothed a road which was to be lined with garlands of praise and fame. Mr. Roller Derby was only 17 when the Selters signed this prize gold piece way back in the depression days of '35. Two years later he was a team captain. Since then catching up with Billy is a feat few skaters have been able to master. He explains his phenomenal speed as a throwback to his amateur hockey days where he perfected the bent over stance that made him the greatest skater and record holder in the game. Wheeling to skating heights, he led the N. Y. Chiefs into the '49-'50 World's Championship coping the Most Valuable Player Award for himself. The following season he suffered a severe concussion in a spill that almost cost him his eyesight. Fitted with special glasses he made a spectacular comeback in time to spark the Blue Shirts in the Series. For this and his many years of service, fans of America deluged the ballot box with his name for the first dream team in Roller Derby history. Calling it quits at the start of this season because of bad eyes he took over the reins of league president settling back in the manner of retired country squires. But Billy Bogash wasn't going to let anything put an end to a dynasty long before his son had a chance to carry on this great sport's tradition. Coming back to his old post as skater-coach of the Chiefs in April he has the whirling world whispering in reverence, "Is that the great Bogash?" Yes like "old man river" Bogash after 18 years on skates somehow keeps on rolling along.

• • •  
**Mary Ciofani**... Age 22... Birthday March 16... 5ft. 11in... 105 lbs... Brown eyes... Hometown Milwaukee, Wis... Attended Lincoln High... Joined Derby Dec. 27, 1947 at hometown... Former Occupation telephone operator... Married teammate Howie Raines in Buffalo Sept. 9, 1948. Has skated with Brooklyn and Chicago. Twist of fate sent Mary into the Roller Derby when she teamed with her hometown boy friend in a Derby tryout and was corralled by Gerry Murray. Since then the Tiny Tim on wheels has been raising havoc with her deft maneuvering on scoring plays. Her only injury in three years has been swallowing a false tooth knocked

out of place when she hit the uprights. Spends her idle moments making a scrapbook of her husband's clippings. Placed third in the league scoring for women, with 380 points for the 1950 season.

• • •  
**Alice Edwards**... Age 22... Birthday Sept. 17... Joined Derby 1947 in Buffalo, N. Y. Married to Derby Referee Doug Monte and has one son, Kieth. Hometown Buffalo. Has been a star with the Chiefs for over three years and a member of the World Series winners of 1949. One of the better jammers in the league. Alice got tangled in a spill in the '50 Series and had to be carried off the track with a broken shoulder. Her favorite hobbies are swimming and sewing.

• • •  
**Gene Gammon**... Coach... Age 28... Birthday May 22... 6ft. 2in... 200 lbs... Hometown Columbus, Ohio... Joined Derby in 1940 in Columbus... Spent two years in Marine Corps... Married to teammate Gerry Murray and has one son Mike.

Gene is one of the most versatile men in the skating troupe—power house blocker and a shooting star out on a jam. When a five-pointer is needed there are few better men in the league than Gammon. Because of his hard play he has suffered numerous injuries namely, a broken leg, brain concussion, two broken wrists, a broken shoulder and many hard spills. Worked as a laborer, truck driver, skating rink guard and golf caddy. Prefers getting lost near an ocean so he can carry out his avocation, fishing.

• • •  
**Helen Gardner**... 25 years old... Birthday Dec. 15... Hometown Knoxville, Tenn.

Helen was state figure-skating champ before entering the Derby. When she married Billy Bogash the No. 1 skater in the game, he was ried the torch for two sizzling years. Joined Roller Derby in 1942 and later urged her sister Mary to enter the sport, a deed for which the Derby can be thankful. Has a son Billy Jr. Did office work before Derbying. Now resides at Melrose Park, Ill.

• • •  
**Mary Gardner**... 23 years old... Birthday Oct. 21... 5ft. 5in... 122 lbs... Blue eyes... native of Knoxville, Tenn. Mary is the wife of Bill Reynolds and mother of little Pamela Sue. Mary was introduced to the Derby in 1943 by her sister Helen. Although she's been with the Derby eight years, Mary is only 23 years old, which made her the youngest girl ever to enter the Roller Derby. Mary has also skated on the Washington and Brooklyn teams. The Blonde Bombshell finished fifth in the women's division with 319 points for the 1950 season. Was also named to the Derby Dream Team last season. She was acting captain of the Washington team before joining the Chiefs for the 1951 season. Her ambition is to own a roller rink.

• • •  
**Lou Guzman**... 24 years old... Birthday June 13... Home San Francisco, Calif... 5 ft. 10 in... 165 lbs... Started June '50... Circumstantial evidence of his worth to the Chiefs may be shown by the fact that when he scored, the Chiefs were on a winning spree, but when he tapered off, the New Yorkers went into a tail-spin. A rookie, showing veteran potentials, Lou is well on the way to stardom... Outstanding candidate for Rookie of Year honors.

• • •  
**Nancy Hinton**... age 21... Birthday Nov. 22... Home Buffalo, N. Y... Joined the Derby in Buffalo Sept. 1950... Has been learning the art of skating with high hopes on a bright future in the Roller Derby. One of the most industrious youngsters in the game.

• • •  
**James Kilmartin**... 21 years old... 6ft. 2in... 165 lbs... Home Bronx, N. Y... Joined Derby Jan. 51. Makes up lack of skating finesse with unbridled spirit. A keen student of the "give it all you've got" fraternity.

• • •  
**Bob Klein**... age 19... Birthday Aug. 7... 6ft. 195 lbs... Hails from Brooklyn, N. Y... Started in the Derby Dec. 1950. Billy Bogash hails him as one of the greatest prospects to come along in a long while... Breezy style will be a favorable asset in the fruitful years ahead.

• • •  
**Joe Kosmal**... 23 years old... Birthday Aug. 9... 5ft. 11in... 160 lbs... Single.

The town of Cicero immortalized in song and verse, should be proud of one of its loyal sons in the Roller Derby, Joe Kosmal. The "Bobby-sox delight" since he crashed the big time in June, 1948. He has one of the largest followings among Roller Derby fan clubbers. Since coming to the Chiefs from Philadelphia, handsome Joe has turned into one of the best jammers and blockers in the game. Tried out when he was 15 but couldn't meet the age requirements. Came back after serving 1½ years in Navy when he was 19 and immediately clicked. Those who know presage a prosperous future for Little Boy Blue.

• • •  
**Bob Lewis**... 5ft. 10in... 165 lbs... 23 years old... Birthday July 18... Attended Lakeview High, Chicago with Ken Monte, Russ Massro and Freddie Noa. Bob is one of the few stars who was really an expert skater before joining the mad whirl. He was national sprint champion representing Arcadia rink on Chicago's North Side and joined the Derby shortly after winning that title in 1947. On invitation from Monte, he tried out at Milwaukee and remained with the nation's top pulsating thrill.

Since then brother Don has followed in his tracks. Previously skated for the Panthers and





Nancy Hinton



Irene Rygula



Blanche Lopez



Mary Ciofani



Bob Lewis



Jimmy Kilmartin



Howard Raines



Bob Klein



Billy Bogash

Jets. In private life he is married to curvaceous Georganna Kemp. Having skated for nearly four years, he still can't get rid of a closing night's jinx which seems to haunt him with injuries. With the Jets last season he finished third in the league scoring with 439 points.

Blanche Lopez... age 19... Birthday July 6... 5ft. 4 1/2 in... 128 lbs... Attended Washington Irving High N. Y. C. Has a great following from her former classmates. Joined Derby Feb. 51.

Barbara Mateer... 18 years old... Birthday June 21... Hometown Woodridge, N. J... Single... 5ft. 4 in... 115 lbs.

Barbara, an attractive, blue-eyed brunette, said farewell to her Woodridge High School classmates in March 1950 for the more glamorous role of a Roller Derby trainee. Of the 100 or so girls who tried out with her, she was the only one accepted. Immediately, starting with the Chiefs, Coach Gene Gammon took special care of her training with an eye on the future. Her smooth skating style caught the eyes of rival skaters and fans alike and soon evoked praise for a brilliant career in the making. Gammon's protege hit her stride early in the 1950-51 campaign and her brilliant jamming made her a candidate for Rookie of the Year honors. Skating in Madison Square Garden in the World Series thrilled her the most. Miss Mateer's beauty and personality won her a place in the finals of the Roller Derby News beauty contest. When not skating, the curvaceous ex-cheer leader may be seen at her favorite pastime—splashing in a pool.

Gerry Murray... Captain... age 30... Birthday Sept. 30... Hometown Des Moines, Iowa... Married to Gene Gammon and has a son Michael, 9 years old. What Frank Merriwell was to the boys, Gerry Murray must certainly be to the girls—the all-time All-American girl. Competed in swimming, golf, volleyball and basketball in her undergraduate days. She first joined the Roller Derby in Chicago. Undoubtedly the Derby has grown since then and Gerry Murray's name has become a television by-word. She was national 1/4 and 1/2 mile flat track roller skating champion and at one time could beat most of the men skaters in America. Veteran observers will readily concede that she's been one of the fastest skaters in Derby history and holder of many of its speed records. Gerry joined the sport when it was really tough to make the grade and to prove her ability she fought her way to captaincy a year later. Twelve years have elapsed and she's still wheeling with the unrestrained vigor of her tomboy days. The auburn beauty has made fighting and racing with Toughie Brasuhn a legend. Carried

the burden of the Chiefs in the '49 Series. Captured the league scoring crown in '50 with the amazing total of 536 points—33 more than the composite boasted by the men's scoring king, Spec Saunders. Her popularity grossed her the largest vote for the '49-'50 All-American honors in the Derby. Her biggest thrill was beating Toughie Brasuhn in an invitation 880 yard flat track race before a packed Madison Square Garden crowd in May, 1950. Our All-American dream girl finds time for deep sea fishing, motorcycle racing, designing and painting Dresden China figurines, making sport shirts for her hubby and son and cooking and baking.

Freddie Noa... age 22... Birthday May 18... Attended Lake View High Chicago... Single.

Son of a Hawaiian chieftan, Freddie's skating form is the most unique in the Roller Derby. With his pliable physique, he skates with great ease and is a picture of grace against a background of hard and rugged competition. A South Side buddy of Sid Harnesk, Ken Monte and Russ Massro, he never suspected that his natural style would attract an offer from Billy Bogash, the major-domo of the Derby. Convinced that he had never seen Noa's equal for grace, poise and agility, Bogash captured his signature for a contract with the Chiefs. By experimenting and masterful coaching Billy fashioned the Hawaiian youth into a jammer deluxe with 127 points scored in his rookie year. This season with the game spread wide open he's well assured of doubling his freshman figure and his sprinting, shifty style is fast becoming the mode of the league. His tutor and former coach visions the day he can proudly quip "I knew he couldn't miss being a star."

Howie Raines... 24 years old... Birthday April 5... 5ft. 4 in... 147 lbs... Hometown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Raines, one of the smallest men in the vicious circle, might have become a famous baseball player had he not chanced upon the Derby. Captain and star second sacker on the Esquire Boys All-American baseball team which played in the East-West game at the Polo Grounds in 1944, he was grabbed by the St. Louis Browns and assigned to their Springfield, Ohio Class B farm team. But on hearing what they offered him he pushed aside the contract figuring he could make a much better living working for the state highway dept. Learning that the new craze, the Roller Derby, would be a good means to cultivate his athletic assets, he picked on the rollaway sport in North Worth in 1946. Skating with Billy Bogash's Milwaukee team in Dec. '47 at the Fair Ground Park Coliseum, he found his present wife Mary Ciofani in a tryout class. Assigned to teach her the art of Derbying he found the petite rookie teaching him the art of romance. They walked up the aisle after

a short courtship in Sept. '48. The husband-wife duet was traded to N. Y. in the 1950-51 season. Though a peanut in size he's one of the most talented skaters in the league. Did he regret his baseball jump? Well he is convinced that he has made twice as much and seen a great deal more than he would have in baseball's tank towns.

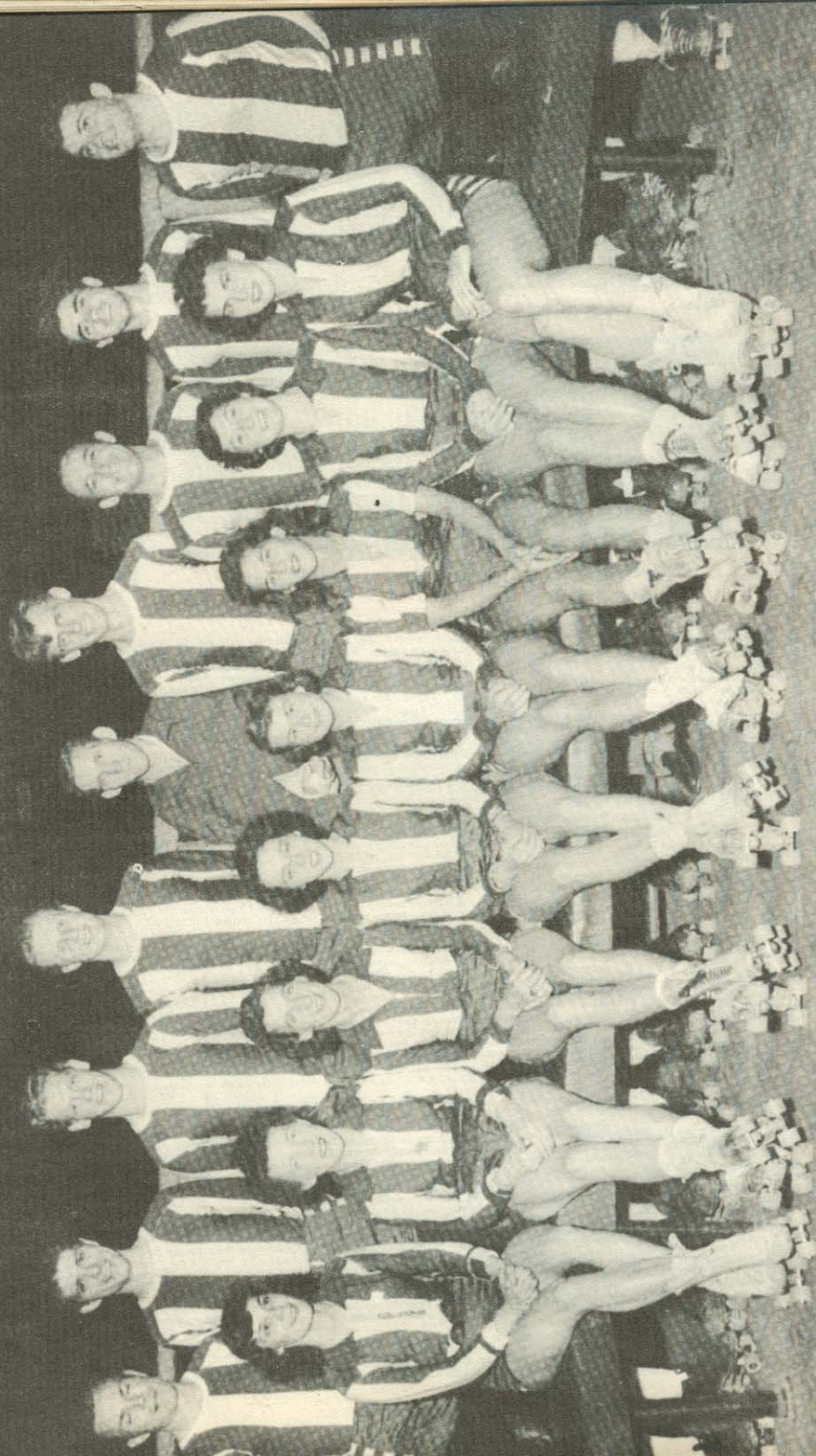
Bill Reynolds... Captain... Age 30... Birthday Nov. 30... Attended Marshall High, Aurora, Ill... 5ft. 7 in... 140 lbs... Married to Mary Gardner and has a little girl, Pamela Sue.

Probably the most colorful male skater in action he's also the most-hissed roller around. The reason stems from the bone-crushing face-mashing tactics he has dealt on all and sundry in his eleven years of track pounding. "Wild Bill" instituted the skill of bone-crushing and skull-fracturing long before the present demons knew the Derby existed. His sworn enemy for years was his brother-in-law Billy Bogash. They laid aside their relationship once they took to the track. He joined Uncle Sam's Navy in 1942 and served as a gunner's mate on the aircraft carrier, Bogue. Since returning from service he's been a scourge to his opponents. Even when they caught up with him and broke his leg a few years ago, he refused to admit defeat. Taunted for months about his being afraid to come back, he defied doctor's warnings and slammed back into action two weeks after his cast was removed. This show of courage earned him the favor of foe and friend alike. Bill has skated since for Brooklyn and Washington, coaching the latter. Age is no hindrance to the board-like Chief as he continues to spray the same destruction he concocted a dozen years ago.

Irene Rygula... 25 years old... Hometown Chicago.

You don't have to go to Hollywood to find heart-warming scenarios. The Roller Derby has its own made-to-order human interest yarns and one of them surrounds Irene Rygula. To start off with she is only 4ft. 9 1/2 in. and tips the scales at a flimsy 90 lbs. This pygmy-like stature classified her as the smallest skater to ever try out for the Derby. To support her poverty stricken family she gambled on skating but after six months on wheels, she was released because of the physical beating she had received. Packing her bags she went home with the intention of gaining some weight and practicing some more. Each time the Derby hit Chicago the spunky little gal was seen displaying renewed vigor in her workouts with the units. News of her fighting spirit had gained so much interest around the circuit that Derby officials couldn't help but give her a second chance. She's a Chief now, and even members of other teams are rooting like mad for this little battler to come through.







# THE JETS

**T**HE STORY of the Washington Jets is a tale of from "rags to riches" in one year. Organized late September 1949 when the National Roller Derby League became an actuality and a six team circuit, the Jets were hammered into the league cellar at the beginning and stayed there from their first series in October at the Uline Arena in Washington until the close of activities in May, 1950.

The original team wasn't a poor one, it was composed of good skaters and ably led by coach Bill Reynolds and captains Bob Lewis and Georgeanna Kemp. But it just couldn't get going, and although never too far off the pace, couldn't make the playoffs.

Because of the poor showing, the morale of the team and the players was very low and when the 1950-51 season began, there was a complete re-organization. Silver Rich, a tempestuous Italian from Bedford, Ohio was appointed coach and immediately he started to clean house. Trades involving several teams were instituted and out of the melee came a rejuvenated Jet team that was filled with speed, aggressiveness and team play.

The Jets didn't become sensational over night. It took time, much training and re-arranging of playing strategy. Rich finally came up with a terrific one-two punch in the men's team when he combined "Red" Smartt, speedster of the old team and present captain, with Sid Harnesk, the fleet scoring ace of the 1949-50 world's champion Jolters. Harnesk, one of the all round great skaters became a play maker, a blocker and emergency jammer. Smartt is one of the League's foremost scorers, always up among the top five. Rich, a fine leader, despite his quick temper, played every position as well as doing the coaching. Paul Pierce, Al Masiello, Lou Durando, Dave Leschmann and Roger Schroeder, all team players who have pack-blocking, both on defense and offense, down to a science, give Rich a small but well-balanced team that moved into the top half of the league early and stayed there throughout the entire season.

