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BOGASH SCORES AGAIN

by **DICK BRODERICK**



NEW YORK, Jersey City, Chicago, Toledo, Louisville, Detroit, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami—a cross-section of America and all solid Roller Derby strongholds.

The above cities are a few of the many large metropolitan areas that were host to the wheeling game during the past year. All told, more than four million fans turned out to cheer their favorite skaters to victory during the season.

This year as the second season of the six-team National Roller Derby League gets into full swing many new cities as well as the old standbys will be included in the itinerary.

Roller Derby has come a long way in its fifteen years of existence. Billy Bogash, coach of the New York Chiefs and the only active wheeler who was one of the original skaters when the Roller Derby began in Chicago in 1935, will certainly testify to that fact.

Here's what he told me.

"In the first days of Roller Derby there were only two skaters on a team and we skated for mileage in what was then known as the Transcontinental Roller Derby.

"I skated as part of a team with my mother. We would be on a continuous skating grind for hours at a time trying to steal laps and miles instead of trying to score points.

"The game continued like that for a few years but gradually some of the skaters got together in an attempt to hold back the more speedy ones. They also set up blocking traps. The fans loved this rough and tumble action and the present game of Roller Derby slowly evolved from this bit of strategy.

"Now instead of two skaters on a team there are twenty skaters and instead of skating for mileage the games are decided on a point basis.

"The second World War slowed down the progress of the Roller Derby but peace in 1945 saw Roller Derby make its comeback.

"In 1948 there was a four-team league and we played the first World Series in Madison Square Garden in September 1949. My New York team came out on top and that year our regular pennant season began with two new teams joining the league, the Jersey Jolters and the Washington Jets.

"The 1949-50 season was the first one in which we had a regular pennant flag to fight for and Elmer Anderson's Panthers were the winners.

"Then came the second big World Series in Madison Square Garden which saw the Jersey Jolters nose out the Brooklyn Red Devils in a thrilling final.

"This year we have even bigger hopes. The Chicago Training School was planned and new teams were set out on the drawing board to expand the league.

"The Korean war stopped all this and, with the youth of the nation being drafted, a temporary halt was called in the ambitious plans of Roller Derby and the skaters' organization, the International Professional Roller Racers Association.

"Yes, Roller Derby has come a long way in fifteen years. It has survived floods, fires, wars and heartbreaks. It has grown all the time until now it is rated the fifth major sport in the country.

"I know one thing — "I'm glad I'm a skater in the Roller Derby."



ABOVE: There's no doubt who these two fans fancy: A couple of Russ Massro Fan Club members talk things over with their favorite Roller Derby star. The Massro Fan Club is one of the largest in the East, and these two bobby soxers traveled all the way from New York to Buffalo to see their hero perform.

RIGHT: Slamming Sammy Skobel of the Brooklyn Red Devils, one of the first players to inspire a fan club, receives a gift from a youthful member of his fan club, while a second member, floral wreath in hand, waits her turn to meet her hero, at Dexter Park. Note the girl's skirt, embroidered with names of the Red Devils players. Hanging over the rail you'll recognize Toughie Brasuhn.

BELOW: Joe Kosmal blushes as two of his fan club members greet him during intermission. Note that the girls wear varsity sweaters with the name "KOSMAL" on the back and a circular emblem, "Jo-Jo Kosmal Fan Club — Nature Boy" on the front. Close scrutiny reveals that Kosmal has cut the "Nature Boy" off his own sweater. Modest lad!



Members of the New York Chiefs Fan Club, one of the biggest team fan clubs, turn out en masse for a renewal of the celebrated Brooklyn-New York rivalry. Die-hard adherents of the Bogash brigade, they wear blue and white caps to distinguish them from ordinary rooters, have organized cheers.



BELOW: Brooklyn Red Devil fans, a red-hot team fan club, cheer their heroes on wearing jackets patterned exactly after the players, down to the number on the left sleeve and name of favorite player stitched over the left pocket. Age is no barrier to joining fan clubs — members range from 90 to 9 — about the age of the miss on the far right.



THE FAN CLUB COMES OF AGE

By JEANE HOFFMAN

ALONG ABOUT the year 2006 when future historians lift up the cornerstone on Roller Derby data, it's quite likely that they'll uncover a facsimile of Sam Skobel's skull and Joe Kosmal's scalp — along with Gerry Murray's skates, Billy Bogash's specs, and a handful of hair that Toughie Brasuhn yanked from some long-gone opponent.

