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ISSUE #6

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THE WORLD OF NOSTALGIA

FIFTY SIX YEARS AGO, 3/10/32 TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

Ray Steele W. George Zaharias
O'Shocker W. Matros Kirilenko (Dec.)
George Katsonaros W. Gene Bruce
Joe Cox W. Arthur Dick

FORTY TWO YEARS AGO, 9/16/46 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Bud Curtis W. Bob Wagner -DQ.
Mile High Ross W. Kruskamp
Frank Jares DREW Leo Numa
George Becker W. The Thunderbird
Primo Carnera W. Babe Sharkey
Hal Rumberg was the matchmaker.

FORTY ONE YEARS AGO, NOVEMBER THE CLEVELAND, OHIO WRESTLING SCENE

11/6/47

Lou Klein DREW George Macricostas
Lee Wykoff W. Babe Sharkey -DQ.
Ole Olson w. Don Lee
Buddy Rogers W. Dave Levin

11/13/47

Karol Krauser DREW Bud Curtis
Mickey Gold DREW Angelo Cistoldi
Volga Boatman W. Dave Levin -DQ.
Primo Carnera W. Ole Olson

11/18/47

Bob Becker W. Jim Austeri
Bozik W. Thor Morgan
Sky Hi Lee W. Jack Claybourne
Mildred Burke W. Mae Young
Whipper Watson DREW Bobby Burns (This match went one hour.)

THIRTY SIX YEARS AGO, 7/27/52 THE DALLAS SPORTATORIUM, DALLAS, TEXAS

Miguel Guzman W. The Great Scott
Duke Keomuka W. Rolando Vera
Rito Romero W. Danny Savich
Duke Keomuka W. Rito Romero
Miguel Guzman W. Duke Keomuka
Ray Gunkel W. Ivan Kalmikoff
Rito Romero & Miguel Guzman & Rolando Vera W. The Great Scott & Danny Savich
Duke Keomuka

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO, 3/20/63 MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

Eduardo Carpentier W. Johnny Valentine -DQ.
John & Chris Tolos DREW Victorio Apollo & Manny Cortez
John Paul Henning W. Taro Sakuro
Stan Stasiak W. Pete Sanchez
Gerard Dugas DREW Jim Hady
Victorio Apollo W. Yvon Rafoot

WRESTLING

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LEWISHAM THEATRE, CATFORD - MONDAY NOV. 11

1985

BOBBY BARNES

(Mister Wonderful himself) and

JOHN ENGLAND

(Unruly Muscle Man)

VERSUS

**GOLDBELT BRIAN
MAXINE**

(Long reigning Middleweight Maestro)

VERSUS

THE YOUNG ONES

(WAYNE MARTIN & ROB BROOKSIDE)

**ROLLERBALL
MARK ROCCO**

(World H / Middleweight No. 1)

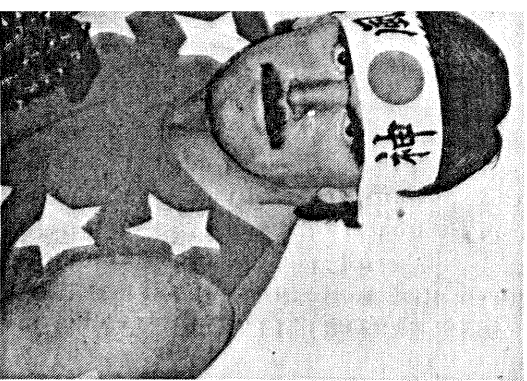
John Kenny V John Hall

Jackie Robinson V Jon Cortez

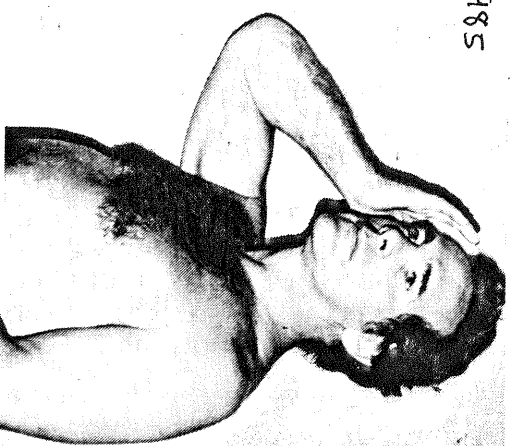
• CHIC CULLEN



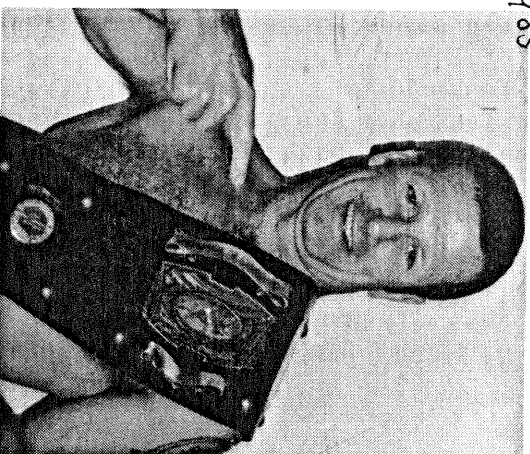
• ROLLERBALL ROCCO



• BOBBY BARNES



• JOHNNY SAINT



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(2)

THREE YEARS AGO, NOVEMBER, THE BRITISH WRESTLING SCENE

11/5/85 THE CROYDON FAIRFIELD HALL, CROYDON, ENGLAND

Brian Maxine easily pinned Danny Stevens in the second round.

Jim Breaks (Lightweight Champion) beat Johnny Saint two submissions to one fall. Jim used his favorite arm and wrist lift to take both submissions in this super tough bout.

Jon Cortez won from Jacky Robinson, two falls to one in a fast, fair, but hard contest. Jon took a submission in this super tough bout.

Mark Rocco and Rocky Moran ended with a no contest verdict against Mal Sand and Chick Cullen. Rocco pinned Sanders and Cullen pinned Moran and then all four men jumped on top of each other and the referee and seconds. The match was then stopped and ruled a no contest.

Kevin Canelly clowning around with Scott McKenzie before taking the bout two falls to one.

11/8/85 WALTAMSTOW ASSEMBLY HALL, WALTHAMSTOW, ENGLAND

Brian Maxine knocked out The Warlord in the fifth round.

Chick Cullen outwitted the clever and strong veteran, Lee Bronson. Two fall to one.

Jon Cortez and Johnny Saint wrestled a beautifully fast bout until Jon suffered an accidental groin injury and then returned the favor thus the bout was ruled a no contest.

Mark Rocco and Pat Barrett wrestled a very rough twenty minute draw. It was an American style bout with no rounds and all in rules. The super tough Rocco held his own against the much heavier Irishman as they fought inside and outside the ring.

11/11/85 THE CATFORD LEWISHAM THEATRE, CATFORD, ENGLAND

Jon Cortez beat Jacky Robinson. Jon took the second fall and the final submission with Jacky taking a fall in a five minute overtime bout that Jacky asked for, as he thought he was winning.

John Kenny lost the first fall to John Hall. John humiliated the bigger man by capturing the second and third falls in the fifth and sixth round.

Bobby Barnes and Shawn Stevens took the first fall from Wayne Martin and Rob Brookside. Barnes over Martin. The youngsters Wayne Martin and Rob Brookside finally won when Ron pinned Shawn in the second fall. In the third fall Barnes and Stevens were disqualified. Wayne and Rob were then declared the winners.

Mark Rocco lost to Brian Maxine through a reverse decision after each man had a fall each. Rocco was slammed into the referee by Brian. While Brian went to aid the stunned official, Rocco fouled him and got a pin. His Victory was shortlived when the time keeper and the announcer told the official of what had happened.

Thanks to top correspondent Phil Dedrick for his information in the above three cards.

Thumbs Up

It's strength and show biz in these wrestling finals, too

United Press International

Gleason's Gym, world-renowned training base for 84 world champion boxers and setting for numerous movies, recently showcased a sports first that mixed the intensity of a title bout with the glitter of a Hollywood premiere.

With headlights flashing outside the building, VIP guests such as former boxing greats Jake LaMotta and Rocky Graziano took their ringside seats as the master of ceremonies, Capt. Lou Albano, convened the first Thumb Wrestling Tournament National Championships Tuesday.

The championship matched male and female finalists from regional tournaments in Atlanta, Boston and Chicago to compete in round-robin fashion. The male contestants included: Thomas (Mayhem) Mitchell of Decatur, Ga.; Sean (Wild Man) Walsh of Tinley Park, Ill., and Michael (Mad Dog) Cunniff of Boston. The women included Michele (The Eliminator) Powell of Marietta, Ga.; Ilene (Bone Crusher) Ehrlich of Chicago, and Karin (Iron Thumb) Feifer of Boston.

They competed for a \$1,000 championship prize and the honor of being the first national thumb wrestling champ. Needless to say, the exhibition (er, competition) was brutal.

The objective was simple — the execution was not. Matches were conducted according to the rules and bylaws of the International Thumb Wrestling Federation. Two contestants locked hands inside a specially designed miniature thumb wrestling ring and attempted to pin the opponent's thumb for a three-second count. The federation prohibits the use of any foreign substances, including (but certainly limited to) talcum powders, body oils and vegetable shortening products.

Contestants entered the ring to the theme of "Rocky" as a girl circled the ring with a "Round 1" card. The action was televised on two in-house video screens so the enthusiastic crowd could get a clear view.

The action took about 15 minutes before four contestants were thumbed out, each losing twice. Afterward, champions Walsh

"Many people think it's the hands, but it's forearm strength and speed. I'm a mechanic so I've developed my arms."

— Sean (Wild Man) Walsh

and Feifer offered their ingredients for success.

"Many people think it's the hands, but it's forearm strength and speed," Walsh said. "I'm a mechanic so I've developed my arms."

"I have a little thumb, but I do situps and pushups to get in shape," said Feifer, a registered nurse who puts aside all humanitarian impulses when she enters the ring.

Commissioner Della Burns said plans are to make the tournament an annual event with unlimited potential.

"Our goal is the Olympics someday," Burns said, obviously caught up in all the excitement.



UPI Photo
Capt. Lou Albano plays referee as Jake LaMotta and Rocky Graziano stage an exhibition match at thumb wrestling finals in Gleason's Gym.

