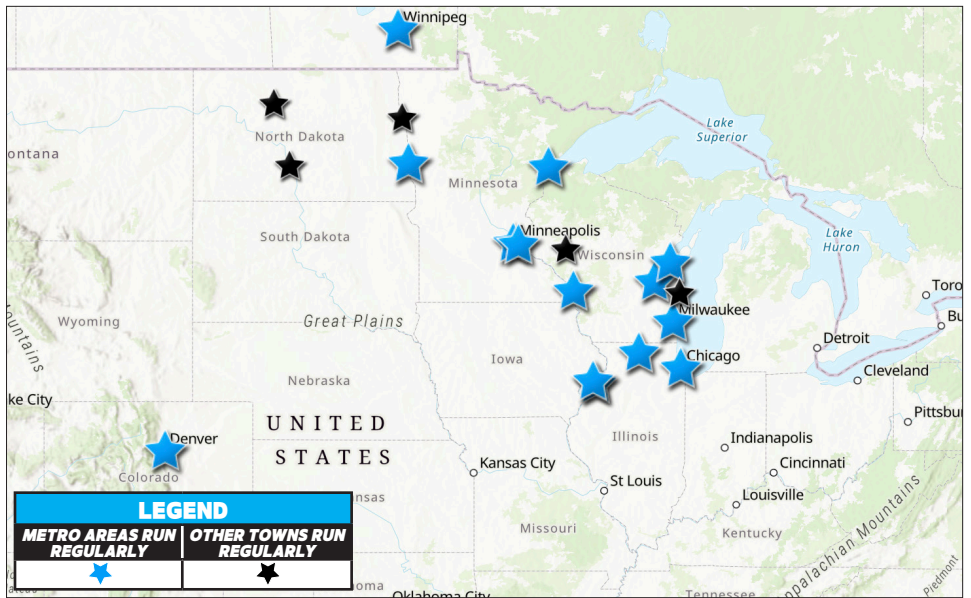


AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

SAMPLE WEEK

MON 2/15	WINNIPEG, MB
TUE 2/16	BISMARCK, ND
	GENESEO, IL
WED 2/17	ROCKFORD, IL
	ST. CLOUD, MN
THU 2/18	DE PERE, WI
	WINONA, MN
FRI 2/19	FAIRMONT, MN
SAT 2/20	ST. PAUL, MN
SUN 2/21	--

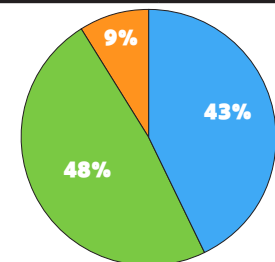


TOP SINGLES	TOP TEAMS
VERNE GAGNE (C) NICK BOCKWINKEL BLACKACK LANZA THE CRUSHER BILLY ROBINSON	LARRY HENNIG & LARS ANDERSON HERCULES CORTEZ & RED BASTIEN BUTCHER & MAD DOG VACHON

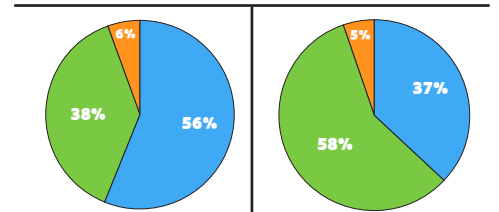
HOUSE SHOW RECORDS			
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	265	SHOWS PER WEEK	5.1
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS	60-85%
MISC. BOOKING STATS			
HEEL/FACE TURNS	0	ROSTER TURNOVER	161%
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS	

AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 16.5

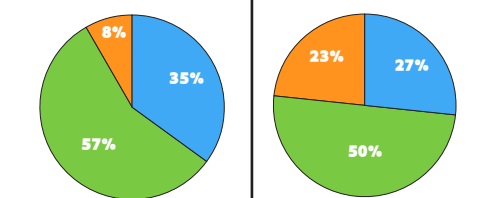
OVERALL



FACE WINS (Blue), HEEL WINS (Green), DRAWS (Orange)



