

Stars for the future



TALENT spotting has long been a favourite pastime for many regular wrestling followers and 1982 has been a particularly good year for new talent to emerge into our rings with two of the best prospects coincidentally coming into the professional ranks from the same part of the world. Both Saxon Brooks (left) and Matt Matthews (right) hail from the East Midlands and became interested in wrestling after achieving some individual success in judo although they did not know one another until meeting at wrestling venues.

Brooks is a strapping six footer from Nottingham who looks destined to move quickly into the top weight division. He can look after himself in the ring too and has been surprising a number of vastly more experienced rivals with his tenacity and some very neat throws and counters as will be seen when he makes his debut in televised action early in the New Year.

Teenager Matthews, from Eastwood, Notts, has already been seen on the small screen in a knockout event and although beaten on that occasion showed a lot of maturity and proved that he can come back with telling moves of his own when on the receiving end. He is developing quite a rivalry with unorthodox shaven headed campaigner 'Grasshopper' Phil Johnson and knows that a win over such a capable rival will go a long way to convincing the promoters of his ability and assure his future in wrestling.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME

Your Matchmakers/Presenters:
Dale Martin Promotions,
49 Nursery Road, Brixton,
London, SW1 8BL.
Telephone: 01-274-6015.

WIRRINA STADIUM, PETERBOROUGH
THURSDAY DECEMBER 23rd 1983

Mid-Heavyweight sizzler

Newly crowned World Champion

MARTY JONES

(Oldham, Lancs.)

versus

Shaven headed bundle of energy

SKULL MURPHY

(Plymouth, Devon)

Special clash of champions

Famed Northern strongman

ALAN DENNISON

(British Welterweight Champion)

versus

Aggressive 'Belfast Bruiser'

DAVE FINLAY

(British Heavy-Middleweight Champion)

A catchweight challenge contest

Unorthodox barefoot star

GRASSHOPPER

(Phil Johnson)

Speedy ex-amateur champion

DAVE LAWRENCE

(Nottingham)

Outstanding international action

Deaf and dumb favourite

ALAN KILBY

(Sheffield, Yorks)

V

Caribbean drop-kick ace

JIM MOSER

(Kingston, Jamaica)

Tremendous re-match from television

Abrasive arm submission king

JIM BREAKS

(Bradford, Yorks)

V

Britain's smallest star

TOM THUMB

(Little man - big heart)

Special referee: PETER SZAKACS

Guest MC: BRIAN CRABTREE

● Don't miss our next Wirrina presentation on
THURSDAY JANUARY 20th 1983

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the appearance of those billed to appear on these programmes, the very nature of the sport makes any such guarantee impossible. The promoters cannot be held responsible for any change of programme, but will engage the best possible substitute whenever necessary. No films, photographs or recordings of any type may be taken from this hall.



ON BEHALF OF THE PROMOTERS, MATCHMAKERS, WRESTLERS AND OFFICIALS, BIG DADDY EXTENDS THE SEASON'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR REGULAR PATRONS.

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF
BRITAIN'S PREMIER WRESTLING
MATCHMAKERS AND MEMBERS
OF JOINT PROMOTIONS LTD.



15p

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AFTER TV BELTS WIN WHO CAN STOP THE RIOT SQUAD?

AS the hard-hitting Riot Squad reflect their recent triumph in the TV Tag Belts event, the question being asked throughout the rest of the wrestling world is can Skull Murphy and Dave Finlay be beaten in 1983, and if so, by whom?

Almost inevitably there are a string of individuals and tag combinations who believe the Riot Squad's wings can be clipped and that can only mean some explosive ring action throughout the months ahead.

No one can question the emphatic manner in which Murphy and Finlay established themselves as the country's number one tag outfit, the action as they won the tournament at Croydon providing compulsive Saturday afternoon entertainment for millions of television viewers on two successive weekends.

