

NATIONAL SKATEBOARD REVIEW

PUBLISHED BY SKATEPARK CONSTRUCTORS



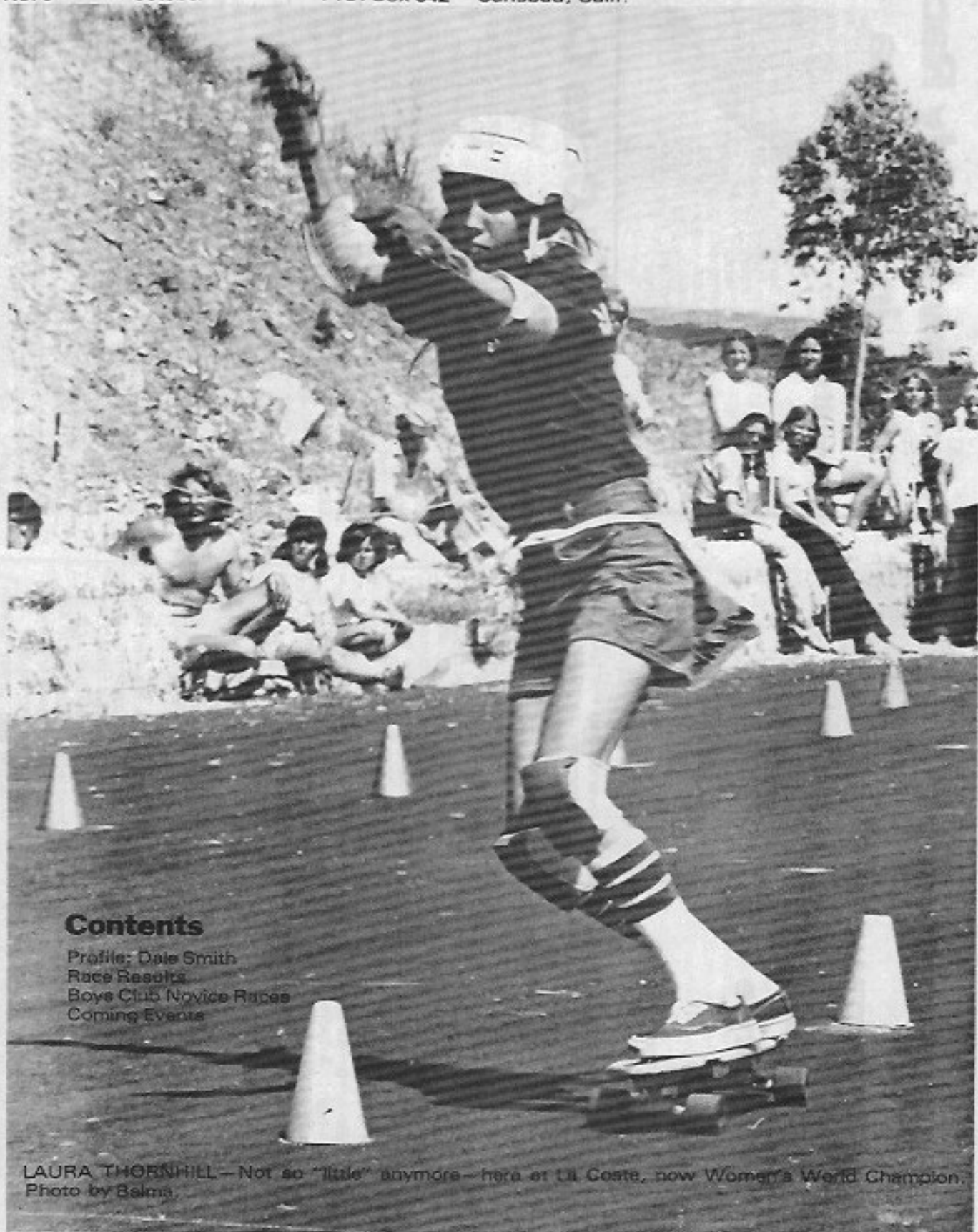
Di Dootson, Editor

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LAURA THORNHILL—Not so "little" anymore—here at La Costa, now Women's World Champion.
Photo by Belma.

