

Wrestling Observer Newsletter

July 11, 1994

One key point to remember for any of you who have made up your minds about the Titan Sports/Vince McMahon steroid case's final results ahead of time. You can never predict what a jury will do. Every time there is a major legal case in the public eye, as there is now more than ever, experienced lawyers go on "Nightline" "20/20" and their ilk and those words are always repeated. You can never predict what a jury will do once it gets the case.

After jury selections on 7/5, the trial of Titan Sports and steroid distribution and conspiracy to distribute charges got under way on 7/6. The trial is expected to last three weeks, down from the original five weeks and several witnesses originally subpoenaed for the May trial were not subpoenaed for this trial because it's being held down on time.

The trial opened with Sean O'Shea making opening statements for the prosecution. He opened saying that Anita Scales, who still works for Titan Sports and was in charge of handling athletic commissions, would testify that when she learned about Dr. George Zahorian distributing steroids to wrestlers after the Pennsylvania state athletic commission was closed down, she wanted to no longer use him as the physician for the shows in Hershey. When she attempted to do so, Pat Patterson (Pierre Clermont) allegedly told her they had to keep Zahorian because the boys wanted him there. Chief Jay Strongbow (Joe Scarpa) also told her the boys needed their candy (drugs) and they needed him there. Zahorian himself called her up vehement claiming that Hershey was "his town." She then went to Linda McMahon who told her that she had to listen to what Patterson said. The government claimed that when she tried to stop the WWF from using Zahorian as a doctor and was rebuffed, that she was working against the conspiracy. O'Shea said that Titan later learned about the investigation into Zahorian and cut all ties with him and conspired to cover its tracks. He said if they hadn't, the government would have caught both red-handed back in 1991. He mentioned that Zahorian set up shop in the locker room in Hershey and Allentown. He said McMahon many times distributed steroids to wrestlers but that they were only going to focus on two occasions in 1989 when he claimed McMahon distributed steroids to Hulk Hogan (Terry Bollea). He said that McMahon bought the steroids for Hogan and that they took money out of the corporation, but had bank checks written up for Zahorian so the funds couldn't be traced back to the company or any individual. He said McMahon urged and cajoled the wrestlers to use steroids. When they learned of the investigation into Zahorian, Vince, Linda and Patterson got together to cover their tracks. Patterson, who O'Shea claimed he would prove did so under Vince's urging, always phoned Zahorian on pay phones because they were afraid of calls being bugged or traced and they also shredded documents to cover their tracks, and told Zahorian to destroy all records regarding WWF personnel. O'Shea said that during the trial Richard Rood (Rick Rude) would testify that at one time when he was getting small (this is believed to be during his run on top feuding with Ultimate Warrior for the WWF title in late 1990 when he and his wife wanted to have a baby and steroids make it harder to impregnate because it can lower sperm count, usually a temporary side effect, so Rude got off steroids and shrunk to 210) that McMahon told him specifically to "Get back on the juice." They said there would be testimony that WWF agents would give wrestlers advance money (draws) on the road and see the wrestlers take the money and then use it to buy drugs from Zahorian. That after the steroid law changed the WWF continued to promote use and never took any measures until 1991 to get the guys to stop using and even suggested in a memo that wrestlers get prescriptions for steroids from their doctor for injuries and carry the prescriptions with them at all times. O'Shea said that Zahorian lied in testimony at his trial but would be telling the truth at this trial. He said that Patterson warned Hogan to stay away from Zahorian because he was hot. And he also said that Emily Feinberg, McMahon's former secretary, got the bank checks under advice on how to make the funds untraceable from company chief financial officer Doug Sages, that steroids were a way of life in the company, that she was forced to destroy records and that Patterson had full knowledge of her destroying records and they claimed in the trial they would force Patterson to say he was doing so under orders from McMahon.

O'Shea apparently did a tremendous job with the opening statements.

*Jerry McDevitt, one of the Titan lawyers, came next, mainly to rebut O'Shea. While McDevitt was good, he was clearly out of his league according to our reports in comparison with Laura Brevetti (the other Titan attorney) and O'Shea. He mainly tried to impugn the credibility of the witnesses, claiming there was no conspiracy because McMahon and Zahorian never talked and that McMahon had to pay full price for his steroids so they weren't in business together. Naturally he tried to impugn Zahorian saying that they've already admitting he lied in his own trial so how can people believe he's telling the truth here and in which case would he be charged with perjuring himself. He also noted that Hogan lied on national TV, although McDevitt was defensive of Hogan's lie claiming he did so because the media didn't understand the steroid story and Hogan lied to avoid a media frenzy (by defending his lie, this may give credence to the theory the company was behind the lie after all which, if true, makes Randy Savage's radio comments pathetic). Brevetti later echoed these comments blaming the media for Hogan having to lie because he was afraid of the negative stigma of using steroids and how it would affect his future career. McDevitt said that the Grand Jury spent three summers investigating McMahon and this is all they got. He admitted to steroid use in the company but said that use was legal (a confusing issue we've gone through a million in that use wasn't illegal per se but possession without a medical prescription was illegal and in many cases wrestlers didn't have prescriptions so that possession would be illegal). He said McMahon and Zahorian hadn't spent five minutes talking together their entire lives (a statement contradicted later in the day by Randy Culley). He said wrestlers used steroids to enhance their athletic performance and that there was no need to conspire for distribution at that time because they were easy to obtain. (This is a valid point in that there were other outlets to obtain steroids but Zahorian was the major source because the wrestlers knew they were getting the real thing from him, which was something they couldn't be sure of from the black market. There was no direct economic conspiracy per se but it was well-known at the time the guys needed steroids to have the look necessary in most cases to work on top and the company was making tons of money merchandising those chemically enhanced physiques, so the ultimate question is the indirect conspiracy strong enough for a conviction on a conspiracy charge). He said that McMahon had asked Zahorian if he was distributing steroids to wrestlers and Zahorian told Vince that he was, but Vince felt since a doctor was doing it that it was safer than having the wrestlers go to the black market. This was the defense Zahorian tried to use unsuccessfully in his own trial that he was doing the wrestlers a favor and protecting their health by giving them steroids rather than them going to the black market and getting steroids that were more questionable and perhaps more dangerous. He claimed Titan Sports never made money off steroid distribution (a statement that could be heavily argued as far as indirect money, but as far as direct money, no doubt true which will be a key point to how the jury views this as far as the ultimate verdict, and probably will be the key point as the trial goes on). He called the distribution to Hogan as two friends sharing steroids and claimed all the government witnesses had axes to grind or were disgruntled ex-employees and some worked currently for Titan's main competition (hey, wait a minute, I thought Titan had no competition?) and mentioned Hogan just signing a multi-million dollar contract for Titan's leading competitor (an invalid point because when Hogan gave his grand jury testimony last summer, he was still with Titan and negotiations hadn't even begun with WCW). He also pointed out that these wrestlers all used steroids when they weren't in the WWF as well. An interesting tactic was that McDevitt tried to portray McMahon as a singular individual saying that the jury's decision would be the biggest thing ever in his life, although in the judge's ruling where the two counts against Titan distributing to McMahon were dropped, the judge ruled that as 100% owner of Titan Sports, that Vince and Titan legally when it comes to this case are one and the same citing legal precedent which may be a key point as well.

*Laura Brevetti, whose performance as a lawyer was said to be worthy of an academy award if this was a movie, said that the wrestlers all had to train hard and eat right to obtain the look (true to a point, but the vast majority could eat perfect and train like crazy and still not look like most of the headliners of the day without steroids so the fact many of them were disciplined eating and training really isn't valid or germane when it comes to this case). She then said that wrestling wasn't a competitive sport, called wrestling fake and gave the most detailed expose of pro wrestling ever given in history of how matches are set up and worked. She claimed steroid use among the wrestlers was a personal choice and painted McMahon as an honest man since he was the first promoter to admit wrestling wasn't real and that Hogan will tell you how wrestling was going nowhere with the beer drinking redneck crowd before they changed the sport. She said that McMahon made the personal choice to use steroids because he didn't know of the potential harm, and that today he'd have never made that same choice (a bogus point as has been made before here since the potential harm of steroids was well known to the average layperson in the gym in the 70s, although later Randy Culley also testified when he started using steroids in 1979, he had no idea of potential side effects, although Randy Culley's knowledge of steroids in 1979 and Vince McMahon's of steroids in 1989 are two different stories). She also blamed the athletic commission of Pennsylvania, which also knew of its own doctor distributing steroids and did nothing to stop him, for the problem (which is a valid point that needed to be brought up because there were governmental officials who knew of Zahorian distributing steroids to wrestlers and they continued to license him as their own ringside doctor and state commission representative anyway). She claimed that Scales has the type of personality where she can't take being overruled well and that she has now developed 20/20 hindsight. Brevetti complained that McMahon is charged with being involved in a conspiracy with Zahorian but Zahorian isn't being charged and is being used as a government witness and his testimony will help him get out earlier. She claimed that Feinberg was earning \$64,000 a year as McMahon's secretary and got one year severance pay when she was let go, and as soon as the severance pay ran out, she became an FBI informant and Brevetti claimed she'd show that nothing illegal happened. She claimed McMahon didn't know Zahorian wasn't acting as a doctor during this period and that if it was so obvious that McMahon should have known, why did the government have to call an expert witness (Wadler) who is paid for testifying at trials to say that Zahorian wasn't acting in a medical capacity when he distributed steroids?

*Culley (Moondog Rex) was the first government witness, largely saying that when the WWF taped television in Allentown that he'd get his three week supply from Zahorian, and that after they stopped taping in Allentown, he'd get larger supplies from Zahorian. McDevitt tried to establish that Zahorian, who was a doctor at ringside for Titan events from 1977 to 1989, was his doctor since he saw him 16 times a year which Culley laughed off saying if he had a medical problem he'd never go to Zahorian. That was later contradicted when it was brought up that in 1987 when Culley was suffering from depression or steroid mood swings, he went to Zahorian who gave him valium. Apparently McDevitt took an aggressive stance against Culley, immediately pointing out that he had never finished high school, which may have backfired early since it appeared he came off as bullying a simple country boy type. Culley said that he thought he was given more of a chance in the WWF because he took steroids although admitted to using steroids when he wasn't with the WWF as well. McDevitt argued that it wasn't the steroid look which gave him whatever spot he got (both valid and invalid, in that Culley didn't get a spot as a Moondog based on having a ripped bodybuilder physique that one associates with steroid use but it's actually atypical that steroid users can attain it because of genetic limitations, but big size was a benefit in the Moondog role and the steroids gave him added size. Unlike a Jim Hellwig or a Terry Bollea, he very well may have been big enough without steroids to play the same role). He said he'd get in line to get steroids from Zahorian at the tapings, get his steroids and leave, with the point being he was never given a medical check-up for possible side-effects while he was being distributed the steroids. McDevitt asked if McMahon ever told him to lose weight, he responded yes, he did for the Demolition role (Culley was the original Smash for a short period before Barry Darsow), apparently trying to imply that he actually wanted him smaller, however Culley in cross-examination by O'Shea said that he used anavar (a steroid used to harden up the body) to lose the weight and get more muscular. Brevetti established that wrestlers receive draws on the road at every

show of \$100 to \$200, not just when Zahorian was there, and the money was used to pay hotels, meals, etc.

