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JANUARY, 1967



SPECIAL FEATURES

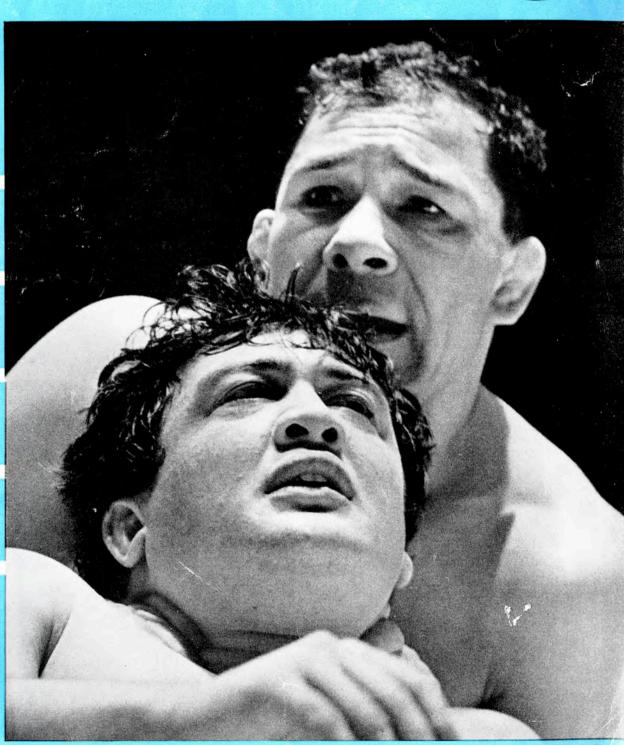
JOHNNY KWANGO

SPENCER CHURCHILL

RINGSIDE GOSSIP

RINGSIDE CANADA

OFFICIAL MONTHLY
OF THE
EUROPEAN
WRESTLING ALLIANCE



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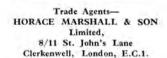
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VOLUME VI

No. 8

Peter Szakacs with a nerve hold on the neck of Leon Fortuna

[Photo: H. G. Stevens]



John Rackham looks at

JOHNNY KWANGO



I'm always delighted to find that Johnny Kwango, the West African Champion, is featured in a programme of wrestling, for I know that I will undoubtedly enjoy a polished ring performance leavened with a little humour of the type unlikely to displease even the most vehement textbook purist.

The truth is that the natural sense of fun which is part and parcel of the irrepressible Kwango just won't remain quiescent for the whole of a bout, and a smile is sure to appear on his face during a part of the action as he sees the funny side of some ring incident. Outside of the ring, the humour bubbles forth in full torrent, and the impression is of a man who believes that a joke and a smile is very necessary to this drab world.

Naturally, the humour of Johnny Kwango is inclined to wear a little thin when he finds himself in opposition to one of those ring tyrants who believes that the illicit punch, chop or prod is the easiest ladder to wrestling success. Such an opponent may find himself lined up for "the treatment", which could mean that Kwango's humour may turn a little macabre, with the opponent suffering indignity as well as punishment for deviating so recklessly from the wrestling textbook!

It is not really surprising to find Johnny Kwango the mat star he is today. After all, his elder brother "Black Butcher" Johnson is remembered as being one of the premier wrestlers of the thirties, while even his mother spent a spell as a wrestler and strong woman with a travelling circus!

Johnny Kwango was first billed professionally as "Bully" Johnson, brother of the famous "Black Butcher". But he decided that he wished only to progress in the sport of his choice by individual effort and not with the aid of any reflected glory that went with bearing the same surname as his brother. He decided to change his name to Kwango—a name suggested by promoter Les Martin.

We nearly lost Johnny Kwango to the boxing fraternity in those early days before he turned to professional wrestling, for he was a skilled amateur exponent of the fistic sport. He received several offers from managers who had seen him in gym workouts. Fortunately for wrestling fans, his heart was already committed to the mat sport.

Another field where temptation knocked was in the world of the theatre. Indeed, Johnny Kwango succumbed to this temptation for some time before the call of the wrestling ring became too strong to resist.

A skilled dancer, he appeared in an eccentric dancing act at such famous theatres as the Holborn Empire and the Old Collin's Music Hall. For seven months at the Garrick Theatre, London, he acted in a play where the late C. Aubrey Smith took the leading part.



Johnny Kwango with a combination body scissors and foot brace on Tiger Ryan

[Photo: H. G. Stevens]

I had the pleasure, some years ago, of seeing a performance of the famous Ballets Negre, at the Theatre Royal, Brighton. I was intrigued at a much later date to find that Johnny Kwango not only took part in this exhilarating negro dance drama—with its throbbing native music and its uninhibited dancing, it was as different from conventional ballet

as is wrestling from cricket—but also helped form and direct it. The Ballets Negre company toured Britain and the Continent before being eventually disbanded.

As if the talents mentioned already aren't enough, it should be pointed out that Johnny Kwango is a versatile instrumentalist. Starting off in his early 'teens as the first violinist in his school orchestra, he graduated over the months and years to several other instruments. For a time, he even played the drums in a night club.

More talents? Put Johnny Kwango with a radio or television set that refuses to work, or with a temperamental car engine, and leave him alone for a while with the appropriate tools, and the results are likely to be most satisfactory!

Perhaps Kwango's wide variety of interests indicates the restlessness of his nature. Fortunately, in wrestling, with its new faces and places and constant travel, he finds a good antidote to his questing nature and itchy feet. Liking travel, he especially appreciates his overseas tours. It was on such a trip that he met the man he claims is the most brilliant opponent he has faced—Gilbert Le Duc, the then Middleweight Champion of the World.

Kwango often takes part in tag matches, his usual partner being Lindy Caulder, the West Indian star. The pairing is dynamic. Both men are fast, talented grapplers, and they seem to know each other's turn of thought to an uncanny degree. The result is that the pair are often able to run rings around their bewildered opponents.

At 13½ stone, Johnny Kwango is a useful weight from a promoter's viewpoint, for it allows of a wide range of potential opponents. Given a heavy one, Kwango relies upon his speed and athletic prowess to keep him clear of trouble. With light opponents, he is still apt to show superior speed and agility. But either way, his talent and ring experience remain his trump card. Long may he enliven our rings!



Dave Larsen

As the Old Year of 1966 slipped away, news reports came out of Africa telling of the passing of Leo Demetral, veteran world travelling Greek-American heavyweight, at the reported age of 53. It was reported that Demetral, for many years following his retirement from competitive wrestling a masseur on board a liner between here and Africa, died in his cabin of a heart attack. One of the last of the American globe-trotters who really loved wrestling for wrestling's sake, Leo Demetral will be sorely missed. Many of us, here and in Africa, will miss the 'trade talk chatter' from this smiling American who always had a colourful story to tell. Leo Demetral was a rare man and, in our world of wrestling, there are not many left.

To these eyes who have watched thousands of champions and near champions of the padded ring over the years, the efforts of those who try to improve their standing in their profession are pleasant to watch. Alan Sargeant, the newly-crowned Official British Welterweight Champion and Lord Mountevans Gold Belt holder from Romford, has proven to the 'mockers' that persistent gymnasium training eventually pays off. Sargeant, who, on television, beat Alan Wood of Wigan in the finals of an open to all tournament on Saturday, November

let's talk wrestling

26th, brought into action all the magic of the expert by twisting the Lancashire man in a neat cross over toehold to win the deciding submission. More or less, dark-haired, good-looking twenty-seven year old Sargeant beat the Wigan man with a hold that the catch-as-catch-can wrestlers have been famous for generations. Sargeant becomes the second Official British Welterweight Champion since the introduction of the Admiral Lord Mountevans Belts in 1964. He has the skill to become one of the best of the post-war champions. In any case, his ability will be tested to the extreme by the mighty *Mike Bennett* at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday, January 18th.

Talking to muscular *Dave Larsen*, handsome blond young athlete from Winchester, he tells me that he's been interested in wrestling ever since he read a book about it by *George Hackenschmidt*, the 'Russian Lion' of another day. Ever since, Larsen who is a keen physical culturist and body builder, had modelled his life on the great Hackenschmidt. The blond young superman looms as one of the most promising heavyweights of 1967.



The Steve Veidor supporters-the A-Z Wrestler's Fan Club, that very able group run by Brian G. Dixon has produced a most attractive calendar. There are plenty of wrestlers' photographs and it's an ideal decoration for any room.



Steve Veidor with a bevy of beautiful girls

'Irish' Pat Barratt, the heavyweight from Dublin who has done most of his wrestling chores on the American Continent has high praise for promoter Rod Fenton of Vancouver, Canada. Says Barratt, discussing American wrestling in general, "Promoter Fenton has the right idea. He attempts to give his fans real 'big time' wrestling. Look at his recent initial venture into Seattle when he presented the heavyweight championship of the world between Lou Thesz and the Champion Gene Kiniski and nine other top contests. What a night, what a night" I, just for once, had to agree with the red haired Irishman.

Occasionally we get the opportunity to see Ray Fury, handsome Southern Area Light-Heavy-weight Champion in action on the mat. A busy young business executive, Fury just can't keep away from his first love-wrestling. Personally Fury is such a fine young wrestler that I'd like to see much more of him wrestling the toughest of foreign competition in the lighter heavyweight class.

David Cameron, reporting from New Zealand, comments that Big John Da Silva, the Maori warrior arrived back in his homeland looking in great shape. After beating the New Zealand champion Bull Potatau in Auckland, records Cameron, the big Da Silva left for Australia to compete against American competition in Sydney until the season re-opens in New Zealand.

Another interesting item of information from top Southern hemisphere reporter Cameron was the fact that when Jake 'Dutch' Zorro arrived back in Wellington one of the audience was Mr. Keith Holyoake, the New Zealand Prime Minister.

Max Ward, the Birmingham-born referee who has adopted the brusque American style of officiating, has the reputation of being an all round sportsman. Ward, immaculate in evening dress, is often seen at the ringside of big time boxing contests.

On Christmas day, Dave Morgan, the sensational young Welsh light-heavyweight from Cardiff celebrated his twenty-first birthday, Already Morgan has scored some impressive victories over wrestlers with courage to oppose him.