*******Focus*******

DALE SMITH
Music man
of freestyle



Photo and text by Jeff Ruiz

It was a cold windy February afternoon overlooking the town of Ventura, California...the California State Championships. It was getting late with half the field having already competed in the Senior Men's Freestyle. Camera crews were standing by waiting for something new to come from this accumulation of the world's top freestyle competitors. Even with near-perfect performances from the likes of Ed Nadalin, Steve Ship, and Laura Thornhill, as well as a brilliant aerial demonstration by USSA Champ Skitch Hitchcock, the crowd still wasn't overly enthused. The weather was partially to blame, but mostly the crowd, who attended many of such contests, were just plain spoiled—360's, aeriels, and nose wheelies are all difficult to do and amazing to watch, but the fans and those cameramen were ready for something different.

"Dale Smith on deck," the announcer called out on his small hand-held bull-horn. Anyone involved with skateboarding for any length of time would recognize that name or that short, red-haired, bearded figure. But no one knew what he was about to do.

"You want what?" the official questioned. "Music? You've got to be kidding me!"

Dale wasn't kidding. He wanted to perform his whole routine to some prerecorded music that he had brought with him. At first no one knew if that was legal because no one had even done it before. But why not? They do it at the Olympics, so why not a skateboard contests?

With one of the officials holding a hand mike up to a small tape recorder, Dale began the routine that revolutionized freestyle competition. For the first twenty seconds of his allotted time, Dale never even touched his board. Once a professional dancer and winner of many dance contests, that "midget leprechaun" spun and dipped his way into the spotlight. Then up onto his board and away he went; well-rehearsed and newest of all, he did it all to music.

Among the cameramen on the hillside was the late, great (great-great!) Jim Freeman of the famous film duo MacGillivray-Freeman Films, catching every move Dale made for his new addition to their "Five Summer Stories Plus One" film, "The Magic Rolling Board." Speaking strictly as a third person, I remember distinctly what Jim had said to Dale after all the hoots and hollers from the crowd and competitors: "That was really neat!" And from Jim Freeman, that was neat.

And so the first choreography combining dance, music and skateboarding was put on the line by 25-year-old Dale Smith of Long Beach, or as he calls it, Belmont Heights.

A long time surfer and skateboarder, Dale's been at it for about 13 years--from skating drainage ditches with metal skates nailed on 2"x4"s and tearing up Argone Alley with long-time friend Skitch Hitchcock to centerstage demos at New York's Nassau Colliseum, San Francisco's Cow Palace, and the Orange County Fair. Dale's taking freestyle in the right direction.

Dale's ability goes beyond freestyle. At the 1975 World's Contest in San Diego, he took a strong 5th in the pro slalom -- an event Dale never even trained for. In a film the Logan team took during that event, Dale ate it in slow motion during one of his runs -- since then some call him "Sausage Man."

Since his film fame he has almost retired from competition because of personal appearances and requests for his advice in the development of various skateboard products. But he is soon to return.

Aside from Dale's skating ability, his personality and enthusiasm make him one of the most well-liked and respected of all on the skateboard circuit, which is as important to Dale as skating itself. Today skateboarding is in need of professionalism to boost it to the same plateaus of other freestyle events such as ice skating and gymnastics. Dale is one who has contributed a great deal to that cause with his introduction of music, which is now a requirement in most large contests. No one can deny Dale Smith is the Music Man of Freestyle.



Brad Logan. Photo by Bolster.

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New Weekly Races
in Bay Area

Results	Sept. 12	Slalom
1. Paco Prieto	8.00	8.00
2. Jeff Sand	8.50	8.50
3. Chris Fisher	9.00	9.00
Other racers:		
David Fisher		(F) 9.30
Ted Sommer	(F) 9.30	9.30
Bryan Lee	9.30	9.60
Dan Ewall	9.60	10.0
Jay Leyman	10.0	10.7
Carl Yetter	10.7	11.5
	11.5	

Thousand Oaks Contest

Erbes Road in Thousand Oaks was the location for an amateur contest sponsored and directed by the Aquanetics Surf Shop.

One hundred entries were attracted from Santa Barbara, San Diego's La Costa Sunday races, and the local area. It was the first contest for Aquanetics and reportedly consisted of the troubles and excitement that are expected to go with a "First."

Erbes Road is a long, good, isolated road in the area and is a good spot for such an event. It is centrally located to attract skaters from Northern and Southern California areas.

There were some particular parts of this contest that future contest directors should take into strong consideration in planning their events. Of primary importance is mandatory safety equipment. Whether it be provided by the sponsor or made an obligation of the contestant is up to the director. But either way, SAFETY EQUIPEMENT IS A MUST. Hand in hand with the equipment is a first aid station complete with stretcher and splints. Slalom racing is a heavy sport and even extreme consequences must be considered. An on-call ambulance is also recommended. Other basics such as latrines refreshments, and shade must be considered.