*Tom Zenk was next, who said he started using steroids in 1981, getting them from a doctor in Minnesota. Zenk came off far more eloquent and articulate than Culley, which at the beginning made every most interested in what he had to say. His key testimony was saying that Jack Lanza, a WWF agent, told him, referring to Zahorian, that if you want anything, he's got it. Zenk said he left the WWF after six months in 1987 because he wasn't happy with his money and had a problem with Patterson and Terry Garvin but wasn't specific as to what it was. He said after he left he got a deal with All Japan and Titan sued him wanting a percentage of his All Japan income and he, on the phone to Linda McMahon, told her something to the effect of, How would you like it if I call the New York times you're selling a product of men on steroids s family entertainment and said Linda responded, I don't think that would be a good idea, and he said he took that as a threat. O'Shea made it clear Zenk was subpoenaed and didn't want to be there. McDevitt established that Zenk called the McMahon house just three weeks ago and asked him if he was on drugs when he called and Zenk said he wasn't. Zenk said he called and apologized to them and said his heat was with Rick Martel and not them. He said he left because he was angry at Martel, Patterson and Garvin. McDevitt brought up Zenk's steroid arrest in Atlanta a few years ago and Zenk admitted to being a first-time offender. Zenk said McMahon never told him to use steroids and said he never got any steroids from Zahorian. He said after leaving the WWF he purchased steroids at a Gold's Gym in Atlanta and admitted risk in buying black market steroids. He said he didn't even have to work out when he was on steroids because he had good genetics and compared steroids to putting fertilizer on a lawn. Zenk said the last time he used steroids was three weeks ago.

*Terry Szopinski (Warlord) was next, admitting injecting other wrestlers and regularly flushing needles down toilets. It was brought up that Bret Hart did a drawing of a guy bent over with a bullseye drawn on his butt with a needle. He said when he got to the WWF that Dave Hebner told him he could get steroids and pills from Zahorian and that he went into a room with Zahorian who had pills and syringes but he thought the prices were too high so he got his steroids from other sources and specifically brought up a source he met in a gym in Europe and believed what he was getting was real since it was sent from Europe. He said before the Zahorian trial Vince told the wrestlers and if they were using steroids, to leave them at home and not to take them on the road. Szopinski admitted he weighed 195 pounds when he graduated high school, and started using them in college in 1984 and gained 55 pounds in four months, weighs 305 now and weighed 320 to 340 in the WWF. He said McMahon told him to get off steroids after the Zahorian trial and he stopped using them at that point. He started using them after leaving and was arrested and is on 18 months probation and claimed to have not used steroids since his arrest, which many people openly laughed at. Warlord admitted writing a letter to McMahon asking for his job back recently.

*The final first day witness was Tully Blanchard, who tried to bring up the Sid Justice/Harvey Whippleman story was the judge struck it from the record as hearsay. Blanchard said he had a conversation at a swimming pool with McMahon before joining the WWF and McMahon told him they were concerned about cocaine but didn't care about pot or steroids, but in later cross examination he changed his story and said McMahon never mentioned steroids. Blanchard admitted he started using steroids in 1977, that before he ever went to the WWF he knew of Zahorian as the drug supplier, that he saw injections on occasion and also saw needles. He said he usually got his steroids from gyms and when asked if steroid use was worse in the NWA than the WWF during his heyday and he said it was pretty close.

Most of the arguments at this point seemed centered around the conspiracy charge, which is only one of the three charges but the one that would appear to be the most difficult of the three to get a conviction on. By conceding McMahon shared steroids with his friend Hogan, the defense euphemism for distribution, it is a basic admission of the charge but an attempt to say it wasn't or shouldn't be illegal because they were friends. This seems on the surface to be a shaky premise because in school we were all taught that if you give your friends your own prescription drugs that you are violating the law and can be charged with distribution. However, the defense did a great job in establishing that all wrestlers used steroids before and in some cases after working in the WWF and to this point nobody was

ever specifically told to use steroids. The prosecution failed to even attempt to establish the point that if the physiques helped them get the job in the first place, then almost inherently they'd be most often hiring people who had used steroids before.

Although the case has been totally overshadowed in the media because of the O.J. Simpson case, there were several television shows and major newspapers in the New York market largely and a few national shows in attendance at the opening day of the trial. ESPN did the same seven-minute segment for SportsCenter shows that aired both 7/4 and 7/5, which were factually strong stories but didn't break any new ground, using interviews with Bruno Sammartino, Billy Graham and steroid expert Dr. Charles Yesalis of Penn State University. The stories were exceedingly negative from a Titan and McMahon standpoint.

Among the other witnesses expected to testify in upcoming days include Hellwig (Ultimate Warrior), Terry Bollea, Roy Wayne Farris (Honkytonk Man), Rood, Sages, Dr. Gary Wadler (a steroid expert who was part of the Zahorian case), Zahorian, John Minton (John Studd), and Tony Garea.

Special thanks to Wade Keller of Pro Wrestling Torch for his help in putting this story together.

CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS FINAL POLL RESULTS

Thumbs up 136 (47.7%)
Thumbs down 107 (37.5%)
In the middle 42 (14.7%)

BEST MATCH POLL

Ric Flair vs. Sting 158
Nasty Boys vs. Jack & Sullivan 30
Steve Austin vs. Johnny B. Badd 19
Larry Zbyszko vs. Steve Regal 9

WORST MATCH POLL

Guardian Angel vs. Tex Slashing 108
Steve Austin vs. Johnny B. Badd 31
Larry Zbyszko vs. Steve Regal 16
Ric Flair vs. Sting 13

Based on phone calls, letters and fax messages to the Observer as of 7/5. Statistical margin of error: +-100% For whatever this means, the letters we received regarding the Clash were decidedly more negative than phone calls that came the first few days.

Long-time WWF referee Joey Marella passed away in the early morning on 7/4, continuing pro wrestling's so-called "Fourth of July curse." Marella, 30, a sandlot baseball standout in his teens and son of Gorilla Monsoon (Robert Marella), had been a referee with the WWF for most of the past ten years.

Marella had finished the lengthy television taping the previous night in Ocean City, MD where he worked several matches including the final match of the night between Bret Hart and Owen Hart. He then left and was driving with Harvey Whippleman (Bruno Lauer) to the Newark Jetport, a hotel near the Newark Airport on the Jersey Turnpike, where both would be staying until taking an early flight home in the morning. At about 2:55 a.m., he apparently fell asleep at the wheel and the car crashed into a guard rail. Whippleman, who was wearing his seat belt, escaped with minor cuts and bruises while Marella, who wasn't, was thrown from the car and killed, believed to have been instantaneously. The accident took place at the Southern end of the Jersey Turnpike in Burlington County, near Philadelphia and Camden, NJ.

It was a sad and tragic irony, because a few years earlier, Marella was involved in a serious auto accident on a July 4th in which he suffered an injured spleen. Among the other wrestling tragedies in recent years on July 4th have included the 1988 death of Adrian Adonis in an auto accident in Newfoundland and the 1990 parasailing accident involving Brutus Beefcake which required 11 hours of reconstructive facial surgery.

Marella was considered the WWF's No. 2 referee behind Earl Hebner at the time of his death. In recent years, Marella had been suspended because of a substance problem, but had returned to work and was a very popular figure among most of the wrestlers. Both Brian Lee (Evil Undertaker) and Bryan Clark (Adam Bomb) were apparently originally

going to make the road trip with Marella and Whippleman but for whatever reason, fate was working in both men's favor and they caught other transportation.

A native of Willingboro, NJ, Marella was living in Tampa in recent years. The funeral was scheduled for 7/8 at the Jose Funeral Home in Willingboro at 10 a.m.

Marella's final television appearances will air on the various syndicated shows over the next few weeks, as he refereed several matches all three nights of the weekend tapings.

Bret Hart was back on FAN in Toronto, the same station a few months ago where Hart caused a lot of controversy and changed many people in wrestling's opinion of him with his comments on Ric Flair and the drug situation in WCW. Hart must have liked the reaction, since he was back for more, talking about Hulk Hogan, Flair and their WCW match.

When one of the hosts asked him his opinion on Hogan signing with WCW, the conversation went like this:

"To me, it's a sad pathetic ending for a guy who was a legend who had a legacy with the WWF. I don't care what anybody says, to me, the WCW is a step down." The host then said, "So he's going to AAA (the baseball term for top minor league group, not the wrestling promotion obviously) basically is what you're saying." Hart responded, "I would say so. I really think so and it's kind of sad. I think his whole legacy was with the WWF. He couldn't seem to pass the torch down to the up-and-coming stars, which were all younger guys." The host responded, "He's got lots of bucks, why wouldn't he just retire." Hart then said, "Well, let's face it, his movie career was a complete dud, disaster," at which point the host interrupted him and said, "But you've got one going." Hart responded, "That's a possibility but that's so remote still at this point. I wouldn't want to try to come across as a movie person until I at least saw myself on film. But going back to Hulk Hogan, when you're out of sight, you're out of mind. When you're off television, you need to be on that television and it becomes a very egotistical thing. He couldn't be on the WWF television anymore as the superstar that he used to be so went down to the AAA, as they say, or WCW. There's a lot of talk of Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair, this great match. The greatest match-up of all-time kind of stuff. It might have been the greatest match-up in some people's minds 15 years ago, but it's a little bit like that old Sheik wrestling in Detroit. It's like Bobo Brazil wrestling The Sheik. That doesn't do anything. I think you're really going to see that Ric Flair is very limited in the ring. In my opinion, his best days were over long before he ever lost to me. And Hulk Hogan, I don't know if anyone's seen him now. I'm embarrassed for him. The guy used to be a hero to me. I'm embarrassed to see what's he's become. It's like flogging a dead horse. The WCW thing, there will be some interest initially but it'll wane fast."

The only other key thing out of the interview was when the host brought up Hart was being a part-owner of a Calgary hockey team as was reported in numerous newspapers throughout Canada, Hart said that it wasn't a done deal, but it looks like it's going to happen.

World Championship Wrestling's one-hour live show on 7/9 will feature the debut of a gimmick where fans, through the 900 line, get to pick a match. The WWF has done similar gimmicks beforehand, although not for a live show.

The show, which will include live appearances by Hogan and Mr. T, will have a face dressing room with Johnny B. Badd, Dustin Rhodes, Arn Anderson, Guardian Angel, Jim Steele, Sting and Kevin Sullivan, and a heel dressing room with Ric Flair, Vader, Terry Funk, Bunkhouse Buck, Steve Austin and Jean-Paul Leveque. Fans are supposed to vote for one wrestler from each dressing room, and with them pushing the idea that Sensuous Sherri is barred, makes one think that unless they run a live angle to lead the audience into picking, that the match will be Flair vs. Sting which will almost certainly lead to an angle involving Hogan, and probably T. In 1985, Mr. T, coming off a starring role in Rocky III (in which Hogan had a cameo) and at the time being one of the biggest television stars in the country on the highly-rated "A Team" show, got involved in a wrestling angle which aired live on MTV involving Hogan and Roddy Piper from Madison Square Garden and was the catalyst for much of mainstream explosion of wrestling. Mr. T may have been the most popular fad star on television at the time, but even one year later, his

fame was running to a screeching halt. He was brought back for the second Wrestlemania to face Piper in a boxing farce, and by this time T's mainstream popularity had changed to people growing not only tired of his act, but hating his act to the point that Piper, at the time the group's No. 1 heel, was cheered both live and in virtually every closed-circuit. Nine years later, Mr. T is a non-entity, a nostalgia figure who will be a reminder of just how easily people can embrace and discard fad personalities. Unless they have a creative way of using him, his name will mean nothing.

