



Rolling Through Time

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National Museum of Roller Skating
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Who We Are

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska and the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 50 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

Curator's Corner

Mineola Donation



Jack Nicholson from Florida donated a few pictures and memorabilia from the Mineola Skating Rink of Long Island. Seen above is the 1938-1939 skating club.



Museum Mentioned in *Trailer Life*.



10 TRAILERLIFE October 2013

In the October issue of the monthly magazine *Trailer Life*, the author Pamela Thompson discusses National Roller Skating Month. Ms. Thompson had contacted the museum two months prior for her story. She wanted some background on the sport in general for her story on the Ramona Roller Rink in Sister Lakes, Michigan.

Our museum helped with some historical facts as well as museum information. Thompson briefly mentioned John Joseph Merlin and James Plimpton as two pioneers for the sport. She then finishes the article letting her audience know that our museum is located in Nebraska, as well as giving contact information. She also used a photograph provided by the museum with proper citation.

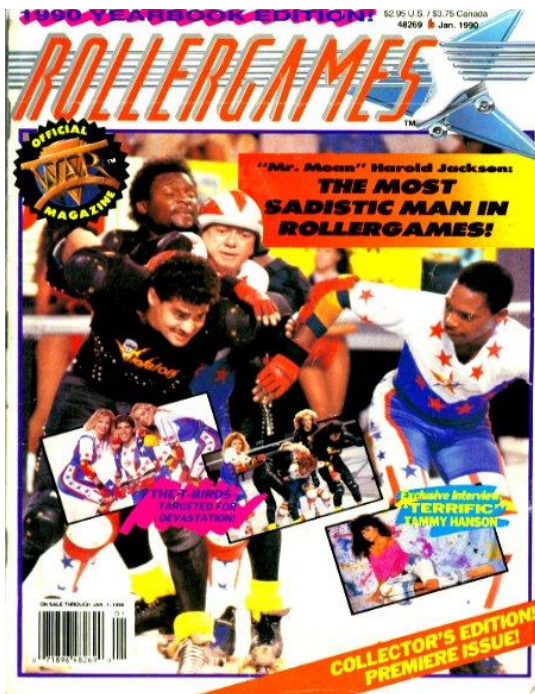
These small mentions in various publications help the museum gain notoriety and are important to celebrate.

RollerGames



For one season, the show *RollerGames* appeared on MTV as a type of reintroduction to the 1960s television show *Roller Games*. This version, however, portrayed a very theatrical spin to roller derby. In teams of ten, five men and five women competed for the coveted Commissioner's Cup. Their slogan was "Rock 'n RollerGames".

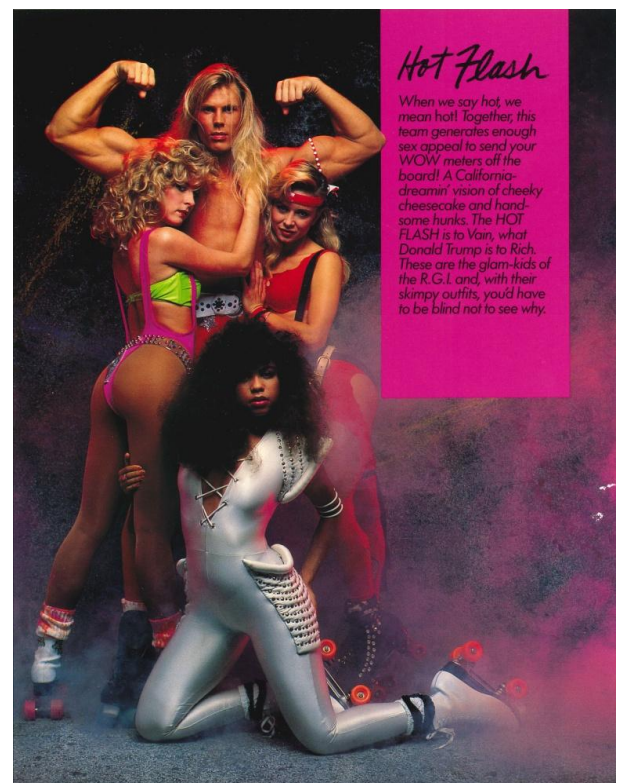
Instead of the traditional banked track oval of roller derby, the *RollerGames* competed on a figure eight shaped track. Only those called jettors were allowed to score points.