Consistency in contest organization and rules is the second area that is needed when planning a contest. If the director is inexperienced there are skateboard organizations that are there to be any degree of assistance. Associations such as Pacific Skateboard Assoc, Pro-Am, and USSA can be of help by telephone consultation or actually directing the event. Call them early; a call for advice ten days before the event is too late. These groups exist to help you help the sport. They have complete outlines for novice, amateur, as well as professional contest. Write this publication for more information on these associations.

Men's 15 -17:

1. Tie; Layne Oaks and Jeff Wolff
2. Scott McBroom
3. Tie: Scott Johnston and Dave Brewbaker

Woman:

1. Carrie Cooper
2. Becky Martinez
3. Kim Milburn
4. Lynnette Fraas

Men's 18 and over:

1. Don Andre
2. Tom Sims
3. Mike Williams

Women:

1. Becky Martinez
2. Gloria Blanchard
3. Rebecca Williams

DOWNHILL SPEED RUN

1. Jim Drake
2. Phil Lawyer

FREESTYLE

- Men's 14 and under: 1. Todd Walker
 2. Tie: John Blood and Scott Hoster
 3. Marshall Cohen
 4. Tie: Rich Saunders and Dan Ryan

Men's 15-17:

1. Robert Reeves
2. Rick Osti
3. Tie: Mike Cantu and Frank Blood
4. Steve Monahan
5. Steve Brakester
6. Tie: Mike Davis and Layne Oaks

Men's 18 and over:

1. Gordie Lieneman
2. Tom Sims
3. Lonnie Toft

SLALOM

Men's 14 and under:

1. John Drury
2. Steve Sherman
3. Tie: Tom Emery and Scott Hosert

Demo For Senior Citizens

BY DAVE FISHER

On Labor Day in Oakland Calif., the AlotAfeX Skateboard Team gave a demonstration of their skills to a gathering of senior citizens at the Harrison Street Center for Senior Citizens and local television. The demonstration lasted forty minutes and the elders really appreciated the event. Afterward they applauded and went up to the seven member team and personally began thanking them. Team AlotAfeX did the demonstration for the fun of it (the Harrison Street Center doesn't have the money for such events) and succeeded in showing the folks some good skateboarding. Most of those who attended the demo didn't know there were going to be tricks and stunts in it! Many found it interesting that the moves shown to them had names!

The area in which the demo took place was in the parking lot behind the Center. It had mountainous pebbles, but was still rideable. A ramp and high jump were used. In the final stunt, AlotAfeX used the head man of the Center, Minister Volkert, and five team members to fill in the space for the long jump. The demo went beautifully and was greatly appreciated by those attending.

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Boys' Club: a super skatin' place

Every Tuesday for the entire summer of '75 the Boy's Club in Solana Beach, California, holds a novice cross country race. Boys, and girls in the G.I.R.L.S. (Girls Interested In Recreation and Leadership Sessions), who are seven to eighteen compete on a course of inflatable cones on the facility's basketball court or front driveway. Each race averages ten to fifteen entrants of varying abilities. The primary motivator is the fun of it. The two staff leaders take the names of interested skaters ten minutes or so before the race begins. The rules are easy: follow the course, go around each cone, and cross the finish line. The whole production takes about two hours. The winners receive five Honor Dollars and a Coke, 2nd place get three Honor Dollars, and all contestants get one Honor Dollar. Honor Dollars are the Boy's Club reward system and are redeemable at a semi-annual auction where goods such as Cooper helmets are given to the highest bidder.

The purpose of these skateboard activities is to "spark an interest in skateboarding; to motivate the kids to go on, practice, and become more proficient. This gives them more exposure. Some kids don't skateboard but they see it once a week and maybe will borrow a board and try it." Dennis Ely, the 25 year old Director of the Club, doesn't skate himself. "I'm from back East and people there don't skateboard. I never saw one till I got here two years ago." Dennis has been with the Boy's Club in one capacity or another since he was 14 years old. He believes skateboarding is "becoming a secondary and practical means of transportation." His support and encouragement of this fast growing sport is greatly appreciated.

