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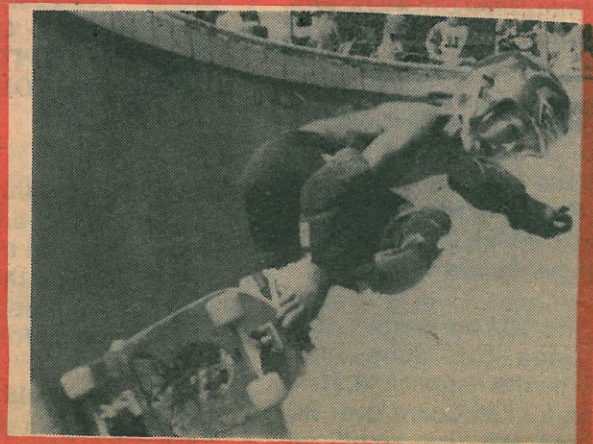
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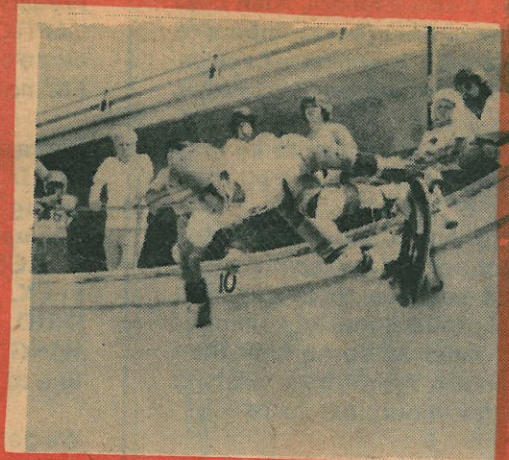
SEPTEMBER 3, 1980 ISSUE # 16, VOL. 2



● ASPO KIDS



● VARIFLEX TOUR.. part 2



● RUFF FOCUS



SKATEBOARDING IN THE SAUDI DESERT



WEEKLY GRINDERS

BY Anita Grynd

CORRECTION DEPARTMENT: Although SKATERCROSS won the Team competition at ASPO #2, we also reported that they had taken over the overall spot in the standings. This was incorrect. BIG O remained in the first spot. This has now changed since ASPO 3 at OASIS, where SKATERCROSS assumed the top spot by only 6.5 points.

Another slight mistake (not to Matt), but it seems that ASPO computed the 1A-15-17 class and put Matt Richards somewhere in fifth or sixth, which is wrong. He's now where he should be, in first.

Word has filtered from Belgium that a young man has done what seemed to be the impossible. He's traveled on a skateboard over 80 miles an hour! We have no official word, and details are a bit sketchy when we spoke with our dealer there, but we're hoping to have pics and story in our next issue. They claim the skater was using a laydown board especially designed with solid rubber wheels and air craft bearings, not the ones you can pick up at your local pro shop. More info as we get it. This guy must be nuts.

WHEN WILL THEY LEARN DEPARTMENT. Manufacturers still insist in advertising their new product too far in advance. The ad breaks and most of the time the product is not ready or they didn't order enough to supply the demand. Their best line is "we'll have to back order you" Now that seems silly in view of the high expense of advertising and promotion. It's tough enough to sell products now a days with a falling market, so that when an item is hot, it's a must to sell. Still many products now advertised and in demand, are not available. That seems silly.

From the looks of some new tricks, if you're not into gymnastics you'd better start right now. Some skaters are taking gymnastic classes to help them gain better balance and strength to hold that extension or hand plant, or to be able to get higher or twirl more times, etc. We've noticed that some of the new tricks being learned at various parks incorporate lots of arm and upper-torso strength. Shouldn't some of the coaches or Team managers be teaching this to their skaters?

We hear that Roller skates sales are

way down and skateboard equipment is on the increase. This reminds us of about three years ago when the skateboard market was flooded with all kinds of junk. The same is happening with roller skates. They never learn, do they?

SIMS is sponsoring a series of roller skate races which will start at ONTARIO SPEEDWAY, on the week end of the 500 mile auto race. Roller skaters will skate a five mile, road race course. If you're in good shape, get down there and burn yourself out.

Next issue should be loaded with competition coverage and pics. We're covering the KING OF THE MOUNTAIN Pro contest at HI Roller skatepark in Boulder, Colorado; the OASIS Freestyle event; the CAPITOLA Down Hill race and the COLTON-VARIFLEX Gold Cup.

Lots of congratulations received for our first year anniversary. We do thank all of you that took the time out to drop us the line and affirm your support. Keep those cards and letters coming folks.

The Colton Gold Cup coming up should give us a good indication as to who are some of the most adaptable skaters around. The new pool has just been recently completed, so no one should have a definite edge on anyone. Ironically, a couple of Colton local Pros will have less than a week to practice the pool. Eddie Elguera, Alan Losi and some of the other members of the VARIFLEX Team, have been on tour and will return just in time for the Pro event. The VARIFLEX Gold Cup should prove to be very interesting.

Our editor has requested that any manufacturer or Team sponsor that wants to send us their complete roster of professional and amateur skaters, must do so no later than September 1. We will be publishing said roster in our next issue.

We hear that GYRO Wheels is again doing excellent business in the skateboard wheels market. For a while, it seems that most of their sales were in roller skating wheels. Could it be that what we've been saying all along is true? Skateboarding is definitely on it's way back.

We hear that some of the "old timers" are coming out of retirement for the OASIS Freestyle event on August 31. Guys like Steve Cathey, Stacy Peralta, Chris Chaput, Russ Howell, Chris Larson, Dennis Martinez, Steve Rocco, Tim Scroggs, all the way from Florida, Stuart Singer and making his debut, will be none other than the wild man himself, Dave Andrecht.

We also hear that Canada is sending their National Freestyle Champions. There will be about

15 skaters from Canada, including the guy who holds the Canadian 360 record with 65 spins.

As an added attraction, Carlos Santizo, from the Long Beach area, will be attempting to break the "century" mark (100) and set a "world record" for 360's. We hear that Carlos practices between 80 to 115-125 360's. No one has been able to break the 100 mark in competition, so this should be quite a feat. We understand that after 70 spins your nose starts to bleed; after 100, you feel like you're deep in a pool of water; and after 110...every body stand back!

SKAT'N NEWS Senior Photo Editor, Paul Votava Sr., will be in Detroit, Michigan in mid-September, visiting a couple of the local parks and capturing the essence of North-Eastern skate scene. Check our next issue for dates and times and be there!

The CAPITOLA Down Hill is also shaping up to be a biggie for the folks in Northern California. Some of the names coming out to beat the clock are guys we haven't heard from in a while: Paco Prieto, Chris Coleman, John Hudson, Stacy Peralta, Jamie Heart, Mike Apperson (from Florida) and some "vert" skaters who'll give the speed event a try; Steve Olson, Duane Peters and Tony Alva. The August 30 event is scheduled to start at 11am. sharp and should be through by about 3pm., to allow those skaters trying to make the OASIS Freestyle event next day. Where's CAPITOLA you ask? It's just a stone's throw from SANTA CRUZ. For more info., call the folks at NHS.

We're happy to see alot of the GOLD CUP sponsors, also sponsoring the OASIS Freestyle. Putting up the money are: VANS, G & S, ACS, NORCON, SIMS, VARIFLEX, TRACKER, POWELL, MADRID, INDY., RECTOR, GULL WING, and more are expected. We like it!

We get alot of calls about the ASPO point system and how it's computed. We suggest you call your local park and get a copy from them of the points sheet. If the park doesn't have it, they can call ASPO and have one sent to them. We know that first place gets 100 points for each event and 50th place gets 2 points. So everybody gets points, but you've got to make the starting call to get ASPO points.

The new Steve Hirsch board is out from VARIFLEX. It's concave, 10 1/2 X 30 1/4, 6-ply maple and it comes with rails. Color is Blue and Black. Also from VARIFLEX is their new coper. Instead of having to stomp on it to get it on, just use the nifty tie-down they supply you with in the package.

Speaking of VARIFLEX, the Tour of their skaters just got back after a month-long drive across the coun-

try, just in time for the COLTON-VARIFLEX Gold Cup. The "Part Two" report of their escapades is in this issue. Check it out.

SKAT'N NEWS wishes to thank all of you who wrote or called wishing us a happy anniversary and acknowledging your support. Thanks once again.

Skaters at the Pipeline Skatepark were saddened to learn of the death, in an auto accident, of one of their fellow skateboarders. Eric Barnett, a 15 year Pipeline regular, was the kind of boy that every park owner hopes will become a skateboarding enthusiast. He was always trying to perfect his skills and when not skating at the park, he practiced on a ramp that he had built in his yard. To honor Eric, the owners of the Pipeline have established the ERIC BARNETT MEMORIAL SKATERSHIP. Each month one skater at the park will receive a month pass under this skatership. The recipient will be chosen by the employees and owners and will be someone very like Eric himself. A plaque bearing the names of the recipients will be displayed at the park. It is hoped that by creating this memorial award that many deserving youngsters will become better skaters and better people because of a boy like Eric Barnett.

