

National Skateboard **REVIEW**



'78 Competition Season Starts Early

Stories inside

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COVER PHOTO

STEVE ALBA. Winner of the first Hester- I.S.A. Pool Contest at Skateboard Heaven. Photo Tim Stahl.

National Skateboard REVIEW

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The REVIEW is intended to reflect skateboarding on the local level. I rely on contributions from skateparks, retail shopw, contest directors, and individual skaters who want to be heard. To be your voice I need to hear from you.

The NATIONAL SKATEBOARD REVIEW is a monthly, non-profit newspaper published by Sparks, Inc. and edited by Di Dootson. Subscriptions are \$6 per year. Advertising rates are available upon request; Issues may be bought in bulk order of not less than 25 at 20c apiece; they will be sent C.O.D.

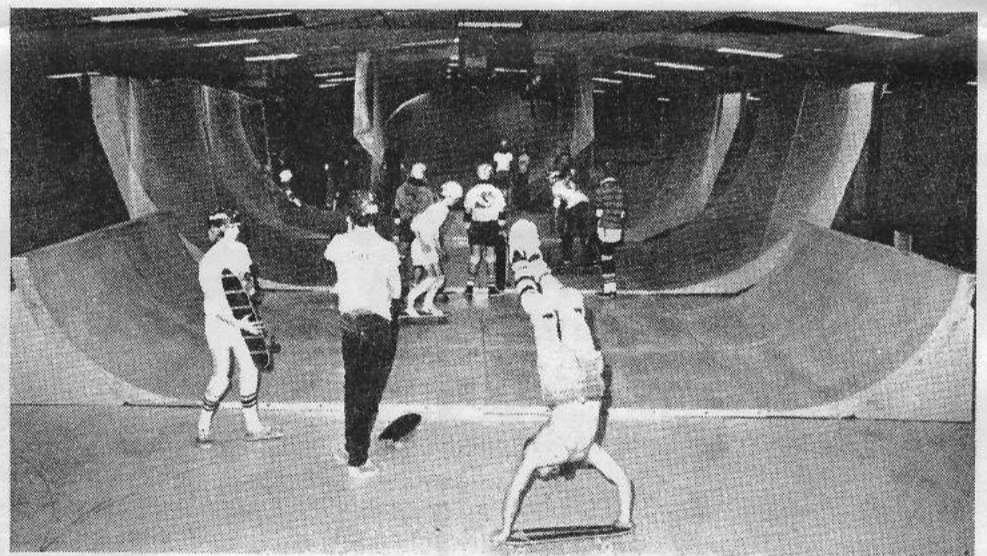
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CALENDAR



MAY

- 6, 7 - Gaithersburg, Md; MARYLAND STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS; at the Glasswave skatepark; Entry fee \$8.50; not limited to Md; rules by ISA; Directed by Haystack Marlowe; call 301/948-9810 for information.
- 13, 14 - Carson, Cal; RUNWAY-PEPSI CHALLENGE CUP; Pro Bank Slalom race; \$3,000 purse; spectators \$2.50 in advance, \$3 day of show; call 213/323-1100 for information.
- 20 - Baton Rouge, La; CONTEST; Solid Surf Skatepark; call 504/275-7208 for information.
- 20 - Oakland County, Mich; OAKLAND COUNTY SKATEBOARD CONTEST; applications at Don Thomas Sport Haus; Amateur event; Directed by Chris Yandall; slalom, freestyle; call 313/626-9586 for information.
- 21 - Berkeley, Cal; 3rd ANNUAL U.C. BERKELEY CHAMPIONSHIP; Directed by Team AlotAflex; giant slalom, freestyle, banked slalom, jump slalom, downhill, high jump, 360's, half pipe; Amateur \$5 entry, Pro \$5/\$10; call 415/548-4970 or 415/642-7477 for information.
- 28 - Biloxi, Miss; SKATEBOARD TOURNAMENT; Amateur; spectators \$1.25; entry fee \$2.50 per event; freestyle, slalom; entries must be returned by May 13th.
- 28 - Corfu, New York; CONTEST; slalom, freestyle, bowl; Amateur; \$3 entry; at Synder's Darian Lake Skate park; call 716/834-1142 for information.

JUNE

- 10 - Lafayette, Ind; FREESTYLE CONTEST; at Tippecanoe Mall; Directed by Di Dootson; rules by ISA; Amateur; Sponsored by WAZY Radio; registration that morning; call 317/447-1416 for information.

formation.

- 11 - Long Beach, Cal; 4th ANNUAL SIGNAL HILL SPEED RACE; entries closed; spectators welcome; by the USSA; call 213/830-4110 for information.
- 16, 17 - Oceanside, Cal; ISA FREESTYLE COMPETITION Trials; Pro and Am; \$10,000 purse for Pros; prizes for Am; at the Pier; call 714/646-0258 for information.
- 24-30 - Ocean City, MD; WEEK OF SKATEBOARD SAFETY
- 24, 25 - Oceanside, Cal; ISA FREESTYLE COMPETITION Finals; Pro and Am; call 714/646-0258 for information.
- To be arranged - Saginaw, Mich; CONTEST; freestyle, slalom; Amateur; Directed by Chris Yandall; call 313/626-9586 for information.
- To be arranged - Midland, Mich; BIG BROTHER SKATEBOARD CONTEST; Amateur; freestyle, slalom; call 313/626-9586 for information.

JULY

- 1, 2 - Akron, Ohio; 2nd ANNUAL DOWNHILL CHAMPIONSHIPS; at Derby Downs; more info coming.

AUGUST

- 13, 15 - Anaheim, Cal; 2nd SKATEBOARD, SURFING, AND ACCESSORIES MARKET; Anaheim Convention Center; call 213/760-1016 for information.

OCTOBER

- 20, 21, 22 - Catalina Island, 2nd CATALINA CLASSIC; by the ISA; more info coming.

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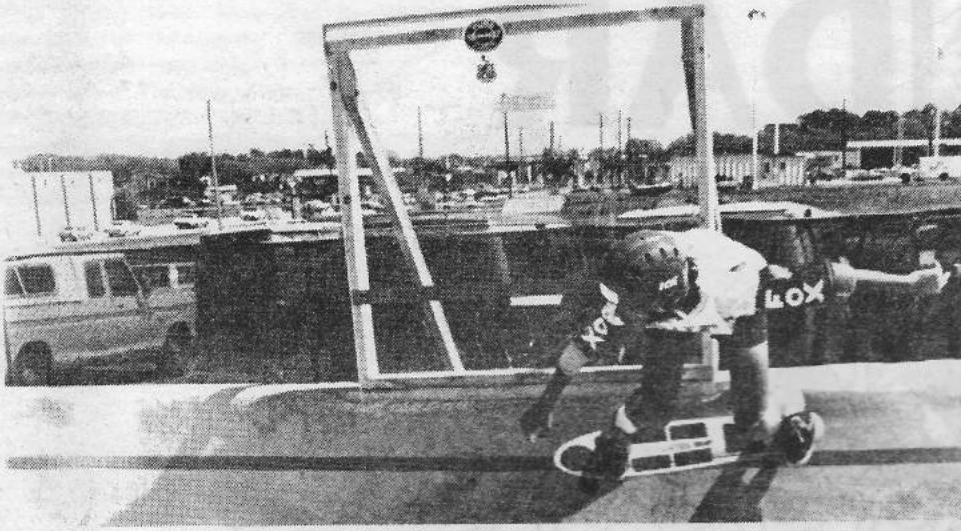


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Another of the FOX TEAM shows his style in the half pipe as he hits the line in the half pipe before completing his run in the Cross Country Event. Photo Sigler.



The first skater out of the starting gates early that Saturday morning was TONY SOMETES, 10 years old, from the Clearwater Team. Photo Sigler.



Clearwater Skatepark team rider PAT PARKER, banks into the half pipe in his last run of the Cross Country Event. Photo Sigler.

CLEARWATER,

Amateur and Pro alike crowded into sunny Clearwater, Florida to enjoy white sand beaches, plenty of blue skies and best of all some of the finest skateboarding competition in the country.

The City of Clearwater and Clearwater Skateboard Park hosted the first Pro-Am Championship which included an all day street event of a Giant Slalom and Dual Slalom. The second day everyone retired to standing room only crowds at the Clearwater Skateboard Park to the hardest, most gut-busting cross-country event ever dreamed up.

Almost Five Thousand Dollars in Prizes for Amateurs and Cash for Pros was on the line to give steam under every board and a gleam into the eye of every challenger from the Junior Boys (13 and under) all the way to the Pro selections. All day long on Saturday, on a beautiful course laid out on a mellow hill with a 35 foot drop and about 600' long, skateboards traversed down a giant slalom course on an asphalt road overlooking the Gulf of Mexico with palm trees giving shade to all bystanders.

The Pro Division drew top names along the entire eastern seaboard and ended in one of the tightest Dual Slalom events to give participants and observers conversation for months. In a double elimination, Charlie Gonzales skating for Santa Curz, and by far one of the strongest Slalom racers in Florida, came out of the losers bracket with a sparkle in his eye and determination in his style. Always a showman, his antics and personality added color to the competition that all could enjoy except the luckless skaters pitted against him. But in the final heat of the day, young James Caldwell, skating for Orange Cycle Works, took the Winners bracket clean and came up against Gonzales to beat him by only 1/100 of a second according to the digital readout on the electronic timing devices.