If you want to acquire any knowledge, then the layman should ask the wrestlers, men from all walks of life skilled in many professions. When I have personal problems with the roses I grow I consult Zoltan Boscik, the Official Lightweight Champion of Hungary, who is an expert on this subject besides being a most able master of wrestling.



Steve Clements Irish whips Mike Bennett [Photo: Geo. Reid]

If I was asked to name the wrestlers of 1966 who made the greatest progress during the year I'd list the *Borg Twins* of Malta, *Steve Clements* of Huddersfield, *Len Hurst* of the West Indies, not forgetting crew-cut *Steve Veidor* for whom 1966 was the greatest year of his young life.

CHARLES MASCALL

A MOST VERSATILE STAR*

Terry, who turned professional at 21, was advised by the great Jack Atherton how to make the most of his natural ability.

Terry has had many hectic bouts since joining the paid ranks and regards Jack Dempsey and that other hard-to-beat battler Ken Joyce as his two toughest ring appearance.

Terry Nylands hoists Alan Dennison aloft [Photo: H. G. Stevens]

A young man with plenty of courage, determination and speed who has successfully proved himself in the professional wrestling world and is now building up a reputation for toughness and tenacity is that welterweight of many holds Terry Nylands of Rochdale.

To my way of thinking drop kick expert Nylands is one of our most versatile grapplers in the lower weight divisions. Instead of relying on one particular move-as so many newcomers do once they have found how effective the drop kick can be—this agile grappler can call upon many holds.

Bristol-born Nylands is a natural welter at 111 stone and is now in his early thirties. He moves around the ring as fast as lightning, and apart from perfecting the drop kick, he employs the double knee hold and toe hold with equal effect. favourites of the determined Nylands are the full nelson and the head butt.

From what I have seen of the Rochdale welter he likes to wear his man down whenever possible and if he can 'post' him a few times so much the better.

He was an amateur for six years, taking up the sport at the age of 15 and gaining valuable experience when, as a P.T.I. in the Army, he wrestled out in Egypt and Persia at the age of 17.

toughest ring opponents. He says his ambition is to take the British Lord Mountevans' Gold Belt.

The ambitious Nylands realises that with such capable challengers about as New Cross tough guy Mick McManus, Lancashire's Bobby Steele, Scottish ring wizard Ted Hannon, Highbury's Mr. T.V. Jackie Pallo and youngsters like Vic Faulkner, Alan Miquet and Mick McMichael, that it will be a very tough task for him to become champion. But he is dedicated enough to try and I admire him for it.

Terry spends a lot of time training and working out new moves and a recent win over Northern Adonis Ron Oakley proves that Nylands' hard work is bearing fruit.

In tag-team contests he has partnered Bobby Steele and this Lancashire two-some made a big impression when they appeared in a televised bout from Ossett Town Hall in September, 1965, against Chic Purvey and Jim McKenzie of Scotland. Jim gained the first fall for his team by pinning Bobby but Terry equalised with a fall against Jim in 11 minutes.

The Lancashire lads then took turns to dropkick Chic, but Terry tried this once too often and as Chic side-stepped, he fell awkwardly on his back. Chic then gained an easy winning fall.

Terry has had his fair share of injuries. Apart from the shoulder injury I mentioned earlier, he also broke two ribs in a bout at the Wimbledon Palais, which, ironically, is his favourite venue.

Out of the ring, Terry Nylands turns his sporting interests to horse riding. In Partnership with his brother, he owns a riding school and spends a lot of his time breaking in the younger horses as well as attending horse shows. Horse riding is also a hobby of New Zealand heavyweight star Ernie 'Kiwi' Kingston and I feel that Terry Nylands will soon be as well known for his wrestling ability as the giant New Zealander.

TONY FLOOD

ACION

Triumphant Return for CHIC PURVEY

It seemed almost fitting that Chic Purvey, Scotland's middleweight champion for more than a decade, should make a brief return to southern rings to appear in that most coveted spot, the main event of a Royal Albert Hall bill.

Many fans considered that all-action Purvey should have been there a month earlier, as the top logical contender to *Bert Royal*, who then still held the British middleweight title.

However, Chic got his chance, stepping up into the spotlights, with fanfares ringing around the hall to tackle who else but *Mick McManus*. As reported briefly in the 'Wrestler' the crafty Londoner won, but not until after a contest that all who saw it will remember for years.

Purvey came south like a breath of fresh air, still as impetuous and unpredictable as ever, still one of the most exciting wrestlers in the land. He did not win, but it was still a triumphant return.

His Albert Hall appearance only whetted the appetites of southern fans, and what a refreshing change a more lengthy tour would make. McManus, Jackie Pallo and other controversial men in the lighter weights are never short of opponents, but not of the Purvey class.

That Albert Hall meeting was a piece of inspired match making and I am still convinced that far too few of our top stars travel about enough. A greater exchange of personalities would do wrestling nothing but good.

Purvey has been a top middleweight almost since the outset of his ring career. He won the Scottish title from Les Cannon within a couple of years of turning professional, and around the same time won a junior version of the British championship from Harry Fields.

Over the years Chic has hung on to his Scottish crown in almost 30 title defences, and still shows no signs of giving it away. He has also challenged persistently for the British championship, first against *Tommy Mann* and then Bert Royal.



Chic Purvey with a side headlock on Jon Cortez
[Photo: Geo. Reid]

In fact Purvey relieved Mann, possibly the last of the really great middleweights, of the British belt on more than one occasion, only to lose it again in tempestuous return contests.

He has also had considerable experience on the Continent, especially in France and I came across him in Nice a few years back where his tactics suited the eager French fans, and a fair sprinkling of British holidaymakers, down to the ground.

There are no half measures about Chic's wrestling style. He is in there to win from the first bell and that is the end of it. McManus found out the hard way and had been through the ropes three times before their Albert Hall meeting was more than a couple of minutes old.

As far as wrestling is concerned, Purvey learned his business the hard way. By the time he was 16, Chic had worked in a travelling boxing booth and gained rather more than a passing interest in wrestling, in the amateur code.

By the time he was 18 Purvey was a leading amateur and held no fewer than three championship titles, in the middle, light-heavyweight and heavyweight classes.

His first real taste of wrestling in the paid ranks came in Scotland when he entered, and won an open tournament in Aberdeen from an entry including such personalities as Alan Colbeck, Frank O'Donnell, Jack Dempsey and Ken Joyce.

Looking back over the years, Purvey has few regrets about his career, although he is still determined to get a lasting grip on the British title.

RUSSELL PLUMMER

SPENCER CHURCHILL

After a period out of the wrestling headlines, in which many fans were wondering if he had disappeared from the ring altogether, *Spencer Churchill* has been making his presence felt to a considerable extent in the opening months of the winter season and has been delighting his followers with his performances.



Churchill became a favourite almost overnight and always has boasted one of the biggest fan following in modern wrestling. His loyal admirers outnumber those of many of the top of the bill heavyweight personalities, and they were understandably puzzled by Spencer's limited appearances for a time.

They need have no worries now for the famed 'cover man' of the physical culture world is wrestling, in my opinion, better than at any time in his career.

Churchill has learned well the lessons of his early career, and this experience, together with his speed and strength make him one of the day's top light-heavyweight contenders.

Although full time wrestling engagements often mean that he must curtail his weight training programme, Spencer is still in remarkable physical shape, and has the ability to withstand punishment as well as dish it out.

Spencer has always been a professional athlete. After he won the title of 'Britain's best developed man,' and other top physique awards he was part of a touring weight lifting and posing show arranged by the famous Reg Park.

During another period he was a professional diver with *Stan Bond* the former Olympic star, but all the time had a deep interest in wrestling, and after starting as an amateur became more and more wrapped up in the sport.

His amateur experience came as a member of London's Tottenham Court Road Rangers' Club and he met several well-known modern professional stars during this period, when they were also amateurs.

Spencer had his first professional contest at Southampton at the age of 20, facing *Johnny Peters* the high flying Brighton star who retired a couple of years ago.

His progress has been steady and sure, rather than spectacular, but from the outset Churchill has been a man popular with fans from all walks of life.

He opened the present winter season with a series of catchweight contests against some notables from the lighter weights, including a couple of hectic clashes with *Jackie Pallo*, in which he taught the bombastic television personality a thing or two!

Other matches that have followed have put Spencer in the opposite corner to *Danny Lynch*, *Steve Logan*, *Al Fontayne* and many of the toughest propositions in the light-heavyweight class.

Churchill has no preference about the style or tactics used by his opponents. He prefers to regard them all as equally dangerous, whether they stick to the rules, or try to go beyond.



Spencer Churchill tries for a knee spread on Johnny Kwango

He has been appearing in an increasing number of tag team contests this season, partnered usually by Bob Kirkwood, the well built light-heavyweight from Portsmouth.

Among the best performances of this talented pair is a victory over *Pedro Tejero* and 'Wildcat' Garcia—the Commancheros, this and other displays have been well received by the fans.

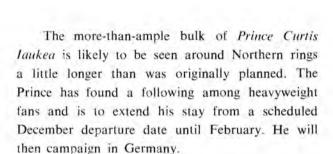
Although Churchill and Kirkwood have no plans to make a permanent combination, they are often in action together and have achieved such a high degree of understanding, that this seems to be the next logical step.

One way or another, what ever happens, Spencer Churchill seems to be in for a pretty busy winter!

RUSSELL PLUMMER

NORTHERN RING GOSSIP

by KEN OSBORN



Monsieur Montreal—real name Marcel Chalvean is to fulfil a number of ring engagements here early in the new year following his early and impressive appearances. His ring-craft, physique and personality have confirmed French promoter Roger Delaporte's assessment of him as being the best mid-heavyweight over there.

Wryton Promotions, of Manchester, are to bring two wrestlers back into their rings who need no introduction—possibly for different reasons! Joseph Molnar, the top-class Hungarian, is one and back early in the New Year comes the "Mad Turk" himself, Mustapha Shikane!!!

Ted Beresford, the Huddersfield promoter, said a sincere thanks and farewell to the Gauchos recently when they went home to Spain. But he, as well as other promoters, have been most impressed by the pair and it shouldn't be long before they are back again I am told.