LATE GOLD CUP RESULTS!

Steve Caballero finally puts it all together and wins the third Gold Cup at Colton. In an emotion-packed setting, little Steve Caballero, recently turned pro skater for POWELL/PERALTA demonstrated that he is no longer to be taken lightly. Duane Peters once again saved his best for last and did his own thing and thereby pulling off the second spot. Eddie Elguera, one of the favorites to win the event, placed fifth, thereby losing a few "overall" points in the standings. A surprise in the top five was Dog Town skater and rookie pro, Mike Smith. Mike skated unreal and his routines brought the big crowd to their feet.

Bert LaMar once again proved that he is about the most consistent skater in the circuit. He placed fourth.

Next issue we'll have complete coverage. (see results section) The top amateur spot to Texan and CASTER skater, John Gibson. In second was Pat Ngoho. Top female of the event was once again Patti Hoffman.

COVER: The young rippers in ASPO. (clockwise) Kirk Naylor, Karl Trout, Jonathan Crane, Chris Naylor, Ernie Stearsman, (center) Charles Pina.

Ph. Votava, Harris

VARIFLEX TOUR

PART TWO

"THE KIDS OUT HERE ARE GREAT AND SO ARE THE PARKS"

WHEN WE LAST LEFT THE V-FLEX CREW (see issue 15, August 23), they were about to depart from CROFTON Skatepark in Maryland, en route to Florida and Kona.

THE REPORT:

Kona gave them one of the best receptions of the tour.

The Jacksonville kids were great in every way. Really interested in the sport.

The skaters were excellent, especially guys like Bill Bouregard, Peggy Turner (who rides for Z) and Mike Cox (who also rides for Z).

They impressed the Losi's and the members of the Tour.

Eric Grisham, Steve Hirsch, Allen Losi, Patty Hoffman, Mike "Ziggy" Siegfried and Freddy DeSoto, were all highly stoked with KONA's ramp. It's got to be the best wood ramp around. Soon it will be fiber-glassed.

The ramp has a flat bottom and a good amount of vert.

Just as important and impressive, the park appeared to have lots of parent participation, which is one of the important factors, if the sport is going to grow.

Next stop was the Rainbow Wave Park in Tampa.

Kit Traverso, owner of the park, has been somewhat disillusioned with skateboarding activities, so there was little energy put into the park.

The park is small, but functional and could generate a lot of interest with some promotion and competitions.

The SENSATION BASIN Skatepark, must have one of the most energetic owners and staff. They are heavily involved in the sport and in promotion and they work very closely with the community. (Check their report in this issue)

Sensation has good bowls and an excellent snake run with very high

walls. Steve Hirsch and Eric Grisham seemed to rip this section of the park.

The park setting is fantastic, with a Lake and a roller skating path winding through the wooded area.

The skating energy in this park is very high and some of the local skaters could match ability with any one in the country.

SOLID SURF in Fort Lauderdale was the next stop.

The park has a nice bowl that Alan Geldfand help design. As a matter of fact, Alan was there to greet the team and show them a few of the lines.

One of the nice things about the park is that it also has a water slide, which brings a lot of action.

According to the Team, the SKATE WAVE Skatepark, in Mobile, Alabama, has been voted as the park with the best crowds.

When the team arrived, there were between 600-700 people, all eager to catch some of the West coast action.

The Tour was publicized on Radio, and to top it all, Ski-divers were sent down from a plane and landed in the park, to accentuate the day's activity.

It's a great park, with nice bowls, banked runs, a half pipe with a bowl and an excellent freestyle area.

The park could be a great site for a future Pro event, in light of the great crowds.

One of the best half-pipes in the country appears to be at the Fly'n Wheels Skatepark in Gadsden, Alabama.

Also their bowl, with double extensions is unique and super smooth. They've got small bowls and a nice slalom run with a large scoreboard. This park could also have an excellent Pro event.

One of the newer parks is the Get-A-Way park in Huntsville. As reported by the Sensation Basin Skate Club and seconded by the VARIFLEX Team, it's a great park,

perhaps the best designed in the country.

It's got excellent spectator areas, two half-pipes, 6-bowls of different shapes and sizes and excellent pool and a water slide.

It's certainly one of the biggest parks in the country.

The last park on the Tour, before heading back to California, was Skateboard City, in Houston, Texas.

Unfortunately, it rained most of the time the Team was there so there was little skating time. Still the locals were there when the water flow stopped.

It's a nice park with an excellent half-pipe.

In all the VARIFLEX Tour visited 18 skateparks, one more than scheduled.

Unbelievably, the Team was on time arriving at the parks, and at times they even got there a day ahead.

Also amazing is the fact that they traveled over 8800 miles with no mechanical failure or problems.

The bottom line according to Gil Losi about the tour is that it was a great and revealing experience.

Great, because they got a chance to see a lot of parks and make a lot of

friends.

Revealing, because they were amazed at the quality of the Parks and the skaters.

Apparently, because of the lack of exposure of these parks in the magazine, many of the locals think that all the great parks and skaters are in the West coast.

"But this is not the case", says Gil Losi, "the parks...most of them are great and their local skaters should be proud of them.

The caliber of skater is just as good. "There's some unreal skaters out here," says Losi, "I wish there was a way to let these kids know."

Is there going to be another VARIFLEX tour?

"Absolutely", says Gil Losi, "except next time we're going to plan it better so that we can spend more time in each park. It was too hectic, just too much in a hurry to check it all out".

So, put your bid in for next year and if you enjoyed the guys coming through, let them know by dropping them a line. Also let the other manufacturers know that you'd like to see their team come around.

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VOICES

RADICAL BUT NOT TOGETHER

I'd like to know where those guys from NHS were standing when they say that Elguera's routine consisted of the same lines.

What do they want, for the guy to do his routine in the parking lot?

The guy is hot, he's probably the best skater in the country and the most innovative.

Duane won the last pro event at Big O (which I attended) because he was radical but not because he was together and under control.

You called it as you saw it. Keep it up.

Jake Reynolds
Newport Beach, Ca.

NO COACHES PLEASE

I think that if a person is coaching a pro skater or skaters, he should not be allowed to judge them.

Dale Smith ("Sausage man") helps Eddie Elguera and others and while Eddie may be one of the better skaters around, Dale should not be put in the position to judge him.

The Gold Cup is hot and I enjoy your coverage.

Tim Mathews
Del Mar, California.

FREESTYLE INFO PLEASE

Please send us information on the next Freestyle event in the East Coast.

Things are really dry here. The ramp we've been skating on is now tooth picks, so we're looking for some action here.

Dean Talbot
Laporte, Pa.

(Ed. If we know where's a contest in your area we would publish it, but we don't. So we'll just have to wait until somebody tells us about it and then we'll tell you.)

WE NEED YOU

Your newspaper is hot because we can get results right away and don't have to wait for months. How do you do it?

Sometimes we read results and stories that

happen only a few days before.

Keep doing what your doing.

Jamie Bass
Pioria, Ill.

(We just lock the doors to the office and threaten physical violence to our staff if they don't get the stuff out. So far, we've only lost two of them, the little rascals.)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations on your first year. I believed you guys would be around for a while.

One suggestion though, how about some color pictures?

I'd like to see what those hunks in California look like and what they wear.

Great work.

Linda Clark
Jacksonville, Fla

(One of our goals for this year is to give our readers at least a color cover. As we grow and get more support it will happen)

WE'RE TOTALLY STOKED

You've always had the latest news and we didn't want you to miss out on how we feel down here at KONA, in Jacksonville.

The VARIFLEX Team just left after a three day stay.

During that time, they were featured on the news and in the city paper, they put an action photo of Steve H. (Hirsch) on the front page - in color even!

They left us totally stoked and going for more tricks than ever.

They were really cool to the guys here not to mention how they "impressed" the girls. Just ask Steve and Mike (Ziggy), what the girls thought about them!!

Some locals &
Skat'n News readers

KEEPING SKATING ALIVE

I would like to compliment you on your great newspaper.

Your up-to-date info, hot pics, and great stories are unreal. Especially the interview- ing you just started.

Your newspaper is basically keeping skating alive. Be sure to keep up with the "positive" things as you can in it. I'm into promoting the sport as much as I can. When I read Bert LaMar's interview, I found out that he was sorta into promoting the sport too.

Like I agree with him about selling good (but cheap-priced) boards in the stores. Most kids get the dangerous plastic boards there. If we could somehow get the stores to sell these boards with equipment, accessories, etc., along with SKAT'N NEWS, we would have a lot of kids into it!