11/1/87 THE EDDIE GRAHAM SPORTS COMPLEX, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Kendall Windham W. Bill Mulkey

Jimmy Valiant W. Thunderfoot # II -- Buggy McGraw W. Thunderfoot #1

Mike Graham & Rex King W. Dory Funk, Jr. & Konga The Barbarian

Kevin Sullivan W. Big Bubba

Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard W. Barry Windham & Nikita Koloff

The Rock & Roll Express (Robert Gibson & Ricky Morton)

W.

The Midnight Express (Stan Lane & Bobby Eaton)

11/2/87 THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY MEMORIAL ARENA, FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Rick Stienner W. David Sierra

Sting W. The Terminator

The Mighty Wilbur W. Black Bart

Brad Armstrong & Tim Horner W. Luke Williams & Johnny Ace

Nikita Koloff W. Eddie "Hot Stuff" Gilbert

Nature Boy Ric Flair W. Jimmy Garvin

Johnny Weaver & Dusty Rhodes W. Lex Lugar & James J. Dillion

11/2/87 THE MINNEAPOLIS AUDITORIUM, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Soldad Ustinov W. Mitch Snow

Alan West W. Dirty Dick Slater -DQ.

Mr. Magnificent & Nick Kiniski

W.

D.J. Peterson & J.T. Southern

Tommy Rich W. Adrian Adonis -DQ.

Wahoo McDaniel & Nord The Barbarian W. The Midnight Express (Non Title Bout)

Curt Hennig W. Greg Gagne (Hennig Retains A.W.A. Worlds Heaveyweight Championship.)

Tommy Rich won an eighteen man battle royal.

11/2/87 THE MID-SOUTH COLISEUM, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Carl Fergie & Don Bass

W.

Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka

The Nasty Boys W. Steve Keirn & Prince

Manny Fernandez won the International Heaveyweight Title, by beating Billy Travis.

The Rock & Roll RPM's won by disqualification over The Midnight Rockers

Jimmy Jack Funk won The Mid-America Heaveyweight title, by beating Jeff Jarret

Bill Dundee W. Hector Guerrero

Jerry Lawler won by disqualification over Bobby Jagers.

Bobby Jagers won The War Of The Worlds Battle Royal.

11/5/87 THE DORTON ARENA, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Ric Steiner W. Denny Brown

The Italian Stallion (Gary Quartinelli) & John Savage W. The Canadian Kodiaks

Jimmy Valiant W. The Terminator

Buggy McGraw W. Konga The Barbarian

The Mighty Wilbur won by disqualification over Terry Taylor

Mike Rotundo & Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin

W.

Tully Blanchard & Lex Lugar & James J. Dillion

Nikita Koloff W. Eddie "Hot Stuff" Gilbert

The Rock & Roll Express won a bunkhouse match.

11/7/87 THE EDMONTON CONVENTION CENTER, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

Jason The Terrible W. Hiro Hase -DQ.

Cpl. Kirschner W. The Viet Cong #2

Strangler Steve Disalvo W. Johnny Smith

Phil Lafleur W. Goldie Rogers

Biff Wellington W. Mr. Hito

Owen Hart W. The Zodiac

Bruce Hart & Brian Pillman DREW Makhan Singh & Jerry Morrow

11/9/87 THE MID-SOUTH COLISEUM, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Bobby Jagers retained The Southern Heaveyweight Title by defeating Jerry Lawler.

Don Bass & Carl Fergie W. Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka

Manny Fernandez & Hector Guerrero W. Bill Dundee & Big Bubba

Billy Travis & Prince, fought to a draw.

The Nasty Boys W. The Executioners

The Midnight Rockers retained The A.W.A Southern Tag Belts, by beating The Rock & Roll RPM's.

Jeff Jarrett regained The Mid-American Heaveyweight Title, by beating Jimmy Jack Funk.

11/16/87 THE MID-SOUTH COLISEUM, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Billy Travis W. The Executioner

Giant Hillbilly won by disqualification over Bobby Jagers

The Snowman Won by disqualification over Manny Fernandez

Don Bass & Carl Fergie & The Prince W. Big Bubba & Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka
in a loser of the fall leaves town match.

Hector Guerrero W. Bill Dundee

Jeff Jarrett W. Jimmy Jack Funk

The Rock & Roll RPM's became The New Southern Tag Champs,regaining the title
by defeating the Midnight Rockers.

Steve Keirn W. Jerry Lawler

11/21/87 THE KLONDIKE AGRICOM, EDMONTON, ALBERTA CANADA

Jason The Terrible W. Mr. Hito

Phil Lafleur & Biff Wellington W. The Viet Kong #2 & Hashif Khan

Strangler Steve DiSalvo W. Randy Thatcher

Garfield Toertz W. Johnny Smith

Bad Company W. Kerry Brown & The Zodiac

Owen Hart W. Jerry Morrow

Makhan Singh W. Korporal Kirschner

12/6/87 RESULTS FROM SUNDAY'S TELEVISION TAPING SESSION AT THE CHARLOTTE COLISEUM:

Eddie Gilbert & Terry Taylor W. Denny Brown & John Savage

The Rock & Roll Express W. Rick Nelson & Keith Jackson

Sting W. The Gladiator #2

The Road Warrors W. Thunderfoot #1 & Gladiator #2

Larry Zbyszko W. Rocky King

The Mighty Wilbur W. Arn Anderson

Bobby Knight W. The Italian Stallion (Gary Quartinelli)

Ivan Koloff & The War Lord W. Rocky King & Jesse McGraw

Mike Rotundo W. John Savage

Nikita Koloff W. Thunderfoot #2

Dr. Death W. Gladiator #2

Larry Zbyszko W. The Italian Stallion

Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin D.DQ. The Midnight Express

The Road Warriors & Paul Ellering W. Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson & J.J.

Dillon

Ric Flair W. Sting

12/10/87 THE DORTON ARENA, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Ric Flair W. Jimmy Garvin

Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff W. The Midnight Express -DQ.

In a twenty five man bunk-house battle royal, The Road Warrior "Animal" was the winner of the Twenty five thousand prize

12/12/87 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The Ultimate Warrior W. Mike Sharpe

Sam Houston DREW Ron Bass

Greg Valentine W. George Steele

Hercules Hernandez W. The Junkyard Dog

The Demolition W. Billy Jack Haynes & Ken Patera

Ted DiBiase W. Ricky Steamboat

Ric Martel & Tito Santana (The Strike Force) W. The Hart Foundation (Brett Hart & Jim Neidhart)

Andre The Giant & Ric Rude W. Hulk Hogan & Paul Orndorff

12/12/87 THE GREENSBORO COLISEUM, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Ricky Morton W. Mike Force

Ronnie Garvin W. Thunderfoot #1

Sting W. The Thunderfoot #2

Eddie Gilbert W. George South

Nikita Koloff & Dusty Rhodes W. Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson

The Midnight Express W. Mike Force & Kruger Gay

Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson W. Gary Royal & John

The Road Warriors W. Chance McQuade & Larry Stevens

The Midnight Express & Big Bubba Rogers W. The Mighty Wilbur & The Italian Stallion & Kendell Windham

Ric Flair W. Sting

Kevin ? W. Rocky King

Steve "Dr. Death" Williams W. Tommy Salvage

The War Lord W. George South

Lex Luger won the twenty five man bunk-house stampede.

12/25/87 ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

Mike George & Ray Stevens W. The Cuban Assassin & El Diablo

Rufus R. Jones & Vinnie Valentino W. Rick Patterson & Russell Sapp

Moschino Chono W. Jay Strongbow

Curtis Hughes W. T.C. Garter

Vinnie Valentino won the nine man battle royal and took a one thousand purse.

Dave Peterson used a sunset flip to defeat Bulldog Bob Brown and take away Brown's hold on The Central States Heaveyweight Title. The match was 26 min.

12/27 ST PAUL, MINNESOTA

Randy "Macho Man" Savage W. The Honkey Ton Man -DQ.

Jake "The Sanke" Roberts D.DQ. The One Man Gang

Don "The Rock" Muraco W. Butch "The Natural" Reed

The British Bulldogs (Davey Boy Smith & The Dynomite Kid) W. The Bolsheviks (Nikolai Volkoff & Boris Zukhov)

Sherri Martel W. Rockin' Robin

Dino Bravo W. Hillbilly Jim

Hercules Hernandez W. The Junkyard Dog

Danny Davis W. Sam Houston

Ric Rude W. Buck Zoomhoff

THE VOICE OF THE MAT

ON THE ROAD

12/28/87

THE PITTSBURGH CIVIC ARENA, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Jerry Allen pinned Barry Horowitz with a flying body press off the second ropes at 10:45. (C/) A very decent opener as both guys worked hard throughout the match. Horowitz got mad at me because I was yelling "Hey! Jack Hart! Give him the stretcher!" in remembering his CWA Memphis days. He gave me a cold stare. Both grapplers moved well. Horowitz put Allen in an abdominal stretch at 8:28, followed by a suplex at 9:23. However, Barry went to the top turnbuckle only to be thwarted by Allen who grabbed him causing Horowitz to straddle himself on the top ropes. This enabled Allen to gain the advantage and pin.

Outlaw Ron Bass pinned Outback Jack at 7:22 with an frontface pile driver. (D) Jack appears to have lost several pounds. At 2:00 Bass went for "Old Betsy" and Jack went outside the ring and grabbed a chair and brought it into the ring. At 3:30 Jack gave Bass a nice slam and both missed elbow drops on each other. Both brawled outside the ring as Bass threw Jack into the barricade at 4:12. Jack took the advantage and gave Bass a clothesline and elbow drop but Bass kneed Jack as Jack charged him into the ropes to enable Bass to put the piledriver on Jack.

The Rougeau Brothers pinned The Conquistadores at 13:40. Raymond Rougeau pinned Jose Luis Rivera of The Conquistadores. (C/) A fair match but not as good as thrie great 12/26 MSG match seen on USA PRIME TIME on Monday 1/4/88. I like the Rougeaus a lot and feel they're a better team than The Killer Bees or The Young Stallions. End came when Raymond had Rivera in a bearhug as Jacques came off the top turnbuckle onto Rivera and Raymond did a flip-over onto Rivera for the pin. The Conquistadores did a lot of doubleteaming on Raymond for the bulk of the match.

George "The Animal" Steele went to a DCOR with Sika at 3:59 (C) I loved it! What a perfect pairing! Sika jumped on George as The Animal was taking off his top as George was unable to remove it until 2:22. George bit Sika on the forehead and used a foreign object on Sika at 3:06. At 3:43 George threw Sika into the scorer's table and Sika returned the favor. George also nailed Sika with the bell as they were both counted out. George ate the turnbuckle at the end. Tons of fun.

