

Skateboarder King comin' through!



Photos by John Harris

A student pauses to stare in amazement as Steve King winds his way through the pylons he sets up on the sidewalk between the Erb Memorial Union and the Child Research Laboratory.

By JOHN HARRIS
of the Emerald

Steve King isn't just showing off when he winds his skateboard furiously through the plastic pylons he sets up on the sidewalk between the EMU and the Child Research Laboratory on 15th Avenue. He's also practicing.

King, a sophomore computer science and accounting major from Beaverton, placed first in the downhill, slalom and giant slalom at this summer's Northwest Skateboarders' Association meet at Mt. Tabor in Portland. Although he has only been skateboarding seriously for three years, through hard work King has elevated himself to a ranking of second in the downhill and third in the slalom in the entire Northwest, which includes Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

"It's really more for fun," says King of his late afternoon runs on the campus sidewalk. "I enjoy doing it, but I do work at it when I'm out there."

The sidewalk provides King a semblance of the course on which he races in competition.

"The steepness is just about the same as what we run on, but the surface is rough in spots," he says.

At the Mt. Tabor meet, King skated through 20 cones for 120 feet in the slalom in 6.6 seconds, tying the course record. He covered the 350 feet and 44 cones of the giant slalom in 20.8 seconds.

In the downhill, an all-out sprint covering three quarters of a mile, he reached a speed of 40 miles per hour. Two curves slowed the pace in that race a bit, but King has been clocked at 60 miles-per-hour on a hill near his home. He kept stopping state troopers passing by him on the hill until he found one who had a radar gun. The officer timed him but couldn't ticket him, although King was breaking the speed limit.

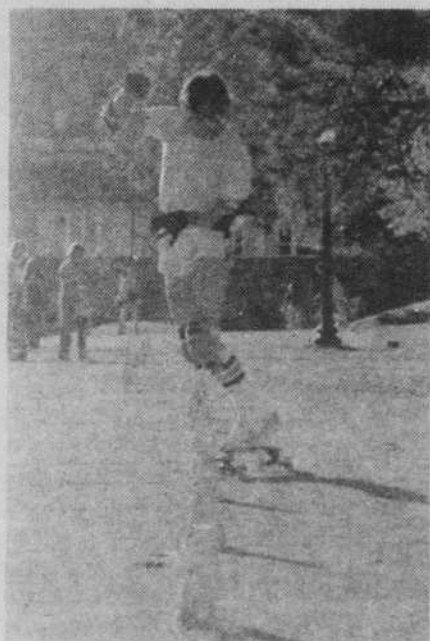
"You can't ticket non-motorized vehicles. That's the beauty of it," he laughs.

King owns three boards; one each for downhill, slalom and

freestyling, an aspect of the sport in which he just dabbles.

His favorite is the slalom board, which retails for \$150 and has a polyurethane foam core wrapped in fiberglass. The downhill and freestyle boards are made of wood and are cheaper, but a set of wheels for the downhill board costs \$80 alone.

A further investment for serious skateboarders is safety equipment. King wears knee and elbow pads, padded shorts and gloves and a plastic helmet; his only injuries have been scrapes and bruises.



Although he must content himself with practicing on a University sidewalk for now, King has high hopes for both himself and skateboarding. There is a possibility skateboarding might become a part of the 1984 Olympics if the Games are held in Los Angeles.

The sport has gained acceptance in much of the United Kingdom and Japan, and the Soviet Union recently ordered 200 boards from an American manufacturer.

If skateboarding does enter the Olympics, King hopes to be ready. "I'm waiting for that," he says. "I'd like to remain amateur in case it does go into the Olympics."

In the meantime, King will be displaying his talents to students wandering to and from class along his practice course.

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Field Hockey

The women's field hockey team meets Willamette University in Salem at 5 today.

Badminton

The Badminton Club will hold an organizational meeting at 6 in the EMU. Room number will be posted. Bring raquets.

Intramurals

The entry deadlines for men's and women's basketball and women's soccer has been extended to Wednesday.

Logo contest sponsored by recreation department

The Department of Recreation and Intramural Sports is sponsoring a contest for picking a logo to represent the department.

The logo does not necessarily have to include the department's title, but it can represent anything dealing with recreation or intramural sports.

The winning logo will be selected by the department staff, and a \$10 prize will be awarded to the winner. Logos are returnable.

The deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 20 at the department office in 103 Gerlinger Hall.

For more information call 686-4121 or 686-4113.

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