Thank you for your time,

Brett Martin
New Carlisle (Springfield), Ohio

PS. Pretty soon my friends and I will send you some pics. of my half pipe in my backyard to show you that skating is definitely not dead!...Apple rips!

THE REAL MEANING...

I have found out what QUEEN, (the music group) is singing about in the song "Another one bites the dust".

It's this scene where they are totally blitzed and the lead singer is taking his index finger and smashing "ants" on the ground. That's what's biting the dust...the ants, dig it?

Hey, put this in Skat'N News, other people might get a kick out of that one.

Also put some good interviews in the paper, like Brad Bowman, Mike Folmer Dave Andrecht, Mike McGill, Alan Geldgand, Micke and Steve Alba, Steve Caballero, El Gato and more. Get the drift? Put all team tours in your paper.

Tell SIMS to send their team to Huntsville, Alabama.

Mike Harrington
Alpharetta, Ga.

(Thanks for info. on the ants. A lot of our readers have been going crazy trying to figure that one out. You've done a great service to all of them.

Your wish to see more interviews is granted. Besides the one with Billy Ruff in this issue, we've got Dave "the Raver" Andrecht in the next issue. We'll be alternating every issue between Pro and Amateur skaters so that we can please all moms. Ed.)

WE WANT TO KNOW

Your last interview with Bert La Mar was hot. It gave a whole insight to who he is. I always thought that he was stuck up, but he's a nice guy.

Please run more interviews in the paper as there's lots of new skaters now competing. Will you also do one on Pattie Hoffman, she's such a hot skater!

Bernice Beachum
Fontana, California

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PAUL VOTAVA returned to the winner's circle with moves such as the one above, an outrageous channel air at OASIS ASPO. First in the pool.

Photo P. Votava Sr.

ASPO # 3...FUN UNDER THE FREEWAY

ON A PERFECT SUMMER DAY, WITH THE TEMPERATURES HOVERING AROUND THE 85 DEGREE MARK, ONCE AGAIN THE ASPO SHOW MADE stop at the Oasis Skatepark, in San Diego.

August 16, 1980
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

This time, 177 anxious skaters made their way to the San Diego site, for yet another stop in the ASPO tour of Southern California parks.

This time, they would be tackling the Pro pool and the flat slalom course.

There were no major problems in the running of the event, except for a faulty switch in the electronic scoreboard and an overhead light that temporarily went out.

It's amazing that these events, where there's always over 170 entries, run so smooth.

We can remember when there were only 45 to 50 entries for a contest and it was scene to put it all together.

ASPO has definitely set the standard for putting on successful events.

Competition among parks has grown more evenly in this "new season". Once again and for the third time in three events, we have



Gil Losi Jr., although only competing in Slalom events, still finds himself in the top 6 in his class. Reason...he always seems to win the Slalom event.

Photo. P. Votava Sr.

a new park as the meet's overall winner.

This time it was the Colton Team that took the overall points, with excellent skating.

In second was the team from the Pipeline, followed by SkaterCross, Big O, tied for fifth were Oasis and Lakewood, in seventh was Del Mar, followed by Skate City and Marina.

So after three events, SKATERCROSS takes over first place overall from the BIG O, by a narrow margin of 6.5 points. BIG O is in second followed by PIPELINE, LAKEWOOD, COLTON, SKATE CITY, DEL MAR, OASIS and MARINA

HIGHLIGHTS

These are some of the skaters currently setting the pace in their respective classes:

Doug Cobalis is just blazing the trail in the Park Team 12 and under class. Unless he gets hurt, it's going to be tough for any one to beat him. He's an outstanding skater.

Bill Wahl from Lakewood is showing that he's going to be tough to move from first place. He's very consistant.

We saw Todd Joseph(13-14 park team) perform great at the ASPO opening at Del Mar. He won there and we thought it might have been a "home park" advantage. But this is not the case. He is an excellent skater that will have to be reckoned with.

Jim Coane, from SKATERCROSS leads the Open Park division. Eric Grisham, has spent lots of time with Jim, toward the end of last season and this season, working with him on new tricks. I guess it's paying off. He's consistant at all levels.

One of the truly nice young kids in the series is Youree Henley. He is now on top of the 1A 12 & under class. Perhaps it's because he gets lots of support from his parents who seem to be always there cheering him on. He has also improved greatly since last season.

Richard Ito is finally coming into his own and now leads the 13-14 1A division. But watch out for Joe Hardy, who is only 8 points behind.

Matt Richards has a 50 point lead in his class(15-17 1A). The closest skater to him is Jason LaFay.

Mark Bailey, new to ASPO, heads up the Open 1A class. He placed 5th in the pool at OASIS and third in the Slalom, but still leads. Which goes to prove that you don't have to win every event to be high in the

contd. page 6, col. 1

(contd. from page 5)

rankings. You just have to be consistent and do well in all events and at all parks.

In the 2A, 12 & under class, Dave Mollen has kept his lead. This is Dave's first year in ASPO and already is showing the competitive spirit to do well in all events.

Mike Krueger leads the 13-14, 2A class, just ahead of Lester Kasai and Jeremy Fletcher.

John Downs had promised himself at the beginning of the series, that he was "going for it". It appears that he's holding to his promise, as he leads the 15-17 2A class.

This is a tough class, with the likes of Tom Michaels, Henry Matus, Tom Steenbock, Rick Rosa, Chris May, et al.

Kent Douglas is showing that experience counts and that he can stay just ahead of the field.

The Open 2A class has some great skaters and it's going to take all of Kent's savvy

The young Semi-Pros or the 3A skaters are putting on a great show every time they meet. They are unreal.

Kenny Stelmasky is now leading the class. The Z-PRODUCTS/GULL WING/WINGS sponsored skater is just 4 points ahead of Chris Miller, SANTA CRUZ's stand-out skater.

A close watch should be placed on the third place skater, Tony Hawk, from DOG TOWN, who seems to be improving with every event.

Bob Serafin's(SANTA CRUZ/INDY) perfect string of victories came to an end, when Mike Hirsch(VARIFLEX) managed to edge him out in the pool event.

Up until that point, Bob had won every event he had entered this season in ASPO, including the Slalom event at OASIS. Serafin still leads his class, just ahead of Hirsch.

Another SANTA CRUZ skaters still in the lead of the 3A 15-17 class is Eddie Meek.

He has a 13 point lead over CASTER's John Gibson. John managed to move closer to Eddie, by placing first in the pool event and third in the Slalom event.

Sonny Miller(TRACKER) still leads the Open 3A skaters. He placed third in the pool event, but finished 8th in the slalom, to cut down his lead in the class. Watch out for Mike Maxwell and Gerry Hurtado, they're coming/

Carabeth Burnside still leads the girls class, which has failed to draw more entries this season. It's unfortunate because Carabeth really skates well and should be able to show her ability against other skaters.



Jamie Ide, currently in first place in the 2A Men Roller Skating division, has been skating consistently so far this season. His fluid style helps him get high points from the judges.

Photo. Paul Votava Sr.



Carabeth Burnside, winner last year in the Girls division, appears to be headed for the same spot this year.

Photo. Rusty Harris

Pam Cass played second fiddle to Sue Feldman in the girls Roller skating division last year.

Not so this year. She won both events at OASIS and still leads her class.

Now that little Mike Shaughnessy moved to Texas, Bobby Chase appears to have a clear shot to win the 1A Men's Roller skate division. But keep an eye on new comer to the division, Tracy Baldwin, he's looking pretty good with every contest.

Jamie Ide still leads the 2A Men's roller skate division, with very consistent skating. He placed second in the pool behind Paul Votava.

One of the guys to watch in this division is Greg Hund, he looks pretty good.

The OASIS event was the third event of the ASPO season. Scheduled before the next event is a "review meeting" of ASPO officials to go over all the skaters points and standings. At that time, some skaters may move up in class.

As previously reported, ASPO was considering the possibility of making their events a two-day affair. The idea being to cut down on the length of the contests which are now averaging about 12 hours.

Initial reaction to this was favorable. But now there seems to be second thoughts by parents, park owners, team managers and ASPO officials.

Here are some of the thoughts:

Even though the program is long, cutting the event into two days would take away the excitement and atmosphere of having 170 skaters around. Many of the skaters have made great friends and they would like to see each other skate.

Also the expense for some parents, team managers, owners, who take skaters from all classes would be greater in a two-day event.

So, ASPO officials are working very hard to structure the scheduling of events, so that a skater would make his two events within a couple of hours from each other. Thus allowing the skater to relax or leave for a while.

Furthermore, a greater emphasis is going to be put in estimating when a certain class or group of skaters will be making their runs.

