

# Superstars of Wrestling – It's The Debut Episode And... That's About It!

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: September 6, 1986

Location; Providence Civic Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bruno Sammartino

So I was going to do the September 13 episode when I found out that it was the second episode of the series. This would be during Hogan vs. Orndorff in what was an absolutely huge feud and indirectly led into Hogan vs. Andre the following year. I'd expect a lot of squash matches here which is what Superstars was known for as it replaced Championship Wrestling. Let's get to it.

We open with an opening. There's a good idea.

The announcers run down the people on the card tonight.

### Ricky Steamboat/Sivi Afi vs. Roger Kirby/Terry Gibbs

The heels try to jump Steamboat and Afi but are quickly atomic dropped to the floor. Steamboat starts with Gibbs but it's quickly off to Kirby. Now it's quickly back to Ricky. Gibbs manages an elbow to take Afi down and the heels pound on Afi in the corner. A headbutt from Kirby puts him down but gets rolled up for two to stop the momentum. There's the hot tag to Steamboat and house is cleaned. He suplexes Kirby down and Afi hits a top rope splash for the pin. Short but not half bad.

Video on Billy Graham training, set to Bad to the Bone by George Thorogood and the Destroyers. Graham, with a freaking tarantula crawling over his face, says he's coming for Studd and Bundy.

### Hart Foundation vs. Koko B. Ware/Paul Roma

This is Koko's debut. It's also Ventura's first appearance since Wrestlemania too. Neidhart and Koko start things off and Koko armdrags him down. Off to Roma who doesn't have as much luck because he isn't that good. Bret, who is that good, comes in and pounds him down with ease. Ventura praises him and we get an inset promo from Koko who has nothing to say. While he's talking the Hart Attack pins Roma. Vince calls it bad officiating but it seemed fine to me.

Koko saves Roma from a beating post match.

MSG house show ad. The Machines, including Hulk Machine, are ready for Heenan and his boys. Hogan trying to sound Japanese is borderline offensive and I'm not even Japanese.

Honky Tonk Man is coming and he wants to beat up Paul Orndorff. He was a face when he debuted until the fans were actually asked if they would give him a vote of confidence. In other words, the fans decided if he was a face or a heel. Now there's something different.

### Ron Shaw/Pete Doherty vs. Hillbilly Jim/Cousin Luke

Luke isn't that good but he furthered the hillbilly gimmick for Jim. Jim and Shaw start us off and the Hillbilly throws him around for a bit before it's off to Luke. Luke doesn't do that well so Jim comes in and mauls them both, finishing Doherty with the bearhug. Total squash.

Meadowlands house show ad. Heenan isn't worried about Steamboat because he has Mr. Wonderful ready. Orndorff knows what a monkey wrench is, and just like Steamboat's martial arts, that won't mean a thing.

### Kamala vs. Tommy Sharpe

This is Kamala's return apparently. Kamala's manager King Curtis tells us about how great Kamala is. Sharpe gets in more

offense than you would expect here, but at the end of the day he's a jobber and Kamala is a returning monster. The big splash ends this in about two minutes.

Time for the Flower Shop with Adrian Adonis which replaced Piper's Pit and set up a great angle between the hosts. Piper is the guest and he's still on a cane due to the knee injury he suffered earlier in the knee. He says he's not here tonight to fight (despite implying Adonis is female) but he does have a letter. They're the ratings for the segments on WWF TV, and apparently the Flower Shop is killing them. He gives Jimmy Hart another letter which says that the Flower Shop will be canceled next week so that Piper's Pit can return. Adrian freaks and it's on next week.

#### Rougeau Brothers vs. Mike Fever/Bob Bradley

Bradley was in the last show I reviewed and it was the only time I had ever heard of him. I love little things like that. The Rougeaus aren't fabulous yet but they take Bradley apart to get things going. We listen to some French commentary for no apparent reason. Total dominance again with Ray getting the pin after the Cannonball that the Quebecers would use as their finisher years later.