Sunday found 135 skaters entered in the different brackets of a cross-country event. Taking the better part of one tough grueling minute, the skaters traveled down through a series of bowls doing a carve around each bowl, (having to reverse the direction of the carve in each bowl due to the layout of the park), ending in a large 47' bowl that had gate to travel around on one of the walls. Coming out of the bowl, they had to push, one footed up an incline which put them onto a flat run 200' long. After pumping down this run they turned into a snake run with three gates located along the walls. Still the hard part was to come. After pushing themselves along this course, the skaters were faced with a beautiful half-pipe, 18' across topped by an additional 4' of plexiglas. Each contestant, depending on age, had a target line in this half-pipe they had to go above before they could travel out and burst across the finish line against the clock.

The crowd drew along the course as the pros took their turn with their target line being 1' up on the plexiglas. During the excitement of the first run (best time out of two runs) only four Pros completed the required course, but catching their breaths and biting their teeth, all the Pros swept down the course again with a determination that brought good times against the clock and gasps of admiration from watchers as one after another carved up the verticle to do their 180 turns (including some tail blocks from the radicals) in the faces of those behind the plexiglas.

The long week-end was topped off with the crowd pleasing free-style events. Young Amateurs from 17 states competed in all age groups, with some upsets and some expected victories. Tired fans and competitors stood around in the late evening sunset to witness James Caldwell receive his five new one hundred dollar bills from the representative of Foxy's, local T-Shirt Boutique chain that provided the Pro money for the Slalom events. Trophies, ribbons and prizes including skating equipment, sporting equipment and even radios and receivers went into the hands of 68 different winners in all age groups in First, Second and Third places. 21 teams were represented from across the country but first place went to the Sims East Team, a Florida Amateur team who proudly displayed the three foot gleaming trophy they had earned.

Hunter Joslin entertained as host for the two days of Sun and Fun with his wit on the microphone and his knowledge of the contestants and the events since he was one of the basic sources for Clearwater Skateboard Park, who acted as the promoter for the event.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind who attended this two day special, that the beautiful city of Clearwater is the ideal backdrop for what should turn out to be one of the finest annual events in skateboarding. Already, hopefuls can be seen making special trips by the street where next year's slalom event is being planned.



One of the out-of-state skateboarders to visit the Florida event, this Wizard Team rider leaves the gate. Photo Sigler.

FLA, CONTEST

Dual Slalom

13 and Under:

1. Jim Burton
2. Kelly Lynn
3. Mike Fleming

- Wizard, Wilmington
- Santa Cruz
- Independent

14 and 15:

1. Clyde Rogers
2. Kevin Atkinson
3. Scott McCraniels

- Santa Cruz
- Wizard, Wilmington
- Sims East

16 and 17:

1. John Moore
2. Ben Diffitt
3. Brian Lilje

- Progressive
- Sidewalk Surf
- Progressive

18 and Over:

1. Chuck Lagana
2. Shaun Jackson
3. Jon Thatcher

- Sims East
- Independent
- Rainbow Waves

Professional:

1. James Caldwell
2. Charley Gonzales
3. Steve Derrah

- Orange Cycle
- Santa Cruz
- Flite

FREESTYLE

13 and Under:

1. Jeff Ragin
2. Kelly Lynn
3. Allen Benson

- Surferdrome
- Santa Cruz
- Independent

14 and 15:

1. Caru Caswell
2. Mark Robinson
3. Chris Benly

- Progressive
- Atlantis
- Progressive

16 and 17:

1. Bobby Little
2. Mike Folmer
3. Alton Banks

- Independent
- Sims East
- Rainbow Waves

18 and Over:

1. Chuck Lagana
2. Art Whitney
3. Dennis Walburn

- Sims East
- Clearwater Skatepark
- Surferdrome

Professional:

1. Mike Noonan
2. Scott Thomas
3. Dave Bentley

- Independent
- Santa Cruz
- Skaterider

CROSS COUNTRY

13 and Under:

1. Chuck Friedman
2. Jim Burton
3. Kelly Lynn

- Independent
- Wizard, Wilmington
- Santa Cruz

14 and 15:

1. Scott McCraniels
2. Clyde Roders
3. Steve Albershart

- Sims East
- Santa Cruz
- Skateboard World

16 and 17:

1. Joe St. Angelo
2. Mike Folmer
3. Guy Hoffman

- Sims East
- Sims East
- Flite

18 and Over:

1. Chuck Lagana
2. Chris Moriarty
3. Shaun Jackson

- Sims East
- Rollin' Waves
- Independent

Professional:

1. Dave Bentley
2. Bob Bentley
3. Jeff Croyl

- Skaterider
- Radikal
- Independent

GIANT Slalom

13 and Under:

1. Kelly Lynn
2. Jeff Ragin
3. Jim Burton

- Santa Cruz
- Wizard, Florence
- Wizard, Wilmington

14 and 15:

1. David Rodriguez
2. Kevin Atkinson
3. Scott McCraniels

- Santa Cruz
- Wizard, Wilmington
- Sims East

16 and 17:

1. Bryan Lilje
2. Ben Duffett
3. Dave Adams

- Progressive
- Sidewalk Surf
- Clearwater Skatepark

18 and Over:

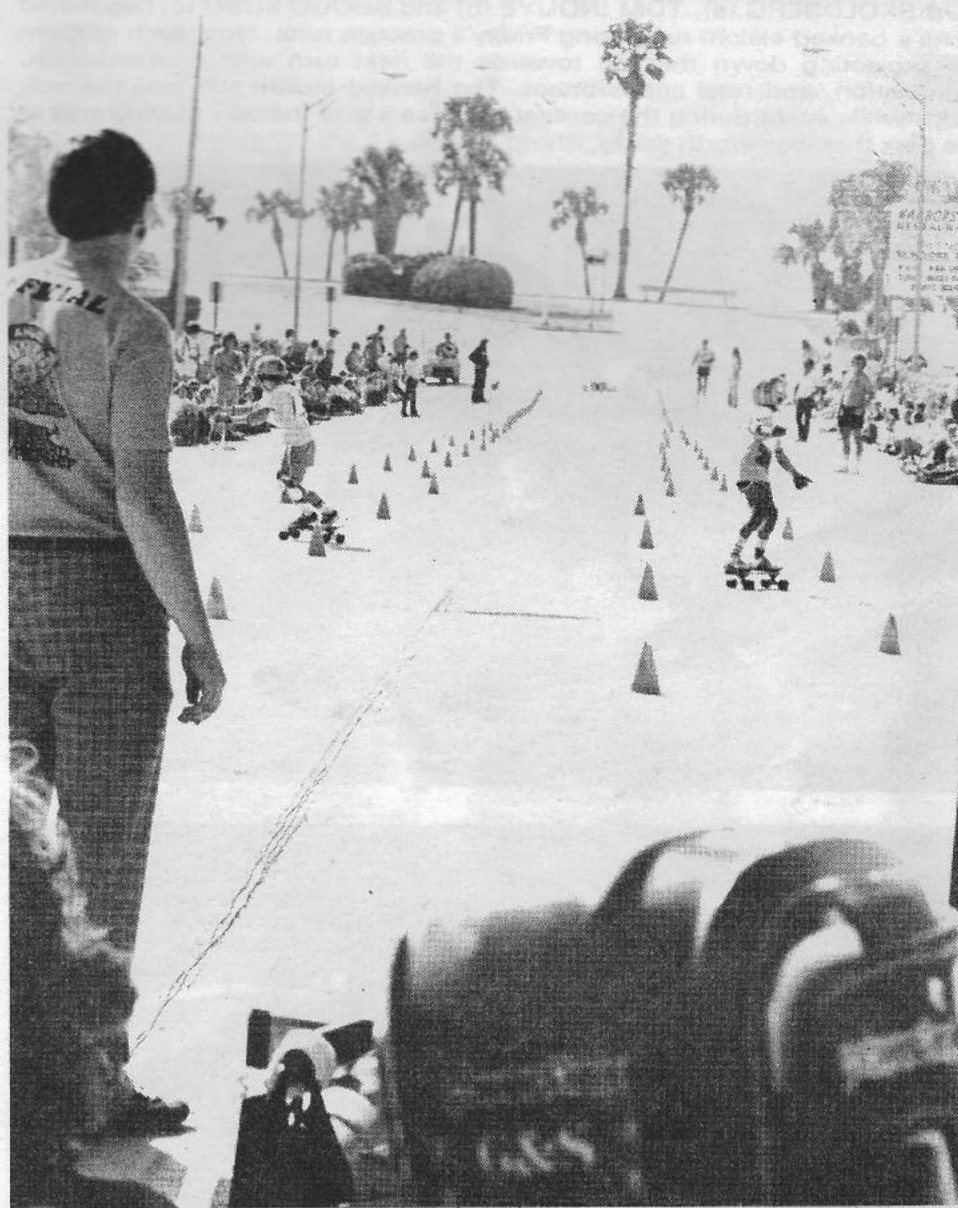
1. Chuck Lagana
2. Jon Thatcher
3. Chip Holgren

