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SKATEBOARD MAGAZINE



IN THE STREET TODAY

DOWNHILL SKATEBOARD RACING

GOLD CUP FINAL



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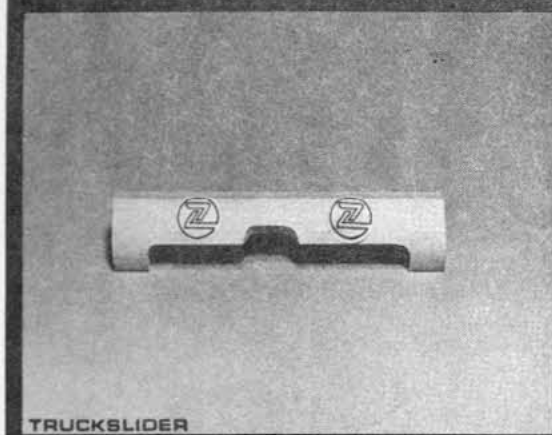
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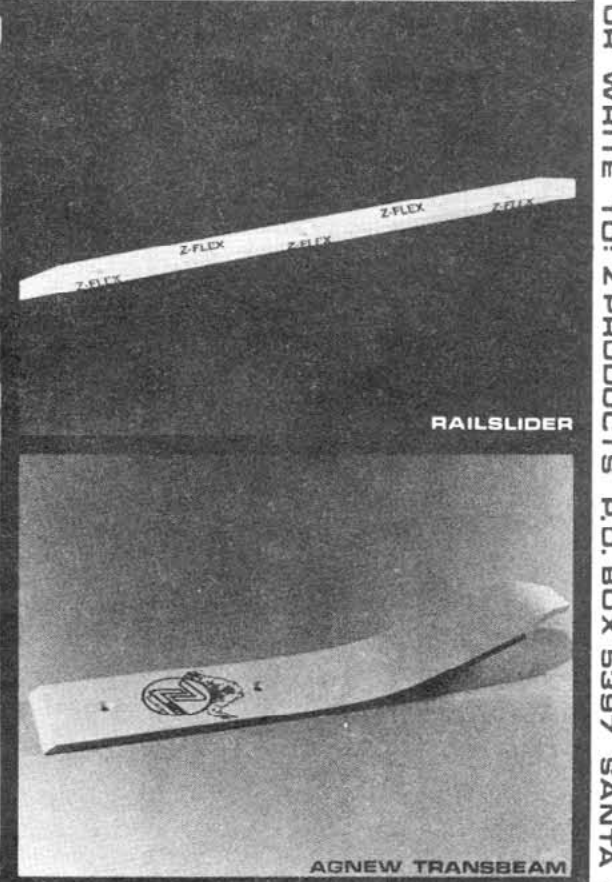
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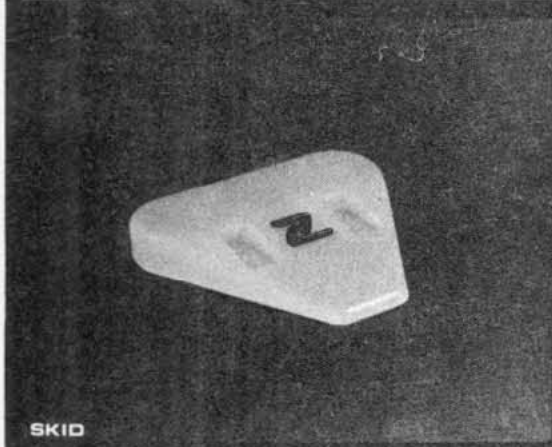
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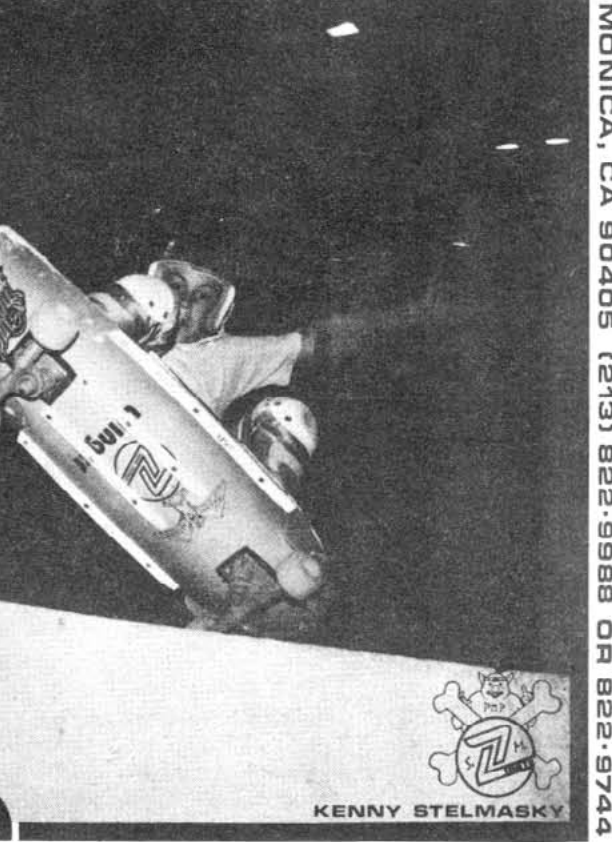
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GOLD CUP FINALE

10

Upland's Pipeline provides a
fitting end to the premier bowl
riding series of 1980.

IN THE STREET, TODAY

16

New energy from the original source.

DOWNHILL RACING

18

The thrills, spills and parties of the
downhill scene.

SEMI SECRET SPOTS

22

They are still out there and so are
the riders who skate them.

TALKING ED

6

EASTERN FRONT

9

ON BOARD

27

8x10

30

Roger Hickey at Laguna Seca
3rd Place — Laguna Seca
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TALKING ED

GRAB THAT BOARD

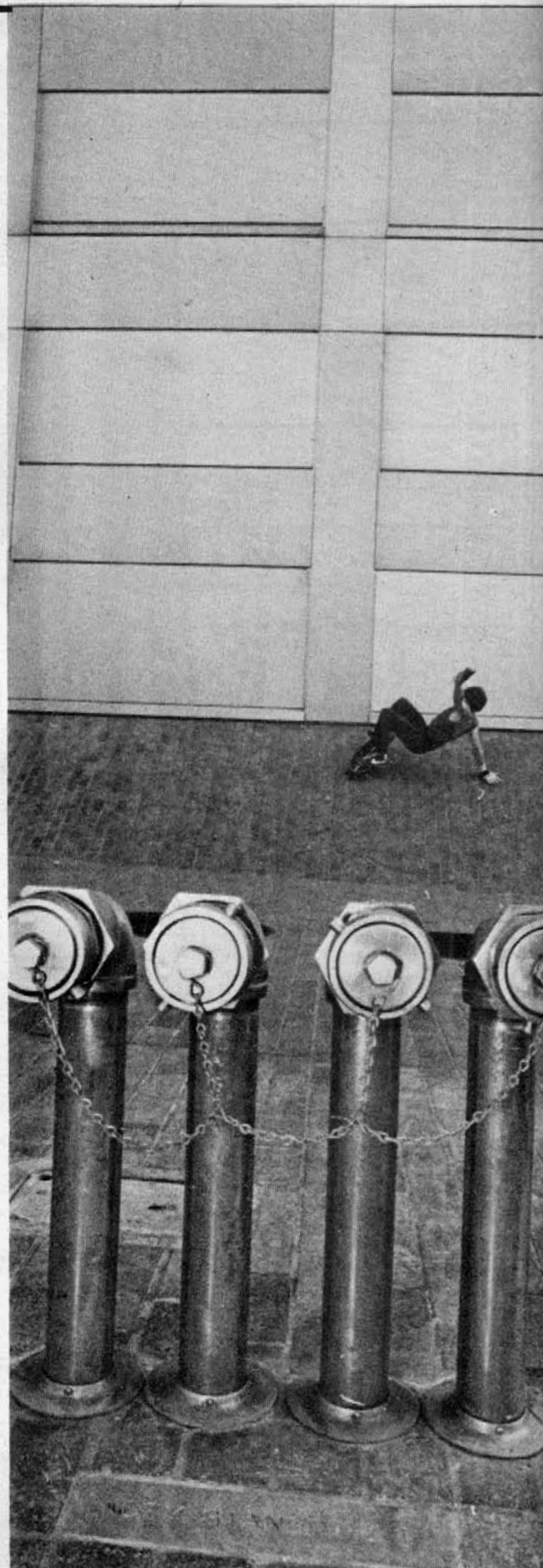
I often feel that skateboarding has painted itself into a curious corner. It is almost its own worst enemy in that it has become over overspecialized—almost elitist in attitude. Sure, at one time there were skateboarders everywhere. Enthusiasts numbered in the hundreds of thousands. Parks began springing up in cities and suburbs all across the U.S. and Europe. New products appeared on the market every day and the skater was hard-pressed to keep up with the new developments. Soon there was a professional pool riding contest circuit and media hype to go with it. Skateboarding even surfaced occasionally during a weekend of television sports programming.

Through all of this, have we, at times, lost sight of what skateboarding really is? And, what about Jon Q. Public, the non-skater, the one who dismissed skateboarding as just another "born again" fad? How many times have you heard someone say "Skateboards — Yeah, I used to ride them back in the sixties." The problem here is a lack of understanding of what skateboarding is all about. The average individual was never properly exposed to the unlimited possibilities of a platform with four wheels under it—a simple basic mechanical device which serves as an energy-efficient mode of transportation, a basis for a valid sporting activity, and as a vehicle for aggressive expression.

Meanwhile, at the height of the skatepark explosion, the skaters have been virtually swept off the streets and deposited in the parks, where the action is radical but lacks the inspiration of a knock-down, drag-out backyard pool session or a skate cruise down the boulevard with the crew. The fact is skateboarding can survive without parks, but the parks will never last without skateboarding as a whole to support them. Many times I have wired a new trick in the street only to find myself the next day at the park trying to perfect it on the vertical. Skateparks are fun! Street skating is fun, and also visual. The whole world is out there waiting to be entertained, but they want it delivered to their doorstep. So let's deliver!

Thrasher was born out of a need for intense and objective reporting on an activity that has established itself as a major pastime for many people and a rewarding experience for countless others. Thrashing is an attitude, a skate attitude. Thrashing is part of a lifestyle, a fast-paced feeling to fit this modern world. Thrashing is finding something and taking it to the ultimate limit—not dwelling on it, but using it to the fullest and moving on. Skateboarding has not yet reached its maximum potential, and who can say what the limits are? To find out—Grab that board! You don't have to be a super talented professional skater—Grab that board if you're a novice just having some fun on a Saturday afternoon. To the kid hanging out at the Stop'n'Shop with his gang—Grab that board! To the college student who needs a vehicle to get from dorm to class—Grab that board! And how about the dad who calls his kid crazed for riding a skateboard all the time—Grab that board! There's no rule saying you have to go fast or skate vertical. Just being outside or in the skatepark practicing maneuvers and balance is a lot of fun. Remember, there are tons of asphalt and concrete being poured every day, so—GRAB THAT BOARD!!

-KT-



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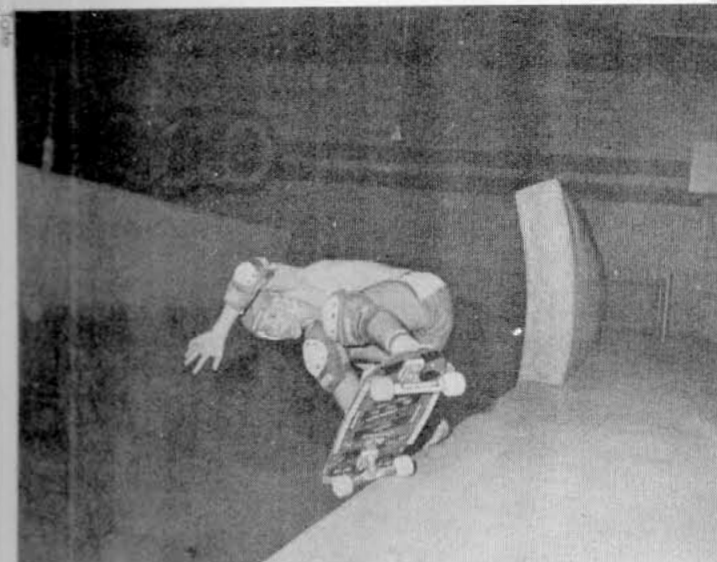


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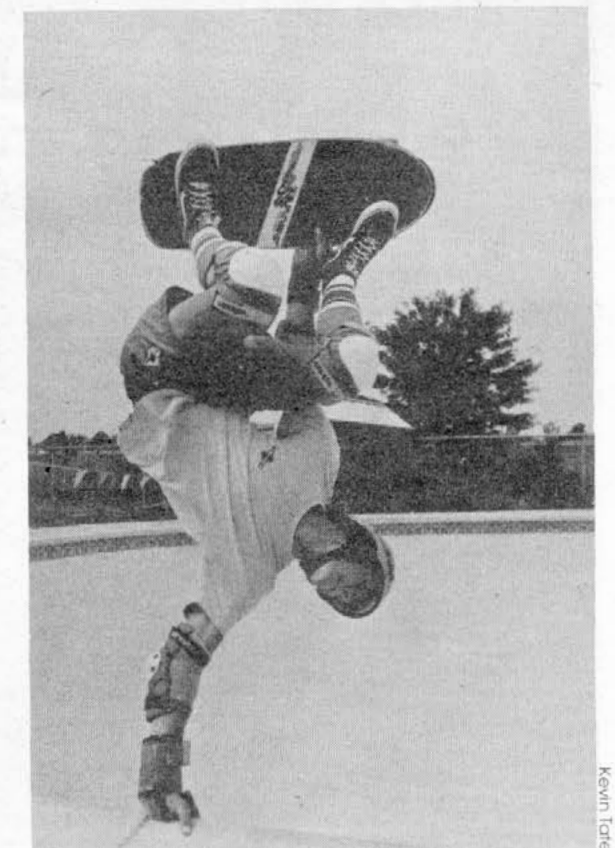
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EASTERN FRONT



Dave Bush—Apple Skatepark, Columbus, Ohio

Out here in California we consider the East to be any place on the other side of the Rockies. Ever since Thrasher began gathering info for this first issue, we've been hearing a lot about Eastern U.S. Skateboarders. Parks, ramps and streets are all heavily ripped. The Eastern skater, just like his Western counterpart, knows no boundaries when it comes to skateable terrain. California Pros who regularly tour the East for intense skate sessioning are impressed with their talent and energy. Eastern Front will be a regular feature of Thrasher. We aim to cover the skateboard scene wherever it is happening and not be held back by territorial hang-ups.