For Skobel and Kosmal made history when they became to the first Roller Derby stars to have a fan club named after them — and if you don't think THAT entitles them to lasting immortality with halo attached, be advised that since the first fan club blossomed into being in New York City in April, 1950, no less than 310 fan clubs have sprung up from coast to coast! (Call it roller-coasting!)

At last count, there were more than 150,000 members, a half dozen flourishing journals and thousands of slightly-battered scrapbooks (not to mention an accumulation of ticket stubs, old programs and broken-ball-bearings as club emblems) among the Derby devotees. There are over a dozen fan clubs for Gerry Murray and Toughie Brasuhn alone (and we mean "alone," those clubs never get together).

There are fan clubs for almost every player on every team and when the fans run out of players, they organize "team clubs." There's the Brooklyn Red Devils team club in which the girl members all wear red jackets patterned after their idols, and skirts with the names of the player stitched in. Presumably if the needle slips while a member is stitching on a name and jabs a rival player, the member promptly becomes a vice-president.

There are Mr. and Mrs. fan clubs for married skaters. Family fan clubs for the Gammons and Montes — en masse and intact. There's an "Anti-Slugger Kealey Club" in which, we're reliably informed, members gather and stick pins in a picture of Miss Kealey's kisser. A club which was started for Jacqueline Arvay while she was a member of the New York Chiefs all but migrated to Washington, D. C. when Miss Arvay was traded there. A New York fan named Sid Seidman, 26, formed a Rollerette Club which holds regular meetings at the Central Needle Trades School auditorium in New York every Friday night. Still another fan has started the New York Chiefs Fan Club, where members wear specially-made hats and make up special cheering sections. No doubt any applicant who shows up bearing more than six hairs off the head of a Brooklyn skater is admitted free. Hair with scalp attached gets you life membership.

Fan clubs are strictly an enigma of the Twentieth Century. They started with the movies, back in the days of Francis X. Bushman, and reached their peak with Frankie Sinatra Caveman. Since World War II, they have migrated into sports and although baseball fans have long been industriously baking cakes and presenting knitted socks to their diamond heroes, they can't hold a roamin' candle to Derby enthusiasts!

Derby die-hards know no boundaries. They'll leap over railings and plunge into fisticuffs, and when Joe Kosmal (that guy who Started It All) went up to Buffalo with his team, his fan club just packed up, took a mass vacation from their jobs, and shuffled off to Buffalo along with him! The Kosmal Kids (who oughta call themselves Kosmo-politans) have already showered blushing Joe with gifts ranging from a dog (complete with bark) to a ring, candy, and books of clippings. To buy the dog for Joe, the club (composed largely of kids just a year out of high school) sold chances on a home-made blanket. They made the blanket to get the raffles to earn the dough to buy the dog for Joe. Simple, huh??

Then there's the Mad Murray Misses, a group of gals who are convinced the sun rises and sets over Gerry Murray's left shoulder. One of Gerry's most ardent followers, Marilyn Schichtt of the Bronx, was so determined that Gerry should win the "Miss Roller Derby" contest conducted by the Roller Derby News, that she inaugurated a one-woman, house-to-house campaign in the Bronx and came away with 500 authorized signatures on Miss Murray's behalf. A few more, and Gerry might have been elected to the Senate.

Also, Gerry has a flourishing Pen Pal Club named after her. It was organized by a roller rascal up in Connecticut and probably covers more ground than any other group of its kind. Members from all over the U. S. exchange letters about Gerry, and the adjectives are added up and counted at the end of the year, with the winner becoming club prexy. Shortly we expect to hear that the Pen Pals are dropping leaflets over Moscow on Pal Murray's behalf.

Of course, anything Murray can do, Brasuhn can do better — or at least try. Started by Roy Sortinio in Brooklyn early last spring, the Toughie Brasuhn Fan Club has branched out into a flourishing enterprise with over 100 members in the 19-20 bracket, regularly-elected officers, weekly club meetings, and campaigns in which the members plot still more presents for Toughie. So far, they've showered her with a dog, radio, flowers, books and, it's whispered, are planning a tea for Gerry Murray at which cyanide and arsenic will be served.

