

HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) 1971: A Year in the Life

Table of Contents

TERRITORY FACT SHEET	2
RANKINGS	3
WRESTLER PROFILES BY DAVID GIBB.....	4
ROSTER.....	8
EVENT CENTER.....	13
FEUDS.....	14
TITLE HOLDERS AND HISTORIES	18
TAKING ATTENDANCE.....	21
HOUSE SHOW LINEUPS AND RESULTS.....	23

Territory Fact Sheet

(full-page, full-color version at the end of this PDF)

PRO WRESTLING TERRITORY FACT SHEET		1971
HEART OF AMERICA (CENTRAL STATES)		
SAMPLE WEEK		
MON 12/6	WINFIELD	
TUE 12/7	HUTCHINSON SEDALIA	
WED 12/8	DES MOINES	
THU 12/9	KANSAS CITY	
FRI 12/10	ST. JOSEPH	
SAT 12/11	WATERLOO	
SUN 12/12	CEDAR RAPIDS WICHITA	
TOP SINGLES	TOP TAG TEAMS	
<p>HARLEY RACE</p> <p>DANNY LITTLE BEAR</p> <p>RUFUS R. JONES</p> <p>THE STOMPER</p> <p>ROGER KIRBY</p>	<p>CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI</p> <p>ROCK HUNTER & ROGER KIRBY</p> <p>BOB ORTON & BUDDY AUSTIN</p> <p>BARON VON HEISINGER & JOHN TOLOS</p>	
TOP RIVALRIES		
<p>DANNY LITTLE BEAR VS HARLEY RACE</p> <p>RUFUS R. JONES VS HARLEY RACE</p> <p>THE STOMPER VS HARLEY RACE</p> <p>PAT O'CONNOR VS HARLEY RACE</p> <p>DANNY LITTLE BEAR VS BOB ORTON</p> <p>RUFUS R. JONES & STEVE BOLUS VS CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI</p>		
TITLE CHANGES		
CENTRAL STATES HEAVYWEIGHT	4	
NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM	8	
HOUSE SHOW RECORDS		
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	301	SHOWS PER WEEK
		5.8
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS
		65-70%
MISC. BOOKING STATS		
HEEL/FACE TURNS	0	ROSTER TURNOVER
		166%
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS
AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 16.2		
MAIN EVENTERS (3.8)		
UPPER MID-CARDERS (5.3)		
MID-CARDERS (4.7)		
PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS (2.4)		
OVERALL		
MAIN EVENTS		UPPER MIDS
MID-CARDS		PRELIMS
ORIGINAL DESIGN: NICK BOND @THEINCKSTER		
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Rankings

This is a list of the “most pushed acts” in the territory during the year.

RANKINGS FOR HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

- 1 - HARLEY RACE**
- 2 - DANNY LITTLE BEAR**
- 3 - RUFUS R. JONES**
- 4 - CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI**
- 5 - THE STOMPER (ARCHIE GOULDIE)**
- 6 - ROCK HUNTER & ROGER KIRBY**
- 7 - ROGER KIRBY**
- 8 - BOB ORTON (SR.) & BUDDY AUSTIN**
- 9 - BOB GEIGEL**
- 10 - BARON VON HEISINGER & JOHN TOLOS**

Wrestlers are ranked based on their week-by-week **SPOT Rating** as well as the total number of weeks they were in the territory during the designated time period

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Wrestler Profiles by David Gibb

David Gibb is a writer and author of ["How to Ace Your Comeback"](#)

DANNY LITTLE BEAR

The name "Archie Underwood" has an undeniable twentieth century WASPiness to it, but ironically, its owner was one of professional wrestling's authentic Native Americans.

Archie seems to have begun his full-time wrestling career in the spring of 1964, appearing in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama under the name Danny Little Bear. A "Chief Little Bear" wrestled sporadically in the late '50s and early '60s, but we can't be sure that was Underwood. If his grave marker is accurate and he was born in 1925, Archie was nearly 40 when his money run began, but other sources cite his birth in 1937, putting him closer to standard rookie age in '64 but making it much less likely he was a "Chief" in 1956.



Throughout the mid '60s, Danny Little Bear appeared in various territories across the south. In 1968, he was chosen as one of the centerpiece babyfaces of LeRoy McGuirk and Billy Golden's "satellite territory" in southern Louisiana. Off the strength of that run, Danny got the opportunity to go to Kansas City in the summer of '69. There, he began the best days of his wrestling life.

In his first eighteen months working for Heart of America, Danny became a two-time Central States Heavyweight Champion and a four-time North American Tag Team Champion with four different partners (Luke Brown, Stan Pulaski, The Viking, and Rufus R. Jones). By 1971, Danny Little Bear was one of Kansas City's four babyface pillars alongside promoter Bob Geigel, The [Mongolian] Stomper Archie Gouldie, and Danny's one-time co-champion, Rufus R. Jones. Top area heel Harley Race had defeated Geigel for the Central States Heavyweight Title in the early days of '71 to begin his second reign and create a central antagonist for those heroic pillars.

Shortly before Race won the title, he and Danny did an angle in St. Joseph, Missouri where Little Bear captured the win with his signature Indian Death Lock only to be viciously beaten by a frustrated Harley after the match, "injuring" him.

Four weeks to the day after the angle (with Race now champion), the two were rematched with the title on the line. Danny Little Bear captured the first fall by submission, but the 60-minute time limit expired with no other falls won. It was a promising but painful "moral victory."

Two weeks later, Harley and Danny had a third main event in St. Joseph with the time limit extended and area fixture Bob Geigel as special referee. Harley got the jump on Little Bear at the bell, hitting a reverse neckbreaker outta nowhere for a pin in less than 30 seconds. Little Bear recovered, forcing

Race to submit to his Indian Death Lock to even the score, but the wily champion goaded Geigel into a disqualification in the final fall, handing Danny another “win.”

On March 5th, the two rivals were rematched again, this time with seasoned referee Richard Moody in charge. During the third fall, Race threw Danny over the top rope for an intentional disqualification, and Moody awarded the Central States Heavyweight Championship to Little Bear. For the fans in St. Joseph, who had watched Danny get a hair's breadth from the title repeatedly only to get screwed by Race, it must've been an incredible moment.