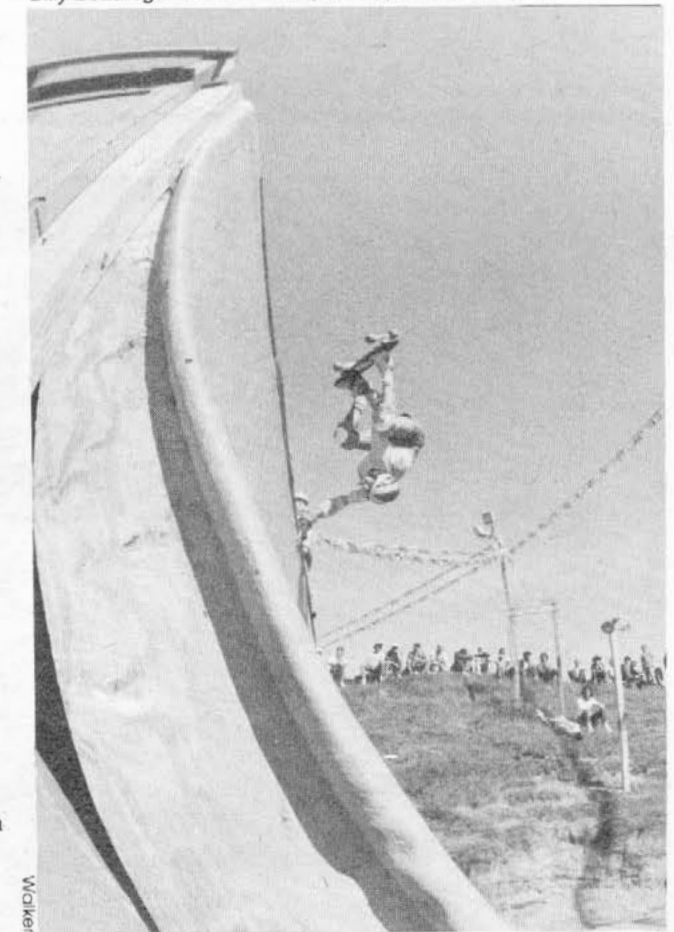
Bill Ferguson—Endless Summer, Roseville, Michigan



Shawn Peddie—Kona USA, Jacksonville, Florida

As we go to press, Sensation Basin in Gainesville, Florida, is set for their 3rd annual Pepsi Team Challenge, scheduled for November 28 and 29, 1980. Based upon the contest's reputation from the past two years, this will likely be the biggest skateboard event of the year in Florida. It has always featured gnarly competition, both individually and team-wise, in both Professional and Amateur division. More coverage in the next issue...

Billy Beaugard—Kona USA, Jacksonville, Florida





Series winner Eddie Elguera, layback air.

UPLAND GOLD CUP FINALE

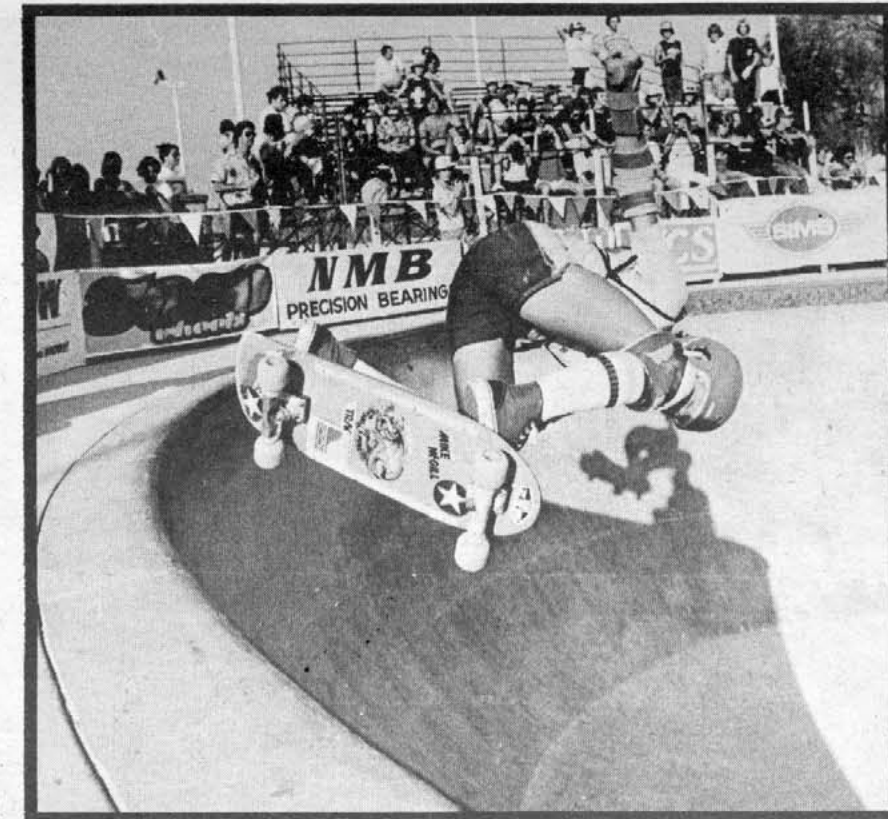
Steve Caballero had the winning combination.



Picking the nose, Duane Peters.



Mike Alba out of bounds.



Testing the limits, Mike McGill, backside ollie.

GOLD CUP FINALS

Upland, California, part and parcel of skateboarding, is a legendary spot that has nurtured legendary skaters—guys who have set standards for others to follow, who have blown minds with their aggressive attitude and total commitment to the form. Toy Hunt, Charlie Ransom, Steve Evans, Steve and Micke Alba, Scott Dunlap and Rick Howell are but a few who have blazed a heavy trail which forms the core of the Badlands spirit. "Rip it, shred it, tear it, thrash it!" There's a full-on pledge to explore the limits, regardless of risk to life and limb.

This attitude influenced Don Hoffman, himself an avid skater, to build a skatepark molded in the spirit of the Baldy Pipe, an early

proving ground of the Badlands fraternity. There is no question that the Pipeline, from the beginning, has been one of the few parks offering radical terrain, all the while improving design to keep up with progress within the sport. To the entire Hoffman family the Park is an example of proud involvement, from its fully-stocked Pro-shop to its immaculate and well-maintained landscape. The Pipeline is a great place to hang around. The Combi pool, built prior to last year's Hester Finals, is easily the most radical pool around—and naturally, the only choice for the Gold Cup finals. A pool with a million lines, it tests skater and equipment to the max. Pro and amateur would be on the line as in no other pool.

The Gold Cup had been through four stages—Oasis, Big "O", Colton

and Marina—when it finally hit the Pipeline for the ultimate duel. Don Hoffman pulled out all the stops in typical Badlands style. Action in the magic Combi pool could be seen by all the spectators present, thanks to one of the hottest bleacher set-ups constructed. And full-on coverage on television by NBC's "Everywhere" show gave at-home spectators a view of a sport they should be seeing more of. The favorites had to be the Alba brothers, Micke and Steve, who regularly shred the Combi pool. They flow the tricks while totally blazing the lines. Aiming to hit and exploit every inch of wall, theirs is the moral of the Badlands brotherhood. Eddie Elguera has been the most consistent skater in the series, without a doubt, the commander of trick skating. A fierce competitor, his

goal was to protect his lead and capture the overall title. Eddie is a great competitor and thrives on testing his skills to the utmost—everyone knew there would be no holding back. Steve Caballero, although in his rookie year, has been a crowd favorite and constant threat at every contest. His win at Colton and his practice sessions showed that he was a force to be reckoned with. Duane Peters epitomizes the bent-for-hell skater, totally fearless and constantly putting himself on trial. At Upland he showed total disrespect for the terrain and wreckless abandon in his skating. The Master of Disaster was ready to pull out the stops in his bid to catch Eddie for the over-all. David Andrecht and Eric Grisham, last year's Upland winner, have always been the type

Upland's resident anarchist Steve Alba, ollie air.



Beverly Hills Burt LaMar, backside air.





Innovative Wally Inouye, frontside air.

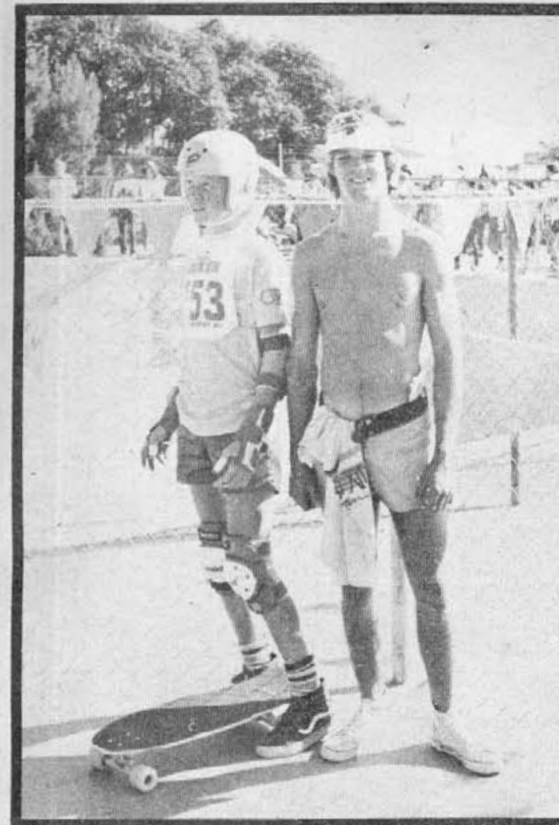
of skaters who fully attack a pool. Their style is not to conform to the obvious requirements of contest skating, which calls for consistency, and to a certain extent, tempt a skater to go with a wired routine. Andrecht pushes tricks to the limit. No one who went to the Gold Cup at Big "O" will forget his backside air—the highest ever. Grisham's Varial-Canyon, also at Big "O", called for total commitment. These two veterans would challenge for the top spot. Mike Folmer has brought from Florida a clean and consistent style that has kept him in the thick of things at every contest. He flows the tricks and packs a repertoire of moves all his own. Brad Bowman has always been considered a consummate classic skater. Invariably unpredictable, his speed and fluidity make him a

constant threat, and his performance at Marina had shown that on any given day Brad could win. Ray "Bones" Rodriguez, probably the smoothest skater on the circuit, has ripped at every contest, and yet been heavily overlooked by the judges. Ray is undeniably one of the top skaters—maybe Upland was to be his due. Mike McGill, another Floridian who has steadily ripped on the contest circuit, is aggressive and in command of all the modern moves. Having come close at the other contests, he might put it all together at Upland. Bert Lamar has been involved in most of the pool wars, but, like Ray Bones, a victim of inconsistent judging. Bert always presents hot routines which are polished, aggressive and bionic. Although he arrived late at Upland, he still

was a factor not to be overlooked. Mike Smith, Allen Losi, Geno Tocci, Steve Hirsch and Freddy de Sota, all rookies who command the respect of other skaters, have each shown flashes of brilliance that could capture the cash. Wally Inouye, a fluid skater with unmatched style, was rivaled only by the Albas in his mastery of lines in the pool. These were the characters in the play, the stage the Combi pool, and the backdrop the hallowed territory of the Badlands. And thus, the scene is set for the Gold Cup finals.