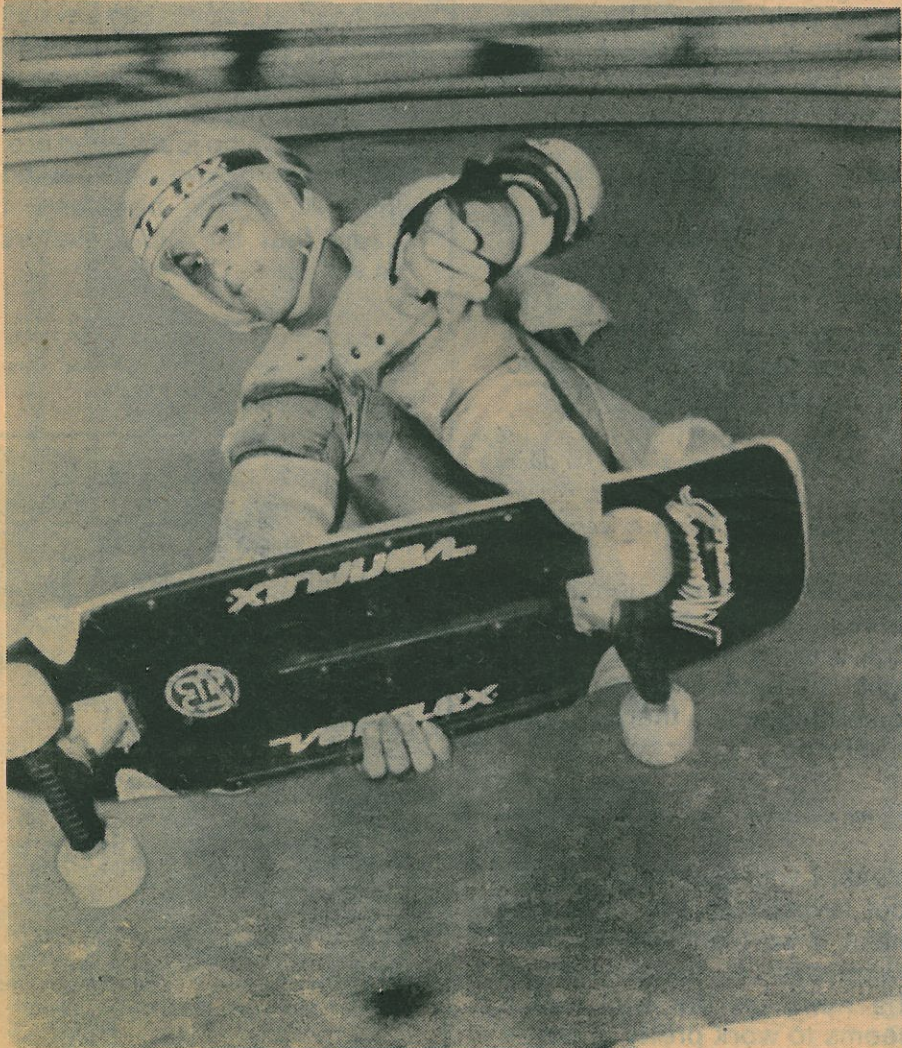
For the most part most classes got their two events in at this last APSO fairly close to each other. Some didn't, but perhaps at the next ASPO at MARINA, on September 13, all this would have been worked out.

See you there!



Tony Hawk, young ripper from San Diego, is improving at a very rapid pace. Last year he was in the Park Team, now he's in with the 3A sponsored skaters. He rides for DOG TOWN.

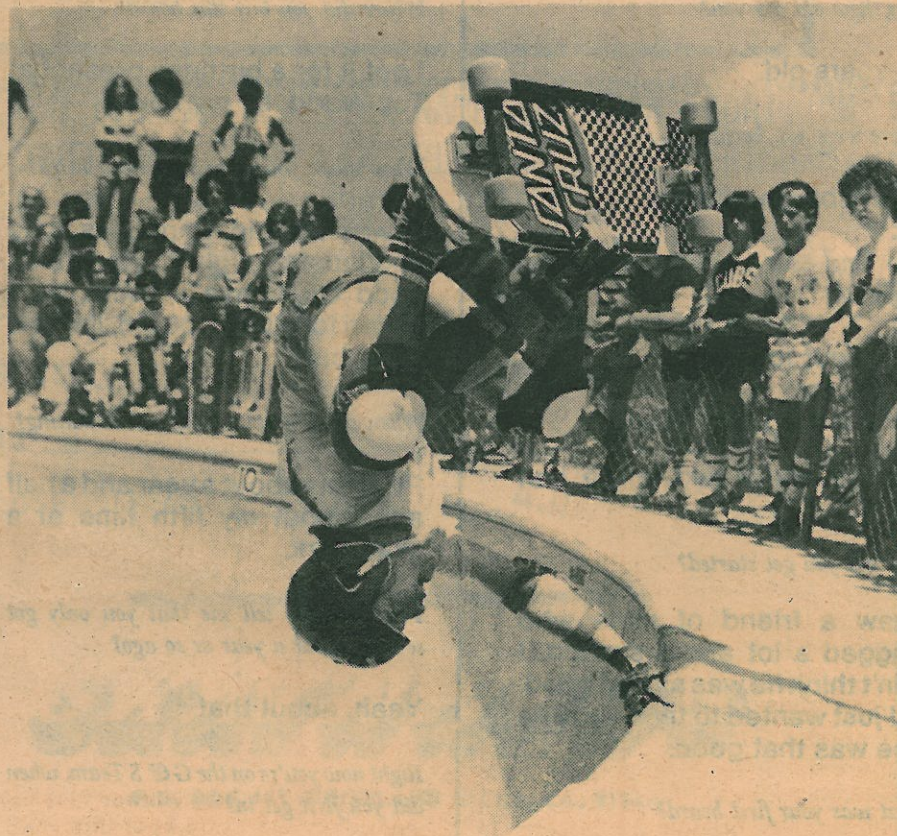
A clean variation to the "Indy-air", performed by 3A skater RUSTY MORRIS.



PAM CASS, current leader of the women's Roller Skating division, here negotiating the tight Slalom event at OASIS and winning.

PHOTO EXTRA:

EDDIE MEEK, one of two SANTA CRUZ top skaters in ASPO, flashing the underside of his board to an intent crowd.



FOCUS:



BILLY RUFF...

AMATEUR, G & S TEAM MEMBER, OUTA SIGHT SKATER AND ONE OF THE NICEST GUYS YOU WANT TO MEET...

We met with Billy at the recent OASIS ASPO, his home park. There sitting in what is now known as their outdoor roller rink, we chatted after Billy had already completed his two events.

San Diego, August 16, 1980.

Billy, how old are you?

15 years old.

Where were you born?

In Pittsburgh, Mass.

How long have you lived in Southern California?

For about four years.

How long have you been skating?

I guess about two and a half years.

How did you get started?

I saw a friend of mine who bragged a lot about skating. I didn't think he was all that good, so I just wanted to try it and see if he was that good.

What was your first board?

I think it was a Superstar plas-

tic flexy.

Where did you buy this board?

I got it for a birthday present at Toy World, by my house.

What made you go to your next board?

It was around Christmas time and I just thought it would be a good Christmas present, so I asked for a G & S board, it was a good one.

When did you get serious about skating?

Probably about a year and a half ago, about my fifth time at a skatepark.

You mean to tell me that you only got serious about a year or so ago?

Yeah, about that.

Right now you're on the G & S Team, when did you first get in?

Well my first team was GULL

WING, and then well, they had to get rid of their team and then G & S picked me up about a month later.

How did you first get on GULL WING?

Well Gull Wing had try-outs and there were a lot of people who tried out, but only a few of us made it and that's how I got in Gull Wing.

What do you think of the G & S Team?

I think the team is really good. We have a lot of really good skaters and almost everyone on our team blazes.

Does G & S give you a lot of support?

Yeah...they give me a lot of support and lots of equipment.

That helps a lot.

Yeah! a lot.

How do your parents feel about skateboarding and what you're doing?

They think skateboarding is really good 'cause this way I get free shirts and shorts and they don't have to pay for it...saves them money!

Do they make the contests when you're in them?

They go mostly to the big ones like the Gold Cup and they have been to a few of the ASPOs. They try, but it's kinda hard because they're busy.

What's your future as far as skateboarding and what do you see for yourself?

I kinda want to turn Pro whenever the time is right and just try to do good there. Right now I just want to keep skating and do well in contests.

How do you learn new tricks? Do think about them at night maybe? Or do you see someone do it and then try to learn it?

Sometimes I have dreams or sometimes I'll just be trying a trick, then I won't be able to do it right, so then I'll turn it into something else, that's what I usually do.

Tell me what new trick you dreamed up?