Off-stage, however, Race “filed a protest with the National Wrestling Alliance,” and while he lost to Little Bear in a bloody Texas Death Match on March 12th, the NWA board returned the championship to Harley, confirming the DQ rule had not been waived in advance.

Danny got a make-good win over Harley on March 26th in an Indian Strap Match, but as was often the case, the use of the hero's signature stipulation meant the title was not on the line. After that match, Harley and Little Bear took a break.

Exactly five months after their blowoff in St. Joseph, Danny Little Bear defeated Race in Kansas City, apparently winning the Central States Heavyweight Championship. As of print, this reign doesn't appear in the major title history sources, but print advertisements indicate that between September 7th and September 17th, Little Bear defended the title against Bob Orton in Des Moines and Sedalia (twice) while defeating Roger Kirby in St. Joseph.

The match with Kirby in St. Joseph was likely a final “thank you” to the fans there who had invested heavily in Little Bear. In fact, the day before, in Kansas City, Harley had defeated Danny with an illegal foreign object to reclaim the title. Little Bear's team attempted to appeal the ruling, but by September 27th, the title was restored to Race.

For the final quarter of 1971, Danny Little Bear was used sparingly, but he returned to the ring in December for a karate demonstration with Yasu Fuji. Fuji became frustrated with Little Bear and consequently hit him with a brick, kicking off a series of singles matches between the two that would eventually evolve into Danny and newcomer Omar Atlas taking on Fuji & Chati Yokouchi, the North American Tag Team Champions. As 1971 turned into 1972, Danny Little Bear was back on the war path with more great battles ahead.

Sources

- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9081053/danny-little-bear>

CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI

Chati Yokouchi was born Shin'ichi Yokouchi in Nagoya, Japan in 1937. It's unclear exactly when Chati began training as a professional wrestler, but he would've been a teenager during the years when Rikidozan was drawing unmatched television ratings against the likes of the Sharpes.



By the mid '60s, Chati was touring Europe as a pro, making stops in Austria, Germany, Spain, and the UK. In 1967, he came to the United States for the first time, working for LeRoy McGuirk for eighteen months before reporting to Amarillo's Western State Sports. From early in his American career, Chati served as a tag team specialist, teaming with the likes of Togo Shikuma, Chuck Karbo, and Mr. Ito.

By the '70s, Chati's proficiency in the ring and love for heat were well-known on both sides of the Pacific. In 1969, he was possibly involved in the very first use of a classic American angle on Japanese TV, turning heel against one of his countrymen to hand a team of Westerners a win, which was near-unthinkable in the prevailing psychology of the time.

Chati's best-documented partner, Yasuyuki "Yasu" Fuji, was born in 1949 and became swept up in the wrestling mania that dominated Japanese popular culture in his youth. Fuji began training for the IWE (the same promotion in which Chati had turned heel) before he was 19 years old and made the trip to America in January 1970. There, Fuji immediately connected with Chati in Georgia to form an underneath tag team that would face the likes of the Assassins, The Professional & El Mongol, and even Ramon & Alberto Torres.

Their chemistry and potential must've been evident because, by the spring, Chati & Fuji were being booked competitively against the Fullers, The Professional, Bob Armstrong, and a variety of other Georgia stalwarts. After wrapping up in Georgia in July of 1970, Chati & Fuji toured North America extensively for the next 14 months, appearing in British Columbia, Arizona, and the McGuirk territory before arriving in Heart of America in September '71.

Chati & Fuji established themselves quickly in the territory's towns, earning shots at the North American Tag Team Championship less than a month after debuting. On September 30 in Kansas City, they looked poised to capture the titles against Rufus R. Jones & Steve Bolus, but the Japanese team found themselves disqualified for an extended double-team. The next week, they returned with a special grudge match in which Chati and Fuji broke the rules more carefully, capturing the championships after Chati's karate chop (still considered a mysterious and potentially deadly attack in pre-martial-arts-boom America) softened Bolus up for Fuji's pin.

Bolus & Jones' attempts to regain the North American Titles became tentpole matches on cards throughout the territory that October. Chati and Fuji's antics during the third fall of those contests were consistently infuriating to fans, albeit highly effective. On at least two documented occasions, Chati and Fuji threw salt into their opponents' eyes to guarantee they retained the titles via intentional DQ.

As autumn became winter, the champions transitioned toward working with The [not-Mongolian-in-this-territory] Stomper (Archie Gouldie) and The Viking (Robert Morse). Stomper & Viking were portrayed as righteous heroes on a mission to recapture the championships from the enemy at any cost, and both the fans and the Heart of America promotion, seemingly, got squarely behind them. On November 19th in St. Joseph, Missouri, promoters assigned babyface Danny Little Bear as referee in the title match, and the good guys were allowed to wear thick leather collars to counteract any karate or judo chops. The combination of Little Bear and the protective collars prevented Chati & Fuji's normal third-fall shenanigans, allowing Stomper & Viking to do their far-out proxy version of winning the titles for the red, white, and blue.

The next week, both teams were disqualified when their two-referee rematch got out of control, setting up a non-title Texas Death Match to settle the score seven days later. That match was a babyface romp for the fans in which Stomper & Viking scored four falls against Chati & Fuji in less than fifteen minutes and neither Japanese wrestler could answer the count to force a fifth fall.