As always Saturday is reserved for the Amateur and Pro qualifying, with the latter including a compulsory run and freestyle runs which are combined to seed the top fifteen riders. Skating for qualifying spots was intense with the pressure

of the impending final event naturally causing some riders to falter on their runs. The invasion of T.V., although welcome in popularizing the sport, proved to be kind of an alien force. Riders were frequently asked to wait before making official runs so that there was an interruption in the usual rhythm. Music had to be toned down so that it faded into the background instead of contributing to the energy of the routine. Nevertheless, action was electric and the amateur segment set the pace. Neil Blender used bionic inverts to establish himself as the odds-on favorite for Sunday's competition. Although Neil was the leader, a fierce battle shaped up among Mike Hirsch, Billy Ruff, John Gibson and Bob Serafin for the over-all Amateur title which was going down to the wire.



John Gibson with mentor Chris Strople.



Billy Ruff, Amateur series winner.



Christian Hosoi gets the word from D. Barter.

tine and repeating it every run in an attempt to make the line more bio and perfect. Either type is fun to skate, fun to watch, but not so fun to judge. Since a uniform and reliable method of judging has yet to be devised, it is to the credit of the Gold Cup organizers that more problems have not arisen. Regardless, skaters have never let this predicament influence what they do in the bowl—they leave the B.S. to the organizers, manufacturers, coaches and lackies—and concentrate on shredding the pool. At the conclusion of Saturday's program, Duane Peters led the qualifying parade by a slight margin, followed by the ever bionic Stevie Caballero and Upland's very own Steve Alba. Surprisingly, Eric Grisham and Steve Hirsch did not make the cut.

Sunday began with amateur competition and it was evident that Neil Blender was the man of the hour as he repeatedly ripped the pool. Mike Hirsch and Bob Serafin, both strong and aggressive skaters, have been big threats throughout the series, but amazingly, did not make the finals, thus, pushing John "Tex" Gibson even more to the forefront. "Tex," a young shredder from—Texas, has come on very strong, guided by guru Wally Inouye and trainer Chris Strople. In the finals, Neil Blender's bionic inverts withheld the frantic charge of Gibson and Christian Hosoi as he claimed first place.

The Amateurs revved up the crowd for a finale in which first place could not be predicted till the very end, the top five being Eddie Elguera, Steve Alba, Mike

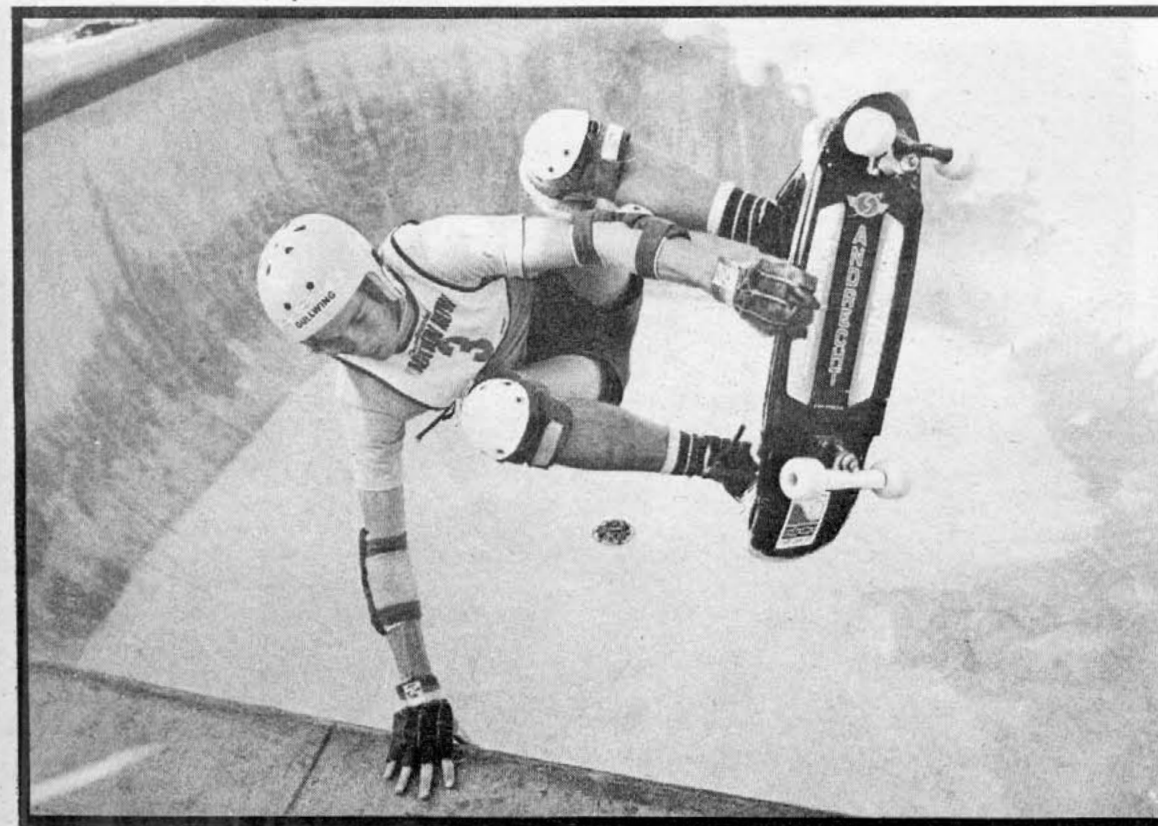
McGill, Duane Peters and Stevie Caballero. Practice session favorite, Micke Alba, astonishingly, did not impress the judges despite his speed and incredible lines.

In the final countdown, fifth place was given to Eddie, whose unfortunate falls cancelled out his profusion of tricks. Steve Alba's physical skating gave him fourth and McGill's smooth consistency earned him third. Everyone present would agree that first and second spots were really close. Although Duane had uniform scores and a breathtaking final run, it was not enough to top Stevie. The rookie's "Caballeria," a 360-Ollie-Air from a fakie, flipped out the crowd and the judges to give him a score of 93.00 and first place. Competition had been fierce, very befitting of the Badlands style, and the atmo-

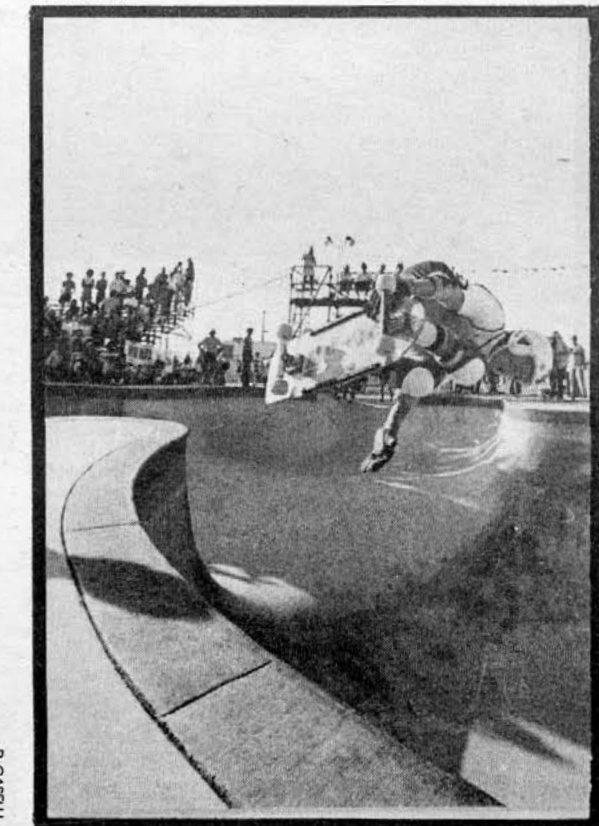
Burly frontside air, Duane Peters.

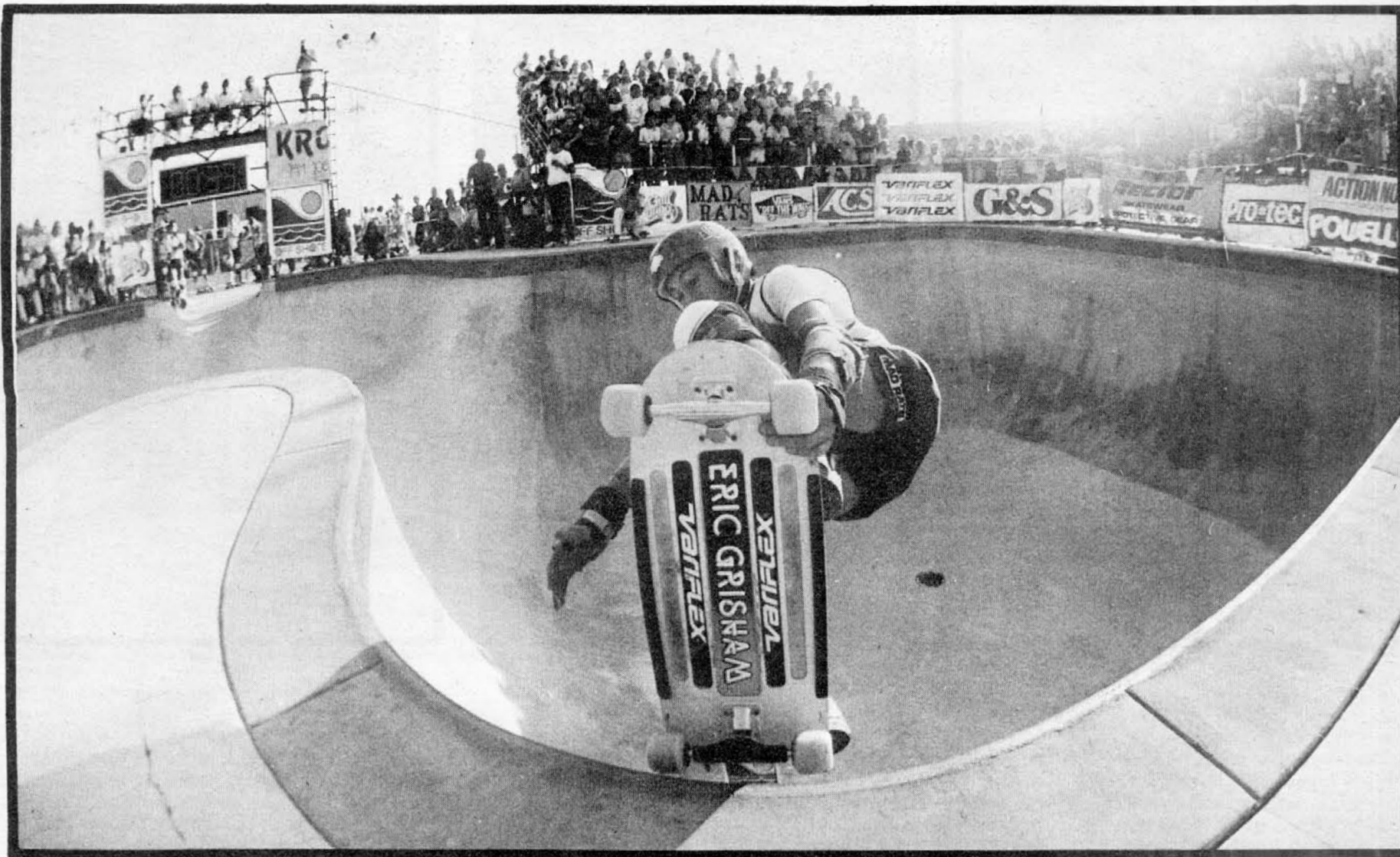


The Raver David Andrecht, layback air.



Mike Smith



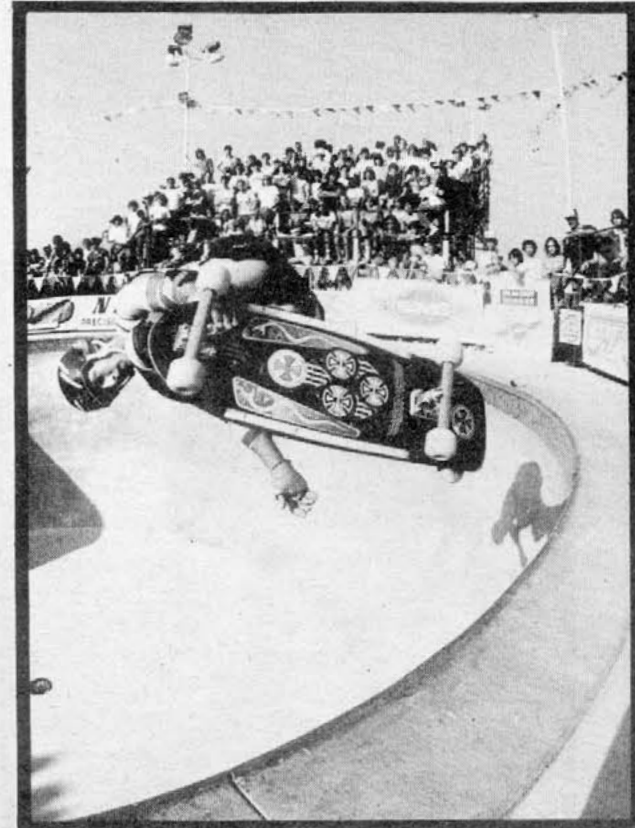


Allan Losi pops an air-to-fakie.

sphere was thick with intense feelings. Some spectators became a little over-amped in displaying their loyalties and there was some off-the-hip finger pointing. Well... skateboarding is definitely not to be confused with ballet.