MAIN EVENTS | UPPER MIDS



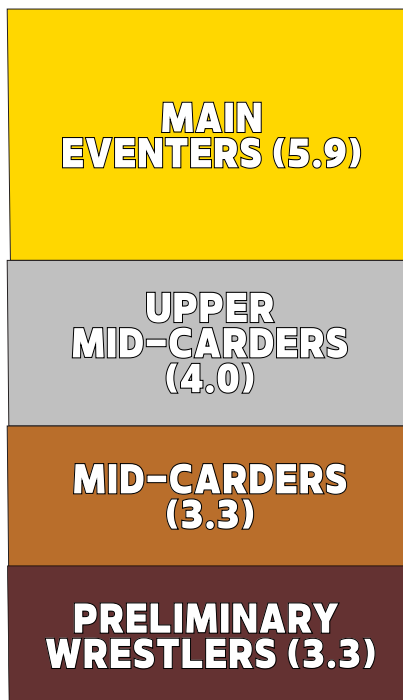
MID-CARDS | PRELIMS

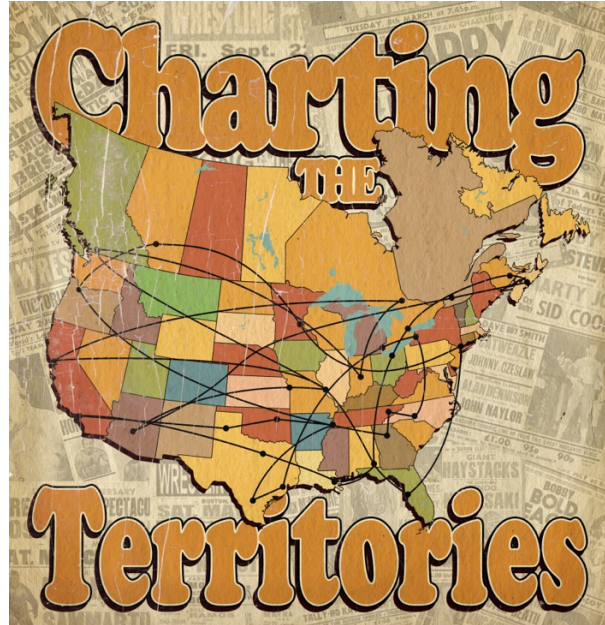
TOP FEUDS

- HERCULES CORTEZ & RED BASTIEN VS LARRY HENNIG & LARS ANDERSON
- BULL BULLINSKI VS NICK BOCKWINKEL
- BILLY ROBINSON VS BLACKJACK LANZA
- PAUL DIAMOND VS NICK BOCKWINKEL
- RED BASTIEN VS RAY STEVENS
- THE CRUSHER & RED BASTIEN VS NICK BOCKWINKEL & RAY STEVENS

TITLE CHANGES

WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT	0
WORLD TAG TEAM	1*





AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION 1971: A Year in the Life

Table of Contents

RANKINGS	2
WRESTLER PROFILES BY DAVID GIBB.....	3
ROSTER.....	6
EVENT CENTER.....	11
FEUDS.....	12
TITLE HOLDERS AND HISTORIES	18
TAKING ATTENDANCE.....	20
LINK TO HOUSE SHOW LINEUPS AND RESULTS.....	22

Rankings

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

RANKINGS FOR THE AWA - 1971

- C - VERNE GAGNE**
- 1 - LARRY HENNIG & LARS ANDERSON**
- 2 - HERCULES CORTEZ & RED BASTIEN**
- 3 - NICK BOCKWINKEL**
- 4 - BLACKJACK LANZA**
- 5 - THE CRUSHER**
- 6 - BILLY ROBINSON**
- 7 - RED BASTIEN**
- 8 - STRONG KOBAYASHI**
- 9 - BULL BULLINSKI**
- 10 - LARRY HENNIG**
- 11 - HERCULES CORTEZ**
- 12 - LARS ANDERSON**
- 13 - BUTCHER & MAD DOG VACHON**
- 14 - RAY STEVENS**

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

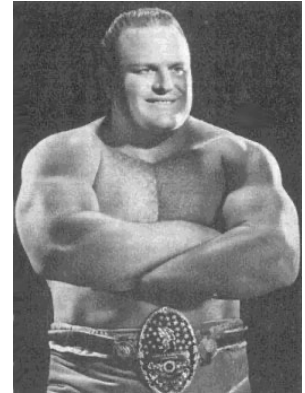
based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Wrestler Profiles by David Gibb

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

HERCULES CORTEZ

Alfonso Carlos Chicharro, like his namesake Hercules, was born into a world of conflict. For more than sixty years, modernity had been clawing its way into Spain, deposing monarchs and ending centuries of quasi-medieval feudal oligarchy. Following the Russian Revolution, leftist populism became less appealing, and a military dictatorship, restoration of the monarchy, and short-lived republic each failed to stabilize the country in a way that could satisfy all the empowered interest groups that had emerged. This resulted in the Spanish Civil War, which claimed over 400,000 lives in less than three years, including two of Chicharro's 13 siblings.



In the final days of 1938, when Alfonso was six years old, Generalissimo Francisco Franco completed his consolidation of power, bringing a brutal false stability to Spain at a time when the Great Depression and World War II were changing the rest of the West rapidly. Growing up against that backdrop, Chicharro devoted himself to athletics and academics. In the late '40s, he attended engineering college, but his love of physical challenges led him in a very different direction: professional wrestling.

It's impossible to pin down exactly when or where or under what circumstances Alfonso Chicharro started wrestling in Spain, due to the almost total lack of documentation for that period. By the late '50s, he was working for a few North American promotions, at first using the ring names Claude Dassary and Pepe Chicharro. He met his future wife, a German woman named Waltraud (later Valerie), while working in Canada. She had a notable impact on his career, giving him the nickname Hercules Cortez, which he was using professionally by the time he started his 1960 run for Al Haft in Ohio. In some places, he was "Hercules Romero," and he would continue to be Claude Dassary in Montreal.

In 1964, Hercules Cortez returned to Spain (effectively falling off the historical radar) before landing in Jim Barnett's upstart World Championship Wrestling the following year. In Australia, the Spanish strongman enjoyed a brief run with the IWA World Heavyweight Title, winning it from Mitsu Arakawa before losing the belt to Killer Kowalski two weeks later. Following that defeat, he again returned home, revisiting Australia a few years later to feud with the likes of Ray Stevens and The Great Malenko.

It's generally believed that Cortez spent most of the late '60s wrestling in Spain, although records are so spotty that it's possible he wasn't working full-time. What he was allegedly starting to do at least part-time was store, transport, and support the sale of hashish for criminal gangs. His life as a touring performer, considerable physical intimidation factor, and public reputation made him pretty much the perfect person for the job — until he got caught.