We get a clip from a previous Flower Shop where Heenan tries to prove that one of the Machines is Andre the Giant but they keep switching places to confuse him.

#### Big John Studd/King Kong Bundy vs. Corporal Kirschner/SD Jones

The Corporal and Studd start us off with the Corporal hitting and moving. He pounds on Studd and goes for a slam but Bundy breaks it up. Bundy comes in and uses fat man offense but it's back to Studd quickly. Jones comes in and it's Wrestlemania all over again. The Avalanche gets the quick pin. Literal squash. Even Vince says this match wasn't that good.

Another MSG ad. Harley Race says that Tito Santana is in way

over his head.

Vince tells us what's coming next week and we're out.

**Overall Rating:** D+. For a debut episode this was pretty forgettable, but back then it wouldn't have been seen as all that bad. The idea here was to pump up the house shows so on that front, it did pretty well. It's hard to criticize these shows because they're not meant to be some masterpiece and a show that's going to get you to watch next week like Raw is today. It wasn't that bad and at 45 minutes, how can I really complain?

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## **Best of the WWF Volume 5 – That's Quite A Main Event**

### **Best of the WWF Volume 5**

Host: Gene Okerlund

Commentators: Gorilla Monsoon, Jesse Ventura, Vince McMahon, Bruno, Sammartino

Just three of these left so let's knock this one out. I won't do the other two just after this because these shows can be hard to sit through at times. This one is from very early 1986 so most of the matches are from 1985 and a few of them revolve around the Women's Title, which was a much bigger deal back then with Wendi Richter, the chick that basically caused the Rock N Wrestling Connection (ok not really but she was part of

it) main eventing house shows when Hogan wasn't there. Think about that for a minute. Let's get to it.

### Don Muraco vs. Ricky Steamboat

MSG from November of 85. They're slow to start so I'm assuming this is going to go on for awhile. Steamboat speeds things up and a kick sends Don to the floor. Back in and Steamboat claps Muraco's ears to send him right back to the floor. Back in and Muraco walks into a superkick and chops. Steamboat hooks the rare face chinlock (it's a neck crank but I call them all chinlocks).

Muraco comes back but walks into more shots from Ricky to send him back outside. Back in again and Muraco STILL can't get anything going. Backdrop sets up some armdrags and off to something resembling an STF. Now into a camel clutch. Steamboat grabs a nose lock before shifting to a front facelock. Clipped to later in the facelock as we hear about how this is a revenge match for the Dragon.

Muraco finally gets in some offense with an atomic drop and a clothesline. Steamboat goes face first into the post and he's busted. Muraco goes after the wound like an evil man. Now it's Steamboat on the floor as Gorilla wants a doctor to take a look at Steamboat. A slingshot puts Ricky into the post. Steamboat staggers around on the floor for a bit before getting slingshotted back in. That's a popular move in this match.

Ricky chops away in the corner and the people get all exciteable. Muraco comes back again and Fuji throws in the cane. They fight over it but Steamboat kicks him off and into the referee. A cane shot misses Ricky so Steamboat kicks him in the back of the head and grabs the cane. The fans are LOSING IT. A cane shot draws the DQ loss for Steamboat though.

**Rating:** C+. Not a classic or anything but for what it was, this was fine. They let the guys do their thing and they

worked the crowd into a frenzy because of it. What else do you really need to do in a place like New York? Steamboat was great and while Muraco was just a step past his prime, he could still go and do 20 minutes like he did here. Fine match.

Dragon breaks the cane and gouges it into the head of Muraco. He had a mean streak to him. Steamboat beats on Muraco for a bit because he's Ricky Steamboat and he can. Don is busted too.