WCW officials came out of the Clash telling one another they had produced a perfect-10 show, which was something of a self-delusion to begin with. Even though the ratings didn't come back strong, that was dismissed because the ratings did grow well and the since the numbers of the past two June Clashes were so poor, they used the past two years as a measuring stick to say the ratings were good when they really weren't. However, reality hit when the numbers came back for the 6/25 Saturday Night show at a 2.1 on a week with no Sunday show (which traditionally adds about .3 to the ratings). In other words, if we are to believe television ratings, which are probably relied on too heavily, but since we don't have a better system, they are what they are, the Clash angle, and more importantly, the significant involvement of Hulk Hogan in the main focused feud in the promotion, didn't add any measurable number of new viewers. More importantly, all the excuses as to why Hogan hadn't added viewers to that point had to finally be thrown out the window. Hogan was involved in a major program, and they had promised the contract signing of the Hogan-Flair match with the celebrated Ted Turner appearing on a wrestling show, but the ratings were basically the same as they would have been had none of this been going on. While holding numbers steady these days is hardly a negative, the company is paying too much added expense because of the Hogan contract to justify just holding steady. Those numbers created a lot of long faces and sudden skepticism about the PPV drawing power of the Bash at the Beach, the show the company is spending a record amount of advertising for, not to mention the huge guarantee Hogan is receiving. Because that kind of mindset usually leads to major angles, hence the very term desperation angles, I'd expect, without being told, one of the biggest ever on the live show.

Whether that's a positive or a negative will be determined when the buy rate comes out. But this is certainly a more interesting period to follow WCW than in many years.

An unexpected title change took place at the Smoky Mountain Wrestling Summer Blast tour.

Jake Roberts no-showed the first three shows of the tour, which he was scheduled to headline in cage matches against Dirty White Boy. On 7/1 in Knoxville, which drew a disappointing crowd of 700 considering they had a cage match and the Funks were brought in to work underneath, Roberts apparently left word that he'd arrive at around 9:30 p.m., so they stalled the show and he never arrived. They ended up substituting Bruiser Bedlam, who had earlier in the show lost a Dock fight to Tracy Smothers, in the cage against White Boy with White Boy going over. Roberts left no word and missed Barbourville, KY on 7/2, which drew 850 fans which is SMW's second biggest house ever in the city, trailing only the show that the Steiners appeared on. With Roberts not there, White Boy faced in a cage whomever the audience would pick, and Jim Cornette cut a promo to make sure the fans picked him. Bedlam then came into the cage with Cornette and the Funks locked the door to make it a two-on-one. Eventually White Boy still pinned Cornette to win the match and the Funks ran in to make it 4-on-1 until the other faces came in for the save. On 7/3 in Marietta before 445 fans, only 20 minutes from Roberts' home in Stone Mountain, Roberts left word that if they wanted him, he'd be there and word was left on his answering machine that they wanted him there and he wasn't there again. Once again Bedlam, who lost to Smothers in about 5:00 earlier in the show, lost again to White Boy in a 5:00 cage match. Roberts finally contacted the promotion on 7/4 saying that his wife had difficulty with her pregnancy. Cornette said that if Roberts' story was true, it was a very legitimate excuse for not being there and would have been no problem, but he was more upset about Roberts never giving them a reason until four days later and never leaving word that he wouldn't be at the shows or returning the numerous phone calls made to him to find out what was going on.

At the 7/5 television tapings, White Boy came out with the SMW title, doing an interview saying how he had beaten Roberts for the title

"this past week" in a fictitious match and gained revenge for his wife (whom Roberts DDT'd) and that was all that was mentioned about Roberts. Terry Gordy is being brought in for the 8/5 Knoxville show to challenge White Boy for the title and Roberts after that interview was never referred to again at the tapings, basically meaning he's been written out of the script. The original plan apparently was going to have White Boy taking the title on 8/5 in Knoxville.

This is the final issue of the current four-issue set. If you've got a (1) on your address label it means your Observer subscription expires with this issue. Starting with next week's issue we'll be expanding to 12 pages, which means we'll have a lot more space for letters from readers and for want ads. Even with the added news coming from the McMahon trial, I suspect that we'll have more space allotted to letters than anytime before, so the odds of getting letters printed will be greatly increased starting next week. We haven't run want ads for several weeks due to space limitations, but starting next week we'll devote a half-page to them each issue until we're caught up. Renewal rates within the United States, Canada and Mexico remain \$8 for four issues, \$15 for eight, \$22 for 12, \$28 for 16, \$42 for 24, \$56 for 32 up through \$70 for 40. Rates for the rest of the world are \$11 for four, \$21 for eight, \$30 for 12, \$40 for 16, \$60 for 24, \$80 for 32 up through \$100 for 40 issues for weekly airmail delivery. All subscription renewals, letters to the editor, reports from live shows and any other correspondence related to this publication should be sent to the Wrestling Observer Newsletter, P.O. Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228.

Fax messages can be sent to the Observer after Noon Eastern time (9 a.m. Pacific) on a daily basis at 408-378-6562. Phone messages can be left 24 hours a day at 408-379-8067. For the most up-to-the-minute news, I'm on the Real Wrestling Hotline (900-903-9030/99 cents per minute) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

RESULTS

6/12 El Toreo in Naucalpan (UWA/AAA Double Power): Nuevo Audaz & The King & Gama b Tony Arce & Vulcano & Rocco Valente, Negro Navarro & El Signo & Rocky Santana b Latin Lover & Volador & Fantasma-DQ, Los Villanos III & IV & V d Fuerza Guerrera & Mascara Ano 2000 & Universo 2000, Canek & Dos Caras & Gran Hamada b Perro Aguayo & Fishman & Cien Caras

6/12 Arena Coliseo in Mexico City (EMLL): La Diabolica & Reina Jubuki (Akira Hokuto) b La Sirenita & Cynthia Moreno, Panico & Guerrero de la Muerte & Archangel de la Muerte b Trueno & Justiciero & Javier Valaguez, Bestia Salvaje & Mocho Cota & Sangre Chicana b Ringo Mendoza & Ciclón Ramirez & Pantera II, Ultimo Dragon & La Fiera & Vampiro Canadiense b Negro Casas & Samson Fuyuki & Black Magic, Hair vs. hair: El Cafre b Javier Rocca

6/14 Arena Coliseo in Mexico City (EMLL - 1,500): Cicloncito Ramirez & Aguilita Solitaria b Guerrerito Maya & Jaque Matito, Legendario & Mestizo & Olimpus b Kundra & Astro Jr. & Rey Bucanero, Kung Fu & Guerrero del Futuro & Cadaver de Ultratumba b Trueno & Aguila Solitaria & Americo Rocca, Jaque Mate & Halcon Negro Jr. & Espectro Jr. b La Sombra & Apolo Dantes & El Hijo del Solitario, El Texano & Silver King & Ultimo Dragon b Negro Casas & Mano Negra & Black Magic

6/14 Pachuca (UWA/AAA Double Power - 2,400): Falcon & Tiger Man & Aguila de Acera b Bull Power & Famoso & Tigre Astro, Rudy Reyna & My Flowers & Pimpinela Escarlata d Casandro & Adrian El Exotico & Sexi Pisces, Non-title: Octagon & Solar I & Super Amigo b El Signo & Negro Navarro & Rocky Santana, UWA jr. It hwt title: Gran Hamada b Fuerza Guerrera

6/16 La Pista Arena Revolucion Mexico City (EMLL - 100): Los Kid Guerreros I & II b Thor & Fuego Salvaje, Hector Garza & Bronce & Valiente b Javier Cruz & Kraeno & Tornado Negro I, El Texano & El Brazo & Brazo de Oro b Angel Blanco Jr. & Emilio Charles Jr. & Cruz, Silver King b Pierroth Jr.

6/16 Manuels, NF (Newfoundland Wrestling Federation - 68): Vince Austin b Out of the Blue, Jack Ryder & John Henrikson b Drakar & Maj. Holocaust, Rob Victory b Venom-DQ, Iceberg b Epitat, Dean Gunn & Blackjack Davidson, Deaddie Freddie b Chi Chi Dillus, Gunn won Royal Rumble

6/17 Arena Mexico in Mexico City (EMLL): Reyna Jubuki & La Diabolica b Lady Apache & Cynthia Moreno, Panico & Archangel de

la Muerte & Guerrero de la Muerte b Trueno & Mascara Magica & Metalico, Ciclon Ramirez & El Hijo del Solitario & Hayabusa b Javier Cruz & Mogur & Espectro Jr., Mocho Cota & Bestia Salvaje & Emilio Charles Jr. b Ringo Mendoza & La Fiera & Brazo de Plata, Vampiro Canadiense & Atlantis & Rayo de Jalisco Jr. b Dr. Wagner Jr. & Samson Fuyuki & Black Magic

6/17 Netzahualcoyotl (UWA/AAA Double Power - 3,000): Mohawk & Kraken b Blackbirds I & II, Elvis & Marabunta & Canalla I b Seminarista & Nuevo Audaz & Rayo Tapatio II, Adrian El Exotico & Sexy Pisces & Spartaco b Santa Esmerelda & La Beba & Baby Sharon, Los Payasos b Transformer & The King I & Black Power II, Canek & Villano III & Gran Hamada b Perro Aguayo & Fishman & Tinieblas Jr.