In March of 1970, Spanish police arrested Cortez and three other men following a raid of an apartment where four kilos of hash were recovered. Given Hercules' celebrity status, the newspapers ran with the story, including providing Alfonso Chicharro's legal name and speculating about his gang's connections to the Italian mafia. After a month behind bars, Hercules made bail and, knowing his trial would not start until the following spring, fled to the United States, where he would emerge on AWA cards just before the holiday season. Spanish prosecutors would never see him again.

As 1971 opened, Cortez was paired with Red Bastien, an established tag team stalwart across Verne Gagne's expansive territory. The two were something of an odd couple but also a perfect fit, as Bastien was a slick junior heavyweight who specialized in bringing action to tag matches with bigger men, and Hercules was, well, Hercules. Their ultimate goal was to face the deeply entrenched AWA World Tag Team Champions, Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon and his brother Paul "Butcher" Vachon, who'd had the titles since August of 1969. However, the team of Larry Hennig & Lars Anderson was standing in their way.

In Winnipeg, Hennig & Anderson got a tainted win when Cortez was disqualified for "acting up" (likely a "hot Latin temper" deal). Four weeks later, Bastien & Cortez were victorious in the rematch. The same pattern played out in Duluth, Minnesota, with Cortez catching a DQ for striking the ref in the two teams' first match but winning the rematch decisively. Leapfrogging the veteran heels earned Hercules & Red their title shot on April 13th in Duluth, a match that would see them defeat the Vachons by disqualification and *not* win the titles.

Meanwhile, in Spain, Alfonso Chicharro was tried on drug charges in absentia. He was convicted and sentenced to six years and one day in prison, while the alleged ringleader of his gang got ten years and a day. Hercules' lawyer filed an appeal, slowing the gears on a potential repatriation request that would take Cortez out of the ring and put him behind bars.

Back in the Midwest, Hercules Cortez & Red Bastien were continuing to chase down the Vachons and repel the attacks of Larry Hennig & Lars Anderson. In the first two weeks of May, Hennig & Anderson turned the tables, capturing wins against the heroes in Duluth, Fargo, and Winnipeg. With the benefit of hindsight, it should be no surprise that Cortez & Bastien finally defeated Mad Dog & The Butcher to claim the AWA Tag Team Titles on the 15th. Behind the scenes, the Vachons were returning to Montreal, where they had taken on considerable responsibilities for Grand Prix Wrestling, but to the fans, it was a triumphant unseating of two ogres who'd terrorized their favorites for far too long.

Naturally, the new champions continued feuding with Hennig & Anderson, who had a reasonable claim to the titles, thanks to their recent victories. By July, the heels were starting to win by disqualification in a number of towns, signaling that there were likely plans to extend the feud through at least the end of the summer.

In Winnipeg, on July 23rd, Hercules Cortez faced off against Nick Bockwinkel, who was quickly rising as one of the area's go-to heels and in the midst of a long undefeated streak. Cortez got too worked up (maybe Bockwinkel said something about extradition) and threw his opponent over the top rope for a disqualification. On that same card, Larry Hennig & Lars Anderson defeated Red Bastien and his one-

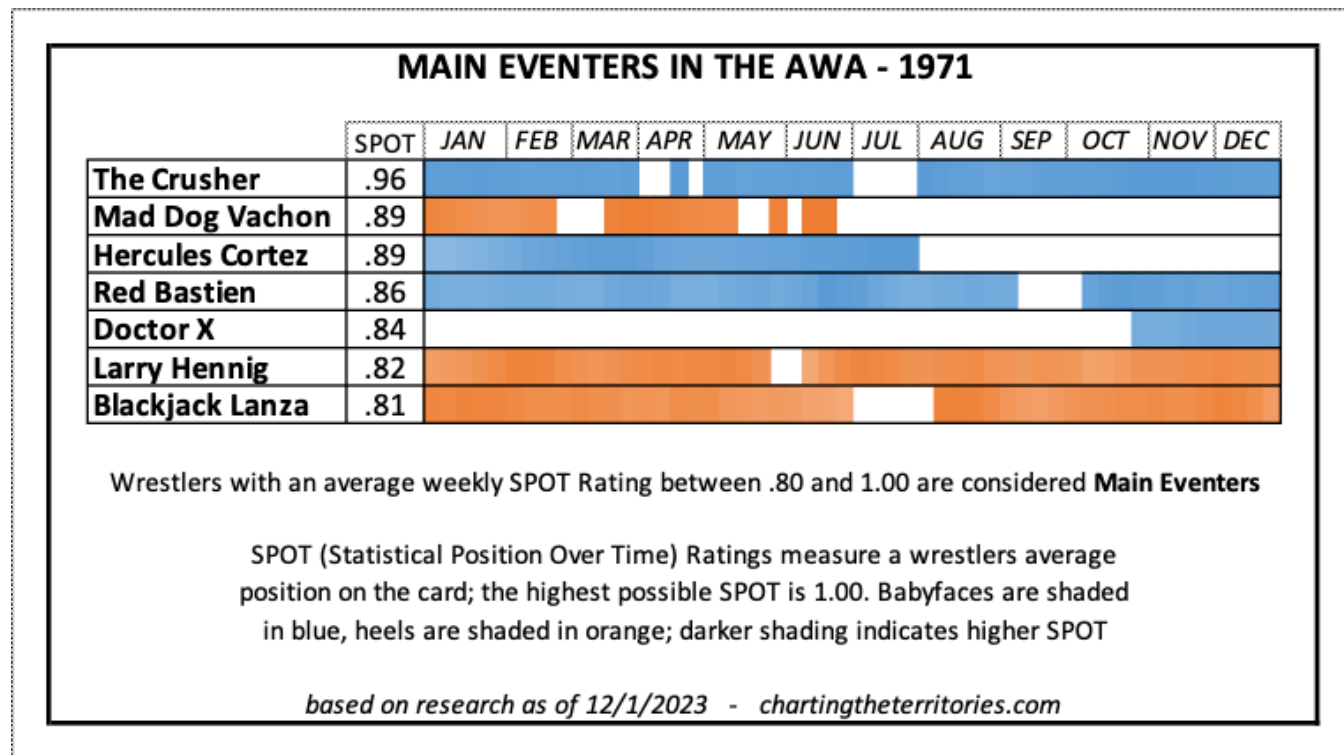
night-only partner Bull Bullinski. The next night, in Minneapolis, the seat of the territory, Cortez was supposed to face Bockwinkel again, but that match didn't happen either.