In a Midget Tag Team match Karate Dube & Cowboy Lang beat Lord Littlebrook and Little Tokyo as Karate Dube pinned Little Tokyo at 8:01 (C/) Another fun match as referee Ken Jugan was assigned this one. Only WWF Referee Gilberto Roman is better than Jugan in officiating midget matches. The heel team of Littlebrook & Tokyo played the part of bumbling fools to perfection in running and hitting each other by mistake. Little Tokyo was phenomenal and probably was the best preformer of the evening.

Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake pinned Greg "The Hammer" Valentine with Jimmy Hart at 8:58. (C) It was a fair give and take match. After using a foreign object on Brutus, Valentine gave him an elbow drop and blurted out "This is it baby!". Fans picked up the chant of "Beefcake! Beefcake!" at this point. At the 7:00 mark Brutus escaped The Hammer's figure four by kicking out with the free foot. Brutus put the sleeper on Valentine at 7:40 much to the fans' delight, but Hammer broke it at 8:15 by ramming the beeper into the post as

They both fell to the mat. Jimmy Hart went into the ring to hand Valentine a foreign object but Brutus got it first and used it on Valentine to get the pin in an upset.

For The WWF Women's Title Sensational Sherri retained her belt by pinning Rockin' Robin Smith at 7:29 with a suplex (D-) An awful match as Robin at this point in her career should not have been in the same ring as Sherri. End came as Sherri threw Robin outside the ring through the ropes and suplexed Robin back into the ring from the apron. I wish they could find quality opposition for Sherri Martel.

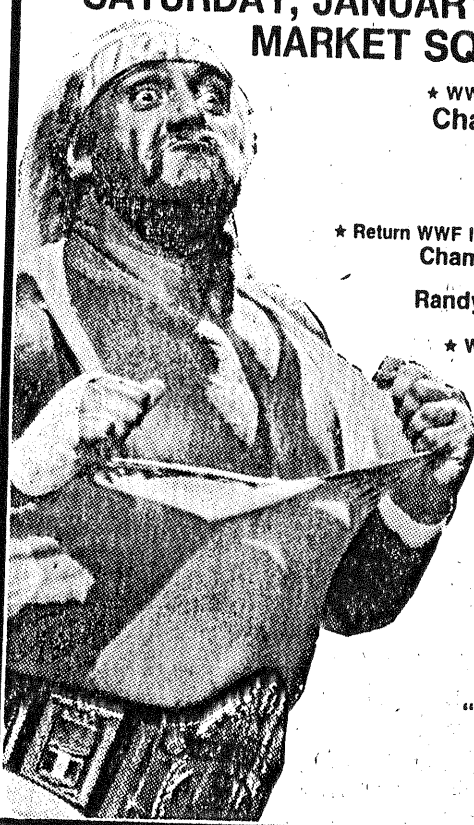
The Islanders defeated The Killer Bees as Haku pinned B. Brian Blair at 16:02. (B-) Blair & Tama started it off as Tama threw Blair into the ropes & fell down to get Blair in a monkeyflip as he came off the ropes. However, Blair got away from the flip and stomped Tama instead. Fans started laughing at Tama as he yelled back: "Shut your stinking mouths!" Basically, it was solid, powerful doubleteam work by The Islanders on Jim Brunzell as Tama did his graceful leap off the top ropes at 8:13 to chop Brunzell. Blair got the hot tag at 14:08 and gave both Islanders Dusty Rhodes elbow pops and a double head knocker besides slamming Haku nicely. Blair got Haku in a sleeper at 15:08 as Tama and Brunzell went at it outside the ring. As Brunzell got to his corner, Tama leaped off the top ropes & smashed Blair and rolled Haku on top of Blair to get the pin. The crowd got into this match as it progressed. Tama's leap off the top turnbuckle is my favorite move in wrestling as I felt fortunate to see him do it twice in one match.

"The Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase with Virgil pinned Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat at 13:50 (B) Best match of the night. The initial minutes were mainly Virgil taunting Steamboat. Steamboat had the advantage using his karate chops and had DiBiase's left arm in an arm lock. At 7:00 Steamboat gave DiBiase a dropkick which sent DiBiase flying outside the ring. Steamboat then motioned for Virgil join the fracas with him. As Virgil went into the ring The Dragon slid under the ropes to go after DiBiase outside the ring. DiBiase gained the advantage with several nice clotheslines as they got back into the ring. After receiving an atomic drop, Steamboat was thrown outside the ring at 9:26 and into the barricades at 9:43. At 12:20, DiBiase went off the top turnbuckle but Steamboat caught him with a shot to the belly and then DiBiase did a complete flip. I was impressed for DiBiase is a much larger man in person than I imagined Steamboat took over and at 13:08 went off the top turnbuckle and gave DiBiase a chop to the head. Steamboat then threw DiBiase's head into the top turnbuckle 10 times and threw the referee away at 10:36. Virgil got into it here as he grabbed Steamboat's leg as DiBiase delivered a clothesline on the Dragon as Virgil held onto Steamboat's right leg to get pinned. A good match but I was expecting more from DiBiase. I still don't put DiBiase in that upper echelon of the WWF with Tama, Bret Hart, and Ricky Steamboat. I'd put DiBiase in the 'B' group with Haku, Honky, Santana, Bigelow, Ax, Smash, The Rougeaus, Savage, Koko, and several others.

For The WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE, The Honkytonkman with Jimmy Hart and Peggy Sue (Sherri Martel), retained the belt by losing by DQ. to Randy "Macho Man" Savage with Elizabeth at 5:37. (C/) Jimmy Hart was put in a cage and suspended in a cage all the way to the top of the arena dome. He must have been up at least 55-60 feet! Elizabeth had on a frilly white blouse and a gold lame bouffant skirt. Just lovely as can be. Savage started right away as Hart was banadan on as he was pummeling poor Honky. Peggy Sue grabbed Savage's legs enabling HTM to recover for a moment as it was all Savage for the first 3

minutes. At 3:03, Savage charged HTM, but HTM moved as Savage collided with the ringpost. HTM threw Savage over the barricade at 3:34 but recovered and gave Honky a shot to the head at 4:26 by coming off the top turnbuckle. Honky threw Savage into the referee to knock him down and HTM kicked Savage in the groin. Honky got Savage in the shake, rattle & roll position but Savage lifted Honky over his back and threw him over the top ropes. Now, Peggy Sue was over at Elizabeth's corner giving Liz the business. Savage went over and HTM came from behind and slugged Savage from behind with his belt to knock him out at 5:20. The bell rang at 5:37 so I thought Honky won by COR but the referee Bucky Palermo awarded the decision to Savage due to Honky causing the referee to get slugged. Not a great match as the previous one and even the crowd wasn't into this one, probably because it was so short. Savage got a couple of shots on Hart as he got out of the cage.

Thanks to top correspondent John H. Lanigan for his information contributed in the above card.



WF WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 8:00 P.M.
MARKET SQUARE ARENA

★ WWF Heavyweight Title Match ★
Champion, Hulk Hogan
 vs
One Man Gang
 (with Manager, Slick)

★ Return WWF Intercontinental Title Match ★
Champion, Honky Tonk Man
 vs
Randy "Macho Man" Savage

★ WWF Tag Team Title Match ★
Strike Force
 (Rick Martel & Tito Santana)
 vs
The Hart Foundation

Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake
 vs
Greg "The Hammer" Valentine

Also Appearing
 ★ WWF Six Women Tag Team Match ★
"Leaping" Lanny Poffo
 vs
Barry Horowitz

Card Subject to Change

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 and WWF Superstars Sunday, 11:00 a.m. WTTV-4.
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 7:00 p.m. WMLL-23.

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1/2/88 THE MARKET SQUARE ARENA, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Lanny Poffo

W.

Barry Horowitz

Lanny won with a pin after a leap from the ring post pad. Horowitz had control of the match for the first 10 Minutes. The time limit was 20 minutes. The match took 12 mins. 45 sec.

The Killer Bees

W.

The Conquistadores

Brunzell pinned one of The Conquistadores in 12 mins. 23 sec. after Brunzell gave a drop Kick and one of the Conquistadores fell backwards over blair. The time limit was 30 minutes.

Jim Duggan

DREW

Rick Rude

Duggan had Rude down for a pin after a clothesline just as the bell rang. The time limit was 20 minutes.

Strike Force (Rick Martel & Tito Santana)

W.

The Hart Foundation (Jim Neidhart & Brett Hart) -DQ.

Martel had Neidhart in a Boston crab hold. Hart threw his megaphone into the ring for Brett Hart. Brett was going to hit Martel but Martel managed to move and Brett dropped the megaphone. Santana then grabbed the megaphone and hit brett with it. The referee saw the action and disqualified Santana. The time limit was one hour.

Hulk Hogan

W.

The One Man Gang

Hogan pinned The Gang with a body slam and a leg drop. The match was 12 minutes 16 seconds. The time limit was one hour.

The Jumping Bomb Angels (Noriyo Tateno & Itsuki Yamazaki)

W.

Sherri Martel (The W.W.F. World's Women Champion) & Rockin' Robin

One of the Bombers pinned Robin in 13 minutes 58 seconds after a double clothesline. The time limit was 30 minutes.

Brutus Beefcake

W.

Greg Valentine

Beefcake won this match in 4 minutes 43 seconds with a small package cradle after Valentine tried to put a figure four leg lock on Brutus.

The Honky Tonk man

W.

Randy Savage -DQ.

Savage was disqualified, when he hit Honky after he rammed him and hart's heads together. This match took 6 minutes and 16 seconds. Time limit was one hour.

Note Jerry Valiant was the referee for the 2nd, 4th and 7th match.

Next Match Febuary 5th, 1988

Hulk Hogan VS. Andre The Giant, Honky Tonk Man VS. Randy Savage, Strike Force VS The Hart Foundations, Bam Bam Bieglow VS. One Man Gang, Muraco VS. Reed
Thanks to James Busche for his information contributed in the above card.

1988 Calendar
Jan 15 1988

W W F
LOS ANGELES SPORTS ARENA
Friday, January 15, 1988

1. Dino Bravo pin Jerry Allen

C-

Not a bad bout but it generated no heat what-so-ever. This is not good for an opening bout. Jerry missed a reverse flying body press off the top rope and Dino quickly used a side suplex and hooked him for the pin.

