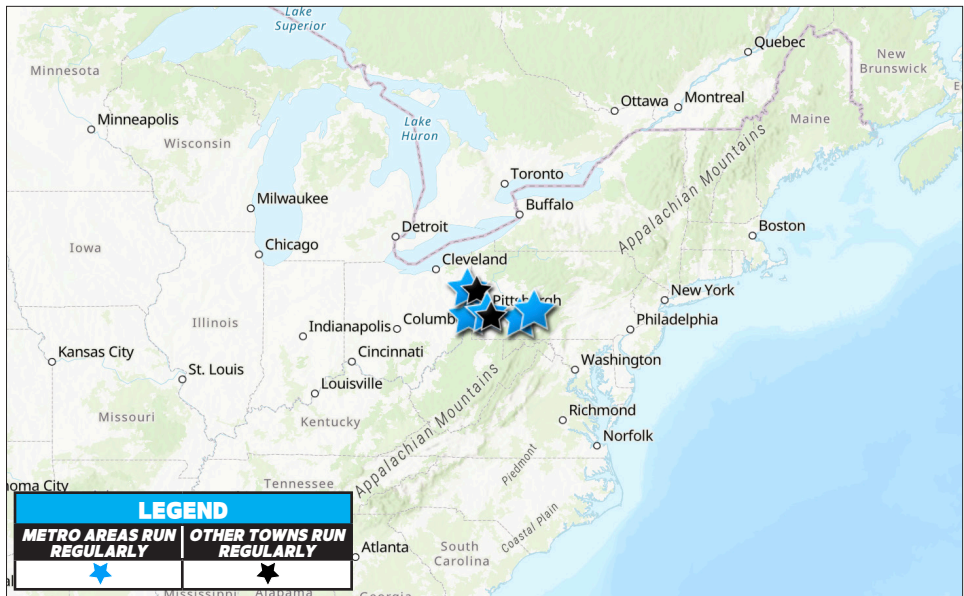


PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY

SAMPLE WEEK

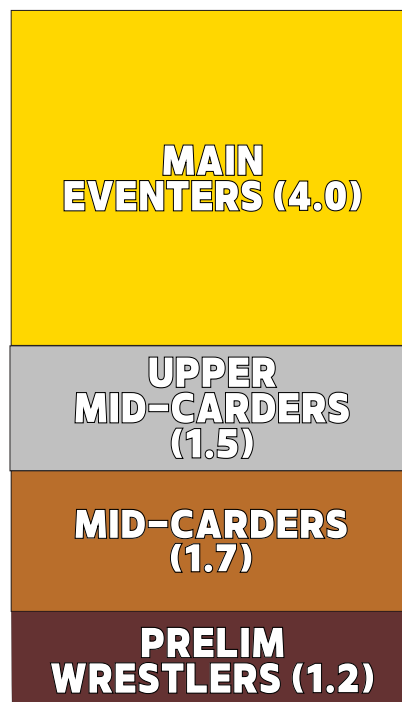
MON 6/14	--
TUE 6/15	--
WED 6/16	DUBOIS PA
THU 6/17	WELLSVILLE OH
FRI 6/18	PITTSBURGH PA
SAT 6/19	WHEELING WV
SUN 6/20	--



TOP SINGLES	TOP TEAMS
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	BRUNO SAMMARTINO & DOMINIC DENUCCI
BULLDOG BROWER	BEPO & GEETO MONGOL
GEORGE STEELE	BARON SCICLUNA & GEORGE STEELE
BARON SCICLUNA	

HOUSE SHOW RECORDS			
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	97	SHOWS PER WEEK	1.9
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS	55-80%
MISC. BOOKING STATS			
HEEL/FACE TURNS	2	ROSTER TURNOVER	151%
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS	

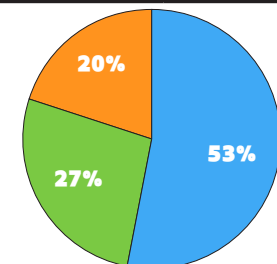
AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 8.4