Driving a responsible speed, it takes seven or eight hours to get from Winnipeg to Minneapolis. On the night of July 23rd, 1971, Hercules Cortez - with partner Red Bastien as his passenger - was witnessed to be traveling down the highway in excess of 100 miles per hour. He lost control, and the car went off the side of the road. Bastien miraculously suffered only minor injuries, but Cortez was ejected through the windshield and flew 75 feet before landing on the crown on his head, breaking his neck and killing him instantly. He was 39.

About a year after Hercules Cortez's untimely death, the Spanish media – still salivating over the one that got away – began printing rumors that his accident in the United States had been faked in order to avoid justice back home. The idea that such a larger-than-life figure could've slipped into the shadows and started over quietly somewhere as a regular Joe seems highly unlikely; but then again, what part of Alfonso Chicharro's story seemed likely?

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 the first four categories, you will find links to articles/biographies/obituaries for many of the wrestlers from SLAM Wrestling.



The Crusher <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2005/10/23/the-crusher-dead-at-79/>

Mad Dog Vachon <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2013/11/21/mad-dog-vachon-dead-at-84/>

Red Bastien <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2012/08/11/red-bastien-dead-at-81/>

Doctor X (Dick Beyer) <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2019/03/07/the-destroyer-dick-beyer-dies/>

Larry Hennig <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2018/12/06/larry-the-axe-hennig-dead-at-82/>

Blackjack Lanza <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2021/12/08/worlds-meanest-wrestler-blackjack-lanza-dies/>

UPPER MID-CARDERS IN THE AWA - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Billy Robinson	.79												
Lars Anderson	.78												
Butcher Vachon	.76												
Strong Kobayashi	.75												
Ray Stevens	.72												
Nick Bockwinkel	.72												
Edouard Carpentier	.71												
Bull Bullinski	.69												

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 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Billy Robinson <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/03/03/billy-robinson-dead-at-74/>

Butcher Vachon <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2021/01/23/butcher-vachon-proud-of-familys-legacy/>

Strong (Shozo) Kobayashi <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2022/01/06/strong-kobayashi-dead-at-81/>

Nick Bockwinkel <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2015/11/15/class-personified-nick-bockwinkel-dies/>

Edouard Carpentier <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2010/11/01/edouard-carpentier-dead-at-84/>

MID-CARDERS IN THE AWA - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Paul Diamond	.55	[Blue shading]							[White shading]					
Ivan Koloff	.53	[White shading]										[Orange shading]		
Billy Red Cloud	.49	[Blue shading]				[White shading]				[Blue shading]				
The Big K	.47	[Orange shading]								[White shading]		[Orange shading]		

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 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 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Paul Diamond <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1999/10/24/slam-wrestling-canadian-hall-of-fame-paul-diamond/>

Ivan Koloff <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2017/02/18/russian-bear-ivan-koloff-dies/>

The Big K (Stan Kowalski) <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2017/10/21/stan-kowalski-wrestler-veteran-patriot-fundraiser-friend-to-many/>

PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS IN THE AWA - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Treach Phillips	.35												
Jack Pesek	.35												
Don Muraco	.35												
Joe Turco	.33												
Ox Baker	.33												
Jack Bence	.32												
Bill Howard	.31												
Joe Scarpello	.28												

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 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Don Muraco <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/05/15/don-muraco-surfs-a-wave-into-pro-wrestling-hall-of-fame/>

Ox Baker <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/10/20/wrestling-legend-ox-baker-passes-away/>

Bill Howard <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2023/10/13/journeyman-bill-howard-dead-at-78/>

PART-TIME WRESTLERS IN THE AWA - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Verne Gagne	1.00	█			█	█				█			█
Hans Schmidt	.90							█	█				
Blackjack Mulligan	.88											█	
Baron Von Raschke	.80							█	█				
Pepper Gomez	.72	█											
Wilbur Snyder	.71				█	█		█	█				
Sailor Art Thomas	.52						█		█	█	█	█	
Bill Miller	.52						█						
Angelo Poffo	.40			█									
Bill Christy	.36	█	█	█	█			█					
Kenny Jay	.36		█			█				█			
Ken Yates	.34					█							
Dennis Stamp	.32										█	█	█
George Gadaski	.30	█			█	█							█
Paul Christy	.29						█						
Bobby Jones	.27											█	█

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 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 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Verne Gagne <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2015/04/28/verne-gagne-dead-at-89/>

