

Misc



A nice discovery

Come each new day, you never know what you might learn.

I made a very nice surprise discovery today while surfing the internet.

I'm sure all of us had our own idiosyncratic pleasures in the course of our lives. My major three "ordinary" pleasures during my formative years were music, sports, and books. Big deal...lots of people like those two things. Two of my more offbeat pleasures during those years involved watching professional wrestling and Roller Derby on television.

Why those two? That's not important to answer here...and besides, the reasons are bit more complicated than one might imagine. For the sake of this entry, just know that I enjoyed them much during my adolescence.

As one gets older, the tendency toward nostalgia gets more pronounced (at least it does with me). I suppose that's why today, while passing idle time at work, I did some Roller Derby internet searches, curious as to what has become of some of the more familiar names of my youth. We all do stuff like that, don't we? (Please say you do... 😊)

Anyway, my heart was warmed by a discovery I made during that search today. Some of you familiar with roller sports history may recall the name Judy Arnold, longtime star for the Philadelphia Warriors of the National Skating Derby, better known by its' official brand name of Roller Games.

Arnold is a Californian too, and was in her prime years as a skater when I watched her. My life changed a lot in the mid 1970s, and as it did, my interest in Roller Derby waned proportionately. So when I finally got smart and became a Christian in late 1975, I was completely unaware (until today), that across the country, Judy Arnold was doing the precise same life changing thing.

I learned today that when she did, she immediately retired from skating, unable to reconcile that profession with her new life and calling. Since then, Judy Arnold, one of the most popular female skaters in rollersports, has been an evangelist and speaker all over the country, and is touching lives everywhere she goes.

Learning this made my heart feel extra-warm inside...it was like discovering that a high school classmate had changed his/her life and was now dedicated to the very ideals I was. It was "cool" to discover that one of my adolescent heroines had become a sister in Christ...and was surrendered to Him, just as I've been!

As impressed as I was to read that Arnold abruptly quit skating upon her conversion, I was even more impressed to learn that instead of completely forsaking her past, she has attended many rollersports reunions in recent years, and openly represented her Lord amidst all of her old colleagues and comrades. Many of them were and are duly impressed by the "new" creation that Arnold had become.

Further, Arnold trades on her former celebrity status by sometimes wearing her old uniform colors at her speaking engagements, justly unashamed of her past accomplishments(she was always the "good girl" while skating), but all the while being totally transparent, claiming no special status in Christ because of her past stardom.

I enjoyed scanning her webpage(judyarnoldskater.com), and reliving my old memories while simultaneously rejoicing in and being proud of what she's become. I guess there IS life(and REAL life at that)after fame.

I couldn't help but notice she has a coming speaking engagement in November in Pasadena...I wonder what I have planned at that time?

Back to gospel music next time...for today, I just had to report on a small but neat moment that made me happy.



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