Yeah, I was trying the switch-foot layback air and I couldn't make it so I decided to do a switch-stance aerial, without the hand on the wall and it seems to work pretty good. (Ed. they call it the "Ruff-air")

At the BIG O Gold Cup, you were pulling off what they called a "helicopter 180 channel", is that what it was?

Oh yeah, the "helicopter". That came about when I was trying a layback air flip and couldn't make 'em, so I just did them without my hand. We were trying to think up names for that trick, so we called it a "larry-air", after Larry Gordon. (Ed. Larry Gordon is the owner of G & S)

Is "larry-air" the official name?

"Larry-air" or "helicopter", either one.

Who are some of your favorite skaters with whom you skate?

Uhhh...I like skating with Neal Blender, Lance Mountain, and Brad Jackman, who's a pretty good skater, who's just coming up and just got on the Gull Wing Team.

How often do you skate at OASIS?

Almost every day when I can make it. Usually me and Geno Tocci come down here, but during school...about three or four days a week, most I can.

Thinking ahead a little bit. If you turn Pro, what do you see as far as the future of Pro competitions?

Well, you know, they have that Gold Cup Series going right now and it seems to be working pretty good 'cause they have all kinds of people. Skaters who have been in Pro contests from the beginning and they have a lot of guys who just turned pro. Both are meeting and seeing who's doing the best and it seems that the older skaters are winning.

I guess ASPO has helped get the young skaters get stoked about competition. How do you feel about ASPO?



Yeah, the ASPO is really good 'cause it brings together people from all over, like Jamie Godfrey from back East, and just skaters who are unsponsored. It gives them something to compete in, it really helps them. It gives them a chance to see new tricks and try new ones with their friends

Have you had the chance to skate anywhere else besides Southern California?

Yeah, I went to Hi Roller with my family. We were on vacation. Hi Roller is a good park. It's fun. Some of the skaters there rip, like Todd Joseph. He terrorizes there and all kinds of guys there rip.

We hear now that some of the parks on the East coast and in the South are great. You think you might have a chance soon to skate them?

Maybe, sometime in the future, like maybe G & S will give me money or something, to go there this summer. Me, Neal and Brad Jackman are going to Winchester to skate there. It's going to be fun. Never rode there yet.

Are you going to enter the OASIS freestyle event?

I doubt it. Too many good skaters and I'm just not good at freestyle.

Would you like to see any changes in skateboarding?

Uhm...I don't know. It seems to be pretty good right now...I don't know.

Is G & S planning a Ruff model?

I doubt it. I don't know. I'd like to, but they only give models to good skaters.

Well you're not too bad of a skater. Aren't you in first place in the Gold Cup Series, amateur division?

Yeah, I'm tied for it, but I'm an amateur and no amateurs get models. Oh yeah! Kenny Stelmasky's got a model from Z, and he's an amateur and I'm not sure what he gets...school money maybe, like money to go to college or something.

What do you think of Steve Cathey?

He's helped me alot. You don't

want to hear his noise sometimes, but most of the times it helps.

And you listen to him right?

Soemtimes(pause and laugh) once in a while.

Do you have any thoughts for some of the younger kids coming up, or someone who wants to pick up skateboarding again?

Yeah, when someone half decent comes and skates, don't just sit there and watch or go to another run, just stay there and skate with 'em. You shouldn't just go away.

I see that some of your friends around us are bugging you and making faces.

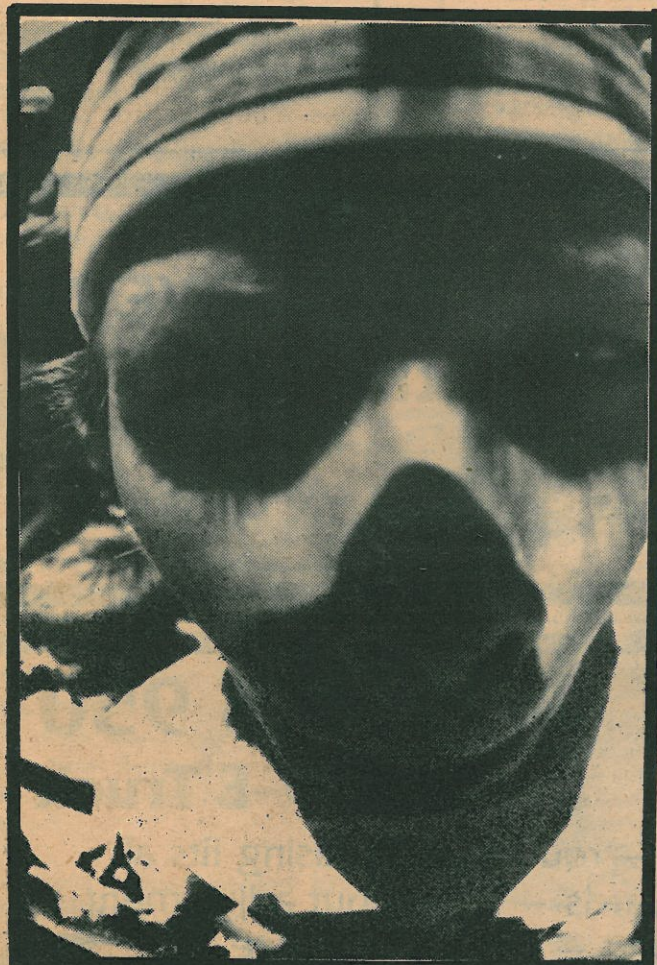
Yeah, Mark Rogowski, Serafin and Steve Garcia...yeah, they're chains.



Billy Ruff(opposite page top) showing his great styleat OASIS to a watchfull crowd.

During one of his many practices, Billy bailed out onto a wall, pulling off what he called a "face plant" (opposite page bottom).

Billy is getting more used to receiving trophies for his skating. Here(above) Billy is accepting from Lou Peralta the first place trophy at the SkaterCross Pro/Am.



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PROFILE:

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PARK TEAM

ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN

The Endless Summer Skate team has spent the last three years establishing itself as the premier skateboard team of the Great Lakes area.

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other hot skaters at APPLE, COSMIC WAVE, SURFN TURF ASTRO and SKATEBOARD USA, skateparks.

True to form, they have gone to each park and ripped heavily. (just check the G.L.S.A. results)

Two of the E.S. Team members, have just been picked up by Indy. Others are now being considered by SIMS and VARI-FLEX.

The skaters now being sponsored as amateurs by INDY are: Jex Harrison and Bill Fergusson.

Team members include: Jex Harrison and Dave Dooley in the 12 & under group; "Spike" Blauvelt, Chris "OP" Moore, Chris Cameron, Doug Anne, 13-15; Bill "Fergy" Fergusson and Bill "mechanical man" Munck in the 16 and over class.

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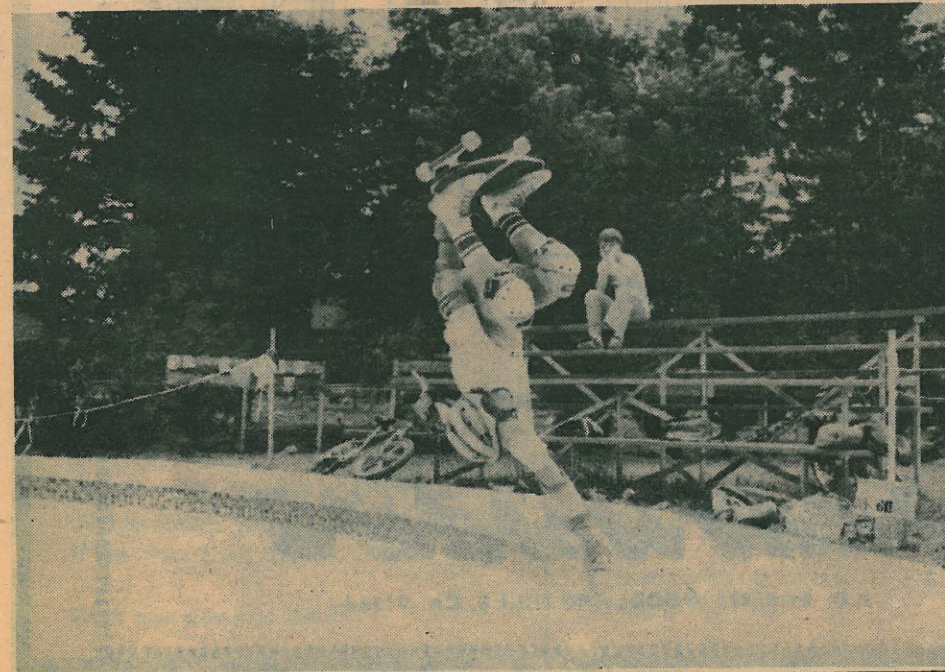
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Jex Harrison(top) and Bill Fergusson(below) top skaters from Endless Summer Team.