Finally, everyone got together for the awards ceremony, which didn't produce any cliff-hangers, but gave everyone another chance on the applausemeter. Who would have guessed Eddie would win the series?? (You did — he did!) It was agreed that people from Florida could be cool too, so the Henry Hester Award for most sportsman-like conduct was given to Mike McGill. Coach of the Year (the coach with the most

Stylish as always, Brad Bowman.



ability to refrain from temper-tantrums) went to Steve Cathey. And a special thanks went to Don Hoffman for lasting the series.
—Dudley Counts—

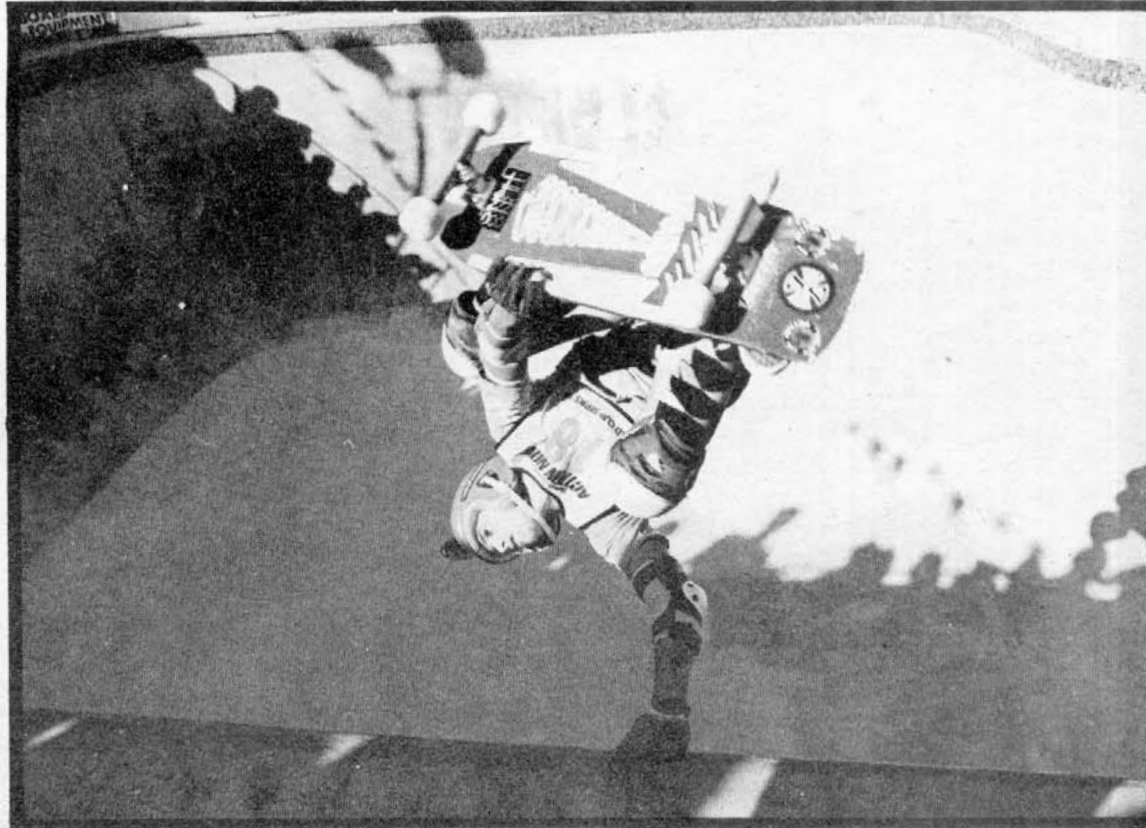
PIPELINE GOLD CUP #5 RESULTS

Professionals	Amateurs
Steve Caballero 100	Neil Blender 100
Duane Peters 95	Christian Hosoi 95
Mike McGill 90	John Gibson 90
Steve Alba 85	Lance Mountain 85
Eddie Elguera 80	Jim Gray 80
Micke Alba 76	Bill Ruff 76
Alan Losi 72	Pat Ngoho 72
David Andrecht 68	Mike Hirsch 68
Mike Smith 64	Monte Nolder 64
Bert LaMar 60	Tony Hawk 60

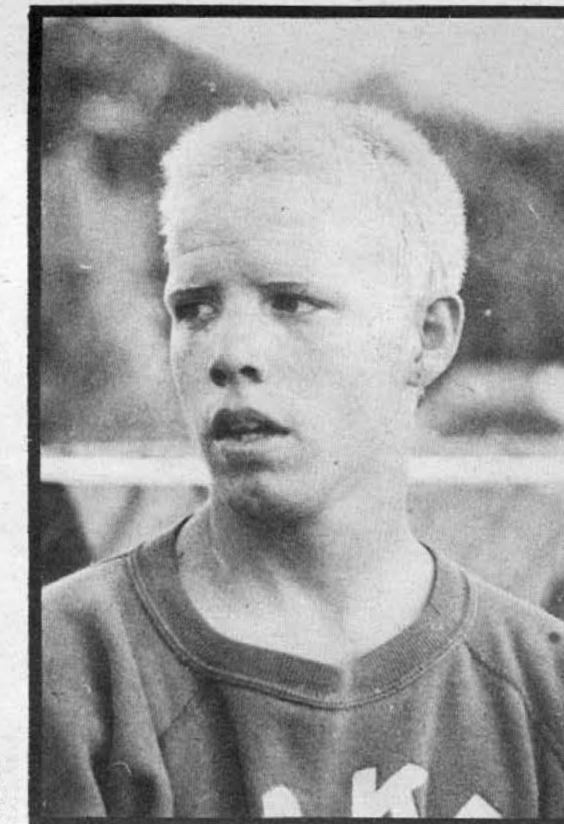
GOLD CUP SERIES OVERALL POINTS

Professional Men	Amateur Women
Eddie Elguera 450	Carabeth Burnside 500
Duane Peters 436	Sue Smith 470
Steve Caballero 392	Joanna Field 185
Bert LaMar 378	Deborah Toller 85
Micke Alba 362	
David Andrecht 332	
Mike Folmer 317	
Mike McGill 316.5	
Ray "Bones" 316	
Eric Grisham 305	
Professional Women	
Pattie Hoffman 500	
Denise Danielson 451	
Cindy Whitehead 360	
Gale Webb 250	
Leigh Parkins 185	
Kim Adrien 85	

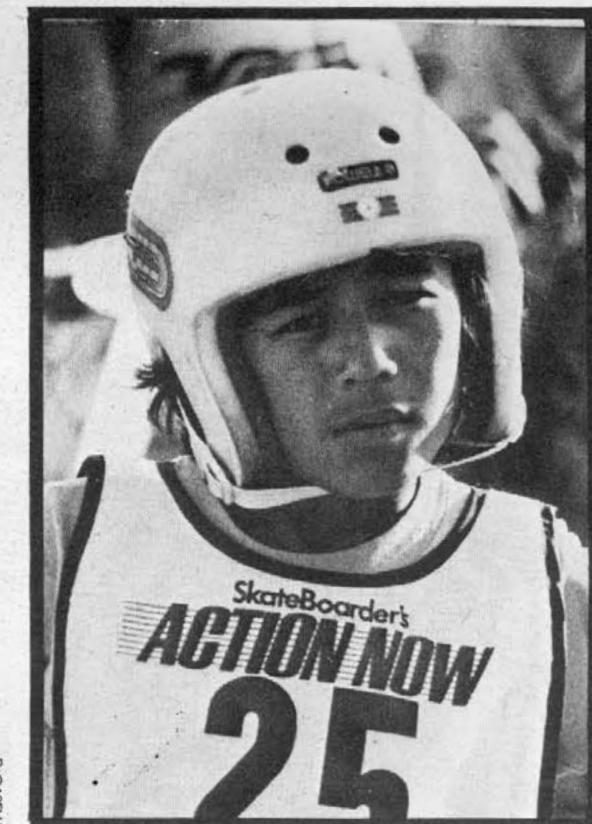
Mike Folmer was a consistent shredder throughout the series.



Mike McGill



Duane Peters



Steve Caballero

Amateur Men

Bill Ruff	431
John Gibson	415
Lance Mountain	399.5
Mike Hirsch	393.5
Bob Serafin	391
Christian Hosoi	352
Neil Blender	316
Jim Gray	285.5
Pat Ngoho	278
Eddie Meek	267

Amateur Women

Carabeth Burnside	500
Sue Smith	470
Joanna Field	185
Deborah Toller	85

the Gold Cup Series

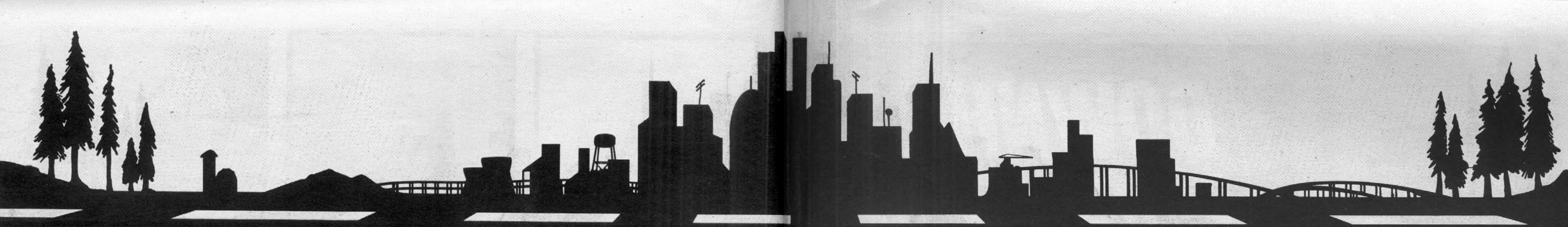
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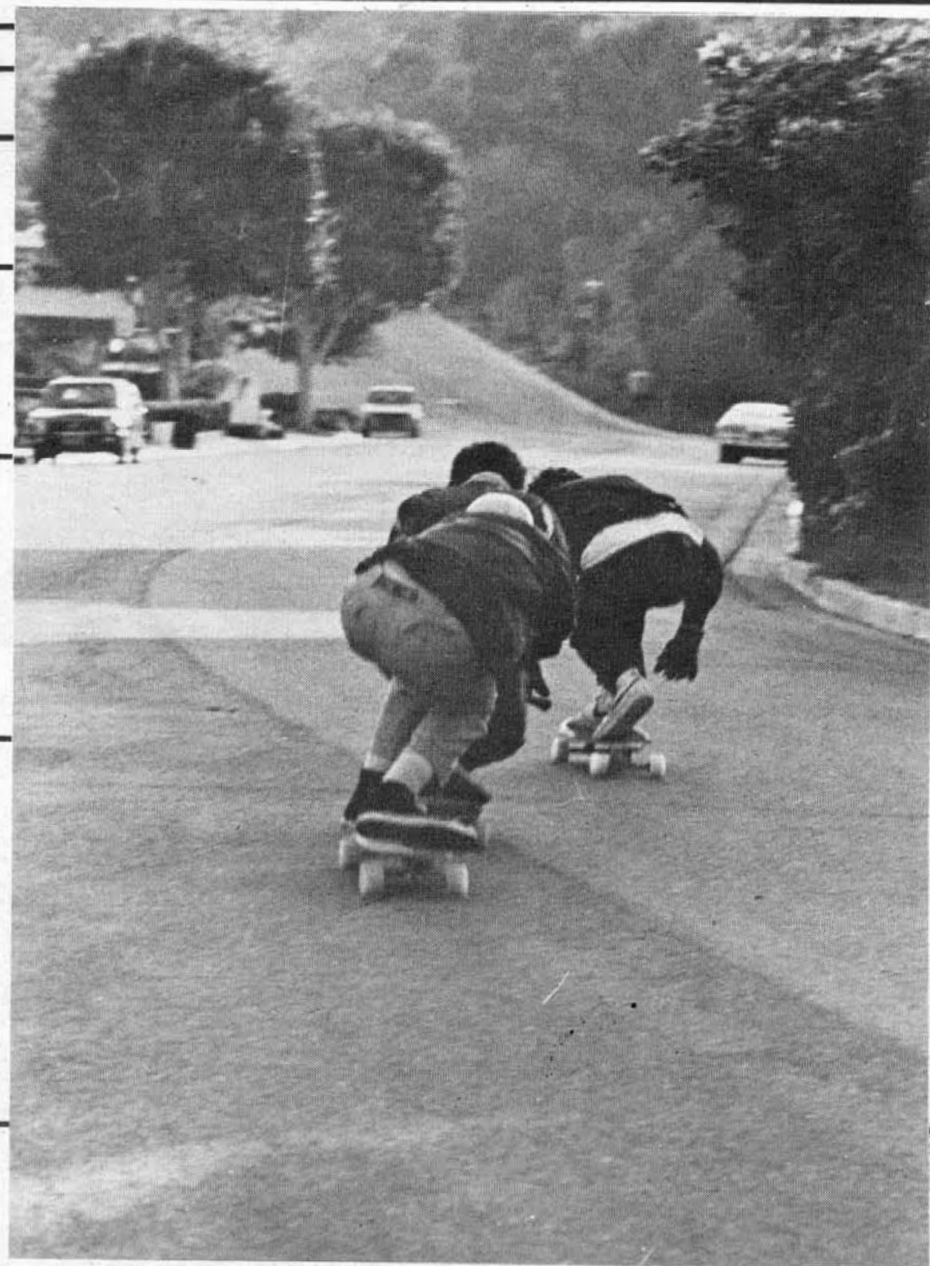
Eddie Elguera

"Look at those fans."