2. British Bulldogs pin Conquistadores

C+

This was an interesting bout as there was absolutely no heel heat but plenty of face heat. The Bulldogs looked strong and fresh and won when kid was pressed and slammed on Estrada.

3. Jake "The Snake" Roberts COR Rick Rude

C

Good "see-saw" match, a lot of crowd noise on both ends. Both these guys are "over" well in L.A. The crowd did not like the wishywashy ending. (Rude barely missing the 10 count). They perked-up, however, when Damien was let loose to reek havoc.

4. Sensational Sherri pin Velvet McIntyre

C

This match had some good wrestling action but it drew an average crowd reaction. Sherri reversed a flying body press and got the pin.

5. Greg Valentine pin Brutus Beefcake

C+

Brutus lead chants of "haircut, haircut...." but the crowd quit soon after he did. Nothing new or different happened in this match. Brutus got the drop on Greg and applied the sleeper. Jimmy saved the day (also salvaged the match) by coaxing Brutus into breaking the hold and going after him. While being hoisted by the neck Jimmy tossed a foreign object to Greg which he used to get the pin.

6. Koko B. Ware pin Iron Mike Sharpe

C-

This was a so-so match with Sharpe doing most of the work. Koko's entrance was delayed a bit because Honky Tonk Man's theme song was played instead of Piledriver. The thought of Honky Tonk going against Sharpe (instead of Randy) noticeably depressed the crowd. Thank goodness the music stopped and the crowd was relieved. Koko was probably peeved as he had to enter without his music. Sharpe was real funny missing a dropkick. Koko was spectacular with a dropkick off the top rope and a subsequent "ghostbuster" and pin.

7. Ron Bass pin Brady Boone

C

An average match as Brady showed some of his acrobatic manuevres and Ron displaying the usual heel tactics. Ron quashed him with a face-first pile driver. The crowd was real surprised that Brady didn't kick out of the pin attempt.

8. Strike Force pin Hart Foundation

B

Good match with effective near-pin falls. Fans really went for this bout. Match was fast paced with a lot of action. The end came when Bret missed Santana with the bullhorn and hit Neidhard instead. This was done very well.

9. Honky Tonk Man Won (Cage) Randy Savage.

B

A lot of crowd noise in this one. Randy bled profusely and it added to the effectiveness of the bout. The only thing special about this bout was Randy's flying elbow from the top of the cage. It was quite spectacular. Honky legitimately escaped through the door for the win. The crowd did not like it at all.

NOTES:

The aftermath of the main event was the highlite of the card. After gaining the obligatory revenge after his loss, Randy disposed of Honky Tonk and found himself alone with Peggy Sue in the cage. He pulled her wig off as she tried to escape revealing her brown locks. Randy had his trophy for this night.

This was a near sellout, the largest in quite some time. The last Hogan card had 7,000. Hard to figure why, except that it was after Christmas and money was available. It was Friday night for the kids and I understand that Randy and Honky had a real good match here on December 5, 1987, though there was only 4,000 here for that one. The Islanders are scheduled for next time only "if the suspension is lifted".

ANNOUNCED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1988

Casey v. Gibbs
Poffo v. Spivey
Davis v. Houston
Glamour Girls v. J.B. Angeles
Valentine v. Beefcake
One Man Gang v. Roberts
Islanders v. Bulldogs
DiBiase v. Bam Bam

Thanks to top correspondent Andy Dragos for his information contibuted in the above card.

1/16/88 THE PHILADELPHIA CIVIC CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
Kevin Sullivan & Dick Murdoch & Eddie Gilbert

W.

Sting & Ron Simmons & Kendell Windham

This match was excellent for an opener. To start things off in this wild encounter, was Gilbert and Sting. Sting gave Eddie a very good power slam. Sting, then, went full force into Eddie, with his famous Stinger move. This sent Eddie out of the ring, to the arena floor. Sting tagged Ron Simmons. About a minute later Eddie tagged Sullivan. Ron and Kevin went at it like wild lions. Murdoch came in and let Simmons have it. Eddie also came in again, only to meet Simmons, who was hot and furious. Ron Suplexed him. Gilbert then, ran to the ropes to tag Sullivan. Sullivan came in and started to get the upper hand. He tagged Murdoch. Both men were in the ring and let Simmons have it. Finally, Kendell and Sullivan went at it. Windham tried a dropkick on Sullivan, but missed. Sullivan took hold of Kendell and let him have it. He tagged Murdoch. Murdoch then, executed a very good suplex, by holding Windham up in the air for about ten seconds. Murdoch then pinned Windham with no trouble. The National Wrestling Alliance should be commended for giving the fans a very good opener. Both teams were evenly matched.

Jimmy Garvin

W.

Black Bart

Bart came to the ring with manager Scandor Akbar. Jimmy came with manager, the beautiful Precious. The fans at the start of the match chanted "Black Bart Sucks" This match had some good action. At the end Jimmy hit Akbar who was on the ring apron. He then, went after Bart. He finally, pinned Bart with a rollup pin.

Ronnie Garvin

DREW

Tully Blanchard

Tully came to the ring with J.J. Dillon. Ron started things off, by kicking and giving Blanchard chops. Ron wouldn't let up. Blanchard became so dazed by what Ronnie did, he fell out of the ring. Blanchard then started to get the upper hand. They eventually took their war to the arena floor. During the match, they started to box one another by throwing a lot of punches. Blanchard gave Garvin an arm splash to the throat twice. Dillion, finally, passed something to Tully. Blanchard tried to pin Ronnie several times, but to no success. Ronnie tried to pin Blanchard, but to no avail. Garvin tried a pile driver; but, Tully flipped him over and tried to pin him, but once again to no avail. Garvin then fell out of the ring and Dillion gave him a good kick to the stomach. The referee didn't see this action; he was busy with Tully. Garvin executed a very good flying body press, off the top ring ropes. tried to pin him, but Tully kicked out at the two count. At this point, Garvin exploded and let Tully have it. He did everything, including head-butting Tully. He then tried to pin Blanchard again, but the bell rang to signify that the end of the match and time limit had come. This match was then, declared a draw. This bout was nothing short of sensational. Blanchard and Garvin gave it their all in this wild encounter. We don't know if Garvin would have pinned him if the bell hadn't rung. If he didn't and the time limit was longer, this match might have gone on, because each wrestler was not going to admit defeat, by no means. Garvin showed the fans what championship material is. Blanchard did the same. I think the fans got their money's worth out of this match. Maybe next time they meet, we will see a winner. This was truly a great match.

Nikita Koloff

W.

Mike Rotundo -DQ.

Mike came to the ring with his manager, Kevin Sullivan. It seemed at first, that Rotundo was afraid of Nikita. Koloff started things off by giving Mike a hiproll. Sullivan got hold of the mike and said he would put down five grand if Nikita could beat Rotundo by pin. During the match the fans were chanting "Nikita". This match started to get very boring with both men on the mat floor for a very long time. Koloff, finally, elbowed Rotundo in the stomach. Mike then suplexed him. Finally, Sullivan interfered and jabbed Nikita in the shoulder, with a screw driver. The referee stopped the match and disqualified Rotundo. Nikita was declared the winner.

Konga The Babarian & The Warlord

D.C.O.R./D.DQ./N.C.

The Road Warriors (Animal & Hawk)

No introduction at first because the warriors charged into the ring and let their opponents have it. Finally, the referee restored order and the ring announcer, from outside the ring, introduced both teams. My Co-Editor, Marty Gorman, who was sitting next to me called this his dream match. This match has to be considered a test of strenght. Hawk dropkick The Warlord. The Warlord gave him a belly to belly. Konga executed a bearhug on Hawk and also body slammed him. He also, used a very good back breaker on Hawk. Animal power slammed Konga. Animal chased Konga out of the ring. The referee counted both teams out of the ring. The match in our opinion, should have been declared a double count out, but for some strange reason, the announcer said it was a double disqualification/no contest. This match was excellent.

Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes

W.

Stan Lane (The Midnight Express)

From the sound of the bell, they went at it like wild lions. Stan manager, Jim Cornett, said that ever women wants to molest his man. He told the fans to have respect for him. Rhodes gave Lane a couple of elbows to the head. During the match Cornett tried to interfere. Rhodes started punching Lane. Stan tried to use the tennis racquet on Rhodes, but missed. Rhodes then came off the ropes and body pressed Lane, for a pin combination.

Lex Luger

W.

Arn Anderson

From the sound of the bell, they went at it. Luger suplexed Arn off the ropes. They finally took their battle to the arena floor, with Lex body slamming Arn to the concrete floor. Back in the ring Lex gave Arn a bear-hug. Arn executed a very good D.DT. and he threw Lex out of the ring. Dillion, who came to the ring with Arn, kicked Lex in the stomach. Arn gave Lex a knee to the stomach. Lex body slammed him, and gave him an elbow to the chest/throat area. Arn got the upper hand only for a few brief moments. During that time, Arn tried to cradle pin him, but Lex reversed it into a full small package cradle. He, then, pinned him. This match was very good. Lex looked very good in mat action and Arn looked better then usuall.

THE MAIN EVENT FOR THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE WORLD'S HEAVEYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP.

Ric "Nature Boy" Flair

W

Michael "Frrebird" Hayes

Ric won this match by cheating. This match had nothing but action from the sound of the bell. Both men tried everything they could think of. They fought in and out of the ring. Flair gave him a chop to the stomach. Flair got annoyed with the crowd and told us to shot up. Hayes tried to pin Flair, but to no avail. Flair used a figure four leg lock hold. Hayes used a very good D.DT. on Flair and, then, bulldoged him. The finale occurred after Hayes bulldoged Flair. Hayes pinned him. He then got up thinking he had the title. Flair automatically put his foot under the ropes. The referee, not knowing, told the time keeper and Hayes the match would continue. After about a minute, Flair, once again, cheated. He pinned Hayes, by using the ropes as leverage. The referee of course did not see what Flair did. Ric is a very good athlete and dose not have to stoop so low in order to win his matches. Hayes is also a very good athlete. This was a very good match to say the least.

NOTES ON THE ABOVE CARD:

This card was a good one with a lot of mat action. The only gripe about the show, was, that some of the matches were a little too short. The fans were very vocal during matches. After the matches, we went back to the Marriot hotel and hung out in the lounge with the wrestlers. While in the lounge a represenative from the hotel asked everyone to give a round of appaulse for The National Wrestling Alliance. The wrestler's were talking to the fans in the bar. Most of the wrestler's were friendly and warm. We had a very good time.

