ROLLERTY DERBY SHAKES OFF EXPLOITATION, REGAINS PLACE AS LEGIT SPORT FOR WOMEN, BELOW

TOUGH BUT FUN-LOVING WOMEN BRING ROLLER DERBY BACK AROUND

BY CAMILA A. GONZALEZ

M onik Gutierrez is a nicely-dressed, well-coifed 46-year-old professional photographer whose art is to capture the loveliness of nature and the best of people. When night falls her other side emerges. Her makeup transforms from moderate to menacing. Her professional attire vanishes and her warrior gear wraps around her muscular body like improvised armor. “Pretty Woman” becomes “The Road Warrior” as quickly as thumbing the channel changer. Monik surrenders to Mamarazzi 619. The beast is set free. It’s derby night. Roller derby is a rowdy sport dominated by athletic, rough-and-tumble women. It is more than 90 years old and narrowly missed being a sport in the 2020 Olympics, but it is unknown to most Americans and an afterthought in the South County. Mamarazzi and her sisters of slam are out to change that. National City’s Mamarazzi is part of an underground sport that is not really under the

“ROLLERTY DERBY” • PG II

— MAMARAZZI 619, National City Roller Derby Queen

PHOTO BY CAMILA A. GONZALEZ / STAFF

“We are very supportive of each other and (roller derby) is a forum for different kinds of women to come together. You never hear about (roller derby) as a mainstream sport, but it was so inspiring to see women in a full-contact sport.”

BACK ON TRACK — After a lull earlier this century, Roller Derby has come roaring back in popularity, driven primarily by women’s amateur teams. The sport is popular in San Diego County and is played in all 50 states and at least 50 nations around the world. Roller Derby is nearly a century old and was seriously considered for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic Games.
Players can land in the penalty box like hockey and score a four-point grand slam like baseball. Bruises are the most common injury, although concussion or broken bones mean multiple-week absences are usually standing by.

SLAMMING SISTERS

Roller derby is fast, full contact and the women give it all they have, chasing and blocking. Lisa Del Gado, 36, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

Minute “jams” a player on each time they lap a blocker. Two battery later leftfielder Alden Perez blasted a two-run homerun to knot the game at 3-3.

The Jaguars struck again in the third inning for their third baseman. Eric Nakano spanned an 0-2 pitch to into the right field corner to give SC a 5-3 lead.

Pitcher Andy Canedo was cruising until the 4th when Grassroots strung together hits to score a run and threatened for more. On the first pitch the next batter a weak dribbler that first baseman Nico Vallecillo slammed to his right to score.

Glenn Southwestern basement Alleen Mallin moved over to scoop up the ball and a bang-bang play extended his lead out on first base. There was a collision that sent the Grassers baseman tumbling. Shouts from the Jaguars bench encouraged Mallin to tag the runner for missing the base. The umpire called the runner out.

“Toni replaces Töne as the best woman takes reigns of track team”

TONI REPLACES TÖNE

Toni Smith, a four-time long jump All-American, succeeds her revered mentor Tone Campbell

BY DEVIN LAWSON

WANTED: Head track coach at Southwestern College. Must be a college All-American and a national champion to the best of my abilities. Must be able and cool to connect with my athletes. First name of Toni preferred.

Tone Campbell left big spits to fill when he departed Southwestern College to become athletics director at Cucamonga Community College in December. Unsurprisingly, Campbell skillfully mentored his replacement.

Toni Smith, the Jaguars’ sprightly junior in 2013, continued her role. She took over the head coaching position just before the season started – the first female track and field coach in SC history and a rare woman coach anywhere.

The young men and women on the team like the call, especially former Jaguar and SC’s top male athlete, Adriel Shaw, who won the CCCAA State Championship last year as well as a full ride to UC Davis.

Smith said she is humbled by the thought of succeeding Campbell, but she is ready to run with the top job. “Toni Campbell was a legend,” she said. “She’s very nervous but I’m going to give it my best. I’m just nervous about the job, but I’m very nervous about the job. I’m very nervous about the job. I’m very nervous about the job. I’m very nervous about the job.”

Campbell was a record setting high hurdler at USC and an Olympic medals at the Olympics.

Smith said she also has an impressive athletic pedigree. She was a time All-American who broke the long jump record at Oklahoma University as a junior.

Even as a little Smith loved track, she said. “It’s just something about seeing the track that makes me feel free.” said. “I don’t know if it’s the breeze I catch when running or the euphoric feeling of doing a high jump and feeling on top of the world. I love it. I love it.”

Smith is CEO of Total Starr Fitness and enjoys serving the community. Coaching the Jaguars is her dream come true. “I couldn’t be happier,” she said.

This is a new challenge I am ready for. It’s going to be a rollercoaster, but I will thrive and survive.”

Toni Smith

DERBY 2023-05-31

ROUGH AND ROWDY ROLLER DERBY STARS

ATHLETIC, FLAMBOYANT WOMEN OF ALL WALKS

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Tonidie Smith

by Devin Lawson

WANTED: Head track coach at Southwestern College. Must be a college All-American and a national champion. Must be able and cool to connect with my athletes. First name of Toni preferred.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.

Forty-four-year-old Smith, a member of the Nineteen Rollers delivers an all-out hit on a blocker. An all-out jam is a point each time they lap a blocker.

A rough and rowdy roller derby stars athletic, flamboyant women of all walks.