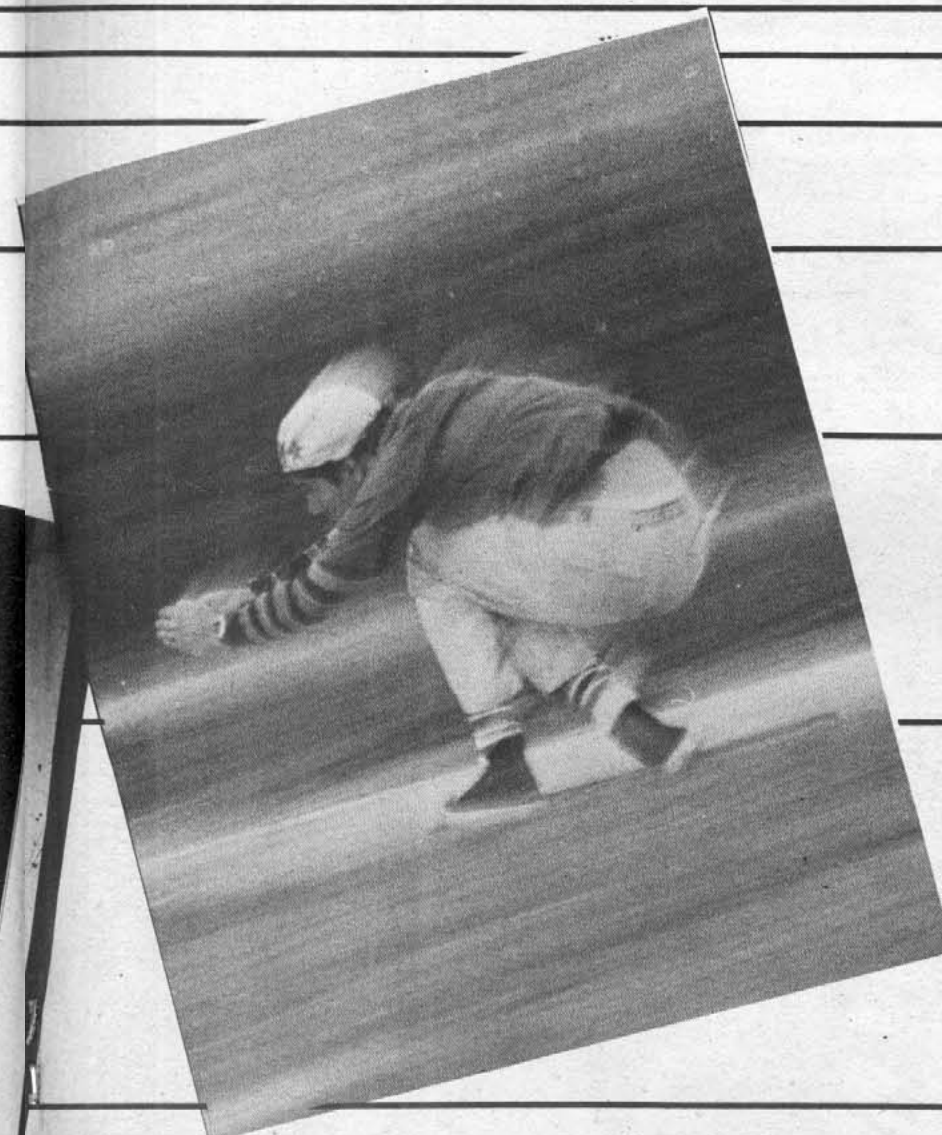




IN THE STREET, TODAY



A curb is an obstacle until you grind across it. A wall is but a ledge until you drop off it. A cement bank is a useless slab of concrete until you shred it. A street is another downhill to be tucked. A multi-level garage is built for cars until a gang of skaters discovers it. You've got to give the streets fair due, rolling is way cooler than walking. Don't restrict your boundaries, skate architecture is everywhere, grind every edge— You've gotta find all the lines you can.

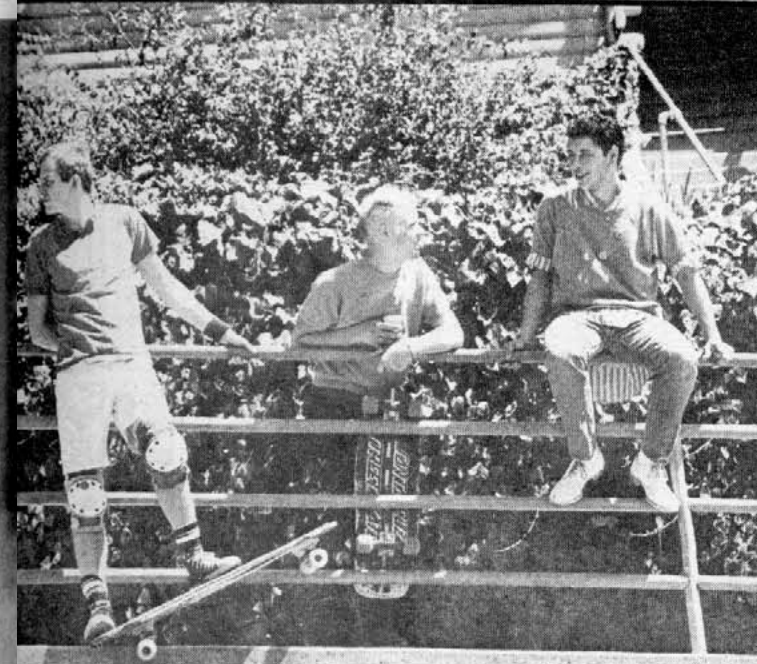


DOWNHILL RACING

All Photos by Reg Caseli



Byron Miller applies ski racing instincts to shred asphalt realities.



Peter Gifford, Duane Peters and Tony Alva checking the action.



Rick Blackhart always headed in the right direction.

During the last several years, downhill skateboarding has enjoyed a vigorous underground existence. The many practitioners of this art have been motivated entirely by the sheer magic of high speed skateboarding. Although downhill racing had been totally neglected by skateboard promoters, it continued to live and flourish within the ranks of the skaters themselves. Suddenly, the Summer of 1980 marked the return of downhill racing to the forefront of the competition scene.

Dateline - Capitola, California - August 30, 1980

On this beautiful summer day, 52 racers gathered in the northern California beach town of Capitola to battle head-to-head for the \$2,000 purse.

Not only were the top pro-teams of Variflex, Tracker, Santa Cruz, Sims, Madrid, Powell and Independent represented, but a strong contingent of unsponsored racers from throughout the United States

joined them early in the morning to register for what turned out to be an impressive display of speed and rivalry.

The first surprise of the day came at the end of qualifying when it was announced that an unattached racer, Byron Miller from the Cascade Slalom Association, had emerged with the fastest time. As an indication of the tight competition yet to come, the top sixteen qualifiers were separated by less than one second.

Following the qualifying segment was a round-robin competition that was intense in every respect. Over 3,000 spectators swelled Monterey Avenue, cheering as the racers sprinted out of the starting gate into a sweeping left-hand corner and on down the long straight-away to the finish line at speeds reaching 35 to 40 miles per hour. In between rounds locals and tourists partied together on this sunny day as color man Potato Head provided the up-close-and-

personal. As the first and second rounds drew to a close it was evident that Byron Miller and Rick Fike of the Cascade Slalom Association not only were the fastest racers, but that they had made a major contribution to downhill racing by introducing super-slick ski racing suits to skateboarding.

Surviving the second round were Byron Miller, Steve Evans, John Hutson and Rick Fike. The match between Evans and Miller was extremely close with Miller edging out Evans to move into the final. Hutson and Fike squared off in the other match, and Hutson countered the advantage of his opponent's ski suit by using a wet suit, thereby improving his wind penetration. The strategy proved to be an important factor as he defeated Fike to move in for the showdown with Miller for all the marbles.

Combat for the finals was a strategic battle from start to finish as Hutson and Miller traded the lead throughout their two races. At

the end, John Hutson came out on top and sweetened his victory by setting the fast time of the day on the last run. Steve Evans edged out Rick Fike in the consolation round to claim third place. In the women's division, slalom star Terry Brown aced out Judy Oyama to establish herself as the top woman pro downhiller.

The runs were over and the speeds recorded, but the impact of Capitola 1980 was unarguable. It reinforced the enthusiasm of veteran downhill skaters who knew it was happening all along, and it kindled an interest in many of the younger kids who primarily skate pools. Capitola was also just a good time. As the crowd dispersed to continue the party by the beach or by the river that runs through town, the hospitable Blackhart radiated the social graces by announcing a fully catered bash at his sprawling shoreline villa in Santa Cruz. Thanx, Rick.

With a last-second change to a wetsuit, John Hutson streaked to yet another downhill victory.



**Dateline—
Laguna Seca Raceway
September 20, 1980**

Nestled among the rolling hills of the Monterey Peninsula, Laguna Seca Raceway has played host to a number of motor sports events. The racetrack is well known and respected by Grand prix drivers and superbike riders the world over for its challenging layout. On this day it opened its gates for the second annual Laguna Seca Downhill. The course for this event started at the highest point of the tree-lined track and ran opposite the direction taken by cars and motorcycles, down through Turn 4 and proceeded to the Bridge which served as finish line. Just being on the track at Laguna is an experience, but to tuck this downhill section on a skateboard is awesome. Fast and demanding, the hill produced speeds in excess of 45 m.p.h.

Twenty-two riders gathered early Saturday morning to battle the windy conditions for a qualifying spot among the top sixteen. Continuing the trend set at Capitola, a majority of the racers opted for ski racing suits or wet suits to lessen wind resistance. Several riders also employed small fairings on their boards in an attempt to further reduce air drag. True to form, John Hutson turned in the fastest qualifying time, followed closely by Paco Prieto and a surprising Gib Lewis.

As the round-robin, head-to-head eliminations got underway, turn 4 proved to be the spot for heavy action as racers used the corner to slingshot past opponents. Racing strategy involved "grabbing a draft," where one rider cruises behind the other through the turn, only to move out and pass in the lower part of the course. Drafting has proved to be a big factor in head-to-head competition, and many riders used it to their advantage. There were a few spills in the corner — almost all butt slides resulting in minor scrapes and burns — but all racers were able to return to the top of the hill. Gusty winds proved to be a major factor during the day's competition, buffeting racers all the way down the course. At the finish line a strong headwind tested body fairing techniques to the fullest.

As round two of eliminations drew to a close, four veteran racers were left to battle for the money spots. Round three opened with John Hutson facing long-time rival and fellow Santa Cruzian, Mike Goldman. The "Hut" was in command in both races of the round and glided into the final. In the other third round match, Paco Prieto narrowly defeated team Madrid's Roger Hickey. Although Paco had taken a nasty beef at Capitola only three weeks before, he was back in top form for Laguna and ready to face Hutson in the final. In a very close race for third place Roger Hickey barely edged out Mike Goldman in the consolation round.