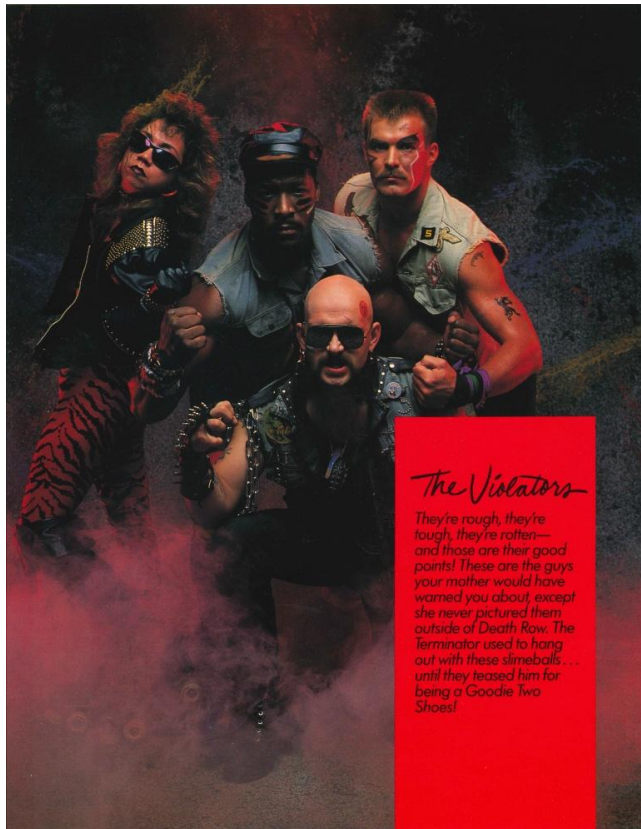


To add extra obstacles, the track featured three areas to greater test the skaters' abilities. The "Wall of Death" gave six points to the jettor who jumped above the top line, and two points for those above the low line. The "Jet Jump" was a long jump feature giving six points to the jettor who cleared the 12 foot line and two points for those close; jettors needed to land upright. The alligator pit was only used to settle ties; whoever skated around five times first or pushed the other into the pit was declared the winner.



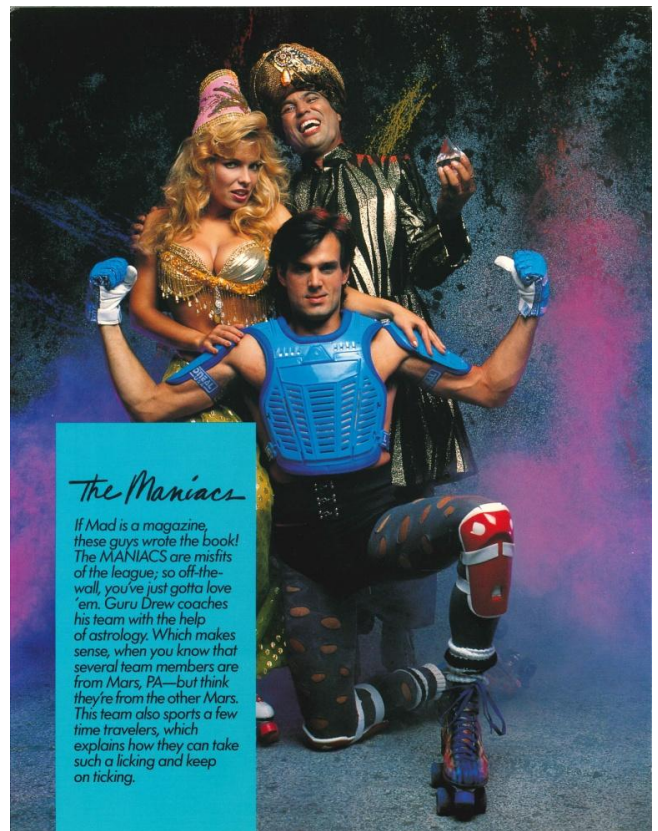
In addition to these high points awarded, most of the points were awarded singularly. The jettor received a point for passing opponents who sat in the penalty pod. He/she also received one point for each opposing skater passed on the track. Jettors scored these points in 45 second bouts over four, six minute periods.





RollerGames comprised of six teams: the T-Birds, the Rockers, Hot Flash, the Violators, Bad Attitude and the Maniacs. The league promoted its sport through rock music, sex appeal, outrageous characters and sitcom-type story lines.

A favorite line from color commentator David Sams was "That was absolutely DE-VAST-AT-ING!"



Although performing well in television ratings, RollerGames only lasted one season, due to some producers going bankrupt.

Skate of the Week Albert Anderson Skate



This wooden skate, manufactured by Albert Anderson has a patent date of Nov. 12, 1861. The two-wheeled wooden skate was a gift of Elizabeth Plimpton.

Wish List

1.) **Competition worn clothing:** One of the most commented on parts of the museum collection deals with our event worn items. Whether dance costumes, speed uniforms, derby jerseys, hockey sticks, or specific skates, visitors like to see what people wear while competing in roller skating competitions.

The museum is most in need of items worn while competing for a national championship or a world title. If you have anything you feel meets the criteria and are interested in donating, please contact the museum at your earliest convenience.

2.) **Original Artwork:** For those who visit the museum, we have a small collection of original artwork with a roller skating theme. We have original oil paintings from the Chicago Skate Company from the 1940s. There is a life-size sculpture of two girls carrying roller skates. We showcase an original lithograph from Cheret, the father of poster art. These items, along with a few others, make up our original art collection.

If anyone has any additional artwork with a roller skating theme, please contact the museum. We are looking to expand this part of our permanent collection.

3.) The museum is always in need of **odd and unusual skates**. Visitors are drawn to our different types of skates, variations to the norm, and how others failed to conform to the typical skate. On display now are animals skates as well as motorized skates. With anything you might consider an ODD skate, please contact the museum.

Rink Sticker Collection

The museum has an extensive collection of roller skating rink stickers. Many skating rinks used to produce stickers as both an advertisement and fun way to for skaters to interact with one another, comparing the different location in which they skated. These were even traded as collectibles both informally and formally, under the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange founded in 1948. Each newsletter, we will feature four different rink stickers. Here are a few examples of the numerous stickers in the collection and on display at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

International Stickers



Thanks for supporting the museum!