### Hart Foundation vs. Killer Bees

I told you these teams always hooked up. I think we're in Philly here. Blair clears house to start and it's off to Brunzell. Bret is in trouble early and the Bees stay on the arm, which the announcers criticize them for. Bret gets in an elbow and here's the Anvil. Blair is in trouble but gets in a right hand to a big pop. He doesn't do anything after that but it shows you how strong the crowds were back in the day.

The Dream Team has the belts at the moment so this is late 85-early 86. Bret misses a charge into the ropes and it's off to Brunzell. Brunzell hits his dropkick on Hart but Anvil makes the save. Everything breaks down but Bret and Brunzell go to the floor. And there's the LAME double DQ. This didn't run long enough to really get going.

**Rating:** C-. These two were incapable of having a bad match but they needed more time here. The double DQ came in way too fast and that really hurt things. You could easily watch any of these guys' matches and you would get a good match out of it. Fun stuff here, while it lasted at least.

### Hart Foundation/Barry O vs. Killer Bees/Paul Orndorff

This is joined in progress in the same city. Blair is getting beaten on but he goes through Orton's (that's what the O stands for) legs and brings in Orndorff who would be a huge star at this point. A spinebuster/dropkick combination pins

Barry in like two minutes shown. Not enough to rate of course but I'd certainly hope the full thing was longer.

### Tag Titles: British Bulldogs vs. Dream Team

Wrestlemania preview if you want to really stretch things. Dream Team has the belts. Valentine vs. Dynamite to start. Dynamite sends him flying to start and into the corner where he rams into Beefcake. Double tag brings in Smith and Bulldog. The Dogs speed things up and work over the arm. Davey fires off dropkicks for everyone but double teaming takes him down.

Not that it matters as he makes a tag just a few seconds later and Dynamite beats on the champs for a bit. Backbreaker gets two on Valentine. Dynamite goes up for presumably the Swan Dive (not called that yet) but Luscious Johnny V shoves him off the top for ANOTHER lame DQ finish.

**Rating:** C-. Same explanation as the previous tag match: these teams can have a good match if you give them the time but they cut it short here with the DQ ending. They would have by far and away the best match of the night at Wrestlemania. Beefcake wasn't much at this point which is why they put him in there with Valentine who could more than carry a match.

Now it's time for the fun part of this. Ok so back in the 80s there was a show called Tuesday Night Titans, which is basically a WWF variety/talk show. Picture any stupid or funny segment that you remember from the 80s and this is where it came from. There was a running idea on here where Mr. Fuji and Don Muraco were convinced they were too talented to be in the WWF anymore so they made their own series of TV pilots such as Fuji Vice (Hawaiian cops), Fujito Bandito (western) and this one: Fuji General. It's a comedy skit but the idea is that it's supposed to be pure drama with the two in perfect character.

Muraco and Fuji are on the set of TNT (the show was set up like a late night talk show) and Muraco says this is an awful

script with a bad director but they're the only ones talented enough to make it work. It's at a hospital with overly dramatic music. Muraco is a doctor who hits on a nurse who isn't interested. His name is Norman here. The idea is that they can't act to save their lives but they think they deserve Oscars. The nurse turns him down and the dramatic music hits again.

He keeps clearly reading off cue cards so the director yells cut about how bad the acting is. Fuji comes in with the hat, bowtie, doctor coat and thick accent. We cut to a new scene in a patient's room and Fuji keeps looking straight at the camera. They hit on the nurse again or something and Fuji fires the nurse. Muraco hits on her again after Fuji leaves so the director yells again. "Stop being a wrestler for a bit and act!" Muraco tries to get the nurse to have an affair with him so he hits on her and looks at the camera/cue cards the whole time. The director yells again so Fuji comes in and it's a big argument. Fuji and Muraco quit.

Back to the set of the talk show and everyone is cracking up, which is a regular ending for these segments. Vince says that was the worst acting he's ever seen. When Vince McMahon is making fun of your film making, YOU SUCK.