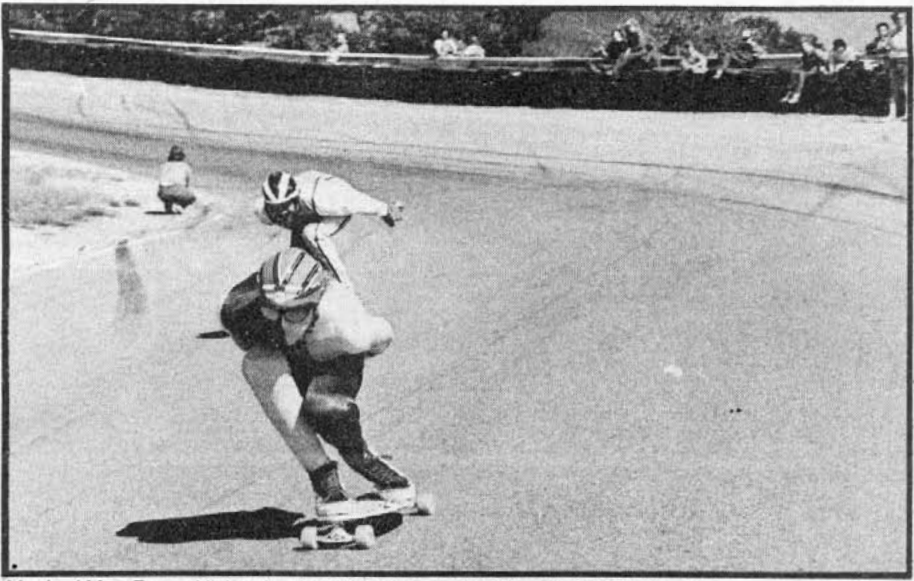
There is no question that John Hutson has been the dominant racer in downhill competition. At Laguna Seca he again proved his superiority by handily defeating the talented Paco Prieto for the number one spot, not to mention



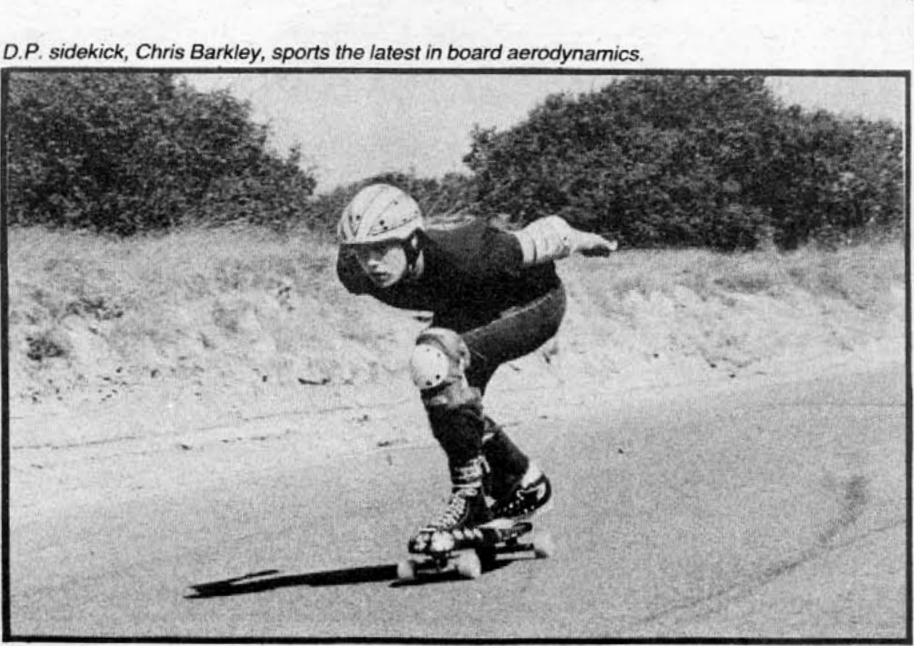
Paco Prieto holds his tuck as Bob Denike bears down.



The pride of San Joze, Rick Blackhart, scans the lines.



Masked Man Roger Hickey leads Cliff Coleman out of Laguna's Turn 4.



D.P. sidekick, Chris Barkley, sports the latest in board aerodynamics.

setting the fast time of the day and winning every match-up along the way.

Each race has a flavor all its own. The atmosphere at Capitola was tense and pressure-packed, while at Laguna the skaters were more relaxed and out to have a good time. This was evident during the early practice sessions as skaters chatted amongst themselves while rolling three and four abreast down the hill. Of course, no downhill would be complete without a post-race party to wrap it up. Laguna was no exception, with the only fuel consumed this race day in the form of high octane beverages that kept party-goers warm and in high spirits despite gale winds and a veritable late afternoon dust storm. As the sun set over picturesque Monterey Bay, skaters and friends parted ways and drove down the winding wooded paths, promising to return on July 4th of next year for the third annual Laguna Seca Downhill.

CONVERSATIONS WITH ROGER HICKEY 11/7/80

"Hutson's the king, no doubt about that. He's the racers' racer. But I've been studying his tuck, push techniques, and especially his foot placement, that's the key, because the way he places his front foot, it allows him to pivot it in turns. I've learned quite a lot just from racing against him."

"I would just like to race him on my courses, on my grounds. If he can beat me there, at GMR, or Baldy, then I would know for sure that he's absolutely the fastest racer. Right now, I'm not so sure."

"The racing at Capitola and Laguna was great. Especially at Capitola where Hut and I first squared off. Hurtado (the race announcer) built up the race between us for the crowd, saying that Hutson was the winningest racer, that I was the Kid who gets no respect. The race was just perfect for the crowd, I was out in front, not knowing where Hut was, then about halfway down the course, Hut pulled up alongside of me, we bumped shoulders, then he passed me by. The crowd ate it up!"

"Close racing may intimidate others, not me. I've been racing GMR at high speeds with six or seven guys standup, we bump shoulders all the time. That style of racing, close tight racing, is the best part of downhill."

"Let's face it, I'm a racer. It's no fun for me to be way out in front in a race. There is no challenge. That's why sometimes at GMR I'll be way out in front in a race, I'll stop, wait along the side of the road, wait for the guys to pass, then I get on my board and chase after them."

"Hickey's not just your basic downhiller either. He's a super showman drawing crowds whenever he can: 'I just do it for the sport.'"

Hutson and Hickey just may be the new downhill rivalry for the eighties. Hopefully, we can see the two race soon at GMR or another similar course. "I have all the respect in the world for Hut, but I also have confidence in my racing ability too. I just can't wait for another race, it should be great."

CAPITOLA RESULTS

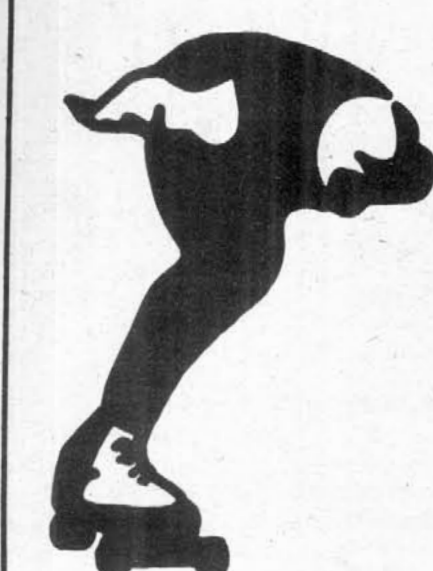
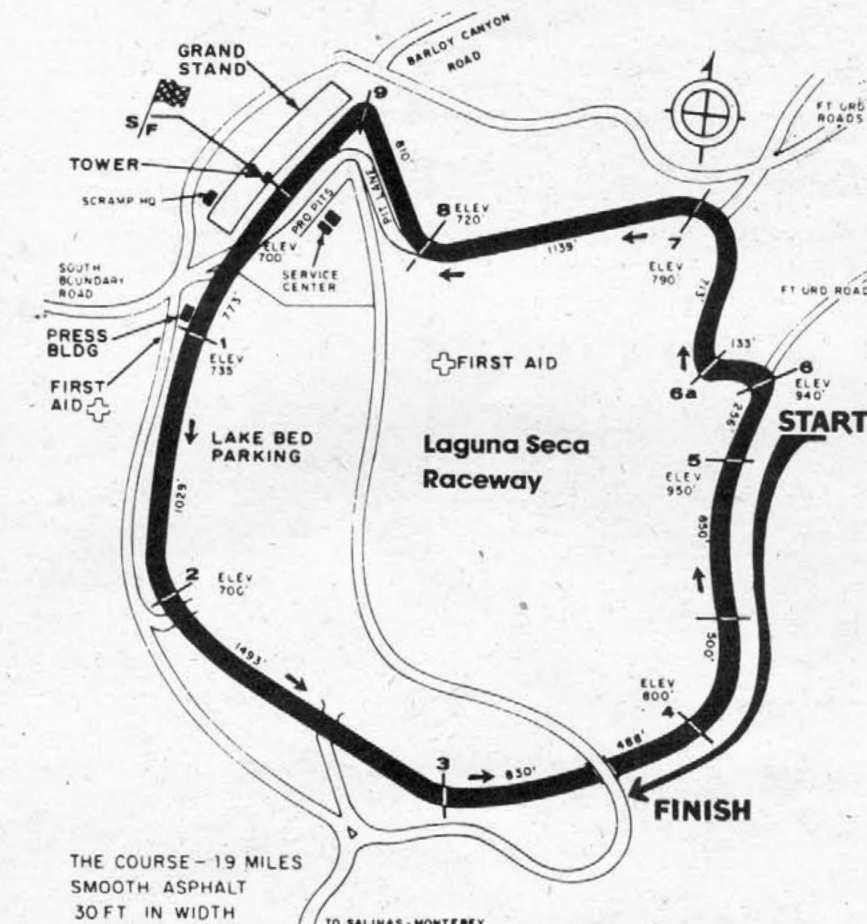
John Hutson	\$700
Byron Miller	350
Steve Evans	250
Rick Fike	100
Roger Hickey	100
Gary Furnish	75
Rick Blackhart	50
Don Bostick	35

LAGUNA SECA RESULTS

John Hutson	\$200
Paco Prieto	125
Roger Hickey	50
Mike Goldman	35



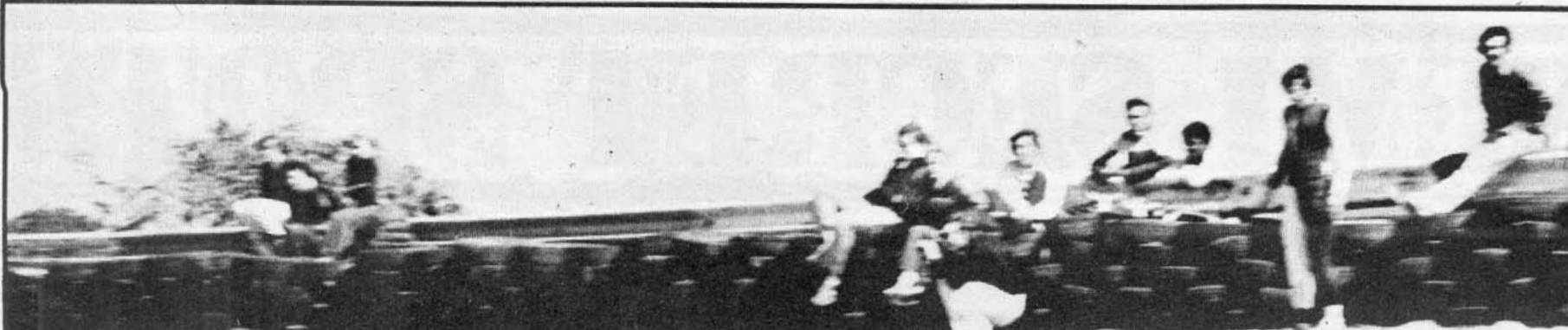
Gary Furnish leads an early morning practice session.

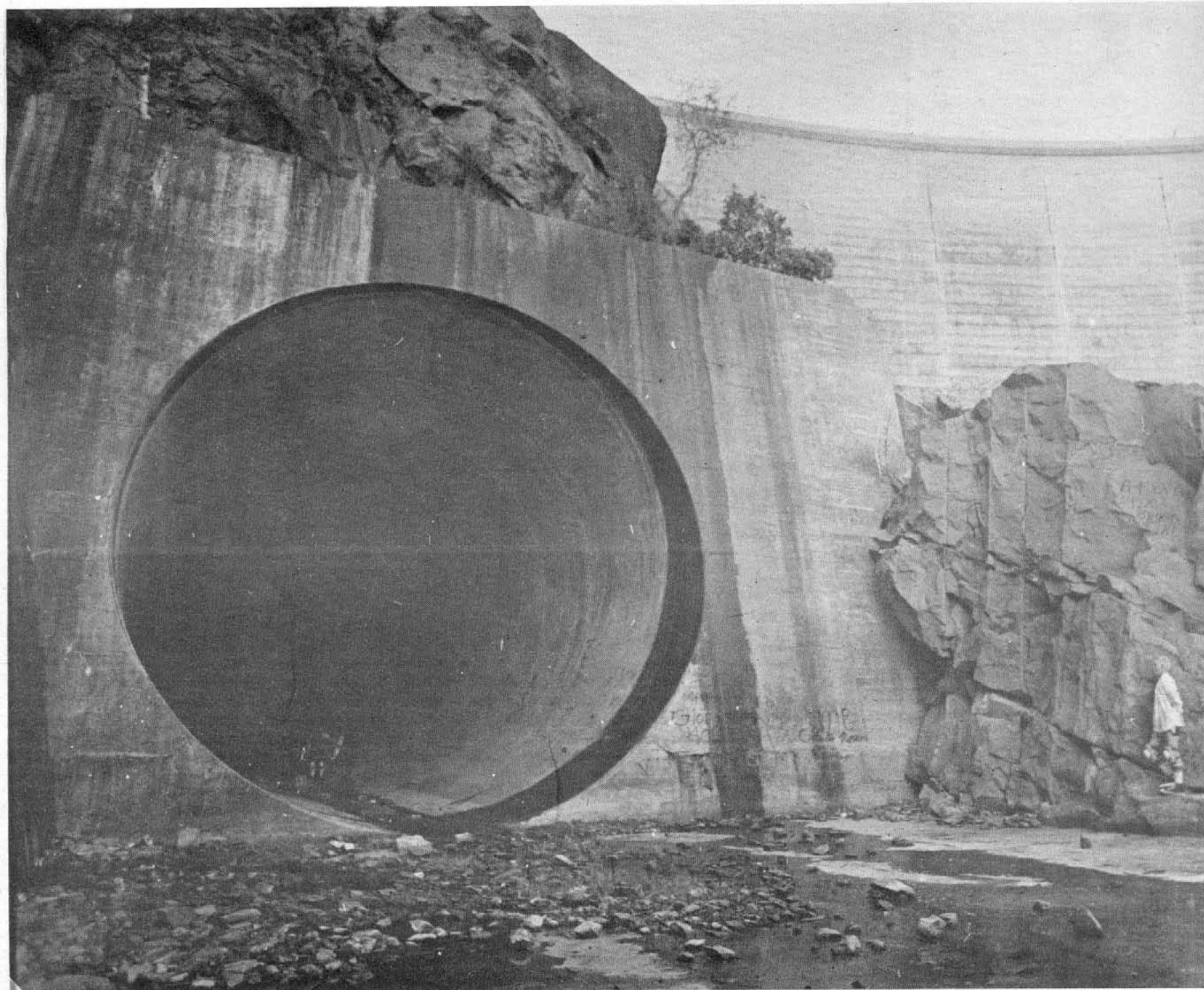


John Hutson—what can you say??