At this moment Gerry and Toughie are neck-and-neck (as usual) with 15 fan clubs apiece. But Gerry is an eyelash ahead in the Devotion Department; one of her clubs prints a complete newspaper to keep its members up to date on Murray. Edited by a University of Minnesota School of Journalism lass, the paper is varityped, printed on slick stock, runs candid camera shots of Gerry and reams of copy about her every fight and flourish.

Ann Calvella also has a fan club newspaper started in her honor, which prints names of other fan clubs, how to get in touch with them and, no doubt, a box score listing Miss Calvella's encounters with other fair skaters and her hits, runs, and errors.

The "Anti-Slugger Kealey Club" is unique. It's not pro-anything, it's just anti-Kealey. If they haven't thought of it already, we suggest they use "llik yelaek" as a password. (Spelled backward.) The Gammon and Monte Family Fan Clubs give presents to the children of both families, and if this sort of thing keeps up unto the third and fourth generations, the Gammons and Montes won't ever have to worry about where their next mouthful is coming from.

Now that it's started, the fan club movement is blossoming out in all shapes and sizes. There are even "junior fan clubs" for children of 10 and 11, who name themselves after their favorite team and challenge all comers to a playground battle. No Gettysburg was ever more glorified than the site on which the Junior Jersey Jolters met the Junior Jersey Panthers. The latter aggregation lives in Southern New Jersey, near Philadelphia, so it was practically the Civil War all over again. Awaiting to challenge the world is the Junior Chief Club of the Bronx, who loudly proclaim they'll skate against — and beat — any other group their age.

Fan clubs means business. Members carry cards, collect dues, hold meetings, wear caps, throw books at their rivals and picnics for their Inspirations; take the skaters to dinner, toss parties in their honor, name mascots and boats after them. And when the skaters get old and gray, they'll probably be cast in bronze, set upon a pedestal, and given a choice view in Central Park.