The Jets of 1950-51 do not in any way resemble the Jets of the previous year. They may still be the rough-necks of the National League, but they're a mighty tough crew and hard to beat.

The Jet lassies are on a par with the male skaters. They

may not possess the super abundance of glamour of some of the other femme brigades, but, and to them this is more important, they can skate like crazy and never give up trying.

Annabelle "Slugger" Kealey, one of Roller Derby's top ten feminine stars, and one hard to beat at any time, is the captain of the Jet girls. Without a doubt, the lass from Pennsylvania, who gained her early fame as a sparring mate of Midge "Toughie" Brasuhn on the Brooklyn team, can hold her own with any player in the league. Defeat to her, is just something that couldn't happen. She has been known to weep bitterly in the dressing room after dropping a particularly tough game, especially if the opposition scored when she was serving a penalty. New players, developed by Miss Kealey, with Rich's assistance, have provided a lot of the punch for the Jets. There's Gerri Abbattello, Betty Backus, and Ginger Foley, rookies a year ago and now well-seasoned vets. Vera Minenko, Jean Christner and Alice "Fuzzy" Buchek are the more experienced players who give the team the balance it has to have and all of them have been filled with that same spirit that Miss Kealey has. Gladys Sneath, the latest rookie to join the club, a former ballet dancer, appears to be one of the finds of the year and could develop into the team's fastest skater.

The Jets, like Brooklyn, do not play too many series a year on their home track in Washington. They're a traveling team, and they only hit the Uline Arena in the fall and late spring. The players all hope that they'll soon be filling in the sports spot in Washington left vacant by hockey and basketball, with a regular schedule that will see them playing many more games at Uline.

The Jets have thousands of loyal fans in Washington and the surrounding country. In fact, it was in that city, where the fans rallied by the thousands to demand greater television coverage, in order that they might see more of their favorites. It was one of the biggest tributes paid by TV sport fans to any sport or team.

The Jets have a fine start now and they'll always be a contender for championship honors if the leading trio, Coach Silver Rich, and captains "Red" Smartt and Annabelle Kealey have anything to do with it.

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**Top Row, L. to R.:** Paul Pierce; Matty Kanzler; Red Smartt, Capt.; Sid Harnesk; Dave Leschmann; Roger Schroeder; Silver Rich, Coach; Lou Durando; Al Masiello.

**Bottom Row, L. to R.:** Gerry Abbattello; Jean Christner; Annabelle "Slugger" Kealey, Capt.; Betty Backus; Vera Minenko; Alice "Fuzzy" Buchek; Gladys Sneath; Irene Van Kirk.





Annabelle Kealey

Vera Minenko

Betty Backus

Alice Buchek

Irene Van Kirk



Paul Pierce

Red Smartt

Roger Schroeder

Dave Leschmann

## JETS

**Gerri Abbate**...21 years old...5ft. 2in... Birthday August 18...Home Bronx, N. Y. Married teammate Paul Pierce in August '50...120 lbs...Troyout at Teaneck Armory. Joined Jets Feb. 18, 1950...Was 1946-47 N. Y. State Intermediate Skating Champion. Won 1947 1/4 mile U. S. Intermediate Championship at Richmond, Va. Worked as clerk in banking firm before choosing Derby. Broke Collarbone crashing into guard rail in March 1950 and was sidelined for a month. Broke Collarbone again the night she returned to the track on May 15 and this finished her for the remainder of the season. At leisure times she prefers dancing for relaxation.

**Betty Backus**...21 years old...5ft. 3in...122 lbs...single... Birthday Dec. 15...Hometown Baltimore, Md...Joined Derby in Washington, D. C. in Oct. 1949. Has skated for Brooklyn for a short spell. Was telephone operator for one year before she picked up her skates and hitchhiked to New York and Madison Square Garden for a tryout. Her eagerness attracted the fancy of Bill Reynolds and she was signed as a Derby. Most amazing feature about Betty's crashing the rock-em and sock-em sport is that she never skated until a year before stepping on the curved masonite. Coaches predict her exuberance and spirit should keep her around for a long time. Collecting miniature dogs is her hobby and swimming and skating keep her in trim.

**Joyce Bensley**...20 years old... Birthday March 17...Hails from Fort Worth, Texas... Married to teammate Red Smartt...5ft. 4in...117 lbs... Started in the Derby in Jan. 1948 in Fort Worth. Was sent to Chicago then to the Jets. Most of Joyce's make-up is Irish. She was born on St. Patrick's Day, of Scotch-Irish lineage has green eyes and Erin's relationship had her originally playing on the Green-striped Chicago Westerners.

In three years she has turned out to be the dynamo which generates the scoring punch of the vastly improved Capitol team. Gave up the drone of office typewriters for the glamour of Derby skates.

**Alice "Fuzzy" Buchek**...Age 24...Hometown Minneapolis, Minn...5ft. 4in...120 lbs... Years ago Fuzzy Buchek was the president of the Toughie Brasuhn fan club in St. Paul, Minn. She worshipped her heroine so much that she hounded her way into the Roller Derby. Made the Mighty Mine's protegee she patterned her blocking and skating after the bruising female so that in due time she began to resemble her in style. Her only worry in the years she's been whirling was that she never wanted to skate against her former idol—yet surely enough the meeting came to pass. Traded to the Jets in the start of the season she has brought the Brasuhn influence into action and is doing a mighty fine job. One of the few girls who disdains to wear a helmet. She'd sooner throw away all padding but a back injury forces her to wear a protecting cushion. Her one flagrant vanity was wearing earrings but Mary Lou Palermo took exhaustive delight in yanking them. On one occasion she almost pulled her ear out of its socket. Off the track she is Mrs. Silver Rich and has a baby girl. Received the name Fuzzy because of the way her hair stands up after a washing.

**Jean Christner**...age 29... Birthday March 23...5ft. 5in...117 lbs...Home Cleveland, Ohio.

Started in the Derby back in 1941...went into semi-retirement then returned again last August. Ageless rookie she is full of determination among a group of eager kids.

**Lou Durando**...20 years old... Birthday November 30...Joined Derby at Teaneck Armory on Feb. 15, 1950...Hometown Nutley, N. J. Quite an all-around athlete in high school. Played shortstop in baseball and quarterback in football. Worked as a roofer in his brother's business. In one year played with the Panthers, Jolters, and Westerners. Tried out for the sport for the fun of it and has been in it ever since. His ambition is to be a Glenn Davis on Roller Skates. Hobby is Archery.

**Ginger Ann Foley**...19 years old... Birthday July 12...120 lbs...5ft. 5in...Started in Derby Dec. '50...Home N. Y. City.

**Sid Harnesk**...25 years old...Single... Birthday Oct. 9...Hometown Chicago...6ft...185 lbs.

The "Wagabond on Skates" came into the Derby with a bang in March of '45. His cockiness and ultra-confidence in his first few years in the game found him baited by the other players. Fits of moodiness led him to wander from his unit on more than one occasion. His final walkout was to enlist in the Paratroopers in June of '48 where he spent 14 months until an aggravated Derby injury led to a medical discharge. Returning to the Derby he joined the Red Devils in time for a spell in the '49 World Series. Sent to the Jolters for '49-'50 season he left behind his boyhood tantrums and decided it was easier to concentrate on skating style rather than crucify himself in needless fights and brawls. He finished second the league race with 481 points to his credit. His speed and blocking ability were a keynote in the Jersey Jolters winning the World Series in 1950. Sid's blocking, jamming and fighting spirit earned him a spot on the Derby's 1951 Dream Team. Traded to Washington at the beginning of '51 season he has good chance for repeat honors on the Dream Team on the basis of his helping a team which, a year ago, finished last and is now battling for top honors.

**Matt Kanzler**...Age 24...5ft. 7in...150 lbs... Joined the Derby in April 1950...Home Bronx, N. Y.

**Sluggo Kealey**...Captain...Age 31... Birthday Nov. 20...Single...Hometown Jeanette, Pa...5ft. 5in...110 lbs.

Sent to Pittsburgh in 1938 to compete in amateur races, Sluggo Kealey found her fearlessness rewarded by an ultimate stay in the Derby. Pretty much of a back skater till she teamed up with Toughie Brasuhn in 1941. Her viciousness has resulted in broken shoulders, chipped ankles and elbows, broken nose and dental work. Her fame is being on the receiving end of chairs, bottles, shoes and umbrellas hurled by irate fans. When these stop coming she knows she's losing stature. Aside from her pummeling rival skaters she's respected as one of the trickiest as well as one of the fastest whirlers in the game. Wheeling as captain of





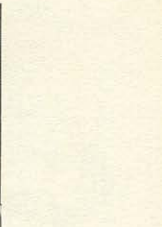
Gerri Abbate



Gladys Sneath



Ginger Foley



Jean Christner



Lou Durando



Al Masiello



Silver Rich



Sid Harnes

the Jets this year Kealey has ignited what was considered a slow crew into one of the classiest girl quintets in the league.

**Dave Leshmann**... Hometown Bartlett, Ill. ... 20 years old... Born March 27... 6ft... 190 lbs. Joined the Derby March 1949... Just when Dave was starting to flash as a veritable spark on defense he broke his arm in March, '51 and had to be sidelined for the remainder of the season.

**Al Masiello**... 22 years old... 5ft. 5in... 172 lbs... Started in the Derby Jan. of '50. Hails from Madison, N. J... The square shouldered Jet is a pretty fair scorer. Names as his foremost experience in the Derby his play in the '49-'50 World Series.

**Vera Minenko**... Age 26... Birthday May 24... Home Minneapolis, Minn.

Like any normal American youngster Vera Minenko craved to be a famous athlete. She set her hopes on stealing the sports page show as a Roller Derby skater but failed in starting trials. The Derby didn't want the Gopher State lass at first, so she tried again and again with more determination. Because of her zeal old-timers like Bogash, Illies, Viv Johnson and Fuzzy Buchek took time out to train her in the fundamentals of skating. Finally in Sept. '48 she hit the jackpot as a Jersey Jolter. Dropping out of the Derby for some years she travelled extensively abroad trying to sell paintings she created. Dissatisfied with this she tried working as a technician in a hearing aid concern only to come out of retirement for another Derby swing in Oct. '50. She's trying to round into shape and should be a top-notch performer soon.

**Paul Pierce**... 28 years old... Birthday March 18... Home Coral Gables, Fla... 5ft. 5in... 135 lbs... single.

Smallest, but most elusive man on the Washington Jets, Paul Pierce loped into the spine-bending sport when the Miami Edison High School football coach advised him to forget football and substitute an easier game in its stead. He might have been much too light for the gridiron but his skeleton form was a natural blessing to the Roller Derby. Where big wheelers find shiftness on the banks and straight-aways a difficult chore, Junior comes of such maneuvers with the grace of a ballet dancer. He tried out for the Derby in '39 but officials ruled he was too young. He finally made the team in '40. Paul donned a Navy uniform in 1945, serving as a sailor for three and a half years. Turning his back on Florida after the war he settled in Los Angeles, where he rejoined the Derby.

**Silver Rich**... Coach... 31 years old... Birthday June 8... 5ft. 6in... 160 lbs. Born a poor farmer boy in Bedford, Ohio, he topped off a story book finish when he was elevated to the post of coach of the Washington Jets last season. Silver saw his first Derby in Cleveland in 1939, and made the team there the following year. He enlisted in the paratroopers in '41 then returned to Derbying hostilities in '46. Made thirty-two jumps, all over the Pacific and escaped without a scratch. But a short time later in the Derby, he was out with an infected leg, pulled back muscles and a broken nose. Wore the number 32 on his jersey as a Panther as a symbol of the number of training and combat jumps he made as an airborne trooper. Wears number 52 as a Jet because it's the closest he can get to his lucky 32. "Germino's" dynamic leadership has instilled a winning spirit in the rest of the Jet team. He's the only skater who longs for his former sport, baseball. Silver had a pro-career on the horizon but damaged his arm in a championship high school game. Married to Fuzzy Buchek.

**Roger Schroeder**... 20 years old... Birthday April 6... Attended George Washington High N. Y. C.

Roger did a lot of his amateur skating for

the Gay Blades in New York. As an entrant in the '49 Daily News skating contest he finished second in the semi-final. In '50 he copped sixth place in the Journal-American intermediate finals. Was such an ardent Derby fan he followed the games three times a week in N. Y. area. Joined Derby Jan. '51. Has greatest thrill skating against the Chiefs, the hometown team who refused to take him.

**Red Smartt**... 21 years old... Birthday Jan. 11... 6ft... 170 lbs... Captain.

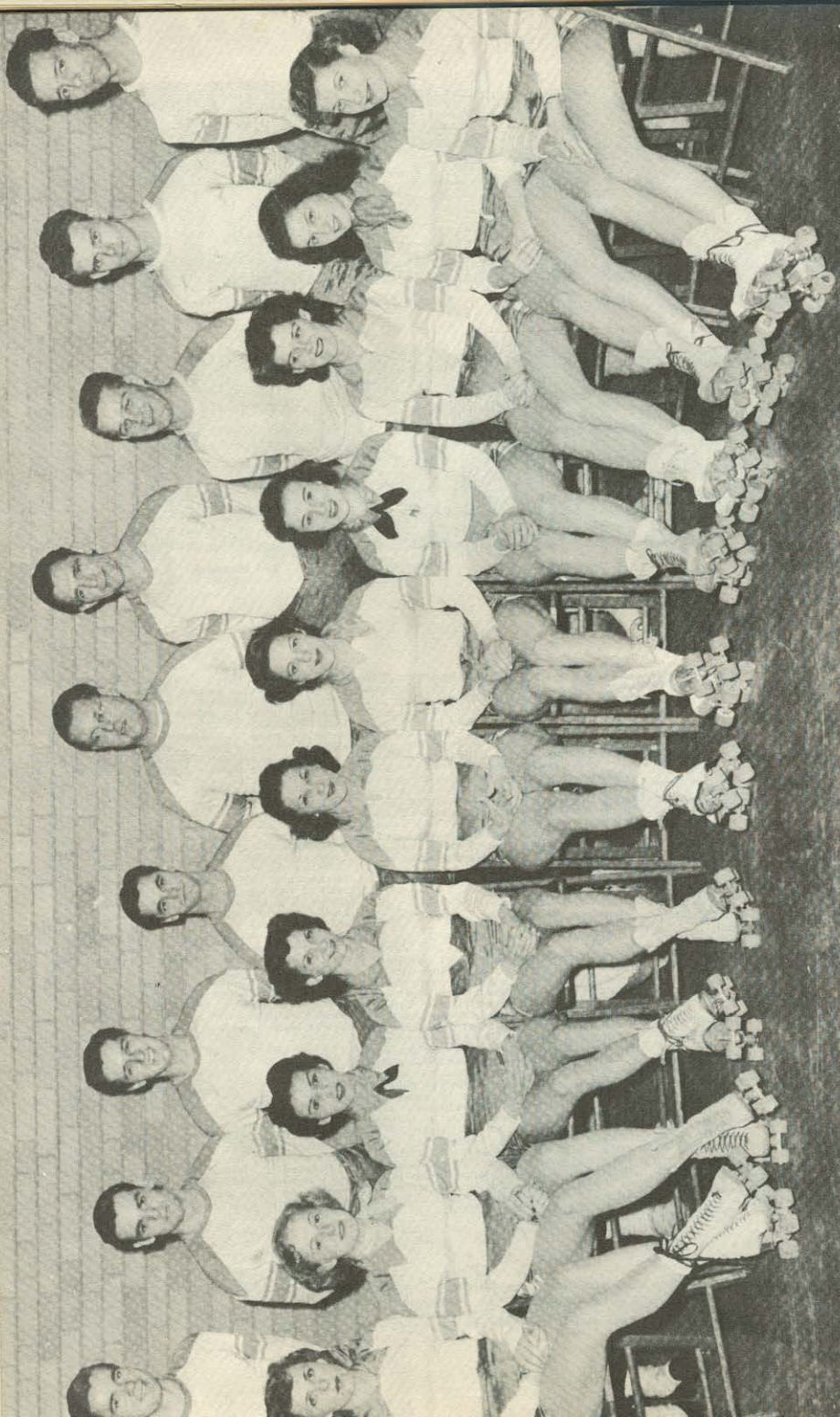
Testing the pulses of defective radios was a bit boring to Bill Smartt so he laid aside his tools to flare up pulses of irate Roller Derby skaters. The former high school football flash lined up in the Derby at his hometown in Jan. '47 ready to take his share of bumps and spills. He emerged as one of the gamest hardest-hitting scorers when he amassed 309 points for the '49-'50 season with a poor Chicago club. Traded to the cellar-ridden Jets for '50 he's turned in a magnificent performance in their pennant quest campaign. Pulled a "once in a lifetime feat" last season when he scored a grand slam lapping an entire field of pile-up skaters. Married to Joyce Beasley.

**Gladys Sneath**... 21 years old... Birthday Oct. 10... Home Jersey City, N. J... 5ft. 2in... 112 lbs.

Gladys was whirling in her ballet shoes when the Roller Derby beckoned her services. She had been studying ballet at The Carnegie Hall School for Ballet for over five years hoping to crack Broadway. Joined the Derby in April of last year being held over as a baby sitter for skaters. The Jersey miss is now a full fledged skater with the stage she banked track. Started in the Derby Jan. 51.

**Irene Van Kirk**... 24 years old... Birthday Jan. 10... Hometown Chicago, Ill... 5ft. 8in... 145 lbs... Joined the Derby in Windy City April, 1950 and was sent to the Chiefs. Her long strides resemble the kick of thumping track stars. Traded to Jets last season.







# THE JOLTERS

**T**HE FANS of New Jersey are directly responsible for the formation of the 1950 world champion Jersey Jolters—a team which has become the biggest and best drawing card in sports in the Garden State, in less than two years.

In the early summer of 1949, the Roller Derby came to Ruppert Stadium in Newark for a thirteen-game series. The management of the Derby was told to shun the spot since it was a dead end for any sport. Baseball was going very badly and a thousand fans represented a big crowd. But letters sent to the Roller Derby in New York by fans in New Jersey convinced the management that the new sport should play the Garden State.

The series in Ruppert Stadium was a huge success. It set an all-time record for Roller Derby attendance in an outdoor arena or baseball park. 110,000 fans saw the thirteen games, more than witnessed Newark baseball during the entire season of 1949.

That Derby series in the Newark park resulted in the birth of the Jolters. New Jersey fans demanded their own team when the National League was organized. The Jolters were formed on September 28th, 1949, immediately after the first Roller Derby series in Madison Square Garden. They played their first games away from home, against another newly organized club, the Jets, in the Uline Arena in Washington, D. C. The first home stand was played in the Teaneck Armory in Bergen County, during the last part of October and the first part of November 1949.

The Jolters also represent the city of Boston in the National Roller Derby League. Up until the present time, the team has been the home club during Derby engagements in parts of New England. If present plans materialize, New England will have its own home club next Fall and the Jolters will owe allegiance to New Jersey only.

The Jolters have always been colorful and have attained great status in the world of sports. No attraction of any description has played to more people in New Jersey. They set records in Teaneck, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson and at Convention Hall in Asbury Park, where the team has held sway over the past 20 months.

Many fans in the south of New Jersey have been disappointed, because in the past, the Jolters have had too heavy a schedule to permit full schedules there. That has been rectified and, barring emergencies, the Jolters will appear in Trenton and Camden during the 1951-52 season.

