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HURLIN'

I was starting to like the WWF, but here we go again! Papa Shango putting a curse on The Ultimate Warrior! That was ridiculous enough, but then they showed the Warrior vomiting on television—right in front of all the little kids who are fans. That’s sick.

Where does it all end? Not only does the WWF treat their fans like two-year-olds, but they are also disgusting.

JASON MILLER
Winfield, KS

LOUISVILLE SLUGGING

The elimination of Paul E. Dangerously and his Dangerous Alliance does not rest upon Sting, Rick Steamboat, or any other WCW wrestler. The solution to eradicating Paul E. and his insidious ways lies in the recent past.

Late in 1990, Jim Cornette left WCW because of differences with upper management. But before that, Cornette beat Dangerously during their lengthy feud and served him the most humiliating and embarrassing moments of his career. Dangerously is no match for Cornette—verbally, mentally, or managerially.

Cornette may seem like an unlikely savior for WCW, but fire must be fought with fire. There are new, fresh breezes blowing through the upper offices of WCW. The time is right for Cornette to perform a public service and send Paul E. sailing into a new area code.

Tennis, anyone?

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

DISHING FOR THE DISH

There’s little doubt that Randy Savage has proven he’s twice the man Ric Flair is, as your article in the August 1992 issue suggested (“The Closer He Gets . . . The More Savage ‘Macho Man’ Becomes!”).

Notice I didn’t say twice the wrestler, because there will never be a wrestler as great as Flair. But when the “Nature Boy” started badmouthing Elizabeth, he went too far over the line. Flair deserves every loss he’s had to Savage.

And Flair will never beat Savage until he forgets about goading Liz and sets his sights on wrestling.

ELAINE WATERS
Newark, NJ

AMAZING AUSTIN

It’s about time you gave Steve Austin some ink, as you did with “Capsule Profile” and the great pinup (August 1992). He may be WCW TV champion now, but Austin is young and has
For once, we had an opportunity to find out what goes through a man’s mind as he’s being pounded into the mat in front of thousands of people. I often wonder why men such as Wolfe risk their lives for little fame and even less money, but he did a good job explaining why he loves wrestling so much.

Dusty, you made a fan of me.

PATTY SMITH
Burlington, VT

**PAUL’S PROBLEM**

I think Paul Ellering is just a little bit too late. Sure, he’s entered the WWF to once again manage The Legion of Doom, and your prognosis seems to favor “Precious” Paul as being the savior of the underachieving team (“Can Paul Ellering Make Road Warriors Out Of The Legion Of Doom?”, August 1992). I don’t agree.

All Ellering was ever good for was interfering and giving lame interviews with his rolled-up Wall Street Journal in his hand. I never saw Ellering do anything to help Animal and Hawk while they were The Road Warriors.

Why should I think he could help them now? Owen Hart and Koko B. Ware will be WWF World tag team champions long before the LOD will.

BOB SLATTERY
Georgetown, OH

(Continued on page 52)

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As WCW TV champion, Steve Austin deserves some positive press, says reader George Frimpolato. Austin has beaten many quality opponents, including Brian Pillman.

vast potential. This man is a sure world champion in the making.

Already, he’s been managed by Jeannie Clarke, Vivacious Veronica, and Paul E. Dangerously. This man has a great deal of intelligence to go along with his advanced physical ability. And I think he’d be a lot better off going it alone. I miss seeing Jeannie at ringside, though!

GEORGE FRIMPOLATO
Bronx, NY

**NOT-SO-HOTSEAT**

Dusty Wolfe as your “Hotseat” interview subject (August 1992)? Dusty Wolfe? Dusty Wolfe?

Who cares what a skinny never-was like Wolfe has to say about anything? Interviewing a wimp like that sets a dangerous precedent. Who can we expect for future “Hotseats”? Sonny Blaze? Barry Hardy? Maybe Khris Germany?

Find a star next time, will you? It’s *Inside Wrestling*, not *Inside Human Punching Bags*.

JIM PERSONS
Louisville, KY
SAKS' NOTEBOOK  By Stu Saks

The wife grabbed me by the stomach the other morning before I left for work and made a half-in-jest crack about its increasing dimension. I quickly grabbed the chocolate donut I had packed in my briefcase for breakfast and placed it back in the box, where it couldn't do me any harm.

Ironically, that morning I was to speak to Mr. Abs himself, Rick Rude, for a story. After the interview was over, I couldn't help but ask him the secret behind his flat muscular midsection. I thought he would take the opportunity to poke fun at me. After all, I hadn't been particularly kind to him during the course of our 30-minute interview. What I found out, though, is that when it comes to the subject of the human body, Rude is deadly serious.

"There's no secret to having a perfect washboard stomach," he told me. "Like anything else worthwhile, it takes a lot of hard work."

I'm not one who has ever shied away from hard work, so I asked him to detail his training regimen. Big mistake. Our 30-minute conversation became an hour with a one-sided dissertation on the proper technique and number of situps (I think he said about a thousand a day), leglifts, abdominal weight machines, running, even the use of the good ol' medicine ball. Forty-five minutes a day for the abdominal muscles alone, and then there's the rest of the body to think about!

Every man would like to be built like Rick Rude, but how many of us are willing to pay the price? "Not many," he said. "In fact, there's only one man in the sport of professional wrestling who's willing to pay the price. Me."

As for me, I think my wife will have to settle for me cutting back on my chocolate donut intake.
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THE ONGOING FEUD between Eddie Gilbert and Jerry Lawler intensified to an even greater degree when Gilbert pinned Lawler to capture the USWA title on June 15 in Memphis, Tennessee.

"I've been telling you people for years that I'm the real king of the USWA!" Gilbert exclaimed. "Shouldn't this prove it once and for all? And now I'm a double champion! I have the USWA belt and the Global International title! Heck, you all should be bowing down and kissing my feet!"

The Global International title is not recognized by Inside Wrestling and its family of magazines. This belt is not affiliated with the Global Wrestling Federation.

Before the contest, Gilbert said that if he didn't win the match, he would retire from active competition. Few took his claim seriously, though, as match time approached.

After referee Frank Morell was knocked down, Gilbert attempted to throw fire at Lawler, but Lawler ducked and the flames hit Gilbert's manager, Bert Prentice. Moments later, while the action was raging on the arena floor, Mike Samples, the so-called Global International promoter, smacked "The King" with a chain and tossed him back in the ring. Gilbert promptly covered Lawler for the pin.

"Let little Eddie have his fun," Lawler said as he held an icepack over his right eye. "Let him celebrate while he still has the chance. Nobody here doubts I'll win that belt back. Gilbert is a disgrace as a person and even worse as a champion. I can't and won't allow him to represent the USWA!"

For the past several months, U.S. champion Rick Rude has been preoccupied with the challenge posed to him by Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat. Now, the "Ravishing One" faces a new threat from Nikita Koloff.

Koloff has been after Rude ever since turning down an offer to join The Dangerous Alliance. "Paul E. Dangerously and the rest of them think they can buy me off," Koloff said. "It is not so easy. I am a man of honor and integrity, unwilling to be led around by the nose. Yes, I have made mistakes in the past, but now I will make them pay for their mistake.

"Rude knows I have held the United States title before," the Lithuanian continued. "That is a very important championship. I would be proud to possess it. I am confident that if I receive matches against Rude, I will defeat him."

Rude countered that he has no fear of Koloff, and even welcomes the challenge.

"The man is a joke," Rude scoffed. "The only move he has is the 'Russian sickle.' Avoid that and you beat him, no problem. So he wants a piece of me, fine. I don't have a problem with that at all."
Tatanka has been one of the surprise successes in the WWF this year. He was extremely impressive in defeating "The Model" Rick Martel at WrestleMania VIII, and acquitted himself well in subsequent rematches. There is at least one wrestler, though, who is not enamored of the talents of the young Native American star. He is Berzerker. I've learned that this wild man's manager, Mr. Fuji, has made Tatanka a prime target for his man's wrath.

"Fuji sees Tatanka has the perfect opponent for Berzerker," opines a source close to the devious manager. "Berzerker has been embarrassed by The Undertaker, and Fuji wants him to get back on the winning track. He thinks that can be done against Tatanka. He sees weaknesses in Tatanka he thinks he and Berzerker can exploit."

Eddie Marlin was reinstated as USWA matchmaker on June 13. In one of his first official acts, Marlin forced Southern champion Brian Christopher to defend his title twice at the June 15 card in Memphis. Christopher complied reluctantly, but defeated The Hornet and Billy Travis . . . The Condor became the first NAWA TV champion by winning a 15-man battle royal on June 13 in Mt. Vernon, New York.

BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

Pacific Northwest wrestling has a new name: Championship Wrestling USA. The old PNW titles have been terminated and tournaments were scheduled for July and August to determine USA singles and tag team champions.

"We want to get things off to a fresh start," said USA promoter Sandy Barr. "This is going to be an exciting summer for us. Plus, we'll be bringing in wrestlers from Japan. We're making what was a great promotion even better."

Down in Puerto Rico, P.N. News is locked in a feud with WWC TV champion Dick Murdoch. On June 13 in Carolina, and June 14 in Aguadilla, News scored disqualification victories over the rugged Texas brawler.

"Hey, everybody was down on me when I left WCW," News said. "They thought P.N. News was down for the count. Just ask Dickie Murdoch how down I am. I'm still winning, and I'm still rappin'! Yo, baby, yo, baby, yo!"

Former Global North American champion The Patriot has returned to the WWC. Steve Doll also was scheduled to begin competing there. Doll plans to reform his tag team, The Southern Rockers, with Rex King.

Longtime manager Gary Hart has arrived in Global as an ally of light heavyweight champion Terry Simms and North American titlist Scott Putski. Hart had been out of the sport since managing Al Perez in the Texas Wrestling Federation.

THE UNDERTAKER

GARY HART

I'll be on the "PWiz Hotline" almost immediately after the completion of the SummerSlam '92 card from London, England, with a full report. The card is slated to be seen in the U.S. on tape delay.

Fred Pantano died on May 30 at his home in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Pantano, 81, was one of two men who used the ring name Bull Montana. The other, an actor and wrestler, died in 1950.
I AM DRIVING along Route 2, which winds along the western rim of Lake Ontario in Canada. It is early morning. The sun is poking through the trees. A light breeze ripples the water’s surface. It is an absolutely picturesque day.

And I am thinking of airtight coffins.

I have been thinking about airtight coffins since last night, when I attended a WWF TV taping at Copps County Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario. No, the building isn’t that bad.

The finale pitted The Ultimate Warrior against Papa Shango. I was hoping to witness firsthand a sampling of Shango’s incredible powers of voodoo. Perhaps he would cast a spell on Gorilla Monsoon that would allow the announcer to speak in subject-verb agreement.