MARY GARDNER

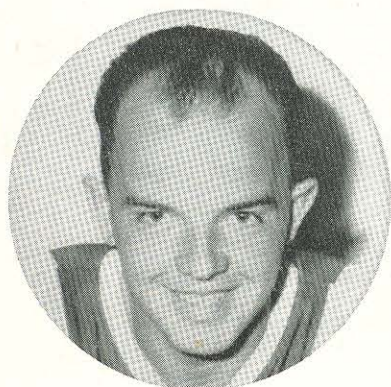


MARY LOU PALERMO



TOUGHIE BRASUHN

STARS OF NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY



HOWARD RAINES



HAROLD JANOWITZ



BILLY BOGASH



VIVIAN JOHNSON



ALICE EDWARDS



ANNIS JENSEN



SAM SKOBEL



DOUG MONTE



CHUCK DAVIS



GLORIA BRENDT



ANN CALVELLO



JACQUELINE ARVAY

STARS OF NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY



BUDDY ATKINSON



JOE KOSMAL



HARRY PERRY



JEAN PORTER



JULIE PATRICK



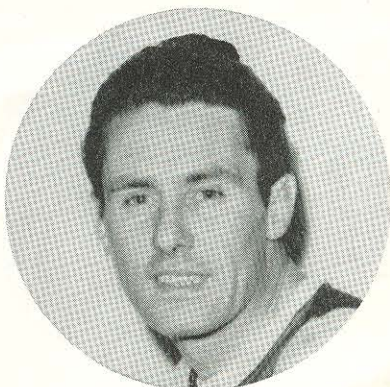
GLORIA McAULIFF



KEN MONTE



FRED NOA



TOMMY ATKINSON



GLORIA HAGER



GERRY MURRAY

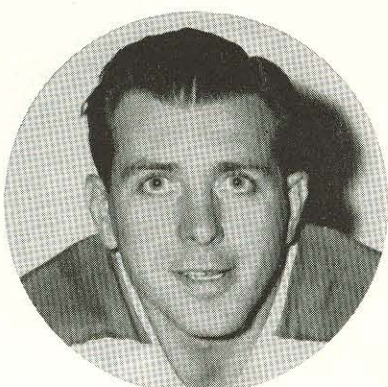


MARY CIOFANI

STARS OF NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY



RUSS MASSRO



GENE GAMMON



RED SMARTT



BETTY BOYD



HELEN GARDNER



BARBARA MATEER



BOB SATTERFIELD



SILVER RICH



ELMER ANDERSON



SLUGGER KEALEY



BOBBIE JOHNSTONE



ARLYNNE BUCHMAN

STARS OF NATIONAL ROLLER DERBY



NELSON CABRAL



BILL REYNOLDS



JOHNNY KARP



NORMA ROSSNER



DOLORES DOSS



VIRGINIA RUSHING



SID HARNESEK



HANK GOLDBERG



CHARLIE SAUNDERS

SKETCHES OF NATIONAL

ELMER "ELBOWS" ANDERSON is probably the greatest defensive skater in the "Skate for Pay" ranks. Hailing from Chicago, Elmer is completing his 14th year in the Roller Derby. Anderson is known from coast to coast as "Elbows", and when the action on the banked oval becomes fast and furious, his deft use of these same elbows shows why the nickname so aptly applies.

TOMMY ATKINSON, known as "The Skating Bartender", is back in action and rougher than ever. Said to be the toughest hip-blocker in the Derby, he has collected 11 brain concussions while earning this reputation.

BILLY BOGASH is practically a charter member of Roller Derby — joined it four weeks after it first opened. Since then he's broken almost every speed record on the banked track and is the present $\frac{1}{4}$ mile champion. Billy spends hours daily working with his squad on offensive and defensive plays.

MIDGE (TOUGHIE) BRASUHN is the roughest girl skater in Roller Derby competition, and don't let anyone tell you differently. Toughie is 27 years old and an 8-year veteran of the banked track. Known as the "Plumber's Daughter from St. Paul", she is the idol of fans everywhere.

GLORIA BRENDT, a native of Chicago, has been racking up new fans recently with her scoring sprees. After getting her first "five-pointer" a short while ago, there has been no holding this 20 year old beauty. Gloria is 5' 3" and weighs 118 pounds.

JIMMY CALDER, a promising young skater, is 22, 6'2", and tips the scales at 185 lbs. Watch him when it comes to speed for he won the National A.A.U. Senior Men's Skating Championship in 1949. An all-round athlete in high school, Jimmy served in the Navy during World War II, and is married.

CHUCK DAVIS is an old timer in Derby action whose career was interrupted by a stint in the Coast Guard during the war. He returned to the roller skating wars in 1949. Hard work and constant practice finds him a much improved skater with possibilities of developing into an outstanding star.

GENE GAMMON, one of the biggest guys in Roller Derby, is 6' 3" and weighs 205 pounds. Gene is very fast and a great defensive player. While he enjoys being in the thick of Roller Derby action, he is always worried when his wife, Gerry Murray, is on the track.

HELEN GARDNER is known as "Butterfly", a nickname she picked up during her early skating years when she was an amateur figure skating specialist. Helen hails from Knoxville, Tennessee and has held regional skating championships throughout her hometown area. Her two big interests are her husband, Billy Bogash, and lovely clothes.

MARY GARDNER hails from Knoxville, Tennessee and is 23 years old. Before joining the Derby, she engaged in figure skating and was quite a champion, but is now busy upholding her title as one of the most spirited girls in Roller Derby. She is married to Billy Reynolds, and they are the proud parents of a little girl. Mary is 5' 5" tall and weighs 118 pounds.

SID HARNESK, called "Smiling Sid" by his fans, is recently out of the Army, and again a top-notch competitor in Roller Derby, despite the long layoff. Sid was a peak performer when he went into service, having competed on a par with such stars as Ken Monte and Russ Massro.

HAROLD JANOWITZ hails from Minneapolis and is 25 years old. He is fast, shifty and can really be relied upon to cover his assignment in any jam. Interested in all types of athletics with swimming and basketball topping the list. Harold was captain of his high school basketball team, but his real ambition is to be a top flight skater with the Roller Derby.

ANNIS JENSEN hails from San Francisco and began her career back in 1940. During the last few years, "Big Red" has been out of action, but is now back and better than ever. Even her rivals admit that she has the smartest style and skating form among the girl competitors.

