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NO. 146

Wrestling



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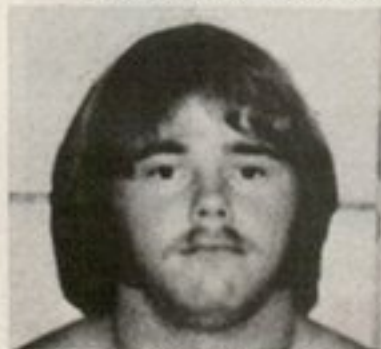
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A.W.A. ALL STAR WRESTLING is published twice a month by The Wrestling News Division of Pro Wrestling Enterprises, P.O. Box 194, Shenorock, New York 10587. Norman H. Kietzer, President. Subscription rates are \$5.00 for the next 12 issues in the U.S.A. and Canada. \$6.00 elsewhere. We no longer send expiration notices. Subscribers check number after your name on address label for your last issue. Although we accept photographic contributions, we cannot be responsible for any unsolicited material sent us. All photos become the property of Pro Wrestling Enterprises. All rights reserved by Pro Wrestling Enterprises 1975.

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WHO CAN STOP BOBBY HEENAN'S ARMY?

There is nothing like success and Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and his army of wrestlers certainly have had more than their fair share of being on the top. In addition to being named manager of the year last year, Heenan often dons wrestling garb himself and has proven to be a consistent winner.

Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens have held the A.W.A. World's Tag Team Championship for a number of years, defending the belts numerous times a week against the best in pro wrestling and always coming out on top. In fact many veteran wrestling followers feel that Nick and Ray are the best team to ever win the coveted title belts.

Big Boris Breznikoff, the other part of the Heenan army, has proven to be an extremely dangerous competitor, who has literally broken bones in his campaign to receive recognition as one of the most serious threats to Verne Gagne's A.W.A. World Heavyweight Championship.

"The Brain" has boasted that he and his boys are on top and that is where they intend to stay. Heenan claims that he has every area covered. Bobby feels that none are any bigger or stronger than Breznikoff. That Bockwinkel and Stevens are the true masters of tag team warfare with Nick being the greatest scientific wrestler of all time and Ray the most vicious and dangerous in the game. And last but certainly not least, that he is the smartest person in wrestling.



NICK BOCKWINKEL



RAY STEVENS



BOBBY HEENAN

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WHO IS NO. 1?

The question on the minds of promoters, fans, and even world champion Verne Gagne's mind at the moment is who really is the number one ranking contender to the heavyweight championship? There certainly are many serious threats including such top stars as Horst Hoffman, Dusty Rhodes, Ivan Putski, Ray Stevens to name a few. But the three men who are leading the list are Billy Robinson, Nick Bockwinkel, and Baron Von Raschke.

Robinson, who has had the championship almost within reach a couple of times has been dubbed "the uncrowned champion" by his army of supporters. Bad luck seems to follow the good looking Englishman in his quest for the coveted championship belt. Billy certainly hasn't let these set backs get him down though. He has an open challenge to face the champion and any of the serious contenders at any venue and under any conditions and regulations. Robinson, the most modest of the top trio, prefers to let his actions in the ring speak his challenge rather than boast during interviews. His record certainly speaks for itself.

Nick Bockwinkel, currently one half of the A.W.A. World Tag Team Champions, certainly is right up there also. He also has come close in the past to copping the championship. Nick says that his past performance proves that he is the best in both singles and tag team competition. His manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan claims that if Gagne signs for a showdown, Bockwinkel will be the first man in wrestling to hold both world titles at the same time.

Last but certainly not least is Baron Von Raschke, the master of the brutal face claw hold. The teuton terror has left a trail of broken bones and battered opponents on his way to the top. The Baron claims that A.W.A. promoters have banned his tag team partner Horst Hoffman from wrestling in North America in an effort to stop his march to the top. Von Raschke claims, "I'm the number one contender and that is all the people need to know!"



BILLY ROBINSON



NICK BOCKWINKEL



BARON VON RASCHKE

IVAN PUTSKI - INTERNATIONAL STAR



One of the most popular men in wrestling not only to fans but to promoters also is Ivan Putski, "The Polish Hammer." Since he began wrestling in North America, the Polish strongman has racked up an amazing won-loss record and naturally a fantastic ranking - reputation.

Right now Ivan is one of the most sought after attractions in the sport. Promoters from all over the globe are bidding for his services knowing that Putski's name on a wrestling card is a sure bet to put up the SRO only sign. Fans flock to see him by the thousands as they know that the muscular gent always lives up to his promise of putting the biggest and baddest in the sport in their place.