#### Women's Title: Wendi Richter vs. Lelani Kai

Richter broke the 20 or whatever year reign of Moolah and is defending here. Joined in progress with Kai in control. Moolah has been training Kai apparently. Kai misses a charge and hits the floor. A woman just went crashing onto concrete so of course the MSG fans cheer. Richter suplexes her back in and hooks a bad surfboard. This is in mid-February of 85 in case you're curious.

Richter takes her down and works on the arm to control. This was back in the day when Moolah basically trained every chick there was so you can expect to see a lot of the same stuff and

the same look from most of the girls. Kai comes back with a choke and the announcers blast the referee for being out of position. The match isn't very good but the fans loved Richter (or maybe her manager, pop star Cyndi Lauper) so it works.

Big boot puts Lelani down as does a slam. Must be watching a lot of Hogan stuff around this time. Moolah goes after Lauper and you would think the President was being attacked. Moolah looks like she's wearing the same sweater that Liz wore at Mania 7. Either way the distraction and a right hand to Richter are enough for Kai to backslide her for the pin and the title. Richter would get it back at the first Mania in about 6 weeks.

**Rating:** D-. This was all about the shock of the title change so that they could do another title switch at the first Mania which is fine. Richter's outfit was probably smaller than what most of the Divas wear today if you can imagine that. Very bad match from an in ring perspective though. For the life of me I don't get why they brought Kai out of mothballs for Mania 10 and a match with Alundra Blayze.

#### Women's Title: Wendi Richter vs. The Spider

Now THIS is a famous match for reasons I'll get to at the end. Spider is in a mask. Joined in progress again and from November of 85. A flying headscissors gets two for Richter. Richter gets a "clothesline" for two. Small package looks to get two for Spider but when Richter is trying to kick out (and gets her shoulder up) the referee keeps counting three. And that my friends is a shoot.

Post match Wendi keeps going because that wasn't the planned finish and rips the mask off to reveal Moolah. Here's what happened: Richter was having contract issues (details of which vary based on who is telling the story. Richter says money, Vince/WWF says her contract was up) and Vince decided to get the title off her. Spider Lady was supposed to be some random

chick but instead it was Moolah, a legit tough chick. After this, Richter quit on the spot and left the arena in her gear. She never appeared again and allegedly never spoke to Moolah or Vince again. This is known as the Original Screwjob.

### Intercontinental Title: Jesse Ventura vs. Tito Santana

Interesting point to start: we're told that Jesse and Adonis held the tag titles. They did, but they were the AWA tag titles. They said this regularly but it wasn't something you expect to hear. I think this is in Toronto. Jesse complains about the closed fist because that's what heels do before punching their opponents. He calls Santana Chico which is always awesome. Jesse keeps getting caught in holds and heading for the ropes.

Time for a wristlock as the fans are almost all behind Jesse. They pop for Tito's reversal as well though so I guess the Canadians are confused here. Off to a headlock but Jesse gets a knee to the ribs to take over. Out to the floor now and it's confirmed that we're in Toronto. Jesse's offense is pretty basic but he knows how to work a crowd like a master which is more important.

Tito gets in a few punches but Ventura pokes him in the eye to stop him. Win if you can, lose if you must but always cheat. Backbreaker gets two and an atomic drop does the same. Here's a bearhug which makes sense given the back work that was done earlier. Tito smacks him in the head to escape. Gorilla: "Look at that firey Mexican!" Tito grabs the Figure Four but Jesse gets the rope. They fight up the ramp and Tito puts the Figure Four on out there but Jesse kicks him into the ring for the countout win.

**Rating:** C. Not bad here but it worked for the most part. It was actually a double countout if you care. This was fine for a house show title defense, especially with someone like Jesse who was a rarity to see in the ring at this point. He knew how

to work a crowd but the people loved him which is the right idea.