Since unmasking after being defeated in a challenge match, Count Bartelli has collected a whole new following now they can see the features



George Kidd using his own weight on this side headlock to force Jim Breaks to the Canvas [Photo: Geo. Reid]

of the man no longer behind the mask. A wealthy man in his own right from his garage business and other investments the Count, who is Crewe based, still enjoys his life as a pro, wrestler and has no intention of leaving the ring.

Another wrestler similarly placed is George Kidd. We all know and accept George as the undisputed world lightweight champion whose other interests mean that he could retire from the ring tomorrow. The day he decides to quit will be a sad day indeed for British wrestling and we all hope the pull of the roped square continues to be such a strong one to him.

If only his beard was white many hundreds of children in the North would gladly do a festive swap hereabouts—Santa Claus for *Ian Campbell*. As has been Ian's custom at this time of the year, he has again organised a party for children from Leeds who will go with him to Belle Vue Circus, Manchester, and he has also accepted an invitation to visit childrens parties and homes in the Doncaster area.

On a warmer note, Bristol's *Tony Charles* says he is looking forward eagerly to the warmer climate of the Mediterranean come the summer. Tony spent five weeks in the South of France last year camping with his family and the young ones became very partial to fresh crab which Tony himself brought up from his diving efforts.

Bill Howes, European title-holder, is now able to give more time to his wrestling activities following a period of difficulty. His supermarket at Little Lever near Bolton has been claiming much of his time but new arrangements he made recently give him more time and a clearer head for his ring work.

Leeds wrestler Paul Luty took a familiar role—that of a very smart "doorman with a mission" recently. Among Paul's many activities outside the ring one can see from the picture that he cuts quite a dash in a dinner jacket—and nobody gate crashes when Paul is on the door. He did, however, let in Eamonn Andrews when his show was televised from Harrogate's Royal Hall recently.



Paul Luty with Eamonn Andrews at the Royal Hall

A popular figure in Northern rings is to be seen more in them from January 1st. He is the *Zebra Kid* who fancies a little more travelling in his 1967 programme.

Another popular wrestler who can claim to be the "only one of his kind" returns to the North soon. He is the Rev. Michael Brooks, the Methodist Minister from South Africa who wrestled here initially two or three years ago while visiting relatives near Morecambe. He makes another two month trip beginning this month (January) and will wrestle while he is here.

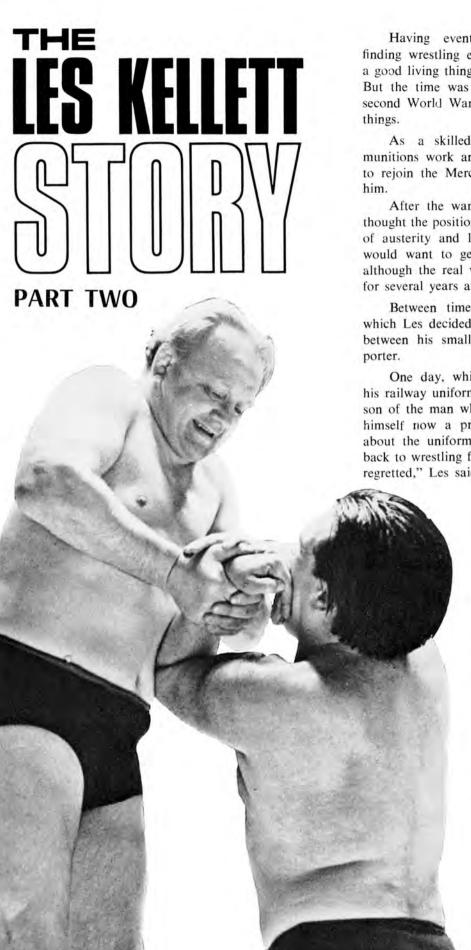
Another capacity crowd at the Queen's Hall, Leeds, early in December further established this leading venue in the North, it was here that *Jimmy Saville* made his debut and our next piece of gossip shows how far he has progressed since then.

Jim recently made a great impression when he made his first appearance in Newcastle and is booked to return there soon. Having got down seriously to the job of training and learning the sport, he is likely to be seen at other Northern venues during the next three months. He is also to be partnered in a tag team and the fans won't be able to resist the spectacle—once they know who his partner is to be!

Additions—and firm favourites—to enhance the lighter divisons any time now see the return of *Inca Peruano*, from France where he has been campaigning, and *Vento Castello*, from Spain.

You haven't seen popular South Elmsall heavyweight *Tommy Kilmartin* recently? Try the Gardener's Arms at Pontefract where Tommy is now installed as landlord.

In response to questions asked about capacities of various big arenas outside the London area I have compiled the following: — Kings Hall, Belfast —10,000 (promoters Relwyskow and Green in association with George Connell); Paisley Ice Rink —5,000 (Morrell and Beresford in association with Peter Keenan): Nottingham Ice Rink—5,500 (Ted Beresford): Ayr Ice Rink—4,000 (Morrell and Beresford); Kirkcaldy Ice Rink—4,000 (Morrell and Beresford); Falkirk Ice Rink—4,000 (Morrell and Beresford); Queens Hall, Leeds—5,500 (Relwyskow and Green). These queries arose from Northern fans asking how many arenas could compare with the Royal Albert Hall—capacity 5,250—where Dale Martin provide the sport.



Having eventually given up his job and finding wrestling engagements enough to give him a good living things were working out well for Les. But the time was 1938 and with the start of the second World War a different light was thrown on things.

As a skilled engineer he was called into munitions work and later, despite several attempts to rejoin the Merchant Service, the Army claimed him.

After the war he returned to the ring having thought the position out and realised that after years of austerity and lack of entertainment the public would want to get out and about. He was right although the real wrestling boom was not to begin for several years after VJ day.

Between times there was a slack period in which Les decided to pull out and divide his time between his smallholding and work as a railway porter.

One day, while walking through Bradford in his railway uniform, he met George de Relwyskow, son of the man who gave him his first chance and himself now a promoter. "We had a real laugh about the uniform and he persuaded me to come back to wrestling full time—a decision I have never regretted," Les said.

By this time, Joint Promotions Ltd., were in the process of putting professional wrestling on the map as a major sport and part of this process was to re-organise all the British titles.

Having held what was the cruiserweight title for some five years, Les suddenly found himself no longer a title-holder but there was plenty of work by now and the modest, unassuming Les really didn't mind.

Bouts were coming up thick and fast and the scope of wrestling meant that he was having to do much more travelling as Joint Promotions

Les Kellett with a double wrist lock on Steve Logan [Photo: H. G. Stevens] On the subject of training, Les is not a firm believer in hours in the gym. "If you wrestle regularly and have a few tasks such as I have on the land training can be worked in with normal routine. If there is a slack period you need to keep in trim, but otherwise I find my normal routine plus a little extra physical effort keeps me in fine fettle."

Two other subjects which Les expounded upon were cars and clothes.

Les Kellett is essentially a man's-man with no edges, no false claims and, in fact, no need to be any other than just Les Kellett.

As yet he has no plans for retirement and with his reputation for giving at least his money's worth, and usually considerably more, there is no reason why he should be thinking of leaving the ring.

Sometimes billed as "The Fox", he lives up to





Les Kelletts speciality leg stretch and toe hold [Photo's: Geo, Reid]

"One thing you won't see me with is a new car", he told me. "With the mileages I have to do and the amount of keeping up to a new car needs, I prefer to run a reliable second-hand one and change it regularly".

On clothes he had this to say: "While I would like to look the picture of sartorial elegance I can't get used to ties and stiff collars and so I settle for something comfortable, slacks, sweaters and comfortable clothing rather than 'tailor's dummy' stuff."

There, in a nutshell, you have one of the most popular professional wrestlers in the ring to-day.

this tag admirably with his ability to look all but out on his feet only to completely fox the opposition into a false sense of security—usually arrived at just before they hit the deck and stay there!

But no matter what the opposition, whether they want to put on an exhibition of flawlessly "straight" wrestling or indulge in a punch-up of gigantic proportions, they will find Les ready to accommodate them in a manner which they probably hadn't bargained for. Either way the bout will be a memorable one—they usually are when Les Kellet is involved!

KEN OSBORN

one gain one loss for the

FAULKNERS

Less than an hour after winning the European Middleweight Championship belt, Britain's young "golden boy" Vic Faulkner had the mortification of watching elder brother Bert Royal relinquish his hold on the British title and Admiral Lord Mountevans belt.

Scotland's Clayton Thomson found the effort of making the middleweight limit for the Championship bout worthwhile by becoming the new British title-holder with a well-merited victory on Huddersfield promoter Mr. Ted Beresford's doublechampionship bill which pulled in a capacity crowd of some 5,000 at the great Nottingham Ice Rink arena at the end of November, 1966.

In the first contest young Faulkner was matched with the brilliant Spanish champion Jose Rodriguez Questa and what a tremendous contest the pair provided for their excited audience.

Referee Joe Hill (Bradford) probably wished that all Championship bouts were as easy to handle as this one was-pure scientific wrestling; on no



Clay Thomson holds Bert Royal with a complicated arm lock

[Photo: H. G. Stevens]



Vic Faulkner and Bert Royal
[Photo: Geo. Reid]

occasion did either wrestler come remotely near to breaking the rules-and yet both strove mightily to gain the better of his opponent with a variety of well-executed, and painful, holds and counter-

The speed of both wrestlers was a revelation but even so Faulkner momentarily made his Spanish opponent look a trifle slow when he surprisingly snatched the first fall of the bout in the fourth round with a spectacular ground drop kick assisted by a back drop and bridge.

Rodriguez, clever campaigner that he is, was undeterred at this and had the best of the fifth round with his monkey-climbs and leg dives causing Faulkner a lot of trouble.