Papa, however, had clearly made other arrangements. The match was barely underway when The Berzerker emerged from the dressing room. Several husks later, he and Shango were giving the federation’s fair-haired boy a beating that the Los Angeles police would have been proud of.

Okay, let’s stop right here for a minute. This may be a matter of semantics, but I think that someone who has the audacity to dub himself “The Ultimate Warrior” should be capable of fending off two attackers. Until he does, he will be referred to in this space as The Penultimate Warrior.

As the beating continued, I was struck by the irony that The Penultimate Warrior’s untimely exit from the WWF would be strikingly similar to his recent return. He was the victim of a two-on-one attack, after charging the ring at WrestleMania to break up a two-on-one attack against . . .

Hulk Hogan.

That’s it! my thoughts screamed inside my skull. He’s here! Hogan’s here and he’s going to come out of his semiretirement and save the Warrior, just the way Warrior saved him at WrestleMania! Hogan owes him one, and the payback’s gonna be right here!

My eyes shot toward the entrance curtain. Standing there, all 6’8” of him, all 320 pounds of him, ready to save The Penultimate Warrior from The Ultimate Embarrassment, was . . .

The Undertaker.

This is when I started thinking about airtight coffins.

Yes, I know that The Undertaker has had a recent change of heart. Yes, I am aware that he intervened on behalf of Elizabeth when Jake Roberts threatened to pummel her with a chair. Yes, I am pretty sure that Undertaker and Berzerker do not exchange Christmas cards.

I have taken all of these variables into account. I am sorry, but they still don’t outweigh the fact that, just last year, THE UNDERTAKER WAS STUFFING THE PENULTIMATE WARRIOR INTO AN AIRTIGHT COFFIN! DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, WRESTLING FANS? HE WAS TRYING TO KILL THE MAN! AAAAAAAAAH! AAAAAAAAAH!!

Excuse the Sam Kinison impersonation.

For those of you who have memories shorter than Sky Low Low, this is what happened last year on an episode of Paul Bearer’s “Funeral Parlour”:

1. The Penultimate Warrior accepted the invitation of The Undertaker to appear on the show.
2. The Undertaker stuffed The Penultimate Warrior into an airtight coffin and locked it.

There is not a lot of room for debate here. In just about every place in the world except New York City and the realm of professional wrestling, this is known as attempted murder.

With the possible exception of being his usual unintelligible self, The Penultimate Warrior did not do anything to antagonize The Undertaker. He did not question The Undertaker’s ability as a wrestler. He did not make fun of The Undertaker’s wide-brim hat. He did not replace the contents of the urn with cigar ashes from Friday night’s poker game.

Conversely, The Penultimate Warrior has not done anything in recent months to warrant support from The Undertaker. He did not pair up with him in a tag team match. He did not provide assistance when The Berzerker tried to skewer him. He did not offer helpful suggestions in applying facial paint.

Two remarkable displays of character have come out of this incident. One is The Undertaker’s willingness to start fresh and begin mending fences with The Penultimate Warrior. The other is The Penultimate Warrior’s ability to forgive and forget the past and begin taking steps toward building a friendship with The Undertaker.

Yeah, right.

On the way out of the arena, one young fan offered another theory.

“Undertaker doesn’t care about Warrior,” he said. “He just likes beating the hell out of Berzerker.”

I asked the fan if he had two people in his life he could call “enemies.”


“Well,” I continued, “If all 10 of your enemies were in the ring having a battle royal, would you jump in the ring and try to beat up the one you hated most? Or would you let all 10 of them beat the hell out of each other?”

“I’d let them beat the hell out of each other,” he replied.

So would I.
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**Actual questions**

1. Who did Rick Martel defeat to win the AWA World title (1984)?
   - Jumbo Tsuruta
   - Ivan Koloff
   - Stan Hansen
   - Larry Zbyszko
2. Which of these wrestlers was not in Bodyslam?
   - Roddy Piper
   - Barbarian
   - Warlord
3. True or False: Ted DiBiase's parents were both professional wrestlers.
   - True
   - False
4. Which of the following wrestlers did not attend West Texas State University?
   - Tito Santana
   - Wahoo McDaniel
   - Barry Windham
   - Dusty Rhodes
5. What 21-year-old was the youngest man ever to hold the NWA World title?
   - Tommy Rich
   - Kerry Von Erich
   - Lou Thesz
   - Dory Funk Jr.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

IN A SEEMINGLY never-ending attempt to keep up with the Joneses, the people at WCW are constantly coming up with new match ideas that they hope will appeal to the fans. Successful or not, almost all of these matches succeed on one level: They present a new test for the wrestlers.

The scheduled Rick Rude vs. Rick Steamboat match at Beach Blast was based on a particularly fascinating idea: Acquiring the most pinfalls against a running 30-minute clock.

It brought into play the idea of wrestling as a sport where points can be scored and also offered wrestling’s version of the four-corner offense. If a wrestler gets the first fall, there’s nothing to stop him from stalling and trying to kill the clock (as opposed to his opponent).

But the match idea that fascinated me the most was put into play on June 7 at The Omni in Atlanta. The evening started with a 20-man battle royal. The bouts for the rest of the night were determined by the order of elimination.

This meant a few things. First of all, fans had no idea what they were going to see when they came to the arena. Second, it brought up the possibility of numerous fan favorite vs. fan favorite and rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker matches. Third, it made for some exhausted wrestlers.

“A battle royal is one of the toughest matches in the sport,” Scott Steiner said. “You’re constantly going all-out and looking over your shoulder. I remember when this idea was first told to the wrestlers, we all let out a collec-

(Continued on page 56)
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[The opinions expressed in “The Insider” are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

ANATOMY OF A BREAKDOWN

This particular battle royal was of no lasting significance, but it was noteworthy for some vicious infighting between wrestlers thought to be good friends. At one point, the action got so furious and unpredictable that the announcers fumbled over themselves trying to make sense of it.

To the broadcast booth ambled Paul E. Dangerous, at the time a lightly regarded would-be manager and announcer. Dangerous proceeded to dissect the action in such a way that made it seem as logical as a sunrise. It was the most extraordinary example of understanding the “wrestling mind” I had ever witnessed.

I was overwhelmed by the show of mental dexterity. Here was a one-man think tank, a real theorist—a small waif of a man, but I knew right then we’d be hearing from (and talking about) him some day.

“Stop, right this second. Do you hear me? I’m telling you to stop! This is Paul E. Dangerously! And I demand you stop this right now!”

This next item occurred a few months ago. The WCW TV title, the belt at stake in this match be-

The expensive suits and cellular phone of Paul E. Dangerous represent the opulence of the 1980s. But despite his brash confidence, Dangerous’s empire may be crumbling.

between Barry Windham and Arn Anderson, was in itself of no real consequence. But it did represent an essential cornerstone to the grand plan designed by Anderson’s manager, Paul E. Dangerous, in his bid to conquer WCW.

Just as the presidency is the highest office a career politician can aspire to, advising a world champion is the main preoccupa-

tion of every single pro wrestling manager.

History, though, has produced men like Alexander, Napoleon, and Hitler, for whom the presidency was but a steppingstone toward the fulfillment of their ultimate obsession of world power. There are parallels in business; the last decade produced scores

(Continued on page 60)
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MY MEMPHIS DIARY: 2:33 p.m.: Arrive at the hotel, finally, after a 44-minute traffic jam. Thus far today: My computer swallowed two stories, the dry cleaners lost three shirts, I dropped my sunglasses down a sewer grate, and my plane was rerouted through Orlando. Better read my horoscope before I take another step.

3:01 p.m.: Feeling better. Seems there is nothing an iced coffee and box of raspberry donuts won’t cure. Horoscope says: Don’t equate delay with defeat. Hmmm.

4:23 p.m.: After a 45-minute aerobics class, I’m leafing through the press releases for tonight’s Jerry Lawler-Marty Jannetty USWA title match. Have placed several calls to Jannetty’s hotel room that have not been returned. I know Marty from back when he was just a cute little thing, bug-eyed and grateful that a journalist would deem him important enough to speak with.

To his credit, Jannetty was one of the few athletes who went unspoiled by success. Of course, he did become very successful—twice AWA World tag team champion with Shawn Michaels and very close to the WWF crown before Michaels turned against him. Wonder why he hasn’t called?

6:01 p.m.: Card starts in an hour, but 10 minutes ago a note was delivered to me room, unsigned, that read: “Wait after the card by the dressing room exit.”

There is a self-satisfied smirk on the face of Marty Jannetty that was not present even in the halcyon days of The Midnight Rockers. It is the smirk associated with rulebreakers.

Smells like something Jim Cornette might cook up—and he’s in Tennessee, too—but I can’t imagine why he’d be here tonight. Can’t say I dislike the intrigue.

9:46 p.m.: Was that Marty Jannetty… or Shawn Michaels? Not only did Jannetty wrestle a textbook rulebreaker’s match, he had help: Bert Prentice interfered on his behalf several times and was the reason Jannetty was eventually disqualified, although Jannetty

(Continued on page 58)
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers.

SID JUSTICE
This 6'8" superstar disappeared from the WWF in April—just before his series of matches against The Ultimate Warrior was set to begin. However, a WWF spokesman informed us that Justice was still under contract to the organization. Justice, who lives in Arkansas, was not available for comment, but a close friend of Justice's told us that "Sid just wants to relax right now, play some softball, and enjoy himself before hitting the mat again."

AL PEREZ
The "Latin Heartthrob"—one of the few men who has competed in just about every organization in the U.S.—is currently preparing for a world tour. He is scheduled to compete in Singapore, Asia, and Japan during the trek. "I've done this before," he told us. "I travel to pick up as much as I can from a variety of different opponents. I take notes as I go, and when I get back I put it all together and I'm a much better wrestler for it."

RAUL MATA
This veteran Mexican sensation was a major star in California during the '70s, and he's decided to put the tights on once again! The originator of the "Mata roll" is now competing in Florida for the International Wrestling Federation. "I weigh 220 pounds," Mata said proudly. "That's about the same as I weighed 20 years ago!" Mata competes against other light heavyweights, and currently is feuding with Caribbean Kid Berto.