BOBBIE JOHNSTONE hails from Provo, Utah. Although she trained for only 3 days before her Roller Derby debut, Bobbie has developed into one of the roughest and toughest blockers on the track. She joined the Derby in 1939 and one year later married Buddy Atkinson. Bobbie plays all kinds of sports, but baseball, swimming and horseback riding are her favorites.

JOHNNY KARP is one of the most colorful skaters to come up in the ranks of Roller Derby in the past six years. Johnny is very fast and his style of skating is thrilling to watch. Few skaters in Roller Derby take more chances on the dangerous track than this little speed merchant. Johnny is 23 years old, 5' 7" tall and weighs 160 pounds. He designed the track which is now used in Roller Derby.

ANNABELLE (SLUGGER) KEALEY is right behind Toughie Brasuhn in the "rough'em-up" department. She has been in Roller Derby competition for 10 years, and has also engaged in roller hockey and racing. She is certainly one of the girls to watch when the action on the banked track is at its peak. Slugger is 29 years old, 5' 4" tall and weighs 110 pounds.

JOE KOSMAL is known as "Jo-Jo" around the Roller Derby track. Hails from Chicago, stands 5' 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighs 158. A graduate of Morton High, Chicago, Joe went right into the Navy after finishing school and spent one and a half years in service. Joe was an accomplished A.A.U. tumbler during his school days; went in for bowling and horseback riding, too. He joined Roller Derby in 1948.

RUSS MASSRO hails from Chicago. Russ is a hard worker and very fast, loves action when it's the roughest and has no fear of the dangerous banked track. As a matter of fact, his favorite trick is running on skates even when he hits the curves.

KEN MONTE is the greatest speed skater to have developed in the last 6 years. It is commonly agreed that if any new speed records are to be established, Ken is the man who will do it. He is 6' tall, weighs 170 pounds, and is only 24 years old.

GERRY MURRAY is the world's fastest woman skater — she holds the quarter, one-half and one-mile banked track world's records. Now twenty-eight years old, Gerry started her professional career in her home town of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1938. She is one of the Derby's greatest point-getters.

ROLLER DERBY STARS

LENNY MURRO at 18 is the younger half of what many fans call the "Suicide Twins". Saw his friend Val Panzitta speeding around the banked track on television, and joined the Roller Derby to pair up with him. The two of them have created such havoc with their offensive tactics that they are really earning the above nickname.

FRED NOA, the only Hawaiian champion in Roller Derby, hails from San Francisco and is a top star. He looks small, but is tough and fast. His hobby is the ukulele which he is constantly practicing in an effort to emulate his father, a top-notch musician.

MARY LOU PALERMO, veteran of many years of Roller Derby, has a large following in the Eastern area and is rated as one of the best blockers in the history of the game. Mary Lou is a popular member of her team and hails from Chicago.

VAL PANZITTA, senior member of the "Suicide Twins", is 22 years old, 160 lbs., and stands 5'8". Val was in the Navy V-5 program at Holy Cross College before joining the Derby, which he first saw on television. Despite a recurrent knee injury, he's a tough customer for any opponent.

JULIE PATRICK hails from Buffalo and is one of the top offensive skaters on her team. She is very fast and, when points are needed, can usually be counted on to break away in the jam. Julie saw her first Roller Derby in a newsreel at the theatre in which she was working. She became interested in it and decided to make skating her career.

JEAN PORTER, born in Canada and raised in Buffalo, is of full-blooded Indian descent. She has been in Roller Derby for four years. Although one of the smallest girls to engage in the rock'em and sock'em sport this 22-year-old ball of fire is a consistent scoring threat.

BILL REYNOLDS is one of the most colorful skaters in Roller Derby competition. He is plenty tough and, for a little guy, gives and takes more rough play than any other skater. Bill is 5' 8" tall and weighs 140 pounds. His hometown is Chicago.

SILVER RICH comes from Cleveland, Ohio, and has been in the Roller Derby for eight years. He is fast on the offensive and his cool style of play makes him a great leader on the banked oval. Silver weighs 156 pounds, stands 5' 6", and is 29 years old.

BOB SATTERFIELD is enjoying a comeback to the Derby after a three year absence and is regaining all the speed records he held before entering the Merchant Marine. His main hobby is cars, but he also loves to ride horses. In fact, he worked for about eight months in a rodeo riding broncs and bulls. Bob is 30 years old and calls Hollywood his home.