Heroes and heroines in Roller Derby abound in the Jersey lineup. In growing up, the team has had its internal problems but with those problems solved it is

once again a close knit competent club.

New Jersey, a state that has contributed more skaters to the Roller Derby than any other, with the exception of Illinois, can point with pride to its representatives on the home club. Two of the more illustrious, Frank Baeli and Herbie Plump, both of Hackensack, are on leave of absence with the U. S. Army. Other Jerseyites are Arlynn Buchmann, also of Hackensack, 1950 Roller Derby Queen and one of the country's most photogenic lassies; Millie Bruno of Lodi, a young lady who may become the sprint champion of the sport; Eliza Kruck of Newark; Dick Wehner of Hackensack; Joe Marinaro of Passaic and Lou Durando of Nutley. "Rusty" Brand, colorful and promising rookie from Red Bank, joined the Women's Army Corps.

Russ Baker, a great defensive star and a fine sprinter in his younger days, is the present coach of the New Jersey team. A smart and aggressive leader, Baker has molded a well balanced crew out of a lineup that has changed much because of illness, the draft and other causes. Still skating, Baker hopes that in a very short time, he'll be able to manage from the bench and leave the track work to his players.

Naturally, when one thinks of the Jolters, they think of Carl Payne. With the exception of the time when he was feudin' with the Derby management, he has been a great star and a definite influence for the Derby, both on and off the track. Carl was the first coach and is now captain. The Jolters have a top rookie as their male scoring ace, Charlie Schuchart of Reading, Pennsylvania. Don Taylor and Buddy Kemp are two other youngsters who are fine jammers. Don Lewis is an all-round performer whom Baker is making into a great defensive man.

Paul Millane, veteran speedster, who has been away from the Derby for many years, should be the outstanding scorer during the 1951-52 season and a power in the World Series this year. Bob Gilmore and John Millane, Paul's brother, are new recruits and much is expected from them.

The New Jersey girls squad, 1950-51 model, really have it. Captained by Mary Lou Palermo, the lineup boasts Julie Patrick, Jean Porter, Monta Jean Payne, all great stars and all-round players, who can both block and jam. Then, there are Renee Randle; Norma Rossner, a gal plagued by injuries but now back in shape; Freida Hopkinson; and the New Jersey girls, Bruno, Kruck and Buchmann. There isn't a stronger or better all-round skating unit than that one.

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**Top Row, L. to R.:** Mike O'Hara; Charlie Schuchart; Don Taylor; Joe Marinaro; Russ Baker, Coach; Carl "Moose" Payne, Capt.; Don Lewis; "Buddy" Kemp; Dick Renneman.

**Bottom Row, L. to R.:** Monta Jean Payne; Eliza Kruck; Jean Porter; Millie Bruno; Mary Lou Palermo, Capt.; Julie Patrick; Renee Randle; Freida Hopkinson; Arlynn Buchmann; Norma Rossner.





Mary Lou Palermo

Monta Jean Payne

Jean Porter

Millie Bruno

Arlyne Buchmann



Russ Baker



Carl Payne



Buddy Kemp

Don Lewis

## JOLTERS

**Frank Boell**...21 years old... Birthday Sept. 2... 5ft. 5in... 148 lbs... Hometown Hackensack, N. J... Started Feb. '49... Is now in the Army.

**Russ "Rosie" Baker**... Coach... 33 years old... 6ft... 205 lbs... Home Chicago... Married to Annis Jensen and has two small children.

Known as the round man of the rolling riot, he broke into Derbying in the most unusual manner. He was working for Leo Seltzer, at the Chicago Coliseum back in '38, doing odd jobs with no thought of skating. An accident involving several skaters had the Mathatma of Wheelodm scrambling for replacements for the evening's show. That's where Russ Baker came in. Grinding on wheels for the first time, his shattering blocks made a favorable impression on his boss. Rosie hit so hard from a stationary position that Mr. Seltzer thought he had at last found a facsimile Rock of Gibraltar. He remained in the game till '44 when a severe spine injury forced him into what started a chain of semi-retirements. Back to the Coliseum and track superintendent, his longing for the boards had him wincing on every jam. When Roller Derby invaded the East in '48 he was given charge of the Brooklyn unit and continued to skate under the doctor's care. But that old injury persisted and Russ made another bid at getting his prize skates. Even the offer of a skillful job as head carpenter didn't dim his yearning for the ruffian sport. When his name was all but laid to rest with the greats of other years, a familiar figure greeted Derby fans last January in a Jolter uniform... it was Russ Baker back at it again.

**Millie Bruno**... Age 19... Hometown Lodi, N. J... 5ft. 2in... 112 lbs. Millie was New Jersey State Intermediate Champion in the quarter, half and mile flat races in 1946. She blazed to the same titles in '47, but in the senior division. Tried out for the Derby and made it when she was 17, but lack of parent's consent constrained her from participating at this age. In July of 1949, she got the green light and joined the Jersey combine at Newark, N. J. Resembling a dwarf, she's a blockbuster on wheels and a key to many scoring plays for the Jolters. Rated one of the fastest and cleverest whirlers in a league. Her greatest thrill came when she skated with the World Series Winners of 1950. Off the track she spends her spare time riding horses.

**Arlyne Buchmann**... 18 years old... Home Hackensack, N. J... Single... 5ft. 5in... 120 lbs... Bust 36in... Waist 23in... Hips 36in... Blue eyes... brunette... French-German descent... Member Jersey Jolters 1950 World Series Winners.

One try on the banked track at Teaneck Armory was enough practice to protect Arlyne Buchmann into the Roller Derby. Although she scored her first point shortly after entering the

whirl-o-wheels sport, her skating ability was soon to take a backseat to her closely admired pulchritude. An avalanche vote of over 6000 fans in a contest sponsored by Roller Derby News, the organization's newspaper, perched this glamorous roller on the Queen's Throne as Miss Roller Derby of 1950. This honor paved the way for appearances on the Peter Lind Hayes Show, Bert Park's Show, "What's My Line," and a tennis stunt at the 71st Regiment Armory for the benefit of the National Theatre Association. The demurely happy lass received a four page picture spread in the Nov. 16, 1950 issue of Look Magazine. Soon followed the honor of being selected New Jersey's QUEEN OF THE HEART FUND for 1951. The secret of her posing technique can be traced to the fact that she modeled bathing suits before donning a skaters uniform. After high school she passed up a bid from a well known model agency to devote her time to skating, but soon found she was in even more demand as a cover girl. Finished 8th in the Metropolitan Beauty Contest in March 1951. Was in competition with over 250 magazine models and Broadway show girls.

**Gloria Christian**... 20 years old... Hometown Clarkstown, N. J... Playing with the Linden Arena softball team in an amateur softball league, she hit a cool 482 to lead the league and pull her team to the state title. On the basketball side of the Linden Arena's team, she scored 608 points for the 1948 season. In 1949 she was signed with the popular Chicago Salles baseball team of the Mid-West league, but an injury called a halt to this career. Her next sports venture saw her Hot Rodding it in Philadelphia stock car races. But again misfortune was riding the herd when she cracked-up in a torture race, forcing the time being her dared devil antics were over due to her parents disapproval. Determined to vent her emotion on another sport, Gloria landed a shot at the Roller Derby and, as usual, was an immediate success. Wasn't long wheeling when a blast into the protecting rail fractured her shoulder and all but ended her Derby career.

**Bob Gilmore**... 25 years old... Birthday Dec. 2... 155 lbs... 6ft. 1in... Hails from Chicago. Started in the Derby April 51. Has breakaway speed which should make him one of the league's better jammers in the future.

**Freida Hopkinson**... Age 22... Birthday Sept. 4... Hometown San Francisco.

April Fool's Day is known as a day for perpetrating hoaxes. To Freida Hopkinson, this was the day she entered the Derby in 1950 and Jerry clouds were brewing overhead. Less than 27 days after her tryout at Chicago she fractured her elbow and was sidelined for four months. Returning to action with the Jets, she greeted with a black eye and again landed on the bench. When this bruise was healed, Silver Rich's roster was filled, and thus Freida was packed off to the Jolters at the start of the season. On her comeback trail she suffered a badly bruised leg and once more sat it out. To

take no chances on her rather fragile leanings, Coach Russ Baker has had to make her a pack skater, exploiting her blocking ability. Her biggest thrill since getting into uniform was the skating scene she made in "Fireball," the Mickey Rooney picture about the Derby.

**Johnny Karp**... Single... Age 24... Hometown Chicago... 5ft. 7in... 158 lbs.

A natural athlete, Johnny was co-captain of his high school football team, member of the wrestling team and intermediate amateur boxing champion. His education was interrupted for 26 months while he served as a member of a B-24 bomber crew in the European Theater of Operations. After his discharge, Karp entered Wilson Jr. College and went to work evenings as a rink instructor. Latched onto the Derby in Jan. 1948 and in a meteoric rise was made captain a year and a half later. Skating intermittently during the 49-50 season, he shaded on the spectacular whenever he blazed his form around the curved oval. Returning for the Gold and Glory classic last year he teamed with Coach Moose Payne to steal the show. A skater's skater, Karp was forced to bow out of competition during part of this season on doctor's orders. Is classed as one of the best all-around whirlers in the business by virtue of his being able to skate as fast backwards as he does forwards.

**Buddy Kemp**... 21 years old... 5ft. 7in... 150 lbs... Hometown Indianapolis, Ind. Never did a guy enter the Derby with more of a handicap than trying to live up to the reputations of his two sisters, Georganna and Monta Jean, who were already stars and captains of their respective teams. Youngest of the Kemp caravan, Buddy received his first pair of skates from his brother-in-law, Moose Payne. He had but one alternative, to try out with the Roller Derby. Facing his skates for the first time he was an immediate hit. The long striding Hoosier has come a long way in perpetuating the famous name of Kemp.

**Eliza Kruck**... 19 years old... Birthday June 6... 5ft. 5in... 130 lbs... Home Rochelle Park, Ill. Joined Derby Jan. '50.

**Don Lewis**... 21 years old... 5ft. 8in... 180 lbs... Birthday Sept. 8... Attended Lakeview High in Chicago... Married to Jean Porter and has a girl Linda Dale. The 5ft. 8in., hundred and eighty pound bull used to ram the line as a football star in high school, but now uses his bulging body to take out potential scorers in the thrill-a-minute skating sport. Don was a star in his own right on flat tracks before entering the Derby, as is evidenced by the laurels he garnered as 1946 Illinois State Junior Champ in the 220, 440 and 880 yard. Don spent two years in the Army Medical Corps. Skated since 1947 with the original Jolters and was a main factor in their 1950 Series triumph. Has a reputation as a booming blocker and one of the hardest men to bring down at the whole assemblage. A boy with a real promising future.





**Norma Rossner**

**Freida Hopkinson**

**Julie Patrick**

**Renee Randle**

**Eliza May Kruck**



**Johnny Millane**

**Charles Schuchart**

**Joe Marinaro**

**Don Taylor**

**Paul Millane**

**Joe Marinaro**...23 years old...Birthday Sept. 27...5ft. 4in...145 lbs...Hails from Passaic, N. J....Joined last year.

**Paul Millane**...Age 29...Home Chicago...One of the all time greats in Derby history. Paul started way back when. In between he has barnstormed as a skater in Europe and doubled for various actors in Hollywood...His most notable performance was stunting for Mickey Rooney in the moving picture, "Fireball". Made such a comeback this year that he's classed as one of the stars of the game.

**John Millane**...Age 26...Home Chicago...Like brother Paul was an old timer on the banked track. Made a comeback this season with the Jolters.

**Mary Lou Palermo**...Captain...Single...24 years old...Birthday March 20...5ft. 3in...120 lbs...brown eyes...Home Chicago, Ill...Hitch-hiking to Chattanooga, by way of Montana in order to join the Derby might seem silly on the part of a Chicago girl, but most anything Mary Lou Palermo does hinges on the fantastic. This episode took place some six years ago and since then many chapters have been added to her colorful career. Spurred on to the Derby by her father, a devotee of the original marathon races, Lu-Lu latched on to the Chiefs directly from high school in Dec. '45. Few in the memory of the game, have paralleled her in all-around polish, cleverness of mind and feet, courage and intestinal fortitude. Her share of accolades runs like this. Sparked the Chiefs to the World Series ribbon in '49...scored 307 points to rank sixth in scoring in the '49-'50 race...was elected to the All-American team the same year...named captain of Jersey for her qualifying leadership as a player on two previous teams, the Jets and Chiefs. As an example of her enormous popularity, she would probably win hands down any vote as to who was the most effective blocker in the '50-'51 campaign. Her back-breaking skating has badgered her into numerous scuffles in her long and turbulent term awhile and as a result—many a skater bears the scar of her one vicious trait—biting. Skating with an injured shoulder last season and winning on every jolt, Lou-Lou exhibited rare courage in refusing to sit out her convalescence.

**Julie Patrick**...Age 24...Birthday May 7...Hometown Buffalo, N. Y....Was on the swimming and ski teams in high school. Back in Buffalo Julie earned a reputation as the female "Sam Spade" for foiling a trio of holdup men while cashing in a local theater. Also aided gendarmes in tracking down a hit and run driver. Her many friends among the police and newspaper men tabbed her "Ace" for her heroic deeds. Jumped into the Derby in 1947 when Billy Bogash caught her smooth rolling style on the Chiefs tour upstate. Was taught the rudiments of style by the master, then shipped to Brooklyn where Brasuhn regaled her on blocking and ruggedness. Switching to Jersey, she was number two skater on the squad when

she got her break replacing injured Monta Jean Payne as acting captain. Received showers of praise for her grand job of jamming and blocking for the '50 Series winning Jolters. Her unselfishness in aiding the Cerebral Palsy Drive of Bergen County, N. J. on several occasions has endeared her to a host of Jersey fans.

**Herbie Plump**...19 years old...5ft. 8in...150 lbs...Hometown Hackensack, N. J....Started skating in June of '49...Fast becoming one of the better blockers in the league, his skating career has been cut short for a while—he is now in the U. S. Army.

**Moose Payne**...Captain...28 years old...6ft. 1in...195 lbs...Married to Monta Jean Payne and father of five year old son, Randy...Joined the Derby in 1940 at Columbus, Ohio after a brilliant high school athletic career that won him All-Ohio interscholastic honors as a football and baseball player. His baseball prowess earned him a contract with the Cincinnati Reds but a sterling career was halted by a chipped elbow. On the verge of Derby stardom when he was called into service for two years, when his return to active play saw him carry on where he left off, skating with even more brilliance than before. With the '49 Chiefs Moose was a stellar performer in the World Series. Switching to a veteran-shy Jolter team as coach a year ago, Carl sparkplugged them to the Series crown and added greater honors for himself. His acclaim as the league's most effective blocker and one of the leading scorers earned him the exalted "Most Valuable Player" Award for 1950 and a spot on the Dream Team. Received his highest praise from a former teammate and dean of the Roller Derby, Billy Bogash, for his inspiration and guidance to the '50 Jolters. "He belongs in a Roller Derby Hall of Fame," echoed Bogash, "has made a veteran team out of a bunch of green kids and at the same time never let his own play suffer."

**Monta Jean Payne**...27 years old...5ft. 6in...127 lbs...green eyes...Joined Derby in 1940 in Indianapolis, Ind....Married Moose Payne in 1941 and has a 5 year old son, Randy...Was the first of the fabulous scrums to enter the Derby. A veteran of eleven years, Monta Jean broke into action as a shy kid of 17, but before long, the many bruises got her steam up and she engendered destruction of serious ankle injury. Led the Garden Staters in the post season classic. Has the distinction of playing on two straight Series winners. Monta Jean dropped out of the Derby in '46 to devote all her time to her son, but rejoined in her sister, Georganna Kemp. Finished fourth in the post season classic. Has the distinction of playing on two straight Series winners. Monta Jean dropped out of the Derby in '46 to devote all her time to her son, but rejoined in her sister, Georganna Kemp. Finished fourth in the post season classic. Has the distinction of playing on two straight Series winners. Monta Jean dropped out of the Derby in '46 to devote all her time to her son, but rejoined in her sister, Georganna Kemp. Finished fourth in the post season classic. Has the distinction of playing on two straight Series winners.

was voted to the women's Dream Team the same year. Being one of the prettiest girls in the Derby doesn't deter her reputation as one of the most versatile whippers and grand slam engineers in competition.

**Jean Porter**...21 years old...Birthday Jan. 31...Jean is a real Mohawk Indian. Broke in with the Chiefs in Buffalo in '47...Home Buffalo, N. Y. Married to Don Lewis and has a girl Linda Dale. Skated with the Chiefs in the '49 World Series. Appeared in a documentary film showing how she entered the Derby and this film, released in '49, has been shown all over the U. S. Jean has a very smooth style of skating.

**Renee Randle**...21 years old...Birthday April 10...5ft. 2in...130 lbs...Home Chicago, Ill. Renee is a steady and dependable skater. Engineered in the Derby May '49.

**Norma Rossner**...Age 19...Birthday March 19...5ft. 6in...Home Chicago, Ill...Joined the Derby March '49. Has made such a hit as a blocker the past two seasons that skating experts foresee her name in the future galaxy of stars.

**Charlie Schuchart**...20 years old...Birthday July 17...5ft. 9in...162 lbs...Home Reading, Pa...A little over a year in Roller Derby has Shoo Schuchart making headway towards positive stardom. Knowing he had found a potential great when he picked him out of a trial class at Camden in Jan. of last year, Elbows Anderson paid special attention to this comet on wheels. Anderson's intuition proved true the past season as the Reading specialist virtually skated himself into the rookie of the year post. Displaying sheer natural ability, he's already broken the crest of established scorers clinging to the top ten throughout the season. Given a Shoo Shoo in the Philadelphia last year, Charlie broke the standard celebrity night jinx by playing the best game of his short career. Before Derbying, he did a stint as a truck driver for a couple of years.

**Don Taylor**...Age 19...Home Detroit, Mich...Don Taylor almost missed the boat on a chance at the Roller Derby. When he tried out for the thrill-a-second merry-go-round last summer, his summons to start training pretty nearly never caught up with him. Don waited for two months after his tryout and when he hadn't heard from Gene Gammon he went down to the Air Force recruiting center for his enlistment papers. That was on Sept. 5, but on the day he was to return with his papers and be sworn in, the notice came to report to the Chiefs the next day in Buffalo. And just about everyone who has seen him in action agrees that the Air Corps loss is the Derby's gain. Don hooked up with the Jolters at mid-season and has established himself as the No. 2 jammer on the team. This is a boy worth watching and his future is certainly going to be spiced with many Derby thrills.