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SKATE CLUB ON A SESSIONING TRIP



The Sensation Basin Skate Club, en route to GET A WAY Park in Huntsville.

By Phillip Chiochio

SENSATION BASIN SKATE-BOARD CLUB GOES TO GET AWAY.

"I'm the only one getting wet", "stay inside and dry", club commander Barry Zaritzky tells us amidst a typical Florida mid-afternoon down-pour.

He's packing the soggy Dodge van we borrowed for the Sensation Basin Skateboard Club trip to the GET-A-WAY Skatepark in Huntsville, Alabama.

Five of us left Gainesville en route to Panama City to pick up recent transferee, Mark Santoli, who joined our tour group.

The SOGGY DODGE, had a recent July 4th party on its roof, which caved in, forming a large puddle every time we slowed to a stop. The skylight roof would bring forth a gusher of gallons on the "only one to get wet".

Skate films, were the first night's entertainment, provided for us at the home of Mark Santoli. His mom, an avid home movie buff, showed us recent films of the last FAST competition held at Gainesville, with an extraordinary clip of the elder Zaritzky's now famous deep bowl flying step-out maneuver, he has vowed never to try and perfect.

We were almost treated to the experience of riding the newest ramp in Panama City, being built by Mark's dad in his back yard. But a rain-delayed construction project prevented us from trying it out. We did get a promise, that if it didn't rain while we were gone, it would be ready upon our return.

With that pleasant thought in mind we stuffed into the van and headed North.

How much further? Are we almost there? Skateboarders are an impatient lot.

At Huntsville, the Monte Sano State Park would be our home. Only six dollars for two nights for six people, fire wood easily found, water, bathrooms, no bugs, no rain, cool weather...let's skate!

The Get-A-Way Skatepark is a dream park. Smooth lines, great variety, no trash. A happy smiling friendly group of locals helped us blend right in.

Friday night was going to be cut short. We could only skate for an

hour because the park was hosting a dance in conjunction with a local radio station.

The Park's conception is pure joy for those lucky enough to live nearby. For us, it would have been ecstasy, if their new 40'-high fiberglass water slide was open for a refreshing after-skate cool-off session. But alas, we were about two weeks early for that thrill.

The campfire was lit and we bedded down to awake to a wood-fire-style French Toast, organic oranges from Florida, and stuffed ourselves silly, while we waited for the one o'clock opening of the park.

Once at the park, Russell Griner skated the clover leaf doing front side air and rock and rolls and said the park was better than he thought it would be.

Chris Homan found the small key hole to be great for grinds and wheelies and wants to get back to try out his axle-airs in the clover-leaf.

CBS Sports Spectacular had advertised in Florida that the Marina contest was going to be aired, so Jim Bentley invited us to his color TV. To our displeasure, it wasn't on. We called CBS and voiced our complaint, still they didn't show it.

Back to the Get-A-Way park to skate the night, in the uniquely, individually-lighted terrains and their super-close to the action, sound system.

Local Paul Grierow was showing what a year of practice can do and Kurt Jose was just blazing. Paul's roller skating ranks him right up there in the pro class.

DeLourdes McCoy gave us a premier look at what female rollerskating has in store for the world..outrageous and totally bio.

We closed the park down at 11 pm. and went back to our campsite overlooking Huntsville, wondering why this place has never received any major recognition.

Sunday morning our skating lines grew much stronger as the skate club began going for newer moves pushing the limits. This lasted until 10pm. when a light rain cooled the energy.

As we headed back to the Pro shop, Tyler Rowe said he liked the 65 degree pool the best for front side plants and the terrain was great for practicing rock n' rolls.

That night we packed the van and headed for an all night ride back to Panama City.

Pulling into Panama City with the rising sun, we saw the finished ramp..."Sorry fellows, its too early in the morning for rat a dat dat; rat a dat dat, in this neighborhood... aren't you hungry?" Holly Santoli inquired.

We backed off for a couple of hours and then the ramp came alive, but not before we got on all of our safety equipment, it's a must at the Santoli ramp.

The ramp has six feet of flat, 14 feet wide with coping and rollouts at both ends.

Mark's younger brother, Ray, was working on fakie flips; Mark was testing it out for Rock n' roll potential. Everyone was stoked.

We had to leave for Gainesville that evening, catching more of that ummer rain.

We pulled in 15 minutes before the opening of Sensation Basin to finish one adventure and begin another one at the Park.

Philip Chiochio

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LANCE MOUNTAIN

WORD FROM THE SANDS OF TIME

By JARON LUCAS

July 18, 1980

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

This is your roving reporter on assignment somewhere in the Saudi Arabian, Rub Al Kahli (desert or empty quarter).

or empty quarter).

Early July I landed here in a city named Riyadh, deep in the heart of the land of black gold-Saudi Tea.

Really in the middle of nowhere, and I mean nowhere. (Pics. to follow)

After 2½ hours of explaining the use of my coastn' device to customs (skateboards), I got through and was leaving, when I overheard a local say: "they come and use those things in the Rub Al Khali".

I thought, could it be that they've got a park here?

All right! I've got to find the place.

A large crowd gathered around me and after convincing about 50 locals, known as "Rag-heads", that this skateboard

as "Rag-heads", that this skateboard was not a toy, and that you'd have to have no brains to try one, without first using training wheels, I made a quick dash for a taxi, and asked the driver, "take me to Rub Al Khali for a quick session".

In perfect English, the driver said: "lad, you must be on drugs", this convinced me that he must know something about skat'n.

He also said: "that this is the place of the empty quarters which made me think, it must be worse than the "bad-lands", get down! A perfect place to skate.

The driver said: "I will take you to the Holiday Inn and come after you in the early morning.

Well, it's now 3:30 am. so it sounds good, I'll catch a few winks and be fresh for an early desert session.

The hotel is just like home, with ice machines in the halls, and toilet covers and everything, I could be in the Ventura Holiday Inn.

Next morning, about 11:30am, this "rag-head" wakes me up and says: "here, I have a map to get there!"

So I get up and head down the lobby, where the manager stops me to ask if I'm going to be staying for another day. The thought of not taking advantage of the skating session is too much, so I said, yeah, I'll stay another night.

Of course, I didn't know that another night meant another 600 Reales or about \$200.00.

Not having those kinds of funds readily available to me, I told him, "charge it".

"To whom", he said. Quick thinking that I am, I looked outside the door and saw an official-looking car with the initials N.R.I.A. on the side door.

So, I said: "to N.R.I.A., I'm on special assignment for them". To my great surprise, he said OK! and so I was set for another day. What a snake!

This must have also impressed my taxi driver, as he agreed that I could also

charge the day long trip on the taxi to the Rub Al Khali.

So off we go. This guy is really impressed with my new B.B. and my old trusty TOFT.

We stopped on the way out to buy supplies and people started coming out from everywhere, staring at my sticks. I've must have had 30 offers to sell, but no dice. I kept saying that they were not for sale. They kept flashing this funny-money at me, but I thought it would be a real bummer to be out here without a skateboard, so no deal.

So after all this commotion, we took off. It must have been 118 degrees out.

We drove for about 200km. and then the driver said: "here we are!...this is as far as I go, I don't go any further!"

So here I am, three bags, two skates, my Skat'n News mag an old issue of Skateboarder, (maybe a collector's item one of these days) in the middle of God's land, with nothing but sand dunes as far as the eye can see. Where's the park, there's no vert here! Just sand dunes, nothing else!

So I decide to make the best of it. I take my trucks off my TOFT and just leave them on the side of the road. With not a soul for hundreds of miles, who would take them, any way.

I go off to the top of this big dune. I mean, it's really big. Get on the top of the deck and slide down. It's an ureal trip. What a gas!

Here I am 200km from nowhere, in 118 degree temperature, just jamming down the side of this huge wall of sand. I must have been a sight.

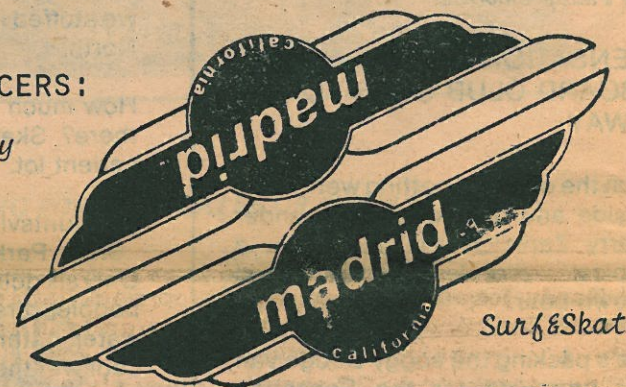
But before long, I get this eerie feeling that somebody is watching my scene.