There are probably programs such as this held in Boy's Clubs all over the state. The Encinitas Branch provides a practice area for freestyle workouts. If a Club doesn't have such a program it would be easy to get one started. All it takes is strong interest. Boys are constantly getting new activities started at their Clubs. Support from the adult level would all but guarantee the start of a new activity. Volunteers to help or assist a skateboard program could be obtained from parents, retail shops, or manufacturers. Apparently the need is for safety clinics, demonstrations, basic contest direction, and prizes donated for the Honor Dollar auction.

The boys' interest in skateboarding goes much further than weekly contests. "The most popular woodworking project is making skateboards," reports Dennis with a shine of pride in his eye. "They put kicktails on them and everything. One kid here is really into making weird shapes; not practical at all, just weird shapes. Making their own is a means of expression. Chicanos have green, red and white, some decoupage pictures on top." Along with the self expression get instruction and supervision in woodworking. Craftsmanship is as equally important as creativity.

Dennis spoke of the growing problem of skateboard theft. "Even boards left behind the counter are not immune. Kids don't seem to realize the value of their board. Either we or the kids have to come up with a better way of protecting them. Maybe engraving the trucks or routing a name on wooden boards."

Eric Johnson, 7 years old, was racing for the first time the day that the "Review" came to watch. He is a new member who really likes to skate. "I go early in the morning where there are lots of other hills, over there, up the road." He pointed earnestly to a spot he knows so well.

Billy Bouch is 14 years old and shows good ability. "We go out to the bowls and contests like at State. I've been to the Park (Carlsbad Skate Park) all the time." Billy is heavy into his skating and would like to join the Brewer team.

No matter if you are a casual, just-for-fun skater or a fully intentioned pre-professional, the Boy's Club, under direction of Dennis Ely, is a safe place to skateboard with encouragement and love. What a great place that is.



Serious Skating at Boys Club.
Photo by Bee)

NATIONAL SKATEBOARD REVIEW — published by Skate Park Constructions, edited by Diana Dootson — welcomes photos, articles, contest (of any size) coverage, reader ads, commercial ads, and general comments from its readers. It is my hope the Review will reflect skateboarding by skateboarders. To be your voice I need to hear from you. Write to P.O. Box 542, Carlsbad, Ca, 92008; or call 714-436-0043.

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La Costa Races

AUGUST 29 LONG BEACH PRE-RACE

SEPT. 5 LONG BEACH CONTEST

SEPT. 12 GIANT SLALOM

1. Bob Skoldberg 27.96
2. Mike Williams 28.6
3. Henry Hester 28.9

Other racers:	(F) 29.95
Dave Dominy	(F) 30.4
Stacey Peralta	(F) 30.5
Tommy Ryan	(F) 30.6
Chris Yandall	(F) 30.0
Russ Gosnell	(F) 30.3
Neil Graham	(F) 31.1
Layne Oaks	31.5
Marty Schaub	31.5
Lance Smith	31.6
Steve Sherman	32.1
Chris Foley	32.2
Woody Woodstock	32.3
Doug Saladino	32.5
Steve Cathey	32.5
Jeff Emerck	32.6
Steve Lis	32.7
Jon Neander	33.0
Paul Engh	33.0
Jeff Alexander	33.2
Ray Allen	34.1
Robin Logan	34.3
Dave Carson	34.4
Randy Travers	35.0
Curtis Hesselgrave	35.5
Warren Bolster	36.0
Kathie Borneister	36.0
Paul Hoffman	36.8
Abe Rodriquez	37.1
Jeff Junkins	42.0
Di Dootson	43.0
Becky Williams	DQ
Dodie Hackenmack	DQ
Dave Hackett	

Sept. 19 Hang-Ten Contest

LONG BEACH "PRE-RACE"