# WORLD SERIES AND LEAGUE

## NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY LEAGUE

### 1950 TEAM SCORING

Team	Pts. For	Pts. Agst.
Panthers	2661	2531
Chiefs	2488	2286
Jolters	2603	2496
Red Devils	2296	2318
Westerners	2265	2345
Jets	2253	2667

### 1950 ALL-AMERICAN VOTING

MEN		WOMEN	
PLAYER AND TEAM	VOTES	PLAYER AND TEAM	VOTES
Bill Bogash, Chiefs	36,724	Gerry Murray, Chiefs	42,613
Carl Payne, Jolters	32,453	Monta Joan Payne, Jolters	41,119
Spec Saunders, Panthers	32,007	Midge Brasuhn, Red Devils	37,345
Ken Monte, Red Devils	27,562	Mary Gardner, Jets	23,267
Sid Harnesk, Jolters	25,984	Mary Lou Palermo, Chiefs	23,178
Sam Skobel, Red Devils	24,629	Annis Jensen, Westerners	22,897
Johnny Karp, Jolters	23,278	Annabelle Kealey, Red Devils	22,128
Elmer Anderson, Panthers	21,863	Bobbie Johnstone, Panthers	20,897
Silver Rich, Jets	20,648	Georgeanna Kemp, Jets	18,996
Gene Gammon, Chiefs	18,756	Ann Calvello, Panthers	18,382
Russ Massro, Chiefs	15,765	Julie Patrick, Jolters	16,983
Bob Lewis, Jets	14,943	Mary Clofani, Westerners	16,382
Buddy Atkinson, Panthers	12,872	Bobbie Burns, Jolters	15,629
Bob Satterfield, Westerners	10,673	Alice Edwards, Chiefs	14,211
Bill Reynolds, Jets	9,741	Mary Youpelle, Panthers	14,209

### 1950 INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Twelve men and six women finished over the three hundred mark in total points scored, for the 1949-1950 season, according to the official statistics compiled by the National Roller Derby League.

The Panthers dominated the men's division, placing three skaters in the top ten. Spec Saunders led his two mates,

Buddy Atkinson and Hal Janowitz, as well as the rest of the male skaters, with 503 points.

The women's division was a different story. Four teams placed two girls each in the first ten, with the Jets and Panthers having one girl apiece to round out the honor roll.

The complete season records follow:

MEN			WOMEN		
Saunders, Pan.	503	Rupp, Panth.	108	Murray, Chiefs	536
Harnesk, Jolt.	481	Buckholtz, Dev.	104	Brasuhn, Devils	531
Lewis, Jets	439	Vogt, Panth.	98	Clofani, West.	530
Atkinson, Panth.	391	Goldberg, Chiefs	84	Payne, Jolt.	346
Monte, Devils	387	Kemp, Jets	83	Gardner, Jets	319
Janowitz, Pan.	382	Lewis, Devils	79	Palermo, Chiefs	307
Massro, Chiefs	367	Fuoti, Jolt.	78	Jensen, West.	289
Payne, Jolt.	358	Murro, Devils	77	Kealey, Devils	285
Bogash, Chiefs	356	Davis, Panth.	61	Edwards, Chiefs	274
Raines, West.	351	Wall, West.	57	Calvello, Panth.	264
Smart, West.	309	Cabral, Chiefs	55	Patrick, Jolt.	239
Satterfield, W.	302	Duckworth, Jolt.	53	Johnstone, Pan.	235
Skobel, Devils	271	Masiello, Jolt.	51	Brasuhn, Jolt.	234
Gammon, Chiefs	238	Marchese, Chiefs	48	Johnson, Devils	231
Karp, Jolt.	230	Greenwood, Jolt.	41	Burns, Jolt.	231
Reynolds, Jets	217	Greig, Jets	38	Brendt, Chiefs	202
Plump, Jolt.	212	Leschman, Devils	34	McAuliff, Panth.	201
Pierce, Jets	175	Rixman, West.	32	Boasley, West.	192
Rich, Jets	172	Perry, Devils	26	Kemp, Jets	198
Atkinson, West.	164	Eckstein, Devils	19	Thomas, Jets	178
Panzlitta, Devils	159	Bongo, West.	15	Smalley, Chiefs	156
Kosmal, Chiefs	147	Weinmier, Pan.	13	Virvo, Panth.	137
Caldor, Jets	141	Battista, West.	9	Misud, Panth.	132
Monte, Chiefs	139	Anderson, Panth.	9	Boyd, West.	118
Baeli, Jolt.	138	Keller, Jets	7	Hager, Devils	107
Noa, Chiefs	127	Wahner, Jolt.	6	Brober, Jets	104
Chenault, Jets	121	Lewis, Jolt.	5	Bruno, Jolt.	101
				Doss, Panth.	83
				Licursi, West.	53
				Behrens, Jets	45
				Karren, Jets	34
				Harris, Panth.	30
				Abbatello, Jets	29
				Lenevitch, Jets	28
				Rushing, Chiefs	27
				Hill, Panth.	24
				Knoch, Jets	24
				Cleirbaur, West.	21
				Christian, Jolt.	16
				Backus, Devils	16
				Gardner, Chiefs	15
				Gray, Jets	14
				Knox, West.	12
				Bush, Devils	11
				Arvay, Chiefs	9
				Anderson, West.	6
				Clements, Devils	6
				Fleck, Jolt.	5
				Turner, West.	5
				Pernick, Jolt.	5
				Floyd, West.	4
				Mateer, Chiefs	3
				Moschen, Chiefs	3
				Buchmann, Jolt.	2
				Protolipac, Devils	0



# UE RECORDS

GUE

## 1949 Awards

Chesterfield Team Award ..... New York  
Longines Watch for Most Valuable Male Star ..... Billy Bogash  
Longines Watch for Most Valuable Female Star ..... Midge Brasuhn

## 1950 Awards

Chesterfield Team Award ..... Jersey Jolters  
Blatz Most Valuable Player Award (Male) ..... Moose Payne  
Blatz Most Valuable Player Award (Female) ..... Midge Brasuhn  
Longines Award for Rookie of the Year (Male) ..... Hank Goldberg  
Longines Award for Rookie of the Year (Female) ..... Becky Thomas  
Ludwig Baumann Trophy for Girl of the Year ..... Gerry Murray  
Roller Derby Queen ..... Arlynne Buchmann

### HIGHEST GAME SCORE

Panthers 60—Jets 12

January 12, 1951

### LOWEST GAME SCORE

Jets 8—Westerners 6

March 23, 1950

### MOST POINTS IN A SINGLE GAME

Ken Monte 17

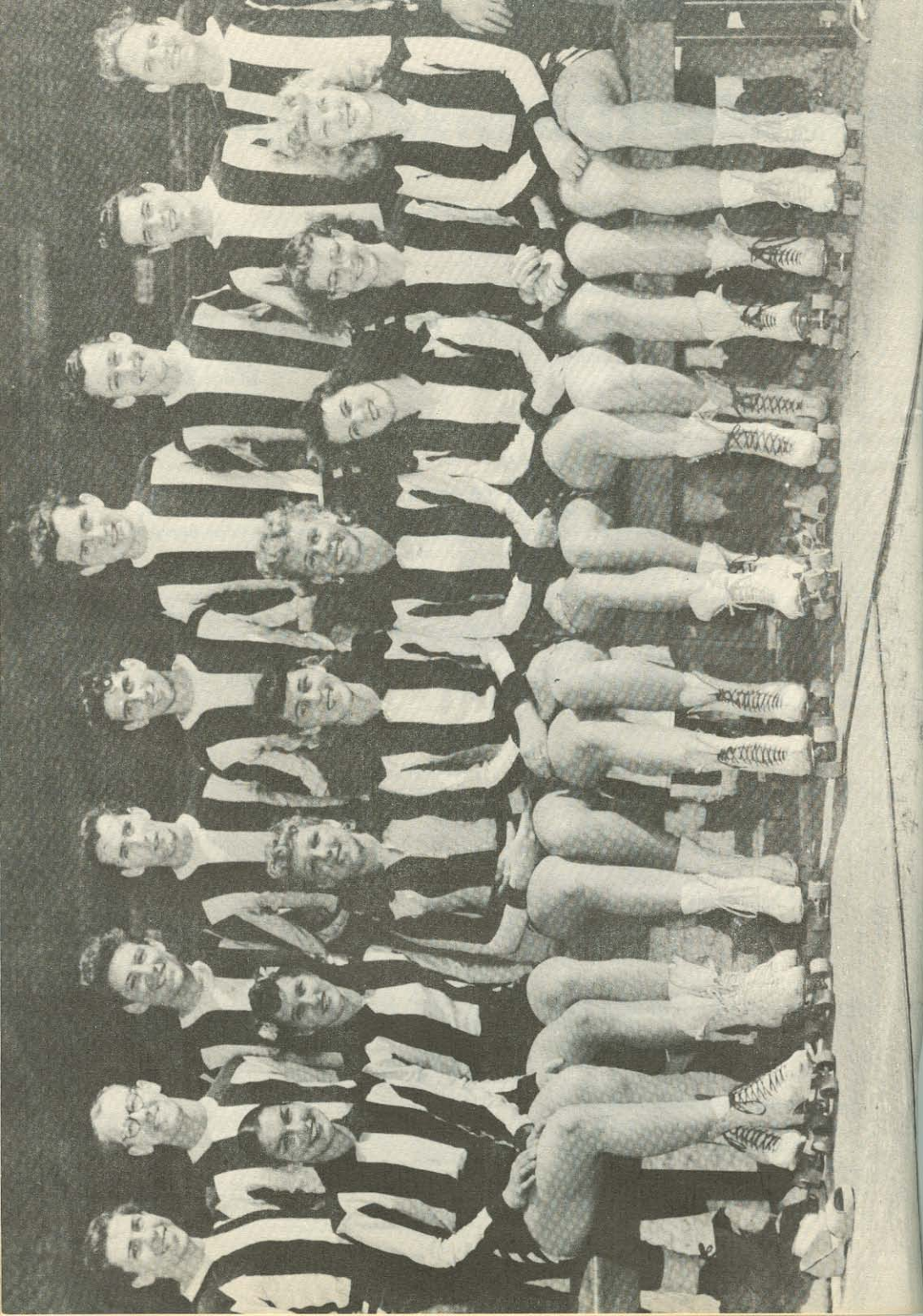
Gerry Murray 16

### MOST 5 POINTERS IN A SINGLE SEASON

Monta Jean Payne 31

Billy Bogash 27







# THE PANTHERS

**T**HE PHILADELPHIA PANTHERS are another of the original National Roller Derby League teams. The Panthers were known as the Philly-Bronx team in the first Madison Square Garden World Series in October of 1949.

Coached from their formation by Elbows Anderson, the Panthers have a reputation for roughness which they try to live up to. In general, they succeed. The captain of that original Panther team was Silver Rich, who has since become the playing-leader of the Washington Jets.

Others on the early Panthers were Spec Saunders, Hal Janowitz, George Vogt and Buddy Atkinson for the boys, and Iris Ashbacher, Mary Youpelle, Fuzzy Buchek and Bobbie Johnstone for the girls.

In the 1949-50 season the Panthers, finishing with a late rush, won the regular season pennant by a 2½ game margin over the World Champion Chiefs. Sparked by the great scoring of Spec Saunders, who led the men's division with 503 points in the regular season play, the Panthers were odds-on choice in the World Series.

However, seeded into the semi-finals the Panthers were eliminated by the Brooklyn Red Devils. During the summer fewer changes were made in the Panther personnel than in any other team—the most important being the trade which saw Gloria Brendt don a black and white shirted uniform.

For the first half of the 1950-51 pennant race, the Panthers were fighting for the league lead. The team was paced by veterans, Saunders, Janowitz and Atkinson and Johnstone, Brendt, Calvello, Doss and McAuliff. Then Coach Anderson made a few bad trades, sending two of the most promising rookies, Charlie Schuchart and Lou Guzman, to the Jolters and Chiefs respectively.

With the banning of the elbow block in December of 1950, the entire style of the Panthers was outdated. Up

to this time, the Philadelphia team had depended on power plays for most of their points. Now, speed was of paramount importance. The Panthers were slow to adapt themselves to the new style and slipped to the unfamiliar regions of last place in a few short months.

The coaching and wheeling strain proved too much for a great competitor like Elbows Anderson. Already weakened by malaria, incurred during his World War II Service in the OSS, Anderson resigned as coach in February.

The new coach is Buddy Atkinson and he has instilled a fighting spirit in the team. Buddy is building for the future and lists newcomers Terri Anderson and Bob Venter as future stars.

The Panthers have been one of the unluckiest teams of the year. Injuries took a terrific toll, and on top of that, illness thinned their ranks frequently. Gloria Brendt, a girl who was counted upon to really increase the scoring punch, was out for weeks with a virus infection. Carmen Zeni, candidate for the Roller Derby Queen of 1951, and one of the finest femme rookies, was stricken with appendicitis in late March and lost to the squad for the rest of the season.

In the glamour circuit the Panthers don't take a back seat to any team in the league. Gloria Brendt, Joan Hill, Carmen Zeni and Ann Calvello could step in for models at any time.

The city of Camden also adopted the Panthers as their home team and gave Buddy Atkinson and company a royal welcome. Atkinson, a veteran of many years service stepped into a difficult role when he took over Elmer Anderson's coaching job. He had much work to do and his astute maneuvering will be felt more during the coming season than it was in the final months of the 1950-51 campaign.

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**Top Row, L. to R.:** Hank Goldberg; Charlie Saunders, Capt.; Jim Ciota; Hal Janowitz; Tony Prostamo; Vinnie Clarkin; Bob Venter; Ken Hansen; Buddy Atkinson, Coach.

**Bottom Row, L. to R.:** Gloria Brendt; Gloria McAuliff; Terri Anderson; Dolores Doss; Ann Calvello; Joan Hill; Ann Penderghast; Bobbie Johnstone, Capt.





Gloria Brendt

Bobbie Johnstone

Ann Calvello

Carmen Zeni



Buddy Atkinson

Ken Hansen

Harold Janowitz

Hank Goldberg

## PANTHERS

**Elbows Anderson** ... Retired Coach ... 5ft. 9in. ... 160 lbs. ... 31 years old ... Home Chicago, Ill. ... Was 880-yard Illinois Tri-State Track Champion in 1934.

Graduated from Northwestern Univ. School of Music, he served his apprenticeship as a piano player in Chicago's better night spots. Went to London and the Oxford Conservatory for enriched education on the keys. He reached musical heights when he teamed up with Alex Templeton's band, assisting the master on the keyboard. Dropped music for the war interim and won his pilot's wings in '42. Served three years overseas as an OSS officer in the 15th Air Force. Back from the wars he joined the Derby in '45, retiring after two years. En route to Texas in '47 to start his own rink he was embroiled in a train crash which almost took his life. A disc between his vertebrae was thrown out of place and a doctor's diagnosis revealed he'd never walk again. Refusing to believe his skating career was over he took a job as rink manager for Leo Seltzer at the Arcadia Rink in his hometown. Then exercised enough he donned skates in the Derby in '48. As coach of the Panthers he personified the spirit of gameness. Received the nickname "Elbows" for his style of blocking—jabbing enemy jammers with his elbow. When Elmer retired in mid-season of '51 the curtain rang down on one of the greatest blockers in Roller Derby history.

**Terri Anderson** ... 21 years old ... Birthday Feb. 4 ... Home Plainfield, N. J. ... 5ft. 4in. ... 137 lbs. ... Joined Derby Jan. 27, 1950 at the Paterson Army and was sent to the Westerners. Traded to the Panthers after a short stay with Chicago. Terri amassed 41 points in her freshman year while learning to be one of the most powerful blockers in the league. Rugged play is her forte and she is a mighty important asset in the power play pattern of the Philadelphia team. Employed as a stenographer in a leading Fifth Avenue department store before the Derby blood got in her veins. Her passion for adventure and devil-may-care attitude are satisfied when she exercises her pet hobby—flying airplanes. Terri has almost 30 solo hours to her credit!

**Buddy Atkinson** ... Coach ... 34 years old ... Birthday Oct. 28 ... Hometown New York City ... Married to teammate Bobbie Johnstone ... They have two children Buddy Jr., and Julie Jeanne. Joined Roller Derby back in 1937 and has been with Philadelphia since 1939. Previous occupation carpet layer. Served three years with the infantry in the Philippines. Brother of Tommy Atkinson of the Westerners. Buddy is one of the most colorful and exciting personalities in the game. Being the fiery competitor that he is, this Panther roller often provokes the crowds to the point of mass hysteria. In his 14 years as a top flight skater he has sustained numerous injuries and concussions.

Placed fourth in league scoring with 391 points and was a large reason why the Panthers won the pennant in 1950. Ironically enough he claims that his hometown New York is the worst city to skate because of the unfriendly welcome he receives from the fans. Golfing is his hobby.

**Alice Breber** ... Age 19 ... Birthday April 13 ... Hometown Milwaukee, Wis. ... 5ft. 3in. ... 125 lbs. ... Blue eyes. Married to teammate Jimmy Calder. Had baby in Jan. 1951. Started in Derby at Washington, D. C. May 9, 1949. Saw the Derby when she was 12 years old and made for her. Five years of hard practice on local Milwaukee rinks smoothed the rough edges of her skating making her eligible for tryout. Beaver as she is known to her teammates suffered two serious injuries since joining the sport—a broken cartilage in her left knee and a broken nose. She is probably one of the most talented girls in Roller Derby owing to the fact that she was an all-around athlete in high school, plays the piano, does ballet dancing and bowls a mean 135.

**Gloria Brendt** ... 21 years old ... Birthday April 6 ... 5ft. 3in. ... 120 lbs. ... brown eyed ... French Descent ... Home Bout-de-lil, Canada ... Now Milwaukee, Wis. Was sent to the Brooklyn Devils as a rookie and received a black eye in her first night of competition. Since then Dolores has been meeting out her share of bruising blows. Sent to Chicago Westerners shortly after her debut. Later transferred to the powerhouse Philadelphia Panthers in July 1949 to help form the biggest and browniest girl's aggregation in Roller Derby annals. Was a mainstay on defense in key pennant drive contests. Her reward was helping to win the pennant. Relaxes by knitting in an easy chair.

**James Calder** ... 22 years old ... 6ft. 1in. ... 175 lbs. ... blue eyes ... Hometown Baltimore, Md. ... French-German ... Married to Alice Breber and they have one child. Started skating at Washington, D. C. rinks when he was stationed in the Capitol as a Navy Cook. Starting his amateur skating career upon discharge from service, Jimmy's rise in the amateur circles was meteoric. After one year of skating, he won the Virginia State Championship. Rising steadily in the non-paying ranks, he annexed the National crown at Mineola, L. I. Then as a reward for beating Europe's top skaters at exhibition, he was offered a chance to represent the U.S.A. against the world's greatest skaters in Spain. After that, he decided the spill-an-minute sport was a challenge he'd like to meet.

The omens of good fortunes are beginning to show after one year in the pro ranks.

**Ann Calvello** ... Age 21 ... Birthday Aug. 1 ... Home San Francisco, Calif. ... Single ... 5ft. 6in. ... 126 lbs. ... Hazel eyes ... Joined Derby August 25, 1949 at Oakland, Calif. Has been with the Jolters and Panthers. Everybody has a yen to travel but in Ann Calvello's case she picked the Roller Derby to foot her expenses. The Derby has sent Ann all around America and from whatever she saves, she has financed trips to Europe and the far Pacific. A fearless jammer, Ann can dish it out in the best of fashion to any of the so-called titans on rival teams. Played a major part in the Panthers win of the 1950 league championship. Can be disingenuous from the rest of the jam by a large swaying medallion hanging from her neck. Captain-elect in absence of Bobbie Johnstone.

**Jimmy Ciota** ... age 19 ... 5ft. 9in. ... 126 lbs. ... Home Brooklyn, N. Y. Started in Jan. '51, is now in the U. S. Army.