The next N.W.A. card will be held on Febuary 13th, 1988. There was no lineup given in the arena. The night before in Baltimore, Maryland, the fans will see Lex Lugar against Ric Flair. If we know anything about The National Wrestling Alliance, the next card, in Baltimore and Philadelphia, will be a Jim Dandy.

This card was promoted and presented by the National Wrestling Alliance (N.W.A.).

M.G. & K.L.

WRESTLING ON NEW YORK TELEVISION.

Saturdays 10:00 am WNYW-TV 5 W.W.F. Superstars of Wrestling
aturday 11:00 am WWOR-TV 9 W.W.F. Wrestling Spotlight
Saturdays 2:00 pm WXTV-TV 41 Wrestling from Puerto Rico
Saturdays 3:30 pm WPIX -TV 11 N.W.A. World Wide Wrestling
Sundays 10:30 am WNYW -TV 5 W.W.F. Wrestling Challenge

1/17/88 THE BRENDON BYRNE ARENA, MEADOWLANDS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

Lanny Poffo

W.

Joes Estrada

This match had alot of action. Poffo tried to body press Estrada, but to no avail. Poffo hip tossed his opponent. Estrada used a sleeper on Poffo, but Lanny was able to get out. Estrada came off the top rope and elbowed Lanny in the head. He tried to pin him, but to no avail. Poffo charged at Estrada, but Jose picked his knee up, which landed in Lanny's stomach. He, then, came off the top rope and elbowed Poffo in the back. Lanny, finally, pinned Estrada, with a backward leap off the top ring ropes.

The Ultimate Warrior (Dingo Warrior)

W.

Harley "The King" Race

The Warrior gave Race an elbow to the chest/throat area. The Warrior threw Race across the ring. This action sent him to the arena floor. The Warrior started to pound his chest. Race tried to charge him, but The Warrior once again hit Race in the chest/throat area. The Warrior slapped Race in the chest again, sending him out of the ring. Race and The Ultimate One, fought on the arena floor. The Warrior and Race, then fought in the ring. Race, finally, got The Warrior down and elbowed him in the thigh. They, once again, took their battle to the arena floor. The Warrior tried to pick Race up, but once again both fell out of the ring. Race, then, came off the top ropes and fell on top of The Warrior. The referee started his count, but The Warrior reversed it and cradled him. The Warrior then, got the three count. Race was very little compition for him. The Warrior is very powerful and in excellent condition. Race, the veteran, seemed to be no match for The Warrior.

Lai Lani Kai & Judy Martin

W.

The Jumbing Bomb Angels

The Bomb Angels were making mince meat of their opponents. Everything Kai and Martin tried did not work. When they would get the upper hand, it would be only for a minute or two. The Bomb Angels are nothing short of sensational and may be one of the best teams today. Martin was suplexed by one of The Angels. Kai and Martin, double teamed one of The Angels and then, Martin pinned The Angel.

Hercules Hernandez

D.C.O.R.

Jim "Hacksaw" Duggan

Duggan came to the ring with his two by four. Both men fought like dogs in this titanic struggle. Finally, both men took their war to the arena floor. The referee counted both men out, outside the ring.

Don Muraco W. Butch Reed (By pin, with a flying leap off the top rope. Muraco came to the ring with Billy Graham. Reed call Muraco Stupid.)

The British Bulldogs W The Bolshevicks (This match had some good action with both teams mixing it up. Davey Boy pinned Zhurkhov with an elbow to the throat.

Ted DiBiase D.DQ. Bam Bam Bieglow (This match was very good. During the match, Bam Bam tried to gorilla press Ted. DiBiase also tried varios moves. Finally, both athletes were disqualified because their managers interfered.)

The Hart Foundation & The Honky Tonk Man W. The Strike Force & Randy Savage (The finale occurred when Rick Martel was hit with HTM's Inter-Continental belt. Martel, then, falls to the mat floor. Brett Hart wasted no time and pinned him.)

NWA
THE FABULOUS FORUM
INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1988
ATTENDANCE 2500

1. Kevin Sullivan pin Hurricane Kid
Kevin squashed this guy in 1:32. All the action took place outside the ring. The best move of the match was a nutcracker on the entrance steps. Time: 1:32 Grade: D
2. Barry Windham pin Destroyin' Samoan (Tau Loso)
Another quick bout. Barry struggled somewhat trying to suplex this big guy. Barry won with an excellent flying clothesline. Time: 2:34 Grade: D
3. Nikita Koloff 20-min. draw Tully Blanchard
Nikita retained the TV Title. Tully took the early advantage by utilizing J.J. Dillons shoe while J.J. was keeping the ref. busy. Nikita finally took over. This bout had average moves and draw was disappointing to most of the crowd. Also, I believe, was inserted in the wrong place on the card. Time: 20:00 Grade: C+
4. Roadwarriors DCOR The Barbarian & The Warlord
Excellent bout with a lot of crowd noise. This match had all action, from the beginning stare-down to the end. These big men really tore into each other. Hawk did an excellent flying clothesline off the 2nd rope. Konga did a surprisingly good foot in the face of Hawk. The Barbarian also did an excellent belly to belly suplex on Hawk. Both teams were counted out while they were brawling outside the ring. Time: 9:26 Grade: B+
5. Lex Luger pin Arn Anderson
Arn worked hard in this bout, but I've seen Lex better. There was some good outside the ring brawling. Lex lucked out by reversing a good small package applied by Arn. Time: 12:25 Grade:

6. Dusty Rhodes DQ Larry Zbyszko

This was a fair journeyman type bout, with both guys going through the motions. Larry extracted crowd heat by reacting to the chant "Larry Sucks". When Dusty finally got the upper hand, Kevin Sullivan came in to save Larry. This was a surprise. Why Kevin? What's his relation to Zbyszko? Anyway, both buys beat the pulp out of Dusty. Kevin brought in some kind of wire (a sort of traveling foreign object) and choked the life out of Dusty. Barry Windham attempted to make the save three times, but Kevin managed to thwart him. Finally the evil doers were dispersed. Dusty was bleeding profusely. Grade C

7. Ric Flair pin Michael Hayes

Both these guys have had better bouts in this area. The crowd roared when Michael got a 3-count at the 17 minute mark. The ref. however, noticed that Flair had his foot on the bottom rope a good 20 seconds after Hayes raised his hands in victory. He then ordered the bout to continue. A shocked Hayes was surprised by Ric, who pinned him using the top rope for leverage. Grade: C+

NOTES:

It's a sad day in Mudille when a match such as Barbarian/Warlord v. Road Warriors is your best bout. The Roadies finally looked good to me (thanks to Hawk) and I shall refrain from calling them the "Comode Warriors". I was really disappointed that Barry took the day off. I'm sure he deserved it. There was no announcement why the express' weren't here, and I wonder if Steve Williams is back from Japan yet? It really looked like that travel got to these guys. Most of them were dragging. Next card will be February 17, 1988. I won't be attending due to prior committments, but I'll try to get results.

Thanks to top correspondent Andy Dragos for his information contributed in the above card.

This card was promoted and presented by The National Wrestling Alliance (N.W.A.)/Jim Corkett Promotions.

1/24/88 THE NASSAU VETERANS MEMORIAL COLISEUM, UNIONDALE, NEW YORK

Jimmy Garvin & Sting

W.

The Shepherders -DQ.

This match had some good action. Johnny Ace used a flag pole on Garvin. The referee then disqualified The Shepherders for their action.

Nikita Koloff

DREW

Bobby Eaton

This match had alot of good action. During the match both men fought out of the ring. Nikita executed a very good body slam. Eaton executed a good flying dropkick, off the top turnbuckle. Eaton tried to pin Nikita, but to no avail. It seemed that during the match Eaton had to take instruction from his manager Jimmy Cornette. The end came, when Nikita gave Eaton the Russian Sickle and tried to pin him. As the referee was taking the count, the bell rang. The match was declared a time limit draw.

Larry Zbyszko

W.

Barry Windham

This match had action from the start. There is no liking between these two men. At the start of this match Windham chased Larry around the ring. Windham gave Zbyszko a very good hip roll. Zbyszko tried a dropkick and missed. Larry has no regards for the rules. Windham gave Zbyszko a one arm body slam. Both men executed other very good moves. Windham tried a back slide pin, but to no avail. The finale came when Barry threw Larry into the referee. Larry punched him in the head with a shoe. The referee, then, gained his composure and saw Larry on top of Windham. He took a three count. The referee, of course, did not see the shoe. Larry was announced as The New Western States Heritage Champion.

Hawk, The Road Warrior

W.

Ric "Nature Boy" Flair -DQ.

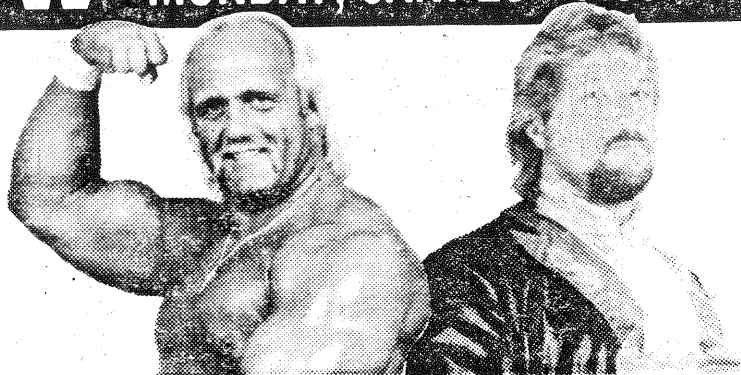
Hawk gave Flair a good body slam twice. Hawk is a very strong man. Hawk, then, executed a head-butt. Hawk gave Flair a leg drop to the chest area. Hawk sent Flair to the arena floor. They both fought on the arena floor. During the match Flair scratched Hawk's face and eyes. Flair threw Hawk out of the ring, and followed him. He, then, threw Hawk into the ring post. Flair executed a side suplex on Hawk. Flair kicked him in the stomach and used a figure four leg lock. Flair, during the match, was bleeding. The finale occurred, when the referee was knocked down. When the official regained his composure he saw Flair using a chair on Hawk. He then automatically disqualified Flair for his action.

