



## Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden  
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Official Newsletter of the:  
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

#### Special Visitation



On January 9, the museum received a visit from the internationally renowned jam skating troupe BreakSk8.

The group was in town to perform at the halftime show for the University of Nebraska basketball game that evening. They routinely travel the country skating in front of large crowds.

The group is the national face of jam skating in the United States. They performed on such national television shows as "America's Best Dance Crew", "Shake it Up", and "America's Got Talent." Breaksk8 also travels the world, performing at various international locations such as France and China. You can find more information on Breaksk8 and their performances at [www.breaksk8.com](http://www.breaksk8.com).



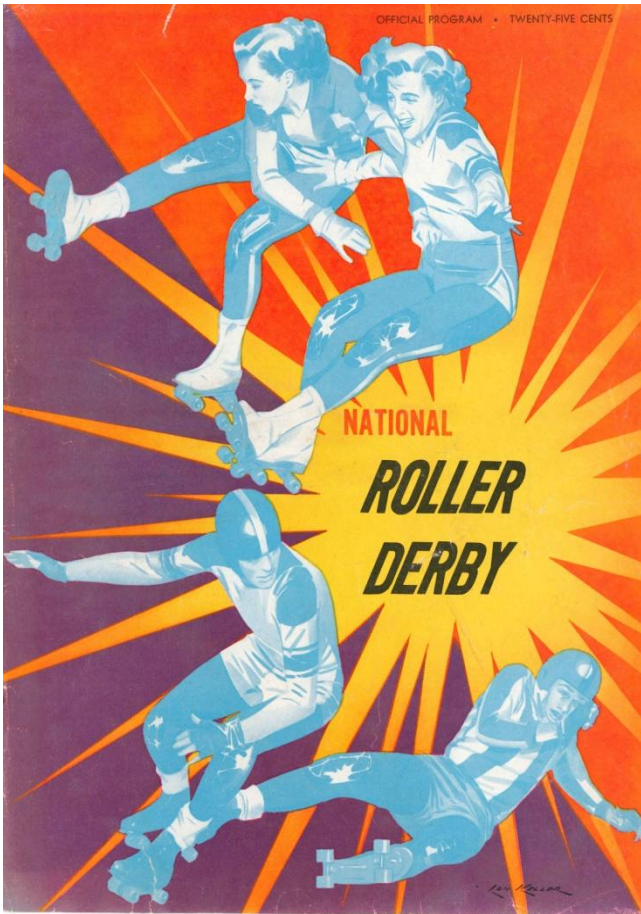
During their visit, Breaksk8 graciously donated some items to our collection. The museum received two large posters, including the picture above. They also donated multiple 8x10 photographs depicting their performances as well as their work with children through the WSA, World Skating Association.

Upon return to their home in Indiana, the group pledged more items for the museum. Included were programs, uniforms, and other items to help promote jam skating and the WSA. Special thanks to Breaksk8 for visiting and donating to our collection!!

**BREAKSK8**



## Roller Derby Beginnings



In the 1950 National Roller Derby Program, derby skater Dick Broderick describes the first fifteen years of roller derby.

*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.*

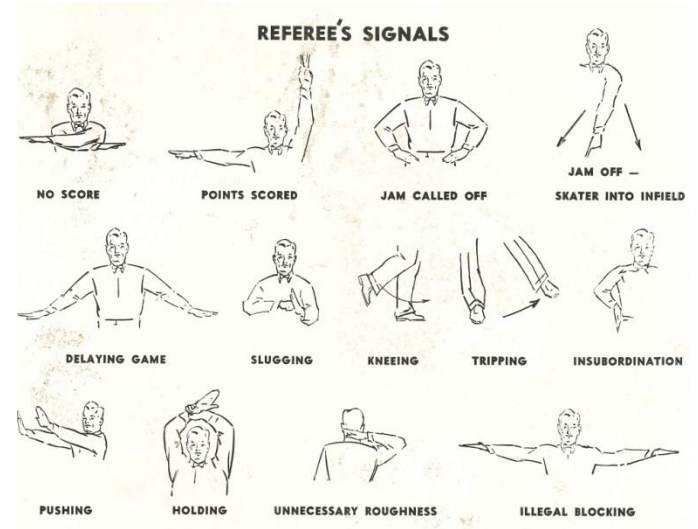
*The game continued like that for a few years but gradually some of the skaters got together in an attempt to hold back the more speedy ones. They also set up blocking traps. The fans loved this rough and tumble action and the present game of Roller Derby slowly evolved from this bit of strategy.*

*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.*

*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."*

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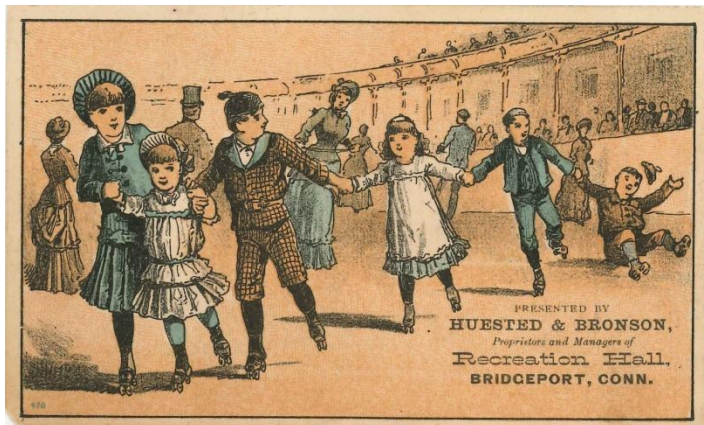
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## Rink Photo

Recreation Hall in Bridgeport, CT



### New Members

Jim Hafner

### Renewing Members

Joe and Betty Ann Danna  
George and Michelle Vannurden  
Bud and Mary Ekern  
John Miller

### Wish List

#### 1.) Modern Inline Skates:

When asked by visitors what modern inline skates look like, the best we can show them is a Luigino boot or a complete Bauer speed skate dated 2001 with 80 mm wheels.

Since competitive speed skater graduated to 110 mm wheels the museum needs a better example of modern inline skates. Multiple companies are best so we can show the differences. We only need a single skate for an example but a set is appreciated as well.

#### 2.) Early Roller Derby Items:

Our collection keeps growing with the great donations from our modern roller derby teams. The goal of the museum is to represent as many derby teams as possible. While this continues, we want to reach out to those in the past who also participated in roller derby bouts and helped make it the popular sport that it is today.

We are expecting a large donation from an early roller derby individual in the next month; we will share that with everyone in our newsletter when it arrives. Until then, if anyone is willing to donate any memorabilia, equipment, or uniforms from derby's past, please contact the museum at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

## 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 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.



Thanks for supporting the museum!