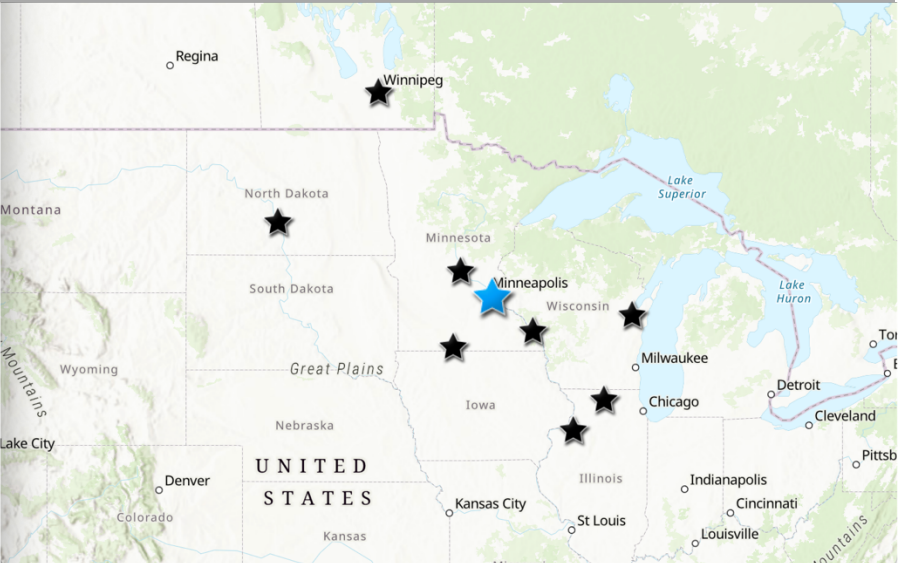
Event Center

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

Video available on the Charting the Territories channel on YouTube

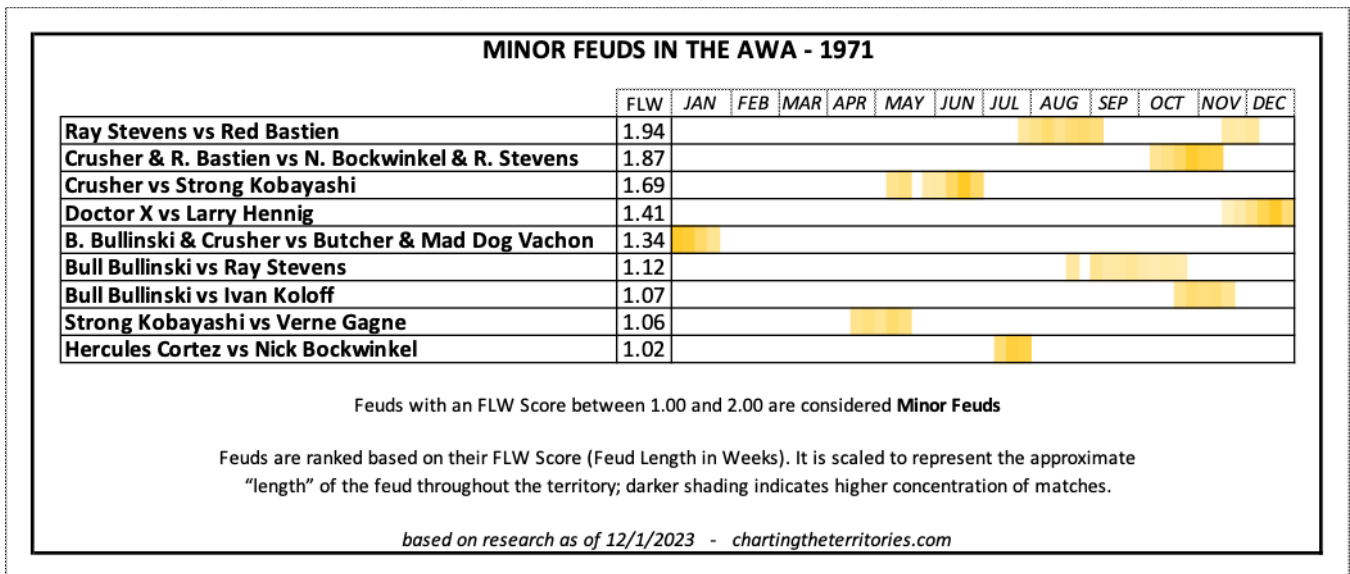
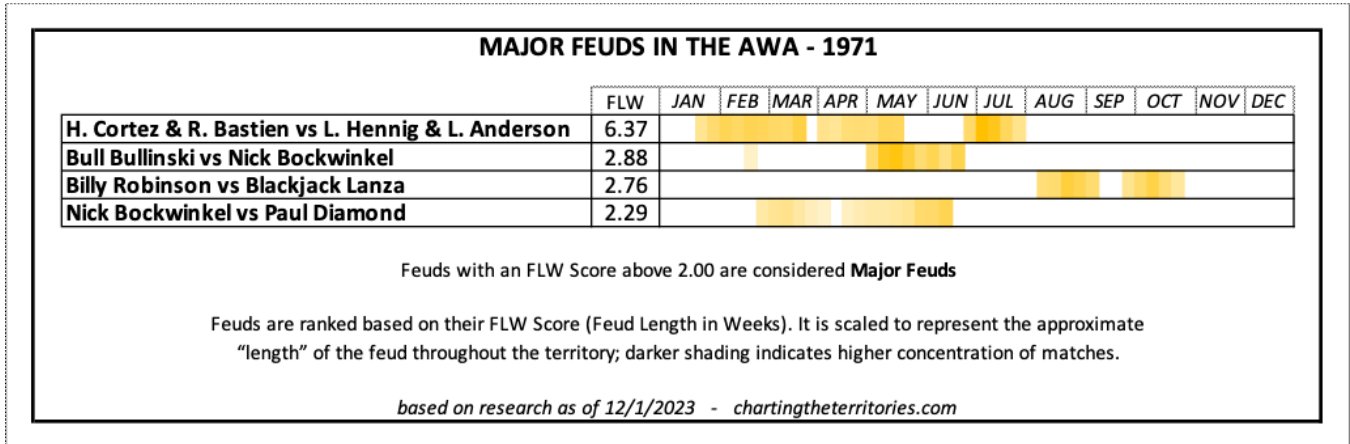
<https://youtu.be/YIvFfMXQdeM>

