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Gainesville roller derby team sets eyes on national stage

The Gainesville Roller Rebels will play in record-breaking bout this Friday

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Local roller derby team the Gainesville Roller Rebels ("GRR") want to achieve what only a fraction of the 1,000 derby leagues in the nation have done: join the ranks of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association ("WFTDA") and take a shot at national prominence in the sport.

GRR has taken the first step towards its goal by submitting an application for the WFTDA apprentice program. Once GRR successfully completes the program, it will join the four other WFTDA teams in the state, including the Gold Coast Derby Grrls, based in South Florida. GRR plays Gold Coast in Coral Gables on Friday, September 16, 2011, at 8 p.m.

Gold Coast is ranked ninth in the WFTDA South-Central Region, but GRR scored a victory over the team in a Gainesville match over the summer. The rematch will held at the University of Miami Bank United Center, the largest venue a roller derby match has been played in Florida history.

"Being a part of this bout is monumental to us," Miriam "Stocky Balboa" Hill, GRR President, said. "Gold Coast have been great mentors to GRR, and we would love to have a similar venue and support from the hometown crowd here in Gainesville."

While waiting on formal acceptance to the WFTDA apprentice program, GRR will keep up the sweat-filled, three-times a week practices that have elevated them to a winning 10-3 season. GRR's next home game is Saturday, September 24, 2011 at Skate Station Funworks, 1311 N.W. 76th Blvd. Doors open at 8:15 p.m., and spectators will have the chance to watch a rare intra-league bout featuring skaters with names like Grizzly Madams, Jamburglar, and Killary Clinton.



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For information about GRR, visit www.gainesvillerollerrebels.com.



Photo Credit: Dana John Hill

Gainesville Roller Rebels Kaitlyn "Eh-nihalator" Brennan (left) and Sarah "Killary Clinton" Kiley await the start of two-minute "jam" at arecent roller derby bout at Skate Station Funworks. *Hi-res version of this photo and others available at:* <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/danajohnhill/5947690592/in/set-</u> <u>72157627092460915</u>



Photo Credit: Dana John Hill Gainesville Roller Rebels jammer Kerri "Suzie Bonebreaker" Duffield-Audette, who has a star a on her helmet, scores points during a bout in Charlotte, North Carolina. Hi-res version available at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/danajohnhill/6044 117541/in/set-72157627311620883

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