6/18 Los Angeles (GAME): Vandal Drummond b Terry Iwakura, Makoto Muraoka b Benson Lee, Chamaco Torres (Super Boy) b Renegado Estrada, Greg Regalado b Magneto, Iwakura & Muraoka b Drummond & Lee, Doug Williams b Al Burke, Kit Thorne b Golden Boy, Torres b Regalado

6/19 El Toreo in Naucalpan (UWA/AAA Double Power - 6,000): Gallego & Angel Mortal & Mr. Condor b Aguila Negra & Gran Apaches I & II, The King I & Black Power II & Seminarista b Picudo & Maremoto & Terremoto, El Signo & Negro Navarro & Rocky Santana b Solar I & Super Muneco & Rey Misterio Jr., Octagon & Lizmark & Mascara Sagrada b Los Villanos III & IV & V-DQ, Double Power Cup: Perro Aguayo b Canek

6/24 Sunrise, FL (Hardcore Pro Wrestling): Soulman Alex G b Pat Price, Painting Contractors b Bobby Wales & Les Adams, Dr. Ric Montana b Darryl D, Miser Moore b T.J. Jackson, Johnny Evans & Preston Plum b J.R. James & Mr. Right

6/25 Alma, GA (All-Star Wrestling): Scott Studd b Luscious Lonnie, Bambi b Peggy Lee Leather, Rob Van Dam b The Punisher (Ray Lloyd), Dick Slater b Too Cold Scorpio

6/26 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 400): Cage match: Shane Douglas & Mr. Hughes b Bruise Brothers, Axl & Ian Rotten b Don E. Allen & Joel Hartgood, J.T. Smith b Dino Sanoff, Public Enemy b Phi Delta Slam, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Pit Bull #2-DQ, Dory & Terry Funk b Steve Richards & Hack Myers, Sabu b Chad Austin, ECW title: Tommy Dreamer b Shane Douglas-DQ, Bruise Brothers b Hartgood & Sanoff, Bad Breed b Spiders, ECW TV title: Whippreck b Sandman-DQ, Rockin Rebel b Austin, Funks & Dreamer b Public Enemy & Myers, Pit Bulls b Phi Delta Slam, Tazmaniac b Jimmy Snuka

6/27 Kyoto (FMW - 2,867): Masato Tanaka b Tetsuhiro Kuroda, Miwa Sato b Yoshika Ishikura, Mitsuhiko Matsunaga & Mr. Gannosuke b Big Titan & Ricky Fuji, Megumi Kudo & Yukie Nabeno & Nurse Nakamura b Crusher Maedomari & Shark Tsuchiya & Tsuppari Mack, Dr. Luther b Damian, Hisakatsu Oya & Goro Tsurumi b Tarzan Goto & Gosaku Goshogawara, Street fight: Atsushi Onita & Sambo Asako & Katsutoshi Niiyama b Mr. Pogo & The Gladiator & Hideki Hosaka

6/28 Osaka (FMW - 2,200 sellout): Hideki Hosaka b Tetsuhiro Kuroda, Nurse Nakamura b Yoshika Ishikura, Gosaku Goshogawara b Mr. Chin, Goro Tsurumi b Masato Tanaka, Big Titan & Dr. Luther & Ricky Fuji b Damian & Katsutoshi Niiyama & Koji Nakagawa, Captains fall match: Megumi Kudo & Miwa Sato & Yukie Nabeno b Crusher Maedomari & Shark Tsuchiya & Tsuppari Mack, Tarzan Goto b Mr. Gannosuke, Captains fall street fight: Hisakatsu Oya & The Gladiator & Mr. Pogo b Mitsuhiko Matsunaga & Atsushi Onita & Sambo Asako

6/30 Peterborough, ONT (WWF - 2,000): 1-2-3 Kid b Kwang ***1/2, Bushwhackers b Executioners (Duane Gill & Barry Hardy) -*****, Yokozuna b Typhoon -*****, Jeff Jarrett b Doink the Clown *, WWF womens title: Alundra Blayze b Luna Vachon *1/2, Lex Luger b Crush DUD, WWF title: Bret Hart b Owen Hart *

6/30 Sendai (WAR - 4,100 sellout): Nobukazu Hirai b Yuji Yasuraoka, World six man tag title one-night tournament: Gedo & Jado & Hiromichi Fuyuki b Hideo Takayama & Hiroshi Itakura & Yagushi, Bret Como & Lion Heart (Chris Jericho) & Dos Caras b Arashi & Ashura Hara & Super Strong Machine (30:00 draw, Como team advances via judges decision), Shiryu & Great Sasuke & Masao Orihara b Masanobu Kurisu & Koji Ishinirki & Takashi Ishikawa,

Animal Hamaguchi & Koki Kitahara & Genichiro Tenryu b Ryo Myake & Kishin Kawabata & Kendo Nagasaki, Gedo & Jado & Fuyuki b Como & Lion Heart & Caras, Tenryu & Hamaguchi & Kitahara b Shiryu & Sasuke & Orihara, Rumi Kazama & Shinobu Kandori b Harley Saito & Eagle Sawai, Third place match: Sasuke & Shiryu & Orihara b Como & Lion Heart & Caras, Championship match: Gedo & Jado & Fuyuki b Tenryu & Hamaguchi & Kitahara

6/30 Tokyo Korakuen Hall (All Japan - 2,100 sellout): Mitsuo Momota b Masao Inoue, Yoshinari Ogawa b Kentaro Shiga, The Eagle & Johnny Smith b Kurt Beyer & Richard Slinger, Giant Baba & Rusher Kimura b Mighty Inoue & Haruka Eigen, Abdullah the Butcher & Giant Kimala II b Satoru Asako & Ryakaku Izumida, Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas b Johnny Ace & Tom Zenk, Stan Hansen & Takao Omori b Kenta Kobashi & Tamon Honda, Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue & Masa Fuchi b Mitsuharu Misawa & Jun Akiyama & Tsuyoshi Kikuchi 25:07

6/30 Nagano (New Japan - 2,450 sellout): Tatsuhiro Takaiwa & Tadao Yasuda b Tokimitsu Ishizawa & Yuji Nagata, Hiroshi Hase b Michiyoshi Ohara, Power Warrior b Akitoshi Saito, Keiji Muto b Kengo Kimura-DQ, Masa Chono b Tatsutoshi Goto, American Love Machine & Black Tiger & Max Moon b Shinjiro Ohtani & El Samurai & Jushin Liger, Too Cold Scorpio & Steve Regal b Tatsumi Fujinami & Osamu Kido, Nasty Boys b Masa Saito & Shinya Hashimoto, Kuniaki Kobayashi & Great Kabuki & Shiro Koshinaka b Riki Choshu & Akira Nogami & Takayuki Iizuka

7/1 Bushkill, PA (WWF Monday Night Raw tapings - 1,600 sellout): Non-squash results: WWF title: Bret Hart b 1-2-3 Kid 25:00 ****1/2, Lex Luger DDQ Diesel, Yokozuna b Adam Bomb-COR, Tatanka b Nikolai Volkoff, WWF title: Bret Hart b Owen Hart

7/1 Tokyo Korakuen Hall (New Japan - 2,000 sellout): Tatsuhiro Takaiwa & Yuji Nagata b Tokimitsu Ishizawa & Shinjiro Ohtani, Akira Nogami & Takayuki Iizuka b Hiro Saito & Norio Honaga, Black Cat & American Love Machine & Black Tiger b Too Cold Scorpio & Jushin Liger & El Samurai, Osamu Kido b Kengo Kimura, Yoshiaki Fujiwara b Akitoshi Saito, Power Warrior b Tatsutoshi Goto, Keiji Muto & Masa Chono b Max Moon & Steve Regal, Kuniaki Kobayashi & Great Kabuki & Shiro Koshinaka b Tadao Yasuda & Riki Choshu & Tatsumi Fujinami, Nasty Boys b Shinya Hashimoto & Hiroshi Hase

7/1 Katsuta (All Japan - 1,800): Masao Inoue b Kentaro Shiga, Yoshinari Ogawa b Satoru Asako, Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas b Kurt Beyer & Richard Slinger, Mighty Inoue & Haruka Eigen b Mitsuo Momota & Rusher Kimura, Johnny Ace & Johnny Smith b Masa Fuchi & Ryukaku Izumida, Giant Baba & Takao Omori b Abdullah the Butcher & Giant Kimala II, Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue b Jun Akiyama & Tamon Honda, Mitsuharu Misawa & Kenta Kobashi & Tsuyoshi Kikuchi b Stan Hansen & Tom Zenk & The Eagle

7/1 Knoxville (SMW - 700): Penalty box match: Thrillseekers b Well Dunn, Rock & Roll Express & Bambi b Brian Lee & Chris Candido & Tammy Fytch, Dory & Terry Funk b Scott & Steve Armstrong, Dock fight: Tracy Smothers b Bruiser Bedlam, Cage match: Dirty White Boy b Bedlam

7/1 Honjyo (All Japan women - 1,260): Chapparita Asari b Kumiko Maekawa, Tomoko Watanabe b Rie Tamada, Suzuka Minami b Kaoru Ito, Kyoko Inoue & Toshiyo Yamada b Bull Nakano & Mima Shimoda, Yumiko Hotta d Takako Inoue 30:00, Manami Toyota & Sakie Hasegawa b Aja Kong & Etsuko Mita

7/1 Dallas Sportatorium (GWF - 1,150): Devon Michaels b Alex Porteau, Francis Buxton b Rick Garren, GWF tag title: Michael Hayes & Jimmy Garvin b Black Bart & Bill Irwin, Scott Putski b Marc Valiant, Irwin & Bart b Michaels & Garren, Terry Gordy b Moadib-DQ, GWF title: Chris Adams b Rod Price to win title, Cage match: Action Jackson b Iceman King Parsons

7/1 Kumagaya (JWP): Prelim results unavailable, Commando Boirshoi b Hiroumi Yagi, Cutie Suzuki & Devil Masami b Hikari Fukuoka & Dynamite Kansai, Mayumi Ozaki b Plum Mariko

7/1 Indianapolis (Championship Wrestling America): P.C. Austin b Flash Flannagan, Mike Samples b Gary Jones, Kevin Haste b The Comet (Derek Stone), Samples b Dan Childers, Danny Davis & Haste b The Phantoms (Troy Haste & Jerry Faith)

7/1 Winnipeg (Rough House Rasslin): Gene Swan b Robbie Royce-DQ, Stan Saxon b Paul Marcoux, Chi Chi Cruz b Bruiser Bastien, Marcoux won boot camp Battle Royal

7/2 Bethlehem, PA (WWF Challenge tapings - 3,000/? paid): Non-squash results: Tatanka b IRS **1/2, Nikolai Volkoff b Virgil *1/2, IC title: Razor Ramon b Diesel-DQ **3/4, Lex Luger b Crush DUD, WWF title: Bret Hart b Owen Hart DUD

7/2 Akita (New Japan - 4,000 sellout): Tadao Yasuda & Yuji Nagata b Tatsuhiro Takaiwa & Tokimitsu Ishizawa, Too Cold Scorpio & Max Moon b Hiro Saito & Norio Honaga, Shinjiro Ohtani & Jushin Liger & El Samurai b Black Cat & American Love Machine & Black Tiger, Nasty Boys & Steve Regal b Takayuki Iizuka & Akira Nogami & Power Warrior, Riki Choshu b Tatsutoshi Goto, Tatsumi Fujinami b Kengo Kimura, Shinya Hashimoto b Akitoshi Saito, Kuniaki Kobayashi & Great Kabuki & Shiro Koshinaka b Keiji Muto & Masa Chono & Hiroshi Hase

7/2 Barboursville, KY (SMW - 850): Penalty box match: Thrillseekers b Well Dunn, Rock & Roll Express & Bambi b Brian Lee & Chris Candido & Tammy Fytch, Scott & Steve Armstrong b Dory & Terry Funk-DQ, Dock fight: Tracy Smothers b Bruiser Bedlam, Cage match: Dirty White Boy b Jim Cornette

7/2 Nashville (USWA - 250): Doug Basham b Tony Falk *1/2, Spellbinder b Jeff Gaylord *1/4, Bert Prentice b Colorado Kid DUD, W*ING tag title: PG-13 b Nobutaka Araya & Takashi Okano ***1/4, Brian Christopher & Moondog Spot NC Tommy Rich & Doug Gilbert ***

