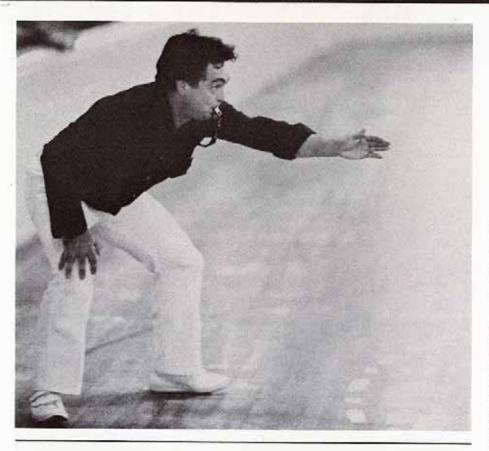
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1985 National Ball Hockey Championships

Jolly Time Skateland, Fort Worth July 6-13

MAKE SOME CHANGES



Dennis Brennan, referee at the National Ball Hockey Championships, also helped organize the Ball Hockey Referee's Clinic held during the Championships.

A crystal ball probably couldn't have predicted the way the 1985 National Ball Roller Hockey Championships were going to turn out. A record entry of 50 teams came to the Jolly Time Skateland in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 6th knowing they had some rearranging to do. And rearrange they did. By the end of the action, not one of last year's gold medal winning teams had held onto their spot

at the top.

For three consecutive years, King's Challengers from Sacramento, California, stopped just short of taking a medal in the World Class Division of the championships. Not this year. They went all the way to capture the gold medal, knocking the Cumberland Raiders, three time gold medal champions, into fourth place.

The competition was tight. The top

four teams were within one point of each other as the games wound down, but Jeannette King, coach of the Challengers, was not really surprised at their win. "It was a matter of hanging in there," she said. "They had the desire and heart to do it." She feels the team had the best morale going into the Championships that she's ever seen.

The Challengers knew it would take a lot of hard work to capture the number one spot after their near misses in the past championships. The team spent the year studying and critiquing their play. They set a game plan and stuck to it. "We decided we would win with it, or lose with it, but never change it." said Coach King.

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The Roller City Hustlers from Glendora, California, moved up this year to win the silver medal in the World Class Division. Team members from the Roller City Hustlers also captured the High Scorer and Best Goalie awards. Dickie Chado won High Scorer with 14 goals, and Charles Lovich took Goalie honors with 94.2 percent saves.

The Tornadoes of Olympia, Washington, stayed in the top placements again this year, taking the bronze in the World Class Division.

These top three teams were joined by the Cumberland Raiders of Cumberland, Maryland, to compete in the National Sports Festival VI on August 1-4. The Festival was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Although the Redwood Renegades from Redwood City, California, got a late start in the season, it didn't stop them from taking home the gold medal in the Senior Division. This win

King's Challengers of Sacramento, California, and the Rolling Ghosts of Lubbock, Texas, square off in World Class Division play. The Challengers go on to win both the game and the gold.



sent them and silver medal winner, the Champions from Port Neches, Texas, into World Class Division play.

The Renegades, coached by Danny Trussell, showed their talent and ended up tied for sixth place in World Class with the Rolling Ghosts from Lubbock, Texas. After a sudden death playoff between the two teams, the Renegades came out on top, earning their spot in the World Class Division for next year's nationals.

The Colts from Lubbock, Texas, won the bronze in the Senior Division. Best Goalie award went to Plim Howard of the Champions with 97.3 percent saves. Jack Rickard of the Rose City Rollers, Portland, Oregon, was High Scorer.

In Novice Division play, the Champions from Port Neches, Texas, won the gold, while the Springfield Bootleggers from Springfield, Missouri, took home the silver. The Texas Wheelers from Cedar Hill, Texas, came in third. Best Goalie in the Novice division was Dub Graham of the Champions with 97.3 percent saves. There was a four-way tie for the High Scorer award. Don Bishop of the Bootleggers; Billy Boswell, Texas Wheelers; Aubrey LeJunie, Champions; and Douglas Reynolds, River City Rollers, all had five goals.

Once again, competition in the Junior Division was close. In the last few seconds of their final game, the Lake Worth Hustlers from Fort Worth, Texas, managed to tie their opponents, giving them enough points to take first place. The Modesto Rebels from Modesto, California, moved up two places from last year,

winning the silver, and the Vandals from Pleasanton, California, won the bronze.

Gary Sage of the Rebels was Best Goalie in the Junior Division with 86.1 percent saves, and David Latimer of the Tennessee Rolling Rebels from Portland, Tennessee, was High Scorer with nine goals.

n Women's action, the Ardmore Apaches from Ardmore, Oklahoma, cast away the bronze of last year in favor of a gold medal in this year's Championships. Coming in second for the silver were the Chowchilla Ladies from Chowchilla, California. Rounding out the top place winners were the Rolling Angels from Green Bay, Wisconsin, who took the bronze. Christine Cohen of the Rolling Angels was Best Goalie with 93.2 percent saves. Theresa Trower of the Apaches and Linda McNeel of the Chowchilla Ladies tied for High Scorer with six goals each.

This was the first year at the national championships for the Rink Rats of Poteau, Oklahoma, but it took more than beginners' luck for them to capture the gold in the Freshman Division. The newcomers played exceptionally well, beating out the Quickshots of Pleasanton, California, who won the silver. The Rose City Rockers of Portland, Oregon, took third. High Scorer award went to Kevin Traywick of the Rink Rats who scored twelve goals. Jimmy Smith from the same team was given the Best Goalie award for 90.9 percent saves.

There were several people who helped make the 1985 National Roller Hockey Championships a success. Don Christopher of Fort Worth, Texas, served as Meet Director for the Championships. Referees included Dennis Brennan of North Providence, Rhode Island; Gary Hendrickson of Cresaptown, Maryland; Dennis Huckaby of Beaumont, Texas; and Gerry Trott, a guest referee from England who is considered by many to be one of the best referees in the world. Scorekeeper for the Championships was Debbie McNeely of Waxahachie, Texas.

-by Peggy Blome; photos by Earl Moore