BULL BULLINSKI — GIANT WITH A HEART

Back after a serious shoulder separation that kept him out of action for sometime is former truck driver Bull Bullinski. Needless to say Bull is of course a welcome addition to any mat spectacular.

During a recent interview with the Windy City grappler he told me that he was in the best shape of his career. He recently trimmed off ten pounds and now weighs in at 245 pounds of pure dynamite.

Although he is far too modest to talk about it, Bullinski spends much of his spare time visiting those people who aren't fortunate enough to be able to get around, the shut-ins in the hospitals and nursing homes. Bull is especially fond of children and spends as much time as possible visiting his little buddies.

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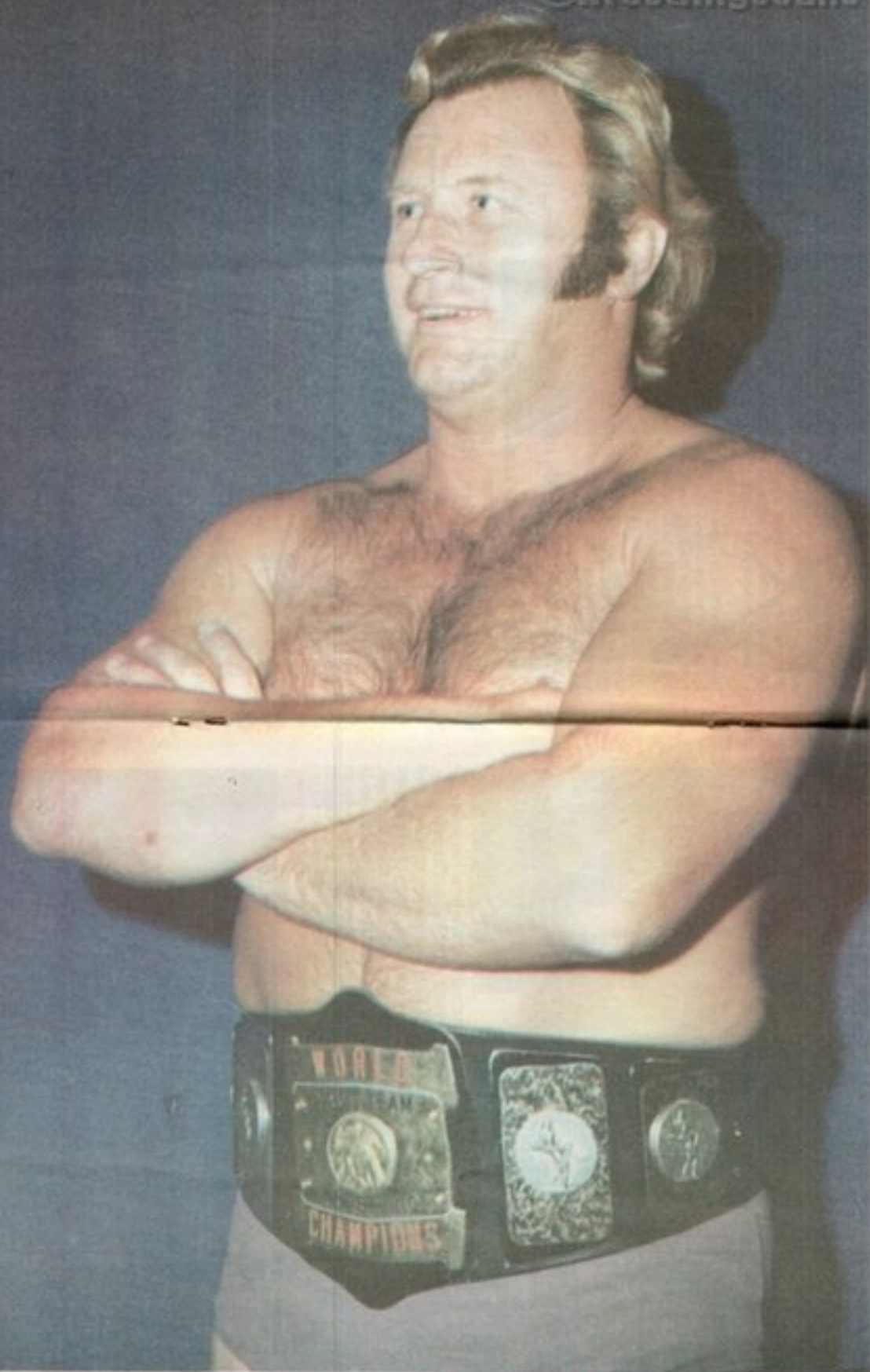
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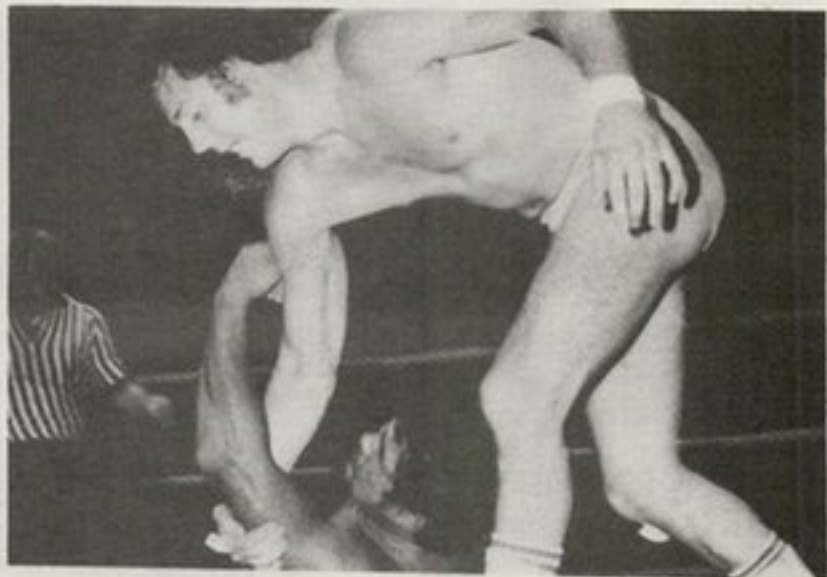
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HIGH FLYERS WENT TAG TITLE