Andre the Giant/Jay Strongbow/Ivan Putski/Rocky Johnson vs. Wild Samoans/Samula/Big John Studd

This is the ultra rare three out of five falls match. And in an eight man tag too. Not bad for a gimmick match main event. You should know most of these people. Samula is the third Samoan and more or less just a backup guy. He's more famous as Samu of the Headshrinkers. We're in Philly here and Samula starts with Rocky. This is a pretty high profile tag match.

Afa steps in, Andre steps in, Afa steps out. Afa is in again to face Rocky. Rocky was very popular back in the day and I like him more every time I see him. For some reason the teams are on full sides of the apron instead of in one corner each. Off to Studd to take on Rocky but Andre wants in. You don't tell a giant no so it's off to Sika. Andre rams John and Sika's heads together and waits on an opponent.

Sika begs off but Andre destroys him anyway. This is 1983 so Andre can still move. Here's Strongbow who still looks like a human. He hooks the sleeper and everything breaks down. Johnson grabs Sika so Andre can chop him. Double headbutt takes Strongbow down. The Samoans are tossed around by Andre and there was a bell for some reason. Gary Capetta is the announcer if you care. The first fall is a DQ against the Samoan team so it's 1-0 heroes.

Jay is one of the people in but we don't have an opponent. Ok so it's Samula. Studd choked Jay to give the Samoan the advantage and Andre isn't pleased. A headbutt puts Strongbow down and a falling version of it ties us up. Strongbow whips Samula into Andre's boot which is good for the third fall, making it 2-1. It might have lasted 20 seconds. 23 actually.

Round four starts and the fans want the battle of the giants. Putski hasn't been in yet. It's Strongbow vs. I believe Afa to

get this one going. Now we get some Polish Power. He rams Samoan heads together and pounds on Afa. Sika finally gets a shot in and the Samoans take over on Ivan. A double headbutt sends him flying, but he flies right to Andre. The Giant cleans house and breaks up a triple team. Samula jumps into a boot and Andre sits on him to win three falls to one.

**Rating:** C. The match wasn't all that exciting but this was to fire up the crowd with something new and I think you can safely say they did just that. Not a great match or anything but it got a lot of big names in there and the fans got everything but the top request they had, but that was certainly coming. Fun way to end things.

**Overall Rating:** C. Not a terrible tape here and certainly watchable. One thing I never got: why isn't Hogan in a lot of these? I mean he's in most of them but you would expect a series that started in like 1983-84 (he was on volume 1) to have more of him in it. Anyway, this was fine although nothing worth going out of your way to see, except Fuji General but I'd recommend finding the TNT Coliseum Video (remember that's Tuesday Night Titans) which has I believe all of them in one tape.

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**Best of the WWF Volume 8 –**

# These Are The Newcomers? Where's My Remote?

## Best of the WWF Volume 8

Host: Gene Okerlund

Commentators: Alfred Hayes, Gorilla Monsoon

This is one of the last ones I have left so for any of you getting annoyed with me doing these over and over again, counting these two I have four to go so it's almost over. This one is from mid 86 so we're in a far different era than the last one of these that we took a look at. Let's get to it.

Same opening video, same comments from me about it.

## Hart Foundation vs. Killer Bees

This is from MSG. I remember one of these four (I think Bret) saying these teams wrestled a few thousand times so they know how to work well together. Bret is brand new (to WWF) here. Anvil and Brunzell get us going. Brunzell tries to get in a power contest with him for some reason and it goes as well as you would expect. Jim tries to ram into him and it hurts him more than Neidhart.

Crowd is white hot here and the fans go nuts for a drop toehold. Brunzell works on the leg which is the best thing he could do. Anvil goes after him with the power game and here's Bret for the first time. The referee has a small afro here. Bret is a little more muscular here than I'm used to seeing him as. Off to a chinlock and Blair is in control. The crowd is amazing here as they get into the tiniest of things like Blair getting up from a chinlock.