No it's not buzzards, they have more sense than to come out in this heat. What it is, is a bunch of Bedouins, just like in Lawrence of Arabia, peeking just over the sand hills, trying to figure out what I'm doing! It would take too long to explain it to them. Yeah, it was a "hot session".

J.L.

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DOWNHILL RACERS:

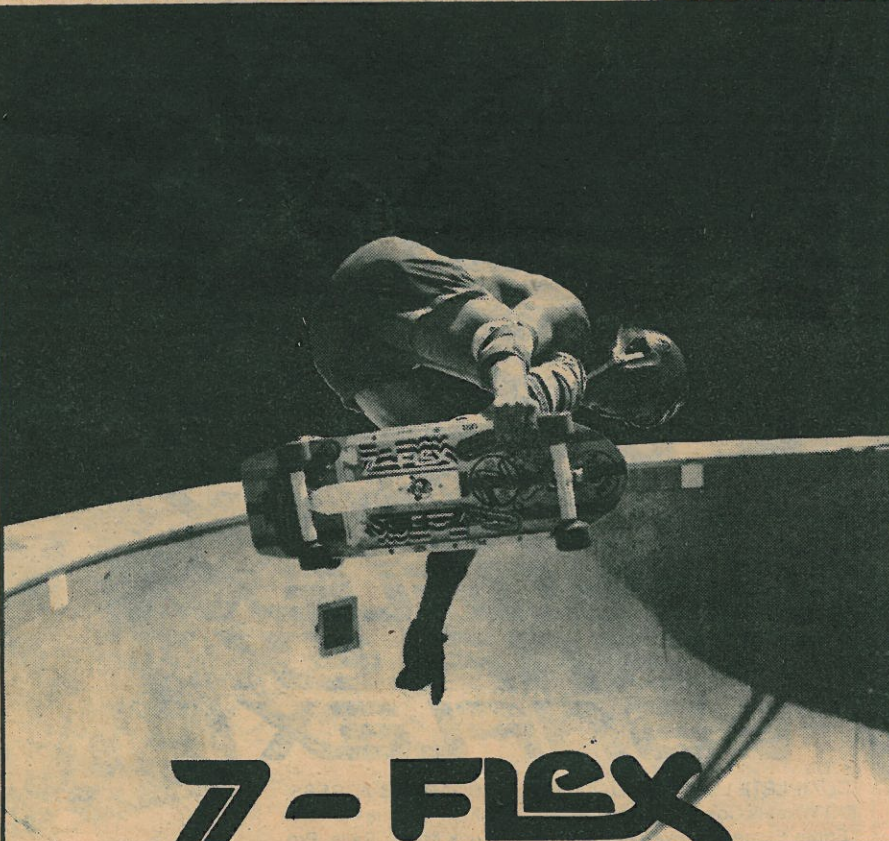
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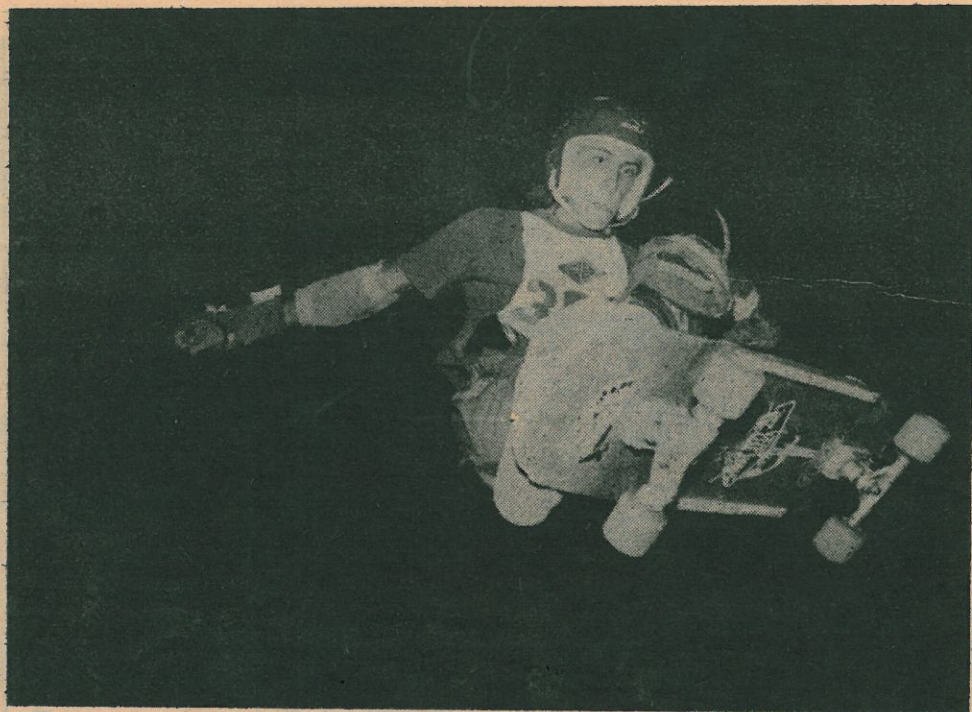
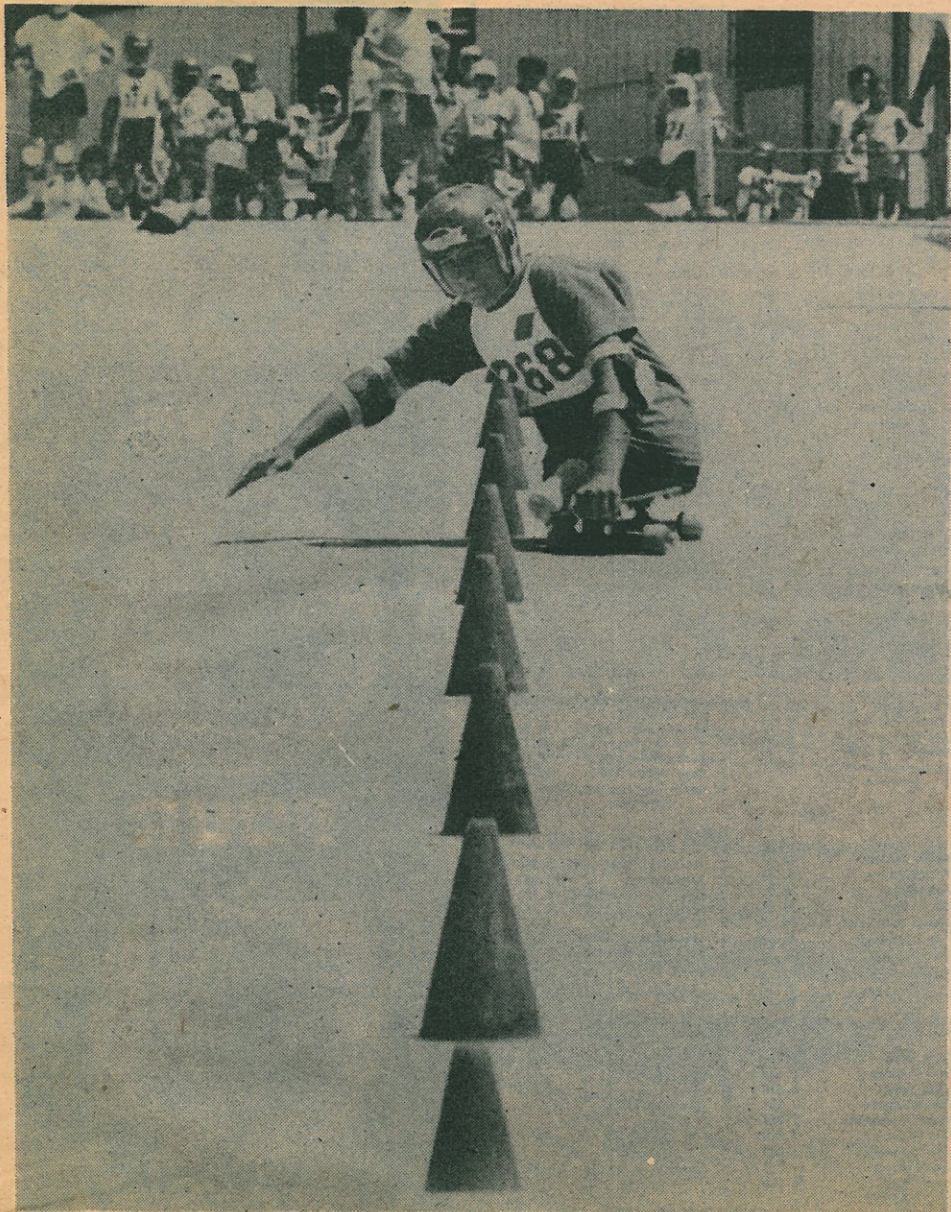
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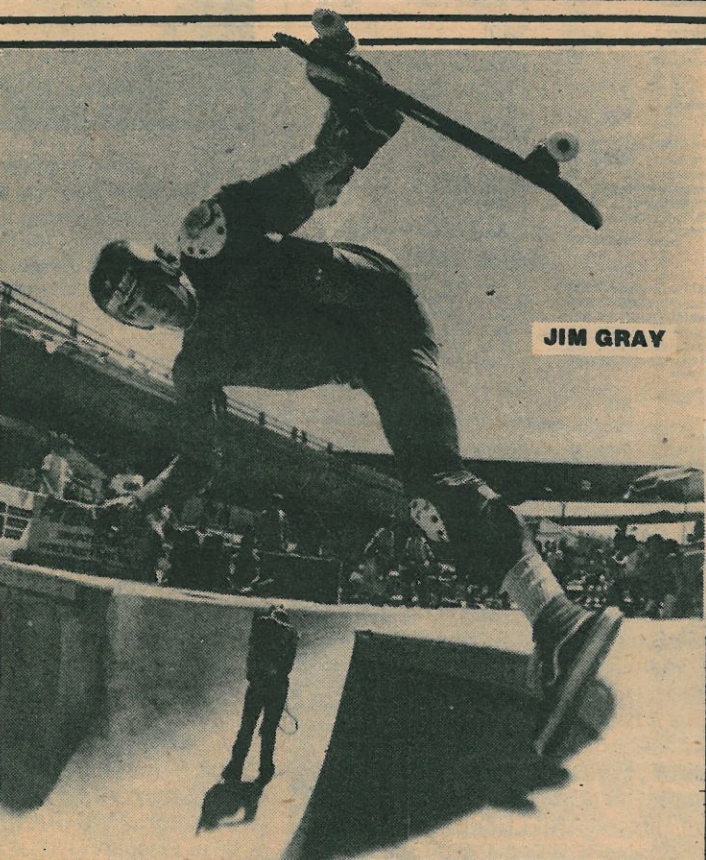
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Joe Hardy, local Lakewood skater (top) negotiating the Oasis slalom event at the recent ASPO. Joe is currently in second place, only eight points behind in the 13-14 1A class. Bob Rust, (above right) newcomer to ASPO showing great style on his ollie front-side air. Ken Park, (bottom right) working on his layback air-facial.

