



Museum Newsletter

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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

Donation Received



As mentioned in a prior newsletter, former world champion skater Rob Ferendo pledged to donate six of his prints to the museum. These prints are copies of his paintings which detail action poses from artistic skating.

The adjoining picture shows the six prints now on display in the museum gallery.

Sweater Donation



On the last day of May, the museum received a donation from Marilyn Turner. Her donation consisted of two sweaters: one sweater with meet patches from the US and Germany dating between 1962 and 1983, the other from the 1988 World Artistic Championships in Pensacola, FL (pictured).

The above sweater from the 1988 World Championships depicts scenes from an artistic competition: dance, spin, and loops. There are also flags from the participating countries: Canada, New Zealand, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and the United States. The back of the sweater boldly says "1988 World Championships, Pensacola, Florida". This example of a special event-made sweater now sits in the museum.

Renewing Members

Bob and Annelle Anderson
Bill Sisson

**The American Roller Hockey League
Connecticut Division**



The American Roller Hockey League in the Northeast was a popular regional sport in the 1920s. According to copies of old newspapers contained in the museum archives, many regional teams competed at a high level. Some of these teams included:

- Holyoke/Hartford/Bridgeport Indians (CT)
- Meriden Maroons (CT)
- New Britain Panthers (CT)
- Wallingford/Bristol Tigers (CT)
- Waterbury Emeralds/Shamrocks (CT)
- New Bedford Whalers (MA)
- Fall River (MA)

Each team consists of five players on the floor. These positions are:

- First Rush
- Second Rush
- Halfback
- Center
- Goal

Roller hockey games were generally a low scoring affair. Good defense and stick movement were keys. The *Hartford Courant* kept the region informed on all of the key games affecting their region. It regularly posted news on match outcomes, scoring players, and team rankings.

November 29, 1927 saw Waterbury defeat New Haven by a score of 3 to 1, with Pierce scoring two goals from the first rush position. It was the third straight victory of the home team.

In a write-up from the *Hartford Courant* on December 20, 1927 a matchup between Wallingford and Waterbury appeared as such:

Wallingford knocked the Waterbury Emeralds from the top of the standing in the American Roller Hockey League tonight, edging out a 5 to 4 victory in a sizzling overtime game. Earl Pierce, on a pass from Duggan, shot the ball past Jette in the Waterbury cage for the winning point. The game marked the first appearance of Pierce in a Tiger uniform, and he played a remarkably fine game.

Many teams in the American Roller Hockey League seemed to switch ownership and locations quite frequently. One such transition came with the Wallingford team sold to a businessman from Bristol. John J. Walsh purchased the team for a rumored \$3,600 as reported by the *Hartford Courant* on February 2, 1928.

Another example of team relocation comes from the Holyoke to Hartford switch. This was significant because Holyoke claimed the greatest roller hockey player on their team; Center Big Fred Jean was known as the "Babe Ruth of polo."

Hartford Quintet in Roller Hockey League



Left to right—St. Aubin, second rush; Arrituda, halfback; Jenn, center; Hart, first rush; Lovegreen, goal.

"Babe Ruth of polo" in center

The four best teams in the division competed in a playoff. Each team played one another twice, and a champion declared by the most victories. This round robin format saw the Meriden Maroons continually finish as the best team, claiming the championship between 1920 and 1927.

**Meriden Player
Best Of Scorers
In Roller Hockey**

**Williams With 14 Goals
Leads Players of American League**

Skate of the Week
Ritter Road Skate



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.

Wish List

1.) **Competition worn gear:** 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



Thanks for supporting the museum!





Adult and child exploring museum wheel display