

"YUKS"

by Billy Shaffer

P R I M I T I V E

# Roller Skating Artifacts



the "Skate Key"



"STEEL WHEELS"

## USA Today's gloss makes facts easier

By Billy Shaffer

By now, everyone in town knows that the newspaper USA Today has arrived in Lincoln. Unless you're an agoraphobic and haven't left your house in months, you would have seen the fancy blue and white distribution boxes that seem to dot every bus stop, grocery store and street corner in town. Many critics have lambasted USA Today. The

usual complaint is "all gloss and glitter and no substance, not enough hard news, too much fancy graphics." It's true that USA Today is not the Wall Street Journal, which has never run a photograph, but USA Today often presents facts, statistics and poll results that are better understood through its charts and graphics.

Continued on Page 8

**HERM'S SPECIAL BUSCH CASE \$8.99 WARM**

Expires 8/18/84



HERM'S  
1644 "P" St.  
474-6592



Darlene Kessinger, far left, follows an unidentified skater close to qualify for the senior 4 women's 3000-meter relay race.

Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

## Skaters of all ages roll at Pershing

By Judi Nygren

Some of them were so young and keyed up that their parents had to tie their shoelaces before races, others were experienced competitors who calmly stretched out before their next dance routine. But no matter what their age, once they stepped onto Pershing Auditorium's wooden floor all that mattered was executing the best spin or rolling past the black-and-white check flag first, enabling them to join the ranks of national roller-skating champions.

The 1984 United States Amateur Roller Skating Championship, held in Lincoln from July 28 to Aug. 9, offered only a few of the 2,000 skaters at the championship a chance in the limelight. But according to Nance Kirk, skaters trained like world class champions just to get to Lincoln.

The skaters practiced an average of six to nine hours a week on the skating rink during the fall and winter season and an average of 10 to 20 hours a week during the spring and summer season. Many of the skaters supplemented their rink training with bicycling, weight lifting or ballet, if competing in figure skating, she said.

Training culminated with regional competitions. Skaters had to finish in the top three at one of the nine regional meets held throughout the nation in order to compete at nationals, she said.

After training long hours and making it through regionals, losing did not come easy for many skaters. Some left the floor in a fit of tears, others left with bitter feelings over referees' calls and still others left disappointed but with grace.

Among the graceful losers was the defending senior speed skating champion, Darlene Kessinger of Louisville, Kentucky. After losing her title to Kim Turner of Livonia, Michigan, Kessinger said, "She's a real good friend. I'm happy for her, she deserved to win."

Losing is not a familiar thing to Kessinger. She was introduced to skating at 18 months and became a serious competitor at nine-years old. She quickly made a name for herself in the skating world, but had to drop out of competition for two years because of financial problems. When her family gave her the okay to return to skating, she came back stronger than ever.

At the 1980 national championships, Kessinger was so impressive that coaches for the U.S. outdoor

world championship team asked her to try out for the team. Although she had never competed outdoors or skated on banked tracks, she made the team as first alternate and went to Puerto Rico for two weeks of training.

Since 1980 she has made the world team every year. At the 1983 competition, she won the 300 meter time race and the 1500 meter race. She left for the 1984 competition soon after finishing at nationals.

Because the 21-year-old's Kentucky team only skates indoors, she said she has to "sneak off" between the morning and afternoon practices to get some outdoor training in. Once outdoors, she bicycles and skates in one of the city's subdivisions.

"I don't like to skate on the city's streets," she said. "Motorists don't understand why I'm there and they yell."

Her indoor training complements her outdoor training. The cornering work inside helps her once she gets outside, Kessinger said. The only difference between the two types of training is the types of muscles a skater uses, she said. Outdoor skating requires longer strides, using the inner thigh muscle and indoor skating uses the outer leg muscles.

"I'm one of the few skaters who believe you can do both," Kessinger said.

Kessinger has not always wanted to compete in other fields of skating. When she first began skating, she eliminated the possibility of being a figure skater because she was a tomboy.

"When I was little I didn't like wearing skirts and to be a figure skater you had to wear a skirt," she said. "So I became a speed skater."

Kessinger's style of choosing an area of expertise is not typical according to Kirk: Most skaters become involved in the sport at about six-years old after attending a skating party, she said. If they like to go fast, they choose speed skating or roller hockey, and if they like turns and spins they go into figure skating, she said.

No matter what area a skater chooses, Kirk said size or body structure does not matter. At nationals it was a skater's balance, quickness and power that separated the champions from the contenders.

**NEW POSTERS**  
Time to Redecorate

10% OFF ANY POSTER WITH THIS AD!

**Dirt Cheap**  
RECORDS & GIFTS

OFFER GOOD THRU 8/18/84

**WALK OVER, RIDE HOME.**

Freewheelin's downtown store is only 6 blocks from campus, straight down 13th street!

Our selection features:

- Panasonic
- Bianchi
- Peugeot

10 & 12 speed and mountain bikes.

**FREEWHEELIN BIKES SHOP**

East Park Plaza  
208 North 66th Street  
402-464-0188

Downtown  
427 South 13th Street  
402-475-0204

**Chesterfield's Bottomsley & P.O.'S**

Lower Level Gunny's Mall  
Corner of 13th & Q

ENTER

**Chesterfield's Pool Tournaments**

Every Monday — 7:30 p.m.  
\$3.00 entry fee

Sign up at the Big Red Pool Room bar by 7:00 p.m.  
Bring your friends!

**BIG RED POOL ROOM**

Good for \$100 off an hour of pool at C. B. & P.'s Big Red Pool Room.

(Limit one coupon per hour)