

Learn Skating The Newman Way

By RICHARD NEWMAN

Ed. note--(Have you ever played Russian Roulette? It's a terrible game. Right? Well, it may be terrible, but I can think of one experience that I would have been glad to exchange for the dreaded game of Russian Roulette. This experience I am speaking of is roller skating.

Surprised? Well, don't be, for if you've never donned a pair of skates you should not be laughing (which I'm sure you are by now). Try to hold back the guffaws and read the following on my first attempt (?) at roller skating.)

Now I sit in wonder and excitement, trying to figure how Joannie Weston does it. How can a lady play such a rugged game as Roller Derby and still stand up on those little shoes with wheels, when I can't even stand up on them, (Isn't the man supposed to be the stronger of the sexes?)

I knew it was going to be a long night from the moment I put the skates on. I laced them up and stood up. Well... I almost stood up. Before I had a chance to grab the armrest of the chair I was lying

flat on my back. Staring at the ceiling, I thought, "How did I even get talked into this?"

I finally crawled to the "training area." This is a section with two handrails, one of each side, in which the in-experienced skater may hold the rails and get the feel of the skates. As in math, the theory and the practice are two entirely different things. I crawled to the area, and made a Grade A attempt to stand. Success!!

"OK" I said to myself, "now its time for the big advance. So, I let go of the rails and took a step. Guess what? I'm on the floor again. In the training area. Humiliation abounds.

Finally after twenty minutes in the training area, I was ready for the main floor! At least, I thought I was ready for the main floor. Three steps and Blam! Here we go again - on the floor. You'd think I was a dust mop.

After stumbling to the side hand rail, I stood up. Well you might not call it standing, it was kind of a combination of leaning and "hang on for your life. Just about the time I had a good hold on the rail, this real smart dude who thought he was an expert came

wheeling past and, you guessed it, he knocked me down. It was "back to the old floor" trick. I spent 59 of the first 60 minutes that way.

As the time passed, the lady who ran the skating rink saw that I was having no success. She came over and told me that I had to take short steps instead of long ones. I graciously informed this lady that the long stride were not intended but once I got started, my legs were everywhere except under me.

Heeding her advice, I finally began to make progress. Twice around the rink and only one fall. Then, three times around --and NO FALLS'. DIG IT'.

By the end of the night, I was skating around ten times without falling. I was even able to hold hands and skate couples with my girl. (Although I was probably a great hinderance.)

(My special thanks go out to the lady with her kind advise; Mr. Bill Rawls, whose splendid idea it was to go skating in the first place; and to Keith Thompson, who by virtue of his fine skating did not make me feel so bad about my intimate relationship with the floor.)



Phil Ford (20) goes up for two against the Northern Nash Knights (Photo by Drew Cole.)

Speaking Of Sports

Ed. note -- (No, this article is not by Howard Coscell, but by Richard Newman, whose statements in this article are highly opinionated.)

As bowl time approaches, most sports writers like to predict the winners and losers, and their closest shot at the scores. So, for what its worth, here are my predictions on some of the top bowl games, and a few comments on ACC Basketball.

*Michigan vs. Stanford (Rose Bowl)--In my opinion, this is a bad match-up. Michigan should manhandle Stanford. Without Plunkett, the Indians won't click. Michigan-30, Stanford-14.

*Nebraska vs. Alabama (Orange Bowl)--The game of the day. Nebraska will be a little too much for the Crimson Tide. The Cornhuskers should put the job on the Bama offense, but the offense will have to really struggle to put points on the board. Nebraska-24, Alabama-17.

*North Carolina vs. Georgia (Gator Bowl)--Even though my mind says Georgia, my heart says, "Go, Heels". The Bull-

dogs have looked strong all year, and UNC has looked good in every game except the Tulane contest. If the breaks go to the Heels, they might bring back the beans. UNC-20, Georgia-18.

*Texas vs. Penn State (Cotton Bowl)--Although Joe Paterno thinks he's got the National Champs in University Park, the Longhorns should surprise the Nittny Lions in Dallas.

*Tennessee vs. Arkansas (Liberty Bowl)--This will be a Major contest... Bobby Majors, that is. Majors is playing his last game for the Vols and should rip the Razorbacks. Good game but the Volunteers should come away with a 9 points victory. Tennessee-28 Arkansas-19.

The Atlantic Coast Conference offers some of the best basketball in the nation. The standings at the end of the season should look like this:

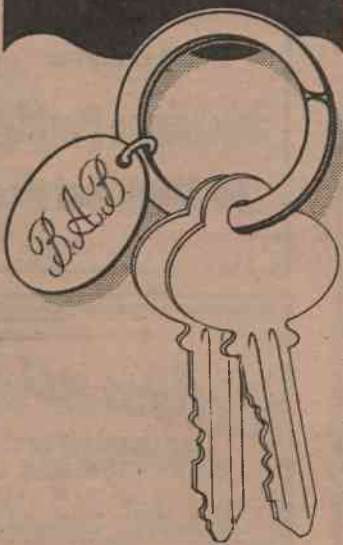
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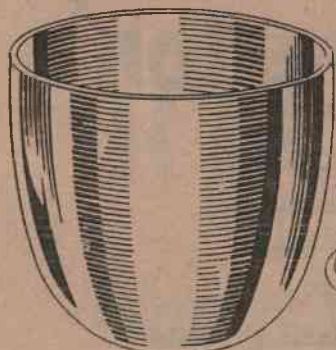
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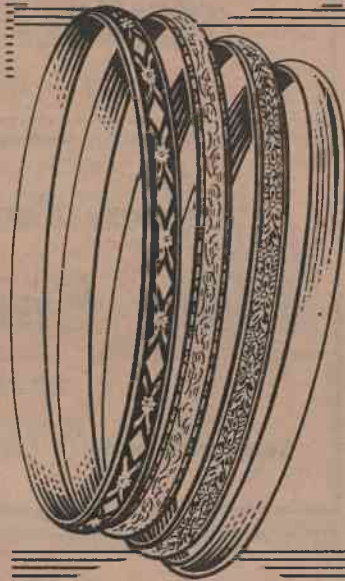


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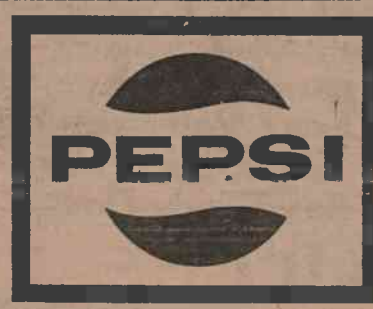
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