BUNKHOUSE STAMPEDE BATTLE ROYAL

This match was contested in a steel cage. Ivan Koloff, Arn Anderson, Lex Luger, Dusty Rhodes, Konga The Babarian, Animal, The Road Warrior, The Warlord and Tully Blanchard were the participants. This match was the finals. The winner of the previous bunkhouse battle royal matches competed in this one. During this match, The Warlord let Luger have it. Luger clotheslined Arn. Dusty went at it with Arn. Rhodes executed a DDT on Arn. Ivan and some of the others were bleeding during the match. Lex used his shoe on some of his opponents. Animal threw Arn with a powerlift on Tully. The Warlord and Animal were eliminated first. Luger, Arn, and Tully were fighting near the cage door. They all finally fell out of the cage and were eliminated. Finally Dusty elbowed Konga, sending him to the arena floor. Koloff was eliminated during the match. Rhodes was the last man in the cage and then declared the winner. Rhodes got a gigant boot, which is the trophy.

A.F., JR. & M.G. & K.L.

WF MONDAY, JAN. 25 - 7:30 PM



Main Event - WWF TAG TEAM MATCH

HULK HOGAN vs. **TED DIBIASE**
AND **BAM BAM BIGELOW** **AND** **VIRGIL**
with ANDRE THE GIANT IN THEIR CORNER

Don the Rock Muraco vs. The One Man Gang
Hacksaw Jim Duggan vs. King Harley Race

WWF TAG TEAM MATCH

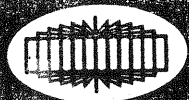
British Bulldogs vs. The Islanders
Young Stallions vs. **Barry Horowitz & Steve Lombardi**

PLUS... Sam Houston vs. Dangerous Danny Davis
Junk Yard Dog vs. The Natural Butch Reed • HillBilly Jim vs. Outlaw Ron Bass
Scott Casey vs. Dave Wagner • Omar Atlas vs. Dusty Wolf

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Pennsylvania Plaza, 7th Ave., 31st to 33rd Sts.

1/25/88 MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Scott Casey

W.

Jose Estrada

By pin, after the use of a very good body slam. This was a good opener, with lots of action. Both men looked good in mat action.

Sam Houston

W.

Danny Davis

By pin, with a small package cradle.

Butch Reed

W.

The Junkyard Dog

By pin, with a roll up.

Omar Atlas

W.

Dusty Wolf

(This was the worst match of the night. Omar won by pin, after using a half package cradle.

The One Man Gang

W.

Don "The" Rock Muraco

By pin, after the use of a foreign object.

Hulk Hogan & Bam Bam Bigelow

W.

Virgil & Ted "The Million Dollar Man" DiBiase
(Bigelow pinned Virgil with a big splash.

Paul Roma & Jim Powers

W.

Barry Horowitz & Steve Lombardi

(Jim pinned Lombardi with a Power Slam.

Jim Duggan

W.

Harley Race

The end came when Race tried to pin Duggan. Hacksaw then reversed it and pinned Race.

Ron Bass

W.

Hillbilly Jim

By pin, with a bulldog.

UPCOMING TO M.S.G. 2/22/88

The Rougeau Brothers VS. Race & Hercules

Smash VS. Billy Jack Haynes

Ax VS. Ken Patera

Dino Bravo VS. Jake Roberts

Butch Reed & The One Man Gang VS. Don Muraco & Ultimate Warrior

The Islanders VS. The Bulldogs

Ted DiBiase VS. Bam Bam Bigelow

PLUS OTHER BOUTS

1/29/88 THE PITTSBURGH CIVIC ARENA, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Sweet Stan Lane with manager Jim Cornette, pinned Ricky Santana using the ropes at 8:36 (C-) First match was 30 minutes late in starting. Why can't Crockett run a smooth show? The teenage girls were cheering for Stan Lane. Just a fair oponent with both wrestlers trading hip tosses for the first 4 minutes. At 6:50 Lane threw Santana out of the ring, and gave Santana his leg thrust kick at 7:34, followed by a Russian leg sweep at 7:24, but missed on an elbow drop at 7:50. Santana took control by slugging Lane. Santana gave Lane an Irish whip into the turnbuckle and charged him but Lane pushed Santana down and had his feet on the ropes to attain the pin. Two teenage girls were next to me and offered Lane a bouquet of flowers but Lane ignored them. However, Cornette came over and smiled graciously to them and said: "I'll give them to him". The girls were shocked and refused to give them to Cornette and Cornette walked away laughing.

The Warlord with Paul Jones pinned Jimmy Jackson at 2:40 with a power slam followed by a leg bomb. (D) Warlord looked good beating up on Jackson, a local Pgh bum. The Warlord tossed Jackson around like a rag doll.

Tully Blanchard with J.J. Dillon pinned Jimmy Garvin at 10:07 (C) Precious was a no-show. A average match. First 8 minutes were mostly spent by Garvin having Tully in an arm lock. Tully attempted a piledriver but Garvin reversed and flipped Tully over for a 2 count. End came when Tully, outside the ring did a sunset flip into the ring as J.J. Dillon grabbed Garvin's feet to enable Tully to pin Garvin.

Nikita Koloff beat Mike Rotundo with Kevin Sullivan, by DQ at 13:23 (C/) A good match for these two. Rotundo seems to be more spirited in the ring under Sullivan's tutelage. The local ring announcer screwed up again as he called Rotundo a member of Sullivan's "Variety Club". What an idiot. He makes mistake like this every card. Sullivan was wearing a hooded robe with some studded thing around his forehead. Rotundo was wearing the TV belt and announced as the TV champion so I suppose that he won it from Nikita in the past 4 days as Nikita had the belt at the Nassau show on 1/24/88. The initial lockup took place at 1:08. Nikita did a couple very nice hip tosses at 2:20. A fair give and take match. At 12:20 Nikita executed a good suplex on Rotundo. Fans really for Nikita in this match. Nikita **threw** Rotundo into the turnbuckles and got on the second rope and delivered about 10 shots into Rotundo. Nikita then rushed Rotundo with the sickle but Rotundo picked him up and threw Nikita over the top ropes to get disqualified.

Road Warrior Hawk & Paul Ellering beat Ivan Koloff & The Barbarian with Paul Jones at 13:51. Hawk pinned Ivan Koloff (B-) Best match of the night. Ellering announced that Animal was injured and that Hawk would be in shortly to team with him. So Ivan & The Barbarian jumped Ellering until Hawk made the save. At 2:45 Hawk gave The Barbarian a solid clothesline but The Barbarian stood his ground but fell when Hawk nailed him with a dropkick. At 4:00, Ellering came in and worked most of the match as Ivan & The Barbarian did a number on Ellering. The Barbarian gave Ellering a fantastic powerslam, better than Davey Boy Smith's, at 6:48 as the crowd responded with oohs and ahs. At 9:40 The Barbarian threw Ellering over the top ropes but the referee let the match continue. Ivan came off the second ropes at 13:06 but missed Ellering enabling him to give his partner Hawk the tag. Hawk came in and gave Ivan a flying shot and pinned Ivan with a clothesline. Ellering, Ivan and The Barbarian work very well together.

Lex Luger pinned Arn Anderson with J.J. Dillion at 12:42 using a reverse. (C) Lex got resounding cheers, more than Nikita. It was mostly Luger for the first 6½ minutes until Arn delivered a DDT at 6:33 followed by another one at 6:59 but Luger kicked out on the pin attempt. Luger was not huffing and puffing so noticably. End came when Arn had Luger in a roll-up but Luger reversed it and got the pin.

Dusty Rhodes pinned Bobby Eaton with Jim Cornette & Dick Murdoch at 8:06 (D/) When Dusty made his entrance the fans were cheering loudly but as the match went on folks became bored with it and the decibel level was as low as an opener. No heat at all. It was mostly Dusty's elbow until Cornette whacked him with the racquet and Murdoch punched Dusty at 5:57 as the referee was yelling at Bobby for some reason. Bobby went off the top ropes at 7:19 but Dusty recovered and gave Bobby a blow to the stomach, followed by a DDT at 7:25. Dusty put Bobby in a sleeper at 7:50 but Murdoch got to the apron and broke it. Dusty and Murdoch fought as Bobby went to charge Dusty but Dusty moved and Bobby nailed Murdoch. Dusty Quickly scooped up Eaton's leg to get the pin.

For The N.W.A. World's Title Sting beat Ric Flair by DQ. at 16:07. (B-) Michael Hayes was supposed to face Flair but was announced as injured so luckily. Pittsburgh got Sting instead. The best remark of the night came here as two fat teenage girls were booing Flair and Pittsburgh's top heel fan. The Irreistible One yelled "Hey Champ! Theyre Dusty's Kids!" Everyone at ringside cracked up. Best move of the night was the sensational leap frog by Sting at 1:55 as Flair went under him with barley ducking. Michael Jordan would have been proud. Sting had Flair in a bearhug for the next 3 minutes until Flair was able to suplex him. The middle portion was Flair's as he slapped Sting so sharply that it could be heard throughout the whole arena. At 8:45 Flair had Sting in a wrist lock on the mat and yelled "Come on tough guy! come ob big boy!" At 10:53 Flair put Sting in a figure four and Sting reversed it at 11:48 but Flair escaped through the ring. The match got going as both traded several 2 counts on each other as Flair would have his foot on the rope to avoid the pin. At 15:30 Sting did his flying body press into the turnbuckle on Flair and got a two count. A hip toss followed and Sting went for a clothesline but Flair lifted him up over the tops ropes to get disqualified. Not as good a match as I thought it would be.

Thanks to top correspondent John H. Lanigan for his information he contributed in the above card.

W.W.F. Wrestling Returns To Regina Center



On Tuesday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. The World Wrestling Federation returns home to Regina Youth Center, 1258 - 65th St., Bay ridge. One of the feature bouts signed so far will be "The Bolsheviks" vs. Killer Bees (B. Brian Blair & Jim Brunzell) in tag-team action, plus 5 other exciting bouts. Ringside \$12.00, general admission \$8.00.

Tickets are available at REGINA CENTER and WONDERLAND SPORTS, 6602 11th Ave. Telephone No.: 680-5111.

2/2/88 THE REGINA YOUTH CENTER, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Danny Spivey

W.

Out Back Jack

This match had some good action. Spivey pinned Jack, with a belly to belly suplex.

The Jumping Bobm Angels

W.

Judy Martin & Lei Lani Kai

One of the angels pinned Martin with a small package cradle.

Paul Roma & Jim Powers

W.

The Conquistadores

Roma dropkicked Powers into one of The Conquistadores. Powers, then, pinned him

Ko Ko B. Ware

W.