Photo — Mike Gratchner

Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell feel the time has come for them to capture the A.W.A. World's Tag Team Championship. Greg says that he and his partner have been wrestling and training together solidly for so long that their timing is now perfect. Jim points out that they are like a well oiled machine, almost always being able to predict what the other is about to do in the ring. Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens had better be on guard as The High Flyers are primed to pull off their biggest upset.



WOLFF AND DUK — UNHOLY ALLIANCE



The newest tag team on the professional wrestling scene is the duo of Beautiful Buddy Wolff and Kim Duk. Wolff claims that he pulled a fast one on his competition spreading false information about his new mate including that he originates from North Korea, when in fact he hails from Japan. Buddy claims that by the time opponents figure out the truth about Kim it will be too late, they will already have been chopped down in defeat. Duk, a most menacing figure, pointed out to me that he would appreciate it if we spelled his name correctly with a k instead of a c, he threatened that future errors would not go unaccounted for.



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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream" has been spending a lot of his time competing in tag team matches as of late. One of his favorite mates is Ivan Putski, together they form not only one of the biggest and strongest combinations in wrestling but one that almost borders on the invincible. Dust has also been teaming off and on with long time friend Dirty Dick Murdoch and together "The Texas Outlaws" have notched up main event victories in such cities as Milwaukee and Tulsa.



Chris Taylor has finally come into his own as a main eventer and a star in his own right. One of the most sought after men in the sport he wrestles in Atlanta one night, Minneapolis the next, and Oklahoma city the next. He has developed what is known in the sport as a killer instinct, the desire to take an opponent out of action as fast and as devastating as possible. He claims that he is tired of being fouled and pushed around that his opponents will pay dearly for their actions. At well over 400 pounds Chris is just the man to back up his promises too!



Horst Hoffman is extremely angry at the actions of A.W.A. promoters that have banned him from competition in North America. Horst Claims that they have tried to stop him with suspensions before but it didn't work. Hoffman says that if people think he and The Baron did a number on Superstar Graham, just wait and see what he and Von Raschke do to foes upon his return to the A.W.A.



Although he is infamously known as "The Crippler" Ray Stevens certainly has proven to be a fine wrestler in his own right when he wants to be. He once told this writer that he can do all the fancy moves of The Gagnes and Robinson but sees no point in it. Ray claims that people don't ask you how you won a match, they ask if you won.



