

# The Sports Report

by Tony Nichols

## Men Really Do Read the Articles!

I recently purchased the January 29, 1996 issue of *Sports Illustrated* to READ (the only reason, honey) and was happily surprised to see an article about rhinos. Oh gee, look this is also the "Swimsuit Issue". (I got it for the sports?) Seems our favorite creature had favorable coverage in this most popular of periodicals. The featured photography was done in South Africa and is incredible. (I got it for the pictures?) The three main stories are portraying the wildlife, the people of South Africa, and of course what to wear to the beach. (I got it for the animals!)

Rhinos play heavily in the first story. The writer, E.M. Swift is sensitive to the plight of the rhino and wants to SEE a black rhino. He flies to the Mkuzi Game Reserve where he goes on a walking safari to find one of the 70 living there. An hour is spent tracking a bull rhino into a thicket. After the armed tracker comes rushing out of the brush, saying, "Too dangerous, no trees" to climb, Mr. Swift decides there isn't enough protection from a charging rhino. "What am I doing here?" is a recurring theme. They leave.

After touring Mkuzi and nearby Phinda Resource Reserve, he has seen cheetahs, nyala, lions, and 6 white rhinos. Finally, on his last day, a black rhino is seen and photographed. A nice cow/calf pair is spotted, and the writer climbs a tree to observe them from just 50 yards away. *Sports Illustrated* and Mr. Swift should be thanked for their sympathetic portrayal of the rhino's dilemma. In the article's closing sentence, the sentiment is obvious: "and may God

grant them speed in fleeing all poachers." Hmm.... I'll have to buy this "Swimsuit" issue every year, just in case.

[ed note: Now this is the way to "shoot" rhinos in the wild!]

## It's Roller Hockey time again!

The San Jose Rhinos, 1995 Roller Hockey International Champions, started their second season this week. In 1996 the Roller Hockey League will consist of nine teams. If you are interested in Rhinos souvenir merchandise, you are smart. It's great rhinobilia. The logo is dominated by a charging rhino. This year's selections will have WORLD CHAMPIONS prominent on several items. Be sure to mention where you heard about this. (Hint: R, R!) Check with the merchandiser through the season in case they add new stuff. Watch the Rhinos play on ESPN or ESPN2.

City	Team	Schedule
San Diego	Barracudas	6/23
Sacramento	River Rats	6/16, 7/20
Anaheim	Bullfrogs	6/20, 7/28
Oklahoma City	Coyotes	6/21, 7/13
Oakland	Skates	6/27, 8/12
Vancouver	Voo Doo	7/1, 7/16
Los Angeles	Blades	7/5
Denver	Dare Devils	8/9

### Team:

San Jose Rhinos  
99 Almaden Blvd. #555  
San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 287-4442  
(800) 20-RHINO

### Catalog:

Keen Merchandise  
40 North 1st Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 280-5336  
(408) 977-7908

Next time, the Rochester Raging Rhinos and the Nissan Pathfinder's African safari.

Save the Rhino!

Tony