There's the tag to Brunzell but he goes after the wrong guy. Bret knees him in the back and it's Brunzell in trouble again. Back to the chinlock by Anvil this time. A quick DEVASTATING

bearhug leads to Bret coming in but Blair saves a pin. Again the crowd here amazes me. Bret hooks a front facelock and he keeps the tag from being made again. Brunzell gets free but Anvil gets Blair's attention on the floor.

Time for some back work as Brunzell is in trouble. I thought it was usually Blair that took the beating for the most part. Hart hits a dropkick for a very delayed two. This is your standard old school tag formula which means that the main criteria is how talented the guys are in at selling the stuff they're doing. These four are great, so that should mean a good match.

There's your tag to Blair who clears house. Small package gets two. Heel miscommunication would seem to be the ending but Bret kicks out. There's an abdominal stretch to Bret and everything breaks down again. The Bret corner chest bump gets two. O'Connor Roll gets a VERY close two. A blind tag brings Brunzell back in and he kicks Bret's head off with a dropkick but the time runs out at probably 20:00.

**Rating:** B-. These t

wo having a good match in the mid 80s is like saying the sun came up this morning. These guys were practically memorizing each other at this point and like I said, they wrestled each other a few hundred times at least. This was no shock and would have been great with a clean finish or a finish that gave us a winner. Still though, that's a reason to come back for more.

### Terry Gibbs vs. Dan Spivey

Gibbs is a name you hear popping up every now and then. Spivey was brought in for the simple reason of he looked exactly like Barry Windham who had flipped out and went home. Seriously, that's why Spivey has a job. This is joined in progress with Spivey being knocked out to the floor. The next few matches are about newcomers and in this case it's Spivey. Elbow drop

gets two for Terry. Time for a bearhug which goes on WAY too long.

Spivey comes back but misses an elbow. Gibbs takes over again but jumps into a bearhug of his own. Gibbs thinks of the smart idea of raking the eyes. Spivey comes back again and this time the elbow hits. A legdrop gets the same. Did I mention he has blonde hair and yellow tights? Bulldog ends this for Bar...I mean Spivey.

**Rating:** D. What we saw of this was bad. Gibbs is nothing of note and Spivey is there because he was tall and blonde and I guess they were hoping no one would notice the difference. Bad match here, mainly because neither guy is worth anything in the ring, which is what it all breaks down to.

#### Billy Jack Haynes vs. Moondog Rex

Haynes is the newcomer here and we're in Boston. A pretty loud boring chant begins while Rex is on offense. Haynes starts his comeback and the fans really aren't all that interested. Rex is busted a bit as he comes back in and hammers away. Full Nelson by Haynes ends this quick. Not enough to rate but it was nothing to see at all.

#### Junkyard Dog vs. King Kong Bundy

Back to MSG. This isn't about newcomers in case you were confused. Hayes thinks Bundy will be the man that takes the title off Hogan. I'll have what he's having please. This is going to be a lot of kicking and punching I think. Bundy knocks him down but the missed elbow lets JYD use the all fours headbutts. Dog comes back with clubbing shots but Bundy takes him down with a clothesline.

Knee drop gets two for the white dude. Dog punches away as that's about all he knows how to do. A bunch of those get two. A falling headbutt misses but that shouldn't hurt him should it? They slug it out and a double clothesline puts both guys

down. Things slow down and it's a chinlock by Bundy. The referee checks Dog's arm and even though it drops three times, they check it again and the fourth time it stays up so that's good enough I guess. Dog makes his comeback but Bobby trips him and that's a DQ.

**Rating:** D-. And yet I didn't hate it. The problem with this was that it was all punching and kicking. I mean that was probably 95% of the match. The fans kind of reacted to it but then again people watch Jersey Shore so there you go. Nothing to see here but what were you really expecting here?