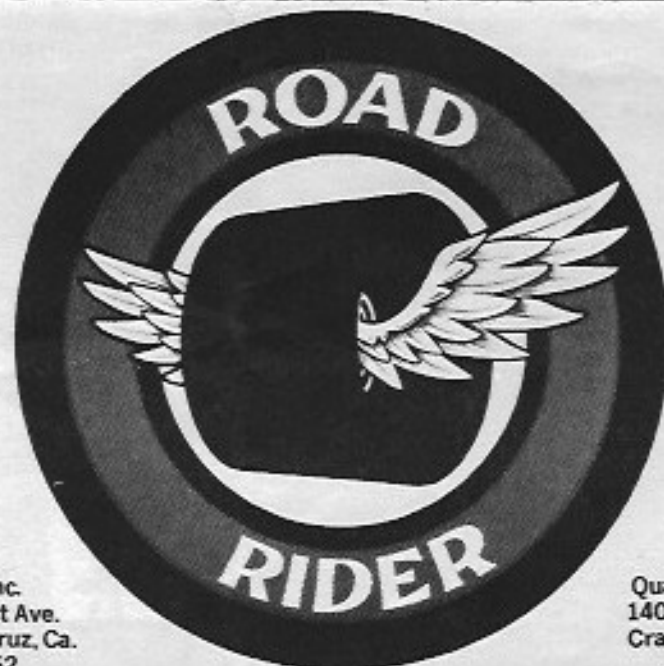
September is definitely the month for major skateboard contests. As a lead-in for the Long Beach Invitational the USSA directed a slalom race sponsored by a local radio station. The slalom was held at the Long Beach Arena parking lot for the purpose of finding two more slalom racers to join in the following weekend's event - quite a prize!

The single lane slalom was run by Jim O'Mahoney. Practice runs were allowed only on a separate, although similar, course. Helmets and a board inspection were mandatory. Running extremely late of their schedule, USSA nevertheless ran approximately 80 racers through the 200 foot course in about five hours.

All entrants received passes to the big contest, the top twenty riders received a Freeformer skateboard, the top two skaters, Robert Reeves and Bob Biniak, received trophies and an invitation to join some of the world's top skateboarders in putting on a dynamite show a week later.

Results

1. Robert Reeves	Dave Burleker
2. Bob Biniak	Steve Luck
Other racers in	Marty Schaub
order of times:	Bob Pellkofer
Chris Smith	Chris Foley
Mike Pellkofer	Steve Brakespear
David Dominy	Randy Travers
Layne Oaks	Bob Christianson
Tim Hatch	Steve Sherman
Steve Brown	Kevin Kilpatrick
Scott Johnston	Dave Carson
John Wallace	