SAMPLE WEEK	
MON 2/15	WINNIPEG, MB
TUE 2/16	BISMARCK, ND
	GENESEO, IL
WED 2/17	ROCKFORD, IL
	ST. CLOUD, MN
THU 2/18	DE PERE, WI
	WINONA, MN
FRI 2/19	FAIRMONT, MN
SAT 2/20	ST. PAUL, MN
SUN 2/21	--



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 next time. 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 show.

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

HERCULES CORTEZ & RED BASTIEN vs LARRY HENNIG & LARS ANDERSON

Duluth

- 1/31 Hennig & Anderson won by DQ when Cortez struck the referee
- 2/14 Cortez beat Hennig by countout in a singles match
- 3/21 No disqualification: Cortez & Bastien won when Anderson “injured his ankle and was counted out of the ring”
- 5/2 Hennig & Anderson won
- 7/3 World Tag Team titles: results not available

Winnipeg

- 2/15 Hennig & Anderson won by DQ after Cortez “began acting up in the ring”
- 3/15 Cortez & Bastien won
- 3/29 Bastien beat Hennig by DQ and Cortez beat Anderson in separate singles bouts
- 5/14 Hennig & Anderson won
- 7/23 Anderson & Hennig beat Bastien & Bull Bullinski (likely to set up a future title shot, but Cortez passed away)

DOCTOR X vs LARRY HENNIG

Winnipeg

- 11/18 Hennig won
- 12/16 Doctor X won
- 1/20/72 Doctor X & Andre Rousimoff beat Hennig & Lars Anderson
- 2/3/72 Texas death match: Doctor X won when Hennig informed the referee he could not continue after the eighth fall (Doc had won 6 of the 8 falls)