DAVID SAMMARTINO
The son of "Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino is living in Georgia and conducts one-on-one training sessions with people who want to get into shape. "I really find this a lot of fun," Sammartino told us. "I get to meet a lot of interesting people and it really thrills me when I see their bodies getting into shape due to my coaching." David is also negotiating with several wrestling federations about returning to the mat.
“DIRTY WHITE BOY” Tony Anthony is justly known as one of the more talented brawlers in the sport today (“And that’s the way it should be. You have to be able to think as well as fight”) . . . Has come into prominence only during the past couple of years, but actually is a grizzled 15-year veteran of the sport . . . Gained his nickname by teaming with the original “Dirty White Boy,” Len Denton (“We were an awesome team that should be ranked among the all-time greats”) . . . First concentrated on singles competition in 1988, when he brought “Dirty White Girl” Kimberly, then known as Lady Mystic, into the Continental area (“Clearly the most beautiful and talented ring second in history”) . . . Garnered national criticism for allowing a crying Kim to bait Tom Prichard into thinking Anthony beat her up—then beating up Prichard (“Tasteless? So what? I hated Prichard then, and I hate him now”) . . . Moved to Memphis in 1989, where he met with immediate success . . . Won the CWA title that year by outlasting 11 other men in a grueling tournament (“When I won that title, I knew I had made it. After years of trying, I had established myself”) . . . As the CWA evolved into the USWA, remained a star in the federation . . . Won the USWA tag team title three times in 1990, twice with Doug Gilbert and once with big Tom Burton (“Just wanted to see if my tag team ability was still there—and, naturally, it was”) . . . Later became a key member in Eddie Gilbert’s Memphis Mafia, a team designed mainly to sneak-attack unsuspecting wrestlers . . . Remained a top contender into 1991, but trouble brewed in his personal life . . . Split from Kimberly following a dispute over his ring tactics (“Every couple goes through changes. That’s none of anyone’s business, anyway”) . . . Ventured to the WWF, where he briefly teamed with Brian Lee . . . Returned to the USWA, where he shocked the fans by turning good (“I couldn’t believe all those fans were cheering for me!”) . . . Teamed with Kim in a brutal series of matches against Miss Texas and Prichard during the summer of 1991 . . . Also battled former partner Eric Embry (“I made that bum spill more blood than any other man ever has”) . . . Became a top contender for both the USWA heavyweight and Southern titles . . . In one of this year’s most shocking match results, lost a loser-leaves-USWA bout against Psycho (“I was getting tired of the USWA, anyway”) . . . Ventured to the new Smoky Mountain wrestling, where he took up rulebreaking again under the tutelage of manager Ron Wright . . . Now a top contender for Brian Lee’s heavyweight title (“Once my partner, but soon to be my victim!”)
CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP

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NEWS FROM THE

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ORLANDO, FL
By Patrick Duffy

ULTIMATE WARRIOR
vs.
PAPA SHANGO

Warrior started off by sending Shango over the ropes with a clothesline. When Shango returned to the ring, he ducked another clothesline and hit Warrior with a big kneelift. Shango dominated for the next several minutes. He crunched Warrior with a shoulderbreaker, but was unable to score the pin. Warrior blasted Shango with right hands, leveled him with a shoulderblock, caught him with a big splash, and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Lanny Poffo defeated Jim Brunzell... Intercontinental champion Bret Hart pinned Shawn Michaels... The Legion of Doom beat The Bevery Brothers... Hackswag Duggan beat Repo Man by disqualification... Rick Martel pinned Tito Santana... The Nasty Boys beat Owen Hart & Jim Powers.

DES MOINES, IA
By Nathan Christensen

THE UNDERTAKER
vs.
BERZERKER

The Undertaker seemed lost through most of this match because his manager, Paul Bearer, was not at ringside. Undertaker took three piledrivers from Berzerker, but got up each time. Then Undertaker showed Berzerker the right way to do a piledriver, delivering a tombstone version, then pinning Berzerker. After the match, Mr. Fuji hit Undertaker with his cane several times. That didn’t faze Undertaker, who promptly gave Fuji a piledriver.

OTHER BOUTS: Crush beat Kato... Kerry Von Erich pinned Skinner... Tatanka beat Col. Mustafa... The Mountie defeated Sgt. Slaughter by disqualification... The Natural Disasters beat World tag team champions Money Inc. by countout... World champion Randy Savage beat Ric Flair by disqualification.

MEMPHIS, TN
By Jeremy Golden

ERIC EMBRY
vs.
MOONDOG SPOT

Less than a minute into the match, Embry hit Richard Lee, The Moondogs’ interfering manager. As Embry refocused his attack on Spot, Lee blew his whistle and the other Moondogs, Spike and Cujo, ran to the ring. The ’Dogs were triple-teaming Embry when Jerry Lawler and Jeff Jarrett ran to the ring and forced the rulebreakers out. Embry was awarded the match by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Tag team champions Moondogs Spike and Cujo wrestled The Power Twins to a double-disqualification... Jerry Lawler, Jeff Jarrett, & Eric Embry defeated The Moondogs... Eddie Gilbert beat USWA champion Jerry Lawler by disqualification... Southern champion Brian Christopher defeated Tom Prichard... Cat Garrett & Larry Arch defeated Psycho & The Intern.
Throughout the match, Travis attempted to use a chain on Adams. Travis eagerly took the contest outside the ring, battering Adams with tables and chairs. Finally, Adams got the chain away from Travis and used it against him. Adams was all over Travis when they got back in the ring. After Adams pinned Travis, he chased him back to the dressing room.


U.S. champion Rude came to the ring for this contest looking more arrogant than ever, but Steamboat looked as confident as Rude was arrogant. This quickly turned into a classic contest with each man using his best moves. They also tried to rub each other’s faces into the cage. Rude pinned “The Dragon” to retain the title, but both men were so exhausted that neither looked like a winner.


Hammer and Southern scoped each other out at the Scope and didn’t like what they saw. It seemed like they couldn’t wait to tear into each other. There wasn’t a lot of wrestling skill on display, but both men fought with a lot of intensity. Hammer pinned Southern after giving him a slingshot suplex. Southern shot Hammer a stare that seemed to say, I’ll be back.

out of my head until I realized what I was watching: another hideous hybrid of wrestling. What’s most annoying is that Madusa has ring skills and chooses to misuse them in this manner. We already knew that Missy was nothing more than an hourglass figure and a pair of legs. Now tell us something we didn’t know.

NEW YORK: Feeling presidential? Well, the Democratic National Convention has me thinking about our choices and, to tell you the truth, I’d rather have to choose between Hector Guerrero vs. Joe Cazana or Mighty Moses vs. Little Ninja. Nah, I’m not getting political on you, but it kind of makes me laugh when people criticize Ross Perot for not announcing his positions on the issues. Well, when did Clinton and Bush announce their positions? Last time I voted was in 1960 and Nixon lost. Thought about voting in 1980, but kept on seeing an old man and a monkey every time I considered voting for RR. This year, I’m going to stay home and watch wrestling tapes. You know, as far as I know—and that’s pretty far—Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair have never been invited to the White House. The Presidents love rubbing noses with the Chicago Bulls and the Minnesota Twins, but wrestlers, some of the greatest athletes alive, get the ol’ thumbs down from the White House. Still feeling presidential? Well, consider that a few years ago when we ran the “Hulk Hogan For President” cover, not too many people objected. In fact, they liked the option. I’m getting too far off the point. Actually, I’m not sure what point I’m trying to make. Try this: People complain about the quality of wrestling these days, they yell about the circus atmosphere in the WWF, they’re insulted that Vince McMahon doesn’t tell the truth. Then they go and vote for a President. That kind of thinking sounds convoluted.

ABBOTSBURG, BRITISH COLUMBIA: West Coast Championship Wrestling. Jimmy Snuka vs. Col. DeBeers. The stuff that apartheid dreams are made of. If you’ve
Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport’s hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor.

**DALLAS:** A clue to your traveling reporter: Whenever I feel like getting something off my chest, I go to New York and write from there. Now I'm in Dallas, the Big D. I'm here to talk with "Hollywood" John Tatum, who tonight teamed with Rod Price to beat Jimmy Jones and Hurricane Mike. The stuff that dreams are made of! My main objective, however, is to talk to Tatum about Missy Hyatt. If anybody knows about Missy, it's Tatum. He

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**JIMMY SNUKA VS. COL. DEBEERS**

been watching carefully for the last, oh, 10 or 20 years, you’ve probably noticed that certain wrestlers keep each other alive. Snuka and DeBeers seem to have a traveling hate show. Wherever one shows up, the other is sure to appear before long. Snuka hates DeBeers, DeBeers hates Snuka, they’ve been fighting ever since the AWA was alive and well, and here they are in British Columbia doing it all over again. In other words, since nobody else cares about DeBeers and few people are interested in Snuka, Snuka and DeBeers can hate each other, have matches, and make money. Is the hate genuine? You bet it is. Are their matches good? Okay, don’t push your luck. Snuka pinned DeBeers on this card, which thrilled the right-thinkers but infuriated those who think like DeBeers (and there are a lot of them out there). Afterward, DeBeers and Snuka did not dress in the same locker room and did not go to the same bar. They stayed in the same hotel, but not on the same floor. As for this feud, it did not hold my interest long enough to stay in British Columbia.

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**JOHN TATUM & MISSY HYATT**

was her first beau before Eddie Gilbert and then The Wonder Years came along. Missy dumped Tatum for Gilbert and the rest is history. Well, I broached the subject to Tatum and he just turned and walked away. Asked Price if Tatum had a problem and Price snapped at me: "Yeah, he's got a problem. It's reporters who can't forget the past. Well, Johnny's forgotten it. He has all the women he'll ever need." Now, I'm not doubting that, but I was just looking for some kind of clue as to what makes a bimbo tick. Caught up to Tatum later in a local bar and, sure enough, he had three women hanging all over him, one better looking than the other but none of them even close to Missy Hyatt. Tatum didn't look like he wanted to talk. Caught a glance of me, gave me an evil sneer, and just turned the other way. Couldn't blame him. Turned to the bartender and asked for a shot of Glenlivet. "That'll be three bucks," he said. Three bucks for Glenlivet. I'm beginning to like this place.
Championships are in the eye of the beholder. A title by any other name would smell as sweet? Doodlings of a bored high school wrestling fan? No. Simply famous quotations, Eddie Gilbert style.

Back not too long ago, Gilbert was lauded for defending his Global North American championship around the country against a variety of opponents. It reminded many of a time when it was part of a champion’s obligation to risk his belt and honor in strange lands against unfamiliar opponents. A successful road trip made homecoming that much sweeter.

Though cable and pay-per-view television have electronically brought wrestling talent from one federation to another, many fans yearn for the days when the arrival of another federation’s champion stirred hearts and imaginations.

This Gilbert did, and quite successfully. But true to form, the next time Gilbert returned to Memphis, he had flipped events upside down. Oh, he still wore the Global North American belt—except Global no longer recognized him as its champion!

Apparently, he enjoyed his forays outside the federation so much, he had neglected to defend the Global gold within the federation’s boundaries. Despite repeated warnings, Gilbert would not wrestle, and Global officials had no choice but to strip him of the championship.