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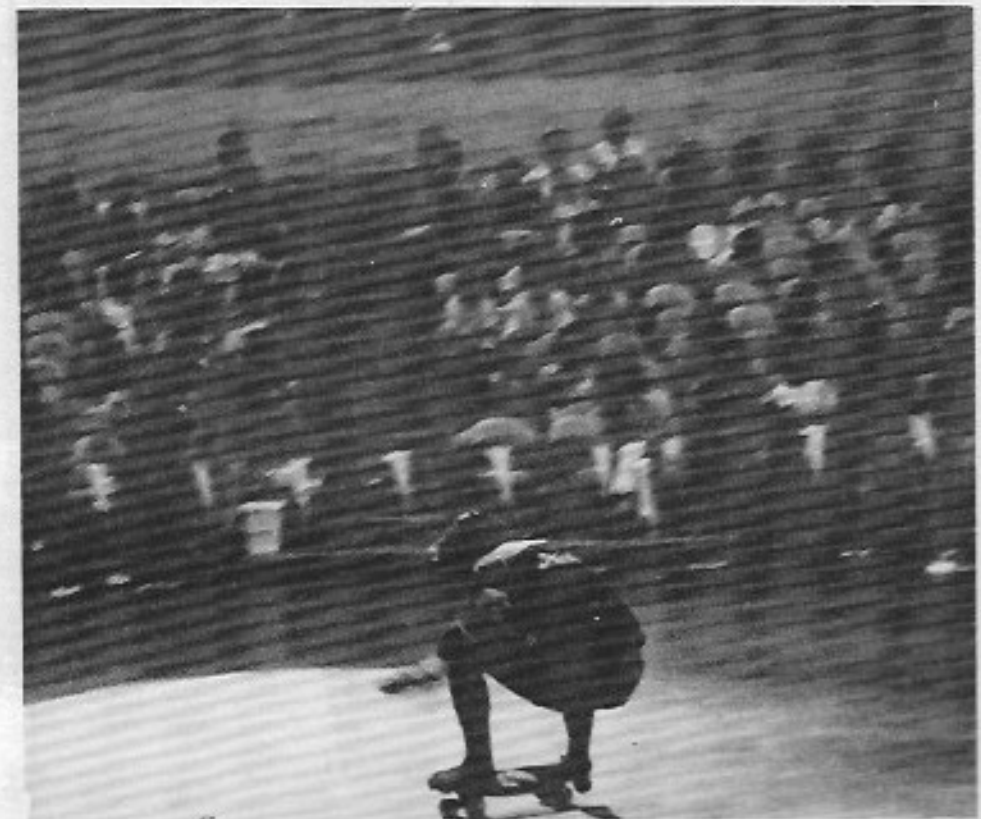
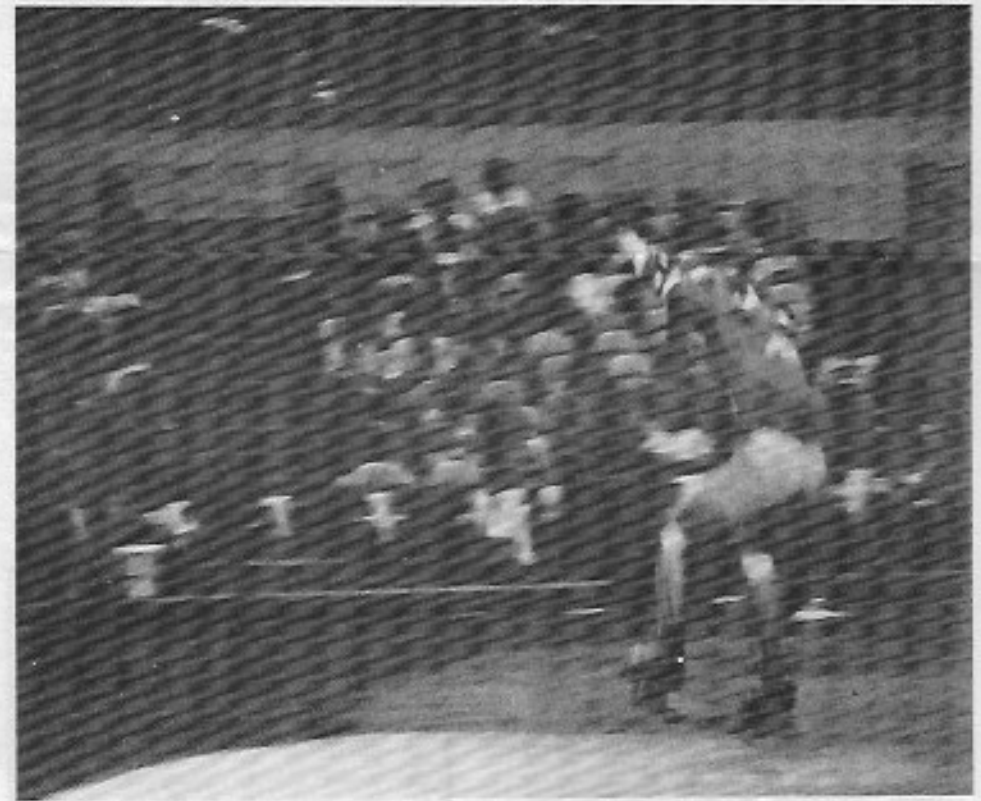
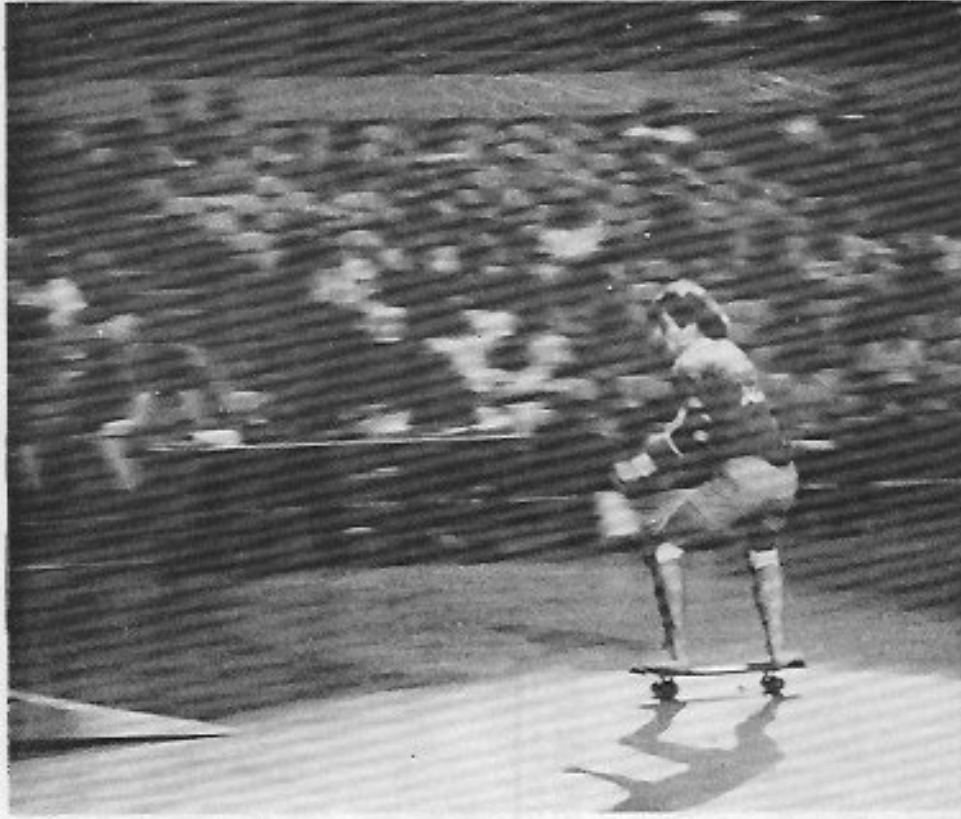