AROUND THE MAT WORLD

BY JAMES C. MELBY

Although there are bigger men than Boris Breznikoff in wrestling you would have to look pretty far to find one that is stronger and more feared. Word has it that Boris likes to practice his bearhug on trees and has been known to literally pull out trunks, roots and all...Khosrow Vaziri seems to be improving as the days go by. One of the fastest and most agile men in the sport, Vaziri has been knocking down competition left and right with his lightning fast dropkick which he learned from Verne Gagne...Many of wrestlers of the A.W.A. have been doing duty as ring officials lately. Such grapplers as George Gadaski, Khosrow Vaziri, and Paul Perschmann have all donned the black and white striped shirt in recent weeks. The A.W.A. feels that wrestlers make the best referees as they know exactly what to look for and aren't easily intimidated by rule breakers. The guys say it is a good deal for them as they not only pick up extra checks but keep up their timing, which is

so important to surviving injury free while in the ring...Dick Reynolds has moved into the Oklahoma area and reportedly is doing quite well...Another wrestler who is coming along quite nicely is Frank Hill...The fans just about blew the roof off The Omaha Auditorium when Reggie Parks returned after a long absence. Parks of course is well remembered as the muscular Australian who allows a Volkswagon bus to drive over his bare stomach...Larry "The Axe" Hennig is another of the superstars of wrestling who spends much of his time commuting to wrestling engagements by jet. Larry is just as big a name in the Southwest as he is in A.W.A. mat circles...I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their support and contributions to this publication, Wayne Stanton, Mike Gratchner, Rosemary Lott, Sharon Chronister, Brenda Hammer, and Sherri Sheets.

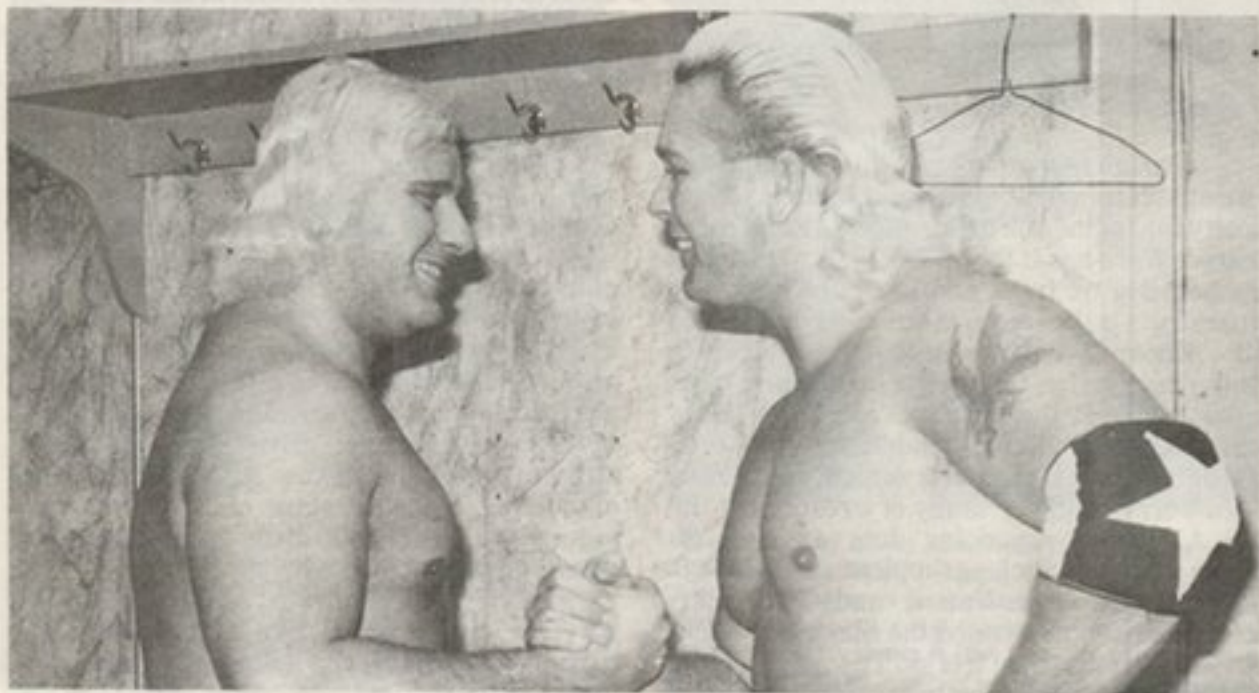


BORIS BREZNIKOFF



KHOSROW VAZIRI

THE FABULOUS VALIANT BROTHERS HAVE ARRIVED



The Valiant Brothers have arrived in the A.W.A. and not only are undefeated but seem headed straight for the top. Johnny says he is tired of facing the boys and wants some real competition. His brother says that he hopes ring announcers will remember to show dignity and introduce himself and his brother under their proper names, "Handsome Jimmy" and "Luscious Johnny".