“It was a non-emotional issue that has nothing to do with Eddie’s personality,” said Global official Marco Villas. “Either you follow the rules or you don’t. It was his choice.”

What surprised fans the most was that, lately at least, Gilbert had been following directions. His ascent to the throne coincided with a reunion with his long-lost fans. Gilbert had been wildly cheered in Global whistlestops all
When is a title not a title? When Eddie Gilbert defends the “Global International” belt, that’s when. “Hot Stuff” insists he’s a champion, and he’s been putting his belt on the line against USWA champion Jerry Lawler—but this time, he’s reached a rulebreaking apex from which he can never return.

Eddie Gilbert has brought his brash style to the USWA and has gone straight after champion Jerry Lawler (above). But before he lowered the boom on referee Frank Corelli (right), Global officials lowered his status by stripping him of the North American title.
over the land. He seemed to have taken to the cheers, often spending uncharacteristic moments after the matches signing autographs.

"This cheering stuff ain't half bad," he said. "I think I can get used to this."

Fans of Gilbert, who had stuck with him through his many personality switches, were overjoyed. "This is the Eddie we knew would win out in the end," said bubbly young Janice Elsesque, who had waited an hour for her hero's autograph, and was rewarded with a signed T-shirt and a kiss. "We knew there was good in this man."

Well, what can fans know? The Gilbert that returned to Memphis made even his old bad self look good. He followed an interview sneak-attack of Jerry Lawler with the type of ring behavior that has earned him a reputation as one of the country's most abhorrent rulebreakers. He thrashed Lawler from post to post, employing a variety of foreign objects and some plain, old-fashioned brutality.

Several fans who had made the trip to Memphis in support of Gilbert were horrified. For one, it was the last straw. "How many times can you have your heart broken?" asked Leslie Skinner of nearby Hendersonville. "I've poured so much energy into supporting Eddie Gilbert. Just when you think he's turned a corner, he slips into his old ways. I'm numb. I don't care what happens to him. From now on, my favorite wrestler is whoever is wrestling Eddie Gilbert!"

Other fans were more charitable. "What did we expect?" asked Laura Dutton of Forest Hills. "If you root for Eddie Gilbert, you've got to take the bad with the good. Heck, that's why you root for him in the first place. Who wants to waste their energy on some goody two-shoes, anyway?"

One very important wrestler was not nearly as charitable. "We are witnessing Eddie's final meltdown," said an angry Lawler, who continues to defend his belt against Gilbert. "I've been battling this man for many years, but this is as crazy as I've ever seen him. Many people have told me that the reason he hates me so much is that he secretly wants (Continued on page 62)
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Scott Steiner didn’t exactly flip when he found out he would be wrestling The Great Muta. But once the match got underway, Steiner decided to flip Muta instead.

The Fluke Match That Became A Classic!
SCOTT STEINER WASN'T displaying much patience. Sitting in The Omni locker room before the start of the card, Scott laughed and joked with his brother Rick. At the same time, he fidgeted nervously.

“I don’t like this, Rick,” he said to his older brother. “You know, I have to know who I’m gonna wrestle. This whole thing with the battle royal is too unpredictable. Who knows what could happen?”

The “whole thing” to which Scott referred was a 20-man battle royal with an unusual stipulation: After the first eight men were eliminated, the last 12 would have to wrestle in singles matches later that night in the order in which they were eliminated. For example, the ninth man out would have to wrestle the 10th man out, the 11th out would wrestle the 12th, and so on.

Steiner did not appreciate this novel approach to matchmaking.

“Hey, man, I’ll wrestle anybody in the world, even you,” Scott said as he pointed at Rick. “What I don’t like is not having the time to prepare for a particular guy. It really bugs me!”

“C’mon, Scotty,” Rick retorted. “You know all these guys pretty well. Why do you need so much time to get ready for them? You’re too wound up. Hey, you might not even have to wrestle again. You might be one of the first eight guys out.”

Scott shot his brother a cold glance. Then he slipped back into deep thought.

On this night at The Omni, Scott Steiner was not scheduled to wrestle The Great Muta. Actually, he didn’t know who his opponent would be. After the match was over, though, nearly everyone in attendance realized they had just witnessed one of the year’s greatest bouts!
than just about anybody going today. This isn’t fair. This isn’t fair at all.”

“Hey, what’s your problem?” Rick shot back. “Stop bellyaching and get with the program! I can’t figure you out, man. You know Muta well. You don’t have anything to worry about.”

Scott was barely listening.

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In the same locker room, Muta sat quietly, almost in meditation. He had faced Steiner before, but not under such circumstances. He, too, did not particularly appreciate the idea of contesting a match against one of the sport’s toughest and most respected athletes. But he wasn’t complaining.

“These are the rules,” said Muta through an interpreter. “I fully understood them when I stepped into the ring. I may not like them, but there they are. I accept them and go on. My intention now is to wrestle the best match I possibly can.”

Muta sat silently for a few more minutes. Then he began the walk to the ring.

***

There was no animosity between the two when the match began. They shook hands and then went about their business. And what business it was. The match was full of the moves and maneuvers, the holds and counterholds, that have made these men famous.

At several points during the match, both men lost their tempers. The occasional outbursts of anger, though, did not mar the proceedings. They both concentrated on wrestling, not arguing. Who would have expected less?

When Steiner whipped Muta across the ring in preparation for the “Frankensteiner,” Muta held on to the ropes and avoided Scott’s clutch. Steiner moved in for a clothesline, but Muta ducked and Scott went flying over the ropes.

For more than 15 minutes, they fought with this kind of intensity. After Muta blasted Steiner with an
elbow and a sidekick, he mounted the top turnbuckle with the intention of delivering the winning blow. But as he swooped down, Steiner caught him with a bearhug, then suplexed him to the mat and covered him for the pin.

Muta was gracious in defeat. As the referee raised Steiner’s hand in victory, the Japanese sensation shook Scott’s hands and embraced him. A classic match had ended with class.

... Back in the locker room, Steiner showered off, then wondered why he had worried so much just 45 minutes before.

“Man, I love to have this type of competition every night!” Scott enthused. “This is why you become a wrestler, so you can have great matches like this. Yeah, it got tough in there, but so what? After tonight, I have even more respect for Muta. Hey, these battle royal deals aren’t too bad after all. Wonder who I’ll wrestle next time?”

Scott and his brother were discussing the match when Muta walked over to them and patted Scott on the back. He spoke, in English.

“Good match, Scott, good match,” he said haltingly. “Someday we do it again.”

Scott smiled.

“Yeah, buddy,” he answered. “Someday. Yeah, someday.”
On August 29, SummerSlam '92, the WWF's annual spectacular, will take place in London, England, at the world-famous Wembley Stadium. It will be the first SummerSlam held outside the United States, and the first WWF pay-per-view event to take place off the North American continent.

SUMMERSLAM

Our Panel Of Experts Predicts The Winners

What should make SummerSlam doubly exciting for the fans in England is the fact that "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith will receive a shot at Intercontinental champion Bret Hart—right in front of his home country fans.

 Fans in the United Kingdom and everywhere else are looking forward to what may be the most surprising match of the year: World champion Randy "Macho Man" Savage against The Ultimate Warrior. These two pop-
ular athletes will test the loyalties of their supporters, as well as test each other in the ring.

All three WWF titles will be on the line, as Money Inc. — Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster — defends the World tag team belts against The Legion of Doom in a rematch that’s six months in the making. In addition, there will be some intriguing matchups, like The Undertaker vs. Kamala, and the battle between former Demolition partners, Crush and Repo Man.

We have asked four experts for their views on this annual summertime extravaganza. Three are wrestlers who have competed in the WWF.

Dynamite Kid is best known to WWF fans as Davey Boy Smith’s partner in The British Bulldogs. Former NWA World champion Terry Funk wrestled in the federation along with his brother Dory. Bad News Brown battled Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title, and feuded with Bret Hart. Our fourth panelist is Inside Wrestling Senior Editor Bill Apter.

See if you agree with their picks.
For months, Savage was preoccupied with "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, while Ultimate Warrior warred with Papa Shango. All that matters now, though, is the World championship.

**Bill Apter:** There's one thing we can say for certain. Both men will be at the top of their games. They don't know any other way. They both like to hit the ring aggressively. Expect a lot of action in the first several minutes, a lot of clotheslines and flying ax handles. Savage is craftier than Warrior, and I think that will make the difference.

**Bad News Brown:** Let's not forget all the bad blood between these two in the past. Remember, it was Savage who cost Warrior the World title at the Royal Rumble [in 1991] when he smacked him with that scepter, and that let Sgt. Slaughter win. Then Warrior got back at him when he beat him in that retirement match at WrestleMania VII. Just the memory of that will carry Savage to victory.

**Dynamite Kid:** Savage is much more skilled than Warrior. But Warrior has a strength advantage, which will be very important, because I don't think the match will last more than a few minutes. Warrior will overpower 'Macho Man' and recapture the World belt.

**Terry Funk:** I don't think much of Warrior as a wrestler. Frankly, I just don't think he's tough enough. Then you look at Savage. He's a very flamboyant guy, but he's a top-rate competitor. Warrior will grab an early advantage, but he'll wear down and Savage will go to work. He'll score the pin after a couple of flying ax handles.
The two former teammates in Demolition (Repo Man then was known as Smash) have had their eyes on each other ever since Crush returned to the federation earlier this year.

**Bill Apter:** There was always a lot of animosity between these two when they were teammates. When Crush came in as the third member of Demolition, Repo was instantly jealous. Crush is a very fine athlete, but Repo never forgets. His sneakiness will carry him to victory.

**Bad News Brown:** What I’ve seen from Crush has really impressed me. He’s a powerhouse and, more importantly, he knows how to use that power. Repo can talk about repossessing all he wants. That won’t save him from Crush’s mighty grip.

**Dynamite Kid:** The only thing going for Repo here is experience. Everything else falls in Crush’s favor. Repo will try to stall and gain the psychological advantage, but Crush doesn’t strike me as the type who will fall for that. As soon as Repo quits stalling, Crush will move in for the kill.

**Terry Funk:** Repo would be a great wrestler if he just got serious about the sport. That isn’t a problem for Crush; that young man is very serious. Crush is still a little wet behind the ears, but he’ll have all the experience he’ll need to beat Repo.

Repo Man is extremely sneaky, but he gets the job done, as Kerry Von Erich discovers.

Crush has done just that to opponents like Keto since returning to the WWF. He intends to do the same to his former tag team partner.
Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster captured the World belts from Hawk and Animal in February, but there was never a rematch. At SummerSlam, LOD finally gets its chance.

