



'Skate and destroy'

Gorge Roller Girls ready for season opening double-header next weekend



By ADAM LAPIERRE
News staff writer

Back bigger and better than ever, the Gorge Roller Girls are gearing up for their first bout of the 2015 season, and if momentum amassed over the last couple years is any indication, next weekend's double-header should be an exciting way to spend a Saturday night.

In their third year since being formed, The Gorge Roller Girls now have enough players to field two full teams. The B-team, called the Mountain Maidens, will open the Jan. 24 bout-night with a matchup against the Air Raid Roller Girls from Hillsboro, starting at 5 p.m. The A-team, called the GRG All-Stars, will follow at about 7 p.m. with a bout against the Shanghai'd Roller Dolls out of Astoria. Action will be at The Dalles Armory (402 East Scenic Drive), doors open at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 for students and seniors six and under free. Due to limited seating, advance purchase is highly recommended; as of this weekend more than half of the 200 available tickets were already sold. Go to www.gorgerollergirls.org to purchase tickets online.

With a new, smaller home venue this season, spectators will get an up close and personal view of the action. Being at the armory, rather than a school like previous seasons, also allows for beer sales.

"Fans will literally be right next to the track," said Kimbo Slice,

More info: www.gorgerollergirls.org

NDI fundraiser

The Gorge Roller Girls have partnered with Next Door, Inc. for the Jan. 24 bout; money made through a raffle that night will go to NDI's Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

New skater intake:

Do you think you have what it

takes to be the next derby star, or just want to join the camaraderie and fun of one of the fastest growing womens' sports in the nation? Gorge Roller Girls are hosting a new skater intake event this Sunday, Jan. 18 at 1 p.m. For the location and more information, send an e-mail to gorgerollergirlsjoin@gmail.com.

GRG marketing coordinator. "It's an intimate setting, which should be pretty exciting for spectators."

Slice, who goes by the name Kimberly Cannon for her day job, has been with the Roller Girls for almost two years and says, like herself, many of the girls who started the sport as fresh meat — as newcomers are labeled — are now competent skaters who bring depth and athleticism to the team.

"I feel like we've progressed tremendously," she said this week. "I, for example, didn't even know how to stand on my skates when I started. We've improved leaps and bounds in a pretty short amount of time."

In addition to a healthy group of new skaters, the team also has a new coach, who goes by the moniker Scarlene and brings several years of experience from the Portland-area derby scene.

"We've really learned a lot from her in the last few months," Can-

non said. "Yo-Duh (former coach) was great, especially in helping us with our fitness level, but having a new coach with that amount of derby experience has been huge for us."

Among the many skaters to keep your eyes on next weekend, standouts include the speedy team captain, Ginger Binger, who has proven to be a formidable jammer over the last three seasons. Also a three-year team member, Helda Contempt has improved dramatically since she started and is now one of the top blockers on the All-Star lineup. Another key blocker to watch out for is Faye Spounder, who is also president of the GRG's 501c3 nonprofit organization. New to the GRG lineup this season is out-of-stater, Kesassin, who should be an exciting addition to the team's offensive prowess.

To prepare for the start of the season, which runs from now through June, the girls have been



Team photos submitted, above photo by Adam Lapierre

GORGE ROLLER GIRLS 2015 lineup includes two squads of local ladies. At top is the A-team, called the Gorge Roller Girls All-Stars; below that is the B-team, named the Mountain Maidens. In action above is team captain Ginger Binger, jamming her way around a Medford opponent about to hit the deck during a home bout last spring as Hood River Valley High School.

practicing twice a week in the off-season and four times a week through the winter.

"It's an exciting time for the team," Cannon said. "We have experienced skaters who continue to

get better and better and a lot of new skaters who are eager to climb the ranks and prove themselves on the track. We haven't lost a home bout yet, so expect us to come out hard next weekend."

MONEY!

CrossFit Hood River athletes and instructors (from left) Regan Huckaby and Karen McCadam brought home the bacon last weekend for their performances in the CrossFit Fort Vancouver Invitational. The invite-only competition brought the Northwest's most elite CrossFit competitors (15 pairs of men and 15 pairs of women) to the Clark County Event Center for the contest. The CFHR duo finished third overall, which earned them medals, bragging rights and a nice cash prize.

Submitted photo



MAT TIME

Hood River Valley High School wrestler Monque Yanez works for a pin last weekend at the Kelso Girls Wrestling Tournament. Yanez and five others represented HRV wrestling at the two-day tournament; she picked up a fall with this move and finished 1-2 overall. Jessica DeHart went 3-1 to finish second at 105, Sarah Sullenger was 1-2 at 110, Beatrice Najera was 0-2 at 120, Joanna Endow was 1-2 at 130 and Payton Rigert was 3-1 at 155 to finish second.

Submitted photo



David Gibeaut tops action

Team of the Week

David Gibeaut, +136 (784)
Rick Nishimoto, +134 (785)
Milo Prideaux, +112 (766)
Chris Voyles, +109 (763)
Tim Furlong, +109 (760)

The holidays are over now and we're back with a full slate of league action at Hood River's Orchard Lanes. We had more new faces make our latest Team of the Week, topped by David Gibeaut. He put together a solid and consistent three-game series in the Tuesday Nite Mixed (TNM) league that was capped by a nifty scratch 204 game. David, who is new to league bowling here, finished up his evenings work 136 pins over his average, tops for all league bowlers last week!

David just edged out legendary Rick Nishimoto for top honors by a mere two sticks. Rick blasted out a big scratch 277 game and finished up 134 pins over his average for his series. The powerful right hander has long been a household name in Hood River bowling and has racked up numerous big award scores in his career on the boards.

Milo Prideaux, who is also a relative newcomer to Hood River bowling, grabbed the big hitter slot on the big five this week after firing a nice scratch 224 game that propelled him 112 pins over his average for his set in the Monday night Industrial league.

Our clean-up man this week is power player Chris Voyles, who also found the going to his liking in the Industrial, where he notched a fancy scratch 267 game and 673 series that was 109 pins over his average. Tim Furlong anchors our fab five this week after also ending up 109 pins over his average in the Industrial, finishing like Silky Sullivan stroking solid scratch 227 and 211 games on his way to a fine 631 set.

There were also lots of near misses. All-star Bryan

Mason had a fantastic week on the maples, pummeling the pins in the TNM with a superb scratch 733 series and also in the Fraternal, with an even better 740 set. He was 103 and 107 pins over his averages respectively.

Not to be outdone, Ryan Crowther was also 107 pins over his average in the TNM. Carl Casey cuffed the sticks in the Industrial to the tune of a scratch 660 series that was 105 pins over his average and Bonnie Ternahan bowled just as well in the Tuesday morning ladies Workshirkers league, where she was also 105 pins over her average after logging a scratch 540 series. Finally, Kevin Rogers topped his average by an even 100 pins in the Wednesday afternoon senior Colts & Fillies league.

Other scratch highs from our top notch shooters this past week included pro Jeff Miller, who tossed a scratch 279 game and 724 set in the Industrial; smooth Gordon Sim, who stroked a nice scratch 710 series in the TNM; and stylish Jeremy Bloom, who posted scratch 706 and 702 sets in the TNM and Fraternal.

Great bowling everybody!