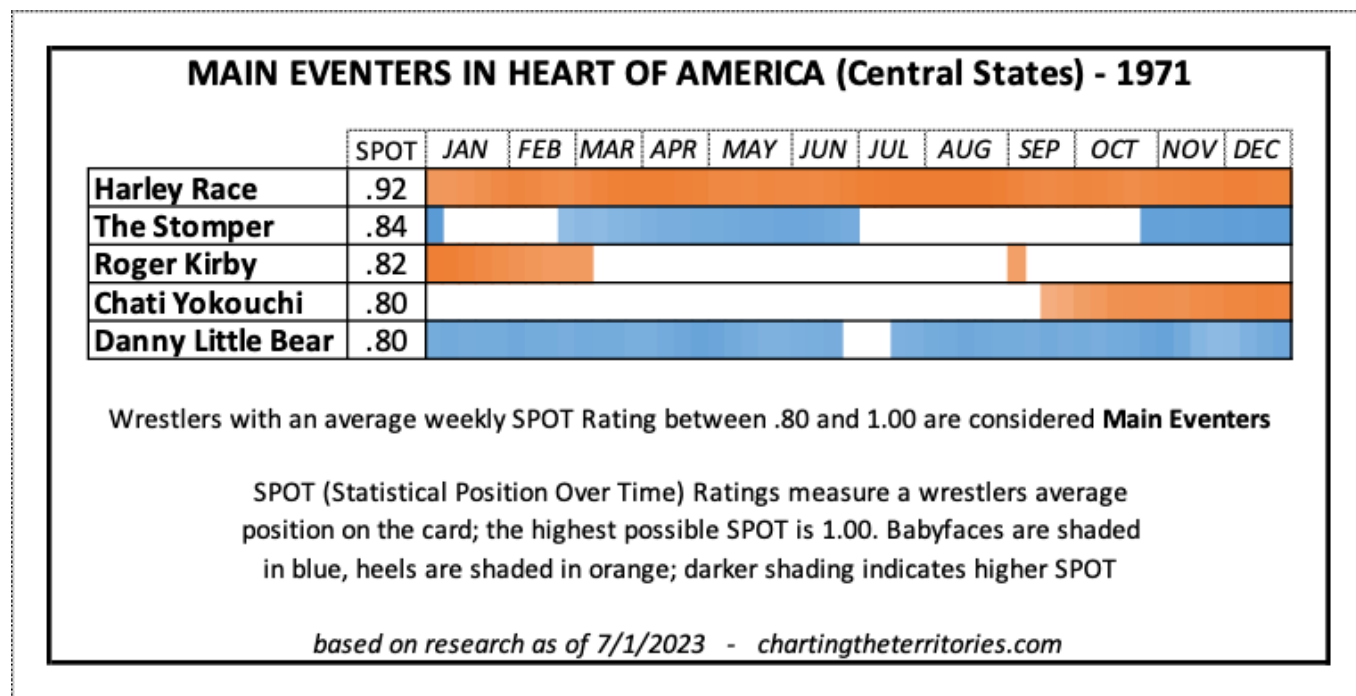
In spite of getting thoroughly thrashed in that contest, Chati & Fuji recaptured the North American Tag Team Championships at an area television taping at some point between December 3rd and December 17th – we can't be sure of the details. On the 17th, they had another two-referee rematch with Stomper & Viking, with one of those referees being Danny Little Bear again. (This would've been either just a few days before or just a few days after Fuji injured Little Bear during a "karate demonstration" gone wrong.) Like their first multi-referee encounter, the match broke down, this time into a double count-out.

To ensure a decisive and satisfying finish, Heart of America scheduled a Fence Match (a "steel cage") for their New Year's Eve show in St. Joseph between the Japanese team and Stomper & Viking. The exact details of what happened in that match are lost, but we can assume it was violent, bloody, and physical. In the end, the babyfaces stood tall and metaphorically won World War II again, but as was so often the case in the territories, their climactic victory did not earn them the titles because it was contested in a special rules match.

As 1972 opened, Chati & Fuji were in the perfect position for a heel tag team. They possessed their area's championships, they had great heat from winning and retaining by the skin of their teeth, and they already had an angle in place that would marry them to Danny Little Bear, a top babyface, for a number of months.

Roster

All the wrestlers who completed regularly in the territory are listed below, grouped into categories based on their average position on the cards using a metric called Statistical Position Over Time (SPOT for short). After each category, you will find links to articles/biographies/obituaries for many of the wrestlers from SLAM Wrestling.



Harley Race <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2019/08/01/legendary-harley-race-dies/>

The Stomper (Archie Gouldie) <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2016/01/23/archie-the-stomper-gouldie-dies/>

Roger Kirby <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2019/03/18/nature-boy-roger-kirby-dies/>

UPPER MID-CARDERS IN HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Yasu Fuji	.79												
Rufus R. Jones	.77												
Bob Geigel	.75												
Buddy Austin	.67												
John Tolos	.65												
Bob Orton	.65												
Rock Hunter	.64												
Baron Von Heisinger	.61												

Wrestlers with an average weekly SPOT Rating between .60 and .80 are considered **Upper Mid-Carders**

SPOT (Statistical Position Over Time) Ratings measure a wrestler's average position on the card; the highest possible SPOT is 1.00. Babyfaces are shaded in blue, heels are shaded in orange; darker shading indicates higher SPOT

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Bob Geigel <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/10/30/bob-geigel-was-a-mans-man/>

John Tolos <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2009/05/29/the-golden-greek-john-tolos-dies/>

Bob Orton (Sr.) <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/07/17/bob-orton-sr-dead-at-76/>

MID-CARDERS IN HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Jose Rivera	.59												
Omar Atlas	.58												
Ronnie Etchison	.55												
Steve Bolus	.55												
The Viking	.54												
Terry Martin	.50												
Tor Kamata	.49												
The Great Sakaguchi	.45												
George Hultz	.43												
Benny Ramirez	.43												
Bobby Whitlock	.41												

Wrestlers with an average weekly SPOT Rating between .40 and .60 are considered **Mid-Carders**

SPOT (Statistical Position Over Time) Ratings measure a wrestler's average position on the card; the highest possible SPOT is 1.00. Babyfaces are shaded in blue, heels are shaded in orange; darker shading indicates higher SPOT

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Omar Atlas <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1999/10/27/omar-atlas-just-doing-his-job/>

Steve Bolus <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2002/03/28/slam-wrestling-steve-bolus-passes-away/>

Terry Martin (Romeo Cormier aka Bobby Kay)

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2009/06/26/bobby-kay-still-on-maritime-minds/>

Tor Kamata <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2007/07/26/tor-kamata-dead-at-70/>

PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS IN HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
The Great Mephisto	.38												
Apache Gringo	.36												
Ronnie Paul	.33												
Frank Marconi	.32												
John Gagne	.32												

Wrestlers with an average weekly SPOT Rating below .40 are considered **Preliminary Wrestlers**

SPOT (Statistical Position Over Time) Ratings measure a wrestlers average position on the card; the highest possible SPOT is 1.00. Babyfaces are shaded in blue, heels are shaded in orange; darker shading indicates higher SPOT

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

The Great Mephisto <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2021/01/08/frankie-cain-autobiography-is-a-beacon-of-light-in-a-congested-genre/>