- Sims East
- Rainbow Waves
- Independent

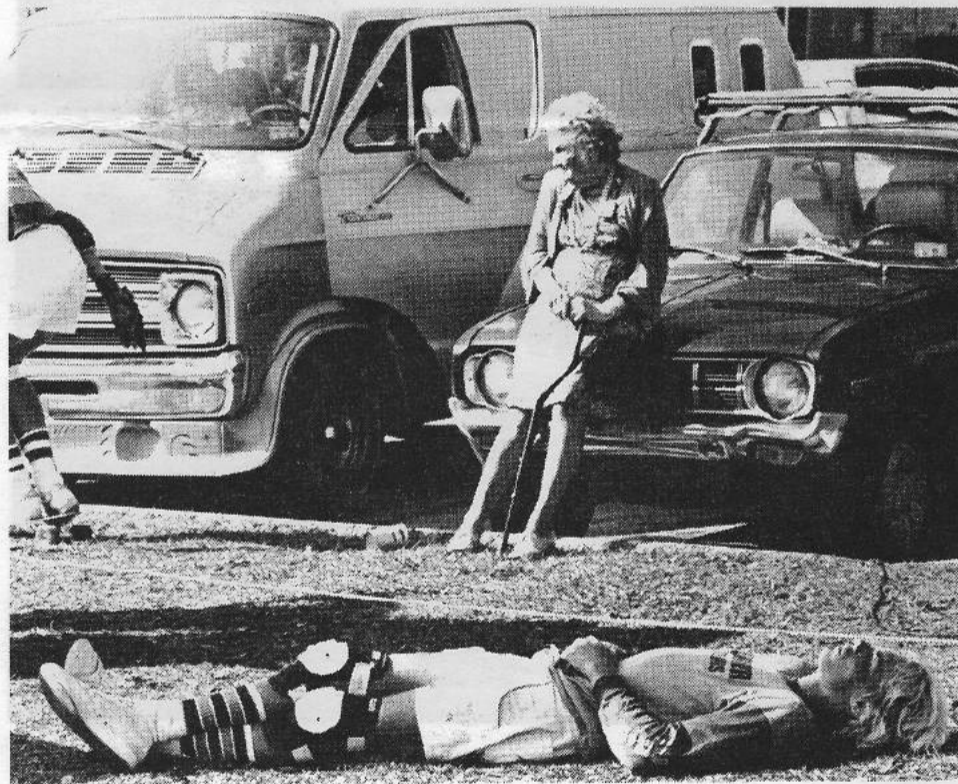
Professional:

1. Charley Gonzales
2. Jeff Croyl
3. Bobby Mandarin

- Santa Cruz
- Independent
- Santa Cruz



Two of the younger enthusiasts try their turn down the hill in the Junior Boys division (13 and Under). The Gulf of Mexico can be seen at the foot of the hill. Photo Sigler.



GLENN KLUGEL, sponsored by Bruce Walker, relaxes by the sidelines as an interested spectator proves skateboarding draws people of all ages. Photo Sigler.

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BOB SKOLDBERG (a), TOM INOUE (b) and SHOGO KUBO (c) negotiated Kona's banked slalom run during Friday's practice runs. Note each of them are projecting down the line towards the next turn with concentration, anticipation, and total commitment. The banked slalom run was the only worthwhile event during the contest because it was the only skating area at the park that was worth riding. Photo Joslin.



A



B



C

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KONA PRO

In March, Kona Skatepark hosted its second large skateboard contest. Just a week after Clearwater Skatepark held its successful Pro event, Kona was boasting a \$10,000 purse that attracted the big name Pros from California. Kona had set the stage for a confrontation between the California and Florida riders. They started showing up at least a week in advance to start working out.

Planned events included a banked slalom race, a freestyle event on the sloped flat area, a bowl riding event with some verticle, a speed run on the banked run, and a Pro Women's banked slalom. A ramp riding event was planned but the ramp was not finished in time for the contest.

The contest had its problems from the start. A proposed promoter eventually declined to get involved resulting in the expected turn out of 300 being reduced to about 125. Coca-Cola, the sponsor, pulled out and the purse was paid reportedly by the Trustees of Kona, Corp. The producer of the event, Eddie Rolan, and the Director, Di Dootson, had a difficult time working together. With an absence of paid officials, judges for the freestyle and bowl riding had to be "borrowed" from the spectators and Pros who came to compete. A lack of paid officials also made the management of the slalom trials all but impossible. After their trial runs Bob Skoldberg, and John Hutson volunteered to pull the slalom race together. The contest had to start without tables and chairs.

The Semi Finals on Saturday went much smoother. Except for a serious dispute over a protest by the Pro Slalom riders concerned with practice time allowance, the Semi's ran fairly well. Contest equipment was being found. A PA System was donated by a local group. The Pro Women were enjoying the race put together especially for them by matching their entry monies with funds from Kona.

It was a long day for Finals on Easter Sunday. Starting with the 10 AM Riders' Meeting, going through age division Finals one at a time, and ending it with the Awards Ceremony at Midnight. Pros collected their trophies and checks; Amateurs had to wait to collect their prize merchandise until a later arrangement could be made.

It was a long, long contest. Reports from contestants and staff are as varied as their experiences:

Huck Andress, "It was the hardest competition I've ever been against. And the most fun I've ever had. It would have been better in the finals to have a closer ratio of East to West judges" (Using volunteers for the judging in the finals brought forward four from the West and one from the East).

Bob Skoldberg, "A disappointment for sure. A question of rules and officiating resulting in slalom racer hassles. There wasn't enough time for Di to organize it the way it should have been so there had to be some last minute decisions that shouldn't have to have been made. Plus, the park manager took no pains to facilitate a professional event."

Mike Weed, "The worst contest I've ever been in. I don't remember any contest being this much of a bummer - even in the early days." Hopefully, we all learned some lessons.

Some highlights include:

- HUNTER JOSLIN on the microphone on Sunday
- MARK LAKE's summersault off the top of the verticle
- SHAWN PEDDIE's flyaway three feet over the verticle
- PAUL HACKETT winning the Bowl Riding using Suspenders
- BRUCE LOGAN's clean freestyle routine tying GREG AYREA
- DENNIS MARTINEZ dressed in Krpto Green
- BELLA HORVATH just being there with TONY ALVA & THE BOYS
- the CHRONDEK TROPHY for the Speed Run Winner: JIMMY PLUMER
- the Pro Ladies competing against the Men in Freestyle with ELLEN BERRYMAN in the Finals
- BOBBY MANDARINO beating BOB PIERCY in the banked slalom

-the volunteer officials who helped keep it moving: Don Singer, David Sullivan, Todd Gillian, Jay Jenkins, Doug Law, Don Roberts, Stuart Ashbey, Ted Arnau, Jim Plumer, Rodd Saunders, Waldo "in the clouds" Autry, Jerry Valdez, Mel Andress, Brett Brenner, Buffy, Mike Williams, Shogo Kubo, Bob Skoldberg, John Hutson, the cop at the door, Ms. Rolan. Thanks so much to you all.



GREG MEISCHEID tail blocking Kona's Tombstone. Note Robine Loganski is seemingly under Greg's thumb. Photo Joslin.

AM CONTEST

BANKED SLALOM

13 and Under:

1. Danny Martin	16.3020
2. Kenny Heath	16.3319
3. Jim Burton	16.4254
4. Kelly Lynn	16.3020
5. Tom Ford	16.7175

14 to 17:

1. Clyde Roger	15.3267
2. John Moore	15.4127
3. David Narducci	15.5801
4. Stuart Singer	15.6055
5. Scott McCraniels	15.6807

18 and Over:

1. Tim Nunn	15.7949
2. Bill Orr	15.8265
3. Chuck Lagana	15.8813
4. Shaun Jackson	15.8821
5. Fred Franklin	16.0825

Professional:

1. Bob Mandarino	\$2,000	14.9666
2. Bob Piercy	750	15.0559
3. John Hutson	300	15.1464
4. Steve Olson	100	15.2027
5. Mike Weed	50	15.3441

Pro Women:

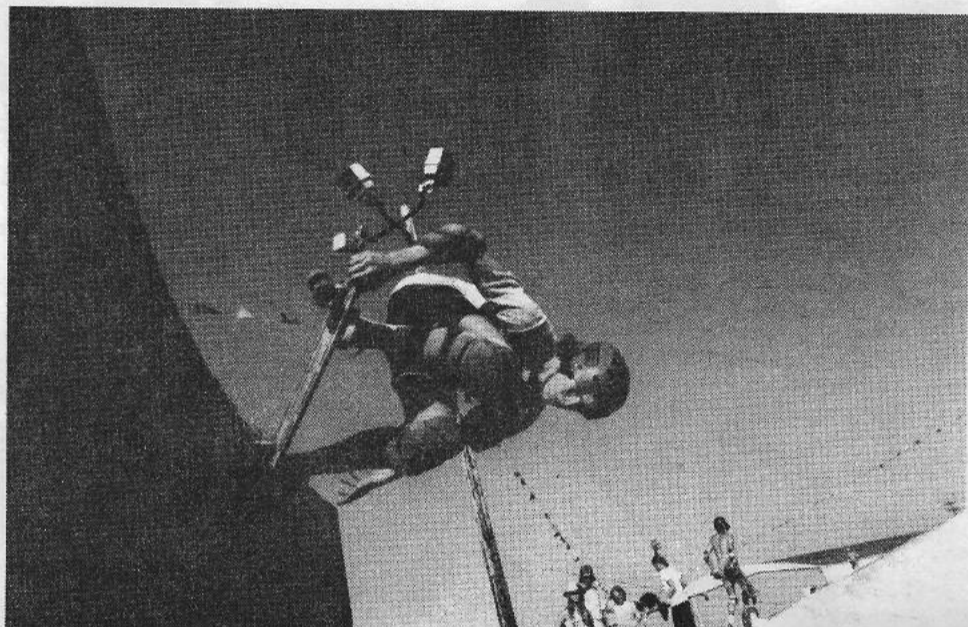
1. Kim Cespedes	51.7171
2. Robin Logan	52.0889
3. Trish McCallister	54.3538
4. Deanna Calkins	56.2869
5. Ellen Berryman	DNF-injury

SPEED RUN (Open)

1. Jim Plumer	8.6713
2. Bruce Walker	8.6764
3. Linden Ashby	8.8192
4. David Bentley	8.8910
5. Obie Jones	8.9257



"Stench" airborne frontside off Kona's Monolith. Photo Joslin.