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Photos by Ruiz



Coming Events

EVERY EVENING

Place: Boys Club, 675 Balour Dr.,
Encinitas

Sponsor: Encinitas Branch of San
Dieguito Boys Club

Events: Freestyle area available
for practice

Cost: no charge

EVERY TUESDAY

Place: Boys Club, 533 Lomas
Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach

Sponsor: Lomas Santa Fe branch of
San Dieguito Boys Club

Events: novice (non-team
affiliated) cross country races

Cost to spectators: none

Cost to entrants: \$3 per year Boys
Club membership

MID OCTOBER

Place: Box Canyon, La Costa

Sponsor: Denis Shufeldt's
Magnum boards

Event: Team try-outs,
professional and amateur, men
and women

For information: call after Oct 6,
after 6 pm, 714/753-2371

OCTOBER 28 or 29

Place: Albuquerque, New Mexico,
Montgomery Shopping Plaza,
corner San Mateo and Mont-
gomery St.

Sponsor: Pop Tops Shirt Shop

Direction: DeWayne McCormick,
Pop Tops

Events: Amateur flatland slalom
and freestyle

For information/application:
DeWayne McCormick, Pop Tops,
Montgomery Plaza, Albuquerque,
New Mexico.

OCTOBER 31

Place: Box Canyon, La Costa

Direction by: Di Dootson

Events: Masters (Men and
Women 27 years and up) Slalom
\$100 to First Place

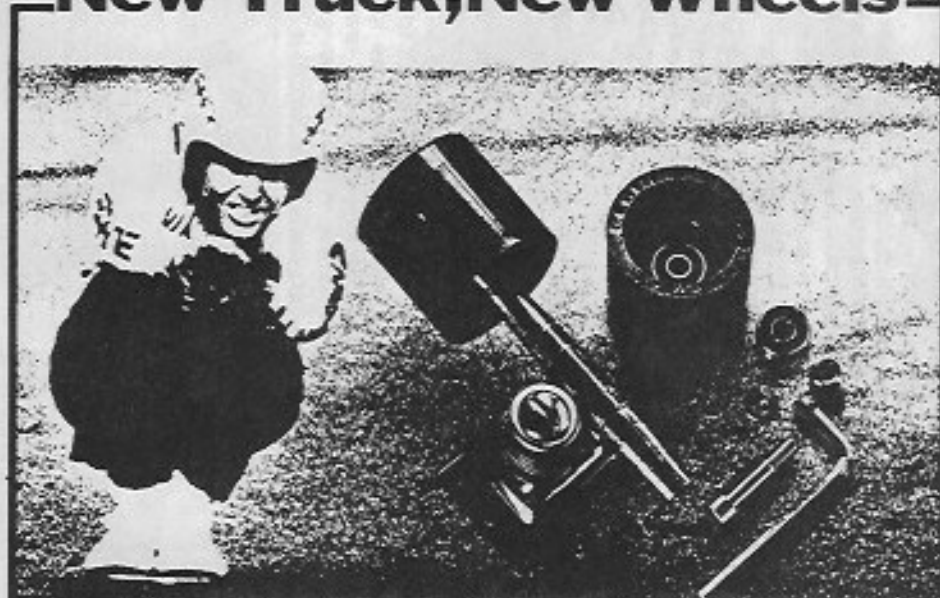
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