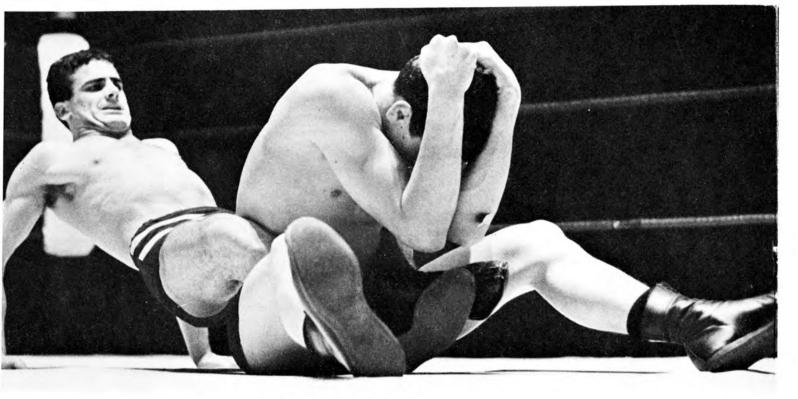
It was in the next round that the Spaniard deservedly drew level when Faulkner, try as he did, failed to get out of a smartly-executed victory roll and shoulder press.

It then became a question of which wrestler would stand the blistering pace the longest. Round seven produced a number of Irish whips by both wrestlers; an attempted rolling crotch hold by Faulkner and an attempt to pin the Bolton youngster with a leg snatch and folding press by Rodriguez.

When the eighth round began there was still not much in it after resisting a double reverse arm lock and shoulder press by Rodriguez, Faulkner crowned the greatest moment of his short career with a perfect flying double leg nelson off the ropes for the winning fall.

A wildly-cheering crowd were joined in their acclaim of the new champion by Rodriguez himself as Mr. Beresford climbed into the ring to pin the belt around the slim waist of Britain's young star.

Continued on Page 23



Tony Borg applies a powerful body scissors to his opponent



on the mat

BOTTOM LEFT
Jose Marquess caught by the foot as he leaps to attack Hans Streiger

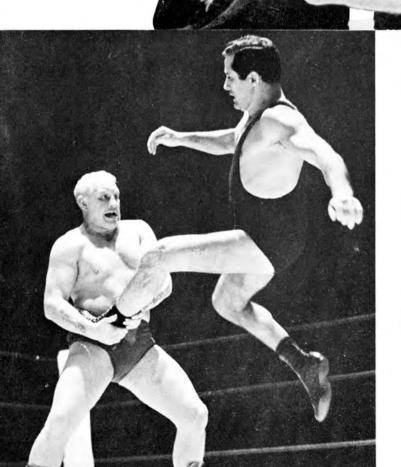
[Photo: H. G. Stevens]

BOTTOM RIGHT Roy St. Clair pile drives Steve Logan [Photo: H. G. Stevens]



Young Robby holds his opponent to the canvas with his right foot whilst working on

[Photo: H. G. Stevens]





CANADA

with BOB LEONARD

Exit Jungle Jim Starr, and enter his conqueror 6ft. 5ins., 20st. Chicago ring killer, Stan "The Assassin" Stasiak.

It's true. Starr's bloody reign of terror in rings throughout the western provinces of Canada is finished, wiped out, and the man himself has retreated to the U.S. Northwest to test the opposition there. But in its place has started what may be the noisiest mat explosion in the past decade of Canuck grappling, with the sudden arrival of Stan Stasiak.

From the moment he set foot on prairie soil, Stasiak swore he would meet them all. He lashed out at Starr in one of his very first bouts here, a semi-final affair, and within seconds made rugged Jungle Jim the people's choice for a winner. Starr's savage assault, the fans figured, would be just the thing to stop Stasiak in his tracks. The only man in the arena who thought differently was Stasiak, and he viciously set out to prove everyone wrong.

After the first sixty seconds of the bout had ticked by, Starr felt something slipping. He couldn't get to Stasiak, couldn't pound through with his merciless kicks to the stomach and roundhouse punches to the head. Stan simply bored in, shook off the punishment, and belted home some crushing moves of his own. Starr was wavering by the two-minute mark, his eyes glazed by thudding knee-drops and jaw-breaking punches. After three minutes, the end was in sight, with Starr draped over the ropes half-unconscious.

The coup de grace came with lightning-like speed, as Stasiak scooped his wobbly foe off the ropes from behind and sailed him high into the air. Up went Starr, and finally, down the tail-end of his spine cracking against Stasaik's thighbone as the climax to the brutal 'Atomic Drop' Stan uses so effectively. The pin was a formality—Stasiak merely planted his big foot on Jungle Jim's chest, and let the official toll off the fatal 'one-two-three'.

Next for hulking Stan may be clashes with Regina smoothie *Johnny Foti*, the 12-year veteran whose style seems to grow more polished and slick with every passing year. That's what the experts predict, at least, and it's been heard around the dressing rooms that Foti has an old score to



Tom Andrews about to slam Jungle Jim Starr into the corner post

settle with Stasiak, dating back to a series of Eastern matches several years ago. A bout between the two would be a top draw in any western arena, say promoters, and they're quick to add that Foti might be an even money favourite to take the duke over powerhouse Stan.

It wouldn't be too surprising either if *Dave Ruhl*, the veteran hardrock from Alberta, angled for a shot at Stasiak and his crippling style. There's nothing Dave likes better than felling hard-to-handle men with top reputations, so Stasiak would be right down his alley. Too, there should be new faces on deck around the West following the holiday season, and we're betting plenty of them will be hot after the man they call "The Assassin" in short order.

So wrestlers never get hurt in the ring? Here's a note that gives the lie to a favourite statement: 21st. "Ox" Anderson, attempting his crushing finisher, a flying spread delivered from the top turnbuckle, missed the boat when his opponent suddenly moved out of range, landing squarely on one shoulder. Result, a dislocated shoulder and other injuries that could keep the Ox on the sidelines for a long time. The titanic American grappler is mending back home in Utah, but plans to return here just as soon as the medicos give him the green light.

On the Regina card, Bob "Bruiser" Sweetan will be battling his way back to the final bouts when he tangles with Emile Dupre in what's shaping up as a real scorcher. Bob, while he was the crowd's choice during his recent series with The Beast, just likes to win any way he can and figures to hit Dupre with everything in the book, Emile, naturally, has other ideas and will be shooting back at Sweetan with stiff offensive moves on the same card, another feud may burst into flame as Tom Andrews hooks up with Rudy Kay for one fall in 20 minutes.

Johnny Foti and Cowboy Kirk are shaping up nicely as a team, and need only experience together to merge into a smooth combination. They recently took a disqualification win over Jungle Jim Starr and Ox Anderson in Calgary the same bout incidentally, that saw Anderson injure his shoulder in the final frame.

Looking ahead, we see a stellar year for wrestling in the West—and all across Canada—as premier American and International stars converge on Canuck arenas. Expected shortly after New Year's in *Luther Lindsay*, the sensational coloured heavyweight who has been such a favourite here in past seasons. As we hear it, Lindsay is finishing off a terrific 1966 season in his native Virginia and environs, and should continue right here with his winning ways throughout '67.

Another arrival exciting lots of interest is ponderous Bull Johnson of the U.S., one of the fastest-rising roughsters in the grapple world. Johnson has confined his activities to Eastern Canada thus far, and has ranged into the U.S. more recently to add to his string of wins over matland's best. A rough one all the way, Johnson could conceivably tag up with Stan Stasiak and "Murder, Inc. would be the best nickname for that pairing! Look, too, for the arrival of new redskin smoothie Chief Golden Hawk from Arizona. Not much is known about The Hawk, as he's known over the border. but promoter Stu Hart of Calgary was cautioned by a fellow mat mahatma in the U.S., "don't put The Hawk with anyone but main event men. He'll slaughter them!" A good recommendation, we'd



Emile Dupre hitches a ride on Ox Anderson



Jack Kris catches a drop kick to the chin from Cowboy Bruce Kirk

But the king of the new arrivals—and regular stand-bys, too—just couldn't be anyone but swaggering Sweet Daddy Siki, who's skedded to return just as soon as he can wind up his commitments in Eastern Canada. Since leaving here last July, Siki has whipped like a whirlwind through arenas in Ontario and Quebec, demolishing everything in his path with his usual gusto. So, true to form, the colour-charged Negro roughster should blaze a mile-wide trail through competition here.

Playing an accompaniment to Siki could be well-built "Duke of Earl" Noble, another dusky bone-bender who has ripped up some top opponents during a long stay in Ontario rings for Toronto promoter Frank Tunney. Strutting beatnik Noble must qualify as perhaps the best-built grappler in North America, sporting 21-inch biceps and other measurements to match. Add to this his terrific strength and agility on the canvas, and you have a top competitor loaded with colour and fire.

Strictly an opposite to Siki and Noble, although every bit as talented, is *Johnny Kostas* of Greece, the agile heavyweight tussler who showed here so well last season. Kostas has had a stellar summer and fall in the East, and figures he'll follow it up with a sweep through the provinces all the way to Vancouver. And sharp though he is, Kostas will have to be in peak form to survive a winter stay here against the top opposition expected in shortly.

So there you have it: Luther Lindsay, Bull Johnson, Chief Golden Hawk, Sweet Daddy Siki, Duke Noble, Johnny Kostas! They'll form the backbone of prairie ring presentations over the next few months, according to promoters here, and they'll be joined every few weeks by rising stars and established headliners gleaned from rings around the world. The talent prospect: great! The financial prospect: more sell-outs than any previous season! And the prospect for the fans: red-hot, action-laced grappling at RINGSIDE CANADA!

was again a welcome guest in this country. Paco Pastor, the official Lightweight Champion of Spain was one of the latest top-notchers to arrive from the mainland of Europe.

"Crusher" Verdu, the husky heavyweight from Columbus, Ohio, paid another visit to British rings, this time dropping in on us after having done battle in the annual All-Nations Tournament held in Vienna. This hard-as-nails toughie usually causes his opponents more trouble than they care to accommodate in a single bout.



N'Boa the Snake Man

[Photo: H. G. Stevens]

From the Argentine, *Tito Kopa*, a heavyweight reputed to be of immense strength, and backed by a great deal of ring experience gleaned in many countries, made a welcome Autumn debut in British rings.

Late arrivals in Britain during 1966 included: Prince Curtis Iaukea, the giant 6ft. 7ins., 350lb., Heavyweight Champion of Hawaii; War Cloud, the Apache Indian from New Mexico who has been preceded by a reputation for brilliant ring skills; and the swarthy, walrus-moustached matmen from Mexico, "The Commancheros" (Juan "Wild Cat" Garcia and Pedro Tejero).

