



For the Wrecker



Dolls Suffer First Loss

On Saturday, June 2nd, in a bout that was neck and neck until the very last jam, the Warrin' Wrecking Dolls were unable to come away a win as they lost to Youngstown, OH's Little Steel Rollergirls, 290-293. The loss snapped a winning streak that had lasted over two years. It was the Dolls' first loss since their formation. The bout was very physical, as is the trademark of Wrecking Dolls' bouts and saw multiple lead changes in the last few minutes.

The Dolls were in the penalty box more often than usual which contributed to Little Steel developing an early lead. Playing with short lineups and giving Youngstown power jams made it difficult for the Dolls to ever get any rhythm going. Midway through the first half, Little Steel had a thirty point lead but the Dolls were able to cut the lead down to fifteen going into halftime.

In the second half, Warren's adjustments allowed them to take the lead for the first time in the game. Placing Shear Pain and Pink Punish-Her at back blocker allowed the team to place notable blocker Tabulous at jammer. Big jams by Tab, Ariel Attack and Slowrideher got the Dolls the lead early into the second half. But penalty trouble would again see Little Steel regain the lead midway

through the period. The lead would change over and over and the game would be decided in the last jam.

Down four points, the Dolls' jammer would again go to the penalty box. It seemed it would seal the game but they would actually come out and start scoring, putting the result in question until the jam totals would be added up. The Dolls would end up losing by three points.

The team was exhausted and sore as the entire bout was extremely physical. Big hits and skaters hitting the pavement are common in the Dolls' bouts but this time it was both teams taking punishment.

Tabulous would win MVP jammer and Pink Punish-Her would win MVP blocker. It was a fantastic effort for a team down their top two jammers.

The Wrecking Dolls will be traveling to Elmira, NY, on June 23rd to take on the Black Diamond Rollers. Their next home bout will be July 14th.



Shear Pain stall blocks a Little Steel jammer.



Shear Pain and WhipHer SnapHer shut down the front so Jowanna Scrap can deliver a hit.

Skater Spotlight

ARIEL ATTACK

You were one of the original members of the Wrecking Dolls. What was it that caused you to join a sport that you had never played before?

I never played sports growing up and I was incredibly shy. When I heard about Derby Fix Fitness, I wanted to try something new, become more active. I was just starting to be more outgoing, I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and be a part of something brand new.



How do you feel you've improved in the last three years?

When I first started, I could hardly skate, so obviously that has improved. I'm more fit than I've ever been but I think my biggest improvement is my confidence. I have never been a "leader" or someone who's wanted any sort of attention on me and I didn't do well speaking to strangers. But now, as a jammer, all eyes are on me and I am the league's Newbie Coordinator so I am constantly reaching out to strangers and talking about how amazing the league is.

I don't believe most fans realize that you are one of two sisters on the team. How do you like playing alongside Suzy Bonebreaker?

This is one of my favorite questions. I love skating with my sister. One of the perks when joining together was that I was going to get to hit my sister!! We have a weird connection where we are always saying the same things at the same time, and I think it definitely carries onto the track. When I jam and Suzy pivots, I always feel like she knows what I'm thinking and can deliver a great play to get me through. It isn't all peaches and cream on the track, she can totally be annoying but I probably wouldn't be where I am today without her constantly pushing me to be faster and stronger.

When you're not skating, what are you doing?

Outside of derby I'm usually with my sister (you'd think we'd get sick of each other).



My boyfriend and I love taking the dogs for hikes, hanging out in our back yard or watching movies. I'm definitely a homebody. But to stay active, I love taking Pound

class three times a week!

At the end of last year, you switched from blocker and pivot to jammer. How have you liked having a big target on your back?

My first time jamming I wanted to throw up, I was so nervous! But I love the fight! I think I've found my place on the track, and I love to see the blockers faces when this 5'2" little girl gets on the jam line and I manage to juke and slip past them over and over.

What kind of work do you do?

I've been a pharmacy technician for 6 years and a Medicare billing specialist for 4.

What has been your favorite movie this year?

My favorite movie of 2018 would have to be Avengers: Infinity War. I'm a huge Marvel fan. Although, I've been slacking and haven't seen Solo: A Star Wars Story yet, which will probably knock Avengers down to #2 because I'm an even bigger Star Wars fan.

Unfortunately, Ariel Attack was removed from the league due to her last statement.

FOCUS ON RULES

Direction

A direction penalty is the act of impacting an opposing player while skating in the non-derby direction. Roller derby is played in a counter clockwise direction so it is describing hitting someone while skating clockwise. But, it is not necessarily describing a head-on collision.

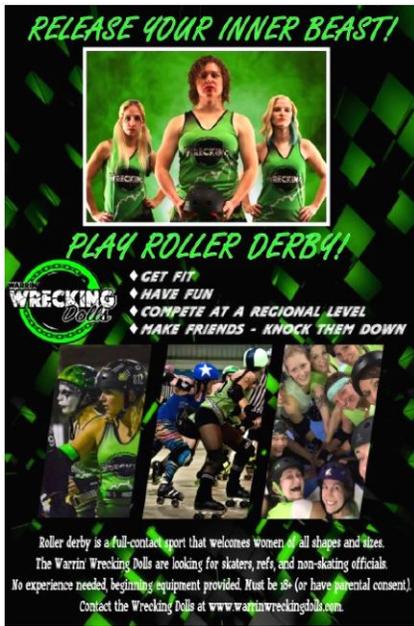
While at times, you may see a skater run in a clockwise direction and make contact with an opposing player, it usually happens from making a sharp turn on the track. Derby direction includes any direction forward, be it turning toward the inside, the outside or in reverse. So, a player can stand on the jammer line on the outside part of the track and skate toward the inside part of the track and if her forward position increased at all, and she is now in front of the jammer line, she is skating in derby direction. If she stands on the same line, skates across the track and ends up behind it, she has now skated non-derby direction. If in doing so, she made contact with an opposing player that created an impact to that player, she has now committed a direction penalty.