**Bill Apter:** I can’t see The Legion of Doom losing. I’ve watched this team close up for almost 10 years. They come through in the big matches. I agree with people who say that Paul Ellering’s return has been an enormous boost to them. DiBiase and Schyster are good, but they won’t be good enough.

**Bad News Brown:** Money Inc. is nasty, but they can wrestle, too. I mean, they’re damn good athletes with superb command of the basics. But I’m going to have to go with The Legion of Doom here. Their size advantage is one reason. Another is that they look to be a lot hungrier than Money Inc. It’s a combination that’ll spell bad news for the champs.

**Dynamite Kid:** We shouldn’t discount the fact that Hawk and Animal can wrestle. They’re brutal, but they have a good repertoire. If Money Inc. can figure out a way to counteract that, they’ll have a fighting chance. But I don’t think they will.

**Terry Funk:** Two men will walk out of that ring with championship belts. Those two men will be DiBiase and IRS. I’ve always believed Hawk and Animal were overrated. They don’t have that ring intelligence that’s so important. They’ve been winners, but against a crafty team like Money Inc., they’ll fall victim to befuddlement and confusion.
“British Bulldog” Smith receives a rare shot at the intercontinental title against a man he feuded with when Hart was a member of The Hart Foundation and Smith teamed with Dynamite Kid in The British Bulldogs.

Bill Apter: Naturally, you can’t discount the boost Davey Boy will get wrestling on his home turf. He’ll be incredibly pumped up. Hart, though, is too good to let that bother him. He may be the best technical wrestler in the WWF today. He’ll dazzle Smith with his knowledge of the sport, and no amount of cheering will make up for that.

Bad News Brown: As someone who wrestled Hart, I can tell you that as great as his scientific skills are, he’s underrated as a brawler. Davey Boy will become frustrated and turn this match into a brawl. That will be a huge mistake. Hart will stand right up to him. They can brawl or wrestle. Either way, Hart has the edge.

Dynamite Kid: Davey Boy has bulked up quite a bit since we were teammates, and that has cut down on his quickness. He’s more of a power wrestler now. That will create quite a problem for Bret. Bret’s done well against power wrestlers, but Davey is different in that he is more agile than the average big man. I think he’ll pull off the surprise.

Terry Funk: If Bret sticks to what he does best, he’ll win. It’s simple, but there it is. The Bulldog might rough up Bret a bit, but he just can’t match up to Hart on the mat, or off it. Hart is just too good of a wrestler to be bothered by anything the Bulldog throws at him.
Managed by Paul Bearer, the macabre Undertaker has become more popular than ever. He'll need that fan support when he battles Kamala, the fearsome "Ugandan Giant," managed by Harvey Wippleman.

**Bill Apter:** Undertaker has never faced anyone quite like Kamala. The Ugandan is pure brutality. He's more of a monster than a wrestler. But Undertaker has faced such a high level of competition in the WWF—Ultimate Warrior and Hulk Hogan, for example—that he'll be able to handle Kamala.

**Bad News Brown:** If Kamala would take the time to learn a few basic skills, he'd really be dangerous. This might be the biggest match of Kamala's career, and he doesn't even realize it. I'm picking Undertaker because he's crazy enough to stand up to a guy like Kamala.

**Dynamite Kid:** A man like Kamala shouldn't even be allowed in the ring. Again, I have to point out that Kamala outweighs Undertaker by 100 pounds. Undertaker is tremendous at absorbing punishment, but will he be able to deal out suitable punishment to Kamala? I'm afraid not.

**Terry Funk:** Kamala will be out for blood. But look at what Undertaker has done. Here's a guy who locked Ultimate Warrior in a coffin! Do you think a man like that is afraid of some savage? Undertaker will win.

Kamala is a brutal and violent savage and may be the first opponent not awed by Undertaker.

The strength of Undertaker, a former WWF World champion, may be tested by Kamala, who outweighs him by nearly 100 pounds.
Earthquake and Typhoon could not dethrone The Legion of Doom, but they fared much better than Beau and Blake did against the former champions.

Frustrated over their inability to win the World tag title, Earthquake and Typhoon have redirected their fury at Beau and Blake Beverly, managed by "Genius" Lanny Poffo.

**Bill Apter:** The Disasters just have too much of a size and power advantage in this contest. Beau and Blake were crushed by The Legion of Doom and they’ll be crushed here. If they dare call the Disasters "sissies," they’ll get beat even worse.

**Bad News Brown:** Remember, the Beverlys have Poffo in their corner. This is important, because I think 'Quake and Typhoon can be easily distracted. Poffo knows his team can only win if he gets involved. I look for that to happen, and I pick the Beverlys to pull off the upset.

**Dynamite Kid:** Earthquake and Typhoon are a lot smarter than people give them credit for. Combine those smarts with their huge size, and I just don’t see how the Beverlys can win.

**Terry Funk:** Look for Beau and Blake to use a lot of quick tags and a lot of maneuvers off the top rope. Keeping themselves fresh gives them their best chance at winning. But even that’s a long-shot. The Disasters will throw those Beverlys around without a problem.
ERIC EMBRY

“I’LL MAKE THE MOONDogs ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD!”

There are lots of strange things going on in the USWA, the federation where strangeness is a way of life. There’s a man named Psycho running around in a straightjacket. Marty Jannetty has returned—as a rulebreaker. And Eric Embry—yes, that Eric Embry—is being given standing ovations every night.

As odd as it sounds, Embry has become an ally of Jeff Jarrett and Jerry Lawler. It’s not that the flamboyant superstar has altered his tactics, which can be repugnant—vile. It’s mainly because Embry has dedicated himself to riding the federation of the rabid and riotous Moondogs.

This unusual situation began on April 11, when Embry was attacked by The Moondogs during a television broadcast in Memphis. Previously, Embry had been on good terms with Moondogs’ manager Richard Lee, but this was one of those weeks when Spike, Spot, and Cujo were attacking anything that moved. Embry begged Lawler and Jarrett—previously his worst enemies—to let him team with them against the 'Dogs two days later at the Mid-South Coliseum.

During that bout, Spot ran to the ring with a flask filled with what appeared to be battery acid, and prepared to hurl it at Jarrett. Embry prevented the attack, but got the deadly liquid splashed into his eyes as a result.

After weeks of eye therapy, Embry is back, and he’s dedicating his career to the fans—and to rubbing out The Moondogs. Skeptical Managing Editor Bob Smith ventured to Memphis to speak to Embry about this unexpected turn of events.

A: Bob, it’s good to see you again, but actually, it’s good for me to see anybody right now (laughs).

Q: You’re making light of this situation, but the incident where Spot threw the acid in your eyes was one of the most frightening moments I’ve ever seen. Were you afraid of losing your sight?

A: To be honest with you, that wasn’t the biggest thing on my mind during the weeks I was out of action. I know my face got pretty ripped up because of the acid, and I looked like hell. But all I wanted was to get back into the ring and get my hands on those tick-infested mongrels and their slimy manager. Man, I’m still waiting to get my revenge, too.

Q: You really went through some changes while you were on the disabled list, didn’t you?

A: I guess you could put it that way. There I was, lying in a hospital bed, getting bombarded with gifts and flowers from the fans. Even Jerry Lawler and Eddie Marlin sent me gifts. Can you believe that? After I spent a year putting down the
I created a monster here, and I'd be more than happy to end Brian Christopher's title reign.

people and the wrestlers in the Mid-South, everybody wished me well, like nothing had happened. You know I love Texas, don't you?

Q: Well, how could I forget? You went around screaming "Texas" every time you entered a Memphis arena!

A: That's true. But now, I love Memphis just as much. These people around here were the motivating factor to why I was able to come back from my injuries so quickly. Now, I'm determined to get rid of those three fat, ugly, stupid Moondogs—even if I have to do it all by myself.

Q: Why do you say that? Jarrett, Lawler, and Pez Whatley have all been more than willing to team with you against the 'Dogs.

A: That's true, but you've got to understand that we all were enemies for so long. Sure, we team together, but do we trust each other? I'm still not so sure about that.

Q: I know that Jeff Jarrett trusts you. After all, that battery acid was meant for his eyes, and you saved him.

A: That's true, and that's why I've got to get rid of these people. What business does a wrestler have throwing acid around a wrestling ring? I've done some pretty bad stuff during the past couple of years, but I never tried to deprive a man of his life and limb. But that's what Lee and his curs have tried to do to me, and I'll be damned if I let them do that to anybody else around here. That's not wrestling. That's attempted murder. But I'll beat 'em. I'll be more than happy to make The Moondogs roll over and play dead.

Q: But just how to you plan to do that? It's not such an easy task. Jarrett and Lawler tried to stop The Moondogs for months, and even they couldn't get the job done.

A: That's true. But I owe Lawler a
big one, and I'll let him and his title be for now. But that punk Brian Christopher is running around calling himself a double-champion, and I made the guy.

Q: What do you mean?
A: I made the guy! When he split up from Tony Williams in The New Kids, he came to me looking for guidance. He wanted to learn to be as mean and nasty as anyone, and at the time, I was definitely the man to come to. Now, he's running around with the Texas and Southern belts, but the only reason he holds them is because he used outside interference or lousy official decisions to come up with victories. I created a monster here, and I'd be more than happy to end Christopher's title reign. Then, if I'm an honorable champion, I think the USWA fans will have no choice but to support me.

Q: Of course, your pursuit of Christopher may be a long time in coming. The Moondogs are still the champions, and they're still ripping people apart.
A: That's right, they are, and enough is too much. Frankly, I think this is all the USWA's own fault. Eddie Marlin was on the verge of suspending Lee and his hounds, but then they went and suspended Marlin. This Joe Coffey guy...

Q: That's Guy Coffey.
A: Whatever. Anyway, the little runt doesn't have a clue. He's allowing the 'Dogs to get away with murder. What this federation needs is a tough, nasty man who can get every bit as low as those gutter slime can.

Embry nearly lost his career—and his sight—when Spot hurled acid in his face (above). Embry stumbles around the ring as Spot, rapidly losing blood, plans his next move (below).

Q: To some people, maybe. But a lot of fans are still concerned about your sight. I've learned your vision still isn't at 100 percent, and another injury could be very serious.
A: Don't you worry about me, and tell the fans not to. You tell Lee and his boys to worry. I'm gonna put those fools on a short leash, 'cause I'm bad to the bone!
WCW Internal Memo
Leaked To
Inside Wrestling!

To: WCW Championship Committee
From: Ron Simmons
Re: World title matches

Sirs,

It’s very much unlike me to have to express myself in this manner, but I seem to have reached an impasse in my career.

I recently have scored pinfall victories over Vinnie Vegas, Mr. Hughes, Cactus Jack, Terrence Taylor, and other top WCW stars. However, I seem to be getting only the center of a donut for my efforts.