And so ended 1966! A stimulating and exciting year for British fans, made all the more enjoyable by the talented—and often colourful—invaders who have appeared from overseas to tilt at our own knights of the mat.

JOHN RACKHAM

ONE GAIN ONE LOSS FOR THE FAULKNERS

Continued from Page 17

If I said that the night ended in disappointment for the Faulkners and for a large majority of the spectators, myself included, when Royal lost his coveted British title to Dundee's Clayton Thomson I should be accused of detracting from the Scottish wrestler's performance and this I would not wish to do.

Thompson entered the ring on that cold November night grimly determined that he was going to succeed and succeed he did.

If the bout was not as spectacular as the previous Championship bout it was certainly as interesting and the tenseness displayed in the ring was also generated throughout the vast stadium.

Royal was clearly upset and ruffled during the early stages of the contest by Thomson's aggressive tactics but referee Gordon Smith ensured that both wrestlers kept to the rules despite a lot of unnecessary "needle" which was to follow.

Neither man looked like pinning his opponent in the early rounds but in the fourth round both came very close to being knocked out!

Royal hurtled across the ring to body-check his opponent on the ropes and within seconds the pair of them were sprawled on the floor outside the ring.

Both wrestlers impeded one another in an attempt to re-enter the ring and as it was a case of "six of one and half-a-dozen of the other" the referee allowed the bout to continue as they scrambled back at the count of "nine."

The bell went to end the round and during the interval it was noticeable that the champion was not too happy about his right arm, injured when Thomson executed his own version of an Irish whip.

Royal began the fifth round with a series of body-checks but Thomson accepted these and replied with one of his own for Royal to slump to the canvas in obvious pain from his shoulder injury.

The referee had no option but to count him out and a jubilant Thomson was declared the winner.

Royal himself said afterwards that he had no misgivings about the conduct of the bout and he expressed the hope that he would be allowed a return at an early date.

Before then? Well, who knows, some enterprising promoter might get the idea of matching Bert and Vic for the latter's European belt!

JOHN GLEDHILL

So you think you know your wrestling?

A QUIZ by Bob Andrews

If you think you do, then test your knowledge with these questions. To begin with they are really simple and then get really difficult—unless you really do know your sport. If you get twenty or more correct, you are good: if you get less than twelve, you are not reading your copy of 'The Wrestler' regularly!

- 1. Who is the European heavyweight champion?
- 2. Who was known as 'The Russian Lion' at the beginning of this century?
- 3. Name the association of wrestling promoters who run the vast majority of tournaments in this country.
- Who are the brothers who left their native land in 1956 to come to England and are now established ring stars here?
- 5. Who is "Mr. T.V."?
- 6. Who is in charge of a wrestling contest once it is under way, the promoter, the referee or the timekeeper?
- 7. What is Steve Logan's nickname?
- 8. Many people consider the 'Islington Hercules' to have been the finest heavyweight produced by this country before the last war. Who was he?
- 9. George Bolas is better known as-?
- 10. How heavy is the American grappler Haystack Calhoun said to be?
- 11. Which wrestler played a leading part in the film 'Goldfinger'?
- 12. Who was British middleweight champion until he retired a while back?
- 13. Name the members of the 'Black Diamonds' tag team?
- 14. Who is the famous disc-jockey who is also a wrestler?
- 15. Who was 'the uncrowned king of the mat'?

- In 1904, at the Royal Albert Hall George Hackenschmidt beat the 'Rolling Pin' man. What was the 'Rolling Pin' man's real name?
- 17. Who were the two contenders for the first official world heavyweight championship and whe won?
- In 1910, in London, two men wrestled for three hours and forty-five minutes without a fall or submission. Name the men.
- Who is credited with having gained the quickest K.O. in a wrestling contest?
- One of this country's greatest grapplers first fought as a professional at the age of fourteen years-that was in 1910. Many of today's Name him. stars owe much to him.
- Ed 'Strangler' Lewis was heavyweight champion of the world off and on for the best part of eleven years. When was this?
- What are the rules of wrestling in this country known as?
- Who is the Irish wrestler who recently returned to this country from a very successful stay in America?
- Name the masked grappler who went undefeated for twenty years in this country?

See Page 27 for Answers



He looks in a funny sort of mood"



Ivan Penzekoff A RUGGED ACTION STAR

For some time past, Ivan Penzekoff, the bearded drop kick star from Bolton, has been storming to the top with his rugged ring tactics and now I think it is time to record that he has "really arrived!" Basically aggressive, he has an uncanny ability of raising the blood pressure of his many fans, and his recent televised bouts with Mick McManus and Dave Morgan have been first class.

Penzekoff, "The Wrestler" coverman for August, 1966, is now a big rival to fellow middle-weights Alan Dennison (Bradford), Chic Purvey of Scotland and Bolton star Vic Faulkner.

Although he is one of the toughest stars in the middleweight division, Ivan is a very quiet fellow outside the ring and his hobbies include breeding Siamese cats and training guard dogs.

But once he ducks under the ropes he becomes a very hard man, indeed, and is not against bending the rules a little to help him get the upper hand.

Ivan, although born in Bolton, has Russian grandparents who came from Latvia. After leaving Leigh Technical School, Ivan worked on a farm for two years and then at 17 he went down into the Chanters Colliery in Lancashire. Yet already he was doing some wrestling whenever he had spare time.

He actually boxed for the National Coal Board but he had earlier joined an amateur wrestling club and after doing his National Service in the R.A.F. near Preston, Ivan was coached in the finer arts of wrestling by heavyweight star Dave Armstrong at a gymnasium in Horwich.

His first professional bout followed against "Gentleman" Jim Lewis of Manchester at Southport. He has now been a professional for nine years and has beaten some of the best men in his weight group, including Bobby Steele, of Manchester, and Melwyn Riss! No doubt his ruggedness, coupled with his great speed and expert use of submission holds such as the single leg Boston crab are responsible for his successes.

When I last saw Penzekoff in action, he was partnering Tug Holton in a tag-team contest against the Royal brothers. Vic Faulkner and Bert Royal. Both Holton and Penzekoff wore black tights and looked menacing early on but their team work was

not as good as that of the Royals and they eventually lost by a double knockout.

Most of the other television appearances that Penzekoff has made have been in single combat matches. Of these his toughest was no doubt against *Iron Man Steve Logan*.

Penzekoff did, however, take part in the first ever tag match to be televised when in 1963 he partnered Alan Colbeck. That also was against the Royal brothers. Ivan has also partnered Peter Rann, Bobby Barnes, Jimmy Ryan and Johnny Czeslaw.



Ivan Penzekoff with a leg lever on Ray Leslie [Photo: H. G. Stevens]

Ivan's ambition as far as single combat is concerned is to take the middleweight championship but he has also fought in the light-heavyweight division. He weighs about 13 stone and 5ft. 10 install.

His speed is, perhaps, his greatest asset and it is not surprising, therefore, that he likes a fast outdoor sport — horse riding I have already mentioned that Ivan trains dogs—which are used as guard dogs for security work—so it is obvious he is very much an animal lover. He was, in fact, a Police Dog Handler while in Preston, where he did his National Service.

Ivan has already achieved one of his ambitions—to appear at the Royal Albert Hall, the other target he has set himself, to win the middleweight championship, will be harder to reach. I'm sure however, that the determined Penzekoff will have a good try.

TONY FLOOD

Lee Sharron



While this may sound to be a fact in complete conflict with the truth it was a fractured spine that led young Leeds wrestler *Lee Sharron* into becoming a professional wrestler.

Lee had been a keen footballer as a schoolboy at Corpus Christi School, not far from his home at Halton, Leeds (not Bolton as he is sometimes 'misbilled' as coming from).

After leaving school he played for a number of local amateur Soccer clubs and following early work as a painter and decorator he branched out on his own. He also began weightlifting and boxing and was on the verge of having to make the decision of concentrating on one or the other when a motorcycle crash decided for him—it fractured his spine.

Encased in a plaster jacket he had to lie down and contemplate the future from a very unsure position. But always having been a physically strong youth, seeing his weight drop from 17 stones to below 11 stones he decided to fight back.

In the latter stages of his encasement in the cast he began to do light lifting exercises from a horizontal position and this gave him both an interest and a challenge. He saw the results of the exercises in a firming of arm and upper chest muscles and once the cast was taken off he set himself a regular series of exercises to put back that which had disappeared during his inactivity.

Luckily for Lee, it was at this time that an amateur gym. had been set up at Oakwood, Leeds, by George de Relwyskow and he became a regular attender. Having got back to work as a painter and decorator he had more time—found more time would probably be more appropriate—to follow his chosen line and his progress was that much faster as a result.

Continuing special exercises to build up his back muscles, he could hardly have had a tougher baptism to pro. sport than he had at the East Yorkshire resort of Withernsea in 1962 when he tackled Les Kellett!

As might be expected, he lost but he did manage a fall in his 2-1 defeat and, coming out of the bout physically well, his confidence went up considerably.

Having known Lee from those days, I was reminded how fast he has come along during the

Page 26

past two seasons while talking to him at Leeds Town Hall recently after a bout. He had just returned from a three week trip to Beirut and Bahrain a jaunt he would never have thought possible during those months in plaster.

Lee, Ian Campbell, Eric Leiderman and Barry Douglas flew to Beirut to take part in a heavyweight tournament for promoter Asaad Srour. The heat took much of the 'steam' out of Lee and he was not in the first half dozen.

Later he and Eric Leiderman flew on to Bahrain to arrive in a day temperature of 110 degrees to face another heavyweight tournament.

Considerable interest was created in the area by the tournament, and, despite the heat the pair finished third and fourth.

They were also invited to the Palace of the Ruler of Bahrain and had several cups of heavy, thick coffee with him and saw something of the sumptuous living of a man who is the head of such a rich state.

"He had 96 cars in his garages and 200 horses in his stables," Lee recalled with a rueful grin. "He was a most friendly person and offered us horses any time we wanted to ride and placed two huge convertibles, complete with chauffeurs, outside our hotel for any of the wrestlers to take when and where we wanted".