7/2 Isezaki (All Japan women - 1,600): Rie Tamada b Kumiko Maekawa, Tomoko Watanabe b Chapparita Asari, Etsuko Mita b Kaoru Ito, Bull Nakano & Toshiyo Yamada b Takako Inoue & Manami Toyota, Suzuka Minami b Sakie Hasegawa, Yumiko Hotta & Kyoko Inoue b Aja Kong & Mima Shimoda

7/2 Los Angeles (GAME - 70): Benson Lee b Kid Pepe, Terry Iwakura b Vandal Drummond, Kit Throne b Kimera, Golden Boy b Makoto Muraoka, Al Burke b Doug Williams, Iwakura & Muraoka b Throne & Golden Boy, Chamaco Torres b El Capitan (Capitan Oro)

7/2 Warsaw, IN (Championship Wrestling America - 1,800 festival show): Troy Haste b Kevin Haste, P.C.Austin b The Comet, Flash Flannagan b Mike Samples, Danny Davis & Kevin Haste b Phantoms

7/2 Centre, AL (Bama Pro Wrestling): Widow Maker b Jason Valentine, Rock Regal b Al Horn, Ken Arden b Big Bubba, Mr. Vain b Hit Man Michaels-DQ, Sam Colt & Cameron Colt b Bubba & Mike Mercedes

7/3 Ocean City, MD (WWF Superstars taping): Non-squash results: Tatanka b Yokozuna-DQ, Jeff Jarrett DCOR 1-2-3 Kid, Jarrett b Kid, Bret Hart b Bob Backlund, IC title: Razor Ramon b Diesel-DQ, Lex Luger b Bam Bam Bigelow, WWF title: Bret Hart b Owen Hart

7/3 Tokyo Korakuen Hall (All Japan - 2,100 sellout): Tsuyoshi Kikuchi b Kentaro Shiga, The Eagle b Ryakaku Izumida, Tamon Honda & Yoshinari Ogawa b Richard Slinger & Johnny Smith, Giant Baba & Rusher Kimura & Mitsuo Momota b Mighty Inoue & Haruka Eigen & Masa Fuchi, Abdullah the Butcher & Giant Kimala II b Johnny Ace & Kurt Beyer, Kenta Kobashi & Satoru Asako b Masao Inoue & Akira Taue, Stan Hansen & Tom Zenk b Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas, Mitsuharu Misawa & Jun Akiyama b Toshiaki Kawada & Takao Omori 23:37

7/3 Aomori (New Japan - 3,550 sellout): Michiyoshi Ohara b Takayuki Iizuka, Akitoshi Saito b Akira Nogami, Tatsutoshi Goto b Osamu Kido, Black Tiger & American Love Machine & Too Cold Scorpio & Black Cat b Tatsuhiro Takaiwa & Tokimitsu Ishizawa & Shinjiro Ohtani & Yuji Nagata, Ohtani won Battle Royal, Power Warrior b Max Moon, Hiro Saito & Norio Honaga b Jushin Liger & El Samurai, Nasty Boys & Steve Regal b Tadao Yasuda & Riki Choshu & Tatsumi Fujinami, Hiroshi Hase & Masa Chono & Keiji Muto & Shinya Hashimoto b Kuniaki Kobayashi & Shiro Koshinaka & Kengo Kimura & Great Kabuki

7/3 Marietta, GA (SMW - 445): New Jack & Sheik Mustapha b Scott Studd & Lee Thomas to win North Georgia tag titles, Penalty box match: Thrillseekers b Well Dunn, Ricky Morton & Bambi b Chris

Candido & Tammy Fytch, Dock fight: Tracy Smothers b Bruiser Bedlam, Steve & Scott Armstrong b Dory & Terry Funk-DQ, Cage match: Dirty White Boy b Bedlam

7/3 Kanagawa (All Japan women - 1,990): Chapparita Asari b Kumiko Maekawa, Yumiko Hotta & Etsuko Mita b Bull Nakano & Tomoko Watanabe, Aja Kong & Rie Tamada b Mima Shimoda & Sakie Hasegawa, Kyoko Inoue b Suzuka Minami, Manami Toyota & Takako Inoue b Toshiyo Yamada & Kaoru Ito

7/3 Palmetto, FL (Florida Wrestling Alliance): Bill Payne b Billy Mack, Chaos b Butch Long, Randy Fuller & Jimmy Watts b Rick Thames & Sonny T to win FWA tag title, Mr. Electricity b Lebanese Assassin, Haystacks Calhoun Jr. b Warlord-DQ to become first FWA champion

7/3 Studio City, CA (Slammers): Hombre de Oro b Dynamite D, Verne Langdon & de Oro b Jeff Lindberg & Malicious Mike, Langdon b Mike-DQ

7/4 Memphis (USWA): Jeff Gaylord b Bull Pain, Colorado Kid b Tony Falk, Doug Basham b Spellbinder, Reggie B. Fine b Koko Ware-DQ, USWA womens title: Debbie Combs b Susan Sapphire, Brian Christopher b Doug Gilbert-DQ, Tournament for so-called W*ING tag title (first team to win two matches in a row wins tournament): Eliminators b PG-13, PG-13 b Nobutaka Araya & Takashi Okano, Araya & Okano b Eliminators, PG-13 b Eliminators-DQ, PG-13 b Araya & Okano to win "titles," USWA title: Dream Machine b Moondog Spot, Unified title: Jerry Lawler b Tommy Rich-DQ, Elimination match: Rich & Gilbert & Machine b Lawler & Christopher & Spot

7/4 Paintsville, KY (SMW - 450): Dirty White Boy b Kendo the Samurai (Bobby Blaze), Penalty box match: Thrillseekers b Well Dunn, Dock fight: Tracy Smothers b Bruiser Bedlam, Rock & Roll Express & Bambi b Brian Lee & Chris Candido & Tammy Fytch

Special thanks to: Dan Parris, Scott Wallask, Greg Greenland, Steve "Dr. Lucha" Sims, Pete Botts, Gregg John, Shannon Rose, Gary Langevin, B.W. Brent, Steve Prazak, Luca Fino, Dan Goose, Bob Koenig, Frank Munguia, Dan Moreland, Steve Gerber, Bob Kindred, Kurt Brown, Dan Farren, Lou Pickney, Brian Hildebrand, Jesse Money, Grant Zwarych

UWA

The major break-up of the UWA/AAA promotional combine took place this past week. The signs had been obvious for weeks, since Canek's creating the Double Power cup gimmick for the 6/19 show seemed like a way for him to keep his UWA heavyweight title, which was one of the things promised to AAA in order to get Double Power off the ground. While there were numerous other reasons for the break-up, the straw that broke the camel's back was at the 6/26 El Toreo show where the main event was Canek defending against Perro Aguayo. It was apparently well known among the parties involved that Canek was going to put Aguayo over clean in a 2/3 fall match on 6/19 for the Double Power Cup, and in exchange, Aguayo would return the favor in the title match. Originally UWA promoter Carlos Maynes had promised Antonio Pena, in order to get cooperation for the Double Power cards which picked up attendance at the weekly UWA arenas, that in return for help that El Signo and Gran Hamada's hair would be given up to an AAA wrestler as would Canek's strap, but Canek then created the Double Power Cup so he could go over in the title match. As it turned out, on 6/26, Aguayo showed up at El Toreo claiming cracked ribs suffered four days earlier in Vancouver, WA on the show Tonya Harding was at, and said he couldn't wrestle, and that Mascara Ano 2000 would take his place and put Canek over. Canek was furious, since he had juiced heavily one week, done a stretcher job another, and finally put Aguayo over clean, and this was to be his turn to win and save face in his home arena. Obviously he was skeptical of Aguayo really being injured, since that's the nature of wrestlers, even though Aguayo came with X-rays. Canek wanted Aguayo to do an angle in the ring so Canek could at least claim the credit for injuring him in a pre-match angle to explain why the match wouldn't take place, but Aguayo refused to agree claiming he didn't want to risk further injury. So Aguayo came out live and told fans about his injury, and Mascara Ano 2000 worked the title match with Canek and of course lost. The AAA wrestlers all along were having problems working with UWA since they were working for less money on a per-match basis as they made on AAA shows, and of late they were also mad that when it came time for the UWA wrestlers to lose

in front of their hometown fans, they continually wanted to do DQ finishes instead of pins or submissions. In addition, the AAA wrestlers wanted a larger percentage of the houses to make up for the fact they weren't getting paid their usual guarantees. After the 6/26 show, it was officially announced Double Power was over.

Right after this announcement came the "En La Jugada" (equivalent to an ESPN Sports Look show in the U.S.) show on 6/28 which included wrestlers from all three promotions. The way the guests were broken up, Canek and Aguayo were on first with Canek calling Aguayo a coward for not wrestling at El Toreo on Sunday and Aguayo tried to defend himself talking about cracking his ribs in the U.S. four days before the match although apparently Canek got the better of the argument. Next up were Fuerza Guerrera (AAA union head besides being one of the group's top heels) and Rayo de Jalisco Jr. (one of EMLL's top faces). Guerrera verbally went after both Canek and Rayo, with his main points being that the AAA wrestlers were the best paid, had the best boss and was working in the best promotion, and ran down EMLL. Rayo said Guerrera was ungrateful since he got his start and push with EMLL. Both Konnan and Vampiro were out later, with the hosts asking Vampiro if he was going to jump to AAA and Vampiro said that he was only going to work AAA shows in Los Angeles (although there have been serious negotiations in recent weeks for Vampiro and Black Magic to jump, but the status seems to change almost daily on what will eventually happen). Konnan came out and mainly ran down Canek and defended Aguayo, saying that Canek was like a top quality Black & White television set, that he was great during his time but this is the era of color television, big screen television and we're in another era. Konnan also brought up that Aguayo beat Canek cleanly once, bloodied him once and beat him so badly he was carried out on a stretcher once, while Canek had done nothing to Aguayo, and given that, why would Aguayo be afraid to fight Canek.

The Killer, Enrique Vera and Andy Barrow are returning and negotiations are going on for Silver King & El Texano to jump back from EMLL.

The Death Missionaries, El Signo & Rocky Santana & Negro Navarro captured the UWA trios belts from El Engendro & Shu El Guerrero & Scorpio Jr. on 6/6 in Puebla, while Casandro lost the UWA lightweight title to Seminarista on 6/14 in Queretaro. On the same card, the Death Missionaries lost a non-title match to Octagon & Super Amigo & Solar I, which was surprising only because on paper Super Amigo isn't even a pushed AAA wrestler and he was put over the UWA trios champs on their home court.

In an interpromotional match which was reported in the papers as a classic, Gran Hamada retained the UWA jr. light heavyweight title beating Fuerza Guerrera on 6/14 in Pachuca.

With the AAA vs. UWA feud dead, UWA is bringing in two green bodybuilders called Mr. Atlas (said to be a former Mr. Mexico) and Mr. Cybergensics who are going to get main event pushes, since unlike the U.S., the bodybuilding craze hasn't hit and been done to death here and obviously they are attempting to copy Konnan just like it was in the United States about nine years ago when every wrestler starting out it seemed filled themselves with juice and painted their face to copy the phenomenal success of the Road Warriors gimmick.

