



Roller Derby Scholarship Essay:
Why I am passionate about Roller Derby
by Stephany Arriaga aka Crash Talk

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh. I keep striding just so I can continue to hear the noise my wheels make as I skate laps around the track. Soon my panting overcomes the sound of skates. Adrenaline is rushing through my body. I feel invincible. I come up around the turn swing my hips to the right, as if to close a car door, and take out my opponent. Roooooarr goes the crowd. Four whistles blow. The jam is called off.

Growing up, I didn't like sports. Mainly because I was never good at them. I tried out for the basketball team, didn't make it. Attempted volleyball, didn't even make it through the first cut. Eventually, I gave up wanting to be a part of a team. I convinced myself that I was never going to be talented enough for a sport. When I finally had lost all hope, I came across a flyer which read, "Join Long Beach Junior Roller Derby". I was more interested in finding out what "Roller Derby" was than trying to join. Therefore, I asked my older sister to go with me to the recruitment night, which was hosted at The Dome, to see what all the fuss was about. The moment I entered, bright pink hair caught my attention. The pink-haired woman introduced herself to me as Miss Mimi Masher. She guided me over to the track where moms, aunts, and older sisters were beating the crap out of one another. My eyes became wide and my jaw dropped down to my knees. So much aggression, so much excitement, I loved it! I looked over to Jennifer, my older sister, and yelled, "we HAVE to join!"

I arrived at my first practiced and I spent more time on the ground than on my feet. All the other skaters circled laps around me. I went home with more scrapes and bruises than I've ever had in my entire life. But, I felt content. Although, I wasn't good, the skills of other girls inspired me to practice every day in order to become better. My dedication paid off. In less than 5 months I was able to stop, juke, and hit. My life has changed completely. In the course of 10 months I became the person I always dreamed of being. A talented, hardworking, determined, and strong young female.

I want to continue to do the sport that I love. Playing derby is a combination of attendance, participation, and paying dues. I play alongside my older sister, JenOcide, thus my parents have to contribute twice as much in dues. Lately, my family has experienced some hardships. As both my sisters are to attend college in the fall, doing my part financially for the team is becoming harder. Receiving this scholarship means continuing to be part of the derby community, doing the sport I have fallen in love with, and taking some stress off my parents. Playing with Junior roller derby of long beach has led to meeting amazing people and learning the meaning of working together as a team. I love my team, I love this sport, I love Junior Roller Derby.

If you want to help change young girls and boys lives please contact Mimi Masher for scholarship participation opportunities.
MissMasher@Me.com

www.LongBeachJuniorRollerDerby.com