It's a penalty that happens often, especially in the corners. When standing on the straightaway facing forward, you can see that a 90 degree turn would be a legal hit. But when you stand in a corner, your body is not necessarily facing exactly forward so that same 90 degree turn may be a direction penalty.

If you've paid attention, you will have noticed that the word "impact" has been used in defining this penalty. That is because if there is no impact to the opposing player, there is no penalty. Even if the player deliberately skates in the wrong direction and hits an opposing player, if there is no impact to that player (i.e. if there is minimal contact and the player skating in derby direction skates through it with no noticeable impact), there is no penalty.





Upcoming Events

Interested in joining?

The Warrin' Wrecking Dolls are always looking for new players. Experience or the ability to skate is never necessary. All that is needed is a great attitude and the willingness to learn. Unsure? You can always visit a Dolls practice to see if it is something you may be interested in. For more information, please see the link at www.warrinwreckingdolls.com.



Refs wanted!

The Wrecking Dolls would not be able to compete without the assistance of the referees that dedicate their time to learn the sport and apply the rules. The position is open to men and women and our refs become part of our team. Training is provided and there is a huge demand. For more information, please see the link at www.warrinwreckingdolls.com.

For weeks now, the Dolls have been preparing for the **4th of July** parade that will be held in downtown Warren, PA. The Dolls have been in every 4th of July parade since forming and have developed a reputation of putting a lot of effort into their presentation. This year will be no different as they have been preparing something exciting for their fans.

On **July 14th**, the Dolls will be hosting the Susquehanna Valley Derby Vixens of Williamsport, Pa in their next home bout at Allen Park in Jamestown, NY. The Vixens were formed eight years ago and have played many teams that the Dolls have played but this will be their first meeting. The bout will start at 6 p.m. with doors opening at 5:15.



FAST FACTS

34

This is the average age of the skaters of the Warrin' Wrecking Dolls. The average age the players started playing roller derby is 30. The oldest player the Dolls faced last year was in her 60's.

Calling Off the Jam

One of the more basic strategies in roller derby is calling off the jam. What this means is when your jammer has “lead jammer status,” ending the jam before the two-minute time limit is up. In case we have people new to the sport reading this, let’s break this sentence down.

The sport of roller derby consists of short periods that last, at the most, two minutes. These periods are called jams. There are usually over 20 jams in a half. So when the teams line up and the official blows her whistle to start them, the jam has just started.

“Lead jammer status” is given to the first jammer that makes her way through the pack by passing everyone legally. It is signaled by her jam ref by two short whistle blasts, as well as pointing at her with one hand and raising the other hand in the air, creating an L shape. And just to be clear, when the opposing jammer clears the pack, her jam ref will skate while repeating crossing his or her arms, indicating she is not lead jammer.

The only thing lead jammer status does is to allow you to end the jam whenever you want. Other than that, there is no difference between the two jammers. The lead jammer signals her jam ref if she wants to end the jam by repeatedly placing her hands on her hips.

It is possible to have a jam without a lead jammer. It can happen if both jammers get around a blocker but don’t legally pass her on the track. As an example, imagine a blocker drives a jammer out of bounds. Obviously the jammer did not pass the blocker. Now, the jammer comes back on the track before the blocker does. She has now gotten by the blocker without passing her legally on the track. This is not illegal as both players went out of play. It is designated as “no pass/no penalty.”

When the lead jammer goes to the penalty box, she loses lead jammer status. If she is able to return in the same jam, the jam will go the full two minutes.

Now that we understand the term, let’s go through the strategy. The main reason to call off a jam (from the Wrecking Dolls’ standpoint) is to control the scoring. When we have lead jammer status (which we refer to as “lead”), our goal is to score and not allow the opposing team to score. This is why many of our bouts start with a 4-0 score after the first jam. They are small score amounts but the Dolls stress keeping the opposing team with the lowest amount of points possible.

As basic a strategy as this is, many opponents have not used it correctly. In previous Dolls’ bouts, some teams have called off a jam when they have scored their 4 points but not before we scored our 4 points making it a 4-4 jam and gaining no ground. Some teams have called a jam before we have made our initial pass meaning they had the time to make another pass before we could even score.

Often, this is not the fault of the jammer but of the bench. The coaching staff should be keeping the jammer informed of the situation of the jam. During Dolls’ play, you can see the coach communicating to the jammer what is going on as she passes the bench, when she’s not around the pack of players. He is telling the jammer when to call the jam, or if she needs to keep the jam going, perhaps to kill time to free blockers that are in the box or if the opposing jammer is completely stuck in the pack.

Now that you understand the strategy, you can see how important having lead is. Our goal is to have lead in every jam.



Jam ref signaling lead jammer status.