### Jimmy Jack Funk vs. Tony Garea

Funk is the newcomer here. Joined in progress again with Funk holding a chinlock. Off to a chinlock...again. Jimmy has Jimmy in the corner. Garea counters a suplex and Hart desperately tries to convince Gorilla that his man will win. They slug it out from their knees and here's Tony's comeback. Tony tries a cross body but Jack catches it and after about 4 hours, turns it over into a powerslam for the pin.

**Rating:** D-. Funk is another guy that I never got the appeal of. I think they tried to put him into the Funk family to try to give him credibility but it didn't work at all. Garea was a good hand to have but his time had passed for the most part. Basically imagine a face version of William Regal.

### Harley Race vs. Lanny Poffo

Race is the "newcomer" here, although they openly say he's wrestled for twenty years. Clipped to Poffo taking something like a brainbuster on the floor. The fans are quiet but this is the old Race, as in the old school style of him. Top rope headbutt (which Race is credited with inventing) puts Poffo down and a regular one puts him on the floor. Poffo starts his comeback and hits a flying headscissors to bring Race over the top and back in. Race gets him in a fireman's carry and drops him throat first across the top rope to break up the comeback

though. Fisherman's suplex ends this. Not enough to grade but Race was his usual great self, even though the match was dull.

Time for a bodyslam challenge. Studd offered a \$15,000 reward to anyone who could slam him. Oh wait it's a match with that as a stipulation. Got it.

### Big John Studd vs. Ricky Hunter/Jim Powers

I just can't escape this Powers guy. Before the match starts though King Tonga (Meng/Haku) comes out and says he can slam him. Studd says wait your turn. Both guys try to slam him which doesn't work at all. Bruno is on commentary and he's about one step shy of saying "dudes, fail." They finally figure out that you have to beat on him and then slam him when he's stunned. The idea is fine but it doesn't work at all. Studd destroys them and pins Hunter with a slam.

King Tonga runs in and slams him with ease. You know what that means.

### Big John Studd vs. King Tonga

Studd immediately slams him during the opening bell to take over. Tonga goes for a slam but it gets countered. That's the whole point of the match: Tonga wants to slam Studd. Off to a chinlock but Tonga comes back with some martial arts. Another slam attempt sends them tumbling to the floor and it's a double countout. No rating again but this was a one move match.

They brawl on the floor post match with Tonga getting the better of it. The brawl and teasing going back in goes on longer than the match. Now they get back in and brawl as there's a referee in there for some reason. Tonga headbutts him to the floor and that's enough for John.

### Ted Arcidi vs. Terry Gibbs

Arcidi is a strongman and the newcomer here. Yeah they're

still on that. Arcidi overpowers him and there's an oil complaint. He no sells everything to start and gets a full nelson but Gibbs makes the ropes. After some quick offense (as in punching/pounding, which Gorilla calls unconventional), Ted gets a quick bearhug to end it. Just a squash.

### Cousin Junior vs. Hercules Hernandez

Herc is the newcomer and Junior is a hillbilly. Joined in progress again and Herc (with wild hair) is holding a chinlock. There's no commentary for this so far for some reason. Oh ok there is but it's very quiet. Herc works him over and gets two off an elbow. Back to the chinlock. Junior makes his comeback but gets slingshotted (slungshot?) to the floor. Herc punches him back down and Junior isn't wearing any shoes. Junior comes back with a sunset flip but Hernandez counters that as well.

After more punches, there's another chinlock. Junior makes his comeback but gets caught by a kind of superkick and a jumping knee. Herc isn't exactly Lou Thesz out there but he slams Junior to expand the repertoire. He goes up but a jumping punch misses. Herc reverses a sloppy O'Connor Roll for the pin and I think he had some tights. Well, overalls.

**Rating:** F. These newcomers have a lot to learn. Junior was part of the Hillbilly Family which was around to give Hillbilly Jim something to keep him on screen while he recovered from a broken leg. I think they were around before that too but not in as prominent of a role. This was really bad.