Back now to face the new season, Lee is confident that he can make it his best yet. He is undoubtedly one of the most improved young wrestlers we have and his ability to match up with either light-heavyweights or heavyweights gives him a whole field of opportunity.

His ring name, incidentally, comes from a most un-ringlike source—it is the nearest he could get to the two Christian names, reversed, of his seven-yearold daughter Sharron Leslie.

He also has an unusual hobby which is both challenging, pleasant to look at and more than likely highly accumulative if he can hang on to its main items for any length of time. He collects coins—GOLD ONES!

KEN OSBORN

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FELLOWSHIP DINNER

For the first time ever, modern day professional wrestling was represented in the International Sports Fellowship when the famous Texan heavy-weight, Ski Hi Lee, accompanied me to the Fellowship's annual dinner at the Windsor Hotel, Lancaster Gate, London, recently.

George Hackenschmidt is the only other wrestler to be connected with the Fellowship, which has been in existence for 24 years, being founded in 1942.

The International Sports Fellowship's aim is to create greater understanding and friendship throughout the world through the medium of sport. Ski was warmly welcomed at the start.

The I.S.F. treasurer, Reg Rham, proposing a toast to honoured guests, extended a warm welcome to Ski from the Fellowship.

President W. J. Child, said that he was delighted to see Ski present at the dinner.

Sir John Wolfenden C.B.E., in his speech, spoke of the idea of having just as much satisfaction in taking part as in winning and said that there was no sense in taking the field, track or ring without the intention of winning.

Many of the country's top sporting fraternity approached Ski for his autograph and one lady sketched him as he sat listening to speeches.

Altogether a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

B. R. BALE

ANSWERS "So you think you know your wrestling?"

- 1. Billy Robinson, of Manchester.
- George Hackenschmidt.
- 3. Joint Promotions Ltd.
- 4. Tibor and Peter Szakacs, from Hungary.
- 5. Jackie Pallo, of London.
- 6. The referee.
- 7. 'The Iron Man'.
- 8. Bert Assirati.
- 9. The Zebra Kid.
- 10. Forty-three stones.
- 11. Harold Sakata, or 'Togo'.
- 12. Tommy Mann.
- 13. Abe Ginsberg and Eric Cutler
- 14. Jimmy Saville.
- 15. Jack Pye.
- 16. Tom Jenkins.
- George Hackenschmidt and Frank Gotch. Gotch, of America won.
- 18. Stanislaus Zbyszko and Gama Pehlwan.
- Gerry de Jager, of South Africa, in eleven seconds including the count.
- 20. Billy Riley, of Wigan.
- 21. 1920 1931.
- 22. The Mountevans Rules.
- 23. Pat Barrett.
- 24. Count Bartelli.



Bolton is the venue for the Proffit Belt competition each year. Past holders include many ex-national champions, and the belt carries a lot of prestige in Northern wrestling circles. This year's winner is Tony Shacklady of Barton A.W.C. Tony's victims en route to this fine win, included three current champions, Andrew Bailey, Albert Aspen, and Ken Stevenson, bantam—feather—and lightweight champions of Great Britain. To beat such notables of the wrestling world in the one afternoon gives you an idea of young Tony's skill.

Two weeks previously, Albert Aspen won the Brookdale Senior competition at 11st. 7lbs. On this occasion Ken Stevenson was runner-up. These open competitions are a regular feature in the North, and with so many fine wrestlers taking part, help raise the general standard of wrestling in this area.

Bury is rapidly becoming the amateur wrestling capital of the North. Their wrestling team is heading the Northern League, with wins over the other two top teams, Bolton and Barton. The team consists mainly of junior and intermediate grade wrestlers, welded together by Ken Stevenson. Man for man, they are the fittest, youngest, and most skilfull outfit in the league. This is mainly due to a very progressive junior section pioneered by Len Lines and carried on by David Hogg.

Birmingham is the scene of one of the most popular competitions each year. This year the Birmingham Open is scheduled for January 22nd., at the Birmingham Athletic Institute. Entries are expected from all regions, and the tournament is taken as a good guide to the prospects of leading wrestlers in the national championships. If you are free on the 22nd why not get along to the Athletic Institute in John Bright street, you will find it well worth while.

Basildon Boys wrestling club, formed only three months ago, held a very interesting open tournament recently which attracted wrestlers from five clubs. Trainer Teddy Rayment considered that most of his boys were not ready for competition, and only one entered from the host club. After watching the excellent bouts, I'm sure the lads will be only too eager to start with competitive wrestling. It's good to see a new club thriving, and popularising this fine sport.

The second junior Brookdale tournament was held in early December—and it may be the last. Club coach, Duggie Howard, is now in Canada. There have been several tributes and presentations made to Duggie. I would like to pay mine. Duggie has been one of the most enthusiastic workers for amateur wrestling in the Manchester region. He was one of the leading lightweights, and on the mat he gave a fine example for youngsters to follow. More than this, Duggie was one of the best liked and most popular of wrestlers, a man who is rich in friends. Good luck in your new life Duggie.

The actual championships were, as usual, an outstanding success, combining exciting wrestling, and flawless administration. Bury and Barton junior wrestlers dominated the proceedings, but wrestlers from Manco, Barton, Failsworth, Brookdale, Y.M.C.A. and St. Francis acquitted themselves Most exciting bout featured Gardner of well. Brookdale and Molloy of St. Francis. After being on the receiving end of several near pins, Gardner fought back in style to win. Both boys look to be very good prospects for the future. Surprise of the day was the first round defeat of Monks, Bury, last years Open weight winner, by new boy Tom Wrynn of St. Francis. Wrynn won the Open weight class.

Two courses for beginners in the Manchester area currently in operation at the Y.M.C.A. in the city centre, and St. Anthony's Y.C., in Wythenshawe. Coach at the Y.M.C.A. is *Dave Currie*, and he extends a welcome to any prospective wrestlers to drop in and take a look before committing themselves. *Ralph Taverner* is the instructor at St. Anthony's.

Jack Rowlands

A new heavyweight wrestler, appearing at venues as far apart as Redruth and Edinburgh, is causing much favourable comment among ring side critics. His fine, athletic build, dark, handsome looks, and clean, fast, scientific wrestling style, have built him a very large following in a few short months. I am told that a fan club, operating out of Kidderminster, has already been formed. Who is this wrestler, who in such a brief ring span has made such a favourable impression? Well, you know the answer already, from the title of this article; it is Jack Rowlands of Stockport.

Though he lives in the Edgeley district of Stockport, where he and his wife have a general store, Jack was born and lived for many years in neighbouring Manchester. He was a schoolboy boxer, and, not surprisingly when you look at his physique, Manchester schoolboy shot putt champion. It was as a schoolboy that Jack was first attracted to wrestling. He used to go to the now defunct Levenshulme Rink, where the legendary 'Man Mountain' Bill Benny used to promote wrestling shows. Jack helped put up the ring. His imagination was fired by the wrestlers he watched and talked to. He showed me a collection of photographs he has had since those days; faded and wrinkled here and there, of Maurice Tillet (The Angel), a young, tough looking Jack Pye, a slim welterweight called Tommy Mann.

When he was old enough, Jack joined the Y.M.C.A. in Manchester. There he learnt the rudiments of amateur wrestling. He also joined a weight training club where he added extra inches to already impressive muscle. Working as an apprentice machine tool fitter, Jack took on a second job to help with the finances. Because of his height and bulk, he was taken on as an attendant (or bouncer), at a city centre dance hall. It was one of



his lucky days, for also working at this dance hall was Carl Van Wurden, a very well-known wrestler in his day. Carl encouraged Jack in his ambition to become a wrestler, and advised and assisted Jack with his training. It is interesting to note that another of Jack's colleagues at the time was none other than wrestling disc jockey, *Jimmy Saville*.

By now, Jack had decided to turn professional. Standing a shade over six foot and weighing fifteen and a half stone of bone and muscle, he made his first foray into the paid ranks with a small independent promoter. Jack wrestled for several years with these small promoters, and like many before him, decided that his wrestling future lay with Joint Promotions Ltd., the world's largest and best organised wrestling promotion.

Since signing for Joint Promotions, Jack has made a big impact on the wrestling scene. He wrestles full time, and has appeared in most regions, where he has won many admiring fans. He is one of the best proportioned wrestlers in Britain, and, according to his many female admirers, one of the handsomest, too. His wrestling is of a high quality. He is scientific and fast, and he relies on his wits and skill to get him out of any trouble in the ring, and not on his weight and strength. In fact, the future for Jack looks very bright, he has all the attributes needed to succeed in modern day wrestling.

EDDIE CALDWELL

Fan Club Favourites

THE SENSATION OF AUSTRALIAN RINGS

Eddie Swan

A wrestling Dutchman who is making a name for himself in Australia has now started gaining quite a fan following in the British Isles. His ring name is *Eddie Swan* and we are happy to oblige Eddie's new found British following with a special feature about him.

Backed by an ever-growing International Fan Club which already boasts membership above the 1,400 mark, Eddie is being tipped as one of the hottest wrestling properties to be discovered 'down under' for years.

The fact that he is the first wrestler in Australia to have a thriving fan club is a clear indication of his popularity and ability, especially when it is remembered that many of the best wrestlers in the world find their way into Australian rings every year.

Born in Holland, Eddie's real name is Adrianus Zwann and after becoming interested in amateur wrestling he won several titles in his home town, Leidon.

Weight training and lifting also occupied much of his time and after arriving in Australia it was in this field that he first became well known, while working as a gymnasium manager and instructor in Melbourne.

Eddie won the professional 'Mr. Australia' title in 1964 and collected other awards in the two preceding years.

Eddie's first taste of professional wrestling came in 1962 when he faced American heavyweight Syd Freeman and he was guided in the early days of his career by former great Chief Little Wolf.

In the four years that have followed Eddie has never wrestled outside Australia but he has faced and held his own against some of the top heavyweights of the day, including Killer Kowalski, Art Neilson, Buddy Austin, Waldo Von Erich and 'Kangaroo' Roy Heffernan.

He has no regular tag team partner, but has teamed up successfully on occasions with both Red Bastien and Con Tolios and in recent solo



matches has beaten Australians Heffernan, Larry O'Dea and Bruce Wyatt, Hans Schroeder (Holland) and the Great Caramba (Poland).