Scorpio Jr. is out of action with a broken collarbone.

EMLL

Bobby Bonales, 77, one of the pioneers of Lucha Libre, passed away on 6/26 and they held a moment of silence in his honor on television over the weekend. Bonales, whose real name was Roberto Aceves, is thought of as one of the all-time great shooters of the 50s. In that era, the American wrestlers, who at the time were the dominant force in wrestling, used to consider Mexican wrestlers as second-rate (some still do today but in a lot of ways that's an example of living ones life with blinders on), but even the Americans were said to all respect Bonales, who in his prime feuded with the likes of Gory Guerrero and El Santo. His son Daniel was a silver medalist at 132 pounds in the 1984 Olympic Games, who at that time was the only Mexican ever to win an Olympic medal in wrestling. Bonales was a powerful figure in the EMLL office and in the Mexico City wrestling commission for decades.

7/9 in Los Angeles at the Olympic Auditorium is Negro Casas vs. Ultimo Dragon, Blue Demon Jr. & El Hijo del Solitario vs. Enigma de

Oro & Kayam (locals), Los Brazos vs. Mercenarios (Louie Spicolli & Billy Anderson & Tim Patterson) and Piloto Suicida & Mercurio vs. Bobby Bradley Jr. & Lover Boy. They've lowered G.A. prices to \$10 for this show, but except for a great main event, the line-up has no depth at all and isn't going to draw.

Pegasus Kid (Chris Benoit) returns 7/8 at Arena Mexico as part of a trios tournament. The tourney will include Silver King & Texano & Dandy, The White Wave (Angel Blanco Jr. & Gran Markus Jr. & El Hijo del Gladiador), Negro Casas & Mano Negra & Black Magic and Pegasus & Vampiro & Rayo.

Super Astro also returns on that show.

EMLL officially stripped Canek & Wagner of the CMLL world tag team titles for lack of defenses, since UWA/EMLL relations evaporated a long time ago so Canek wasn't going to return and defend the straps, so they'll be holding a tournament soon.

Biggest feud right now is Rayo & Atlantis vs. Miguel Perez & Ricky Santana.

With the World Cup killing attendance, EMLL announced kids under 10 free at all arenas.

The 10-year old son of Mascarita Magica, who was missing, was found alive in Tijuana, and has been returned home.

EMLL announced its biggest show of the year will be on 9/23 at Arena Mexico, the 61st anniversary spectacular.

Guerrero Negro (Hector Picaso) was temporarily paralyzed after missing a tope. He's no longer paralyzed, but his career is believed to be over.

ALL JAPAN

The new tour opened 6/30 at Korakuen Hall with Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue & Masa Fuchi beating Mitsuharu Misawa & Jun Akiyama & Tsuyoshi Kikuchi in the main event.

Maunakia Mussmal (?), I will try and get correct spelling next week) was introduced to the crowd at this show as the newest wrestler this group is training. He's actually a Japanese-American, just 18 years old, and last year was the Hawaiian state high school heavyweight champion in amateur.

Misawa debuted a new finishing hold which was described to me as being a reverse of the Tiger driver, on the 7/3 Korakuen Hall show and used it to pin Takao Omori in a tag match where Omori teamed with Kawada against Misawa & Akiyama.

Tom Zenk seemed to be receiving a medium level push on his return to this group after a four year absence. Zenk had to fly back in mid-tour for the trial and is expected to return once his testimony is completed.

6/25 television show did a 2.1 rating.

NEW JAPAN

New tour here also started 6/30 in Nagano. This tour is being headlined by New Japan vs. Ishingun (ex-Skinheads) feud. During the tour there will be 85 matches between the two sides and whichever group has the most wins when it is over is the winning group. They had five matches on the first night, with Hiroshi Hase pinning Michiyoshi Ohara, Power Warrior pinning Akitoshi Saito, Keiji Muto beating Kengo Kimura via DQ when Ohara interfered and Masa Chono making Tatsutoshi Goto submit to the STF in singles. However, Ishingun won the main event when Shiro Koshinaka & Great Kabuki & Kuniaki Kobayashi beat Riki Choshu & Takayuki Iizuka & Akira Nogami.

The highlight of the opening night was the debut of American Machine (Love Machine), who got over strong as expected, teaming with Black Tiger & Max Moon to beat Shinjiro Ohtani & El Samurai & Jushin Liger when Machine pinned Ohtani.

Nasty Boys are unbeaten thus far on this tour working mainly semifinals, with the biggest win over Shinya Hashimoto & Hase. On opening night they beat Hashimoto & Masa Saito, and Saito was injured and forfeited his matches against Ishingun for the next several days.

Steve Regal is also being given a strong push working tag matches with Nasty Boys, Max Moon and Too Cold Scorpio.

New Japan is pushing that Antonio Inoki is going to the United States to the Bash and will meet with Ted Turner and George Foreman. It has been Inoki's dream going back to the mid-70s to have a match with Foreman, and with his retirement months away, this is his last chance to put the deal together.

Satoshi Kojima's bad neck won't allow him to return to stage one of the G-1 climax tournament on 7/8 and 7/9 in Sapporo, so he'll be replaced in that elimination phase by Manabu Nakanishi.

It looks as though with the AAA/IWA combine out the window, that AAA and New Japan are going to work together and in December many of the AAA big names like Konnan, Cien Caras, Machine, Psicosis, etc. will be brought in.

6/25 television show headlined by Hashimoto vs. Choshu for the title did a 2.2 rating. 7/2 TV had the Michinoku Pro vs. New Japan eight-man as the headliner.

OTHER JAPAN NOTES

The biggest show of the past week in Japan was the WAR world six man tag team title one-night tournament on 6/30 in Sendai. The finals came down to Genichiro Tenryu & Animal Hamaguchi & Koki Kitahara vs. Gedo & Jado & Hiromichi Fuyuki. In an upset, Fuyuki's team won when Fuyuki pinned Kitahara, after Kendo Nagasaki had attacked Tenryu with a fire extinguisher blast to the eyes rendering him blind and giving Fuyuki's team a 3-on-2 edge. In the third place match, Great Sasuke & Shiryu & Masao Orihara beat Dos Caras & Brett Como & Lion Heart (Chris Jericho). Another six-man tourney takes place on 7/17, although no belts are at stake. The deal behind this is that in the late 1980s, Tenryu & Road Warriors held the NWA six-man belts are defended them both in Japan and NWA before the NWA/All Japan relations hit the skids when All Japan didn't want to work with the NWA group any longer when they did a Clash where they were supposed to defend the title against Sting & Junkyard Dog and a third guy (Michael Hayes?) and they did an angle where Kevin Sullivan locked the latter team up in the dressing room and conservative Baba felt any group that would run an angle like that was embarrassing the sport of wrestling and that was the end of a relationship that went back to the 50s.

The latest FMW tour ended on 6/28 in Osaka with a captains fall street fight match (rules are each team picks a captain and the match can only end when one team captain pins the other team captain) where captain Hisakatsu Oya teamed with The Gladiator & Mr. Pogo to beat captain Mitsuhiro Matsunaga who teamed with Atsushi Onita & Sambo Asako. Next major show is 7/31 in Yokohama with Pogo & Oya defending the street fight tag titles in a barbed wire match against Onita & Matsunaga, an elimination street fight with Tarzan Goto & Asako & Mr. Gannosuke vs. Goro Tsurumi & Hideki Hosaka & Dark Ranger, a womens street fight eight-woman match plus the first singles meeting of Big Titan vs. The Gladiator, and Damian vs. Ginsei Shinzaki. The biggest FMW show of the summer will be on 8/28 in Osaka.

LLPW announced this past week that the Shinobu Kandori vs. Bull Nakano main event on the 7/14 card, which is the group's biggest show in its history, will not be for the LLPW title as originally announced, but be a falls count anywhere chain match.

Pancrase on 7/26 at Tokyo Komazawa Gym has Masakatsu Funaki vs. Scott Salbin (billed as the U.S. heavyweight champion in shoot kick boxing), Minoru Suzuki vs. Renco Parduel (who made it to the semifinals of Ultimate Fight II before losing to Royce Gracie), Wayne Shamrock vs. Bas Ruton and Yusuke Fuke vs. Jason DeLuca (who was in Ultimate Fight II and also lost to Gracie).

Rings held a press conference on 7/4 announcing the signing of Tony Halme (Ludvig Borga). Halme was billed as the first pro wrestler to join Rings besides Akira Maeda. His first match will be 8/20 in Yokohama. Halme left the WWF when he broke his ankle, and must have been other problems which led to him not returning other than simply the gimmick wasn't nearly as successful as the spot it was given.

IWA has a show at Korakuen Hall on 7/14 headlined by an Undertaker death match (loser must be stuffed into a coffin) with Jason the Terrible vs. Tracy Smothers plus the beginnings of its world title tournament. 7/15 on an IWA show will be Canek vs. Jason for the UWA heavyweight strap and a barbed wire barricade match (a large slab of plywood is filled with barbed wire and the board can be used as a weapon) with Yukihiro Kanemura vs. Shoji Nakamaki and Smothers vs. Dick Slater.

NOW has a show on 8/11 headlined by Kendo Nagasaki vs. Yoshiaki Fujiwara.

JWP will be doing an eight-woman singles tournament with the first round matches (Candy Okutsu vs. Hikari Fukuoka, Commando Boirshoi vs. Plum Mariko, Mayumi Ozaki vs. Cutie Suzuki and Dynamite Kansai vs. Devil Masami) taking place 8/8 at Tokyo Ota Ward Gym, semis on 8/20 in Omiya and finals on 8/21 at Korakuen Hall.

Super Boy, Piloto Suicida and Ultra Taro are headed to Michinoku Pro starting 7/23.

USWA

Sid Vicious made his first appearance for a regular promotion on 7/4 in Memphis doing a run-in as Tommy Rich and Jerry Lawler were the final two wrestlers in an elimination tag match which started as Lawler & Brian Christopher & Moondog Spot vs. Rich & Doug Gilbert & Dream Machine. Vicious attacked Lawler, causing him to be pinned, which should no doubt set up a match on 7/11.

Attendance has been surprisingly strong as a weak on paper line-up on 6/27 drew more than 1,300 fans.

On television 7/3, Doug Basham came in and was announced as the nephew of Danny Davis, which is the case, and he looked good. Eddie Marlin then told the referees they needed to enforce the rules more closely. He called out all three USWA refs (Joe Wheeler of Louisville, Kevin Christian Lawler and Frank Morrell) and told them if they couldn't get the job done, he was hiring new referees and they all said they'd get the job done. Then they aired a clip from 6/27 of PG-13 retaining the USWA tag belts beating The Eliminators when they threw powder after Bert Prentice distracted the referee. After the match all three "injured" J.C. Ice so Wolfie D had to go on and wrestle Nobutaka Araya & Takashi Okano, known as the Masters of the Orient, by himself and he ended up losing. PG-13 then had a television rematch with Eliminators ending with Eliminators being disqualified.