PART-TIME WRESTLERS IN HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Dory Funk Jr.	1.00					Heel							
Dick the Bruiser	.88						Babyface						
Haystack Calhoun	.78						Babyface						
Pat O'Connor	.77	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface
Cowboy Bob Ellis	.71						Babyface						
Baron Von Raschke	.70	Heel		Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel		
Killer Cox	.58	Heel											
Spike Jones	.43		Babyface										
Greg Valentine	.43						Babyface	Babyface	Babyface	Babyface			
Luis Marquez	.40										Babyface		
Tony Russo	.38			Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel	Heel			
Frank Diamond	.37								Babyface	Babyface			Heel
Frank Hickey	.32	Heel											
Miguel Valentino	.30						Heel		Heel				

Wrestlers who meet at least one of the below criteria are considered **Part-Time Wrestlers**

- 1) Were not booked as a regular for at least four consecutive weeks during the time period
- 2) Had less than 40% bookings per week as the most frequently booked wrestlers in the territory

SPOT (Statistical Position Over Time) Ratings measure a wrestlers average position on the card; the highest possible SPOT is 1.00. Babyfaces are shaded in blue, heels are shaded in orange; darker shading indicates higher SPOT

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Dory Funk Jr. <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/11/03/thrill-not-gone-for-dory-funk-jr/>

Baron Von Raschke <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/10/13/mild-to-mean-baron-von-raschkes-tale/>

Killer Cox (Freddie Sweetan) <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2005/02/02/the-tragic-end-of-freddie-sweetan/>

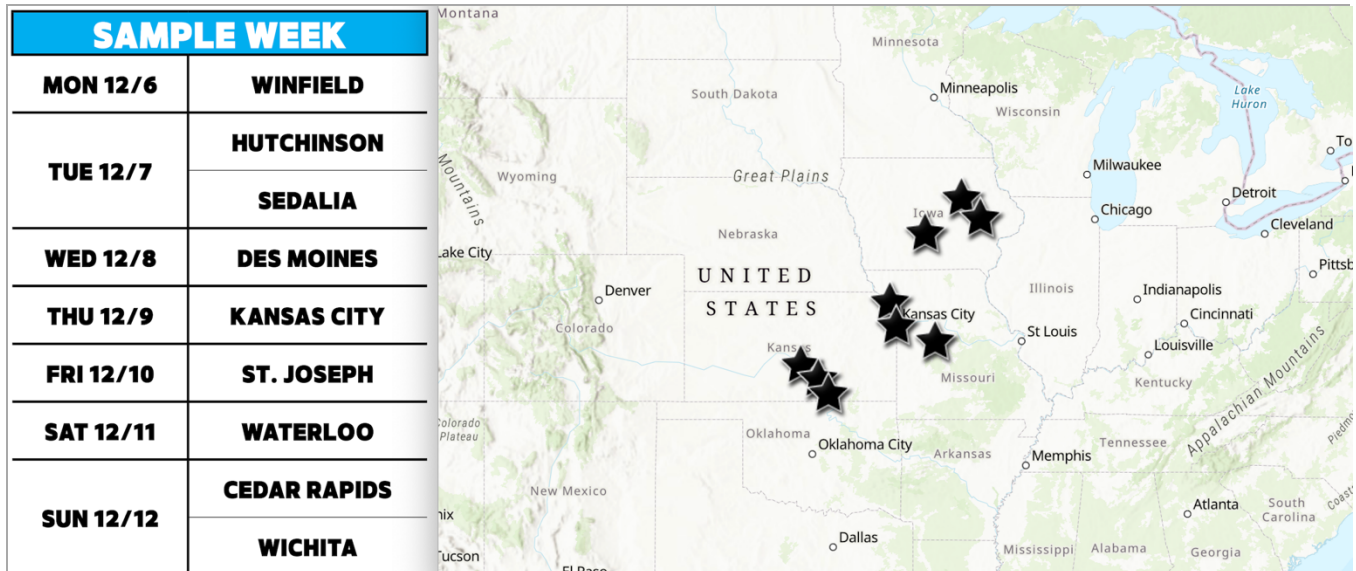
Greg Valentine <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2021/01/17/behind-the-gimmick-table-valentines-book-a-love-letter-to-wwf-ljns/>

Event Center

A look at a week's worth of house shows in the territory.