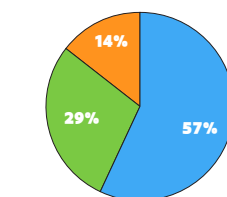
TOP FEUDS

- BRUNO & DENUCCI VS SCICLUNA & STEELE
- BRUNO SAMMARTINO VS GEORGE STEELE
- BRUNO & DENUCCI VS MONGOLS

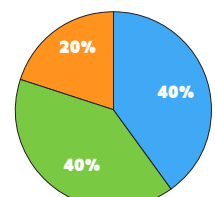
OVERALL



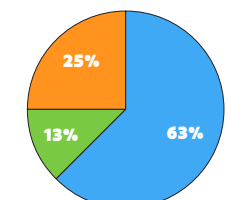
FACE WINS HEEL WINS DRAWS



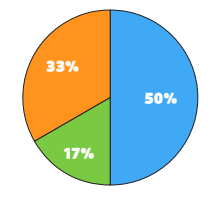
MAIN EVENTS



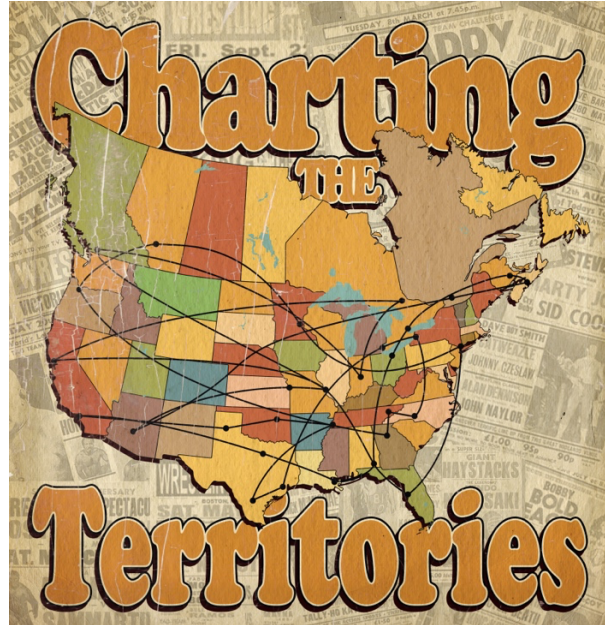
UPPER MIDS



MID-CARDS



PRELIMS



PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY 1971: A Year in the Life

[Table of Contents](#)

<u>RANKINGS</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>TERRITORY PROFILE BY AL GETZ.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ROSTER.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>FEUDS.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>TITLE HOLDERS AND HISTORIES</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>TAKING ATTENDANCE.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>LINK TO HOUSE SHOW LINEUPS AND RESULTS.....</u>	<u>11</u>

Rankings

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

RANKINGS FOR PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY - 1971

- 1 – BRUNO SAMMARTINO & DOMINIC DENUCCI**
- 2 – BRUNO SAMMARTINO**
- 3 – BEPO & GEETO MONGOL**
- 4 – BARON SCICLUNA & GEORGE STEELE**
- 5 – BULLDOG BROWER**
- 6 – GEORGE STEELE**
- 7 – DOMINIC DENUCCI & JOHNNY DEFAZIO**
- 8 – BARON SCICLUNA**

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 11/1/2024 - chartingtheterritories.com

Territory Profile by Al Getz

The precise relationship between the Pittsburgh wrestling territory and the World Wide Wrestling Federation is difficult to pinpoint. From 1966 to 1971, when Bruno Sammartino owned the territory, it operated as something almost akin to a “satellite promotion” of the WWWF. Bruno, of course, was the top star and acknowledged as World Heavyweight champion, and stars from the McMahon promotion (such as Gorilla Monsoon) would appear on the monthly house shows at the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh. But the bulk of the cards were made up of wrestlers who were not working the main WWWF circuit, and the crew that filled up the preliminary and mid-card matches featured a lot of locally based grapplers, including “The Fighting Cop From Carnegie” Frank Holtz and steelworker Johnny DeFazio.

Besides the monthly shows in Pittsburgh, the other major metropolitan areas that comprised the territory were Youngstown-Warren OH, Johnstown PA, Wheeling WV, the combined Steubenville OH and Weirton WV market, and Altoona PA. These were typically run less frequently, once every two to four months. Additionally, spot shows took place in and around Pittsburgh regularly. While records are incomplete, it appears this was not a “full-time” territory that ran house shows almost every night. It looks more like they ran 2-4 shows most weeks. They had a weekly live TV show, called “Studio Wrestling”, that aired Saturday evenings on WIIC channel 11.

The Civic Arena cards typically drew between 6,000 and 10,000 fans, varying based on the strength of that month’s challenger to hometown icon Bruno Sammartino. Bruno had been the World Heavyweight champion since 1963. In 1971, however, his time not only as the king of the mountain, but also as owner of the territory, would come to an end.