### Intercontinental Title: Pedro Morales vs. Adrian Adonis

Since Adrian never held this title, Pedro is defending. Joined in progress (again) as this is an Archives match. They slug it out and the fans are of course way into Pedro. He knocks Adonis to the floor and is slow even here in what I think is about 1980. They ram each other into various things and Pedro

misses a shoulder back inside. That ring sounds very metallic. The American hits a German on the Puerto Rican and they do the suplex but one guy gets his shoulder up in time spot to keep the title on Pedro. Too short to rate but bad as always on this tape.

Adrian beats Pedro up and hits him with the belt post match, only to get knocked to the floor himself.

### Pat Patterson vs. Lou Albano

This is from 1982. Patterson is loved, Albano is hated. Albano immediately goes for the foreign object but Patterson knocks it out of his hands before the opening bell. He clocks Lou with it to bust him open so Albano Does The Mario for a bit. Albano gets knocked around for maybe two minutes and walks out. Patterson was just crazy over in New York.

### Jake Roberts vs. Ricky Steamboat

This is also joined in progress. The idea here is that Jake DDTed him on the concrete on SNME, igniting a huge feud. This is just one of those stops along the way. Steamboat fires off martial arts to send Jake outside and the referee goes all nuts on Steamboat and shoves him away. Back in and Steamboat speeds things up but Jake catches him with a right hand to take over.

Dragon almost gets sent to the floor but he hangs on and hits a sunset flip for no count as Jake pops him in the face. Steamboat comes back with some neckbreakers but a splash attempt gets knees. Out to the floor and Jake wants to DDT him out there again but Ricky rams him into the barricade to escape. Back in and there's a top rope chop. Jake is busted open. The referee pulls Steamboat off AGAIN and Ricky is getting ticked off. There's a THIRD time and Jake gets in a shot as a result. Steamboat finally says screw it and shoves the referee for a DQ.

**Rating:** C-. What a breath of air this was. It wasn't a great match or anything due to the annoying referee but when you've sat through an hour of Ted Arcidi and Jimmy Jack Funk, a Steamboat match sounds like water in the desert. This was ok but they would have far better brawls with far less annoying referees.

**Overall Rating:** F. Oh this was bad. The whole "newcomers" angle didn't mean anything because the matches sucked. If I knew these were the next generation, I'd be getting some shoes on and going to the library instead of looking to see when WWF was on TV next. Just awful although the opening tag was good. Imagine: giving talented people a good deal of time and you get a good match.

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## **Favorite Tag Team Match Ever**

Like I said I'm going to try to do some basic topics like this on days where there isn't anything significant going on. They'll probably be simple like this unless something interesting hits me.

My pick: Demolition vs. Hart Foundation – Summerslam 90.

This was 2/3 falls for the tag titles, held by the now heel Demolition. They had turned over the summer and were

unstoppable monsters. They had recently added Crush who was going to be the long term replacement for Ax who was suffering from health problems. The Harts were total underdogs who on paper were going to be crushed. Oh I made a funny.

Anyway, the LOD are kind of lurking somewhere, promising that they're next for Demolition no matter what. The champs cheated through the first fall and went up 1-0, then got caught cheating to get it tied up. The Harts were more or less dead when Ax came out (Demolition was using the Freebird Rule at the time) and hid under the ring. He came in because "Ax and Smash look totally alike" (according to Vince at least).

The flaw with this was simple: Ax and Smash aren't identical. They're really not close to being identical. Smash was taller and a bit slimmer and had a bigger head. You could easily tell them apart but Vince insisted you couldn't. Anyway after some heel shenanigans, the LOD came out and pulled the third man from under the ring and beat him down, allowing Neidhart to hit a slingshot shoulder block to give the Harts the upset of the year. Vince's reaction and the pop are great and it's just a fun moment. It was also the Harts' last run with glory as they would drop the belts at Mania and quietly split soon after.

Anyway, what's your pick? It can be any form of tag match ever and this is really just for fun.