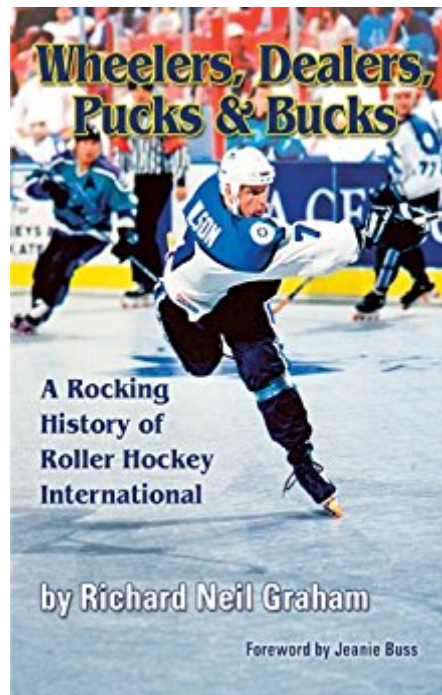


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# Wheelers, Dealers, Pucks & Bucks: A Rocking History Of Roller Hockey International



## Synopsis

Who won the first professional sports championship for the city of Anaheim? Which Roller Hockey International team owner posed for Playboy? Which RHI team's logo did Sports Illustrated describe as looking like a malevolent vacuum-cleaner attachment? • Which coach won two championships for two different teams in RHI's first two seasons? Why were fans nearly ejected from the Oakland Skates arena for celebrating a hat trick? All those questions and more are answered in *Wheelers, Dealers, Pucks & Bucks: A Rocking History of Roller Hockey International*. • Author Richard Graham takes you behind the scenes to show how Dennis Murphy created Roller Hockey International, and why Murphy might be the most unlikely, least known and most influential visionary in North American professional sports history. Despite his rather leprechaun-like stature, Murphy had tall dreams, a gift of gab and the ability to bring together a diverse group of people to work toward a common goal. After seeing some children playing hockey on inline skates on a suburban street, Murphy was inspired to create a professional league that ran from 1993-1999 and which soared and then crashed much like the inline skating craze of the 1990s.

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## Customer Reviews

If you enjoy hockey, even if you never followed professional inline hockey, you will enjoy this book. It's filled with lots of great stories that anyone can appreciate. But if you've ever played or been around hockey, you'll really get it into it. You will completely identify with camaraderie and good-natured ribbing that are the lifeblood of any hockey team's locker room. As a hockey player himself, the author understands this brand of humor and he tells the stories in a way that makes it seem like you are sitting in a bar, having a few beers with your teammates while everyone spins tall tales. And for me personally, as someone that was heavily involved in the inline hockey business during its heyday, it was fun to read about many of the names that I knew and get a behind-the-scenes look at the meteoric rise and fall of the league. Inline hockey hasn't been the same since the league folded. Buy this book. You'll be glad you did.

As a Sportswriter, I often find myself reviewing sports books with a very critical eye. However, this book was informative, intriguing, and engaging from the very first page. As the pages kept turning, I became less of a critic and more of an interested participant in Graham's captivating and descriptive world of Roller Hockey. Not too often are very interesting stories matched by engaging, quality writing, but this book is the product of both. A must read for any sports fan in Fall!

I do love hockey and not just the NHL. I also love the various rival leagues from the ABA, WHA, WFL, NASL, MISL through to the days of the USFL. I even went to the first Roller Hockey International (RHI) All-Star Game here in Vancouver. So this book on the history of pro roller hockey should have been right up my alley. It wasn't. I don't even think it's really the author's fault I didn't enjoy this as much as I would. It certainly is definitive and has everything pretty much you wanted to know about Roller Hockey International. I just found that, unlike those other rival leagues, the RHI went nowhere. It seems so few of the players, coaches or management went onto NHL careers that I just couldn't get worked up about any of the characters in the book. It also seemed way too Southern Californian for my tastes. Maybe, it's because here in Canada we really just play "ice" hockey or street hockey (with a hockey ball). I really just could not relate to roller hockey at all. I'm sure that's a flaw and prejudice on my part but it made the book a bit of a slog to read in many parts. All I can say, if you were into the RHI, I think you'll love this book. If not, I doubt you will.

I am not much into sports and rarely will I pick up a book about any sports, but I was bored, my brother had a copy, and was continually laughing out loud while reading his copy of the book, so it

intrigued me enough to ask him if I could read it when he was done. He reluctantly lent me the book (probably thought I would lose it!) and I got started. It was so well written, hysterically funny and had me from the first page. I truly enjoyed it, and so now bought 2 copies, and gave them to my sons, who both played inline hockey as youngsters, and they both have said thanks with a capital T! They too read it, laughed, and enjoyed going back to their childhood and all the wonderful memories of playing as kids.

I hadn't thought about inline roller hockey in quite some time till I did a little youtubing one day and found a random link to it. I remember being a kid and watching it on ESPN and just remembering "whatever happened to this league" it was a fun intense viewing experience. After doing some searching I found out that thru I could get a book with all the backstage deals/parties/and other wild moments.. Why would I buy this book. I think from the 1st page to the last it was a great read. Learning how the league formed, and then how with too much bravado a lot of the higher ups/founders in the league ended ruining it. Great story, great read.

As a person who was heavily involved with the RHI, MLRH, WRHL and PBH. This book hit the nail on the head. Brings back so many memories of roller hockey back in the day. Very well written and the Author knows his stuff, having been around from the beginning. Great work Richard... even if you are a Kings fan. This book is highly recommended.

Mr. Graham has written a treasure of a book for anyone from the casual hockey fan to the most die hard RHI fans of the day. From the untold stories of practical jokes between players, to the demise of the once promising league and the year by year season highlights that forever etch this league in pro-sports history, the book is what was once sorely needed. It is a curtain call and perfect ending, and something an RHI fan Deserves. Those of us who remember this once great league never got to say good-bye. One year it was just over. Finally we have an account, and maybe even the names of those to blame, for the leagues demise. Richard nailed the tone of the league without unjustly coloring it with his own. His descriptions and depictions read easily and as if he was there living it. Oh wait, that's right he was, and his experience speaks volumes here. Greg read.

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