They then aired a clip from 6/27 of the main event with Lawler & Christopher teaming with a mystery partner, who turned out to be Phil Hickerson against Dream & Rich & Gilbert. Lawler wound up being handcuffed to the ropes by Rich and was pretty well destroyed.

Lawler & Christopher then had a tag match against Masters of the Orient, ending when Gilbert, Rich & Dream attacked them and hung Lawler over the ropes.

They announced that the bird Reggie B. Fine ate on television last week wasn't really Frankie and Fine is supposed to bring Frankie back to Koko Ware, but hasn't done so yet so they are still feuding.

On the 7/4 card they had a three-way tag feud with Eliminators, PG-13 and Masters of the Orient for the supposed W*ING belts, with the first team to win two straight bouts getting the belts. It took five matches before PG-13 beat both the other teams in succession. Masters of the Orient return to Japan since IWA starts its new tour on 7/14.

Nathaniel Whitlock, 35, who used to manage here as Nate the Rat, got a front page story about him in the 6/30 Memphis Commercial Appeal. Whitlock ran after a woman who had stabbed a neighbor of his. Apparently the woman used a meatcleaver on the neck of his neighbor, who wasn't hurt seriously, then ran. Two years ago Whitlock was awarded a commendation from the city when he talked a man from jumping off a seventh floor of a parking garage. Whitlock, who called the police when the neighbor, covered in blood, ran to his doorstep. He then left the house and stalled the woman, who was running off, long enough by talking with her until police arrived.

Apparently the woman using the Lady Satan name that had wrestled Debbie Combs a few weeks back wasn't Cora Combs. Cora has worked as Lady Satan before against Debbie but the woman working this past week as Lady Satan have been Kitty Adams and Sara Lee.

SMW

New Jack & Sheik Mustapha from North Georgia wrestling debuted at the 7/5 tapings as a heel tag team called The Gangsters and are going to get a strong push.

Chris LePuma, who plays for the Atlanta Knights hockey team, was the guard of the penalty box for the Thrillseekers-Well Dunn match in Marietta.

On that same show in the Scott & Steve Armstrong vs. Funk Brothers match, after the DQ finish, the Funks and Jim Cornette beat up Bob Armstrong, and then local wrestling personality Sam Kent ran in and they beat him up as well. This was to set up the return on 8/16 where Sam Kent will manage The American Patriot (local wrestler T.A. Golden) against Bruiser Bedlam managed by Cornette.

On television this weekend they aired a FITE union video with Bruiser Bedlam and Killer Kyle, showing Kyle having a tug-of-war with four guys who couldn't move him, and Bedlam bracing himself against a wall with his legs locked holding the front of the car by the legs and them starting the car and having the wheels burn rubber (an old Ivan Putski gimmick from the 70s that was later done in the mid-80s on WWF TV by Ken Patera although in the case of Patera, it was a gimmicked scene).

In the Legends update, they announced Nelson Royal, Doug Furnas and Dick Slater as being at the 8/5 show.

Tracy Smothers was scheduled to defend the TV title against James Atkins and Cornette came out and told Atkins he needed to go on strike because he wasn't getting enough benefits and vacation days and Kyle intimidated him and took the title match. The match was really bad, with Smothers winning, but after their was the big brawl where Bob Armstrong was bloodied and left the brawl, and then came back with a baseball bat and cleaned house, which is similar to what he did last summer. Bob then did an interview and said that Jim Cornette's mother would rue the day she was with the jackal who produced Jim.

Jim Ross will be guest announcer for the 8/5 show. Apparently the interviews cut by Cornette and the Funks leading to that card are excellent, and they'd better be since Cornette is hoping for his first ever sellout in Knoxville.

HERE AND THERE

The Alexandria, LA Daily Town Talk had a story on Ernie Ladd on 6/22, talking about him being elected to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Ladd, who played in three all-star games in the old AFL before going into wrestling, was talked about as being a two sport star. Ladd walked away from football when he was still one of the most feared lineman in the game and into pro wrestling in the late 1960s and he was a main eventer until he knees gave out finally in the mid-80s. Ladd noted, "I'm very satisfied with my wrestling career. I enjoyed it much more than football." What was interesting was the story gave Ladd's wrestling career equal respect to his football exploits.

Jim Crockett is planning on opening up his new promotion, which will be called Jim Crockett Promotions presents the NWA, in the Carolinas, Alabama and Georgia, with the first television taping on 7/26 tentatively scheduled for Rainsville, AL. There are plenty of rumors over who will be involved in this group which will run in that area, but Paul E. Dangerously and the ECW crew that made up the bulk of the first Crockett tapings in New York won't be involved for a number of reasons, the main one being they had different ideas of the direction to take pro wrestling and how it should be presented. We really don't know any of the talent other than it is expected although not confirmed that some SMW talent may help with the first television taping and that Jim Cornette will likely appear. Ron West is getting the towns and Crockett is apparently going to be his own booker. The idea is to run a taping and one weekend a month of spot shows until the end of the year, when in theory they'll have television in a number of cities and run a circuit.

Chris Adams captured the GWF title on 7/1 in Dallas from Rod Price before 1,150 fans. Michael Hayes worked his first match that night since back surgery, teaming with Jimmy Garvin to beat Black Bart & Bill Irwin. Terry Gordy did a big stretcher job after being attacked by Bart, Irwin and Moadib after a singles match with Moadib, with the angle being they blew out his knee.

All-Star Wrestling has shows 7/16 in Brunswick, GA with Jim Duggan and Dory Funk appearing, and 7/23 in Calhoun Falls, SC with Wahoo McDaniel vs. Greg Valentine in a strap match on top.

A correction from the 6/27 issue, the 6/19 San Jose show drew 325 paid and not 250 as reported.

AAA

Probably the biggest news involves attempts at raiding going on back-and-forth although at this point nobody has moved. As is well known, AAA has had serious negotiations with Vampiro and Black Magic in recent weeks and Vampiro is confirmed for the Los Angeles card, and over the past week really picked up the steam in trying to lure Negro Casas in to form a tag team with Heavy Metal (who is actually his younger brother Eric Casas). Casas is generally considered by wrestlers in Mexico as the best wrestler in North America and has a great rep also as a trainer and for booking ideas and in elevating workrates of others. In addition, they're making a play to bring in Dandy. Casas at press time had told those with AAA that he was 90% sure he'd be coming in and some have pegged that he could be in as soon as the next two months.

Juan Herrera, a former AAA front office worker who was the long-time payoff man for EMLL and who returned to a power position after splitting with AAA early in the year, contacted Mascarita Sagrada and made a major offer to get him to convince all the minis to jump back. Mascarita then contacted Fuercita Guerrero, Octagoncito, Jerrito Estrada and Espectrito. Octagoncito was the only one who turned him down immediately and the rest pretty well agreed to jump. Pena and Jerry Estrada had talks with Jerrito and Espectrito and believe they've got them convinced to stay after all. Pena threatened all of them saying that if they jumped, they wouldn't be welcomed back. They seem to believe that Mascarita won't jump if it's only Fuercita who will jump with him, although amidst all this comes word of a Mascarita Sagrada vs. Espectrito mask vs. mask match for 8/6 in Los Angeles. Mexican magazines have also reported Lizmark, a long-time big-name who is kind of lost in the shuffle in AAA, and Lizmark Jr., who is one of the best young wrestlers in the world, as being approached to join EMLL.

8/6 show at press time (and you know what that means), the line-up has Konnan & Jake Roberts vs. Perro Aguayo & Vampiro in a Parejas Increibles match (face + heel vs. face + heel which I guess casts Vampiro as a heel), minis mask vs. mask match which is probably the single most important midget match in the recent history of wrestling, El Hijo del Santo & Octagon & Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Los Payasos, Volador & Heavy Metal & Winners vs. La Parka & Psicosis & Misterioso, Lola Gonzales & Martha Villalobos vs. Magnificent Mimi & La Monster and prelims including Too Cold Scorpio and Tito Santana. It's a solid show but no Love Machine or Cien Caras, who are the top two heels in the promotion. Vampiro is on television in Los Angeles since EMLL is on Ch. 22 Sundays, but it's largely dead television in comparison. It's real interesting to see if he means anything since he was on top on the two EMLL shows in Los Angeles which didn't draw well.

Sports Illustrated ran a scorecard item this past week about Tonya Harding being involved in the wrestling show in Vancouver, pretty well making fun of her involvement in a group which included the description of the dreaded midget in a green mask and orange wig (Espectrito) that made numerous newspapers around the country via AP. It's pretty much a definite that Harding won't be working the Los Angeles show since her agent asked for \$7,500 and the offer made was \$5,000.

IWC promoter Ron Skoler tried to defend the New York ticket prices (\$25 to \$50) because of the cost of promoting a show in New York and that Mexican concerts with major bands sell tickets anywhere from \$40 to \$100 in New York and draw big houses. The fact is, virtually all the tickets sold the first few days were the \$50 seats, so if people are willing to buy the tickets, they aren't overpriced. Actually my problem at most big shows isn't the high price for ringside, it's when the low price is too high which often keeps the cheap seats

from being sold and can discourage return business. Ringside at a major show is a sign of status and people will pay anything provided they believe the show is something special. When they don't and you find ringside empty and the cheap seats sold ala the EMLL shows in Los Angeles, then you know ringside is overpriced.

Because of the World Cup shutdown, the weekend television was all old tapes. Galavision on Saturday aired three matches from the 3/12 Los Angeles show, including the Mascarita Sagrada-Espertrito title match which was the best minis match I've ever seen, and the Konnan-Jake cage match which wasn't the best anything although Mascarita did the Snuka dive off the cage. They also aired on U.S. television for the first time, the six-man from Los Angeles where Love Machine broke-up with La Parka & Psicosis after Lizmark put the La Parka mask on and attacked Machine with it, and Machine then attacked La Parka. The Sunday show in Mexico just aired prelim matches from prior tapings that hadn't aired previously. Because of not taping because of the World Cup and airing old tapes, it turned into a WCW-like television situation. The week after Mascarita Sagrada and Micro Konnan settled their feud, the television show aired a match taped one week earlier where Micro Konnan once again turned on Mascarita.

New shows should start airing this weekend in Mexico and the weekend after in the United States, since they taped 7/1 in Veracruz (drawing a non-sellout 6,000 for a show with Konnan's team against Cien Caras and his brothers, ending when Los Payasos attacked both teams to continue a three-way feud), and were scheduled for tapings 7/6 in Aguascalientes and 7/8 in Tijuana, largely to give a new push to the newest version of the Infernales (Pirata Morgan & Espectro & El Satanico) who are heels on top of both shows. Originally Psicosis was a member of that trio instead of Morgan, but the change was made because it was felt Psicosis was just too good to be put in that grouping and that Morgan was an original Infernale (before he and Satanico broke up and feuded last year in a dud feud) and had no spot in the promotion without being part of a regular grouping.

They are going back to running weekly Friday night shows at Juan de la Barrera Gym in Mexico City on 7/15.

WCW

Hulk Hogan is scheduled to appear on Jay Leno on 7/12. Hopefully he'll have learned from 1991 and not repeat.