With formidable combinations like international stars Kwik-Kik Lee and 'Iron Fist' Clive Myers and the 'Jet Set' duo of Alan Kilby and young Steve Logan eliminated at semi-final stage it was left to the Riot Squad to face the battling South Coast family pairing of 'Tarzan' Johnny Wilson and younger brother Peter Wilson with the belts presented by ITV's 'World of Sport' at stake.

The way Murphy and Finlay disposed of an overall heavier pairing showed just why they have made such progress in tags and as individuals in the closing months of 1982 and they are emphatic that recent achievements are only just a foretaste of what is to come.

It is hardly surprising that the Riot Squad have now issued an open challenge to the whole of Europe to any tag duo with a combined total weight of under 40 stones and that figure doesn't rule out even the heaviest stars from lining-up against them if they pair-off with suitably light partners.

Looking on an even wider horizon the next likely target for Murphy and Finlay will be the tag team

Grand Prix in Japan — and in a country dominated by the American style of professional wrestling we can be sure that their uncompromising approach is sure to go down really well.

Murphy and Finlay each have a great deal going for them. West country bundle of energy Murphy, originally from Plymouth, is the son of former heavyweight campaigner Roy 'Bull' Davis, a frequently controversial but always able star of the 1960's. Like many sons of famous wrestling fathers Murphy decided to make his own mark in the ring under another name and initially was successful on the Continent as Steve Young.

For a full heavyweight Murphy is a really fast mover and his style often includes the sort of agile aerial action usually associated with men from the Middleweight division or even lighter. Most spectacular is his head butt, not delivered in full flight in the manner of Wayne Bridges and other stars but with Murphy launching himself off the ropes or the ring post and descending with his body completely horizontal.

Finlay is also following a family tradition but his father's connection is with the amateurs in his native Northern Ireland and it was from this background that Dave himself emerged to join the professional ranks as recently as 1979. Prior to that he had scooped just about every amateur honour going at each weight class and age group from the age of 10 upwards.

Perhaps it is a legacy of his amateur career but Finlay has always been a fitness fanatic and his displays have earned him wide acclaim as, pound for pound, the fittest man in British wrestling. He has terrific energy and delights in wearing down the opposition with sustained barrages of short range elbow jabs that are very much in the Mick McManus tradition.

With such an approach it was only a matter of time before Finlay got himself notices and last winter he set out his stall to win a British title

before the end of 1982 and, just to be certain, directed his pressures at both the reigning heavy-middleweight and light heavyweight divisions. His weight is perfectly balanced between these neighbouring classes and both title holders Marty Jones (light heavyweight) and Alan Kilby (heavy middleweight) were left in no doubt as to the Ulsterman's intentions.

Finlay desperately wanted to become the first man to take an official British wrestling championship belt home to Northern Ireland and it was in the heavy middleweights that he finally succeeded in his ambition back in September when beating Kilby in a title 12 rounder at Croydon.

The popular deaf and dumb star from Yorkshire regained the crown at the Royal Albert Hall in November but the ink of the stories of his success hardly had time to dry before Finlay was back in command, winning a particularly brutal return battle in Bradford's St. George's Hall.

At the time of writing Finlay still proudly boasts the British championship along with his tag team belt but, almost inevitably, the threat of Kilby still looms large on two fronts as the Sheffield star has now joined forces with Marty Jones to mount a tag team challenge.

Kilby and Jones have been doing a lot of tagging in recent times but were unable to enter the Televised event as Jones was otherwise engaged on the same Croydon bill in the contest against Bobby Gaetano of France that settled the vacant world Mid-heavyweight title. Jones won the late Mike Marino's old title and magnificent silver belt in tremendous style and believes he and Kilby have what it takes to tame the Riot Squad.

'Iron Fist' Clive Myers and Kwik-Kik Lee also believe they could have gone all the way in the televised tournament but for an unfortunate injury to the West Indian karate ace and among other stars anxious to put their claims to the test are Kent-based heavyweights Tom Tyrone and Pete Roberts.

The Riot Squad, Skull Murphy and Dave Finlay, wearing their TV Tag Champions belts.