CHARLES (SPECS) SAUNDERS comes from Louisville, Kentucky, and is 24 years old. Until recently he was the only player in Roller Derby competition to skate with his glasses on—hence the nickname of "Specs." He started with the Derby in 1942, spent a year in the Air Corps, and rejoined the Derby in 1947.

SAM SKOBEL is a smooth speed skater, was a track star in high school, and is a big offensive gun—scores so many points that his teammates call him "Gunner". Sam hails from Chicago, is 22 years old, weighs 158 pounds and stands 5'9" tall.

RED SMARTT, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, has been skating in the Roller Derby since 1946 and is one of the best skaters in the business. Scored his first five-pointer when the whole pack piled up—Red was the only one standing and simply stepped over them. He is 20 years old, stands 5'11", and weighs 155 pounds.

What's new in Roller Derby?

Who's the leading scorer?

Who's the newest star?

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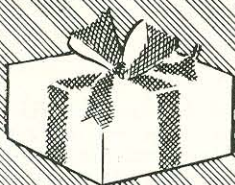
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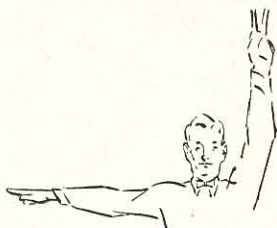
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POINTS SCORED



JAM CALLED OFF



JAM OFF —
SKATER INTO INFELD



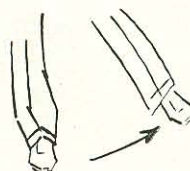
DELAYING GAME



SLUGGING



KNEEING



TRIPPING



INSUBORDINATION



PUSHING



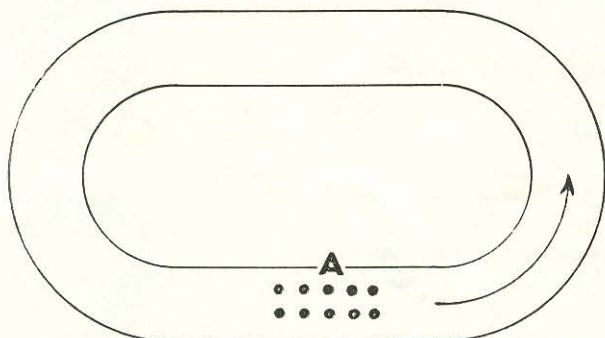
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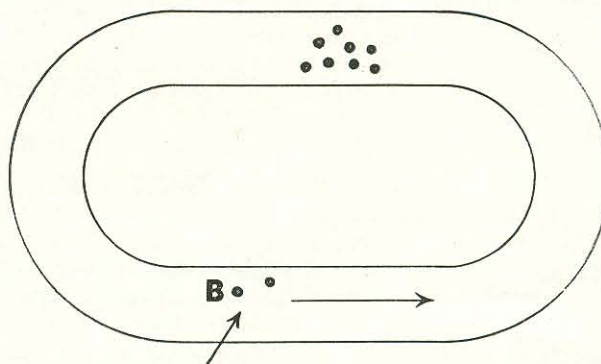
UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS



ILLEGAL BLOCKING

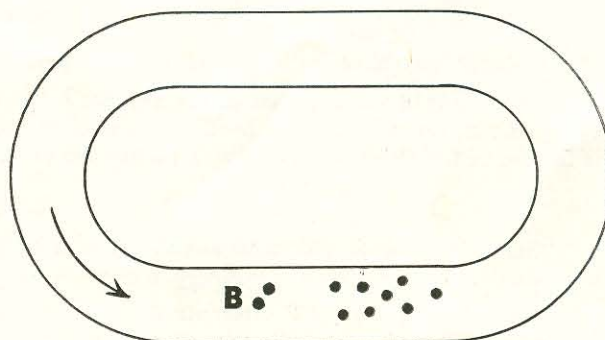


All jams start from the pack (A).



Jam skaters (B) are those who break away from the rest of the field (pack) and try to lap the opposition.

Jam skaters (B) moving in on back of pack. A point is scored by passing a member of the opposing team; two points if 3 players are passed; and five points if 5 players are passed. This must be done within two minutes.