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R. CASILLI

SEMI SECRET SPOTS

Every skater knows of at least one or two of those secret spots that were discovered in the early days of the urethane wheel, and some that were found many years before. Seek and you shall find, for these places exist everywhere. They might be in your neighbor's backyard or they might involve hours of driving backroads through mountainous terrain, topped off with a hike through jungles of poison oak, or up-and-down steep rocky slopes. More often than not, a rumored pipe or pool does not even exist. But the hardcore skater is not deterred from his final goal. The next day brings new possibilities and maybe heavy skate realities.

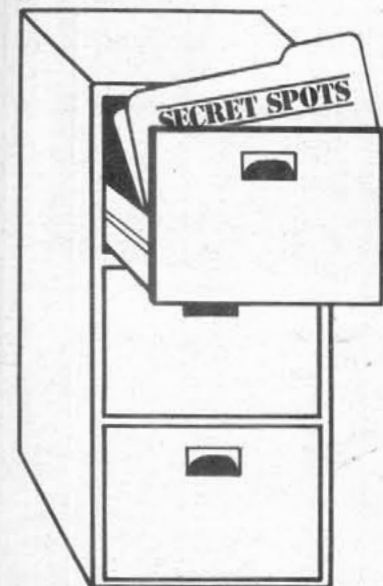
There is no skate experience more gratifying than finding a talked about place, realizing that it is actually skateable, and then shredding the place with a close-knit group of skaters, each pushing the others to new limits.

So next time a kid comes to you with tales of some outrageously skateable terrain, check it out. You may experience the most rewarding skate session of your lifetime.



R. CASILLI

Duane Peters

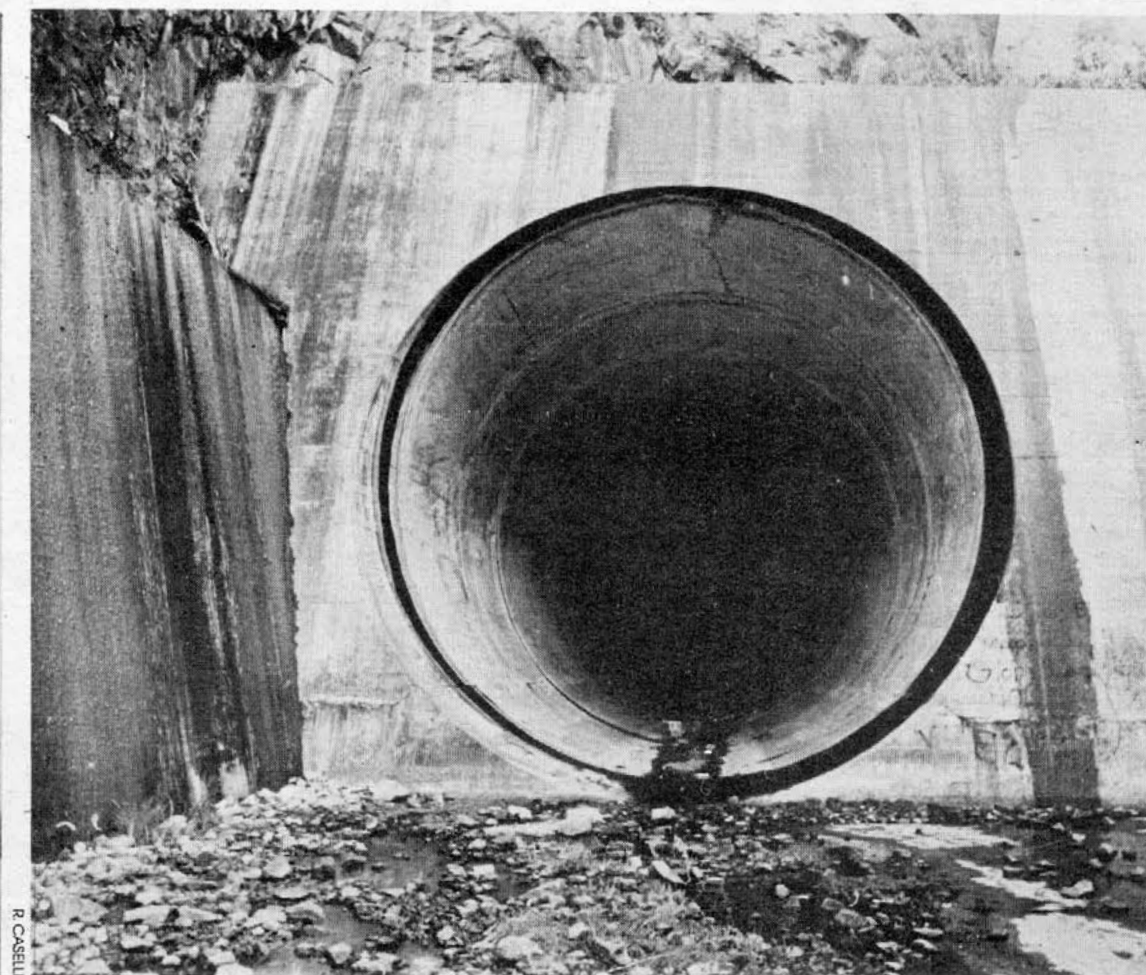
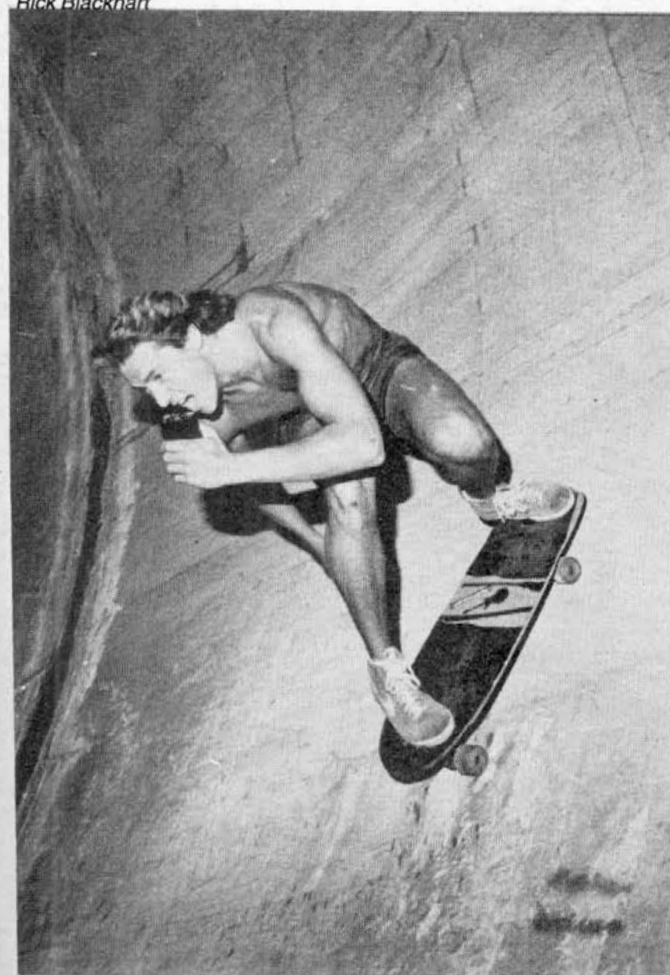


Rick Blackhart

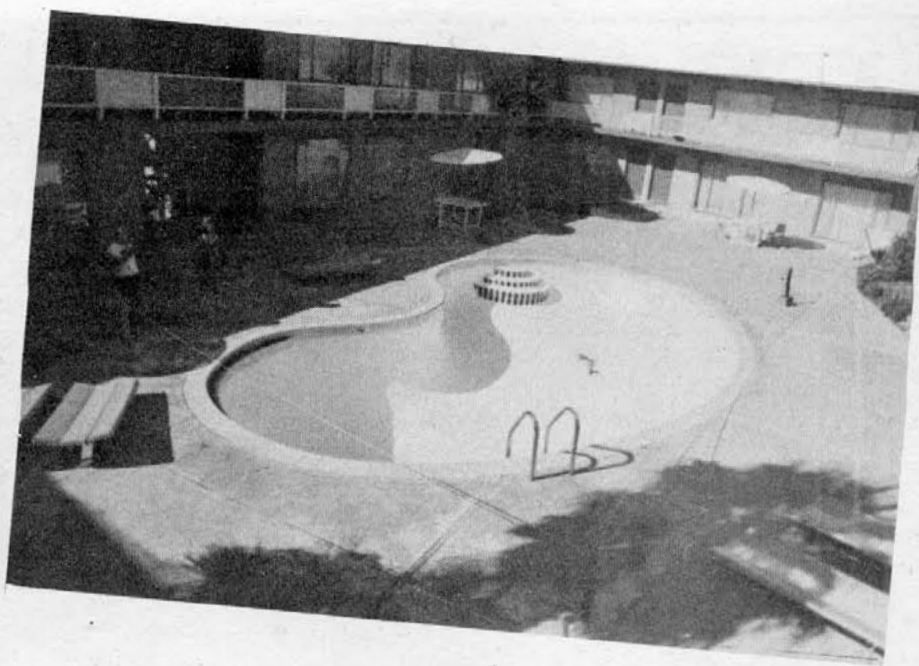
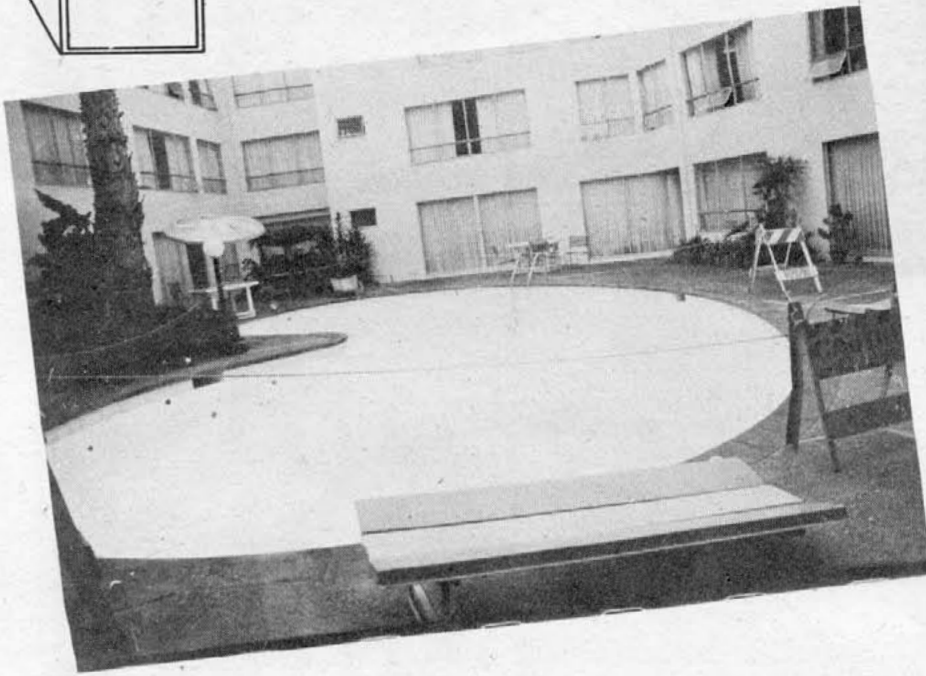
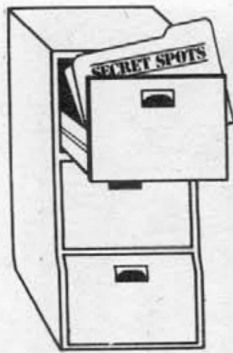
Searching through our secret files we found an account of this spot, discovered years ago when roving bands of skate dogs explored the countryside in search of skateable terrain. The file is sprinkled with the names of such notables as Greg Ayres, Doug Schneider, Rodd Saunders and Rick Blackhart.