On January 18, 1971, Ivan Koloff stunned the wrestling world by pinning Bruno in the middle of the ring at Madison Square Garden to win the WWWF World Heavyweight title. A few weeks later, Ivan lost the title to Pedro Morales. Bruno reportedly wanted to take a step back after so many years defending the title across the northeast for the vast McMahon empire. He also sold the Pittsburgh territory to Newton Tattrie, who was wrestling as Geeto Mongol at the time.

There are differing reports online as to precisely when the sale occurred, but I believe it occurred in the early part of 1971. This make sense for a number of reasons:

- If Bruno dropping the title and selling the territory were both part of his ‘plan’ to take a step back from wrestling, them occurring at the same time is logical
- Tattrie began wrestling in the Pittsburgh territory in February 1971, coming here after working for the WWWF
- Tattrie had promised Johnny Rodz a couple of years earlier that if Tattrie ever ran a promotion, he would use Rodz and give him a push. Rodz, under the gimmick of Java Ruuk, came here in May of 1971

Bruno continued to anchor the Pittsburgh cards for the remainder of 1971. His losing the WWWF title to Ivan was the precursor to a couple of matches here, with Bruno avenging his New York loss by decisively defeating Koloff in a Texas death match on March 5th.

Bruno then partnered up with Dominic DeNucci for several months. First, they battled the duo of George Steele & Baron Mikel Scicluna, followed by a feud with Geeto & Bepo Mongol. DeNucci was becoming a major player in the neighboring NWF promotion and started appearing here less frequently. To fill the void, the Mongols turned babyface. At the same time, Tarzan Tyler & Luke Graham were finishing up their run with the WWWF and started making some appearances here as foils for The Mongols.

While the relationship with the WWWF still continued, Tattrie seemed to open the doors even further, often using talent who was working for the NWF or for Ed Farhat's Big Time Wrestling. Monthly crowds in Pittsburgh had been slowly slipping over the previous few years, so perhaps Tattrie thought freshening up the roster from a larger pool of talent would help keep things steady.

Unfortunately, it seems that Bruno no longer being the top dog in the wrestling world affected his drawing power even in Pittsburgh. Crowds continued to drop, and in 1972 WIIC cancelled "Studio Wrestling". Though the program was picked by another channel, things just weren't the same. Tattrie ended up selling the promotion to the NWF's Pedro Martinez. Pedro had been drawing some big cards in his major cities of Buffalo and Cleveland and was looking to go even bigger. His purchase of the Pittsburgh territory was the first in a series of moves to expand his territory. While in the short term it wasn't successful, his view of going big would lead to him partnering up with Eddie Einhorn to start the IWA a few years later, an attempt to start a "national" wrestling promotion and shake up the territorial system.

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).

MAIN EVENTERS IN PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY - 1971

	SPOT	BPW	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bruno Sammartino	1.00	2.05												
George Steele	.91	1.61												
Bepo Mongol	.87	1.67												
Geeto Mongol	.85	1.53												
Bulldog Brower	.85	1.45												
Dominic DeNucci	.84	1.69												
Jos LeDuc	.80	1.75												

Wrestlers with an average SPOT Rating between .80 and 1.00 are considered **Main Eventers**

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

BPW is the average # of bookings per week the wrestler had in the territory during the year.

based on research as of 11/1/2024 - chartingtheterritories.com

UPPER MID-CARDERS IN PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY - 1971

	SPOT	BPW	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Baron Scicluna	.78	1.78												
Battman	.73	1.46												
Victor Rivera	.66	1.73												

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

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

BPW is the average # of bookings per week the wrestler had in the territory during the year.

based on research as of 11/1/2024 - chartingtheterritories.com

MID-CARDERS IN PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY - 1971

	SPOT	BPW	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Johnny DeFazio	.52	1.75												
John L. Sullivan	.46	1.45												

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

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

BPW is the average # of bookings per week the wrestler had in the territory during the year.

based on research as of 11/1/2024 - chartingtheterritories.com

PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS IN PITTSBURGH WRESTLING TERRITORY - 1971

	SPOT	BPW	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Jim Dillon	.39	1.38												
Hurricane Hunt	.29	1.29												