THE CRUSHER & RED BASTIEN vs NICK BOCKWINKEL & RAY STEVENS

Denver

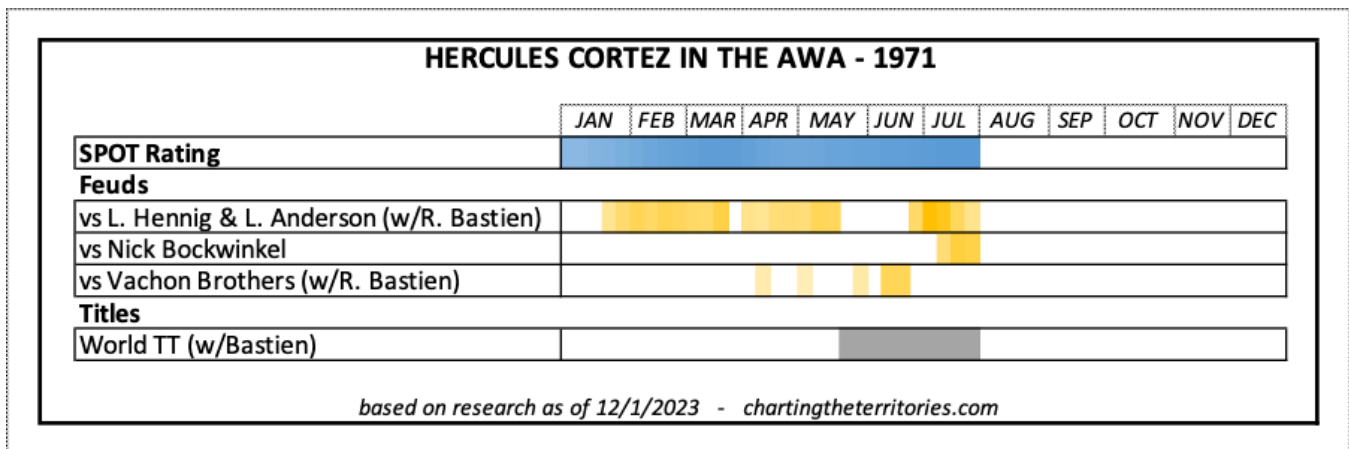
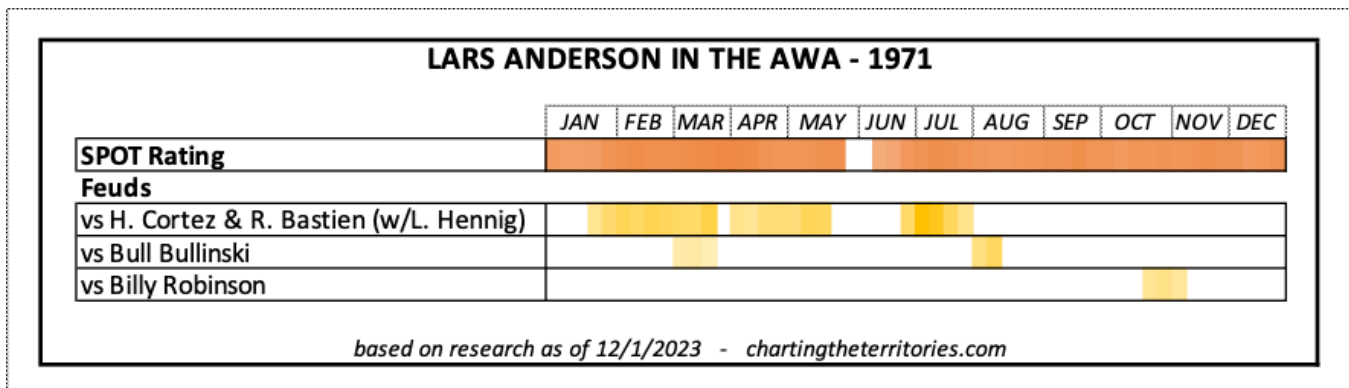
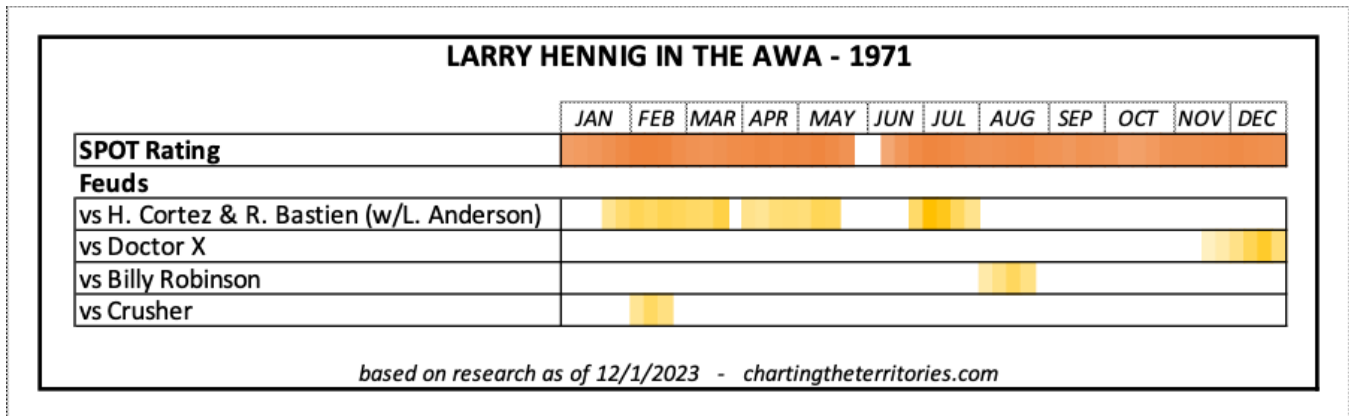
- 10/22 World Tag Team titles: Bockwinkel & Stevens won by DQ when Crusher threw Stevens over the top rope
- 11/5 World Tag Team titles, no disqualification: Crusher & Bastien won

Moline

- 10/5 World Tag Team titles: Crusher & Bastien won
- 10/19 Bastien beat Bockwinkel in a singles bout
- 11/2 World Tag Team titles: Crusher & Bastien won
- 11/23 Crusher beat Stevens in a singles bout
- 12/27 World Tag Team titles: Crusher & Bastien won

Wrestler Data

A look at the “character arc” for select wrestlers, showing their weekly SPOT Ratings, biggest feuds and title reigns chronologically.



RED BASTIEN IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
SPOT Rating	[Blue bar spanning all months]													
Feuds														
vs L. Hennig & L. Anderson (w/R. Bastien)	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]							
vs Ray Stevens								[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]		[Yellow bar]	
vs N. Bockwinkel & R. Stevens (w/Crusher)											[Yellow bar]			
vs Vachon Brothers (w/H. Cortez)			[Yellow bar]	[Yellow bar]	[Yellow bar]	[Yellow bar]								
vs Nick Bockwinkel											[Yellow bar]			
Titles														
World TT (w/Cortez)						[Grey bar]								
World TT (w/Crusher)									[Grey bar]					

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

NICK BOCKWINKEL IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SPOT Rating	[Orange bar spanning all months]											
Feuds												
vs Bull Bullinski			[Yellow bar]	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]					
vs Paul Diamond			[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]						
vs Crusher & R. Bastien (w/R. Stevens)										[Yellow bar]		
vs Hercules Cortez							[Yellow bar]					
vs Red Bastien											[Yellow bar]	

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

BLACKJACK LANZA IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
SPOT Rating	[Orange bar spanning all months]												
Feuds													
vs Billy Robinson								[Yellow bar]		[Yellow bar]			
vs Bull Bullinski	[Yellow bar]	[Yellow bar]											
vs Billy Red Cloud			[Yellow bar]		[Yellow bar]								

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

THE CRUSHER IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SPOT Rating	[Blue bar covering all months]											
Feuds												
vs N. Bockwinkel & R. Stevens (w/R. Bastien)	[Yellow bars in OCT, NOV, DEC]											
vs Strong Kobayashi	[Yellow bars in MAY, JUN, JUL]											
vs Vachon Brothers (w/B. Bullinski)	[Yellow bars in JAN, FEB]											
vs Larry Hennig	[Yellow bars in FEB, MAR]											
Titles												
World TT (w/Bastien)	[Grey bar covering SEP, OCT, NOV, DEC]											

