



Dustin Stuart - Asst. Photography Editor

Blue Ridge Rollergirls skater "Liquor Possi" gives high-fives to fans after Saturday's win.



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The Blue Ridge Rollergirls' jammer fights to pass the Twin City Travelers' blockers.

Putting wins at season opener

functional, family, was, but just seeing the fan base grow is still something I get really excited about and proud about for the team," Mease said.

Trasport said she agreed the fan base is growing rapidly.

"We have a diverse fan base, but a lot of our fans are young women who look up to us skaters," Trasport said. "We want to show them that we are strong, confident women who kick ass and that they can do the same. Especially in a place like Asheville, empowered women who kick ass on roller skates is always going to be popular."

The Rollergirls won both games in their double header last Saturday, defeating the Twin City Derby Girls (148-147) and the Soul City Sirens (274-71).

Both Meador and Trasport said the bout on

Saturday was their first time skating for the team in an official game.

Meador said the game on Saturday was fun and challenging.

"Our game was just what you want in a good bout. Our scores were fairly close the entire game, but we eked out a win by one point in the last jam," she said. "That's good for both teams to make us play harder, and good for the fans, too."

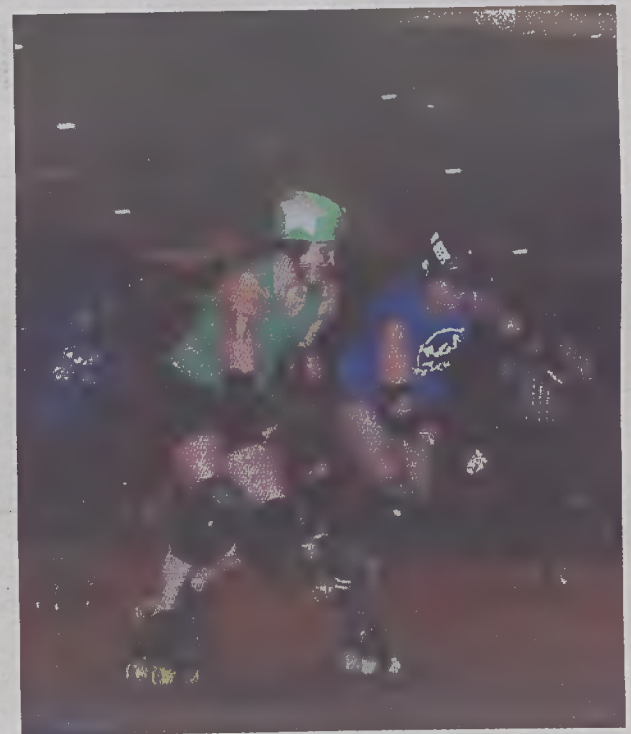
Trasport said the games on Saturday exceeded her expectations.

"It was my very first bout and I could not have asked for a better start to my derby career," Trasport said. "It was such a nail-biter of a game coming down to the last jam and with us winning by only one point. You couldn't have asked for a better season opener."

Rule Card

Despite its widespread appeal and cult-like following, Shannon Brown, the visiting announcer at the season opener last Saturday said derby can be confusing for audience members who do not understand the rules. He happily explained the game for the newcomers, who made up almost half of the crowd that night.

- The games are divided into two 30 minute periods, separated by a 30 minute half-time show.
- Each half is broken down into 2-minute "jams," or periods.
- On each team, there is one pivot, three blockers and one jammer.
- Only a jammer can score points for the team. They score one point for every time they pass a player on the opposite team.
- The first time the jammers pass the "pack," they're racing to become "lead jammer." The lead jammer can call off the jam, or period, at any time so the other team cannot score points.



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"Houchebag" (M7), the jammer for the Travelers, and "2 Beers" (24) jostle during the bout.