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

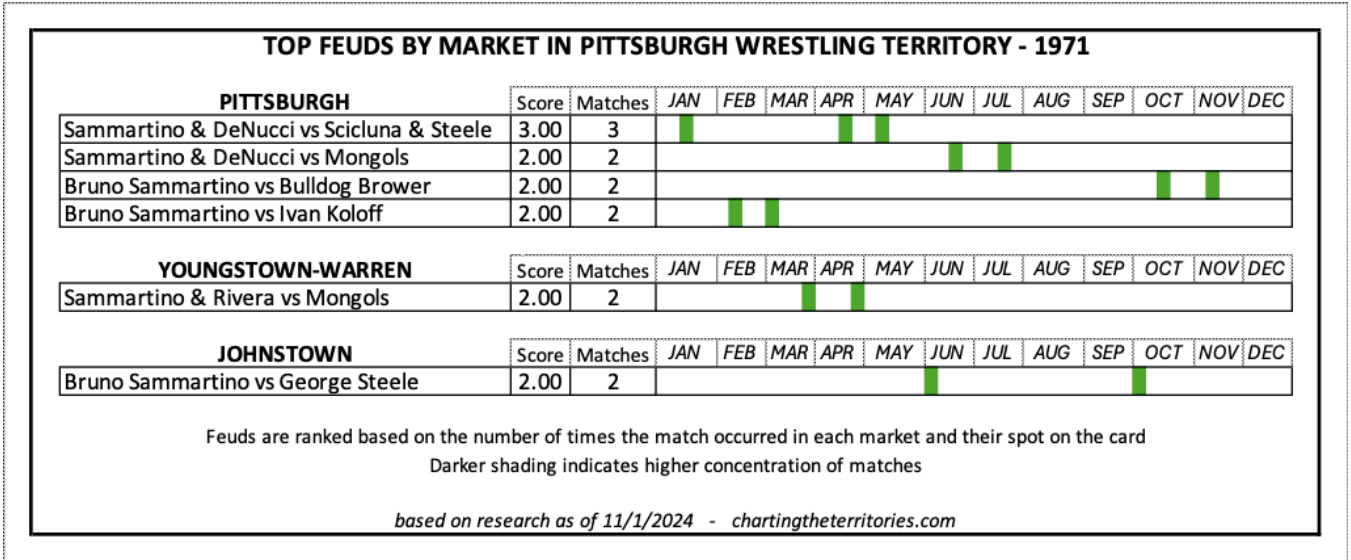
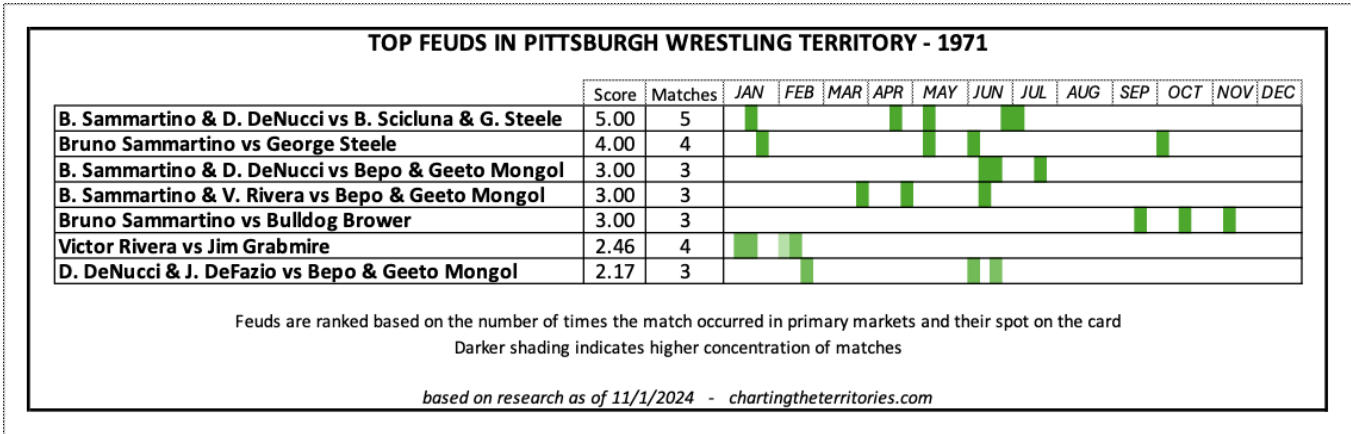
SPOT (Statistical Position Over Time) Ratings measure a wrestlers average position on the cards in primary markets; the highest possible SPOT is 1.00. Babyfaces are shaded in blue, heels are shaded in orange; darker shading indicates higher SPOT.