**Dolores Doss** ... Age 20 ... Birthday March 10 ... 5ft. 7in. ... 135 lbs. ... Hazel eyes. Nurse's aid and car hop were her previous occupations. Joined the Derby in May 1949 at her hometown Milwaukee, Wis. Was sent to the Brooklyn Devils as a rookie and received a black eye in her first night of competition. Since then Dolores has been meeting out her share of bruising blows. Sent to Chicago Westerners shortly after her debut. Later transferred to the powerhouse Philadelphia Panthers in July 1949 to help form the biggest and browniest girl's aggregation in Roller Derby annals. Was a mainstay on defense in key pennant drive contests. Her reward was helping to win the pennant. Relaxes by knitting in an easy chair.

**Hank Goldberg** ... 25 years old ... Birthday Nov. 11 ... Hometown Brooklyn, N. Y. ... Single. Starred in baseball and basketball at Stuyvesant High, N.Y.C. and on an All-Star Navy Team. Served seven years in the Navy and Marine Corps. Before going in for speed skating Hank was rated one of the best dancers on skates in the amateur field. Was offered a professional contract for a comedy act which he and another fellow performed while in the service, but turned it down to try a hand at the more rigorous sport of Roller Derby. Registered the fastest progress in the game's history, from rookie to established skater in one short week. Personifying the running-jump style of his tutor and idol, Billy Bogash, he ran away with the Rookie of the Year honors for 1950. Annexed the regional flat races championship, at Worcester, Mass. in 1948-49. His hobby-sox popularity earned him the nickname "Sinatra on Skates". Shifted from Chiefs to the Panthers at the outset of the 1951 campaign.

**Ken Hansen** ... 21 years old ... Birthday Oct. 26 ... Hometown Buffalo, N. Y. ... 5ft. 11in. ... 147 lbs.





Gloria McAuliff



Joan Hill



Terri Anderson



Dolores Doss



Charlie Saunders



Ann Penderghast



Bob Venter

lbs. ... Single. Ken was a star football player and swimmer in high school. In 1943 he won the Buffalo free style and back stroke swimming championships. Before joining Roller Derby in September, 1947 he was a cook in the Army for two years. Dropped out of the game to give baseball a fling but even after a brilliant season in the Canadian League decided the battling gyrations of Derbying was more to his liking. A particularly agile skater, Ken credits his unusually developed sense of balance to dance step lessons he took for three years at the Skateland Rink in Buffalo. Made the rounds of the league with Brooklyn, New York, Jersey and now the Panthers. One of the better jammers in the loop, he was turned into a defensive star during the past season by Buddy Atkinson to strengthen the back line when the Panthers started to filter.

**Joan Hill** ... 21 years old ... Birthday March 6 ... Hometown Brooklyn, N. Y. ... Single ... Joan's entry into the Derby was the result of sheer determination. From the very first time she viewed the rolling Whirlaway, she had the burning desire to flash her wits around the masonite. She tried out with four girl friends but was the only one not accepted. Determined not to let this disappointment get the best of her she met her failure with the old adage "patience heals all wounds". Resolutely, she practiced hour after hour with the Derby as her goal. Her next crack at the Derby was a success and a team contract her reward. The irony of this never-quit saga is that none of the original four who beat her to the punch is now connected with Roller Derby. Since that eventual happening, she has come a long way as one of the smoothest skaters in the business. Her favorite hobby is filming interesting spots she comes across on her journeys and showing them on her projector whenever she returns home.

**Harold Janowitz** ... Age 25 years ... Birthday June 22 ... 5ft. 11in., 165 lbs. ... Hometown Minneapolis, Minn. ... Single ... Served 3 1/2 years in the Navy on board the carriers Corregidor and Shipley Bay. On discharge he entered the Minneapolis School of Business for a year, then tried his hand at odd jobs before joining the Derby in September, 1948. He started skating with the Chiefs until the Panthers drafted him a month later. Since his entry in the Derby he has received 16 stitches in his face and chin but surgery has spared any noticeable scarring. Was a steady competitor on the 1950 pennant-winning Panthers. This season he has excelled in scoring and blocking.

**Barbara "Bobbie" Johnstone** ... Captain ... Age 31 ... Birthday Aug. 19 ... Attended Business College in San Francisco. Born in Provo, Utah but makes N.Y.C. her home. Was rink instructor before joining the Derby. Married teammate Buddy Atkinson a year after entering the game, and has two children Buddy Jr. and Julie Jeanne.

Skating off and on for the past 12 years Bobbie arrived on the Roller Derby scene back in 1939 when the Derby hit San Francisco. From that day on, the blonde, bespectacled Pantherite has fallen prey to more injuries and interruptions than any other skating damsel. All told she has broken her nose three times, her ribs twice, had a brain concussion, fractured vertebrae, separated shoulder and has taken time out for two maternity trips. Did her part for the war effort when she helped out with the Stage Door Canteen in her every spare moment. One of the bravest skaters and outstanding blockers in the game. Captained the Panthers to the 1950 pennant crown. Her ambition is to own a skating rink.

**Gloria McAuliff** ... 21 years old ... Birthday March 3 ... Single ... Gloria practically wrote herself into the whirlwind sport, when as an autograph enthusiast she approached Spec Saunders of Philadelphia for his signature. On Spec's suggestion she started training diligently to become a skater. When the Derby returned to her hometown in June '48, she made the grade, wheeling with the Chiefs in Minneapolis a few months later. Mickey was later traded to the Panthers at Houston and met up with her former idol, Saunders. He used her as a striking balance in his mountain five system. She played an important role in Philadelphia's winning the pennant in '50.

**Ann Penderghast** ... Age 18 ... Birthday Nov. 9 ... Home Laurel Springs, N. J. ... Single ... Crashed the Roller Derby at Linden, N. J. in April 1950 and was assigned to the Panthers. The phenomenal rise of this rookie is a real tribute to Spec Saunders' training and coaching ability. Many skaters would be happy to register a five-pointer within a year after taking to the banked boards. To Ann Penderghast goes the rare distinction of scoring a slam after five months of training. Unquestionably, this was her most cherished Roller Derby experience. Her "Horn of Plenty" rookie year saw her peel off the fastest time for passing five skaters to score a slam—34 seconds, still the Roller Derby record. Ann spends her spare time horse back riding.

**Louis Marco Proto** ... Age 23 ... Birthday April 25 ... 150 lbs. ... 5ft. 6in. ... Started in the Derby March 51. Born with a unique fighting quality, Lou's a package of dynamite and a machine which is likely to make noise for a long time to come.

**Gene Radcliffe** ... Age 20 ... Birthday April 4 ... 165 lbs. ... 5ft. 11in. ... Home Philadelphia ... Started in the Derby in March of '51. One of the better youngsters graduated from Jack Wilson's training school. ... Has a good style of skating.

**Spec Saunders** ... Captain ... 26 years old ... Birthday May 12 ... 5ft. 9in. ... 170 lbs. ... Single ... Hometown Louisville, Ky.

A pair of special glasses is the story of Spec Saunders. Handicapped by poor eyesight, the result of a childhood accident, Spec was turned down on his first Derby trial. It took a war manpower shortage in '42 to open the gates for his association, at the tender age of 18, with the one sport he really loved. Roller Derby officials gambled on this bespectacled wheeler, hoping he'd never meet a glass-breaking catastrophe. Good fortune has been in his corner, so that he not only became a skater but a great one at that. His now famous "shriek whistle" is known to track side viewers as the signal to teammates to put a scoring play in motion. This scoring scheme was instrumental in his taking top scoring honors for '49-'50 with 503 markers and being chosen for the All-Star Team. Reputedly one of the gazelles in the Derby he masterminded the whipper-skating Panthers to the take-all crown of the '50 season. A real tribute to his sportsmanship and clean playing is the record book findings that he occupied the penalty box for less than 15 minutes in a complete season. His style of "jump-skating" makes him one of the most feared wheelers in the league. During the past campaign he discarded his jamming genius to bolster the Panthers rear echelon defense. Spent two years in the Army Air Force ground service.

**Bob Venter** ... Age 19 ... Birthday June 1 ... 6ft. 160 lbs. ... Home Brooklyn, N. Y. ... Was member of the swimming team and manager of the basketball squad in high school.

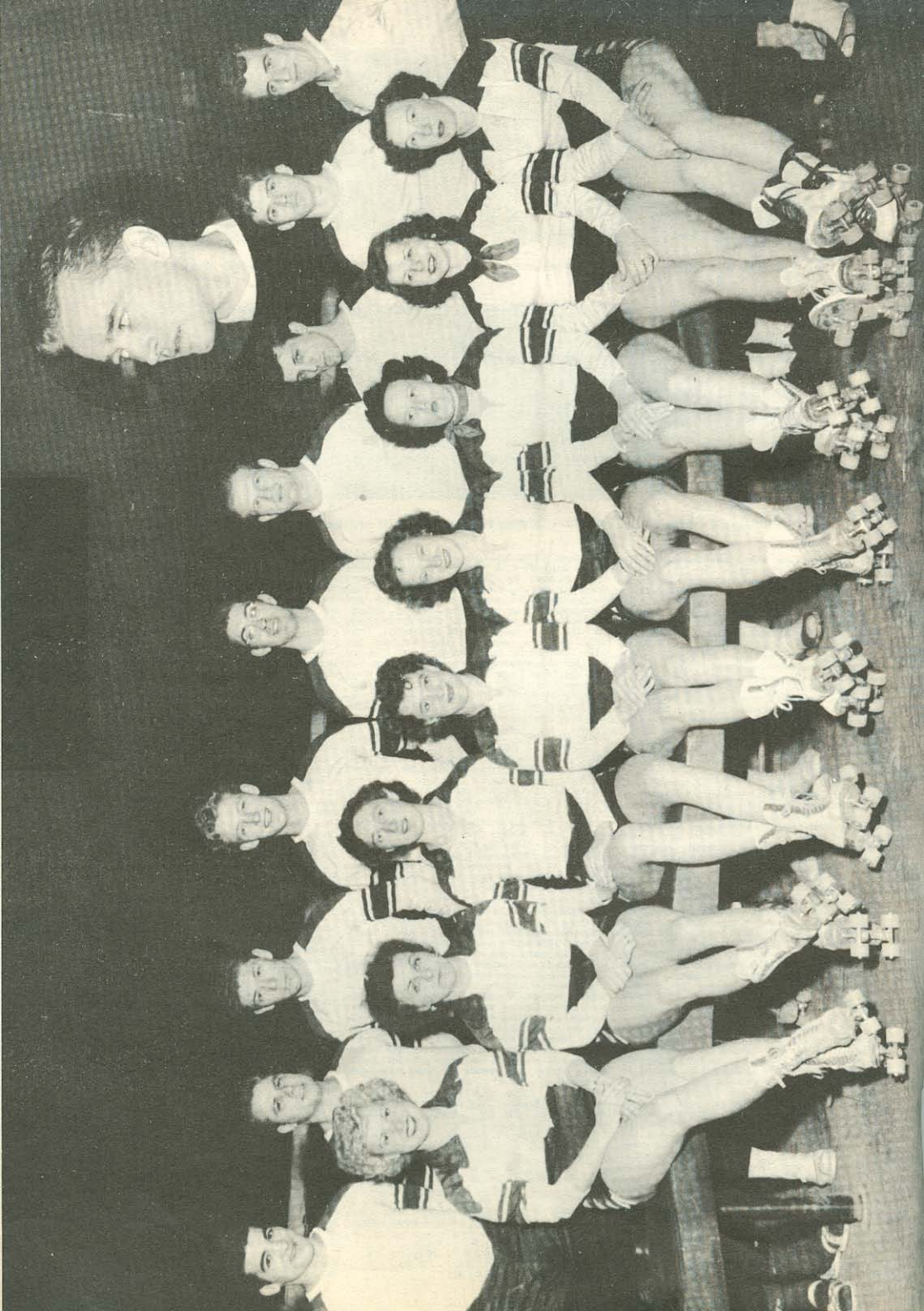
Bob learned about Roller Derby because his mother was a TV addict. He decided to join as a result of a family argument in which he maintained he could skate as well as any of the players he saw on the family set. It wasn't long before the Venteres were viewing their own son whirling around the screen as a player on the Philadelphia Panthers. At first he had a tough time, without letting his parents know and sold programs while lining up for an opening. Once accepted, he whirled with Philadelphia into the '50 pennant. Since then he's been steadily improving and no longer has any interest in his old dad basketball.

**Carmen Zeni** ... 21 years old ... Birthday March 5ft. 4in. ... 115 lbs. ... single ... Attended Bay Ridge High, Brooklyn.

Carmen Zeni took the reverse procedure to fame—from a Conover model to a Roller Derby star. Modeling was an everyday job to Miss Zeni. Her fascination lay in promoting the ruggedness she developed on the city streets of Brooklyn. While the other girls in Carmen's neighborhood amused themselves playing house as youngsters, the red-headed Panther played stick ball, touch tackle and other sports with the tough boys in the street. This behavior earned her the reputation of a tomboy. Joining Philadelphia at the end of 1950 she helped considerably in their winning the pennant.

The Brooklyn-born rookie's experience in the beauty field has given her an inside track for the Roller Queen of the year.







# THE RED DEVILS

**T**HE world's championship trophy has always just eluded the hard-fighting Red Devils who finished in second place two years in a row at the Madison Square Garden Series.

One of the four original teams in the National Roller Derby League, the Devils were first coached by Russ Baker, now handling the reins of the Jersey Jolters. Baker had a hard-driving squad, captained by Ken Monte and paced by Slammin' Sammy Skobel in the early days of 1949. The picture has changed little since then.

Baker, himself, has left for other pastures. But the original trio of Monte, Skobel and Brasuhn remains. The trio used to be a quartet, but the loss of Slugger Kealey to the Jets broke up one of the most devastating combines in Roller Derby history.

In Midge "Toughie" Brasuhn, the Red Devils have a Roller Derby legend. She is THE symbol of the Brooklyn fight and hustle. A never-say-die girl who always gives her all for her team.

The Red Devils lost out in the finals at Madison Square Garden in 1949, despite the fact that Ken Monte set all kinds of individual records and Toughie was voted the Most Valuable Player. Ken's record of 17 points in one game still stands as a Roller Derby record.

The supporting skaters on the Red Devils have changed through the years, although one other star has remained with the team now for over two years. She is Viv Johnson, who was obtained from the Chiefs right after the first World Series.

The Red Devils came very close to winning the World Series in 1950, but were nosed out in the finals by the Jersey Jolters. "Toughie" Brasuhn again won the award

for the Most Valuable Player.

In the 1950-51 season, the Red Devils were hard hit by troublesome injuries from the opening gun. The crushing blow was the unfortunate automobile accident which felled Coach Ken Monte in November. In addition to their top stars, the Brooklyn Red Devils have the fightingest group of skaters in competition today. Feminine stars Vivian Johnson, Elaine Benoit, Kay Virva, Iris Ashbacher and Gloria Cleirbaut are all willing disciples of the great Toughie Brasuhn, with the Misses Benoit, and Cleirbaut two of the most improved skaters in the game today.

In the men's field Sam Skobel is well backed up by Val Panzitta, George Vogt, Jules Illies and Len Chenault. This team is the one to be reckoned with when the chips are down.

The Red Devils could be called the league Gypsies without any trouble. The colorful collection of skating stars have represented the borough of Brooklyn for the past three years in Roller Derby competition from Boston to Los Angeles to Miami. During that time they've only had three home stands in Brooklyn.

It is estimated that nine million fans have seen the Red Devils swarm over the opposition, but only 140,000 have watched them in action in Flatbush. The Brooks just can't find a place to hang up their skates in Brooklyn for more than one eighteen-game series a year. The home grounds of the Red Devils has been the 14th Regiment Armory. Because of tremendous National Guard activity, plus the fact that the building is tied up with a high school and college basketball schedule, the National Roller Derby League is limited to one visit. That keeps the Red Devils moving and makes them the most visiting team in the Derby.

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**Top Row, L. to R.:** Val Panzitta; Len Chenault; Sam Skobel, Capt.; Lou Cabo; Phil Kadubec; Jules Illies; Ronnie Rogers; circle, Ken Monte, Coach; Bucky Bucholtz; George Vogt.

**Bottom Row, L. to R.:** Gloria Cleirbaut; Dolly Protolipac; Elaine Benoit; Midge "Toughie" Brasuhn, Capt.; Kay Virva; Vivian Johnson; Betty Clements; Iris Ashbacher.

Edith Branum, out with injury when picture was made.





Edith Brannum



Midge Brasuhn



Gloria Cleibaut



Kay Virva



Georgeanna Kemp



Ken Monte



Len Chenault



George Vogt



Bucky Buckholtz



Jules Illies

## RED DEVILS

**Irish Ashbacher**...19 years old... Birthday Feb. 1... Irish-German descent... Hails from Dickinson, North Dakota... 5 ft. 7 in... 139 lbs... blue eyes... married to George Vogt and has a baby boy, Jimmy. Before bowing into the Derby. Iris participated in all sports, and even rode in rodeos and steeplechases. She is one of the better skaters in the league.

**Dick Barista**...21 years old... Birthday August 29... Home New York City... Single... Started in Derby in Feb. 1950 in N.Y.C. and was sent to the Westerners. Worked in a publishing house before he took to wheeling. Skating among automobiles in the streets of N. Y. sharpened Dick's reflexes and endowed him with his quick sense of judgment. Was an all-around athlete in High School and amateur speed skating champion. Called the Caruso of the Derby by his teammates because he exercises his musical training by yodeling to his fellow companions on Derbying trips. Was a member of the "Iron Men 5" which skated the full four 15-minute periods for four consecutive nights when the Red Devils were seriously short-handed on reserves early in the season. His biggest thrill was scoring his first point over the best defensive blocker in the game, Elbow Anderson, only four months after arriving on the Derby scene. Was laid up temporarily in the winter of '51 with a broken wrist and collarbone.

**Eloise Benoit**...Age 21... Birthday Dec. 9... 5ft. 11in... 156 lbs... Home Middle Village, L. I... Single... Joined Derby May 27, 1949 at the 168th St. Armory in New York... Telephone Company Clerk before snitten by the Rolling Bug... Has played with Chicago. "Height is might" in the case of Eloise because her elongated frame gives her a marked advantage over the other skaters in the league. Her debut was conspicuous and rather embarrassing as she milled around the track to the laughter of fans and even players. The "Ichabod Crane on Roller Skates", as they called her, secretly vowed to make her heckling admirers change their tune by making most of a gifted asset. Her sweeping strides outdistanced the smaller skaters while her height made it difficult for blockers to knock her down. Her improvement was a key factor in the Red Devil's sensational play that carried the team to runner-up honors in the 1950 World Series. Her biggest thrill was to be cheered by a flock of rooters when she returned to play in Dexter Park, a short ride from her home. Eloise's main interest outside of skating is collecting souvenirs of the cities where Roller Derby plays.