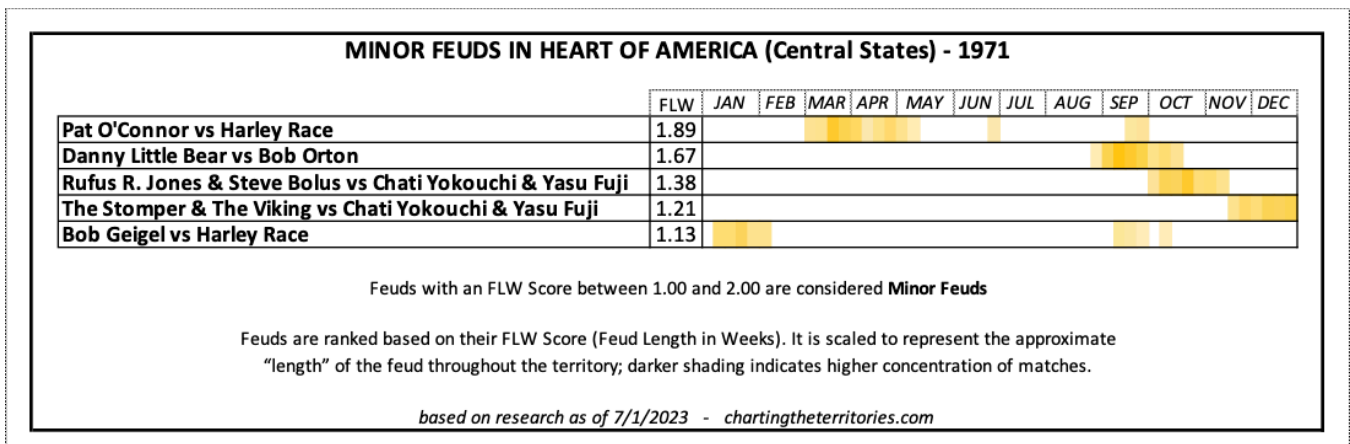
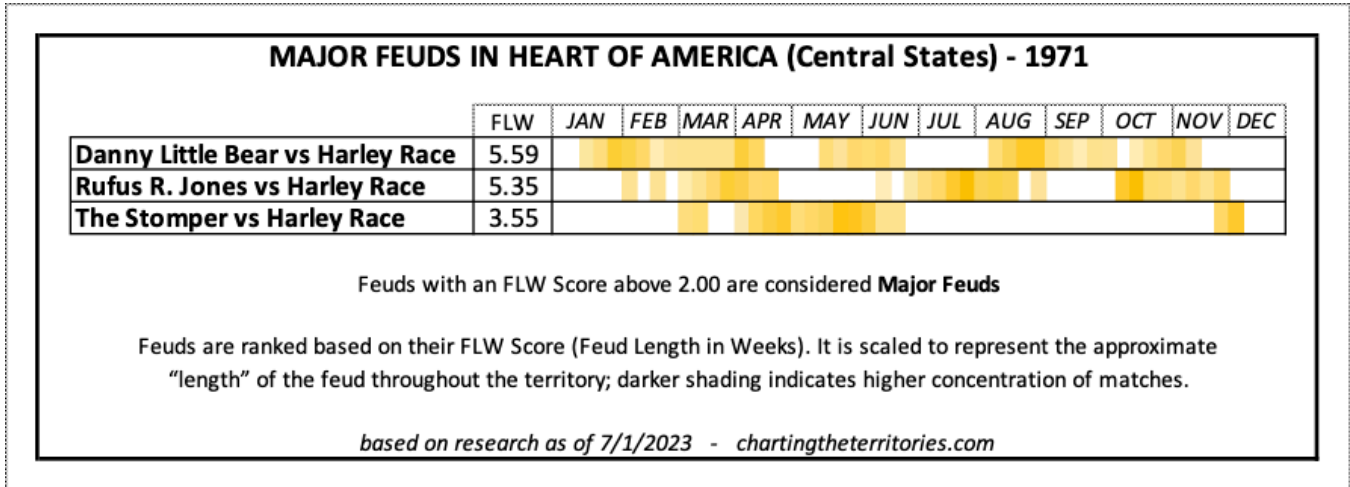
Video available on the Charting the Territories channel on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/pgqpPTK9oJI>



Feuds

Here are two charts listing the biggest feuds in the territory using a metric called Feud Length in Weeks (FLW for short).



The progression of feuds often differed from city to city. This led to each market having its own narrative. If a main event drew well the first time out in some cities, they could build to a rematch the following week. In other cities where it didn't draw well, they may choose to have that first match end in a clean finish and present a different main event the following week.

Below are examples of how some of the bigger feuds played out in select cities.

Danny Little Bear vs Harley Race in St. Joseph, MO

- 1/8 Little Bear won
- 2/5 Central States title: Little Bear won the first fall and the 60-minute time limit expired before another fall was taken

- 2/19 Central States title, special referee Bob Geigel: Little Bear won, taking the second fall with “his famous Indian death lock” and winning the third when Geigel disqualified Harley
- 3/5 Central States title: Little Bear won the third fall by disqualification after Race threw him over the top rope. The referee awarded the title to Little Bear, though “the NWA” would later “return the title to Race”
- 3/12 Texas death match: Little Bear won
- 3/26 Indian strap match: Little Bear won
- 4/9 Central States title, two referees, loser leave town: Race won; for unknown reasons, Little Bear would not end up “leaving town”, as he wrestled on the following week’s card in St. Joseph
- 5/7 Central States title: Race won by disqualification

Rufus R. Jones vs Harley Race in Wichita, KS

- 2/15 Central States title: results not available
- 3/1 Central States title: results not available
- 3/15 Texas death match: Rufus won
- 3/29 results not available

The Stomper vs Harley Race in Kansas City (Kansas City, KS unless otherwise noted)

- 3/4 Central States title: Stomper won the first fall, but the match was stopped in the second fall with Stomper “cut and bleeding from the head”, with Race “pronounced the winner”
- 3/18 Stomper won after Harley was “disqualified between falls”
- 4/8 Stomper win the first fall “with the head stomp”; no other falls were scored before the one hour time limit expired and Stomper was deemed the winner
- 4/22 Central States title: Stomper won after Harley was disqualified in the third fall for using an illegal object
- 5/13 (KC MO) Texas death match: Stomper won
- 5/20 Central States title: Harley won, taking the second and third falls; “some fans said Race used the ropes” when scoring the winning pinfall
- 6/10 (KC MO) Central States title: Race won, scoring the deciding fall after he “slammed a chair on Stomper’s head”
- 11/18 Central States title: The match went to a draw when the one hour time limit expired after each man had won a fall
- 12/2 Central States title: Race won, taking the first fall (in just 42 seconds) and the third fall