SCOTT "Red" McCraniels, of the Sims East Coast Team, tail tapping the vert. Photo Joslin.

FREESTYLE

13 and Under:

1. Danny Martin	26 points
2. Kelly Lynn	23/38
3. Bela Horvath	23/37
4. Jeff Ragin	22.5
5. John Mullen	22

14 to 17:

1. Brian Abell	27 points
2. Tim Scruggs	25.5/43
3. Stuart Singer	25.5/42.5
4. Dane Tomlin	25/42.5
5. Chris Bewley	25/39

18 and Over:

1. Dan Murray	23.5 points
2. Rusty Hamilton	21
3. Chuck Lagana	20.5
4. Tim Schiller	20
5. Teddy Rogers	18

Professionals:

1. Dennis Martinez	\$2,000	28 points
2. Huck Andress	750	27/44.5
3. Jim McCall	300	27/44
4. Mike Weed	100	24.5
5. Bruce Logan	50	21.5



KENT "Stench" SENATORE schweeling Kona's Monolith with authority. Photo Joslin.

Bowl Riding

13 and Under:

1. Kelly Lynn	26.5 points
2. Ryder Ingram	25.5
3. Kenny Heath	23.5
4. Ray Diaz	22.5
5. Tom Ford	22

14 to 17:

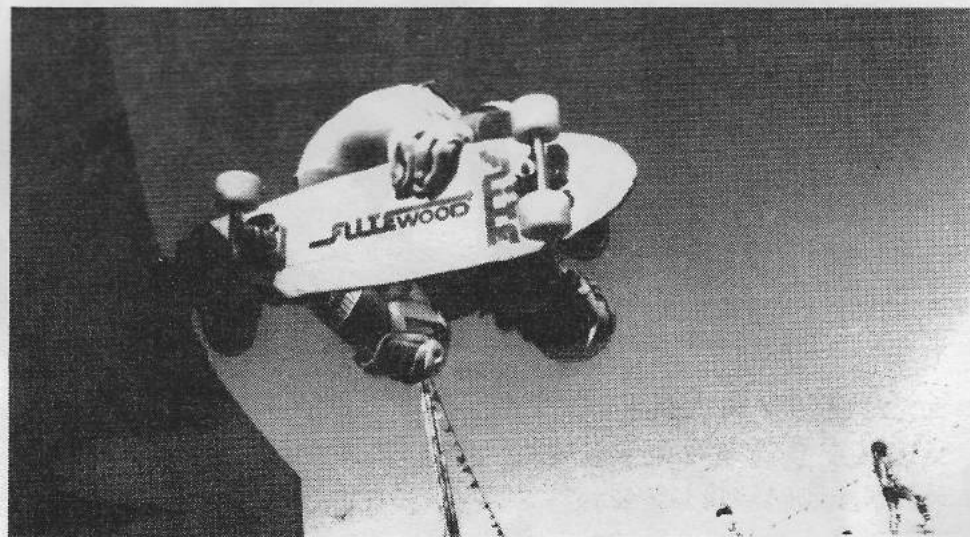
1. Brad Santora	28 points
2. Mike Alexander	27
3. Mike Folmer	26.5
4. Clyde Rogers	26
5. Greg Meischeid	25.5

18 and Over:

1. Teddy Rogers	23.5
2. Jim Dunlop	23
3. Tim Schiller	22.5
4. Mark Bellinger	20.5/33.5/13
5. Bill Orr	20.5/33.5/11

Professionals:

1. Dave Hackett	\$2,000	27.5/46
2. Shawn Peddie	750	27.5/45.5
3. Mike Weed	300	27
4. Tony Alva	100	26
5. Mark Lake	50	24.5



MARK LAKE, of Indian Harbour, Fla, getting backside air at Kona. Mark is one of the first East Coast Pros working with a major East Coast company (Flite) to produce a signature model board. Photo Joslin.



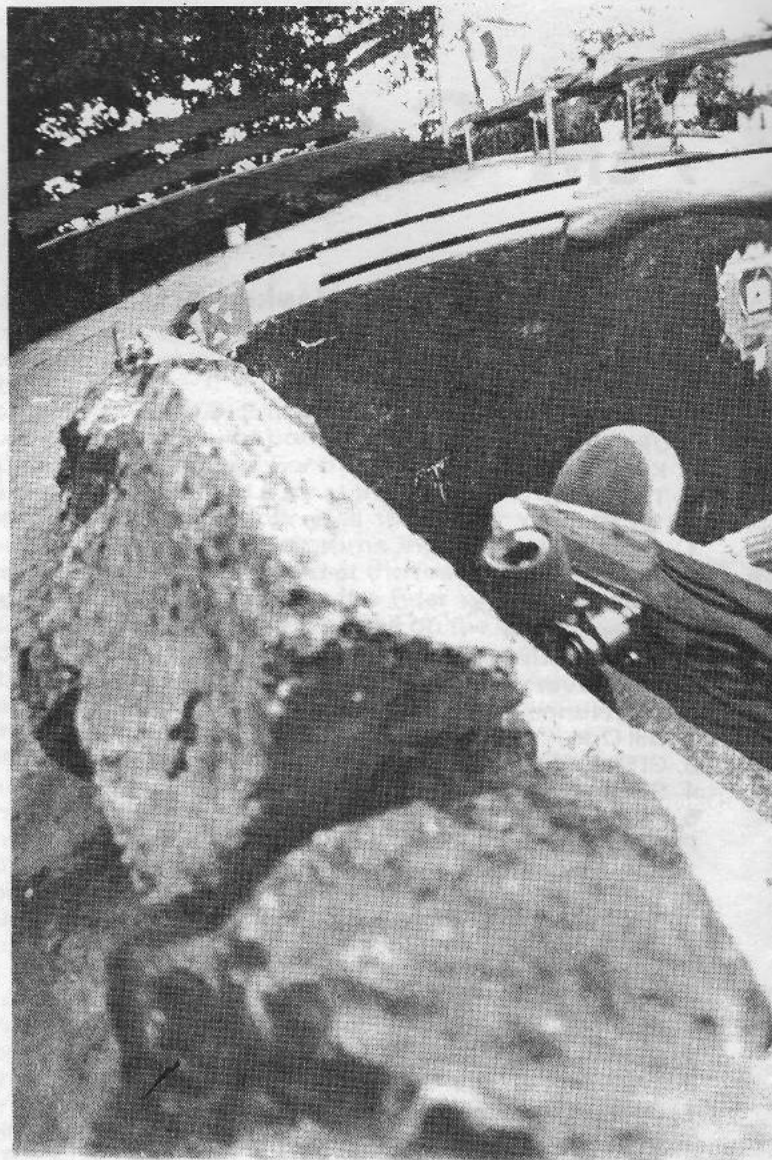
RON FLETCHER flowin' at Fungus Bowl.



CLAY WESLEY "Getting it up."



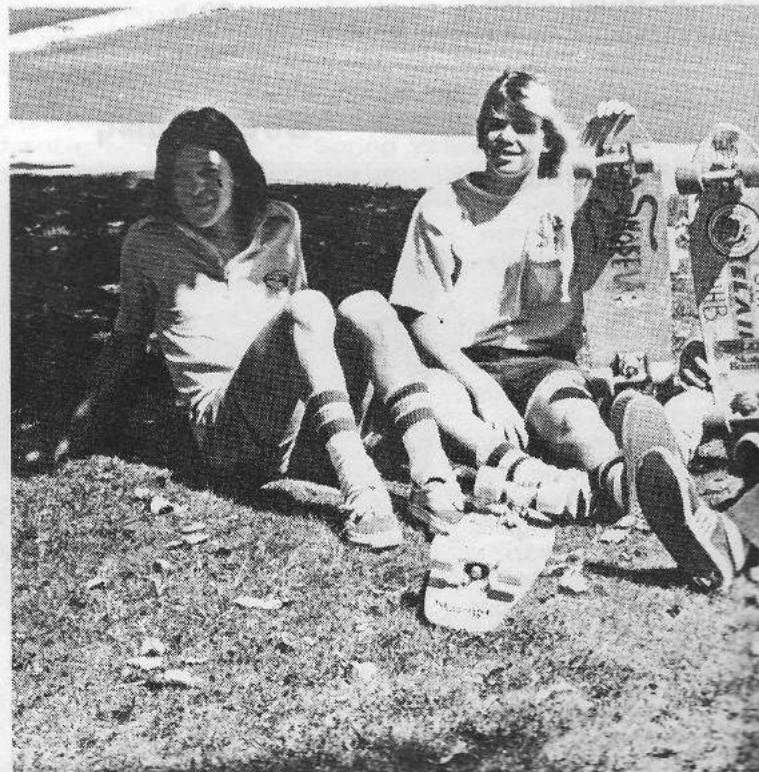
HOWARD ZALOPANY at Fungus Bowl.



HOWARD ZALONY burning Black Bottoms.



DAVE REPP One wheeling the spit gutter.



SKATERS SEEK SPONSERS

by TIM STAHL

Within the San Diego area, a group of various ex-team skaters, fed up with the lack of support from the past sponsors have decided to go independent. With the hopes of pictorial articles such as this one, a reliable sponsor will come forward. All members are experienced in demonstrations and have had contest wins. Interested sponsors please contact Ron Romero 714-449-0224.



DAVE REPP from the top.



Road Rash and Chinaman.



CLAY WESLEY.



Left to right: Clay Wesley, Ron Fletcher, Dave Repp, Dennis "Chinaman" Paulsen, Ron "Road Rash" Romero, and Howard Zalopany.