**Edith Brannum**...20 years old... 5 ft. 4 in... Birthday June 30... Home Chattanooga, Tenn... Single... 115 lbs... Attended Dickinson High... Joined Derby in Jan. 1949 in her home town. The daring tactics of the blonde blue-eyed Tennessee has its beginning in her previous occupation—that of a trapeze artist in a circus. A little thing like getting blocked into the guard rail is sissy stuff to Edie for in her aerial

whirling days she missed a near fatality when she fell 50 feet after missing a swinging trapeze. Fortunately she landed in one piece. Gave up a profitable contract with a national circus to join the whirling derwish. The Choo-Choo girl has since skated with Washington, Philadelphia, New Jersey and, at present, Brooklyn. In 1949-50 season she piled up 234 points to rank 13th among the girls. Known for her singing of slow hillbilly tunes when she swings out on a jam, she stops singing when she runs into an enemy skater with devastating results. Played on series champs 1950.

**Midge "Toughie" Brasuhn**...Captain... 27 years old... Birthday Jan. 17... Hometown St. Paul, Minn... 4 ft. 11 in. Married to teammate Ken Monte... has one child, Billy, by previous marriage. Joined Derby in Sept. 1941 in Minneapolis, Minn. The day Midge Brasuhn first flashed her pint-sized form on the masonite a legend was being born. She began her climb to fame by fighting referees, any and all members of rival teams and even the crowd. As a result of her reign of terror, she gets bumped and banged around, hissed and hooted like the villains in silent movies and, yet, cheered to the rafters by her hordes of loyal followers. She is as famous for her fights as for her points. Back in 1943 she started one of the oldest and fiercest feuds in Roller Derby when she clashed with Gerry Murray in a match race and lost, then tangled with Gerry in a wild fight. This was the basis of a rivalry which has lasted over the years. She is not only the top-drawing card in the league but one of the outstanding competitors and scorers. Was voted the Most Valuable Player Award in the 1949 World Series held at Madison Square Garden, and came back to take the award for the second straight year in 1950, when her dynamic play earned 28 out of a possible 30 votes from the sports writers viewing the game. Finished second to her arch rival in point-scoring with 531 points in 1949-50 campaign. High scorer during '50 Series with 43 points. Her popularity soared when she was selected as a member of the Roller Derby Dream Team in 1950. Her biggest thrill...being picked one of the ten outstanding women in sports for 1950.

**Bucky Buckholtz**...21 years old... 5 ft. 5 in... 140 lbs... Hails from Elizabeth, N.J... Started in April '50... married to Betty Clements.

**Carl Bredesen**...20 years old... Birthday Aug. 17... 5ft. 9 1/2 in... Hometown Chicago... Started April 1951... Has stand-out potentialities.

**Len Chenault**...26 years old... Birthday March 3... 5 ft. 8 1/2 in... 158 lbs... Hometown Fort Worth... Joined the Derby on his birthday in 1943 at his home town. He skated one year, and then spent three years in the Navy as a gunner's mate. Won the Solomon Islands welterweight boxing title two years in a row. In 1940 won Texas State Championship for one mile flat track racing. Nicknamed "The Lightning" because of his daring feats on the track. Since joining the Derby Len has made his way

around the circuit with the Panthers, Westerners, Jets and presently Brooklyn. In his years of wheeling, he received three broken ribs (on on spill), a broken leg and a fractured finger. Dashing down highways at top speed in a motorcycle is his conception of enjoyment.

**Gloria Cleibaut**...18 years old... Birthday Jan. 1... Hometown Nutley, N. J... Joined Roller Derby in Paterson, N. J. Jan. 27, 1950... Sent to Westerners as a rookie... Single. Miss Cleibaut, of Belgian descent, was a seamstress in a dress shop prior to her entrance into the Derby. Joined the long list of recruits who first saw the Rollers on TV. On her free evenings she practices baton-twirling and was a majorette in high school. The fascination of traveling and the roughness of the sport lured the Jersey lass into the game. Her daring on sweeps has made her one of the hardest blockers in the league.

**Betty Clements**...20 years old... Home Bellwood, Ill... 5 ft. 4 in... 140 lbs... Joined Derby July '50... Married to Bucky Buckholtz.

**Gloria Hager**...20 years old... Birthday July 10... 5 ft. 4 in... 128 lbs... Hometown Chicago. After spending most of her time at the Roller rink managed by former Panther Coach Elmer Anderson Gloria joined the Derby at his suggestion and made it on her very first try. Although she looks like a midget compared to some of the girls against whom she skates, Gloria feels well backed up in the fight department with Toughie Brasuhn at the helm. A competent blocker she has perfected the art of jolting rivals to the floor. Miss Hager joined the Derby in Nov. '49 and has since skated with Philadelphia and Chicago. Her main hobby is swimming and she heads for the nearest pool as soon as she hits a new city. Married to Lenny Murro.

**Jules Illies**...26 years old... Birthday Oct. 17... Hometown Minneapolis, Minn... Studied at the University of Minnesota and at Minneapolis School of Business... 5ft. 10 in.

Captained the baseball and football teams and played regular on the varsity basketball squad at high school. Started in the Derby in 1943 but joined the Army in April '45 where he spent 20 months as a warrant officer in Okinawa. Returning from service he utilized his G.I. Bill of Rights to enroll in Business College. On completion of college he and two brothers set up a very profitable construction outfit. To anyone who would assume would have been enough success, but Jules Illies also wanted to be an outstanding Roller Derby star. So last summer he finally bulled his way back into competition and along with Sid Harnack represented one of the most potent duets in the league. Traded to the Red Devils in mid-season he became the much needed defensive blocker who had been lacking in their system. Prone to injury, but as game as they make 'em, Jules has had a badly sprained arm, fractured skull and two broken ribs in his Derbying days. On each occasion he patched up the injury and sailed back into action as quickly as possible.





Vivian Johnson

Iris Ashbacher

Elaine Benoit

Delores Protolipac

Betty Clements



Phil Kadubec

Val Panzitta

Phil Rupp

Dick Battista

Sam Skobel

**Vivian Johnson**... Age 28... Single... Brown Eyes... 5ft. 4in... Hometown Minneapolis Minn. A dream came true when Vivian Johnson a former member in good standing of the general admission brigade, joined the Chicago contingent of Roller Derby in 1943. Teamed with Slugger Kaeley and Toughie Braushn in 1950 they formed the "Terrible Trio". Known chiefly as a blocker and a pack skater she startled the statisticians when the 1949-50 final compilation found her tie for 14th place in the league with 231 points. Despite injuries in the present campaign she is again one of the better scorers in the circuit. On the track "Hurricane" Johnson is savage but off track she's an absorbed student of classical music, joined the IPRA the players' governing body, in 1950. Viv has also wheeled for New York and Washington.

**Phil Kadubec**... 18 years old... Birthday July 4... 6 ft. 1 in... 170 lbs... Home Long Island City, N. Y. Joined Derby Jan. '51.

**Georganna Kemp**... 25 years old... Birthday May 30... 5 ft. 4 in... 126 lbs... Hometown Indianapolis, Ind.

Georgie, a flashing red-head, is one of the prettiest girls in action and the second member of the cannonading Kemps. Getting the cut from her older sister, Monta Jean Payne, she started tangling up with all rivals after joining the Derby in 1945. For a while she was treading on Toughie Braushn's hallowed ground in the battling-beauties show. In one melee she lashed rooth and nail into the Brooklyn fireball and emerged the victor—a major triumph in fan appreciation. Before breaking her ankle this season she was considered one of the top feminine drivers around the rink. On coming to the Red Devils from Washington she and Toughie buried the hatchet and cemented relations on behalf of team spirit. Has a penchant for saving pennants of cities she travels to on her Derbying excursions. Married to Bob Lewis of the Chiefs.

**Ken Monte**... Coach... 22 years old... Native of Chicago... Brother of former skater and now referee Doug Monte... Married to Toughie Braushn... 6 ft... 1 in.

Ken started skating when he was 12 years old. This prepared him for the laurels later garnered as a ranking amateur speed skater. After returning from service, he started skating indoors with Sid Harnack, Freddie Noa and Russ Masso and formed the famous quartet which frequented Le Moyne playground in Chicago. One glimpse of the Derby and he haunted Billy Bogash, then of the Westerners, for a crack at the boards. A short trial on the track convinced the Derby kingpin that the 17 year old youth was faster than he, in some departments. In three years he rose to the captaincy of Brooklyn at the age of 20. One year later he was coach. Ken finished 5th in individual point-making with 387 for the '49-'50 session and was feted with a place on the Men's All-American Five. His inspired leadership brought the Red Devils into the '49-'50 World Series final. Ken is respected in Derby circles as a hard-charging blocker and a dynamic point-getter. His

popularity was testified to, when injured and bedridden as a result of an auto accident this year. Literally thousands of get-well letters and gifts were received from Derby fans.

**Lenny Murro**... Age 19... Birthday Feb. 23... 5ft. 9in... 160lbs... Hometown Morristown, N.J. Strutting into the Roller Derby limelight as a reckless skater Lenny Murro easily let it be known that he wasn't afraid of any of the big boys in the game. Amazing fans and players alike, he started trading blow for blow and block for block with such Derby titans as Moose Payne and Gene Gammon. Murro is noted for his picking himself off the masonite split seconds after a dumping, to come blazing back for more. This tenacity and gallant play has won him a spot in everybody's heart. His big break in the Derby came when the Red Devils were injury laden and Val Panzitta interceded on his behalf to Ken Monte. Praise is nothing new to Lenny for he was the A.A.U. 100-meter swimming and diving champion in '46 and an intermediate national speed-skating titlist. Married to Gloria Hager of Brooklyn.

**Val Panzitta**... age 23... Birthday Jan. 13... Hometown Doonoon, N. J. As a high school football and track star Val rivaled his friend Lenny Murro, who wore the colors of Morristown high. After graduation Panz entered the Navy and was assigned to Holy Cross College for a year's training in the Navy Air Corps V-5 program. He did his early skating at the Florham Park Rink in N. J. by polishing up on flat board skating whenever he had service leave. Discharged, he entered the new glamour sport and signed a contract three days after taking to the saucer in May 1949. Whirled for the Chiefs for two months and played the '49 Series with the winning New Yorkers. Moved to the Red Devils after the Series. His hop, skip and jump shenanigans modeled after his mentor, Billy Bogash, make him one of the trickiest skaters in the Derby. As a freshman he was ranked among the prize rookies of the year. He and Murro form as rough a twosome as any in the league.

**Delores "Dolly" Protolipac**... 20 years old... Birthday June 30... Hails from Chicago... Started in the Derby April '50. Was a telephone operator before joining the Derby, and has been used chiefly as a jam skater during the first year.

**Aaron "Ronnie" Berger**... 21 years old... Birthday Feb. 11... 5ft. 7in... 155 lbs... Hails from Detroit, Mich.

**Phil Rupp**... 25 years old... Birthday May 14... Single... 5ft. 10in.

Fighting his way around the track is nothing new to Phil Rupp. In the past he's been a professional boxer and more than once put his wares to work as a roller rink bouncer. He was so stern in the latter capacity that he practically drove Gloria Benoit of the Panthers into a Roller Derby tryout. It was Phil who admonished Gloria on her skating style at a local Chicago rink. In her wake followed the burly

Rupp. He was serving his apprenticeship as a machinist when the war came along and drafted him into a three year hitch with the Navy as a gunner. On the cessation of hostilities he came back to work nights as a rink floorman and at the same time have another brief fling at fist-cuffs. He joined the Westerners in April 1949. In the fall of the same year was shifted to Philadelphia where he showed some magnificent skating for the pennant winners. Brooklyn in need of a good blocker, managed to get him for the past campaign.

**Sam "Gunner" Skobel**... Captain and acting Coach... 26 years old... Birthday April 26. At high school Sam burned up cinder paths, in record fashion, turning in spectacular times for all races from the 440-yd. to the 2-mile run. Then the track-famed Drake University beckoned for his services but Sam gave up a chance of collegiate stardom to remain at home and aid his ailing father in their butcher business. But his first view of the Derby in Chicago set his feet throbbing with excitement. Borrowing enough money from his father, he journeyed to Chattanooga in January '46 and managed to convince Sid Cohen as to his spirit and ability. Watching the skaters practicing their skills day in and day out paved the way for his skating prominence. This past season he made Derby fame when he wheeled for a period of 1028 consecutive minutes over 17 complete games without relinquishing to a substitute. This new endurance feat earned him the title of "The Iron Horse".

**Kay Virva**... 23 years old... Birthday Dec. 26... 5ft. 5 1/2 in... 140 lbs... Hometown Lyons, Ill.

The prospect of sitting eight hours daily behind a typewriter didn't appeal to Kay Virva so she headed for the Derby at the Chicago Coliseum. Troubled by a serious skating weakness at first, she wallowed in grief till she mastered it, a style on the level of other skaters. Today she's as good a blocker as any in the league and likes blocking on the high banks most. Kay is one of the most avid readers in the Roller Derby—average two books a week. Between that and constant traveling through the Derby provides, she feels she's getting a good education. Has been keenly interested in patenting a portable ironing board which fits her travel bag and is used on the road.

**George Vogt**... Acting Captain... 22 years old... Birthday Feb. 25... Hometown Chattanooga, Tenn... 5ft. 10in... 165 lbs... Married to Iris Ashbacher and has a boy James Allen.

A football and basketball enthusiast, with letters earned in both sports at high school, George joined the Navy when he was 15. Spent nine days as a gol before the service let him of his real age. Later the Roller Derby rolled into town and into George's life. After two futile tries he was admitted to the ramming-and-jamming game in Jan. '49. George made only 98 points for the Panthers last season but in the current campaign he has tallied in three figures. The Southern battler is rugged and has speed and spirit.







# WESTERNERS

THERE'S ALWAYS been a Chicago team in Roller Derby. Ever since that eventful night in August, 1935 when two skaters represented the Windy City in Leo A. Seltzer's version of the sport, top skaters have carried the colors of the brawling city wherever the game of Roller Derby has been played.

Great skaters, both past and present have circled the masonic track for Chicago. They've seen the new sport develop from a sport where to save expenses, they all had to live in dormitories set up in the arenas they played, travel in buses, assist in the erection and tearing down of tracks etc., to the smooth working major league organization it is at present. Those representatives of the Windy City in the early days were truly pioneers of the Roller Derby.

On that first team were Wes Aronson, Toddy Geflinger, Johnny Rosasco, Bob Satterfield and Billy Bogash. Satterfield is still skating. Bogash was first president of the International Professional Roller Racers Ass'n. A head injury that affected his eyesight took him out of active competition for a while, but he returned early this April to give the Roller Derby another "whirl" as a participant. Wes Aronson retired just a little over a year ago. The feminine members of that original team were the famous "Ma" Bogash, Ivy King, one of the fastest women skaters of all time, Honey Thomas, Hazel Rupe, Kitty Nehls Peggy O'Neill and Mary Youpelle, who is still skating as a member of the Chicago squad.

The majority of those stars stayed with the original club for a number of years. Then there were many shifts and changes during the days of World War II. In 1945, with Billy Bogash as coach, the team became a solidified outfit once more with Tommy Atkinson, "Spec" Saunders, now an ace with the Panthers, Wes Aronson, Paul Millane, who quit and then came back to join the Jolters and Buddy Atkinson, coach of Philadelphia, as the mainstays of the male end. Gerry Murray, now top skater with the New York Chiefs, Annis Jensen, still with Chicago and now captain, Mary Gardner of New York Chiefs, "Fuzzy" Buchek of the Jets, Bobbie Johnstone, captain of the Panthers and "Ma" Bogash formed the girls side. You notice that five of the six are still skating. All are outstanding stars. Three, Murray, Jensen and Johnstone are captains. "Ma" Bogash, the only one not skating just celebrated her 60th birthday with a real Roller Derby reception in Chicago at the birthplace of the Derby, the Coliseum.

In 1948, when the Roller Derby came to the 69th Regiment Armory in New York, the Manhattan representatives were reorganized and Billy Bogash forsook the Windy City squad after ten years. Wes Aronson was

appointed coach and he led the Illinois group until he retired.

On March 23, 1949, the National Roller Derby league was organized as a four team circuit. The league was then composed of New York, Brooklyn, Philly-Bronx and Chicago. The Windy City lineup of Wes Aronson and Kitty Nehls, Mary Fabian, Bob Satterfield and Betty Boyd, Buddy Kemp and Kay Virva, Matt Adams and Norma Rossner, Bob Gilmore and Alyce Breber, and "Red" Smartt and Joyce Beasley, continued unchanged through the first play-off series in Madison Square Garden in 1949.

After that first World Series, the team was changed considerably with player and coach shifts, but Annis Jensen, Bob Satterfield, Harry Perry and Betty Boyd remained with it and are still starring.

Russ Baker succeeded Wes Aronson as coach in the fall of 1949 after the series in the Chicago Coliseum when Aronson hung up his skates for good. Baker was followed as head man by Bob Satterfield and then in the fall of 1950 Russ Massro replaced Satterfield in a sudden shift that brought the youngest coach in the game to the team representing his native city. At the same time, the fans named the Chicago squad the Chicago Westerners with the tag "Cowboys" going along with it.

This present collection of skating sensations is as good as any of the great teams of the past. Russ Massro did a magnificent job of welding speed, experience and team spirit into a smooth working machine that puts an emphasis on offensive play. However, in their veteran captain, Tommy Atkinson, they have a pack control skater and defensive blocker who gives balance to the squad. Bert Wall, the fastest jammer of the present day and the league's leading scorer, when April came around, provides most of the punch. Russ Massro not only led the team well, but with Bob Satterfield, gave the male crew a pair of all-round performers who could do anything well, block, jam or control the pack.

Harry Perry, Sam Marchese, Bill Laurino and Don Rixman give the Westerners one of the smallest but most compact of all men's squads.

The girls follow the same pattern as the men. Annis Jensen, one of the all time greats among the women, heads the list. She's the Tommy Atkinson of the distaff side, but jams more. Mary Youpelle, the Indian girl is the top blocker and can also jam. The speed is taken care of by Loretta Behrens, Betty Boyd and Virginia Rushing, with Miffie Mifsud and Ann Pernice, former Jolter, rounding out the lineup.

The all-round class of the Westerners is possible because of the balanced rosters and the terrific team spirit on the club.

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Top Row, L. to R.: Harry Perry; Bill Laurino; Bert Wall; Russ Massro, Coach; Tommy Atkinson, Capt.; Don Rixman; Sam Marchese; Bob Satterfield.

Bottom Row, L. to R.: Gloria Mifsud; Loretta Behrens; Ann Pernice; Annis Jensen, Capt.; Mary Youpelle; Virginia Rushing; Mary Gray; Betty Boyd.





Loretta Behrens

Annis Jensen

Mary Youpelle

Ann Pernice



Russ Massro

Don Rixman

Bob Satterfield

Harry Perry

Sam Marchese

## WESTERNERS

**Tommy Atkinson**... Captain... 31 years old... Birthday Dec. 12... Hometown New York City. One of the real oldtimers in the sport, dating back to 1936, when the Derby consisted of girl-boy teams in a marathon run. Tommy was an amateur speed skater when Sid Cohen picked him out in a tryout at the old Hippodrome. Originator of the jump-and-hip block. He has had eleven brain concussions, frequent dislocations of the spine and countless floor burns, but oddly enough has never broken a bone in 13 years of whirling. Dropped out of the game back in 1947 to take a job as a bartender in a fashionable Chicago nite spot. Tommy got the urge to return to the track in 1950 and has been going great ever since. His most interesting experience dates back some years to when he tangled with Bill Freeman, pride of Columbus, and in the fracas accidentally struck him with his shoe. It took the Columbus police force to rescue him from the enraged crowd.