Jimmy is seen putting the finishing touches on Cowboy Bob Ellis. Ellis is just one of the many top notch stars who have fallen before a Valiant attack.



Johnny, his face a mask of blood, puts it to Bruno Sammartino. While wrestling out east The Valiants sold out New York's Madison Square Garden a number of times.

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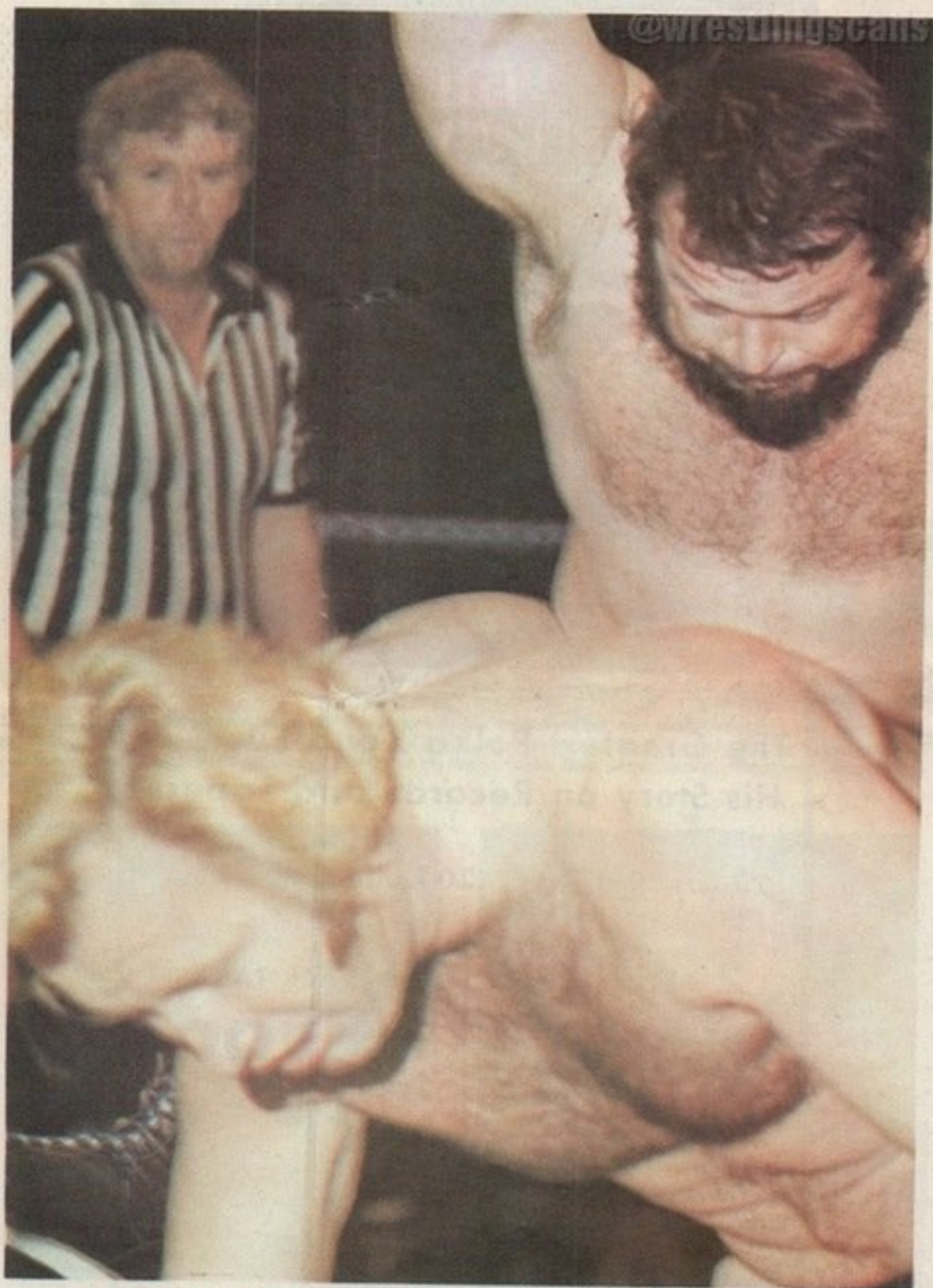
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