Un-married, Eddie stands 5 foot 10 inches and tips the scales at 220 pounds, or just within what would be the British mid-heavyweight division.

He definitely prefers 'Text-book' wrestling and Fan Club president Glenda Williams tells me that his speciality hold is a form of flying tackle with a crossed arm slam to the throat.

Eddie is also becoming quite a television favourite and rates as his favourite halls the Sydney Stadium and Festival Hall, Melbourne.

At present Eddie's ambition is to wrestle in the United States and who knows, should he get this far, he might follow in the footsteps of such favourites as Ray Hunter and Bill Verna and try his luck in England.

However, with the competition keen in Australia, Eddie is content to stay put for the time being. And it is hardly surprising, for a man of just four years experience he has met some pretty well-known personalities.

A glance at other opponents in the past reveals such names as Czaya Nador, Pat O'Hara, Johnny Kostas, Joe Scarpa and Bulldog Brower.

Details of the Eddie Swan Club are given on the opposite page in our special 'Around the Clubs' feature this month.

RUSSELL PLUMMER

Fan Clubs

in Britain and Overseas

As well as news from British fan clubs this month, as promised sometime ago, we also look at several of the leading clubs in other parts of the world.

But let's look nearer home for a start. The newly formed *Dave Larsen* Fan Club is getting off to a good start, and president Roy P. Jay from down Southampton way tells me that the membership fee for a year will be 10s.

It is fitting that Winchester born Larsen, with pre-wrestling career connections in Portsmouth and district should have a Fan Club which itself operates from Hampshire. Roy's address is, 102 Rumbridge Street, Toton, nr. Southampton.

There are plans for a newsletter every other month and a special feature will be a report of Dave's top contest during the preceding weeks.

Hardworking Roy has numerous other ideas and has already put a tremendous amount of work into the club.

Jack Mawdsley who is well known at Belle Vue, Manchester where he appears as a second is doing good work for the International Wrestling Supporters Club.

Details of the I.W.S.C. can be obtained by sending a s.a.e. to 70 Coppice Road, Walsall Wood, Staffs.

On a wider front there has been growing interest among British fan club enthusiasts in the clubs in other countries throughout the world, principally in the United States.

Much of this has been generated by the discovery by home fans of the first class Australian Fan Club for heavyweight Eddie Swan, who is this month's 'Fan Club Favourite' featured on the opposite page.

Glenda Williams the club's president of 89 Shorts Road, North Colburg, Melbourne, Australia will be glad to forward details to anyone interested.

Clubs in the U.S.A. have often sprung up overnight to disappear again almost as quickly. However many have stood the test of time and are listed here—although of course we can give no guarantee of the service they would give.

For those who like fast moving heavyweights with all-action styles like our own stars such as Steve Veidor or Joe Cornelius, American heavyweight Bob Ellis might fill the bill. Mike Hargreaves of 7813 Tory Place E, Jacksonville Florida is president of 'Cowboy' Bob's Fan Club.

Ray Stevens is another personality with the same style and his International F.C. is headed by Joe Pottgieser Jr., 228 East Julian St., San Jose, California.

Another alternative is the *Johnny Valentine* F.C., and Dawn Porter, 13911 Pfent Avenue, Detroit, Michigan is the club head.

For the biggest masked sensation the States has known in years, the *The Destroyer* F.C. is the club to contact. Bill Ficek of 1352 North Walnut Street, La Harba, California is the president of the organisation following the undefeated rampage of the white masked star.

Although he spends a lot of time globe trotting each year, and at the time of writing is causing havoc right here in England, the mammoth 'Prince' Curtis laukea really hails from Hawaii and has a thriving fan club to support his quest for wrestling fame.

Iaukea may not have exactly endeared himself to British fans, but anyone wishing to keep track of him when he does decide to pack his bags and move on again can do just that through the Prince's Fan Club. The president is Watters Martin Jr., 5353 Kalanianaole Highway, Honolulu, 16, Hawaii.

RUSSELL PLUMMER

WELTERWEIGHT TITLE CHAMPION ALAN

At last we have a new British welterweight champion. This was brought about not by anybody beating that old master of the mat *Jack Dempsey*, of Wigan, but by ill-health compelling Jack to give up the title.

The new champion, Alan Sargeant, who comes from Romford in Essex, is in his mid-twenties, is dark-haired and good-looking. He is also a comparative newcomer on the wrestling scene but undoubtedly we shall be seeing and hearing a lot more of him now that he is champion.

Alan is a clever grappler, an expert in the art of escaping from holds, and very fast and skilful. He is also, as was evidenced by his bouts in the tournament to decide the new champion, a clean, non-gimmicky wrestler.

Let us admit at once that Alan's becoming the new champ was a real surprise—and how! When we heard that Jack Dempsey was giving up his title, many names of possible successors to Jack were mentioned, including Alan Colbeck, Mick McManus, Jackie Pallo, Eddie Capelli and Ted Hannon—but nobody, to my knowledge, mentioned Alan Sargeant.

But before somebody says, 'Well, Alan won't be champ for long once Colbeck and company get at him,' let us consider two facts. First, in the semifinal of the tournament to decide the new champion, Alan met *Lindy Caulder*, who now lives in County Durham. And Lindy, by any standards, is one of our top welterweights, and to overcome somebody like Lindy in such an important contest is no mean achievement.

Secondly, I remember a few years back going to London's Royal Albert Hall to see another well-established champion, *Melwyn Riss*, defend his British lightweight crown against a comparative 'new boy', *Jim Breaks*, of Bradford. I, along with the majority of fans, did not rate Jim's chances very highly against the much more experienced Melwyn. But how wrong we were—and Jim won the title and has proved himself a worthy champion ever since.

We must also consider the fact that being a champion seems to bring out that 'little extra something' in a grappler, particularly in title fights. I am convinced that Alan Sargeant has got this.

Personally, I am very pleased that a youngster has won the title: and I have a feeling that Alan Sargeant will be champion for quite a time.

BOB ANDREWS



Alan Sargeant of Romford wearing the Lord Mountevans Gold Belt, became official British Welterweight Champion November 26th, 1966



BEDFORDSHIRE		LONDON AREA	
BEDFORD Corn Exchange DUNSTABLE	2nd & 4th Monday	BERMONDSEY Baths CATFORD	1st & 3rd Friday
California Ballroom	2nd & 4th Thursday	Lewisham Concert Hall ELTHAM The Baths KENSINGTON	3rd & 5th Monday 2nd Friday
BERKSHIRE		The Royal Albert Hall	3rd Wednesday
NEWBURY Corn Exchange	2nd & 5th Tuesday	LIME GROVE Baths Hall	3rd, 5th Tues. 7.30 p.m.
READING Town Hall	2nd & 4th Tuesday	SHOREDITCH The Town Hall	1st & 4th Wednesday
BRACKNELL Sports Centre	2nd Saturday	WALTHAMSTOW	Committee of the commit
		Assembly Hall	1st & 3rd Thursday
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE		WEMBLEY The Town Hall	2nd & 4th Monday
AYLESBURY		WIMBLEDON Palais	Every Thursday
Borough Assembly Hall	3rd Monday	NORFOLV	
HIGH WYCOMBE Town Hall	1st & 5th Monday	NORFOLK	4 - A - A - A - A - A - A - A - A - A -
A VALANT SALES SALES SALES		KING'S LYNN Corn Exch.	2nd & 4th Saturday
CAMBRIDGESHIRE		NORWICH	1st & 3rd Saturday
CAMBRIDGE Corn Exch.	1st Thursday	Corn Exchange, Harford GT. YARMOUTH	1st & Sid Saturday
		Hippodrome	1st & 4th Wednesday
DEVON		Impourome	tor se am tradesant
EXETER Civic Hall	3rd Thursday	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	
PLYMOUTH Forum Cinema	4th Tuesday	CORBY Civic Hall	2nd Wednesday
		NORTHAMPTON Drill Hall	1st & 3rd Friday
ESSEX		NORTHAMITON DIM Han	Ist it blu triday
CHELMSFORD Corn Exch.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	OXFORDSHIRE	
COLCHESTER Winter Gdns.		BANBURY Winter Gardens	3rd Wednesday
Corn Exch.	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday	OXFORD The Town Hall	4th Wednesday
HADLEIGH Kingsway Theatre	2nd & 4th Friday	OXPORD THE TOWN HAM	Till Wednesday
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	And Widensides	COMEDCET	
Kursaal Ballroom	2nd Wdenesday	SOMERSET	1st Wadnesday
GL OLIGEGTERGIURE		BATH Spa Pavilion BRIDGWATER Blake Hall	1st Wednesday 1st & 4th Friday
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	and the same of th	BRIDGWATER Blake Hall	1st & still Filling
BRISTOL Colston Hall	2nd & 4th Thursday	SUFFOLK	
CHELTENHAM Town Hall	1st, 3rd & 5th Monday	BURY ST. EDMUNDS	
YEA STREETING		Corn Exchange	2nd & 4th Thursday
HAMPSHIRE	A COLUMN TO A COLU	IPSWICH The Baths	Every Friday
PORTSMOUTH Royal Arena	Every Saturday 7.30 p.m.		1,416 5.14745
SOUTHAMPTON The Guildhall	1st Friday	SURREY	
SOUTHAMPTON	1st Friday	CROYDON Fairfield Halls	Every Tuesday
Pier Pavilion	2nd & 4th Thursday	DORKING Dorking Halls	2nd Wednesday
July ander	and it that a market	DONAL TO DUTING THE	and it thereases
HERTFORDSHIRE		SUSSEX	
BISHOPS STORTFORD		EASTBOURNE	
Rhodes Centre	1st & 3rd Wednesday	Winter Gardens	2nd & 4th Saturday
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD		HASTINGS	and the state of t
Pavilion	1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday	White Rock Pavilion	3rd & 5th Tuesday
WATFORD The Town Hall	2nd Wed. & 4th Mon.	HOVE King Alfred	1st & 3rd Saturday
Salamana)		WORTHING Assembly Hall	1st Tuesday
KENT		WORTHING Pier Pavilion	3rd Monday
FOLKESTONE Leas Cliff Hall	3rd Monday		
HERNE BAY Pier Pavilion	1st Friday	WARWICKSHIRE	And the Control of the Control
MAIDSTONE Agricultural Hall	2md & 465 Cat	COVENTRY Drill Hall	1st & 3rd Saturday
MARGATE Winter Gardens	2nd & 4th Saturday 3rd Tuesday		
ROCHESTER The Casino	Every Friday	WILTSHIRE	
TUNBRIDGE WELLS		SWINDON Locarno Ballroom	2nd & 4th Monday
Assembly Hall	2nd & 4th Monday	WESTBURY Vista Cinema	1st & 4th Saturday
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A Seat at the Ringside



THE FAULKNERS OF BOLTON IN A "TAG TEAM" TRIUMPH! TIBOR TUMBLES GIGANTIC ELRINGTON TO WIN TROPHY!