NEW OFFICIAL ROLLER DERBY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each night's racing shall consist of two halves of four 15-minute periods each.

A team consists of ten regular and not more than ten alternate or substitute skaters.

The boy and girl skaters will wear identical numbers and colors and will alternate in 15 minute skating periods.

A "jam" is an effort to lap the field and score a POINT. A JAM occurs when one or more skaters breaks away from the rest of the field and tries to score. A buzzer or whistle will signify the start of a jam after the entire field of skaters is well bunched. In order to score, the skater or skaters going out on the jam must completely encircle the track, come in behind the field and pass at least one member of the opposing team. This must be done within the OFFICIAL time limit for a jam, which is TWO MINUTES.

The last five minutes of each game shall be considered as straight jamming time. In order to prevent stalling the 15-minute clock shall stop, within this period, until the field is formed and a new official jam is started.

A skater cannot be considered on a jam unless he is approximately 20 feet in front of the field.

Points are scored as follows:

- a—For completing a jam by lapping the field and passing one or two members of the opposing team.....1 Point
- b—Passing three or four members of the opposing team2 Points
- c—Passing all five of the opposing team5 Points
- d—With one skater in the penalty box, the opposition may score 1 point by passing one skater, 2 points by passing two skaters and 5 points by passing four skaters. With two skaters in the penalty box, the opposition may score 2 points by passing one skater and 5 points by passing the three remaining skaters on the track.
- e—If a jam skater is fouled by a blocker, the jam skater will be awarded 1 point just as if he had passed the fouling skater. If he is fouled after passing two of the opposition he will receive 2 points and 5 points if fouled after passing three or four.
- f—A blocker may be passed for more than one point by the SAME jam skater if the jam skater laps the blocker for the second time.

A jam is concluded for any of the following reasons:

- a—The expiration of the 2-minute time limit on each jam.
- b—At the conclusion of a 15-minute racing period.
- c—If the leading jam skater falls.
- d—If the leading jam skater leaves the track with both skates.
- e—In the case of an official time out (permitted any time).
- f—By the leading jam skater placing both hands on his hips.

PENALTIES

- a—Two minute penalties are assessed for holding, illegal blocking, and minor fouls.
- b—A three minute penalty is assessed when, in the opinion of the officials, a defensive blocker intentionally fouls the leading jam skater in order to keep him from scoring.
- c—A five minute penalty is assessed in cases of severe roughness and insubordination.
- d—Banishment is assessed when a skater makes a malicious attack on a referee or another skater, or, at the discretion of the referees, for any extreme cases of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- e—A skater accumulating 12 or more minutes in penalty time in one game is automatically ruled out of the game. His substitute will serve out the time of the last penalty.
- f—If a penalized skater does not leave the track immediately or interferes with the remainder of the field, he will receive an additional two minutes in the penalty box.

BLOCKING

A player may block an opponent with any part of his body, except as follows:

It is illegal to use any part of the arm below the elbow or to block with the feet or trip an opponent. In using elbows, the arm must be bent. In blocking, the elbow must not touch the opponent above the shoulders, nor is the use of the elbow permitted with an upward or downward movement.

OVERTIME

There can be no tie games. If at the end of the eighth period the score is tied, the game will go into overtime, as follows:

The girls and boys will alternate five minute skating periods until a point is scored. The team scoring the first point will be declared the winner. In the overtime, the 2-minute time limit will be in effect on all jams.

THE TOPS!

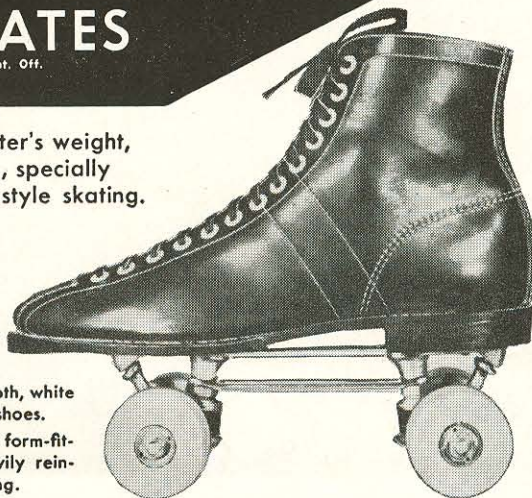


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