'Da Crew. The family that bowls together, stays together. Here's one happy family at the end of Hester's #1 and on their way to Hester's #2 at Pipeline. The REVIEW will give a free sticker pack to the one who can identify the most people in the photo. Mail your guess to P.O. Box 2204, Leucadia, Ca, 92024. Photo Stahl.



KANOA Team Rider showing good clean tail tapping form. Photo Saccio.



KIRT TALBOTT, Kanoa Team, works the Soul Bowl #2 at Skateboard Heaven during the arduous Freestyle Bowls event. Photo Stahl.



STEVE OLSON, Santa Cruz, ridin' them tiles in the Tile Carving Event. Judges Curtis Hesselgrave and Don Hoffman watch to be sure he's inside the marks. Photo Saccio.

Pro Pool

The First professional pool riding contest held (finally!) on March 18th and 19th, was part of a four stop tour organized by Henry Hester. After much planning by Henry and Curtis Hesselgrave, publicity starting drawing attention to Skateboard Heaven, Spring Valley, Calif. - site of the First Contest. The series is an open (not an invitational) event sponsored by the I.S.A. The intent was to establish verticle competition and advance to sport by introducing competition in one of its more exciting aspects - bowl/pool riding.

The entry fee for the contest was \$50. Entries must be a member of the I.S.A.; dues are \$25 per year. Sign up for both the contest and I.S.A. is done at each contest on the first morning. For their cash outlay, the Pros get a t-shirt, a Bar-B-Q hot dog lunch, and a try at the \$1,000 purse.

In the One Wheelers contest, the winner was the skater who completed the most consecutive one wheel kick turns in one minute. The count started at the first one wheeler and ended at the first miss.

For the Tile Carving event, the winner was the rider who made the longest carve on or above the tiles. There were marks on the wall to mark the point where the rider had to be on the tile and a second mark to show how far he had to go before coming off. As a group of riders made those dimensions, those marks were moved farther apart until gradually only one man was left. Each rider got two tries at each set of marks.

In the Doubles event, each pair of skaters were awarded points from five judges on a scale of 1 to 10 for their one minute routine. The points were awarded for team work. It was a new event to pool riders and they were not used to planning out their moves together. There is more to it than just two guys in the pool riding at the same time.

In the Freestyle Bowls event, skaters had two minutes to work the pool as best they could. Scores were dropped for repeated maneuvers. Each maneuver was judged 1 to 10 by five judges and all moves added up after the two minutes were up. It proved to be a grueling contest. Two minutes, round after round, is a long time to be pulling the hardest tricks you know. Riders with a small repertoire or low endurance suffered in the scoring and were cut early.

The contest was virtually plagued by poor weather. Twice teams and spectators came from a long way only to have to go on home when the March San Diego weather went bad. Spectators drove from as far away as Boise, Idaho and Phoenix, Arizona. Teams spent easily \$1,000 for each attempted weekend in airfare expenses and hotel and food bills. It was an exasperating and expensive put off. During the wait, Pros were getting hurt. Peaked for their first pro contest, pool riders kept up a high pitch that resulted in overramping in practice. Steve Ferris had three cracked ribs from a contest practice session. Dennis Martinez was nursing a hurt knee. The unavoidable postponements cost everybody.

When we finally got going it was really rolling. Hay bales covered with contest sponsor banners surrounded the pool. Flags and signs were up all over. There was a refreshment stand where sodas and hot dogs were complimentary to contestants and officials. The sound system was loud and clear. Henry had tapes all pre-recorded with good pool riding music.

The One Wheeler event was hot! As each rider left the shallow area the crowd would count with the judges. There was a three-way tie for third place between Steve Cathey, Paul Hoffman, and Tay Hunt each with 20-One Wheelers. A run off dropped Hunt and Hoffman at 15; Cathey went on to hit 27 One Wheelers, beating the first place count. He was in a run off for 3rd so he could not move up in place.

The Doubles event brought some radical pairs together. Steve Cathey and Layne Oaks both know that pool 100%. Martinez and Saladino were the two easily the ones to beat throughout the whole contest. Skateboard Heaven is their home park and they had been terrorizing in workouts. Randy Travers and Bobby Boyden are two Belair teammates who paired for the Doubles. Cathey and Oaks were clearly the only two that had really worked on a pre-planned routine. But, the rest were watching - hopefully they would plan a routine for the next contest.

The Tile Carving event was probably the most hair raising. By the last heat, the line to make was almost a full triangle as riders left the shallow area towards the deep end, hit the tile, made a sharp turn to get on the tile, jam down the tile, leave it at or past the marks, and roll down at least past the judges before crashing. Kirt Talbott's final 9.83 foot carve was an incredible ripper. Saturday was the first run of the Pool Eliminations. The first cut was from the 35 total entries down to the top 16. Quite a chop. These 16 then advanced to the second eliminations. The top 8 advanced to the Quarter Finals. The next cut was the top 4 to the Semi-Finals. From these 4, the top 2 went to the Finals while the last 2 were placed at 3rd and 4th. The event was one of endurance. The more moyes you could make the higher you would score. Whereas the scores reflected more on quantity instead of radicalness, this part of the judging was revised in the two hour Officials Evaluation Meeting after the contest.

There were some surprises in the first cut. Some hot riders from the Kona Bowl did not advance; some locals to Spring Valley did not advance. But it was obvious that all who did move up belonged there: Doug Schneider, David Paul, Steve Olson, Paul Hoffman, Steve Alba, Mike



In the Doubles Event, CATHEY and OAKS really worked together with pre-planned, practiced maneuvers. Photo Saccio.

CONTEST No. 1

Weed, Rick Blackhart, Harvey Hawks, Scott Dunlap, Doug Marker (the One Wheelers winner), Kirt Talbott (the Tile Carves winner), Doug Saladino, Layne Oaks, Dennis Martinez, and Greg Ayres. The pressure really got on at this cut. Riders seemed to keep a strategy throughout the event. They paced themselves. "Just make the cut," they seemed to say. "Just advance every time and wait til the finals to pour it on." It helps to keep in there without getting exhausted and setting yourself up for an injury. As in slalom racing, psych is of prime importance.

In the cut to the Quarter Finals, we still had Cathey, Alba (where did he come from?) Saladino, Marker, Olson, Ayres, Dunlap, and Weed. The pace is really accelerating now. Now the "pacers" will have to make their move. The next cut is crucial. Martinez, sitting on top scores, was at the top of the tiles when he fell to the bottom. Too exhausted to maintain in the fall he landed on his back. The crowd quickly sobered up as he didn't get up. A cheer went up as he tried to walk up the shallow end but he went down again. The paramedics, always caring for the worst, carried Dennis out as he shouted his \$1,000 challenge to the winner. Three hours later he was back. Out of the event, but back and ok. Quite a scare. And quite a lesson on conditioning.

At the cut to Semi Finals, Steve Alba made the cut in 4th; he made the Quarter Finals cut in 7th - just inside the cut off. Dunlap advanced to the Semis in 3rd; he had held 2nd into the Quarters. Weed entered the Semis in 2nd after entering the Quarters in 1st. Olson made a big jump from 5th in the Quarters to 1st in the Semis.

Then came the last cut, to the Finals. Olson dropped from 1st to the Final Place at 3rd. Dunlap took a Final Place at 4th after entering Semis at 1st place. Weed advanced to the Finals in 1st place. And Steve Alba (where DID that guy come from) advanced to the finals in 2nd, after entering the Semis in 4th.

When it was all over Steve Alba moved up one more, the most important notch - to FIRST PLACE. Weed took a Final 2nd Place with almost 100 points difference. Remember, points were awarded for the number of moves made in the time allowed. It appears Mike couldn't keep up the same pace as Steve. It was an incredible show!! The endurance that they showed was unbelievable.

As pool riders, officials, everyone poured into the pool for the Group Photo of the Age, the crowd was at a fever pitch. Cheers, hugs, shouts, chants, hoots, music all trying to ventilate some of the energy that had filled the park for the last 48 hours after three weeks of waiting.

And then on to the Pipeline for #2. What would happen there? They don't call it the "Badlands" for nothing! Who would win? Who would enter? Would Tony be in it? Would anyone from Dog Town show? Would it rain? Where did Alba come from anyway?!!! Well, he comes from the Badlands and we know where he is now ... sitting on top of the first professional pool riding contest ever.

ONE WHEELERS	Score	SPONSOR
1. Doug Marker	25	--
2. Rick Blackhart	23	Tunnel
3. Steve Cathey	20/27	G&S

DOUBLES	Points	Sponsor
1. Cathey-Oaks	50 points	G&S-Banzai
2. Martinez-Saladino	49 points	G&S-G&S
3. Olson-Dunlap	48.5	Tunnel-Santa Cruz

TILE CARVES	Score	Sponsor
1. Kirt Talbott	9.83 feet	Tunnel
2. Steve Olson		Santa Cruz
3. Tay Hunt		Bones

BOWL FREESTYLE	Score	Sponsor
1. Steve Alba	782	?
2. Mike Weed	868	Hobie
3. Steve Olson	690	Santa Cruz
4. Scott Dunlap	682	Tunnel



DENNIS MARTINEZ, G&S, showing his moves. Photo Saccio.



MIKE WEED, Hobie, grabbing air on his way to 2nd Place. Photo Saccio.



STEVE CATHEY, G&S, at home in his own park can't help but look good. Photo Smith.

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HANG -TEN



KEVIN WATKINS, Hobie, knowin' what he's doing' on his way to a strong 1st Place. Photo Miyota.



