



For the Wrecker



Season Opener

On May 5th, the Warrin' Wrecking Dolls will begin their third season. They will be looking to extend their undefeated record when they take on Corry's Nightmares on Mainstreet. The two teams have faced each other the last two years, with WWD coming away with lopsided wins. Corry will be looking to avenge the losses and come away with a win.

DIFFERENT ROSTERS, DIFFERENT OUTCOME?

For the past two years, WWD has had a pretty stable roster. While there has been an influx of new skaters, the veterans have remained constant. But in 2018, WWD has lost three vital players.

Two of the three were solid contributors to the wins of WWD. Pivot She Hostile and jammer Rushin' Rollette both saw a lot of play time and were vital in many wins the last two years. Both players traveled from Meadville to play with WWD and both decided they needed a break from the commute.

The third player has not only been a vital in WWD wins, but has been a huge fan draw.

Goblynn began the 2018 year by detaching her hamstring. A very painful incident, it put her immediately into surgery and has been rehabbing ever since. While the rehab has been positive, she is months away from getting back on the track.

The Dolls will have to try to fill the roles of these players to continue their dominance over Corry.

On the other side of the track, Corry's shutdown pivot and captain, Wham McSlam broke her ankle last year. Easily recognizable by being in front of the pack skating backward, Wham had the ability to stop a jammer alone. It is unknown if she will be able to play in the upcoming bout, although reports have her participating in practice.

The Dolls will also be rostering at least a couple of new skaters. The team has spent the pre-season getting them up to speed and they should see some track time in the bout. WWD also had a veteran skater return. WhipHer SnapHer, the starting pivot from season one, returned this year. In her first

season, she was the leader of the defense and had a tremendous rookie season.

Fans will be able to see what effects the different rosters will have when the two teams hit the track.



Frau Rollin' taking on Wham McSlam. The battle between the two was a highlight of last year's bout.



Mid-jam action shows Jowanna Scrap denying a Corry jammer.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and the first whistle is at 6.

Skater Spotlight

Ginger Ails U

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This month's skater spotlight focuses on Ginger Ails U. Coming into her second year, Ginger has shown marked improvement and has become a solid defensive player while dishing out hits during interleague scrimmages.

Where are you from? Warren



What do you like most about derby?

I like the athleticism involved. I think a lot of people think it's just hitting people while skating and don't think about what it takes to be able to do that. The training for it is mind blowing to me.

What's your worst derby injury? Knock on wood, fractured finger.

What are you up to when you're not skating or at work? Binging on Netflix, reading, hanging out with friends, cooking.



What's on your current playlist?

Two Feet, Sir Sly, Black M, Eminem, and FallOut Boy.

List your top 5 movies:

Bridesmaids, The Wizard of Oz, Sherlock Holmes, Blow, and Van Wilder

Dogs or cats? I love cats.

What's your favorite type of food? I don't think I have a favorite. I like trying new things but pizza is always a winning choice.

Focus on Rules

Back Block



The Dolls wanted to give a more in-depth explanation of roller derby rules to help our fans have a better grasp of the sport.

A back block penalty occurs when a player initiates an illegal contact with an opposing player in an illegal target zone. When we describe this to our players, we use the example of the area between the bra straps, from the shoulder to the thighs. This area cannot be hit. But if the opposing player uses her back to block and forces the contact with the area, there is no penalty. So as an example, if a player is standing on the track and an opposing player runs her over by making contact with her back, it is a penalty. If a player throws herself in front of a jammer to prevent her progress and the jammer makes contact with her back, this is not a penalty. The initiator of the contact determines whether a penalty has occurred.



The Dolls prepare to hit the streets of Warren in the annual 4th of July parade.

Upcoming Events

On Friday, **April 20th**, the Dolls will be helping to celebrate the grand opening of Total Evolution, the home gym of the Wrecking Dolls, located at 1048 Pennsylvania Ave West in Warren. The grand opening is from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Dolls will have an information table and a few of the players will be there from time to time. The radio station 106.9 KISS will be there from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please stop by and see why the Wrecking Dolls are proud to have Total Evolution as a sponsor.