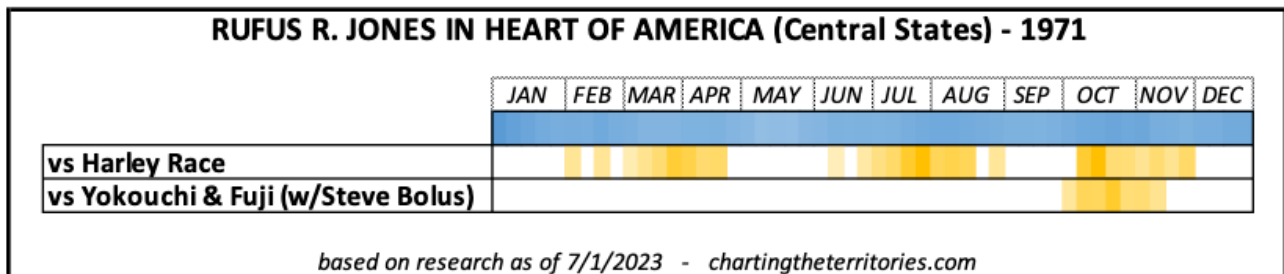
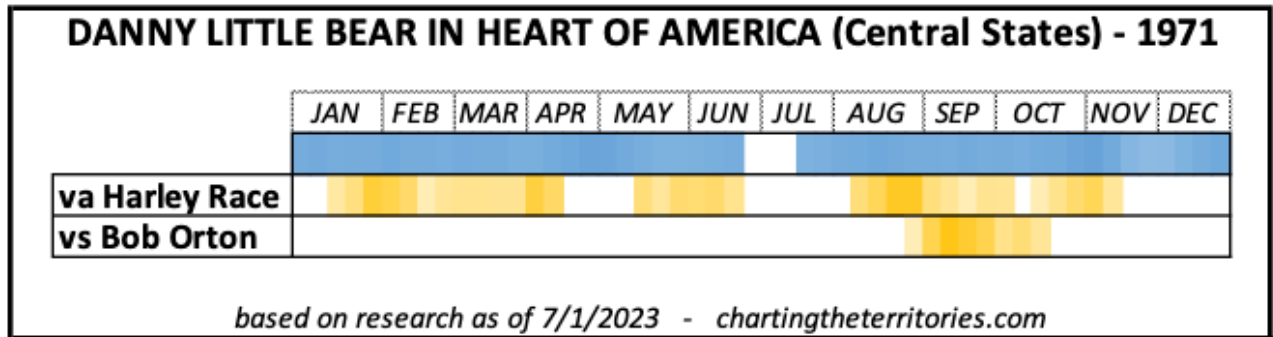
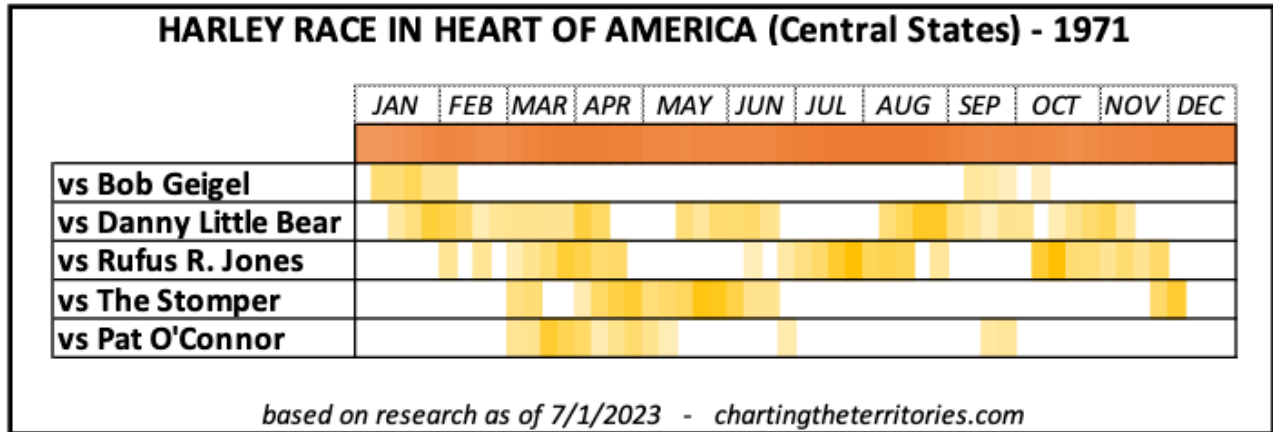
The Stomper & The Viking vs Chati Yokouchi & Yasu Fuji in St. Joseph, MO

- 11/19 North American Tag Team titles, special referee Danny Little Bear, Stomper & Viking to wear heavy leather neck collars: Stomper & Viking won the match and the titles, taking the first and third falls
- 11/26 North American Tag Team titles, two referees: Both teams were disqualified in the third fall
- 12/3 Texas death match with Texas tornado rules: Stomper & Viking won the match, winning all four falls in a total time of less than fifteen minutes

- 12/17 North American Tag Team titles, two referees including Danny Little Bear: Both teams were counted out during the third fall
- 12/31 Fence match: Stomper & Viking won

Feuds by Wrestler

By listing feuds of the top wrestlers in chronological order, you can get a better feel for their “arc” during the year.



CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI IN HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Yokouchi												
Fuji												
vs Rufus R. Jones & Steve Bolus												
vs The Stomper & The Viking												

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Title Holders and Histories

The following charts show the chronological progression of title holders in the territory. Looking at them this way gives you a better feel for the length of title reigns, and how they may have differed between babyface champs and heel champs.

CENTRAL STATES HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE - HEART OF AMERICA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Roger Kirby	Orange											
Bob Geigel		Blue										
Danny Little Bear									Blue			
Harley Race		Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	White	Orange	Orange	Orange

Only title changes recognized across the entire territory are listed.
 In this chart, new champions are generally recognized the calendar week after the title change.
 Blue shading denotes babyface champions, orange shading denotes heel champions.

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM TITLES - HEART OF AMERICA (Central States) - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rock Hunter & Roger Kirby	Orange	Orange										
Danny Little Bear & Pat O'Connor			Blue									
Baron Von Heisinger & John Tolos				Orange	Orange							
Bob Geigel & The Stomper					Blue	Blue						
Bob Orton & Buddy Austin							Orange	Orange				
Rufus R. Jones & Steve Bolus									Blue	Blue		
Chati Yokouchi & Yasu Fuji											Orange	Orange
The Stomper & The Viking												Blue

Only title changes recognized across the entire territory are listed.
 In this chart, new champions are generally recognized the calendar week after the title change.
 Blue shading denotes babyface champions, orange shading denotes heel champions.

based on research as of 7/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Charting the World Champ

In 1971, NWA World Heavyweight champion Dory Funk Jr. had 6 stints in the territory plus 1 stand-alone appearance. All matches were title bouts unless otherwise noted.

February 21st through February 26th

- 2/21 Cedar Rapids: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Dory won.
- 2/22 Quincy: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Dory won, taking the first and third falls.
- 2/23 Sedalia: Dory vs The Viking. Dory won.
- 2/24 Des Moines: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Dory retained the title.
- 2/25 Kansas City: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Dory won. Little Bear won the first fall with “his crossbow”, Dory won the second fall with “a smash off the ropes”, and then Dory won the third fall with “forearm smashes and an elbow drop”.
- 2/26 St. Joseph: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Dory won. Rufus won the first fall after a head butt, Dory won the second fall after a back body drop, and then Dory won the third fall after a “reverse alligator split”.

