

# WHY IT'S OK TO HAVE A WIFE THAT CAN KICK MY A#\$

By Rob Hudson / Photo by Tony Gibble

I'm face down on the shiny Dura Seal rink floor, skates dangling above me, while my left buttock pulses with what's going to be a terrific hematoma. All 240 pounds of me have been "hip checked" by a 5'1" freckled sweetheart.

She shakes her head. "Wimp."

My assailant, my wife Jamie, is otherwise known as Crème Brûlée of the Dutchland Derby Rollers. Over the past few months, she's layered muscle on top of muscle as she lays waste to opponents in full-contact women's roller derby.

As her husband, and a referee (a.k.a. "Biroller Disorder"), I'm her natural enemy and by extension the adversary of the 75 girls on the team hiss and holler when I make a "bad call" and send Brûlée to the penalty box.

This is the best—and the worst—part about having a wife who can kick my a#\$. I get to whistle, shout, and point to send her off the track in the name of justice and safety.

I also get to endure the twenty-minute drive home. My car becomes a penalty box for me as she begins:

"What was that crap call on me? I never back blocked Shrapnel!"

"Uhh... I just called what I saw." My voice cracks and trails to a whisper.

"YOU WERE SMIRKING!"

She's silent with compressed lips on the way home. And I'm afraid. "I'll show you a back block," she mutters.

Still, I appreciate her enthusiasm for controlled violence. That is, when she kicks someone else's a#\$. Most often it's a gentleman of the plaid short, faded salmon polo, black-socks-with-sandals variety.

"Roller derby? I used to watch those dames on TV beat the stuffing out of each other." He winks. "So, sweetie, do you wear fishnets?" Jamie smiles, flashes doe eyes, and casually shifts her hips. In half a second he's eating pavement, courtesy of the wrecking ball that is my wife.

I may wear the pants in the family, but she wears the booty shorts. You can guess who wins. 🍷



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