**Loretta Behrens**... Age 20... Birthday April 8... Home Bronx, N. Y.... 5ft. 1in.... 115 lbs.... Started in the Derby Feb. 1950.

A little over a year in the game has Loretta finally skating in solo spurts. Has picked up speed turning her into a good jammer in the past few months.

**Betty Boyd**... 24 years old... Birthday Dec. 30... 5ft.... 108 lbs.... Green eyes... Home Chattanooga, Tenn. Married to teammate Bob Satterfield. Has one child Donna. Joined Derby in hometown in 1945 but lasted only two months, then decided to try again in 1948 with the Westerners. "Little Red" as she is known around the league was a sensation in her rookie year but an early season slump in the 1949-50 season bit her with the sophomore jinx. She only scored 118 points. On the verge of being released Betty exploded with a bang in the early part of the '50 campaign, scoring 114 points in half a season to take third spot in the girls division. The forgotten girl of a year ago reached new heights when she was made acting captain by Coach Russ Massro in place of then ailing Red Jensen. The Chattanooga gal picked up the failing Westerners and helped carry them into a contending position. Following an age-old trend, Betty skated herself into nervous exhaustion. Returning to the game the time of the innovation of the new style offensives she

found the system made for her speed skating. The pint-sized Westerner finally loomed as a real Roller Derby star.

**Carl Bredeson**... 20 years old... Birthday Aug. 17... 5ft. 9 1/2 in.... Hometown Chicago... Started April 1... Has standout potentialities.

**Red Erdman**... 28 years old... Birthday Aug. 31... 5ft. 11in.... Red has plenty of experience under his belt and is rated by the experts as a pretty fair jammer and a good pack skater. Started back in '41, dropped out for several years and returned this spring.

**Mary Gray**... 23 years old... Married to Ted Greig... Birthday June 24... Hometown Valencia, Pa.... Gave up a prosperous career in fashion modeling and joined Roller Derby in Miami, Fla. on Jan. 23, 1950, because the banked track sport stimulated her passion for adventure. Sent to the Jets for training under Bill Reynolds. She has come a long way in her rookie year. One of the prettiest girls in the game.

**Ted Greig**... 25 years old... Scotch-Irish... Hometown Chicago, Ill.... 5ft. 10in.... 175 lbs.... Received shrapnel wound when he landed on two limbs with the 5th Marine Division. Returned from service and got a job at White City Skating Rink in Chicago where he diligently practiced for a year on flat board skating. When the Derby reached the Windy City in August of 1949 he immediately connected himself with the whirlwind sport. Since his arrival, he has sustained trick shoulder separations several times and a cracked jaw. Has also skated with the Jets. Been a steady competitor in his three year stay around the circle. Married Mary Gray of the same team in middle of the '51 season after he left the hospital and was recuperating from an operation. Whenever he comes into a new city the first thing he does is to locate the nearest bowling alley. An avid bowling fan, Greig maintains a 150 average.

**Annis "Big Red" Jensen**... Captain... 29 years old... Birthday Sept. 20... 5ft. 3in.... 135 lbs.... Attended Mission High San Francisco. A versatile amateur athlete in her pre-wheeling days, Annis starred as a tumbler and wrestler, baseball pitcher, diver and figure skater. Went to see Derby during lunch while secretizing in 1940, fell in love with it, and jumped her job to take up with the flailing contingent when it left town. Met and married Russ Baker in '43 and now has two lovely daughters, Frances and Barbara. Left the game to work with her husband in '44 at the Chicago Coliseum Rink

but gave it another try in '49. The rough and ready brawler of former days turned into a mature, clever operator and a steady influence on the rookie skaters of her club. At an age considered venerable for Derbying, she is one of the top skaters in the loop and a principal factor in the Westerners bid for the pot of gold.

**Bill Laurino**... Age 20... Birthday April 7... height 5ft. 11in.... Home Chicago, Ill. Was a standout football and basketball player in high school. Joined the Derby in Chicago in April '50 and was trained by Bob Satterfield. Considered a pretty good singer. Has a very distinctive style of skating.

**Sam Marchese**... 23 years old... 5ft. 10in.... Birthday Oct. 8. Began in the Derby in Buffalo in Oct. 1949. Hometown Buffalo, N. Y. Single. Has also been a member of the Jollies and Chiefs. Sam first tried out for the Derby in 1941 but Uncle Sam stepped in and called him into the Armed Forces. While in the Navy for five years he took part in the Bikini atom bomb blasts. He has suffered only one serious injury since he started Roller Derby campaigning—the tearing of four ligaments in his right shoulder. One of the biggest terrors around the loop, he's constantly getting into fist fights, with the result that he's running low in cash because of paying fines. His rough-house style of play has added extra spice to the free wheeling bang 'em diversion. Playing baseball for AA franchise was his greatest thrill outside the Roller Derby.

**Russ Massro**... Coach... Age 23... Birthday July 25... 5ft. 7 1/2 in.... 160

A product of Chicago's rugged South Side, Russ Massro, stumbled into the Roller Derby with the reputation as the worst skater ever to try out on the mile-a-minute track. Three times he tried out and three times he failed. Sticking like a leech to his former neighborhood cronies, Ken Monte, Sid Harnes and Freddie Noa, he arranged to be around when sportsdom's new sensation hit a city, prepared for another shot and another defeat. Finally after serving notice of his blazing resolution to stick it out to the end, he was entrusted with the less celebrated task of coaching. When not fixing skates he always managed to break up skate practice sessions with his weird track maneuvers and sloppiness aloof. To watch the free-wheeling, hard-blooming skaters around the loop now, one would never believe he was the same "rubber legs" of five years ago. When the news broke early in the 1951 season that he was made coach of the Westerners, one could only say it was a fitting climax for a gallant athlete. His



Gloria Mifsud

Betty Boyd

Virginia Rushing

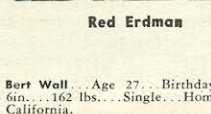
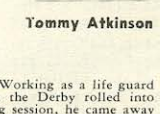
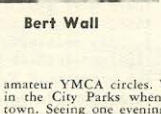
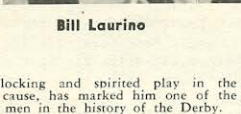


Bill Laurino

Bert Wall

Tommy Atkinson

Red Erdman



dramatic blocking and spirited play in the Westerners cause, has marked him one of the outstanding men in the history of the Derby.

**Gloria "Miffie" Mifsud**...22 years old... Birthday July 19... Home San Francisco, Calif. Was a star swimmer and basketball player in high school. 5ft. 2in... 110 lbs.

Got her training as a member of her hometown's leading skating club. When the Derby arrived she was so captivated by the recklessness of the whirling beauties that she quit college and joined the Jersey contingent in Sept. '49. Has since skated for New York and Philadelphia. Her speed played a big role in the Panthers winning the pennant last season. Traded to Chicago in the beginning of the season she helped along a morale-broken team with such success that the Westerners made quite a climb in the standings. Before her Derbying days she wanted to become an airline hostess. Now she's flying her own solo flights around the masonite.

**Ann Pernice**...19 years old... 5ft. 5in... 140 lbs... Home Bronx, N. Y. Started in Derby Jan. '50 and was a member of the World Series Jolter team in 1950.

**Harry Perry**...Age 26... Birthday Oct. 11... 6ft. 2in... 200 lbs... Hometown Chicago.

The former all-city tackle on the Lane Tech High football team may some day be one of the great blockers in the Roller Derby. He has the speed and the build in addition to his gridiron training. Employed as a skate guard at the North Side Arcadia Skink, he was spotted by Wes Aronson, late of the Derby and then manager of the rink. Wes persuaded him to try his heft on the banked track. Being a professional skater, the only outlet for him naturally was the Roller Derby. The Westerners were delighted to receive the flailing bull in 1949, hoping he'd be the one to settle their blocking problems. But Harry didn't show any promise. Sent to Brooklyn the same year because of his lack of polish, he developed into a formidable defensive operator. Chicago again spread the velvet carpet for Harry in 1950. This time he came through for the homeowners as a dominant force in the Westerners leading the league for most of the season. Separated from the game for two years while he served in the Navy as a machinist. Building model trains is his hobby and he has quite a collection at home.

**Don Rixman**...20 years old... Birthday Sept. 18... 5ft. 8in... 156 lbs... Hometown Louisville, Kentucky.

Was a standout football player in high school and one of Louisville's better swimmers in the

amateur YMCA circles. Working as a life guard in the City Parks when the Derby rolled into town. Seeing one evening session, he came away convinced that he had found a sport to his liking. His tryout test was a success and he climbed into a Westerner uniform in Sept. 1949. Prior to his tenure in Derby togs, Don was a daredevil auto racer. Churning up speed on a raceway was purely mechanical to the Kentuckian so he decided generating wheeling power was more to his individual accomplishment. Has been one of the steady performers for the pace-setting Westerners. For a man who relishes excitement on the track he relaxes by playing with model planes, trains and boats.

**Virginia Rushing**...Age 22... Birthday August 26... 5ft. 5in... 125 lbs... Hometown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma... Single.

You can't make her quit, you can't discourage her, are words which best describe the character of Virginia Rushing. Of all the skaters in the Derby she's one of the least noticed by the average onlooker. On an intimate close-up, you'd learn she's a girl who'd rather know she's doing a bang-up job than seek fame and glory. She's far from a star but surely a coach's prayer in a point crisis, as evidenced by the frequent clutch-scoring situations she has generated. She's the one who'll throw a key block, score a point or cut off a jam when the other team threatens to score. The Oklahoma lass gave up a guaranteed future in the insurance business to don roller skates. So scared on her first '48 tryout she ran out before her skates were laced. She hit the band wagon the following year 1949. Twice she skated in Miami and on both occasions incurred serious injuries. On the first trip she fractured her pelvis and the second it was a cracked ankle.

**Bob Satterfield**...31 years old... Birthday April 5th... 5ft. 6in... 170. Bob Satterfield has had a very rugged career. Forced to work at the age of 12, he has tried his hand as a carnival pitchman, circus roustabout, merchant sailor, truck driver and salesman. Feels his greatest success and happiness is in the Roller Derby. In 1941, a Russ Baker block sent him sprawling over the guard rail and a fractured skull resulted. Doctors ventured he'd never skate again, but he proved they were wrong. Was twice torpedoed while in the Merchant Marine during the war. On completion of Merchant Marine service, rejoined the Derby and met Betty Boyd. They were married in 1946 and settled down in California for six months. However, a financial distress sent both Satterfields back to Chicago to rejoin the Westerners. Since that time, he has blazed a trail which resulted in his being outstanding star of the Windy City team.

**Bert Wall**...Age 27... Birthday May 13... 5ft. 6in... 162 lbs... Single... Home San Francisco, California.

The rarefied air Bert Wall floated through as a member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division in the last war must have affected his body equilibrium. From the steady methodical performer he had been in the past three seasons he suddenly bloomed into the scoring sensation of the '50-'51 session. Every one knew of his speed from his rookie days when he sped through a time trial only four-fifths of a second off the record set by the great Bogash. But few ever thought he'd become a great point-setter. With speed becoming more essential in the new wide open game, Wall saw a chance to make use of his quick opening bursts of power. His feinting and lightning cuts have left bigger players slightly dazzled. His secret is the old basketball trick of feinting with your eyes and cutting off your opponent. Chicago's rise to the fore during the past season can be traced to his phenomenal scoring thrusts. Before he entered the Derby he won the California flat track speed championship three years in a row. He first made the thrills-by-the-dozen sport when he was 16 but his parents sent him back to finish his education. A year out of service "Old Reliable" pursued his life-long dream by skating with a Derby team in 1947.

**Bob Weyrauch**...19 years old... Birthday Sept. 15... 5ft. 6in... 135 lbs... Home Des Plaines, Ill... Started in Derby March 1. Was a CYO ice skater in Chicago.

**Bernadine Wright**...19 years old... Birthday December 14... 5ft. 4in... 116 lbs... Hometown Baltimore, Maryland.

**Mary Youpelle**...31 years old... Birthday March 17... 5ft. 2in... 125 lbs.

A sure enough full blooded Iroquois Indian, Mary's real first name is Ahowchowi, meaning "Green Wings" or "Something That Flies." Since 1937 "Pocahontas" has been on the war-path with the Roller Derby. A savage fighter, she has terrorized the league with her tomahawking riffs. One of the goriest battles in Derby history had her bent on murdering Mary Lou Palermo. Armed with a skate she proceeded to slug Lu-Lu till she rendered her semi-conscious and but for the intervention of Derby officials she might have scalped her vanquished prey. Having once pursued a course of study as concert violinist at a leading conservatory, the wild woman of the track often settles down in relaxation by playing her favorite tunes. After a leave of absence for a year she returned to the game in 1950 as a governing factor in fortifying the Westerners title chances.



# THE STORY OF ROLLER DERBY

by JACK BURNETT

**W**HEN LEO A. SELTZER sits back and watches the 1951 World Series of the National Roller Derby League in Madison Square Garden, he will probably feel that the sport he originated in 1935 is definitely on its way toward becoming one of the leading athletic attractions of the present era. Since that eventful night, when he sat with some Chicago friends in Rickett's Northside Restaurant and first visualized the Derby, a great deal has happened.

Many times the Roller Derby was almost on the verge of extinction through one misfortune or another, but it always survived. Now, solid and strong, it is climbing slowly but steadily to a position with baseball, football, basketball and other games that Americans love. Those sports and Roller Derby are as American as apple pie.

Almost everyone knows the story of how Leo A. Seltzer, looking for an attraction to fill Chicago's historic Coliseum, read that more people participated in Roller skating in the U. S. than in any other form of athletic activity and how he wanted to make roller skating a spectator as well as a participating sport. Using a linen tablecloth on the restaurant table, amid suggestions by friends, he laid out a rough sketch of a track, oval in shape, similar to that used in six-day bike racing. He then tried to figure out how he could make roller skating fit in. Then and there, Leo A. Seltzer originated and created the Roller Derby. However, he is very insistent that he just started it—that literally scores of experts in the world of sport had a hand in the development of the game as we know it today and that the skaters themselves more than anyone, are responsible for the hold the game has on the sport fans of the U. S., Canada and other countries where Roller Derby has been played.

The Roller Derby, sportsdom's "kid brother", is now a husky youth who is becoming a very lusty and aggressive young man as time goes by. It is a sport that has caused more discussion than anything that has hit the horizon of the athletic world in many decades.

The sport was presented to the American public for the first time in the Chicago Coliseum on the night of August 13, 1935. The skating parade the spectators saw that evening bears little or no resemblance to the game as it is played today. Then, there were many teams. Each team consisted of a man and woman skater whose object was to skate around the track faster than any of the other duos engaged in the roller skating marathon. The race was staged on the same principle and with the same type of rules as six-day bike racing. One member of each team had to be on the track at all times during the 24-hour day and victory went to the team covering the distance equivalent to that between San Francisco and Chicago in the shortest possible time. That first race was won by Bernie McKay and Corrisse Martin, two skaters who faded out of the limelight shortly after.

During this first race, names like Joie Ray, the famous miler, Joe Lowery, Johnny Rosasco, Wes Aronson, "Muscles" Stampley, Joe Nigra, Joe Kleetz, Ivy King, Jean Vezina, Esther Renee, "Ma" Bogash, Honey Thomas, and Kitty Nehls, were familiar to the fans who journeyed to the Coliseum anytime during the day or night just to watch skaters circle the track.

At that time, there was none of the electrifying excitement that now grips both the skaters and the fans.

It is interesting to know that Joie Ray, the track star, taught the skaters how to get into shape and stay in

condition. Joe Lowery taught them the art of pacing and timing on the track while Joe Kleetz was an expert in the art of sprinting and developing sprinters and jammers as we now call them. Esther Renee was a woman expert in training skaters. Buddy Atkinson, now coach of the Philadelphia Panthers and Elmer Anderson of the same team, were both taught skating and track technique by Miss Renee.

Billy Bogash, now known as the "grand old man of Roller Derby" was not a member of that original group, but he came along soon after. At that time, rules were the result of much study on the part of the skaters, referees, Derby executives, sports writers and radio sportscasters. These rules evolved slowly and some of the fans even had a part in making constructive suggestions.

The Roller Derby, as a team game, began late in 1937 and early in 1938. By 1941, after the game had survived a disastrous bus wreck that took the lives of 22 skaters, there were 8 teams in action. Plans were laid for a National League, operated on the same principle as baseball, but the war interrupted. More than 65% of the male skaters went into service within the period of a year and the progress of Roller Derby, as a national institution in sports, was halted.

The game was kept alive by one unit traveling from place to place playing Army camps and arenas when they were available.

Immediately after the war, Leo A. Seltzer began to lay the ground work for a new league. Progress was slow, but when television and the Derby were mated in 1947, there was a definite impetus overnight. In early March of 1949, four teams were organized—Chicago, New York, Brooklyn and Philly-Bronx. These teams played many cities and had more than one home arena.

The first national playoff in Roller Derby history took place in Madison Square Garden in New York in September, 1949. The New York Chiefs won the series in a hotly-contested and very bitter battle with Brooklyn, Chicago and the Bronx-Philadelphia clubs.

That series drew more than 40,000 fans in four nights and established the game as a definite big time attraction in the Garden.

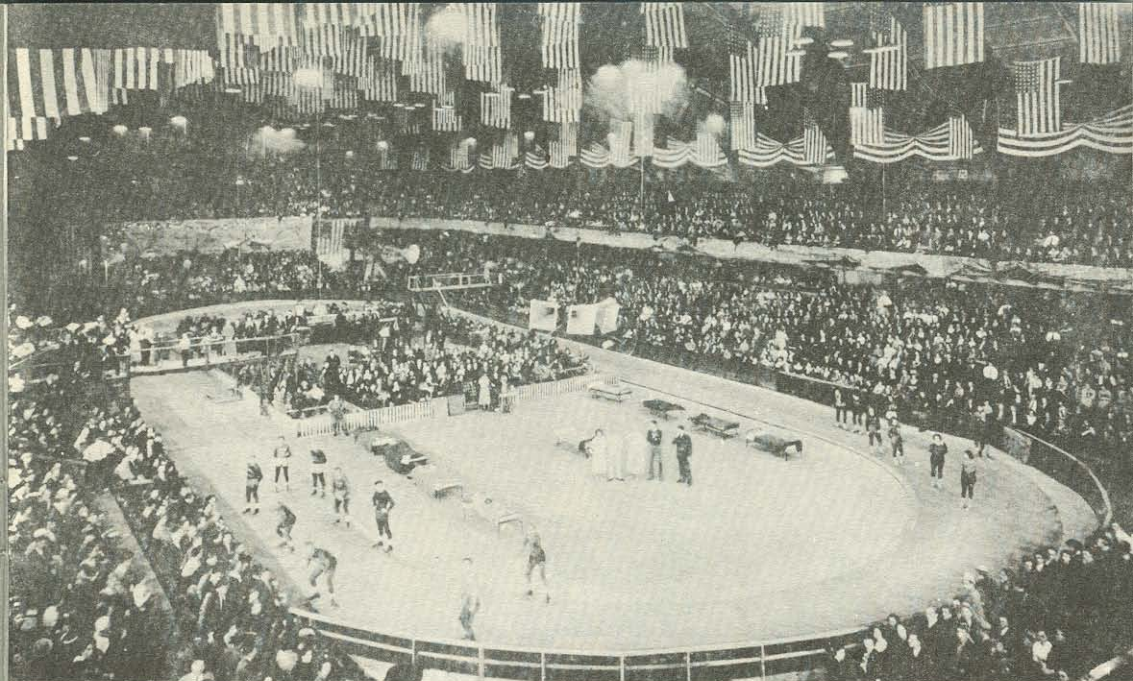
Before the series in the Garden was played, plans had already been made for the expansion of the league to six clubs. New Jersey fans, losing representation in most professional sports, clamored for a team, and they got it. The Jersey Jolters, and the other addition, the Washington Jets, rounded out the six-team circuit that exists at the present time.

