

Profile of a Superfan

Janis Grace Bridges, operator of rollersport.tv

By Matilda the Hun (DLF, Rat City Rollergirls)

Q: How and when did you become a derby Superfan?

A: I became a super derby fan the first time I ever attended a modern flat track event. I had really enjoyed banked track as a child. My grandmother and I would watch it on TV and she would shout. It was fun, but it disappeared from TV. Years later, I saw derby again on the tube, but it was totally fake. It bummed me out. Then I went to a Rat City bout and was in love from the skate-in. When Burnett Down was introduced I saw sufficient proof that there is a goddess.

Q: Which is your favorite team, and what's the draw?

A: I don't have a favorite team. Things that draw me to teams are skill, focus, dedication and effort.

Q: How much traveling have you done for derby, and what is your most memorable moment?

A: I've been to Calgary, Victoria and Vancouver in Canada; Spokane, Everett, Lynnwood, Bremerton, Port Orchard, Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia in Washington; Portland, Ore.; and Houston, Texas, for the regional tournament.

Most Memorable Moments:

1. Last jams of 2007 Texas Shootout Championship
2. Rainy City's (Centralia, Wash.) victory over the Femme Fianna (Dockyard Derby Dames, Tacoma, Wash.)
3. Cosa Nostra Donnas (Oly Rollers, Olympia, Wash.) vs. Derby Liberation Front (Rat City)
4. A devil skateboarding through "O Canada" in Victoria.

Q: Are you a fan of any other leagues (besides Rat City) and why?

A: Several, because they rock. I enjoy seeing leagues developing and displaying their styles and color.

Q: Sport vs. entertainment, what's your take?

A: Entertaining sport, in the same category as football and hockey. I've seen some bouts with dramatic lighting, loud music, etc., and don't really enjoy it. For me, the spooky lighting is a distraction. The truth and poetry of the sport of roller derby doesn't benefit from dramatic enhancement.

Q: Are you a fan of other sports?

A: Football, especially the NFL.

Q: Any comment on derby as it grows nationally?

A: Totally jazzed. I'm really looking forward to the derby future.