Bert Royal, slick former British Middleweight Champion, teamed up with his younger brother Vic Faulkner, reigning European Middleweight Champion and the two popular young athletes from Bolton needed only just over twenty minutes to take a smooth two straight fall victory over Los Hermanos Pizarro-Nino and Julian Pizarro of Valencia, Spain.

Royal took the first pin fall by pinning Julian Pizarro after fifteen and a half minutes of wrestling, whilst, a few minutes later young Vic nipped in and pinned the good-looking Nino Pizarro and referee Joe D'Orazio gave another winning verdict to Lancashire's most popular brother team.

In the first preliminary heat of the All Nations Heavyweight Tournament—the second in 1966 for the Royal Albert Hall Trophy—blond 'Judo' Al Hayes, Westminster, took the ring to do battle with burly Italian Heavyweight Champion Nick Barone of Bari, Italy. Barone tried hard to use his strength to weaken Hayes by applying a "full nelson" several times, but, Hayes came back, slammed the Italian with elbows, a double leg grab and a body press to win the only fall needed in the third round.

"Big Bruno" Elrington, bearded, gigantic, looking like a 'hermit' from a biblical play, came to grips with the popular "Dazzler" Joe Cornelius of Bermondsey in the second preliminary heat. Referee Max Ward, in his second Albert Hall night, gave Big Bruno a public warning in the third round, but, in the following round, Elrington—what a gigantic man he is!—used a cross buttock and pinned Cornelius.

That handsome Irishman, Sean Regan of Donegal punished burly "Bull" Davis, the ex-booth fighter from Plymouth, with his own particular version of the "Indian Deathlock", but, "Bull" is an old campaigner and put the Irish stalwart away with a crotch hold and body slam to win the necessary fall.

"Country Boy" Hans Streiger, surly, aggressive heavyweight from New Mills, Derbyshire, might have got further in the tournament had he not met up with *Tibor Szakacs*, four times winner of the Trophy, in the prelims. Tibor won with a slam and press.

As the ringsiders were rushing back to their seats after the interval "Big Bruno" Elrington, the huge man from Portsmouth, entered the ring absolutely dwarfing his opponent "Judo" Al Hayes, but, in a wrestling ring, in a world of heavyweights, size means very little. A lean lithe wrestler has often beaten a giant several stone heavier in body weight, but, on this occasion, Elrington slammed Hayes into the ropes and the "Pompey Giant" was declared the winner by a knockout.

Tibor Szakacs, the Hungarian ring master from Budapest, took on "Bull" Davis in the second semifinal, and, after a very exciting contest, Tibor went into the final against Big Bruno, by taking the odd fall in three. Several times the verdict might have swayed in either man's direction. Davis obviously had the strength and force but the Hungarian, one of the best technical wrestlers in Europe had the mat "know how".

For the second time in his mat career Big Bruno Elrington had reached the finals of the Royal Albert Hall Trophy Tournament and once again he went down in defeat. Perhaps next time he enters this particular tournament he will emerge the victor.

However, last month, he wasn't so fortunate. After setting the pace, in a final that lasted five rounds, Elrington took the first submission in the second round, but Tibor took the deciding falls in the fourth and fifth rounds to terminate another excellent evening of top wrestling.

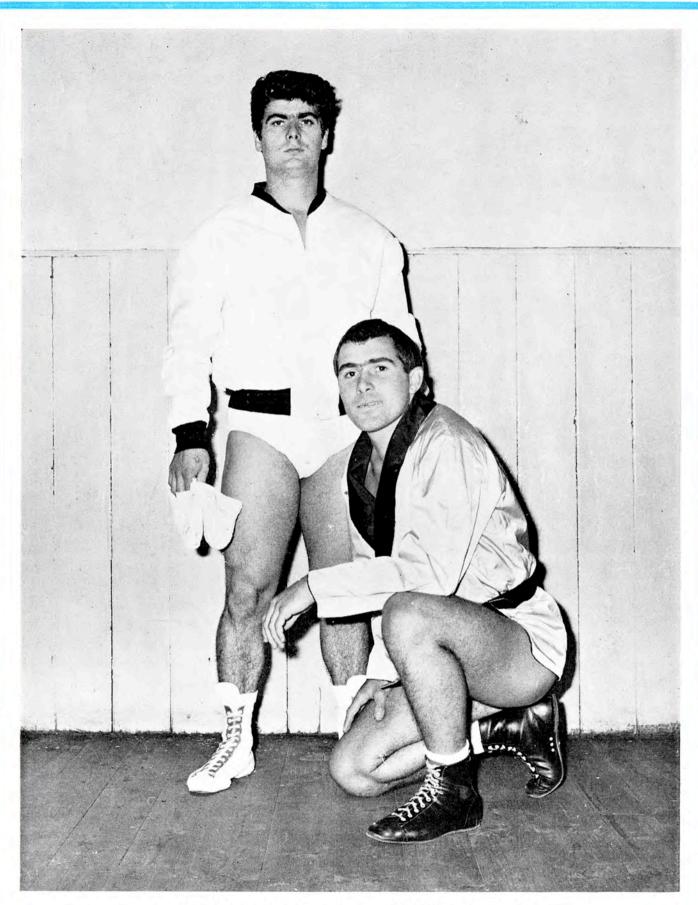
See you at the ringside on Wednesday, January 18th to watch *Mick McManus*, my old friend *Tito Kopa, Alan Sargeant* and the "Tokio Japs" in action What a night of stars it looks like being!

CHARLES MASCALL



DERBYSHIRE			EDINBURGH		
CHESTERFIELD Drill Hall Baths Hall		.30 p.m. .40 p.m.	FALKIRK Town Hall GLASGOW	3rd Saturday 7.30 p	
HEREFORDSHIRE			Kelvin Sports Arena PAISLEY Town Hall	Every Wednesday 7.30 p	p.ni.
LEOMINSTER Clifton Cinema	2nd Wednesday 7	.30 p.m.	PERTH City Hall DUNFERMLINE Alhambra Picture House	1st, 3rd Wed. 7.30 p 2nd Thursday 7.30 p	
LANCASHIRE			NAME OF THE OWNER		
BLACKPOOL The Tower BOLTON Wryton Stadium LIVERPOOL The Stadium	Every Friday 7	.15 p.m. .30 p.m. .30 p.m.	SHROPSHIRE SHREWSBURY Baths Hall WELLINGTON	Every Saturday 7.30 p	
NELSON Imperial Ballroom PRESTON Public Hall WORSLEY Civic Hall	2nd, 4th Thurs. 7	.30 p.m. .30 p.m.	Sankey Steel Works	2nd Tuesday 7.30 p	p.m.
			STAFFORDSHIRE	2nd Politica 7.20 .	
LEICESTERSHIRE LEICESTER	AND BUILDING		BURTON Jubilee Hall HANLEY Victoria Hall WILLENHALL Baths Hall	3rd Friday 7.30 g Every Saturday 7.30 g Every Friday 7.30 g	p.m.
De Montfort Hall	2nd, 4th, Wed. 7	.30 p.m.	WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Hall	1st, 3rd, 5th Tues, 7.30 p	p.m.
LINCOLNSHIRE					
CLEETHORPES Pier Pavilion		.00 p.m.	WARWICKSHIRE		
GRANTHAM Drill Hall LINCOLN Market Hall		.30 p.m. .30 p.m.	BIRMINGHAM Embassy Sportsdrome SOLIHULL Civic Hall	Every Monday 7.30 p 2nd. 4th Tues. 7.30 p	
NORTHERN IRELAND			WORCESTERSHIRE		
BELFAST Kings Hall	3rd Saturday 7	.30 p.m.	KIDDERMINSTER Baths	2nd, 4th Tues. 3rd Sat. 7.40	n m
NORTHUMBERLAND			MALVERN Winter Gardens	3rd Thursday 7.40	
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE St. James' Hall	Every Saturday 6	.45 p.m.	YORKSHIRE		
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE			DONCASTER Corn Exch. HALIFAX Victoria Hall HARROGATE Royal Hall	3rd Saturday 7.30 g 2nd Saturday 7.30 g 5th Tuesday 7.45 g	p.m.
NOTTINGHAM Victoria Baths TROWELL Festival Hall	1st Thursday 7 2nd, 4th Tuesday 7	.30 p.m. .45 p.m.	HUDDERSFIELD Town Hall HULL Madeley St. Baths	1st Tuesday 7.30 r 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Tues.	p.m.
SCOTE AND			OSSETT Town Hall ROTHERHAM Clifton Hall	3rd Tuesday 7.30 r 3rd Friday 7.30 r	p.m.
SCOTLAND	JAN 40 18 4 4	SAL .	SCUNTHORPE Baths Hall	2nd, 4th Wed. 7.30 [p.m.
ABERDEEN Music Hall DUMFRIES Drill Hall DUNDEE Caird Hall	1st, 3rd Friday 7	.30 p.m. .30 p.m. .30 p.m.	SCARBORO' The Futurist SHEFFIELD City Hall YORK S.S. Empire	2nd Wednesday 7.45 r 2nd Wednesday 7.30 r 1st, 3rd, 5th Mon. 7.30 r	p.m.
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The above venues and dates are correct at the time of going to Press. Unless otherwise stated the tournaments listed are for January, 1967 SEE LOCAL PRESS and POSTERS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



RON DAVIS and EDDIE JAMES