April 26th through April 29th

- 4/26 Wichita: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Results not available.
- 4/27 Quincy: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Results not available.
- 4/28 Des Moines: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. The match was “declared a draw”.
- 4/29 Kansas City: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Both men “were counted out”. Dory won the first fall with a spinning toe hold, Little Bear won the second with “a cross-bow”, and the third fall originally went to a draw when the 60-minute time limit expired. However, Sam Muchnick “ordered an extended 30 minutes” and at the 7-minute mark both men collided in the ring.

May 9th through May 15th

- 5/9 (afternoon) Dubuque: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Results not available.
- 5/9 (evening) Cedar Rapids: Dory vs The Stomper. Both men were counted out of the ring in the third fall.
- 5/10 Wichita: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Results not available.
- 5/12 Des Moines: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Results not available.
- 5/13 Kansas City: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Dory won after 48 minutes with a “giant suplex”.
- 5/14 St. Joseph: Dory vs The Stomper. Dory won. The champ won the first fall after an “arm drop to the throat”, Stomper won the second fall after an atomic drop, and Dory won the third fall when Stomper was counted out of the ring.
- 5/15 Waterloo: Dory vs Harley Race. Results not available.

August 2nd Des Moines: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Results not available.

September 20th through September 25th

- 9/20 Emporia: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Results not available.
- 9/22 Quincy: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Results not available; based on the stipulations for the rematch a month later in Quincy, it probably went to a time limit draw.
- 9/23 Kansas City: Dory vs Harley Race (this was not explicitly listed as a title match, but it may have been). Dory won. During the third fall, the referee was injured. Pat O’Connor came out to take his place. After Dory won, Race and O’Connor fought.

- 9/24 St. Joseph: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. Dory won. Dory pinned Little Bear at the 57:38 mark after Danny missed a drop kick.
- 9/25 Waterloo: Dory vs Harley Race. The match went to a draw when the time limit expired in the third fall.

October 18th through October 22nd

- 10/18 Great Bend: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Results not available.
- 10/19 Sedalia: Dory vs Results not available.
- 10/20 Quincy: Dory vs Danny Little Bear, 90-minute time limit. Dory won.
- 10/21 Kansas City: Dory vs Danny Little Bear. The match went to a draw. Little Bear won the first fall with a “crossbow submission hold”, Dory won the second fall after “a series of elbow drops and knee drops”, and then the time limit expired during the third fall.
- 10/22 St. Joseph: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Dory won. Rufus won the first fall after a head butt, Dory won the second fall with a backdrop, and then Dory won the third fall with “a rollaway cradle.”

November 8th through November 13th

- 11/8 Wichita: Dory vs Ronnie Etchison. Results not available.
- 11/9 Sedalia: Dory vs Terry Martin. Dory won, taking the second and third falls.
- 11/10 Des Moines: Dory vs Pat O’Connor. Dory won.
- 11/11 Kansas City: Dory vs Rufus R. Jones. Dory won, taking the second and third falls.
- 11/12 St. Joseph: Dory vs The Stomper. The match went to a draw. Stomper won the first fall after a stomp to the chest, Dory won the second fall after he “head butted Stomper and the challenger went down for a 10-count”, and then the time limit expired during the third fall.
- 11/13 Waterloo: Dory vs Harley Race. Dory won.

Taking Attendance

In this section, we look at any attendance (and/or gate) figures we have. Unless otherwise noted, these numbers come from newspaper reports. They should be taken with several grains of salt.

The newspaper in St. Joseph, MO usually printed attendance figures along with results. Out of 43 cards held in the city during 1971, we have attendance figures for 40 of them. The average attendance of these 40 cards was 1,698. The five largest attendance figures for the city during the year were:

- 2/26 drew a reported 2,467 (NWA World title: Dory Funk Jr. vs Rufus R. Jones)
- 3/26 drew a reported 2,411 (Indian strap match: Danny Little Bear vs Harley Race)
- 9/17 drew a reported 2,378 (Central States title: Danny Little Bear vs Roger Kirby in the first card back after taking not running the city during the summer months)
- 3/12 drew a reported 2,374 (Texas death match: Danny Little Bear vs Harley Race)
- 5/14 drew a reported 2,348 (NWA World title: Dory Funk Jr. vs The Stomper)

The 12/13 card in Moberly, MO drew a reported attendance of 1,318. A 1/27 card in Des Moines drew a reported 4,000 fans and a 2/10 card in Des Moines drew 2,946. There were 24 shows held in the city during the year, so the fact we only have two attendance figures doesn't really give us much information as to what the average might have been.

While they normally ran weekly cards in Kansas City, KS, they did run a larger venue in Kansas City, MO four times during the year, and the newspaper reported attendance figures for 2 of them. On 5/13 they drew "more than 7,000" fans for a card headlined by Dory Funk Jr. defending the NWA World title against Danny Little Bear and Harley Race vs The Stomper in a Texas death match. On 6/10 they drew "nearly 7,000" fans for a card headlined by Harley Race defending the Central States title against The Stomper plus Baron Von Raschke vs Dick the Bruiser.

For cards held in the state of Kansas, we have attendance and gate figures as they were reported to the State of Kansas Athletic Commission. These records appear to be fairly complete. The promotion paid taxes to the Commission on a percentage basis. For shows in smaller towns, they paid 7.5% of the gross ticket sales to the state. In the larger cities, they generally paid 10% of the gross, though there were some occasions when they paid 7.5%.

Of the 127 cards held in Kansas during the year that we have Athletic Commission records for, the average attendance was 1,139 and the average gate was \$2,913 (which works out to an average ticket price of \$2.56).

Breaking this down by city (with all the smaller/spot towns listed together):

Kansas City: 47 cards, average attendance 2,010, average gate \$5,404, average ticket price \$2.69

Wichita: 23 cards, average attendance 884, average gate \$2,048, average ticket price \$2.32

Topeka: 6 cards, average attendance 381, average gate \$879, average ticket price \$2.31

All other towns: 51 cards, average attendance 541, average gate \$1,247, average ticket price \$2.30

The largest crowd in Wichita was on 8/16, with a reported attendance of 1,509 (Harley Race vs Ronnie Etchison in a Texas death match)

The five largest attendance figures in Kansas City (on the Kansas side) were:

- 11/25 drew a reported 3,400 (Thanksgiving Day card headlined by a battle royal)
- 4/8 drew a reported 2,955 (Harley Race vs The Stomper)
- 8/5 drew a reported 2,891 (Indian strap match: Danny Little Bear vs Harley Race)
- 2/25 drew a reported 2,831 (NWA World title: Dory Funk Jr. vs Danny Little Bear)
- 8/26 drew a reported 2,803 (Central States title, 90-minute time limit, no disqualification: Harley Race vs Danny Little Bear)

In addition to the attendance figures for Kansas City, KS reported to the Athletic Commission, we also have attendance figures that were reported in the newspaper for 11 of those cards. In all cases, what was reported in the paper was significantly higher than what was reported to the Athletic Commission.