I realize that Sting and I are good friends. I also know that matchmakers don’t often have fan favorites wrestle. But this is an opportunity I have been denied for much too long. It is high time I received a shot at the WCW World title.

I proved myself in a great effort against Lex Luger at Halloween Havoc ’91. But since then, I’ve received no title opportunities, even though I am essentially undefeated since that time. I have no recourse but to demand a World title match against Sting—now.

Ron Simmons

RON SIMMONS:

“I DEMAND A MATCH WITH STING—"
IT WAS AS startling a piece of correspondence as any ever received at the headquarters of World Championship Wrestling. WCW office workers scratched their heads as they stared at the piece of paper that the fax machine had just spit out.

"Er... page Mr. Watts," said a beleaguered young office intern. "And stop staring over my shoulder, guys! Somebody handed me this, but I'm not sure how many people should be looking at it."

After high-ranking wrestling officials got a look at the fax, it became a usual part of the modern American office: One memo became a paper trail. Copies were forwarded to various executives. Others were completely prohibited from seeing it. And, in another great American tradition, the content of the fax was rewritten in language much more palatable to those involved.

That's a lot of shuffling for what reportedly was a simple, handwritten note in its original form. But the intent of the missive is what shocked and disturbed the officials, and made it a reason for serious concern.

A reprint of Ron Simmons' handwritten memo to WCW (opposite page) was typeset and distributed to top-ranking officials. In lieu of WCW World title shots, Simmons wrestles Terry Taylor (left).

He has the victories. He has the respect. So why isn't Ron Simmons a contender for Sting's WCW World title? That's a question the "All-American" has been long asking himself. The muscular fan favorite has decided to let the officials know of his championship passion—and now he can't be ignored much longer!
Ron Simmons didn’t really mean to cause such a panic. But as one of WCW’s most popular and accomplished athletes, he believed he had a right to let the federation know how he felt.

And he hasn’t been feeling very good—at least on the inside.

Outwardly, Simmons has been the consummate professional. Terrence Taylor? Another victory. Mr. Hughes? Hard-fought win. Vinnie Vegas? Cactus Jack? Each time, Simmons leaves the ring a winner. In one incredible night on June 7 at The Omni in Atlanta, Simmons won a grueling 20-man battle royal—and later defeated superstar Arn Anderson on the same card.

What did Simmons get for his efforts? Pretty much, he got what he termed as “the center of the donut” in his fax to the WCW offices. They weren’t words intended for the general public—but when the editors of Inside Wrestling got a copy of both the heavily circulated (and reworded) internal memo, his intentions rang clear.

“Simmons is absolutely right,” said Editor-In-Chief Craig Peters. “There wasn’t a point he made on his fax that wasn’t 100 percent accurate. He’s got to have the finest winning percentage of any singles wrestler in WCW. So why isn’t he getting opportunities to take the title from Sting?”

That’s what Simmons would like to know. He realizes there are many good reasons why the officials are wary to sanction a Simmons-Sting match. But he can come up with just as many good reasons why they should. Here’s part of Simmons’ comments:

“I realize that Sting and I are good friends. I also know that matchmakers don’t often have fan favorites face off against each other. But this is an opportunity I have been denied for much too long . . . I proved myself in a great effort against Lex Luger at Halloween Havoc ’91. But since then, I’ve received no title opportunities, even though I am essentially undefeated since that time. I have no recourse but to demand a World title match against Sting—now.”

WCW officials refused to comment on the fax, but one executive was boiling about our intentions to print Simmons’ comments.

“That memo was intended for the officials only,” said Simmons. “I don’t want anybody to get the wrong idea. I admire Sting, and I consider him one of my best friends. It’s just that I’m out there busting my tail every night, but I’m being overlooked. I can’t let this go on much longer.”

Of course, there is always the fear that Simmons might revert back to rulebreaking. Combined with Butch Reed as Doom, the former Florida State University football standout forged a reputation for unbridled cruelty. Fortunately, Simmons changed his philosophy after splitting with manager Teddy Long. Not many people believe that Simmons would attempt to lose the respect he’s worked so hard to get from the fans.
“The bad days are over for Ron,” said Junkyard Dog, who has teamed with Simmons often during the past few months. “He’s an honest man with a very high sense of morals. But I do get the sense that Ron might think he’s been too much of a nice guy lately, you know what I mean? Nice guys do have a tendency... well, not to finish last, but to get overlooked when they start handing out the title matches.”

Simmons himself is looking at the situation from a purely athletic perspective.

“Hey, any team that has the most wins ends up in the first place, right?” reasoned Simmons. “Right now, I feel I have the most victories, but I’m only in fifth or sixth place for my efforts. That’s not fair at all. I’d bet if you asked Sting about the situation, he’d say the same thing.”

We did ask Sting about the prospect of taking on Simmons for his championship. Admittedly, it is not the kind of match the popular Californian would enjoy.

“First off, I hate competing against my friends,” said Sting after he read Simmons’ memo. “That’s the quickest way to lose one. Anybody remember Lex Luger? Plus, from a purely selfish standpoint, beating Ron Simmons has to be one of the hardest tasks imaginable. Have you seen the way he’s been wrestling lately? He’s never been better—he’s incredible. But as champion, if that’s who the officials want me to wrestle, then that’s who I’ll get in there with. But it certainly wouldn’t be easy.”

Simmons has the victories, the ability, and the desire. Now, the entire wrestling world knows of his plight. All he’s looking for is a chance—an honest chance.

“It’s not Sting I’m after,” said Simmons without rancor. “I just want the title. Isn’t that every wrestler’s dream?”
The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off... One on One

Fans with long memories know there is more to the current feud between Rick and Scott Steiner and the team of Steve “Dr. Death” Williams and Terry Gordy than first meets the eye. These duos are clearly established as the two toughest teams in the sport at this juncture. But some people know that Williams and Rick Steiner have disliked each other for years.

In 1988, Kevin Sullivan’s Varsity Club, then a premier rulebreaking clique, was experiencing a great deal of internal dissension. The charter members of the Club, Rick Steiner and Mike Rotundo, argued constantly—playfully at first, but then with real rancor, at least on Rotundo’s part. After just a few months, Steiner was forced out of the team, and really couldn’t understand why. His replacements were the more experienced Dan Spivey—and a veteran named Steve Williams.

Although Rick went on to defeat Rotundo for the NWA TV championship, his lust for revenge was not satisfied. Rick teamed with Eddie Gilbert to beat Williams and Sullivan for the U.S. tag team title in 1989, but the big prize—the World tag championship—was won by Williams and Rotundo, who beat The Road Warriors in a match that Rick believed he and Gilbert should have received.

Three years have passed, but the intense hatred Steiner has for Williams hasn’t subsided—and Williams has little use for Rick. Away from their current partners, we put these enemies on the telephone and let the cable burn... "One On One."

STEVE WILLIAMS:
Well, well, what have we here? Rick Steiner, the “Dogfaced Gremlin,” the guy with his pal, Alex, painted on his hand. Read any good comic books lately, you moron?

RICK STEINER:
Hey, that was years ago, Doc. I don’t talk to my hand anymore, and I never read comic books. In case you haven’t noticed, I’m part of the greatest team in the world now—that’s me and my brother, Scotty, the WCW World tag team champions.

SW: Funny, you don’t look so great to me. If you’re so great, how come Gordy and I beat your pants off during that NWA tag team tournament in June?

RS: Beat us? You call that a victory, you big ape? You guys intentionally hurt Scotty’s knee, then you double-teamed him while the referee’s back was turned. You jerks
SW: Listen to me, junior, you might learn something. Gordy and I are men, while you and Rick are mental teenagers. Know what I'm saying? We have no fear—we don't duck anybody. We've been trying to get at you and Scott for about a year, but you've been hiding behind WCW rules and a bunch of other red tape. Now, because of the NWA tournament, we're back in the States—and we're not going to go away. Since we beat you once, the officials have no choice but to give us more matches against you guys, which, of course, will result in more victories—and the WCW World tag team title.

RS: Nice joke! There isn't anything you and Gordy and do that Scott and I can't do better. You're right, we are younger than you two are, but we're also stronger, faster, and better. We want to wrestle you again, and I'll tell you something: I've wanted to pound you ever since the Varsity Club days. You've got a big body, but you've also got a big yap. I can't wait to turn you black and blue. Where are you? I wanna beat you up right now!

SW: Hey, chill out, junior, have a Kool Pop or something. You want to come and beat me up? Fat chance. You probably had Scott dial the phone for you, since you're so stupid. You've got to have gray matter as well as muscle, goof. You've got to have smarts as well as talent, and you know what? You've got neither. You're an undisciplined stooge, and so is your brother. You think you're a great team, but you haven't proven anything to me yet.

RS: You know what Scotty and I are gonna prove to you? We're gonna prove that all the Japanese titles you won don't mean squat over here. We're gonna prove that Gordy never should've left The Freebirds. But most of all, we're gonna prove that you're big and bad, but your bones can be broken. Doc, you're gonna need a Doc—I'm gonna hurt you bad!

SW: You're stupid.

RS: You smell. Nyah!

SW: You're still a moron!

RS: Make that World champion moron, pal!
SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

BAD BRIAN

Like most USWA fans, I’ve had it up to my ears with Brian Christopher, and your article in the August 1992 issue, “Punk! Why Brian Christopher’s Bad Attitude Works For Him,” told exactly why. The guy just doesn’t know when to shut up.

In the last few months alone, he’s put the badmouth to Jerry Lawler, Jeff Jarrett, “New Kid” Tony Williams, matchmakers Eddie Marlin and Guy Coffey, Eric Embry, Tom Prichard, Tony Anthony, Kimberly, Tony Falk, The Moondogs, Richard Lee, USWA Southern and Texas champion Brian Christopher’s bad attitude has enraged several fan favorites in the federation. Reader Mitch Jones isn’t too fond of him, either.

The Power Twins . . .

That doesn’t leave very many people left to like Christopher, does it? I hope any one of them knocks Brian’s teeth down his throat, so we never have to listen to his big, vile mouth again.

MITCH JONES
Memphis, TN

JACK’S A JERK

So Cactus Jack doesn’t understand why Johnny B. Badd fails to get the willies whenever he’s near (“Cactus Jack’s Frustration: Why Doesn’t Johnny B. Badd Fear Me?”, August 1992)? Too bad. Badd is the first man in

(Continued on page 54)
THIS MONTH IN...

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Why the STING-NIKITA KOLOFF friendship appears doomed to failure

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ULTIMATE WARRIOR vs. RANDY SAVAGE—they'll settle this raging feud at SummerSlam!

Our offbeat plan to make Z-MAN the man in WCW!

PLUS...