MARK LIEBER, Hobie, doing a one footed tail wheelie. Photo Miyota.

The Hang-Ten Skateboard Olympics held April 8th and 9th at Magic Mt. was a tremendous success. Sanctioned and directed by the I.S.A., the hours and hours of pre-planning by Diana Line and meeting with the Officials paid off. Entries received a 4-page copy of the Important Information they needed to prepare for this event. It told them check in times, rules for the technical inspection, how to get guest tickets, slalom and freestyle procedures, rules, and event officials. Everyone had all the information they needed, in writing, in advance of the event. How nice!

Entries were chosen by skateparks throughout Southern California to represent them in this competition. The parks could use whatever method they wanted to pick their team. From each park there was one boy and one girl from ages 9 to 12, 13 to 17, and 18 to 26 in both freestyle and slalom: a total of 12 from each park. The ISA held adamantly to a time schedule that began one month before the contest date. Most parks ran late and did not have time to run a proper eliminations event at their park and so had to pick from those skateboarders who were familiar to them. As expected, the girls' positions were difficult to fill due to the lack of female skaters. To fill the spaces allotted, the I.S.A. facilitated by entering girls from different areas into spaces available on any park's roster.

Officials couldn't have been more together. There was a well attended meeting one week in advance. On-site, they were dressed in white I.S.A. shirts, white pants, white tennies, with Hang-Ten sox and visors. Don't they look grand. And didn't they know their job!

The first event was the Slalom Race. Held on Saturday, in the cold with a constant threat of rain, and on one of the service roads at Magic Mt. it was difficult to find. This event was run by Bob Skoldberg and Henry Hester; other Pros served as course monitors; Bob Clifford operated the Chrondek Timers, and Di Dootson worked as Recorder. Due to some confusion with the Magic Mt. Security, course personnel were not allowed on the course as scheduled. As result, the event started an hour late. With organized practice and good timing, however, it finished two hours early. Not bad.

The Slalom course had been set by Bob Skoldberg weeks in advance. And boy, was it a surprise! Actually a Giant Slalom, there was one difficult section that had racers racking their brains trying to work it out. After the initial off-set section of cones, the course went uphill a bit to take some speed off before sending racers over to two banks and then jamming them down to the lower, fast section. This uphill portion had a cone around which racers had to move. They were allowed to touch the ground only behind a certain line and could take only one push past that line to regain speed again. That was the rule that had everyone boggled. They could get around the cone anyway they wanted. Some guys did a kick turn; some did a power slide; some simply got off, turned their board around, and got back on. The clincher was the "only one more push" rule. Racers had a real hard time not-touching-the-ground-again after their one allowed push. A second push was automatic but they had to fight the impulse to touch down again.

Just below the uphill cone were two banks with a cone at the top. These also served to cut speed before the downhill drop. The majority of the racers really enjoyed the challenge of the course. They had to think, not just go fast.

The girls had a terrible time in practice. They raced only the lower section, below the uphill and banks, and that was fast. Several got hurt in practice, but when it came time for the finals, the first place 9-12 girl cut a faster time than the first place 9-12 boy.

The Freestyle competition was held at the Contempo Pavilion which is an attractive, shaded, outdoor area. The floor surface was a smooth concrete that had been scrubbed to help with traction. The oval shape was actually about 96 feet long, 65 feet diagonally, and 45 feet across. There was an elevated stage for the Judges and a control tower for the sound system and the Recorder, Diana Line. The judging was done by World Champions Bob Mohr and Ellen O'Neal along with Bob Skoldberg, Di Dootson, and Henry Hester. Announcing was done by the imaginative Russ Howell.

Practice was very orderly. A complete age division was gathered in one section as four freestylers at a time were allowed one minute to practice on the Pavilion floor. Then they moved off the surface and could do additional practice in a secluded, asphalt area nearby.

Judging was done on a 1 to 10 point basis with half-point increments. The Judge's had a heat sheet that helped them watch for the required tricks. Skaters had to do a determined number of tricks in four out of five possible categories (aerials, inverted, multiple boards, foot work, and rotational) The skaters' music was prearranged with their name on the cassette, and the start of their song right at the beginning of the tape, and exactly 2 minutes long. If only the Pros would do it that way.

The Freestyle event ran smoothly and drew quite a round of spectators from Magic Mt.'s regular crowd. Sunday was truly a Sunny-day and it was a joy to be outside. The Hang-Ten people were very pleased with the production and it is rumored that they want to do more such Amateur Olympics. Keep your fingers crossed. Promotion by Hang-Ten and Production by the I.S.A. seems to be a dynamite combination.



Judges added their own style to the event. Left to right: Bob "B.S." Skoldberg, Ellen "Jel-o" O'Neil, "Jumpin'" Bob Mohr, Di "Do-it-soon" Dootson, and Henry "Bad H" Hester. Photo Miyota.

Olympics

FREESTYLE RESULTS

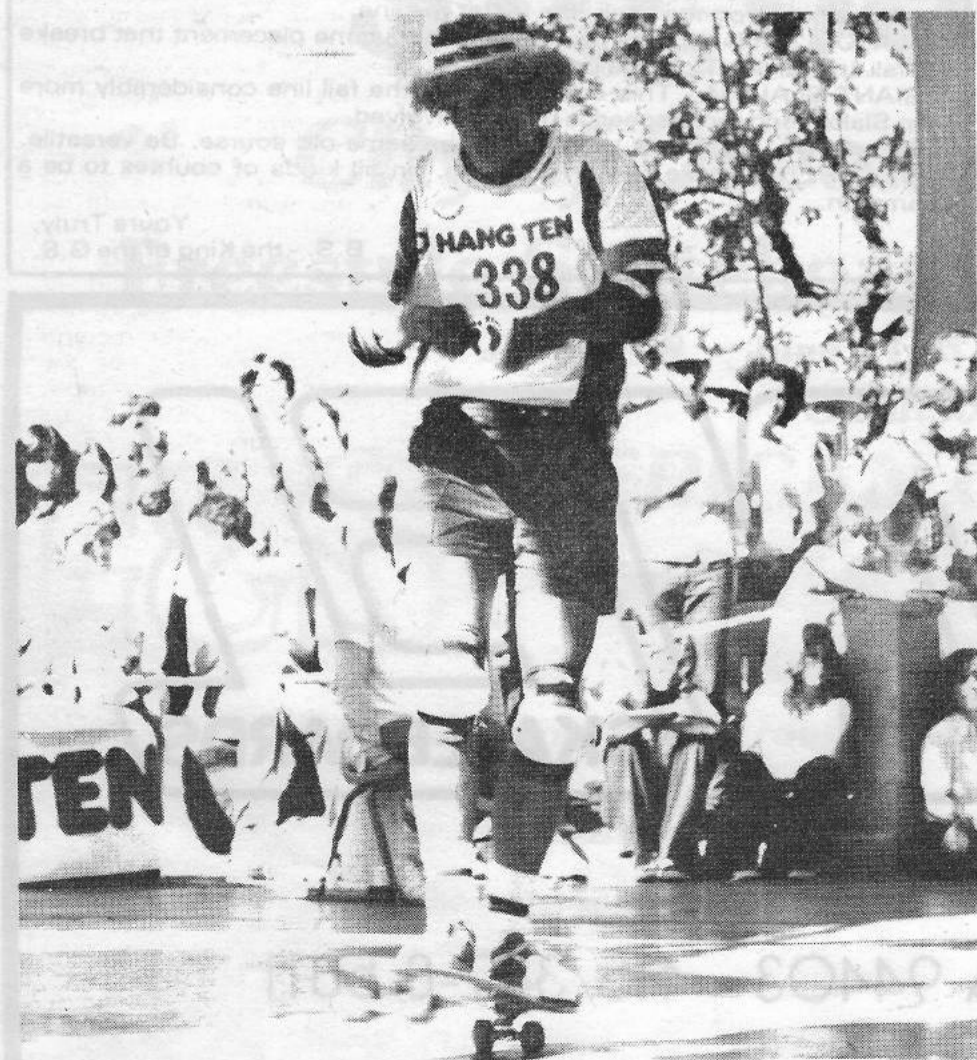
Girls 9-12:	Age	Score	Team	Park
1. Bunny Price	11	22	Sims	Runway
2. Gina Esparza	9	10.5	Hobie	Skateboard Heaven
3. Pattie Hoffman	12	20	Skater Crater	Skater Crater
Boys 9-12:				
1. Larry Barden	q2	27	Hobie	Booie Bowl
2. Phil Jetton	12	25	Van's	Skateboard World
3. David Dollette	11	22.5	Hobie	Shady Acres
Jr. Women 13-17:				
1. Suzette Owens	15	24.5	Banzai	Skatopia
2. Jana Payne	14	20.5	G&S	Concrete Wave
3. Cindy Whitehead	15	19.5	Ripstick	Skateboard World
Jr. Men 13-17:				
1. Matt Barden	16	30	Howell	Runway
2. Tom Spratt	13	27	Santana	La Mesa
3. Chris Larsen	16	25.5	Howell	Skatercross
Sr. Women 18-26:				
1. Vicki Vickers	18	25.5	Sims	Paramount
Sr. Men 18-26:				
1. Kevin Watkins	19	27	Hobie	Golf & Fun
2. John Strazicich	18	26.5	Powerflex	Concrete Wave
3. Tony Howlett	19	23	Sims	Paramount