Iron Mike Sharpe

By pin, with a dropkick off the top ring rope.

The Killer Bees (B. Brian Blair & Jim Brunzell)

W.

The Bolsheviks (Nicolai Volkoff & Boris Zhurkhov)

Brunzell, pinned Zhurkhov with a small package cradle.

LATE RESULTS

12/5/87 TUCSON, ARIZONA

Dr. Death W. Bernardo The Beautiful

Marcial Bovee W. Chief Standing Bear

Maniac Mike Gorden & Abdullah Sabu

W.

Indio Salvaje & The Insane Warrior

The Kentuckian W. El Toro Bravo

The All-American W. El Estudiante

The All-American won the battle royal.

2/26/87 THE JOE LOUIS ARENA, DETROIT MICHIGAN

Tim Horner and Black Bart fought to a draw.

Mike Rotundo W. The Itallion Stallion

Jimmy Garvin W. Ivan Koloff

Nikita Koloff and Dick Murdoch battle to a draw (Murdoch walked off with the belt.)

Road Warrior Hawk won a bunkhouse stampede by tossing Big Bubba Rogers over the top rope.

12/26/87 THE CHAPARAL CENTER, MIDLAND TEXAS

Cowboy Tony & Rick Hazzard fought to a draw.

Matt Borne beat The Real Thing by disqualification in a steel cage.

Shawn Simpson beat Eric Embry by referee's decision inside a steel cage.

Chris Adams & Al Perez fought to a no contest in a steel cage.

Kevin Von Erich & Shawn Simpson beat Frankie The Thumper and Brian Adidas in a cage when Von Erich pinned The Thumper.

Cashing in on the winning image

Home sports videos hotter than ever

By ALAN BREZNICK
Special to ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Don't look for a "Super Bowl Shuffle" by the Chicago Bears this winter.

In sports, music videos are for winners only, like the current baseball champion Minnesota Twins or the Bears team that high-stepped its way to a Super Bowl crown and video fame two years ago.

So the Bears' hopes of a small-screen encore were dashed earlier this month when the Washington Redskins knocked them out of the NFL playoffs.

But even if every team can't boast a popular music video, home sports videos are generally hotter than ever this year. Several teams, leagues and arenas are plunging into the rapidly growing, wide-open market for the first time, while veteran players are branching into new areas.

The New York Mets, for example, have turned to children's videos just one year after cleaning up with a highly successful music video, "Let's Go Mets."

The new 30-minute home video, "Think Big," is a "motivational entertainment" tape designed to teach youths about self-confidence and teamwork.

"It's very different than any other video we've done," said Drew Sheinman, director of marketing for the Mets.

Using three Mets players—Gary Carter, Mookie Wilson and Roger McDowell—and five original songs, the \$19.95 tape tries to instill in children "all the important values to be winners in life," Mr. Sheinman said.

Other sports producers are also getting more ambitious than the highlights tapes and music videos that have now become standard.

NFL Films is producing four "thematic" home videos for HBO Video and Sports Illustrated magazine. The \$14.95 tapes, which blend footage on common themes from several sports, present video "essays" on subjects such as speed, power, finesse and winning.

"It's not focused in on one market," said Steve Sabol, president of NFL Films. "It's not just one team. It's a much broader concept."

Still other producers are banking on pure nostalgia to slice through the growing sports clutter in video stores.

For example, Major League Baseball Productions, a division of Phoenix Communications Group, has been pumping out team and stadium history videos by the dozen, including a 10-year history of the Seattle Mariners.

"The tape didn't sell very well, but it's surprisingly entertaining for a team (with a career record) below .500," said Geoff Belinfante, executive producer of Major League Baseball Productions.

Of course, straight highlight films are still very popular, particularly with rookies entering the \$25 million sports video field.

Madison Square Garden Network, for instance, is preparing retrospective looks at key New York Rangers and the Garden itself for release next fall.

"It (home video) certainly is something that we should have done (before)," says James J. Cavazzino, executive vice president of Madison Square Garden Network.

But as more producers are discovering, one-hour, \$20 highlight tapes usually sell only when the team is winning.

NFL Films officials realized this fact two years ago when they hit the jackpot with the then-Super Bowl champion



New York Mets players (from left) Mookie Wilson, Gary Carter and Roger McDowell star in "Think Big," a children's video.

Bears. The 1985 season highlights film, rushed out days after the Super Bowl, generated 135,000 sales in just one city, more than any other highlights tape.

"Giants Among Men," the story of the New York Giants' triumphant road to the Super Bowl last season, did nearly as well in New York, posting an estimated 132,000 sales.

Officials were stunned, however, when the 1986 season highlights film of the Denver Broncos, losers to the Giants in last year's Super Bowl, sold only 5,000 copies in Denver and lost money.

The officials had figured that Broncos fans would buy nearly anything packaged in Bronco orange, particularly a \$19.95 highlights video.

Baseball has seen the same extremes. The 1986 Mets season highlights tape sold 125,000 copies, on top of the 60,000 sales that the "Let's Go Mets" music video

rang up. But Mr. Sheinman doesn't expect the 1987 highlights video, a recount of the Mets' troubled season last year, to crack more than the barely profitable 20,000 mark.

Even nostalgia tapes, which some see as a sure-fire solution, can't always overcome a present-day club's poor play.

Major League Baseball Productions could move only 5,000 copies each of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Chicago White Sox history videos last summer, not enough to eke out a profit in either case.

The Mets, meanwhile, had no trouble selling 80,000 copies of their 25-year history tape, "An Amazin' Era," during their championship season.

"Fans are very fickle," said Ken Ross, director of non-theatrical programming for CBS/Fox Video, which handles distribution for tapes produced by the National Basketball Association.

He said he doubts that even the Boston Celtics, blessed with pro basketball's most fabled winning tradition, could move a history video in a bad season.

Because highlights and nostalgia often don't work, producers are increasingly resorting to laughs.

NFL Films has broken all sales records with "Best of the Football Follies," a 44-minute tribute to the foibles and fumbles of pro football. Mr. Sabol said 750,000 tapes have been sold, more than half through a premium offer with Sports Illustrated.

Major League Baseball Productions has followed suit with "Baseball Funny Side Up," a bloopers video that came out in September.

Mr. Belinfante's group is also working on a pro hockey bloopers film, due out at the end of February. Madison Square Garden Network plans a "Garden Gaffes" tape next fall.

And the World Wrestling Federation, the king of campy sports entertainment, just keeps churning out pro wrestling videos.

"In lieu of performance, you have to entertain," said Mr. Cavazzino of Madison Square Garden Network.

Besides humor, sports producers are also turning to national, sport-wide topics, such as Major League Baseball Productions' "History of Baseball," NFL Films' "Crunch Course" and the NBA's "Dr. J's Basketball Stuff," starring former Philadelphia 76ers great Julius Erving.

Ed Desser, vice president and general manager of NBA Entertainment, said "Dr. J," released during Mr. Erving's farewell tour of the league last spring, has been the NBA's biggest seller so far.

"It has the broadest base," Mr. Desser said. "Everybody loves this guy."

In addition, producers are experimenting more with instructional tapes, which have scored remarkably well with golf and exercise buffs.

A few are also exploring sports that haven't been tapped much for home video, such as boxing, college basketball and college football.

"The whole thing that's exciting about this business is that nobody knows anything about it," said Mr. Sabol of NFL Films. "It's a slick marketing guy's dream." #



The World Wrestling Federation produces videos featuring such characters as Jake "The Snake" Roberts (left) and Bam Bam Bigelow.

12/27/87 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Sweet Brown Sugar W. Vince Apollo
Ice Man Parson W. Solomon Grundy
The Fantastics DREW Jack Victory & John Tatum
Buddy Roberts W. The Missing Link
Al Perez W. Chris Adams
Eric Embry W. Shawn Simpson
The New Thing W. Cowboy Tony
The Real Thing W. Matt Borne
Kerry & Kevin Von Erich W. Brian Adidas & Frankie The Thumper

1/1/88 DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The One Man Gang W. George "The Animal" Steele
Bam Bam Bigelow W. King Kong Bundy
Ted DiBiase W. Hacksaw Jim Duggan
The British Bulldogs W. The Conquistadores
Tito Santana W. Brett Hart
Sensational Sherri W. Rockin' Robin
Danny Davis W. Sam Houston -C.O.R.
Randy "Macho Man" Savage W. The Honky Tonk Man -DQ.

1/2/88 THE GREENSBORO COLISEUM, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Lex Lugar W. Arn Anderson
Dusty Rhodes retained his U.S. Title when challenger Larrz Zbyszko was disqualified.
The Road Warriors W. Ivan Koloff & The Warlord
Tully Blanchard W. Jimmy Garvin in a death match.
The Shepherders W. The Rock 'n Roll Express
The Lightning Express W. The Gladiators
Dick Murdoch w. The Italian Stallion (Gary Quartinelli)
National Wrestling Alliance World Heaveyweight Champion Ric "Nature Boy" Flair retained his title before 12,457 fans when Michael "PS" Hayes was disqualified at the 23 minute Mark of the 60 minute main event

1/11/88 CUMBERLAND COUNTY MEMORIAL COLISEUM, FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Ron Simmons W. Black Bart
Sweet Stan Lane W. Jimmy Valiant
Sting & Ronnie & Jimmy Garvin W. Kevin Sullivan & Dick Murdoch & Mike Rotundo
Tully Blanchard DREW Nikita Koloff
The Rock 'n Roll Express W. The Shepherders
Barry Windham W. Larry Zbyszko
Lex Lugar W. Arn Anderson

1/11/88 THE WILL ROGERS COLISEUM, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Eric Embry DREW Jason Sterling
Bob Bradley W. Cowboy Tony
Steve & Shaun Simpson W. Jack Victory & John Tatum
The Missing Link & Bill Irwin W. The Real Thing & Brian Adias (Steel Cage Match)
Chris Adams W. Buddy Roberts
Kevin Von Erich W. King Carsons

1/15/88 THE DALLAS SPORTATORIUM, DALLAS, TEXAS

Al Perez W. Mat Borne
Shawn Simpson DREW Eric Embry
John Tatum & Jack Victory W. The Missing Link & Solomon Grundy
Kerry Von Eric W. King Parsons
Kerry & Kevin Von Erich & Chris Adams W. King Parsons Buddy Roberts & The Angel

1/18/88 HARTFORD CIVIC CENTER, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Lanny Poffo W. Jose Estrada
Don Muraco W. Butch Reed
The Ultimate Warrior W. Harley Race
The Strike Force W. The Hart Foundation
The Honkey Tonk Man W. Randy Savage
The Young Stallions W. The Bolsheviks
Hercules Hernandez D.C.O.R. Hacksaw Duggan
The Glamor Girls W. The Jumping Bomb Angels
Bam Bam Bieglow W. Ted DiBiase -DQ.