A full-color centerfold of CACTUS JACK... Shocking photos: ERIC EMBRY passes THE MOONDOGS' acid test... FMW's fire bout—the most frightening match in wrestling history!... "Press Conference" with STEVE WILLIAMS... Learn why the WWF's top stars are mad as hell!

All this—and much more... in the October 1992 issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated

NOW ON SALE!
WCW to take the fight right to Cactus, and so far he's been wrestling like a champion.

When a guy like Cactus Jack gets excited, he's capable of doing just about anything. But against Badd, Cactus doesn't get excited—he gets frustrated. That's because Badd uses his wrestling skills to keep Jack lying helpless on the mat for minutes at a stretch.

Keep on doing it, Johnny—and keep on smiling. I think you're the only man in WCW who can end the scourge of this unwashed barbarian.

BOBBY LINCOLN
Marina Del Rey, CA

PIPER'S NOT PRESENT

Where is Roddy Piper? I read in many of your magazines that the “Hot Scot” had taped several “Piper's Pit”

The Sandman has taken back Peaches as his valet, but not before dumping Vivacious Veronica with a vicious clothesline, an act that outraged reader George Rottem.

segments, but to date, none of them have aired on television. I never thought it would happen, but I really miss the guy!

Bring back Roddy!

ED GLENNON
Edina, MN

BAN THE SANDMAN

I've seen the last few ECW cards, and I've seen a more sickening creature in all the sport than The Sandman—and his manager, Peaches, doesn't rank too far behind. I can't understand how Sandman wasn't suspended for delivering a brutal clothesline to Veronica. That's a man striking a woman, and that's not fair!

Sure, Sandman is a good wrestler. But his attitude is the worst. Mr. Sandman, bring me a Bromo!

GEORGE ROTTEM
Philadelphia

LOVE THAT CONNECTION

I think The California Connection—Rod Price and John Tatum—is the best tag team in the sport today. Every single week, they battle the best competition they can find in Global, yet I never see a story on these two hunks in your magazine.

Do a girl a favor and give me more Tatum and Price!

SARA PENNINGTON
Watertown, NY
Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of INSIDE WRESTLING. “The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling.” Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don’t be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

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July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnun T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.


December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnun T.A.


February 1985/Stories include: Rich Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloff, Von Erich.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Alabino & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Alfonso, Koloff.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erich, Studd & Patterson.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nick T.N.O.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Flair, DiBiase, Flair, Fantasy, Magnun T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erich, Rodman, Roderick, Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornett.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R.N.R. Express, Warriors, Million Man, Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Russians-Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Story includes Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock ‘n Rolls.

June 1986/Story includes Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvin, Martel, Fab One.


October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luna, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Omordoff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Hogan, Olaf, Koloff.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Flair, Steamboat, Elgin, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham & Flair, Steamboat, Hogan-Adonis.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Flair, Hogan, Von Erich.


October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T., Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Flair, Flair, Horsemen, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Flair & Lawler.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Hogan, Flair.

April 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Flair, Ultimate Warrior, T.N.O.


June 1988/Stories include: Flair, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Flair, Grizzly, Kelly & Hayes, Sting.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Hogan.

September 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

October 1988/Stories include: Magnun-Adonis vs. Superfly, Horsemen, Lawler.

November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Muraco, Freebirds.

December 1988/Stories include: Flair-Luna, Ultimate Flair, Flair, Piper.

January 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Ross, Lawler, Nasty, Flair.

February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Boosman, Tully & Flair, Langford, Sting.

March 1989/Stories include: Magnun-Adonis, Flair, Lawler, Magnun, T.A.

April 1989/Stories include: Flair-Luna, Ultimate Flair, Flair, Piper.

May 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Hogan, Flair.

June 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Missy, Flair, Flair.

July 1989/Stories include: Flair, Magnun, Flair, Lawler, Lawler.

August 1989/Stories include: Reign Supreme, Flair-Adonis, Magnun, T.A.

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November 1992/Stories include: Hogan, Flair, Flair, Flair, Flair.
Ron Simmons (left) scored a double-victory on June 7 at The Omni in Atlanta. He won a 20-man battle royal, then later defeated the rugged Arn Anderson in a singles bout.

tive groan. Nobody was looking forward to it. It certainly tested our abilities.”

There were some great matches. In fact, two of the matches led to the Match of the Week and Wrestler of the Week in Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly. Scott Steiner vs. The Great Muta (see story on page 30) was Match of the Week (and possibly a Match of the Year candidate), Ron Simmons won Wrestler of the Week for his match against Arn Anderson.

“It might have been the toughest match of my life,” Simmons said. “The battle royal took a lot out of me, and then after I eliminated Anderson, I knew I’d have to deal with him again.”

That’s not an easy task. Anderson is a crafty veteran with tremendous stamina and incredible wrestling knowledge. He takes something out of each match, but he had trouble taking anything out of the battle royal because it’s so different from a singles match.

“There’s nothing similar at all about the two,” Anderson said. “In that way, Simmons lucked out. But it was hard for me to get motivated for Simmons, especially after the battle royal. Besides, what does beating Simmons prove?”

Anderson will never know, because he lost to Simmons. And just in case Anderson was won-
dering, beating Simmons would have proven his ability to overcome a difficult series of obstacles on a most unusual night for wrestling.

Lex Luger will make a comeback in the WWF—and I have an idea he's thinking about it already. In fact, he might have been thinking about it all along.

I thought it was a bit strange when Luger left behind his wrestling career to join Vince McMahon's World Bodybuilding Federation, but now sources tell me there's a clause in Luger's contract that allows him to change his mind and wrestle for the WWF.

If Luger went straight to the WWF, he probably would have been forced to work his way up the ladder, just like everyone else. It would have taken Luger at least six months to prove what he already proved in WCW, that he's one of the best wrestlers in the world.

By going to the WBF, Luger got the spotlight immediately. And, obviously, McMahon and company have been willing to give Luger all the air time he wants.

It's only a matter of time before the crossover begins. Luger will use his airtime to challenge a WWF wrestler. The feud will grow over the airwaves until finally Luger breaks out of WBF and storms the WWF.

Do I have any proof of this? No. Just call it a gut feeling that seems very right. Luger is young, so talented, and with so much money-making potential as a wrestler, is not going to make a career out of bodybuilding. It never made sense. Now that I see Luger in action, it makes even less sense.

Top candidates as the targets of Luger's comeback: Ric Flair and The Ultimate Warrior. One is a long-time rival, and the Warrior has the best physique in the WWF.
one of those stages people go through. I brought you here because I respect your work, but I don't care about you or anyone else except Marty Jannetty."

Jannetty was right. As he was reciting the rulebreaker's creed, I did think it was a stage. He was too much of a nice guy to turn bad this quickly. Besides, true evil doesn't announce itself.

"I understand Shawn a lot better now," he said. "Though I'd still like to beat his head bloody, maybe one day down the line you might see a Rockers reunion that will literally turn heads."

Was this why I was in a Memphis bar at 3 a.m.? To learn of Jannetty's desire to reunite with his old partner as rulebreakers?

"I've got news for you, Marty," I said. "I don't think Shawn wants anything to do with you. He's battling Bret Hart with an eye toward Randy Savage. What are you doing besides running around with a guy like Prentice crying foul?"

It felt good to get that off my chest, though it had little effect, judging by the sick smile on Jannetty's face.

"When I was a child, Liz, I used to bury newborn kittens up to their heads and run them over with a lawnmower," he said. "I've been playing possum all these years. I'm a bad man. And I intend to get worse. Just you wait and see."

6:03 a.m.: Just arrived back to my hotel room after Jannetty left me stranded at the bar. A note was waiting for me: "Hope you enjoyed your stroll, Lizzie. Do keep in touch."

Did Papa Shango get ahold of this guy or what? Next month: an in-depth psychological profile of the man who would love to have you hate him.
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of greedy men who didn’t understand limits. These men can be reached in prisons around the country.

Add to this list Paul E. Dangerously. By all accounts a brilliant and gifted strategist, Dangerously’s Dangerous Alliance has in a few short months muscled into WCW’s title picture like no organization in recent history. The Alliance quickly captured the federation’s tag team belts (Anderson and Bobby Eaton), the TV title (Steve Austin), the U.S. championship (Rick Rude), and seemed well on its way to grabbing Sting’s World championship.

“Paul E. just doesn’t want to run WCW,” said one very famous wrestler, whose identity I will conceal as long as he keeps providing valuable inside information. “Paul E. imagines himself as the czar of the ring. He won’t stop at WCW. He’ll keep going till he runs out of earth.”

For example, take Dangerously’s initial press conference where he introduced the Alliance. “This is just the beginning,” he predicted. “I’m not after a single title here. Hell, a locker boy can manage someone to one championship. I want them all. We don’t plan to stop anytime soon. What you see here is just the nucleus.”

What did that mean? Did Dangerously plan to expand the Alliance roster from the beginning? Or did his comments suggest something more grand and sinister—like a hostile takeover of the sport from the inside out?

Whatever his aspirations, lately there have been nothing but setbacks. A devastating loss at
Wrestle War '92 resulted in Dangerously publicly castigating Alliance member Larry Zbyszko, whom he eventually fired. Dangerously's attempts to lure free agent Nikita Koloff into his cadre failed miserably, with Koloff telling a national television audience, "I'd rather be in a Russian gulag than in The Dangerous Alliance."

Dangerously has not dealt well with these embarrassing setbacks. Sources say he is anguish ed and plagued with self-doubt. Thus, the TV title, once a trivial matter, now took on new importance. But instead of sprinkling his wisdom—or even interfering with his infamous telephone—Dangerously was begging Barry Windham to leave Anderson alone. To those who have admired Dangerously—and there are many—it was an awful and pitiful sight.

"I thought it was some woman at ringside," admitted Windham. "It sounded just like a woman crying. When I realized it was Paul E., I knew I must be doing something right."

Fans at ringside concur. "We come to most every match," said Bev Hastig, "and we've always admired Paul E. because of the way he keeps his wits about him. No matter how crazy it gets in the ring, he always remained calm."

"Watching him tonight made us all nervous. It was like he was freaking out in front of our eyes. He was stuttering, flubbing... when he started screaming at Windham to stop, we knew something was wrong."

When their grand plans were dashed, Napoleon was sent into exile, and Hitler committed suicide. What will Paul E. Dangerously do? Could the fact he refused to be interviewed for this column indicate something tragic is in the works? Stay tuned.

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to be me. Now, I’m not into psychoanalyzing my opponents, but I think they’re right.

“He just doesn’t want to take my championship. He wants to take my place among the fans. He wants my standing in the community. What he wants is respect—

Gilbert wants to beat Lawler and replace him atop the USWA (above). He has gone after Jarrett with equal vengeance (below).
shut him up," Gilbert said. "Anyone who listens to a man who believes he's really a 'King' is as crazy as he is.

