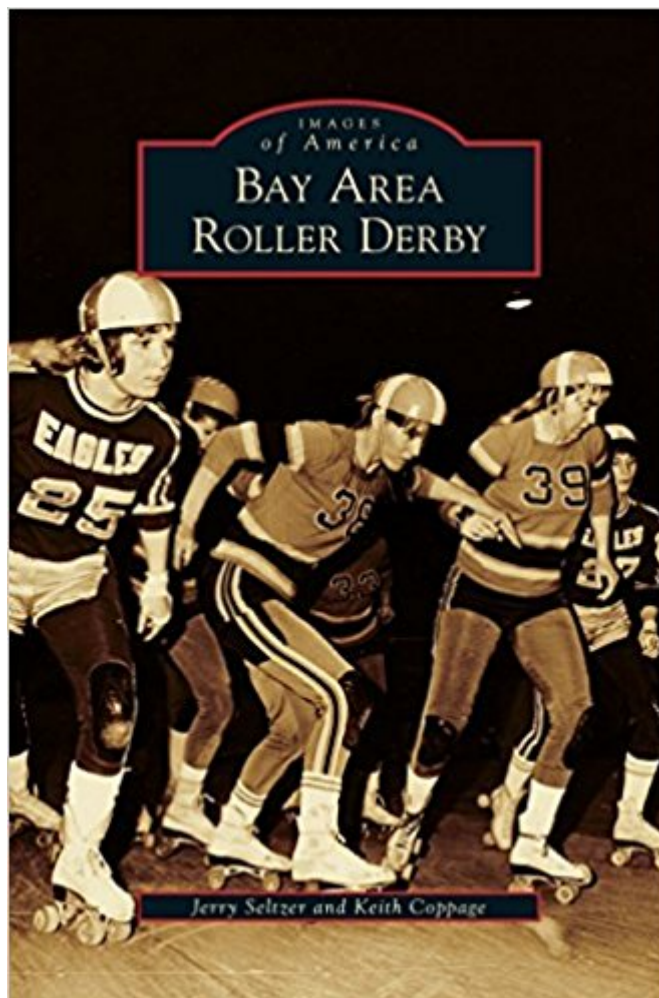


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# Bay Area Roller Derby



## Synopsis

Roller Derby found a home in the San Francisco Bay Area following its Depression-era Chicago origins. An early television sensation, it faded to a modest existence in Los Angeles during the 1950s. Creator Leo Seltzer turned the game over to his son Jerry, who repositioned the traveling Bay Bombers from their home terrain of San Francisco to Fresno and everywhere in-between. He shined television camera lights on skaters who became the zenith in Roller Derby, including Charlie O'Connell, Annis Jensen, Joanie Weston, and more. Syndicated television games seen by millions yielded sellout crowds in every major arena in the country. However, economic and cultural changes closed Roller Derby in 1973. Passionate fans clung tenaciously to its memory. In the 21st century, the game made an astonishing return not only in Northern California but also worldwide.

## Book Information

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States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

Keith Coppage is a Bay Area educator, pop-culture writer, and official historian of Roller Derby. His mentor Jerry Seltzer conducted the Bay Bombers to national fame, founded BASS Tickets, was vice-president of Ticketmaster, and produced acclaimed films, rock concerts, and other diversions. Commissioner emeritus of all things Derby today, Seltzer receives fan mail and advice requests from skaters all over the world. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

MORE BOMBERS ACTION THE PART ABOUT CHARLY 'O' AFTER DERBY WAS KINDE OF SAD  
GUNSLINGERS SHOULD DIE WITH THEIR BOOTS ON HOPEFULLY WHILE KNOCKING SOME

BAD GUY OVER THE TOP RAIL THEN HE AND ANNE C STROL OFF INTO THE SUNSET  
OBVIOUSLEY GETTING TOO OLD THANKS FOR THE MEMORYS BOB

Aside from presenting a wonderful selection of B&W photos, the text offers quite a few insights into the inner workings of Roller Derby. There are some surprisingly candid comments about skaters who got along well with each other, as well as some who didn't (even some of the superstars on the Bay Bombers weren't necessarily the best of friends off the track). I wish that there were a few more pictures of the outer facades of the auditoriums where these games were held. I'd have been particularly interested in seeing some "then and now" comparison photos of the various Bay Area venues. That minor quibble aside, this is a wonderful book which will appeal to Roller Derby fanatics everywhere, not just in northern California.

. I was a big fan of the roller derby. In southern California it was called roller games so as not to be confused with the original Roller Derby. However, the skaters were free to skate with whoever paid the most. This book contains photos from the Roller Derby which was based in San Francisco. If you are a fan from way back, you will recognize the skaters who did tour southern California before settling in San Francisco. It would have been nice if there could of been a page or two for 'Where are they now?'

Brings me back to the days of my youth watching the Bombers on TV.

This book brought back pleasant memories of the Roller Derby league and the Bay Area Bombers. Good read. Those were the days.

This is a good review of the early days of the Roller Derby founded at the Chicago Coliseum in 1935. Then it switches to the game moving its home base to California. Beautiful pictures of the games there. All black and white.

Nice history of roller derby for people like myself who are fans of the sport. New comers could also learn much from this book

I enjoed this book.I miss all the great skaters like Gerry Murray,Toughie,Bill & Gloria Gardner,Mike Gammon and a lot more.If you are a derby fan this book reminds you of when skaters were classy

not like whats out there now.Thanks...

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