

## Middletown, Ohio

Story by Britt Parrott  
Photos by Lyle Donoho

**A** sunny Saturday afternoon; a rather small but perfect halfpipe; free admission; free food; free beer; free drinks and hot dogs; 51 skaters from eight states. This situation was real and it all went down on Aug. 11, 1984, in the contest form of Mid-Eastern-Skateboard-Series #4.

The Downeys from Middletown, Ohio, hosted what was to be the biggest MESS to date. Along with the many skaters came an inevitable snake session as contest time drew near. More than two collisions were witnessed on this day. Many were appalled at the gruesome display of skate frenzy.

After a short while, proceeded by a long while, the contest got under way with the 2a unsponsored division. Seventeen skaters vied for the top eight spots in order to participate in the illustrious jam. After the eliminations, the skaters had a 20 minute jam to do their best.

The other unsponsored, known as the 3a, took to the ramp soon after. Some skaters had recently moved up from 2a, such as John and Joe Downey, Shawn DeLong, and Bill Tocco. Many of these

# MESS



Bill Ferguson got out of the pool of Endless Summer to rip his way into 2nd place on the ramp. Frontside air.

skaters improved immensely during the course of the series.

**C**haos soon followed. Were there too many skaters on the ramp? Obviously yes. There was a larger number of sponsored skaters than either 2a or 3a. This was a first in the history of MESS: 18 sponsored amateurs at a contest in Ohio.

Robert Taylor valiantly risked his life by leaping onto the flat bottom and announcing a practice order. This lasted for a short while. Jeff Kendall was looking like the one to beat during practice, but had a most unfortunate fall on his first run and was unable to continue.

After all the hoopla subsided, the prize ceremonies took place. Moving on rather quickly, the traditional, not so classy, sticker slam was swiftly done by Chip Jones who took it upon himself to heave the whole lot of stickers simultaneously.

**M**eanwhile, many decided to explore the vast expanse of distant skate spots. Some parted to Endless Summer in Michigan, while others trekked to Indianapolis to skate the famed "Love Ramp". I joined the latter group and had a great time thanks to some cool Indianapolis skaters. Next stop, the finals at Greenville, S.C.

### SPONSORED

1. Tom Groholski
2. Bill Ferguson
3. Brian Beauchene
3. Pat Clarke
5. Doug Walker
6. Ray Underhill
7. Britt Parrott
8. Chris 'O.R.' Moore
9. Chuck Treece
10. Joe Bowers
10. Kevin Dickman
10. Lyle Donoho
10. Mike Hill
14. Brett Martin
15. Henry Gutierrez
16. Steve Bacon
17. Jeff Kendall
18. Al Butella

### 3A

1. Mike Crescini
2. Bernie O'Dowd
3. John Fudala
4. Robert Taylor
5. Brady Bird
6. Phil Bercher
7. John Ballon
8. Joe Downey
9. Bill Tocco
10. Jay Henry
11. Rick Starbuck
12. Mike Bennett
13. Shawn DeLong
14. John Downey
15. Chip Jones
16. Chris Hutchinson

### 2A

1. Will Clark
2. Dan Kelly
3. Dave Roberts
4. Scott Bouwens
5. Todd Bray
6. Mark Heinzman
7. Scott Deters
8. Tony Emmer
9. Jade Corn
10. Andy Rogers
11. Dan Goldberg
12. Jim Downey
13. Tom Downey
14. Todd Hammond
15. Steve Greenwell
16. Andy Egger
17. Dave Stry



Doug Walker, backside ollie master, gives a helping hand this time.