Photos. Paul Votava Sr. and Rusty Harris

G&S Attack

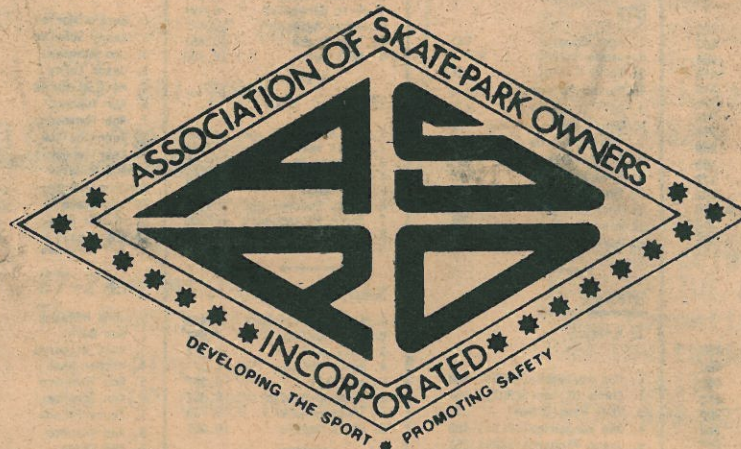


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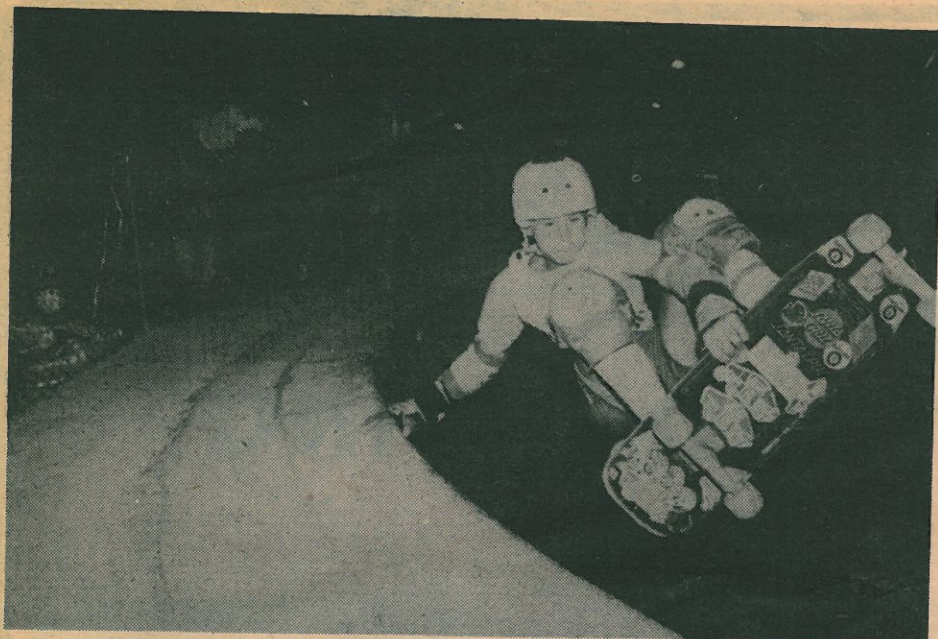
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18 AMATEUR EVENTS

ASPO # 4 at MARINA DEL REY SKATEPARK



Ron Yerman, one of the young rippers at Oasis ASPO 3.
Photo. Rusty Harris

CALENDAR

ASPO-1980 AMATEUR CIRCUIT

- SEP. 13 @ MARINA
Banked Slalom & Pool
(213) 821-9997
- OCT. 4 @ SKATE CITY
Clover & Pipe Pasting
(213) 946-1402
- OCT. 25 @ COLTON
Down Hill & Pool
(714) 824-5850

NOV. 15 @ PIPELINE
Pool & Banked Slalom
(714) 981-6014

DEC. 6 @ LAKEWOOD
Banked Slalom & Pool
(213) 531-4855

DEC. 27 @ BIG O
Capsule & Pipe Pasting
(714) 771-2140

JAN. 17, 1981 AWARDS
(Tentative date, loca-
tion to be announced)

NOTE: A Review Committee
will upgrade skaters,
if necessary, after
the 3rd. and 6th event.

G.L.S.A. AMATEUR CIRCUIT

AUG. 23 @ ENDLESS SUMMER
Pool
(313) 294-7170

SEP. 13 @ SURF N' TURF
Pool
(414) 281-9000

PRO GOLD CUP SERIES

AUG. 23-24 @ COLTON
The VARIFLEX PRO

SEP. 27-28 @ MARINA
The POWELL/PERALTA PRO

NOV. 1-2 @ PIPELINE
GOLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

STREET RACING ASSOCIATION

AUG. 17 @ WRIGHTWOOD

SEP. 14 (Open Date)

OCT. 4 @ BONNELLI PARK

NOTE: Contact Don Hoffman
for additional info.
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AUG. 30 CAPITOLA DOWNHILL
CLASSIC
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AUG. 31 The OASIS FREESTYLE
CLASSIC.
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SEP. 6 SPEED WEEKEND at
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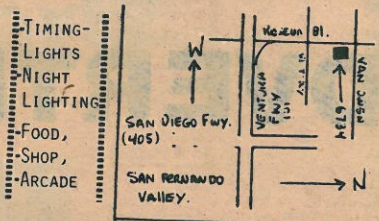
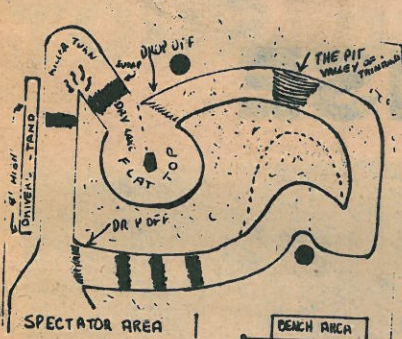
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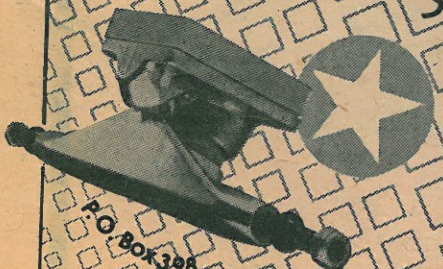
SEPTEMBER 20 - 11am

- FIRST RACE OF THE SEASON
- 1/10th & 1/12 OFF-ROAD RACE
- SCORE Celebrity Races
- TRACK OPENS 9am for PRACTICE
- ENTRY...\$4.00 per car

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