On Saturday, **April 21st**, the Wrecking Dolls will host a closed scrimmage with Reynoldsville's Rebel Rollers and Corry's Nightmares on Mainstreet teams. The scrimmage will allow newer skaters to get track time experience before the actual bouts begin. The Dolls have shared a friendly relationship with both teams since their beginning. The scrimmage will be held at the Russell Roller Rink

MIA?

In 2018, the Wrecking Dolls were informed that they would be losing some integral players.

Rushin' Rollette is not returning this year. A natural jammer and aggressive blocker, she had many fans and contributed to WWD point totals. She Hostile, was a starting pivot last year. Her defensive play and chemistry with her teammates shut down opposing teams. Her beauty had fans in love with her.

Both Rushin' and She commuted from Meadville to play in the Wrecking Dolls team. They did this for two years and needed a break from the drive. Riot was the starting inside blocker last year. She was best known for demolishing jammers in turn two if the jammer cleared the WWD defense. Winner of Rookie of the Year in 2017, she excelled immediately and was a punishing player. Unfortunately, her work schedule didn't allow her to continue this year. Booty Basher was in her second year. She showed a lot of potential and had a promising derby career but her occupation took her away from Warren. Maiden Raven was an original member of WWD and spent the last two years in the starting jammer rotation. Maiden left to spend more time on her art career. All will be missed and the Wrecking Dolls have hopes that they will all be able to return as soon as possible.



Strategies

Slow Derby vs. Fast Derby

For decades, roller derby bouts consisted of a lot of speed and a lot of hits. But, around 2012, new strategies developed that changed the sport and made it slower. It is now common to see jams where the teams don't even skate a whole lap. Gone was the speed and with it, the big hits.

Throughout roller derby's resurgence, it has been common for teams to look for strategies that would give them an advantage. This was the thought that led to slow derby.

Slow Derby Origins

The idea seemed harmless enough. Have a team run a four-man wall in the rear of the pack. Four-man walls are very difficult for jammers to get through. And, since it is illegal to skate clockwise to engage an opposing player, being in the rear left you free from being hit, unless you were rolling. If you are skating forward, a slower skater could hit into an opposing wall as they caught up to her. The solution to that problem was to stop skating. While this strategy can be successful, it has led to major changes in the sport.

Initially, roller derby consisted of skaters playing offense and defense at the same time. Think offensive and defensive football linemen trying to get their running back through while at the same time not allowing the opposing running back through. Slow derby changed that to only defensive players on the track. All four blockers were now dedicated to only defense. The jammer was left to fend for herself. It is common to see jammers getting pummeled as their teammates look on. This has led to bigger, more powerful jammers and to the position of jammer being one that gets your body banged up.

The other major change was that it took the speed away from the game. Along with the speed went the hits. At this point in derby, it is common to see teams in a two-minute jam that do not skate one entire lap around the track. And, while there is a skating ability present, it's a standing ability based on toe-stops and shuffling, not skating at speed.

At the founding of the league, the Wrecking Dolls told all interested players that it would not be a slow derby team. It was important to the founders that the team put on a show that would bring fans. They wanted speed and big hits. They wanted their players to be able to switch on and off from offense to defense or play both at the same time. There would be a focus on agility, fundamentals based on actual skating. While getting back to the original spirit of roller derby, WWD has created an exciting venue for its fans. It has also left opposing teams reeling.

WWD's challengers are not accustomed to playing a team that skates. Slow derby not only accounts for the most common manner of play in the region, it is what is played nationwide. Opposing teams are forced to adapt on the fly, while being hit and, often, when out of breath from skating so much. WWD considers fast derby as a main contributor to why they have been undefeated to this point.

From the feedback that it receives, the team can see that the fans appreciate the manner in which WWD plays. The crowds at the home games keep getting bigger and the players often receive compliments for making big hits. At away games, it has been common for the Dolls to show up with more fans than the home team.

As fast as WWD plays in bouts, they play even faster in their interleague scrimmages. When forced to slow down to prepare for opposing teams, the players find it less fun than when they can skate as fast as they want. With any luck, the rest of the roller derby world will find their way back to their speedy beginnings.