SLALOM RESULTS

Girls 9-12:	Ages	Time	Team	Park
1. Pattie Hoffman	12	7.3271	Skater Crater	Skater Crater
2. Shirley Perkins	12	7.5965	Pro-Am	Skatopia
3. Bunny Price	11	7.7998	Sims	Runway
Boys 9-12:				
1. Darren Merritt	12	7.3650	Skater Crater	Skater Crater
2. Rob Rusk	12	7.5841	Santana	La Mesa
3. David Dollette	11	7.6731	Hobie	Shady Acres
Jr. Women 13-17:				
1. Edie Robertson	16	6.7686	Sims	Golf & Fun
2. Brenda Devine	15	6.8393	Aloha Skatetown	Aloha Skatetown
3. Lorey Rarey	17	6.9261	Sims	Paramount
Jr. Men 13-17:				
1. Kelly Hess	16	23.9877	Santana	Grand Prix
2. Scott Hostert	15	23.9899	Sims	Paramount
3. Danny Yarbrough	16	24.4050	Live Lines	Oxnard
Sr. Women 18-26:				
1. Michelle Baker	18	6.7150	Skatercross	Skatercross
2. Vicky Holman	20	6.9843	Hobie	Runway
3. Vicki Vickers	18	7.7633	Sims	Paramount
Sr. Men 18-26:				
1. Curt Kimball	20	23.1517	Ick Sticks	Oxnard
2. Gib Lewis	23	23.8686	independant	Concrete Wave
3. Pat Ferguson	22	23.9499	Tiger	Sidewalk Surf



GINA ESPARZA, stole the show at the Spring Valley Contest and now rides for Hobie. She picked up a 2nd Place here at Magic Mt. Photo Miyota.



JOHN STRAZICICH, Powerflex, spinning is way to 2nd Place. Photo Miyota.

What's the Background of a Professional Skateboarder?

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John Springer
John Strazicich
Bob Valdez
Gale Webb
Myron Webb
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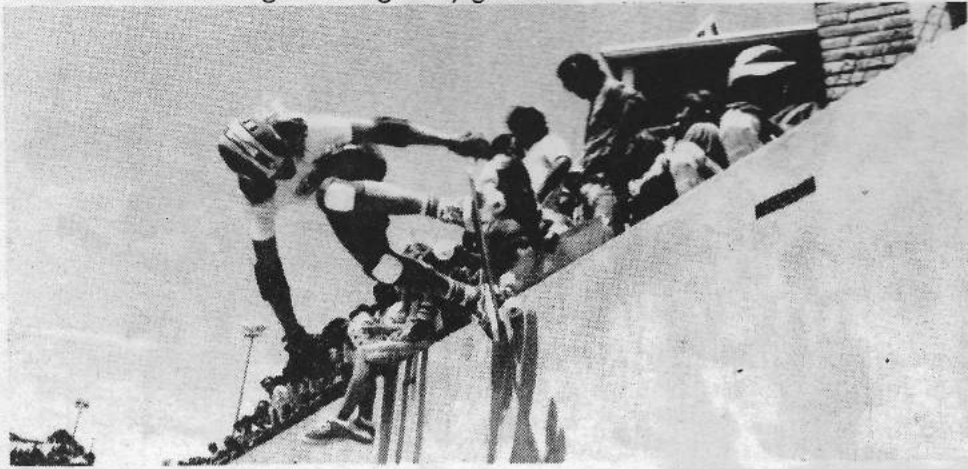
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The gang was brought to Mexico City by the owners of the first skatepark in Mexico: "Skatorama". The arrangements were made by Martha Aldrin and the I.S.A. We performed five demos at the park, we were guests on a TV talk show, and Pepsi and Superior Cerveza sponsored an hour long special video taped TV show that aired on that Saturday.

Our host is a prominent figure in Mexico City and treated the visiting skaters to a first class visit to Mexico City. We were chauffeured in a Cadillac limo with our host's gun toting body guard.



STACY PERALTA doing his thing under the scrutiny of Ellen O'Neal, Tom Inouye, Russ Gosnell, Tom Spratt, and Chuy Madrigal. Photo by Joslin.

PRO HOTLINE

BY

Bob Skoldberg



BOB SKOLDBERG showing a winner's style on the Hester G.S. course at La Costa. Photo Saccio.

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Could you maybe show the way slalom courses are set up?
Larry White - Bay Minette, Alabama

The key to setting slalom courses is to experiment. There are four different kinds of courses: Giant Slalom, Slalom, Tight Slalom, and Banked Slalom. Each particular type of course lends itself to a specific type of terrain. Obviously, Banked Slalom would take place in a skateboard park. Many parks also have a short, slightly sloped cement run that accommodates a fast Tight Slalom course. For Giant Slalom and Slalom, one must find an appropriate hill. Long, wide, medium grade hills are ideal. Smooth asphalt is highly desirable.

TIGHT SLALOM - Cones are set six feet apart in a straight line. The course can number 20 to 30 cones. Tight Slalom is usually set on a slight grade or on a flat surface where the use of a kicker amp comes into play.

BANKED SLALOM - One must experiment with the contours of the run by placing cones in strategic locations that demand a racer pump up one bank, flow through the trough, and negotiate the next cone. Usually, the lower the cones on the bank, the faster the line.

SLALOM - This type of course requires a cone placement that breaks the fall line, unlike Tight Slalom.

GIANT SLALOM - This course breaks the fall line considerably more than Slalom and more speed is usually involved.

Be creative. Don't get locked into the same old course. Be versatile. You've got to be able to run, and win, on all kinds of courses to be a champion.

Yours Truly,
B.S. - the King of the G.S.

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NEW MEXICO

LET'S HEAR FROM

MICHIGAN

By Chris Yandall

Michigan is well on its way to getting down and resurrecting skateboarding after a long, cold, and snowing winter. To kick the season off in the metro area, Oakland County Contest will be holding their first of the season on May 20. Plans for a half-pipe demo by Team Dynamic will surely spice up the contest. Rumors have it that the G-Boys from the West Coast (of Michigan) will be challenging the Detroit locals for the midwest's first Rad showdown on the half-pipe. We are awaiting confirmation of their challenge (Get with it Tommie!)

Other major contests scheduled will be Lee's Sporting Goods contest in early June. The STABLE in Saginaw plans their opener in mid June. Al Sports in Midland will be working with Big Brother for their season's opener.

Parks now open for business are Skateboard World in Grand Rapids. Playland in Flint, Skateboard City in

Warren, Redford Skatepark in Redford, and Soaring High in Toledo. Parks in the making have learned from the parks above and are slowly progressing to realistic designs. Astro Speedway in Grand Rapids will be the nation's first indoor park at a mall. Design work was provided by the Awesome G-Boys. Detroit has the potential for erecting a shrine park designed by a very creative mind, Bruce Lehto and myself. We are ready to build, but we lack proper financing. Anyone interested in our interests please locate me at Dynamic Sports Unltd. (313)626-9586.

My parting words to all skaters of the roller realm are: skate sane when sanity seeks definition in the wide world of roller dancing.

For info regarding contests and exhibitions, contact me at Don Thomas Sporthaus 313 (626-9500). For park designs and radical exhibitions contact me at the Dynamic Sports Unltd.

CALIFORNIA

By Renee Mortensen,
Custom Line Skateboards

Our team has been really busy. We did a ramp riding and freestyle demo at Van's Shoes in Dublin. They sponsored the whole thing. The team members who participated were Ed Medieros, Bill Helenihi, Ed Helenihi, John Capps, Craig Taylor, Craig Braswell, John Braswell, George Berdak, Mark Sanchez, and our newest member, Tom Augusta. They used a regular ramp and a half tube ramp that Mr. Augusta made. They also did a high jump exhibition. Ed, Billy, and John Capp all jumped their usual 4'8" and 4'9" 's. The highlight was when John Capps jumped Mart Sanchez' Fiat. It was his first car jump.

We are doing a demo and safety program March 29 at a local Elementary School.

If anyone wants our team to do a safety program and demo in the San Francisco Bay area they may contact Ed Medeiros or Connie Medieros at 415/582-8272 or 415/582-5829. The Safety Program

consists of movies (usually Magic Rolling Board), a discussion on the use of safety equipment and skateboard safety, a discussion of how to purchase proper safety equipment for yourself, a freestyle demo with the whole team showing basic tricks and then doing advanced routines, a ramp riding demo, a high jump demo. This is usually followed by a question and answer period. All of these have turned out really well.

We were in the Sports, Vacation, and Recreational Vehicle Show last month (in Cal.). The Producers of the show made our team quit doing the riding demo because we were attracting too much attention and the people were so busy watching our demo that they weren't paying attention to the other distributors' booths. They let us keep the booth but the whole purpose of us being there was to draw attention to the sport and they told us to stop when they okayed it to begin with.

There's not much going on right now. I'll be in touch.

MARYLAND

By Haystack Marlowe

Mayor Harry Kelley, who was the first Mayor to present his community with recreation owned skateboard park, the "Ocean Bowl," in Ocean City, Maryland,

has now proclaimed a Week of Skateboard Safety, from June 24, 1978 to June 30, 1978.

During that week the Ocean City Recreation Dept. and the local skateboard teams will present

safety demonstrations and special programs.

Mayor Kelley and the City Council have also made plans for another skateboard park on the north end of Ocean City to be finished in May of 1978.

Skateboarders would like to thank Mayor Kelley and the members of the City Council of Ocean City, Md. for their outstanding support of this sport and their insight into the future of skateboarding.



RANDY WATSON, Blue Skies Team, working out in anticipation of New Mexico parks opening and the '78 competition. Here he uses John Abrams' ten foot ramp.