Here are some examples:

- 4/8 2,955 reported to Athletic Commission, newspaper reported “sellout crowd of nearly 4,000”
- 8/5 2,891 reported to Athletic Commission, newspaper reported “a sellout record crowd of 4,000”
- 2/25 2,831 reported to Athletic Commission, newspaper reported “more than 4,000”
- 10/21 1,922 reported to Athletic Commission, newspaper reported “sellout crowd of 4,000”
- 7/1 1,860 reported to Athletic Commission, newspaper reported 3,000
- 2/4 854 reported to Athletic Commission, newspaper reported “more than 1,000”

As you can see, this isn't just fudging the numbers by a few percentage points. In some cases it's double what was reported to the Athletic Commission (though it's usually more like 50%). On the July episode of our podcast, we will talk about all the various things that go into play when looking at attendance figures and attempting to use data and common sense to best figure out which numbers are more likely to be accurate.

House Show Lineups and Results

We have shared newspaper clippings and/or Athletic Commission documents for over 300 shows from this territory in 1971 with wrestlingdata.com to aid them in providing comprehensive information.

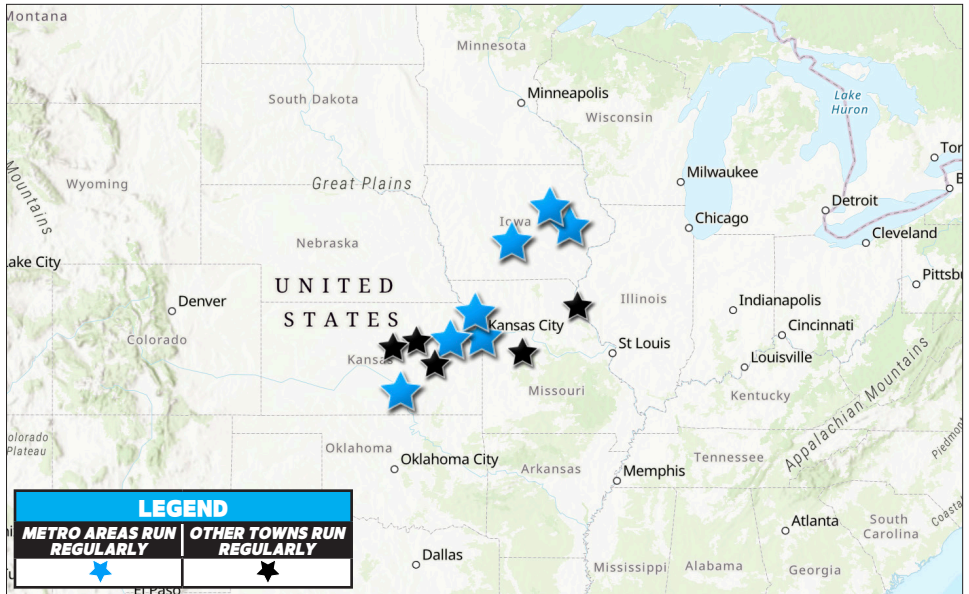
To see the cards and all available results, visit

<https://www.wrestlingdata.com/index.php?befehl=shows&sort=liga&kategorie=8&liga=202&jahr=1971&monat=0&showart=&ansicht=1>

HEART OF AMERICA (CENTRAL STATES)

SAMPLE WEEK

MON 12/6	WINFIELD
TUE 12/7	HUTCHINSON
	SEDALIA
WED 12/8	DES MOINES
THU 12/9	KANSAS CITY
FRI 12/10	ST. JOSEPH
SAT 12/11	WATERLOO
SUN 12/12	CEDAR RAPIDS
	WICHITA



TOP SINGLES | TOP TAG TEAMS

HARLEY RACE	CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI
DANNY LITTLE BEAR	ROCK HUNTER & ROGER KIRBY
RUFUS R. JONES	BOB ORTON & BUDDY AUSTIN
THE STOMPER	BARON VON HEISINGER & JOHN TOLOS
ROGER KIRBY	

TOP RIVALRIES

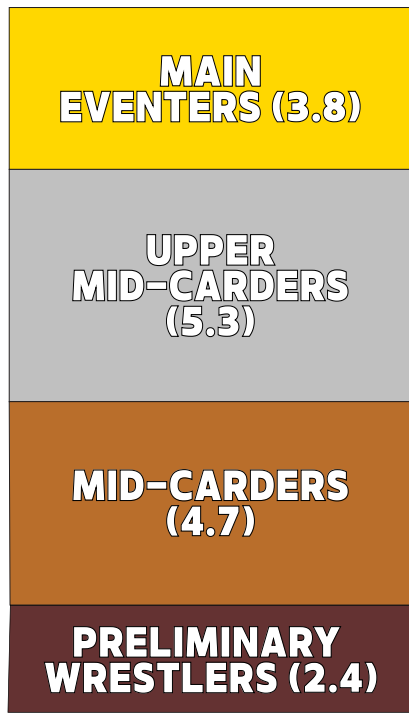
- DANNY LITTLE BEAR VS HARLEY RACE
- RUFUS R. JONES VS HARLEY RACE
- THE STOMPER VS HARLEY RACE
- PAT O'CONNOR VS HARLEY RACE
- DANNY LITTLE BEAR VS BOB ORTON
- RUFUS R. JONES & STEVE BOLUS VS CHATI YOKOUCHI & YASU FUJI

TITLE CHANGES

CENTRAL STATES HEAVYWEIGHT	4
NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM	8

HOUSE SHOW RECORDS			
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	301	SHOWS PER WEEK	5.8
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS	65-70%
MISC. BOOKING STATS			
HEEL/FACE TURNS	0	ROSTER TURNOVER	166%
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS	

AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 16.2



OVERALL