Although the instructions for uncovering the long-hidden map to this secret spot were written in Hindu, the task of deciphering the information was made much easier by our resident guru, who traded his valuable talents for a bag of rare herbs indigenous to the Northern California coast. Preparations for our pilgrimage were handled by our logistics experts while boats, pontoons and other strategic materials were employed by our urban band of terrorists in their assault of this holy ground. Upon reaching our destination the overwhelming mystical experience overcame several of the pale-faced urbanites who were saved from certain dementia by a plunge into the frigid waters of the nearby lake. Once the altar was erected and the holy rituals performed by our fully-robed guru, the frenzied skaters proceeded to shred the shrine. No sooner had we consumed the first pack of incense when a frightening flash totally engulfed the sacred spot. We quickly grabbed whatever was in our proximity and split.

Days later as we recounted our adventure to a group of locals we realized that our mystical advisor was last seen doing a Bert at 11 o'clock.



R. CASILLI



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ON BOARD

SKATE GAMES!

How do professional skateboarders keep tuned up in between practice and qualifying runs on the Gold Cup circuit? They skate, of course. During Gold Cup #5 at Marina Del Rey many of the top Pros were seen gathered around the smaller pools engaging in a friendly form of one-upmanship. While several skaters hovered around the pool one skater would roll in and perform a single trick, and, having made it, roll out. The next skater would, in turn, drop in and duplicate the previous trick, then add one of his own. The third skater would be forced to complete the first and second moves and then add another, etc. etc. Some of the more inspired sessions saw up to twenty maneuvers being pulled off in sequence. If a skater missed a trick or failed to add on an additional move he would be eliminated and eventually a winner would be declared.

Needless to say, there were questionable maneuvers attempted that resulted in friendly arguments, but it was all in good fun. There are several variations on this theme, so gather your skate bro's together and head for the local park to try this one out. You may come up with some new tricks and you will definitely sharpen the ones you already know.

After the Capitola Classic

The Capitola Classic was held on the same weekend as the Jerry Lewis National Telethon. Roger Hickey and the rest of the Madrid racing team participated in a local fundraiser after the race.

While most of the other racers went home to party or sleep or tape injuries, they were busy raising money for MDA.

During the fundraiser demo, Roger, while jumping chairs, fell and injured his ankle. He left and returned later on crutches. "We had a goal of \$1200, but we had only reached \$900, so we hyped the crowd that was there. We said that if they could pool \$300 to-

gether, I'd get off my crutches, tape up my ankle and jump over a trough of fire (burning rags soaked in gasoline). Roger made the jump and while landing, severely bruised his ankle again.

A few weeks later, Roger returned to Laguna Seca Raceway to compete in another race. "It hurt quite a lot at the end of the race, it especially hurt during the turn, that sharp right hander. I'm goofy foot and my front ankle was the one that hurt. It made it hard to apply pressure during the turn. It's probably a good thing that I didn't go to the finals. I probably couldn't have completed all the races."

Keep a helmet on your head. Stay out of hospital beds.

Slip of the grinder — Lifetime reminder. In other words, check your board before you skate.

MUSIC FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Finally, it's being done. What I mean by it is this mag, a magazine about skateboarding, not just about a few skatewankers who happen to be personal friends of some poofier industry bigwig, but a mag for skaters. It's for the real skaters, the park pummelers (sounds like a good name for a band, don't it?) and the ones I see riding their boards to school or work or home from a late night gig. The kind of high energy skaters you find any time, any where, wherever there's a challenge, and mainly, a good time to be had.

My contribution to this ragazine will be to keep you up with what's currently happening in the music scene from S.F. to L.A. and from New York to London—the new music, the music for you, you the skater.

Tony Nails

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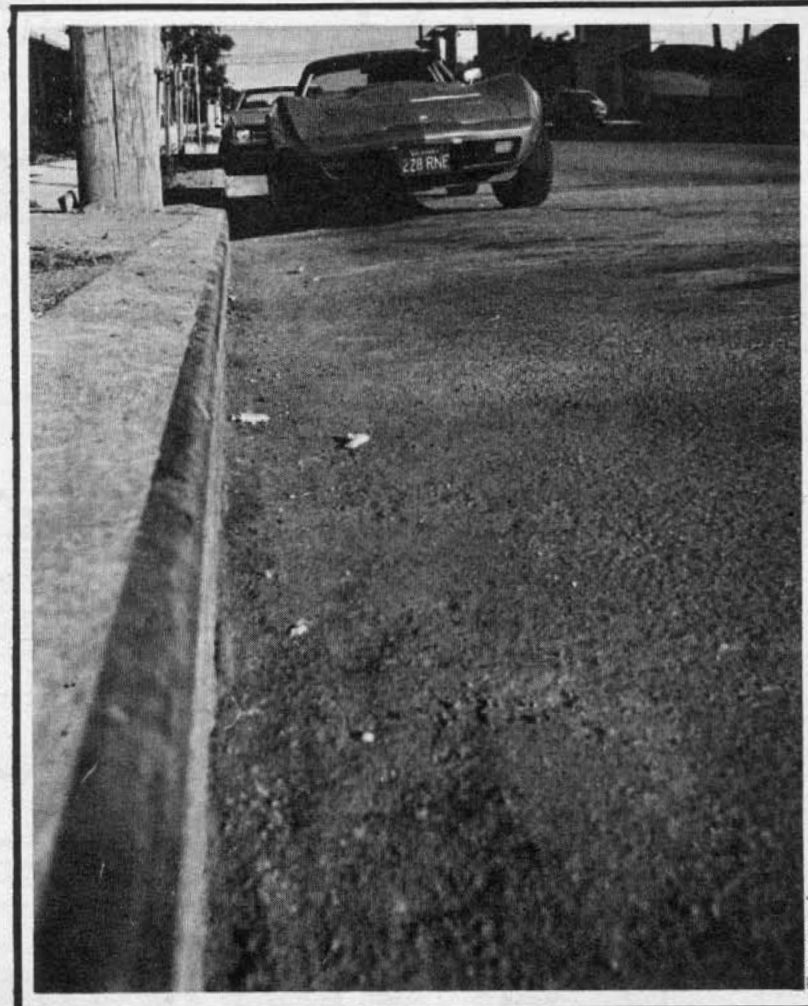
ON BOARD

THE CURBS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Our monthly skate architecture award goes out to the City of San Francisco for its use of metal "coping" on hundreds of miles of curbs. Dubbed "armor guard" by the City engineers, our discovery consists of a quarter round steel piping imbedded into the top edge of the cement. Constructed in the days before the 1906 earthquake, when horse-and-buggy was the official urban transit, the metal defended the curbs from the constant thrashing of the steel wheels.

Very thoughtful of the City forefathers to provide some of the longest grinding in the history of skating, don't you agree? Grinds of up to a hundred feet or more are a possibility on some sections of the curb which have survived earthquakes, horse-and-buggy and now, skateboards!

If you have a suggestion for our Skate Architecture of the Month award, please send a black & white photo, along with some historical background and your experiences, to ON BOARD, % Thrasher Magazine, Post Office Box 24592, San Francisco, California 94124.



ARE YOU SKATE BORED?

We're not. And if you're not either, let's hear about it. If you've just got to relate some intense skate experience to someone, but nobody will listen, or, if you just want to drop us a line and tell us what's happening in your neighborhood, send it in.

Thrasher Magazine, the magazine by skaters, for skaters and all about skateboarding, would love to hear from all of you boarders and would-be four-wheel terrorists. Boys and girls, moms and dads, send in your post cards and letters from the four corners of the globe, or wherever you live and skate. Tell us about your latest adventure or skate-related activity. If you don't happen to ride a skateboard (yes, some people are not quite tuned in to what's happening), write and tell us about the first time you saw a skateboard and how it affected you. Was your first experience at a skatepark? Or maybe you were having your swimming pool drained and acid-washed only to wake up one morning to find the local skate crowd gathering in your backyard for a little session.

Go ahead, gamble a stamp and tell us where you're at. Tell us where skateboarding is at! Send all newsworthy items and related black-and-white photos to: THRASHER, P.O. Box 24592, San Francisco, CA 94124.

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Steve Caballero adding up the tricks in his local high school pool.





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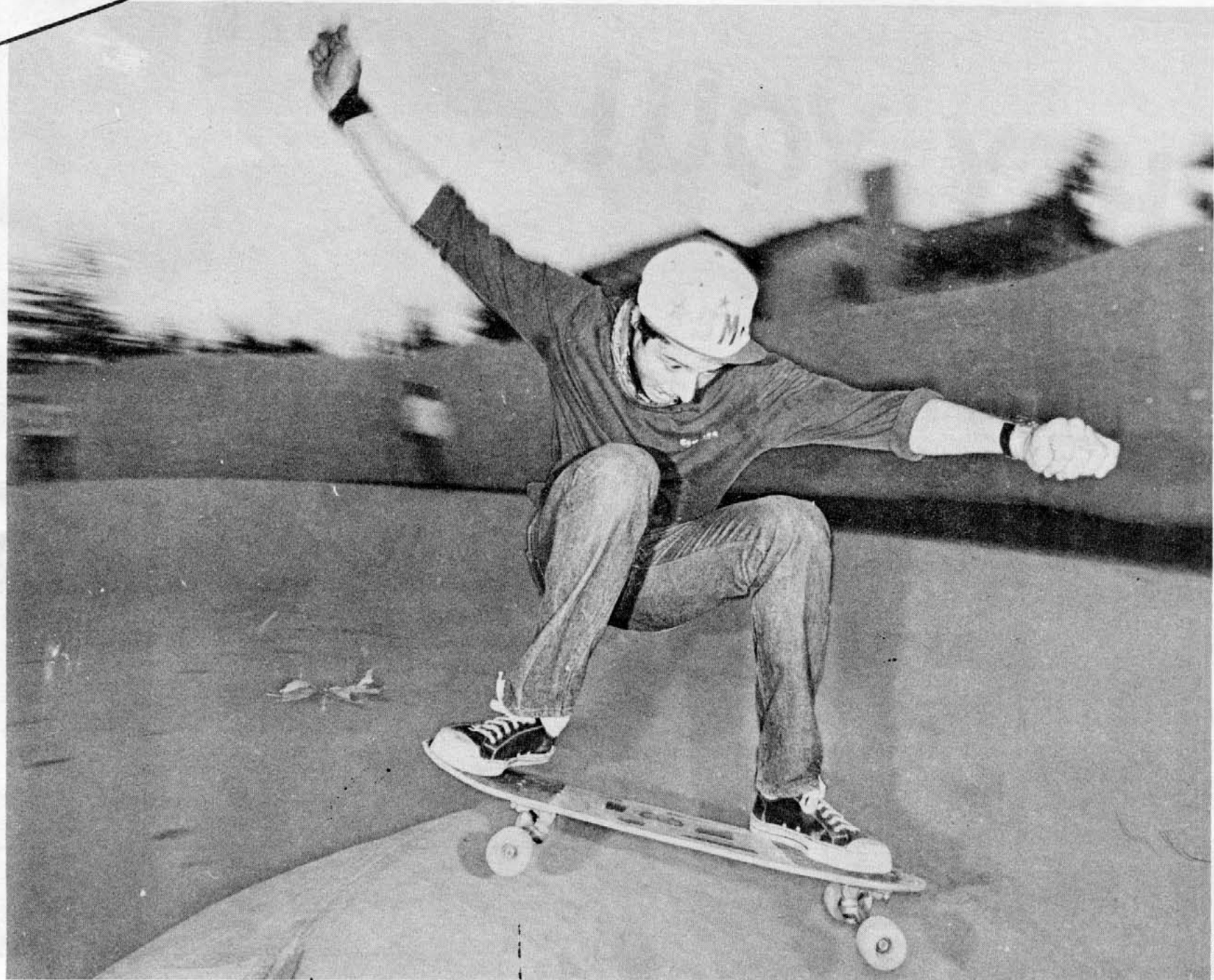
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Tony Alva. Free Air. Irvine, California.

Whenever skaters who've been anywhere get together to talk about skateboarding there's only one name that makes an appearance in every conversation. Tony Alva is known from the jungles of Hollywood to the tip of South America. New skaters come and go, but there is only one T.A. He's the original aggressive skater, with an unmistakable style — on and off the board. Whether you like him or not, T.A. has been the single most influential force in skateboarding.

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