By Guy Watson,
Blue Skies Team

The Blue Sky Skateboard Team is anxiously awaiting the opening of their park of the same name. Both the Blue Sky Skatepark and the Rollercross Skatepark in Albuquerque are slated to open in early summer and promise some radical designs and even more radical skaters. Both parks have passed the city hurdles, have raised their needed money, and are going for it.

A new company plans an April 15th debut — the SOUTHWEST SKATEBOARD CONTESTS (SSC), a product of myself and Joe Muhlberger, an investor in the Blue Sky Park. Modeled after Peter Camann's "Another Roadside Attraction," the SSC will put on contests throughout New Mexico and the Southwest for fun (La Costa style) and profit (shopping center and sponsor style). The SSC boasts a trailer that magically turns into a single starting ramp complete with Chrondek photoelectric timer and fantastic sound center. Rules will be by the ISA.

Members of the Blue Sky Team have already put on safety clinics for local schools and have been contacted for several more this Spring.

Planned for April are contests by "Skateboard City," our local 100% skateboard shop and an un-

confirmed freestyle contest to be managed by Bruce Davis, a top Albuquerque skater, and sponsored by Dairy Queen. A large contest is planned in conjunction with a Beach Boys concert in Los Cruces, N.M., on April 22nd.

In the larger New Mexico area Roswell's skatepark is alive and doing well. El Paso, Texas, (almost New Mexico) boasts two parks. A recent contest at El Paso's Desert Surfing Park showed New Mexico still surpasses our neighbors. Marc Pegram and Blake Tearmonth showed N.M. style at its best in the park contest taking a 2nd in Slalom.

The new Chrondek timer is a strong drawing card. Steve and Bob at Chrondek are really into the sport and offer help and advice.

A happy and long sought goal had been reached — the local Police and Parks and Recreation are pushing to get the two Albuquerque parks in and operating. What a change from two years ago!

News from New Mexico will be coming fast and furious as we gear up for a big year in the Southwest. By the way, skateboarders here are looking forward to the ISA's publication on Contests and Parks. What's the projected publication date?

MINNESOTA

By Bob Goodrich,
Ride the Glass Skatepark

The Midwest Skateboard Association (MSA) has been formed to represent the skaters in the Midwest region of the country. Dues are \$12 per year. They can be reached at 9805 Hamilton Rd. Eden Prairie, Mn; 612/941-3455. Through the last season they have conducted a series of contests giving the region a Final Team Standings. See below. There '78 season opens at the Ride the Glass Skatepark on March 25.

The Dairy Queen Skateboard Safety Team has been chosen for this year. It is made up of Chris Tomczyk, Mike Vangen, Don White, Bard Goodrich, Phil Reily, Steve Stehley, Bill Vagen, and alternates Chris Bowman, and Brent Waiwaiole. The team will start their tour in June and are being flown to various major cities across the country through the summer to give safety clinics and show how easy it is to ride the glass.

FINAL CONFERENCE TEAM STANDINGS

Western Division:	Won	Lost	Tie
1. Ride the Glass	6	1	-
2. Best Maid's Cookies	5	2	-
3. Kahuna	2	5	-
4. Tonka Schwinn	1	5	1
Eastern Division:			
1. Alternative	5	1	1
2. RC Cola	4	3	-
3. Penn Cycle	2	3	1
4. Jake's Pizza	-	5	1

SKATER'S OPINION

by **Debbie Bennett, Free Skate L.A.**

As the coordinator of FreeSkate L.A., I have been in contact with a great number of people, both for and against my endeavor: to keep skateboarding legal on Los Angeles County public sidewalks. The question/comment that I most often receive from skatepark owners goes something like this: "How can you possibly be against such a law when streets are so dangerous? Skateparks are obviously better and safer." Better and safer for who???

I agree that riding on the street is dangerous, just as it would be suicidal to walk on the street in traffic. However, there is a great distinction between the street and the sidewalk.

FreeSkate has, and will in the future, promote safe and aware skateboarding, while on the sidewalk, and wherever one might ride. This has been shown in several clinics FreeSkate has coordinated with Parent Teacher Associations. The clinics have made the average skateboarder more aware of the hazards of riding on the public sidewalk, both to him/herself and to the pedestrians. Safety gear is encouraged for all types of riding at these clinics.

The skateboarder who likes "stunts" and "radical" riding is a big hazard on the public sidewalk; for these riders, a skatepark is the perfect solution! But, for the average "sidewalk surfer" who enjoys pushing along, with no stunts in mind, the sidewalk is perfect territory. For these pushalong riders, the skatepark can be a nightmare!

In fourteen years of skateboarding, even with the old boards made of plywood and steel wheels, I have never been seriously injured on the public sidewalk. However, I have personally found many "hazards" in skateparks.

Skatepark owners set me into motion on a personal challenge to discover if the skatepark is truly the "only place to ride." I have visited over 12 skateparks in the California area, both as a "typical" rider and then representing FreeSkate. I found some amazing things that proved to me that skateparks are just as hazardous as sidewalks might be, but in different ways.

Skateparks are hazardous to my budget. The basic membership fee and the cost of one or two sessions does not, at first, appear too high. Then I considered that I usually average 10-14 hours of riding per week. For that amount of hours, including rental of safety gear, I would need to spend an average of \$30 per week. Even with my fairly lucrative salary in the computer field, I could never afford some \$120 per month for skateboarding!!! I doubt if the average skater can either. Yet, if skateboarding were banned, the skateboarder would be forced to either come up with this kind of money, or to become an "outlaw" on the sidewalk.

Another hazard not mentioned in any of the brochures I collected is just getting to a skatepark in the first place. I live "centrally" between two skateparks, yet I have to spend at least forty minutes in freeway traffic to get to either one. Those riders who do not have a car must take a long bus ride, ride their boards on the sidewalk to get there, or, ride their bike in traffic to the skatepark.

My next hazard comes when I am finally out on the course of my local skatepark. I am quite experienced on a board, but I do admit that I am a beginner when it comes to the inclines, surfaces and "traffic" of a skatepark. Although most of the parks I visited have a rule giving the less experienced the right of way, this rule doesn't always work.

The experienced riders on the course, really "into" their sport, often forced me out of the way rather than stop with some stunt they were attempting.

This is not to put these riders down, I can appreciate the thrill and excitement that zero gravity produces, but ... for the beginner, there is nothing more terrifying than to see a board and rider coming straight at you, vertically!!! It is fine for the others to be into their sport, but not when it interferes with my board, my ribs or my helmeted head! I might have encountered a few barking dogs on the sidewalks, but never "toes in the nose."

I believe that skateparks could ease this problem considerably by having orientation sessions, and beginners only sessions. If the more experienced riders must be on the course during beginner time, please, "stay off the walls." Future skatepark builders might consider building a complete, separate, beginners area with the same types of curves and banks, but on a much lesser scale. I would feel no shame whatsoever to learn on such a "beginners" run.

The most infuriating "hazard" that I encountered was as a member of the "female" population. This is something that I have never encountered while skateboarding anywhere else!

When I visited several parks, especially "incognito," I felt highly intimidated and I was often refused admittance to the course after having paid my membership. The reasons I was kept off the course did not hold water in my book. I would notice some other females in the stands who had also been kept off the course that day for "various" reasons. They informed me that this happened quite often.

At two parks I was refused admittance on the basis that the current session was full. Yet, to my dismay, seconds later two males set down their money and walked on to the course during this same session. I would like to add that there was no advance reservation list for these sessions. I personally will never again frequent these skateparks.

Skatepark owners should be more aware that the female skateboard population is growing by leaps and bounds. And, we are here to stay.

Thus, I found good and bad with sidewalk riding and with skateparks. I believe that a steady diet of either will hold back the sport on all counts. The perfect balance would be to get some exercise on the sidewalk, and then save the stunt riding for an occasional visit to a skatepark, if possible.

In the meantime, for those who can't get to a skatepark, who don't have the funds, who aren't hot shot skaters, or who were born female, the sidewalk is the only "park" they know. And I will do my best to keep that sidewalk free and legal, while promoting safety and awareness.

Skateparks? Yes, they do have great benefits. I can see some exciting possibilities in them. Go for it, if you can!

As for me, personally? I am quite happy to push along on the familiar cement of my neighborhood sidewalk.

Yours truly, Debbie Bennett

CYPRESS CONTEST

Cypress Recreation and Park District held its Second Annual Skateboard Contest on March 19. Skateboarders competed in freestyle, in three age divisions. Participants competed in either novice or pro/amateur categories. The novices skated for individual trophies and prizes, while the pro/amateurs, who are members of skateboard manufacturer teams, competed for both an individual and an overall team trophy. This year's tournament was co-sponsored by Sims Skateboards and the judging of the contest was provided by Russ Howell and Dale Smith.

CONTEST RESULTS

DIVISION I: 16-18

Pro/Amateur

1. Matt Borden/Howell
2. Steve Day/Howell
3. Chris Larsen/Howell
4. Paul Barrios/Sims
5. Craig Barker/Santana

Novice

1. Brian Martin
2. Steve Kavigan

DIVISION II: 13-15

Pro/Amateur

1. John Walker/Sims
2. Bob Sheets/Vasa
3. Robbie Doubeck/Vasa
4. Tom Spratt/Santana
5. Scott Hostart/Sims

Novice

1. Gary Wise
2. John Pope
3. Tom Jensen
4. John Gibbons
5. Mike Sack

DIVISION III: 12 and under

Pro/Amateur

1. Larry Borden/Hobie
2. David Dollete/Hobie
3. Mark Leiber/Hobie
4. David Pegueros/Sims
5. Clark Jett/Pro-Am


Novice

1. Ed Limer
2. Tim Metz
3. Steve Garcia
4. Nick Garcia
5. Richard Atwood




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