1/18/88 THE WILL ROGERS COLISEUM, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Buddy Roberts DREW Jason Sterling
Chris Adams W. The Hood
Vince Apollo W. Bob Bradley
Bill Irwin W. Cowboy Tony
The Real Thing W. The Missing Link
Jack Victory & John Tatum W. Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton
Matt Borne W. Al Perez
Kerry Von Erich & Chris Adams W. The Freebirds

1/20/88 HONOLULU, HAWAII

Superfly Tui W. Farmer Boy Ipo
Michael Hayes W. Kevin Sullivan -DQ.
The Babarian & The Warlord D.DQ. The Road Warriors (Animal & Hawk)
Barry Windham W. Larry Zbyszko
Lex Lugar W. Arn Anderson
Dusty Rhodes W. Tully Blanchard
Ric Flair W. Nikita Koloff

1/22/88 THE DALLAS SPORTATORIUM, DALLAS, TEXAS

The Fantastics W. John Tatum & Jack Victory
Brian Adidas W. The Missing Link
Eric Embry DREW Shaun Simpson
Kevin & Kerry Von Erich W. King Parsons & Buddy Roberts -DQ.
Al Perez DREW Chris Adams
Kevin & Kerry Von Erich & Shaun Simpson & The Fantastics

W.

Buddy Roberts & Ice Man King Parsons & Eric Embry & John Tatum & Jack Victory
(This match was a Thunderdome Match. Rules are as follows: A steel cage will surround the ring. Ten wrestlers in two teams of five. Each team will have a captain. Elimination by pin fall or submission. Both teams in the ring at the same time. Eliminated wrestlers are handcuffed to the inside of the steel cage. When one team is completely eliminated, the winning captain gets the keys, and frees his team mates. The Winner get 5 minutes to do as they please to the losers, while they remain handcuffed.)

1/23/88 KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Mike George W. Kareem Muhamamed (Ray Candy)
Bulldog Bob Brown W. D.J. Peterson
Dick Slater W. Grizzly Boone
Tommy Rich W. Masa Chano -DQ.
David Shultz D.C.O.R. Steve Ray
Sgt. Slaughter D.DQ. The Cuban Assassin
Dick Slater W. Tommy Rich
Mike George W. Dick Slater

Wrestling has hold on prime time

By BRIAN MOSS

Daily News Staff Writer

TUNE IN NBC tonight at 8 and you'll see blood and mayhem, and people trying to snuff the life from their enemies. A new cop series? A new Rambo-like war drama? No. It's wrestling. Pro, as in show, wrestling.

Champion Hulk Hogan is taking on Andre the Giant in a World Wrestling Federation heavyweight title match. And for the first time in more than 30 years, network TV is airing the spectacle—dubbed "The Main Event"—in prime time.

If you're wondering why NBC—the network that in recent years rose to the top of the ratings heap on the strength of quality programming—would want to bring back pro wrestling, the answer is one-word simple: ratings. The telecast virtually guarantees big Nielsen numbers.

"Old-time wrestling was wrestling," explained "Main Event" co-producer Dick Ebersol the other day. "This World Wrestling Federation is not a couple of old guys grappling with each other. This is really an entertainment."

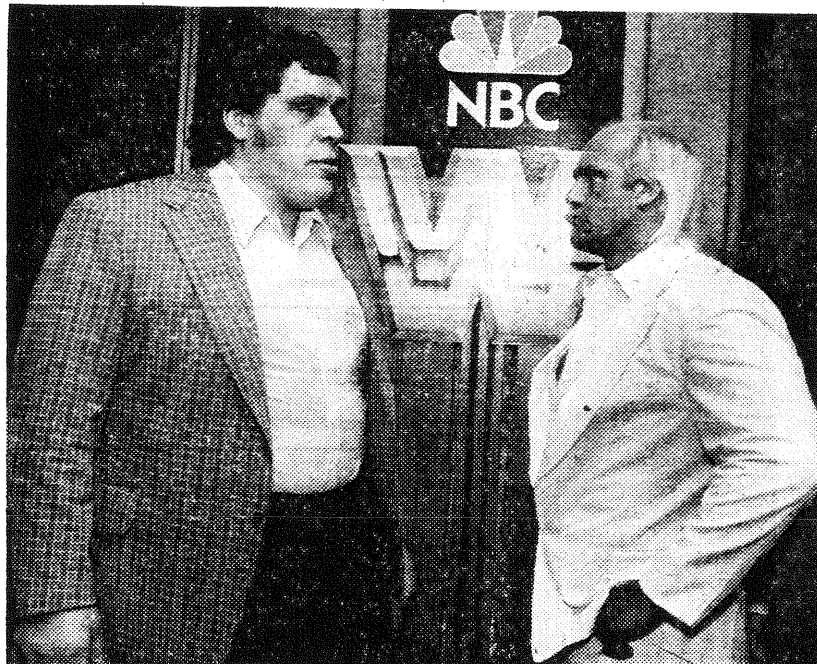
And a popular one. The Peacock network, which on periodic Saturdays airs an 11:30 p.m. wrestling show called "Saturday Night's Main Event," reports that a telecast last March was the highest-rated special ever to air in the Saturday late-night time slot. It earned an 11.6 Nielsen rating (at 886,000 households per rating point) and was watched on one third of all sets in use at the time.

Ebersol, who is also executive producer of "Friday Night Videos," added that a recent wrestling show on the USA Network was the highest-rated program ever on cable and that the five hours of syndicated TV produced weekly by WWF is topped in syndicated ratings only by "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy."

Besides being popular, wrestling also reaches younger viewers. Ebersol said its TV audiences are in the desirable 15-35 age bracket, the same as those for "Late Night With David Letterman."

Ebersol, who in 1975 as an NBC executive was instrumental in launching "Saturday Night Live," insisted that prime-time wrestling—initially suggested by NBC programming chief Brandon Tartikoff—does not represent a regression by the network. "I don't think it's a step back," he maintained. Nor, he added, would wrestling make a return to prime time on NBC's schedule more than perhaps once a year.

Ebersol did say, however, that good television depends on "how well defined and how funny are



GENE KAPPOCK DAILY NEWS

TITLE BOUT will pit Andre the Giant (l.) against Hulk Hogan.

your characters." And he said that the WWF, through its popular arena shows, brings NBC "already well-liked, well-established characters."

Vince McMahon, the WWF promoter who resurrected wrestling several years ago by attracting a new, younger audience with rock music and fresh, comic-book style characters, said, "I don't think NBC will be disappointed with our ratings."

BESIDE NBC and WWF executives, tonight's two leading characters also attended the promotional gathering at Rockefeller Center. Hulk didn't slug Andre and Andre didn't pound on Hulk. The photographers were disappointed.

The beefy, blond Hogan, current heavyweight champion, wore a white suit and smiled a lot, praising "the prayers and vitamins" for his success and mind-boggling popularity. He's the good guy.

Andre, whose stats read 7-foot-4 and 500 pounds, brought along bad guy manager Ted DiBiase, wearing a beard and dark suit, who owns the Giant's wrestling contract. He was accompanied by a scowling bodyguard named Virgil.

Worse guy Virgil glowered as he waved a small wad of cash that belonged to DiBiase. Except for Hogan, everyone spoke slowly, as if they were reciting lines from a script.

If the French-born Andre defeats Hogan, DiBiase, because he owns the Giant's contract, will become world champion. That's what they're saying at the WWF. DiBiase explained the logic of trying to buy the title, logic that seemed to echo throughout NBC: "Why should I sweat for it?"

Pro Wrestling's Flying Leap at Prime Time

By John Milward

I THINK it's about time 'Mami Vice' had a decent lead-in," quipped "Mean" Gene Okerlund, the unflappable color man for the World Wrestling Federation. The comment came as Okerlund chaired a Wednesday news conference to hype tonight's championship match between WWF Heavyweight Champion Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant.

NBC's 8 p.m. live broadcast from the Market Square Arena in Indianapolis marks the first time in 33 years that professional wrestling has been presented by a network in prime time.

Dick Ebersol, who co-produces NBC's periodic "Saturday Night

Main Event" with WWF chief Vince McMahon, says that wrestling's high ratings finally proved irresistible to programming chief Brandon Tartikoff.

"Brandon's responsible for putting the 'Main Event' in prime time," says Ebersol, who's been close friends with Tartikoff since they met as undergraduates at Yale. "I got a phone call following the program that aired in October, and during the course of the conversation he said, 'Are you chicken to try one of your 'Main Events' in prime time?' I said, 'Hell no.' He said, 'How about one in the February sweeps?'"

And so television history was made.

The most peculiar thing about wrestling in 1988 is that nobody even pretends that it's a real sport, or that the outcomes of the matches haven't

been decided before the wrestlers begin to butt heads. At the news conference, staged to dramatize the death struggle to come, you could have cut the tension with a butter knife. At one point, somebody asked whether there would be a subsequent rematch between the 6-foot-8, 300-pound Hulk and the 7-foot-4, 500-pound Andre.

Responding to the question, Vince McMahon looked out the 64th-floor window of a dining room at 30 Rockefeller Plaza and said, "Gee, what a beautiful day."

In wrestling, rematches are as sure as a sucker being born. In fact, tomorrow night, Andre and the Hulk will be opponents in a tag team match in Philadelphia. What's more, following his March 27 appearance on "Wrestlemania IV," Hogan is expected to take time off to make a

"Rambo"-like movie backed by Titan Sports, which owns the WWF. Do you think the Hulkster will return to the ring in time to promote his flick? Gee, what a beautiful day.

"The great renaissance of wrestling," says Ebersol, "has coincided with McMahon's ability to adapt to the Lettermanesque audience. McMahon took it totally beyond the question of is it real or fake. He took the interest beyond the match and into the personality of the wrestlers."

"I think we made it clear from the beginning that this is sports entertainment," says McMahon, dressed in a three-piece pin-striped suit. He'd look like a banker except that his vest has lapels, and his pink shirt a white collar. "Ask somebody from

—Continued on Page 9