The National Roller Derby League began operating on October 1, 1949. The first year of the six-team league was a very successful one. Attendance records were set in series after series and the 1950 World Series in Madison Square Garden astounded the entire sports public. Close to 80,000 fans witnessed the five nights of Roller Derby, and they saw the New Jersey Jolters, long shots, take the Brooklyn Red Devils in a sensational final game. The favorites, New York and Philadelphia, were both eliminated in the round-robin playoff.

The 1950-51 season was also a good one. The huge attendances of the first year were not in evidence but thousands of new fans were made. The league made steady progress in establishing the Roller Derby as a

(continued on page 42)





Above: The grand opening of first Transcontinental Roller Derby—20,000 fans, Chicago Coliseum, August 13, 1935.

Below: Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell with members of the Westerners and Panthers, during filming of "Lemon Drop Kid" in Hollywood.







"Ma" Bogash, Carl Payne, coach 1950 champions and Leo A. Seltzer.

(continued from page 40)

bonafide sport, especially among sports writers and radio sportscasters who did not recognize it as such before. In Chicago, the midwinter engagement of the National league attracted 101,642 fans, a new high for the Coliseum where the game has been played for fifteen years.

Present plans call for more teams, with three separate divisions, one operating in the East, one in the Middle West and one on the West Coast. This overall expansion has been halted temporarily by the present emergency, but as soon as possible, the expansion will take place.

The late Damon Runyon was perhaps the most avid of all fans and boosters among the sports writing gentry. Bill Corum and the late Hype Igoe were directly responsible for bringing into the game the blocking technique of football and the body checking of hockey.

Despite the great popularity of the Roller Derby and its skating stars, the early and formative years could have been discouraging ones for a less optimistic person than Leo A. Seltzer. Only the tireless energy, abundant enthusiasm and faith of the people immersed in the sport helped it to survive.

The first tracks constructed were faulty and the skaters couldn't hold them when they generated high speed. It was by trial and error that the Roller Derby finally found out that masonite made the best skating surface, that a paint would help the skates hold the track and that a proper degree of bank would allow the skaters to assume the maximum speed and still keep their feet.

The game with its harum scarum activity, incessant action, fighting girls and its resemblance to so many other sports—six-day bike racing, football, hockey, boxing—was a natural for video. The general public dis-

covered Roller Derby on television and because they just couldn't see or hear all of the excitement, came in droves to see the stars.

In explaining why TV still has so much to do with the success of the Roller Derby, Seltzer says, "We couldn't get through people's heads what the Roller Derby was. It was like trying to explain baseball to a European who had been brought up on soccer. When you're all through, they look at you as if you were crazy. The main reason is, you have to see a team game to understand it and Roller Derby is strictly a team game."

Despite the inroads being made by the draft, there is no scarcity of players. A training school that will be centered in either New York or Chicago is developing talent rapidly and more youngsters want to join the Roller Derby than the Derby can accommodate. The sport is waiting and marching time until it can absorb those who are talented enough and anxious enough to become part and parcel of it.

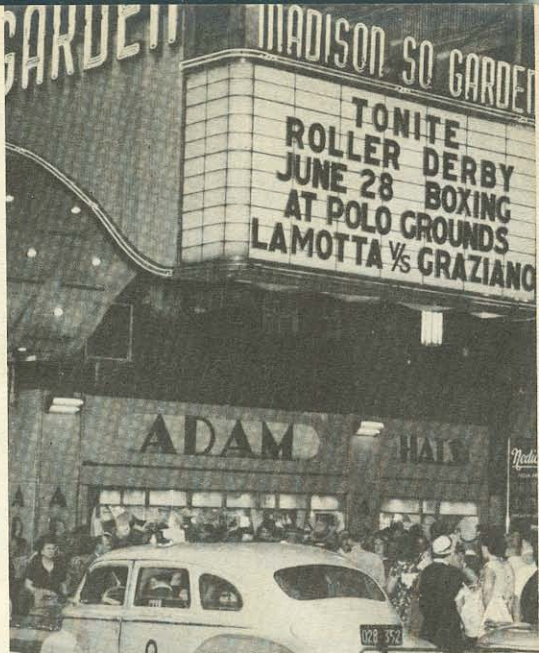
The heart-warming part of the overall planning for the National Roller Derby League is the hold the game has on the affections of the young people of America. They have become, not only dyed-in-the-wool fans, but also recruits for the game itself. Grade and high school youngsters have a definite desire to play the game in the scholastic world. Rules are now being drafted to be released to all grade and high school athletic departments and to all playgrounds, boys and girls clubs, etc., for a game which can be played on a flat track.

It is on the youngsters that the Derby is counting for the future, both from the point of view of players and spectators. It is a sport which appeals to Young America—merely count the number of fan clubs and you'll see why.





Above: Jimmy Durante and late Al Jolson take in Derby in 1950.



Above: Derby opening at Madison Square Garden in 1950.



Below: George Raft and Peggy O'Neil, 1939 Derby star.



Below: Cary Grant autographing Roller Derby display, Hollywood's Pan Pacific Auditorium.





Eddie Begley



Ken Nydell



Eddie Nugent



Howie Myles



# THE ROLLER DERBY AND TV...

**A**CCORDING TO the people in the know, the Roller Derby and Television have one thing in common. They helped each other. The new sport became available to TV at a time when the new entertainment medium was searching for a game with plenty of action, and Roller Derby had what the medium wanted in that respect. On the other hand, it was television that brought Roller Derby visually to millions of people who might never have seen the game.

It was a worthwhile get-together for both and that is one wedding that seems destined to go on for a long time despite the cries that television is bad for sports and a sure killer for the gate receipts.

Although many people think the first telecasts of the Roller Derby took place in the middle west, that is not so. It all happened at the home of the New York baseball and football Giants, the Polo Grounds, in the summer of 1945. That was the time the Derby was rained out seven out of eleven nights. That first telecast was a far cry from the present variety, the TV crews knew little about Roller Derby, the Derby knew very little about TV and the telecasting setup was entirely wrong.

The second Roller Derby telecast was done on WBKB from the Chicago Coliseum in 1948. This was supposed to be a one-time telecast, but it caused such a sensation in Chicago that four more telecasts were immediately ordered. In New York, when the Roller Derby made its return in 1948, CBS contracted for a number of telecasts from the 69th Regiment Armory. The first telecast took place on the second night of the meet. On the first two nights only 500 people were in attendance. While the telecast was in progress the reservation phones began to ring and reservations poured in until 1 A.M.—2 hours after the game had ended. Starting with that third night, Roller Derby in the 69th Regiment Armory played to turn-away houses every single night for the remainder of that series. Since that time, Roller Derby has been one of the most successful events on television and certainly one that has never been hurt by TV.

The following spring, the Roller Derby telecast was channeled over the American Broadcasting Company network and it has been there ever since. In addition, Roller Derby has been telecast locally in many cities. It has

been sponsored by nationally known companies among which were Lucky Strike Cigarettes, Blatz Beer, U. S. Army Recruiting, Chevrolet and others.

Ken Nydell, famed Roller Derby announcer and a veteran sportscaster, has broadcast the Roller Derby on radio and given the play-by-play on television for many years. Outstanding at his job, he is probably one of the best known sportscasters in America. Famous names in sports broadcasting and telecasting have worked with Ken Nydell including Jimmy Powers, sports editor of The Daily News, Russell Hodges and Joe Hasel, veteran ABC sports commentator. Assisting Mr. Nydell, from the Roller Derby organization, at the present time, are Howie Myles and Ed Begley, both discovered by Roller Derby. Mel Basel has telecast the Derby locally in several spots and Norman Rubin, youngest public address announcer, gained considerable fame as a radio broadcaster of Roller Derby.

Although it was TV that brought the Roller Derby to the attention of the public, radio had a great deal to do with the publicizing of the sport in its early days. It was heard on radio in cities like Chicago, Minneapolis, Louisville, Columbus, Los Angeles, San Francisco and many others. Ken Nydell, in the vast majority of cases, was the radio broadcaster.

In television, the Roller Derby has been either telecast or presented through remote control and kinescope recordings in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, Toledo, Washington, D. C., Boston, Baltimore, Buffalo, Syracuse, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Atlanta, Miami, Johnstown, Pa., Kansas City, Jacksonville, Milwaukee.

Both television and the Roller Derby are comparatively new in the American scheme of things and both of them seem destined to grow much more as the years go by. It has been a very happy relationship and probably will continue to be so. Edward Nugent, one of the great motion picture actors in the '30's and now an outstanding TV director and producer, is the staff member of the ABC who supervises the Roller Derby telecast. He is assisted by a crew of assistant directors and veteran cameramen who have learned to know the sport and how to present it to the public.



## INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ROLLER RACERS ASSOCIATION

**R**OLLER DERBY SKATERS now have their own organization known as the International Professional Roller Racers Association.

For years the wheelers have been campaigning for the development of just such an organization and its formation in March 1950 was the realization of a dream of the veteran skaters.

The main purpose of the group is the protection of player interests. Besides elected members, six of the presiding board members consist of team coaches and these members automatically qualify for office.

The remaining members of the board are selected by all active wheelers in a secret ballot. The first voting was held March 18, 1950 and Bill Bogash, great veteran of Roller Derby, was the choice of his peers for the position of president of the IPRR.

Billy received over 60% of the ballots cast for president of the Association. This was indeed a great tribute to the man who is known to the fans as Mr. Roller Derby.

If anybody could be called a charter member of the Roller Derby it is Bogash. He joined the Roller Derby four weeks after the initial contest was played at the Chicago Coliseum. Since then he has broken almost every speed record on the banked track as well as being the holder of scoring records galore.

The second choice of the skaters was Ken Monte, who was elected to the Vice-Presidential slot in a close race with two other nominees. Ken was a logical choice for the vice-presidency as the Red Devils coach is one of the most spirited and interested players in the Roller Derby.

Viv Johnson of the Red Devils was chosen as secretary and Bobbie Johnstone of the Panthers won the election for treasurer. The three members at large, who round out the Board of Governors, are Midge Brasuhn, Russ Massro and Sam Skobel. These three were selected by



BILLY BOGASH  
President



JACQUELINE DUBETSKI  
Executive Secretary

the popular vote of all the skaters in the Roller Derby and help to make the board a truly representative group.

Billy Bogash, when informed of his election, had this to say about the IPRR: "I am proud and happy at the great confidence that the skaters have placed in my hands. I have been with the Roller Derby since its inception 15 years ago and feel that I know most of the skaters personally. The fact that they have chosen me president of the International Professional Roller Racers Association makes me realize how important the position really is. My only wish is that I may live up to the trust that they have placed in me. It's a big job but I am sure that with the able assistance of the fine group that were elected to the Board of Governors, the Association will prosper and grow for the benefit of the Roller Derby Skaters."

*I.P.R.R.A. Officers—President, Billy Bogash; Vice President, Ken Monte; Secretary, Vivian Johnson; Treasurer, "Bobbie" Johnstone; Board of Governors: Midge Brasuhn, Russ Massro, Sam Skobel, Russ Baker, Buddy Atkinson, Silver Rich, Gene Gammon.*

### THE ROLLER DERBY SKATERS' CLINIC...



One of the problems faced by all sports is the development of talent to step into the shoes of older stars when the time comes for those older stars to retire. Baseball, football, hockey, basketball, all have their scores of scouts who patrol the college campuses, sandlot baseball parks and other playing areas in their search for suitable replacements. The National Roller Derby league finds its talent by a training school and clinic operation to which aspiring youngsters are sent by interested fans and by their own desire to become a Billy Bogash, Gerry Murray, Moose Payne or any other great star.

This training school is not new with the Roller Derby, but is now becoming much better organized than ever before and all newcomers with any ability have a chance to display their talent before the various coaches and under the guidance of Jack Wilson, veteran skating star, director of the Roller Derby training school. Hundreds of skaters have been processed in the past year and many of the new rookies who will become outstanding have come up through the medium of the school.

At the present time, Jack Wilson has returned to skating with the Washington Jets to fill in for the injured Red Smartt. When Smartt returns, Wilson will once again assume charge of the training school.





# Roller Derby News



DICK BRODERICK

Editor



IRWIN ROSEE

Business Manager

**R**OLLER DERBY NEWS was born March 8, 1950 when the first four page issue was published. From these small beginnings, four pages and about 5,000 readers, Roller Derby News grew, in its first year of existence, to an eight page bi-weekly tabloid with a readership of over 50,000.

Through the months, Roller Derby News has tried to bring to the fans of Roller Derby the inside story of the skaters as well as all the facts about the six team National Roller Derby League. Such exclusives as the trade of Mary Lou Palermo, the injury to Billy Bogash were first reported to the fans in the pages of Roller Derby News.

Other features of the paper included two famous contests: the All-American Team contest and the Miss Roller Derby Queen contest. Fans and readers all over the country balloted for the top skaters in Roller Derby and later for the best looking girl wheeler. These two contests are now annual affairs for the readers of Roller Derby News.

Many well known names of Roller Derby are connected with Roller Derby News. One of the favorite columns is that of Ken Nydell, the voice of Roller

Derby. Sometimes reminiscing, sometimes looking forward to the future, Ken's free and easy writing style has proved as popular with the fans as his telecasting.

Famous sports writers have also contributed stories and features to Roller Derby News including Jimmy Powers of the New York Daily News, Lester Bromberg of the New York World-Telegram and Sun, Leo Fisher of the Chicago Herald American, Lewis Burton of the New York Journal-American and many others.

The future of Roller Derby News is the future of Roller Derby. Plans for a bigger and better newspaper for you fans are dependent on the growth of America's wheeling sport in the next few years. More fan club news is planned, more features, and new pictures will be brought to you fans in the coming months by Roller Derby News.

A new feature is the "Write or Wrong" section of the paper devoted to the praises and gripes of the Roller Derby fans. That is typical of the whole paper. It is a paper for the fans. It's your paper . . . the bible of Roller Derby.





**BRUNO ROSS**  
Referee

**ART SERAGANO**  
Referee

**MARVIN FISHER**  
Referee



**JOHN FRIEBISH**  
Referee

**DOUG MONTE**  
Referee



**ROY PAYNE**  
Referee in Chief

## NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY LEAGUE OFFICIALS



**EDDIE JOYCE**  
Announcer



**RAY MARCEL**  
Announcer



**NORMAN RUBIN**  
Announcer



**TED GREIG**  
Timer



**THOMAS PATTI**  
Timer



**CHARLES PETRIE**  
Timer



RIGHT: Paula Michaels and Lila Lynn, Secretarial.

BELOW: Ticket Mail Order Department, Left to Right: Madeline Caminakis, Gertrude Unger, Rosa Riva, Dorothy Bloom, Ruth Feldman, Bernice Mintz, Natalie Revella.



ABOVE: Roller Derby Press Bureau — Kenneth Mackay, Jack Burnett (Director), Frank Finnegan, Ann Guidice.

ABOVE: Box office treasurers—Janice Watson and Vincent Green.  
BELOW: Accounting Department—Pauline Behrens, Ben Fisher.

## HOME OFFICE STAFF



ABOVE: Telephone operators — Eva Sirdis, Janet Braun.

LEFT: Simon Slippins, Mail Clerk.

Right: Francine Moses and Helen Sharp, Secretarial.







Above: left to right, Tony Pruden, Construction Supt., Russ Schalk, Construction Supt., John Silvia, Unit Auditor.

Right: Audrey Cavanaugh, Tex Swan, Field Representative, Irene Di Paolo.

Below: Tasia Psares, Unit Auditor.



## FIELD UNITS STAFF

BELOW: Uniform Department—Mrs. Margaret Brady.

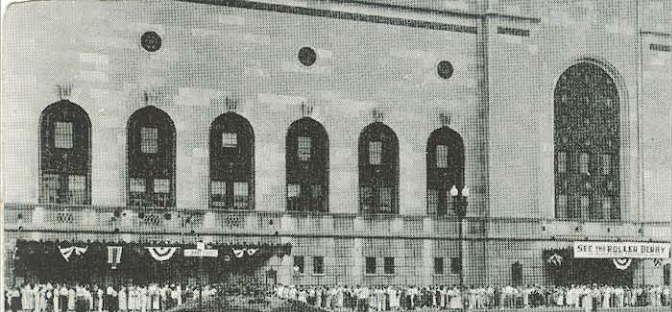


Joan Getchius, Dan Legge, Unit Auditor,  
Irwin Sack, Field Representative



Bill Schulinger  
Construction Supt.





THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN  
**TONITE**  
**ROLLER DERBY**  
**JUNE 28 BOXING**  
**AT POLO GROUNDS**  
**AMOTTA VS GRAZIANO**



MADISON SQUARE GARDEN



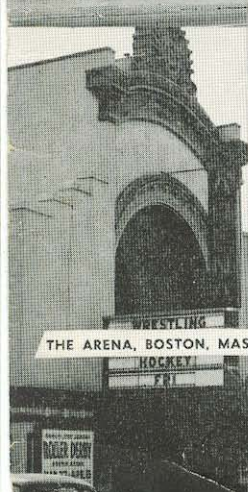
1950 WORLD SERIES AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK CITY



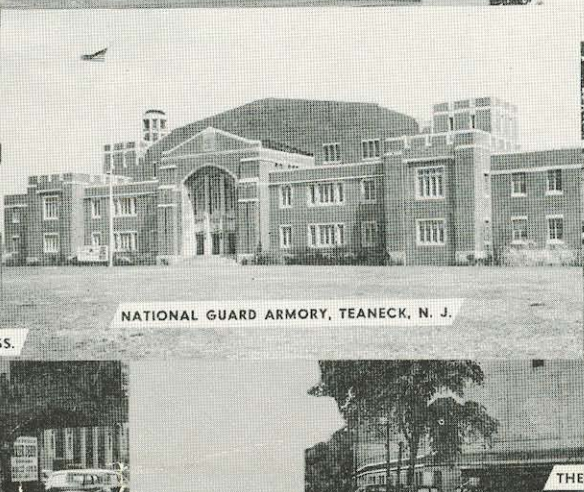
THE COLISEUM, CHICAGO, ILL.  
 THE HOME OF ROLLER DERBY



ULINE ARENA, WASHINGTON, D. C.



THE ARENA, BOSTON, MASS.



NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY, TEANECK, N. J.



THE OLYMPIA, DETROIT, MICH.



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"When I apply the Standard Tobacco Growers' Test to cigarettes, I find Chesterfield is the one that smells milder and smokes milder."

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