"I don't owe anyone—Lawler, the fans, or the Global officials—anything. I've got a new group of officials who represent Global International [no connection to GWF], and they've given their sanction to my North American belt. I do things how I want and when I want, and that includes defending my title."

"Lawler is jealous of my freedom. He'd give anything to be able to call his own shots like I do. Go tell him my next big shot will be the one I bounce off his head."

The next shot may well made not by a wrestler, but by a group of men in suits. Global officials have threatened to take legal action against Gilbert if he doesn't stop defending the title he no longer owns. Gilbert's reaction is, well, characteristic.

"I made Global," said a seething Gilbert. "I put that federation on the map. I don't need them. I don't need anybody. Only thing

'Hot Stuff' needs is a ring. Doesn't matter where it is, as long as it had ropes and someone in it to beat up."

And as long as that person has a back, so Gilbert can stick yet another knife into it.
# Official Ratings

## Top 15

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<th>#</th>
<th>Wrestler</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title/Championship</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>WCW World champion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Randy Savage</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WWF World champion</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Rick Rude</td>
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<td>WCW U.S. champion</td>
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<td>Bret Hart</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Eddie Gilbert</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Steve Austin</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The Ultimate Warrior</td>
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<td>No. 2 contender: WWF title</td>
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<td>Rick Steamboat</td>
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<td>No. 3 contender: WWF title</td>
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<td>Shann Michaels</td>
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<td>No. 1 contender: I-C title</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Brian Christopher</td>
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<td>Ric Flair</td>
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<td>Brian Pillman</td>
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<td>Brian Lee</td>
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<td>Scott Putski</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Jerry Lawler</td>
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## WCW

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<td>Cactus Jack</td>
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<td>Truth Or Cons., NM</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Randy Savage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sarasota, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bret Hart</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Calgary, Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Undertaker</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Queens, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ric Flair</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shawn Michaels</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Undertaker</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Berzerker</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bazemian, MT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Most Popular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Wrestler</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title/Championship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No. 1 Most Popular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Ultimate Warrior</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No. 3 Most Popular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scott Steiner</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No. 8 Most Popular</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Most Hated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Wrestler</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title/Championship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ric Flair</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No. 3 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rick Rude</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No. 4 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Papa Shango</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No. 1 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cactus Jack</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No. 6 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shawn Michaels</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No. 5 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Steve Austin</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No. 7 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Eddie Gilbert</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Unrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Brian Christopher</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No. 8 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The Mountie</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>No. 11 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Big Van Vader</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No. 2 Most Hated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Berzerker</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>No. 9 Most Hated</td>
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</table>

## Tag Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Wrestler</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title/Championship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rick &amp; Scott Steiner</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>WCW World tag team champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Freebirds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WCW U.S. tag team champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Irwin R. Schyster &amp; Ted DiBiase</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>WWF World tag team champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Natural Disasters</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>No. 1 contender: WWF tag title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Moondogs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>USWA tag team champions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Additional Teams

- Tom Prichard & Stan Lane
- Gary Young & Steven Dane
- Owen Hart & Koko B. Ware
- Rod Price & John Tatum
- The Legion of Doom
- The Sioux War Party
- The Nasty Boys
- Doug Masters & Ron Starr
- The Long Riders
- The Thunderfoots

## Authors

- Bret Hart
- Ric Flair
- William Regal
- Arn Anderson
- Don Callis
- Jimmy Valiant
- Gene Anderson
- Jackie Fargo
- Larry Zbyszko
- Jackie Lujack
- Larry Zbyszko
- Johnny B. Baker
ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENJI KOBASHI & TSUYOSHI AKUCHI
(May 25, 1992, from Dan Kroff & Doug Furno, Wayne, NJ)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(January 28, 1992, from Jumbo Tsuruta, Chiba, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANORI FUCHI
(October 20, 1989, from Joe Sakoda, Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSRUTA & AKIRA TAUE
(March 4, 1992, from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy, Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(January 28, 1992, from Jumbo Tsuruta, Chiba, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YOKO IKOU
(April 29, 1991, from Kyoko Inoue, Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO
(April 1, 1990, from Mihoko Nishiki, Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: KYOKO IKOU
(Une 5, 1992, from Bisco Kinuzo, Akishima, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIYAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA
(March 20, 1992, from Atsuko Aoki & Bisco Kinuzo, Tokyo, Japan)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BAMBO
(July 6, 1991, from Big Van Vader, Gratz, Austria)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
DAVID TAYLOR & CHRIS BENKT
(December 21, 1990, from Franz Schubmann & Miles Zito, Breun, Germany)

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: JOHNNY HOT LOOT
(February 26, 1992, from Jimmy Snuka, Philadelphia, PA)

GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERRY SIMMS
(May 29, 1992, tournament final over Chip, Dallas, TX)

GLOBAL WRESTLING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: SCOTT PUTIKSI
(May 29, 1992, tournament final over John Marbell, Dallas, TX)

GLOBAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
STEVE DANE & GARY YOUNG
(May 2, 1992, for title over Scott Putiksi & Terry Simms, Dallas, TX)

GLOBAL WRESTLING TV CHAMPION: SAM HUTSON
(April 3, 1992, winning a 15-man battle royal, Dallas, TX)

ICWA CHAMPION: DICK SLATER
(December 19, 1991, tournament final over Johnny Ace, Tampa, FL)

ICWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON
(Championship vacant)

ICWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE THUNDERFOOTS
(Ully 14, 1991, from The Terminators, Sydney, Australia)

ICWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE
(Ully 14, 1991, from John Strongay, Sydney, Australia)

ICWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(March 29, 1990, from Peggy Lee Leather, Palmetto, FL)

ICWCC CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(April 19, 1991, from Vic Steamboat, S. China, ME)

ICWCC LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991, from The Tornadoes, Montebello, NY)

ICWCC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SUELO WAR PARTY
(December 5, 1992, tournament final over The Canadian, Hamburg, PA)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: BARRACK MULLIGAN
(February 28, 1992, from Mando Kano, Orlando, FL)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE LONGRIDERs
(February 8, 1992, from The Heartbreakers, Orlando, FL)

KGP CHAMPION: RIKU CHOSHU
(February 4, 1992, from Tatsumi Fujinami, Tokyo, Japan)

KGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOMB BANG
(February 1, 1992, from The Great Muta & Shinzo Hase, Yokohama, Japan)

KGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHER LUGER
(February 8, 1992, from Nori Yagura, Sapporo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: TERRI POWER
(February 23, 1992, from Bill E. Backer, Ender, MN)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LILLIAN KAI
(February 28, 1992, from Misty Blue Simmons & Heidi Lee Morgan, Laughlin, NV)

NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HERCULES
(September 13, 1992, from Tony Capone, Mt. Vernon, NY)

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: BRUNO BEKKAR
(December 12, 1987, from Gene Anderson, Auckland, New Zealand)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(January 28, 1992, from Jumbo Tsuruta, Chiba, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTL. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
JUMBO TSRUTA & AKIRA TAUE
(March 4, 1992, from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy, Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: CHARLIE HARRIS
(October 17, 1991, from Triple K, Minneapolis, MN)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN CONWAY & BRIAN MCMAHON
(February 16, 1992, from The Punishers, Amarillo, TX)

SOUTHLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPIONS: NEAL BUTLER & BILL YOUNG
(April 16, 1992, from The New Sensation, Arden, NC)

SOUTHLAND TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MOVIDOS
(April 16, 1992, from Von Stomper & The Young Guns, Arlington, TX)

SUPER WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: YOSHIHISA YATSUMI & HAKU
(April 18, 1992, from Earthquake & Toybox, Tokyo, Japan)

USWA CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT
(September 15, 1990, from Jerry Lawler, Memphis, TN)

USWA CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(September 15, 1990, from Tom Prichard, Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MOONDOGS
(September 15, 1990, from Robert Fuller & The Young Gun, Memphis, TN)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(September 15, 1990, from Tom Prichard, Memphis, TN)

UFW INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GARY ALBRIGHT
(September 15, 1990, from newly created title over Nobuhiro Takada, Yokohama, Japan)

WCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRAD PILLMAN
(October 29, 1992, from Jushin Liger, Milwaukee, WI)

WCW TV CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN
(October 27, 1992, from Barry Windham, Atlanta, GA)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: RICK RUSEV
(October 13, 1992, from Scott Putiksi & Terry Simms, Dallas, TX)

WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FREEBIES
(October 13, 1992, from Lance Storm & Chris Jericho, Jacksonville, FL)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: STING
(October 29, 1992, from Lex Luger, Milwaukee, WI)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(October 3, 1992, from Bubba Eaton & Amp Anderson, Chicago, IL)

WWA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: ATSUSHI ONITA
(October 24, 1992, from Lance Storm, Tokyo, Japan)

WHA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TARZAN GOTO & GREGORY VERTCHEN
(October 24, 1992, from Horace Boulder & Sabu, Tokyo, Japan)

WWE CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.
(December 6, 1992, from Greg Valentine, San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWE CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(Dec 17, 1992, from Ricky Santana & Ray Gonzalez)

WWE JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(Dec 17, 1992, from Ray Gonzalez)

WWE PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(Dec 17, 1992, from Hurricane Castillo Jr.)

WWE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOUG MASTERS & RON STARR
(December 24, 1992, from Ricky Santana & Ron King by default, San German, Puerto Rico)

WWE TV CHAMPION: DICK MURDOCH
(January 6, 1992, from Inuoka I, San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWE UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(December 4, 1992, from Ron Gannon, Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(December 6, 1992, from The Tigress)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BRETT HART
(December 5, 1992, from Ric Flair, Indianapolis, IN)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE
(December 5, 1992, from Ric Flair, Indianapolis, IN)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TED DIBIASI & RHYN R. SCHYSTER
(February 7, 1992, from The Legion of Doom, Denver, CO)
Blast From The Past
This Month In Wrestling History

“STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULAR AT SHEA”

BOB BACKLUND & PEDRO MORALES
vs. THE SAMOANS
August 9, 1980

WWF fans were delighted when then-WWF World champion Bob Backlund teamed with Pedro Morales to defeat Afa and Sika, The Samoans, to capture the World tag team title during a fantastic night of wrestling at Shea Stadium in New York. Unfortunately, Backlund had to disband the team because of his heavy schedule of singles title defenses—and fans were even more saddened when the brutal Samoan team regained the belts in a tournament a few weeks later. Also on this card, Bruno Sammartino defeated Larry Zbyszko in their legendary cage match and Andre the Giant beat a young Hulk Hogan.
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