Another employee defecting of late from the WWF, Tom Hunt, who handled a lot of the stage production for the recent Wrestlemania revenge tour, has joined WCW and will run the hotline. Speaking of the hotline, it is widely rumored that Mark Madden will be on the hotline in place of Bobby Heenan on Sundays, since Heenan's segment, despite all the publicity, pretty well has bombed when it comes to getting people to call. In nearly every case, wrestling heels or people acting like heels bomb on hotlines. On WCW, with the exception of Gene Okerlund on Saturdays who has the advantage of doing the teases on television, the only day that does strong business is Thursdays with Mike Tenay, who isn't a television personality, but has more news than anyone else. Okerlund only does roughly half the average business each week that Jim Ross did with far less promotion, because the teases can only sustain business for so long before people want info for their dollar which Ross delivered. Madden has been campaigning for the spot since December.

A correction from last week. At the Clash, Tony Schiavone didn't call Shaquille O'Neal an "old pro" as reported here, it was "All-Pro," which is technically a football term but why quibble.

The story about the fan going after Terry Funk with a gun in Columbus, GA at the TV taping was apparently blown out of proportion. There was a drunk biker who had a gun and it happened to be during the Terry Funk match when the police saw him and escorted him to the back, but it wasn't as if he charged the ring or anything.

TV ratings for the weekend of 6/18 saw Saturday Night do a 1.8, Main Event a 1.9 and Pro a 1.5. For the weekend of 6/25, Saturday Night did a 2.1 and Pro another 1.5.

Even though Hulk Hogan has been announced for the tours, the advance for WCW in Germany in September has been weak. WWF

advance for Germany at the same time is also flat but reportedly their dates have more interest.

The 8/25 Clash has been moved from the St. Paul Civic Center, the building Hulk Hogan used to sellout in the AWA in the early 80s. The show would have gone head-to-head with the opening of the state fair. No new site or card is known at press time, although the 9/18 PPV looks to be from Roanoke and Halloween Havoc is penciled in for Detroit.

On WCW on 7/2, they aired a very brief clip of Hulk Hogan working out with George Foreman which was totally ineffective. Hogan then did an interview where Hulk told Jimmy Hart basically to punch Sherri Martel if she interfered, which is probably the worst timing in the world right now to say something like that. I'm sure TBS got complaints about that because we even received several complaints immediately after the interview. The Hogan-Flair build-up had been strong up to this past weekend, although probably not strong enough to justify the expense, but this week's television saw the hype fall flat. WCW officials are still predicting a 1.0 buy rate for the show, which would be a major success.

Most of the post-PPV house shows will be Flair vs. Sting, Guardian Angel vs. Vader, Ricky Steamboat vs. Steve Austin, Marcus Bagwell & The Patriot vs. Paul Roma & Paul Orndorff, Dustin Rhodes vs. Arn Anderson, Johnny B. Badd vs. Steve Regal and Brian Pillman vs. Bobby Eaton.

7/8 in Augusta, GA was canceled, so the next actual house shows are guaranteed shows on 7/14 and 7/15 in El Paso and Albuquerque. WCW also has shows on 8/27 in Fort Worth at Will Rogers Coliseum and 8/28 in Lancaster, CA as part of the county fair before a 9/1 to 9/14 tour of Germany.

Stupid line of the week: On the hotline, Gene Okerlund claimed the trial was "a hatchet job by the feds on Vince McMahon because he ruffled the feathers of the Weider Brothers." Although this isn't the first time the line that the Weider Brothers are behind it has been espoused, but it is totally ludicrous on a number of points. The ridiculous Billy Graham to Weider Brothers going to Arnold going to George Bush conspiracy theory McMahon tried to advocate in 1992 when all the bad pub hit to attempt to deflect defending itself against the issues at hand has no basis in fact. The Weider Brothers have more to fear if the government goes after the real profiteers of steroids use than anyone, not to mention Bush isn't president anymore and it's ridiculous to believe he'd give one second of caring over an issue that petty. Besides, the Weider Brothers' feathers would hardly be ruffled by Vince McMahon since they scored a shutout victory over him on their field, and Vince was out of the bodybuilding business before the Grand Jury even started meeting. Yes, granted everything said in that venue and probably anything said by Gene Okerlund on just about any subject should probably be dismissed as all being a work, but he should at least leave the working storylines to involving the workers in the business instead of trying to explain real-life situations by creating works.

Arn Anderson was on the Wrestling Insiders radio show and talked of forming a new Four Horseman group with Ric Flair and Curt Hennig, once Hennig's WWF contract runs out and he can join WCW.

On both syndication and cable this past week they aired the previously taped and latest disjointed angle with Sensational Sherri scouting Brian Pillman and pretty much being in a babyface position, after she's already turned at the Clash. The announcers, put in a no-win position, tried to explain this faux pas by saying Flair is her business interest and she's looking at Pillman as a romantic interest.

WWF

Highlights of the recent television tapings. The Raw taping on 7/1 in Bushkill, PA opened with a Bob Backlund squash win where Backlund used the chicken wing and wouldn't let the hold go for a long time after the match and they rang the bell four or five times before he broke it, and he then ignored fans after the match. I'm told this wasn't taped, but was strictly a try-out, but after ten years, they finally got Backlund to do what they wanted him to do. Bret Hart vs. 1-2-3 Kid followed and they had a 25:00 super match. Owen Hart and Jim Neidhart caused a ruckus early but left. At 10:00, Hart scored a pin but Kid's foot was on the ropes and they built it from there ending when Kid missed a dropkick and submitted to the sharpshooter. Another Raw match was Lex Luger vs. Diesel ending in a DDQ when

Razor Ramon and Shawn Michaels interfered. Alundra Blayze did an interview saying how she had finished off Luna, which will lead to Luna returning as the manager of Bull Nakano, who debuts at the 8/1 Raw taping in Youngstown, OH. They did promos on the third show building to Bull Nakano being on TV "next week." Jim Ross did the announcing for all three shows. Harvey Whippleman did a dark interview talking about Adam Bomb turning, so fans would know Bomb was a babyface but the fans really didn't get behind Bomb. Yokozuna beat Bomb via count out when Kwang tripped up Bomb. Ted DiBiase then promised he'd give Tatanka \$10,000 if he could pin Nikolai Volkoff, and Tatanka scored the pin. Before DiBiase gave Tatanka the money he said that Tatanka could never beat Lex Luger, and Tatanka said he could beat Luger any day of the week, which brought out Luger. DiBiase was claiming he'd bought Luger's contract before Luger came out and Tatanka was agreeing, but Luger was noncommittal and when he was out, DiBiase changed his tune, but this all set up the Tatanka vs. Luger match at SummerSlam.

Speaking of SS, two other matches are Undertaker vs. Undertaker, which they did nothing to build-up at any of the three nights surprisingly, and Brian Lee only worked the third night since he worked SMW the other two nights, however the WWF Mag which hit the subscribers last week already had that match listed, and Bret vs. Owen in a cage. Remember when cages used to mean a clean finish in the ring with nobody running away and no outside interference? Today a cage guarantees running away and outside interference, which may explain why the cage doesn't draw anything like it used to.

From the 7/2 Challenge tapings in Bethlehem, PA, after a Diesel win, Shawn Michaels came into the ring and pinned the fallen jobber. Volkoff beat Virgil when DiBiase distracted Virgil in a poor match. Yokozuna won a squash and tried to continue beating on the guy when Mabel, Oscar and Typhoon came out and Oscar rapped and Mabel and Typhoon danced. This is to set up Mabel & Typhoon as a regular tag team (thank god, we are really short this year on legitimate tag team of the year contenders) to feud with Crush & Yokozuna. Ray Rougeau & Jim Powers won a squash as a tag team. During this match several fans were heckling Powers on his physique and he flipped them off. Bam Bam Bigelow was managed by Ted DiBiase but no Luna. Yokozuna & Crush beat Mabel & Typhoon. Jim Neidhart, with Owen in the corner, came out for a squash win to the same Hart Foundation music that Bret uses. Owen then did an interview and said at SummerSlam he'd get back at his older brother for picking on him when they were kids and Bret came out and told Owen that he was being brainwashed by Neidhart and that his win at Wrestlemania was a fluke and said his sister was stupid for ever marrying Neidhart. Lots of complaints about the dark main event where Bret beat Owen with the sharpshooter in just a few minutes of a dud match.

At the Superstars taping on 7/3 in Ocean City, MD, they started a Jeff Jarrett-Kid feud. First they had a double count out and Jarrett destroyed Kid similar to King of the Ring afterwards. Later in the taping they had a rematch which Jarrett won with his feet on the ropes. They continued the Lex turn tease with Luger saying he had no deal with DiBiase and Lex and Tatanka having another confrontation because Tatanka claimed he sold out to DiBiase. Since Luger is working face for September dates in Europe, this looks like a

fake turn. They also did a Bob Backlund turn, although again we're told this may not air. Backlund got a small package but Hart kicked out, but Backlund thought he'd won. Hart then got a small package for the pin. After the match when they went to shake hands, Backlund slapped Hart and put him in the chicken wing and wouldn't break the hold.

Although many TV Guides are listing a WWF special for 7/30 on Showtime, it won't be happening. There were negotiations several weeks back and somebody apparently jumped the gun, because no deal was completed nor is one expected to be.

Upcoming tapings are 8/1 in Youngstown, OH, 8/2 in Wheeling, WV and 8/3 in Cincinnati, and then 8/15 and 8/16 in Lowell, MA and 8/17 in Portland, ME.

It is pretty well confirmed that the state athletic commission that Howard Finkel took the HIV test for Hogan was for his license in Oregon.

Bruce Hart is coming in to be in Bret's corner for house show matches starting the end of the month against Owen, who will have Neidhart in the corner.

They are actually doing a Jerry Lawler vs. Duke Droese feud at the arenas.

For the weekend of 6/20, Raw did a 3.0, All-American a 2.0 (for the live show day of KOTR) and Mania a 1.4. 6/27 saw Raw do a 3.3 for Mabel vs. Bigelow, All-American 1.9 and Mania 1.3. Both Raw shows actually were viewed by more people than the Clash on 6/23.

DiBiase has replaced Johnny Polo on All-American.

Davey Boy Smith is booked for England shows in September teaming with Bret against Owen & Neidhart on top, plus Undertaker vs. Yokozuna casket matches and Blayze vs. Nakano and Ramon vs. Diesel or Ramon & Luger vs. Michaels & Diesel. However on the Germany dates, it'll be Hart teaming with Randy Savage. There is serious talk of Smith returning full-time in the fall.

John Fillipelli, who is now working in baseball production but was head of production with Titan for several years, in his baseball bio, the years he worked for Titan are left blank as if he just disappeared off the face of the Earth for several years. Apparently in Shawn Mooney's bio, it's the same situation.

Early week house show business was largely very weak, in the \$11,000 to \$25,000 range except a decent house in Fresno and a strong house in Rancho Cucamonga (\$54,000) promoted hard off the Los Angeles television.

The 7/30 Oakland date for "Summer Sizzler" will be at the Kaiser Convention Center rather than the regular Coliseum Arena.

Monster Madman, who didn't appear at any of the three shows, is apparently a relative of former wrestler Johnny Rodz.