BPW is the average # of bookings per week the wrestler had in the territory during the year.

based on research as of 11/1/2024 - chartingtheterritories.com

Feuds

Here are two charts listing the biggest feuds in the territory. The first chart lists matches that occurred most frequently in all of the primary markets, and the second chart lists the matches that occurred most frequently in individual markets.



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.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO & DOMINIC DENUCCI vs BARON SCICLUNA & GEORGE STEELE

Pittsburgh PA

- 1/15 Bruno & DeNucci won by disqualification
- 4/16 Scicluna & Steele won
- 5/7 Bruno & DeNucci won, with Bruno pinning Steele in the deciding fall

BRUNO SAMMARTINO vs IVAN KOLOFF

Pittsburgh PA

- 2/12 Bruno won by disqualification after Koloff hit him with a chair
- 3/5 Texas death match: Bruno won in 12:03 after he “tossed him [Ivan] into the third row of the audience and he was unable to return.”

BRUNO SAMMARTINO & VICTOR RIVERA vs BEPO & GEETO MONGOL

Youngstown-Warren OH

- 3/26 The Mongols won
- 4/24 Two referees: results not available (given the stipulations, it’s a safe assumption that The Mongols won by cheating on 3/26, thus the additional referee was to prevent them from being able to do it again. My educated guess is that Bruno & Victor won this rematch)

BRUNO SAMMARTINO vs GEORGE STEELE

Johnstown PA

- 6/5 Bruno won by disqualification
- 10/2 Bruno won

Title Holders and Histories

Since this territory was affiliated with the WWWF, they generally recognized their titles. It's worth noting that the Bruno vs Ivan matches here all took place AFTER Ivan dropped the WWWF World title to Pedro Morales, so that belt was not defended here in 1971.

When Bepo & Geeto Mongol come to the territory in February, they were acknowledged as the International Tag Team champions, titles they had held in the WWWF and brought here (the WWWF didn't acknowledge them after The Mongols stopped working there). Bruno Sammartino & Dominic DeNucci beat The Mongols to win the titles on 6/18 in Pittsburgh, but The Mongols regained them on the following show in the city on 7/16. The titles aren't acknowledged again after that match.

In the WWWF, Luke Graham & Tarzan Tyler were said to have "won a tournament in New Orleans" to crown the first WWWF World Tag Team titles (replacing the International Tag Team titles). They defended them here a few times beginning in November. It appears they continued to be billed as World tag champs here even after they lose those titles to Karl Gotch & Rene Goulet in the WWWF proper.

On December 18th on Pittsburgh TV, Geeto Mongol & Johnny DeFazio beat Graham & Tyler to win what was then called the "International Tag Team titles".

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.

We have attendance figures for 6 out of the 11 cards held in Pittsburgh. The average attendance was 9,250.

- 2/12 drew 11,331 (Bruno Sammartino vs Ivan Kolof)
- 4/16 drew 8,302 (Bruno & Dominic DeNucci vs George Steele & Baron Scicluna)
- 5/7 drew 10,136 (Bruno & Dominic DeNucci vs George Steele & Baron Scicluna)
- 10/15 drew 8,226 (Bruno vs Bepo Mongol)
- 11/12 drew 8,500 (Bruno vs Bulldog Brower)
- 12/3 drew 9,004 (Bruno & Bepo Mongol vs Tarzan Tyler & Luke Graham)

We have attendance figures for 4 out of the 5 cards held in the Youngstown-Warren OH market. The average attendance for these was 1,466.

- 1/8 in Youngstown drew 1,393 (Bruno vs Jos LeDuc)
- 2/20 in Hubbard drew 1,617 (Bruno vs Baron Scicluna)
- 3/26 in Hubbard drew 1,676 (Bruno & Victor Rivera vs Bepo & Geeto Mongol)
- 7/3 in Brookfield Township drew 1,179 (Bruno & Tony Parisi vs George Steele & Java Ruuk)

Other documented attendance figures:

- 1/23 in Altoona, PA drew “nearly 3,000”
- 4/30 in Ford City, PA drew “over 1,000”
- 6/16 in DuBois, PA drew “at least a couple hundred” for a fair show

Link to House Show Lineups and Results

We share our newspaper clippings and other documents 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=1581&jahr=1971&monat=0&showart=0&ansicht=1>