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

BILLY ROBINSON IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SPOT Rating	[Empty]						[Blue bar covering all months]					
Feuds												
vs Blackjack Lanza	[Yellow bars in JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT]											
vs Bobby Heenan	[Yellow bars in SEP, OCT]											
vs Big K	[Yellow bars in JUL, AUG]											
vs Larry Hennig	[Yellow bars in JUL, AUG]											
vs Ray Stevens	[Yellow bars in NOV, DEC]											

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

STRONG KOBAYASHI IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SPOT Rating	[Orange bar covering all months]						[Empty]					
Feuds												
vs Crusher	[Yellow bars in MAY, JUN, JUL]											
vs Verne Gagne	[Yellow bars in APR, MAY]											
vs Red Bastien	[Yellow bars in JAN, FEB]											

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

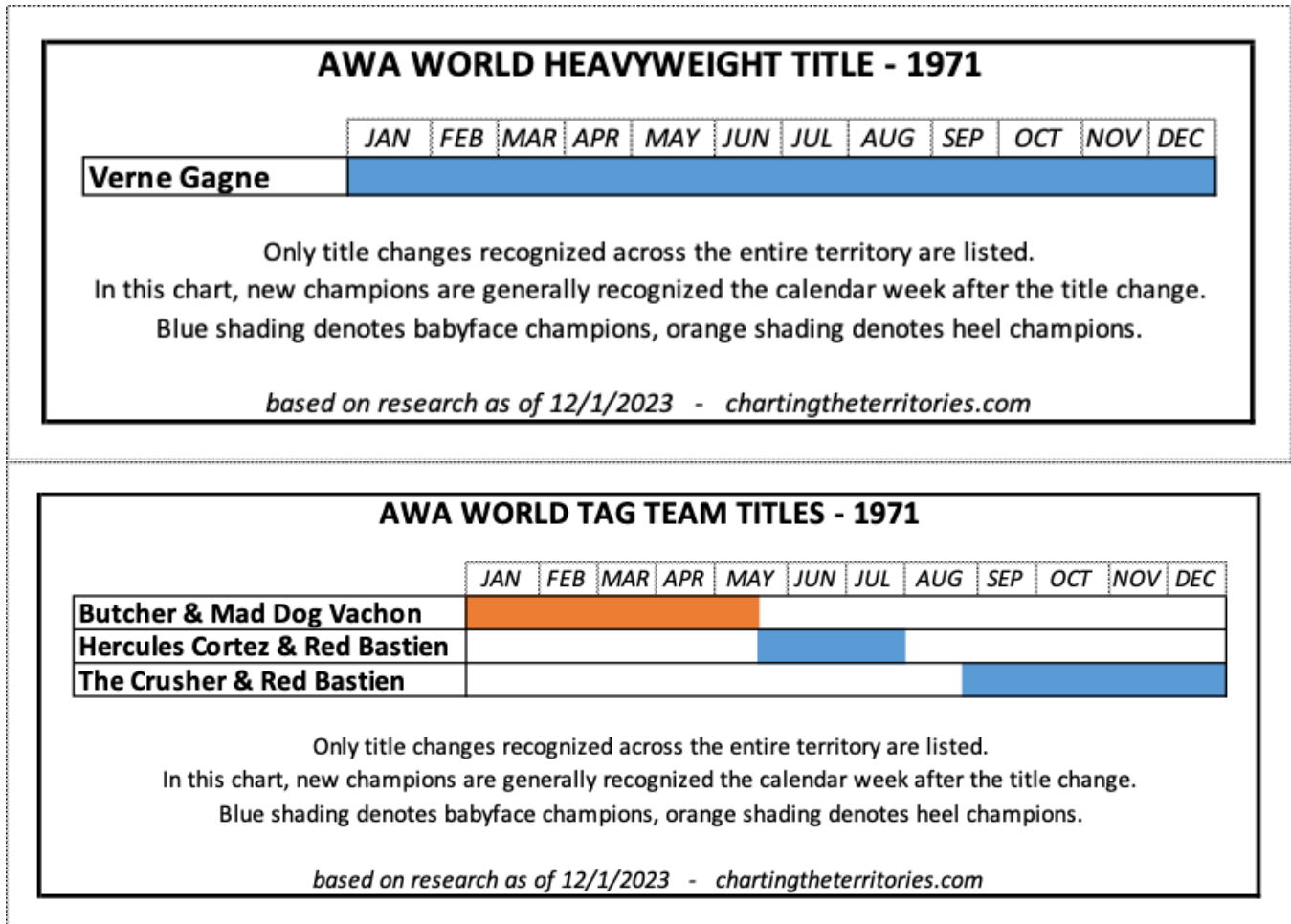
BULL BULLINSKI IN THE AWA - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SPOT Rating												
Feuds												
vs Nick Bockwinkel												
vs Vachon Brothers (w/Crusher)												
vs Ray Stevens												
vs Ivan Koloff												
vs Blackjack Lanza												

based on research as of 12/1/2023 - 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.



Charting the World Champ

Here are all the advertised/documentated house show appearances by Verne Gagne in the territory during 1971. All singles matches were title defenses unless otherwise noted.

- 1/9 Chicago – Edouard Carpentier beat Gagne by disqualification
- 1/30 Minneapolis – Gagne beat Strong Kobayashi by reverse decision after Wally Karbo informed the referee that Kobayashi’s manager (The Big K) had distracted Gagne, leading to Kobayashi hitting him from behind and pinning him
- 3/20 St. Paul – Verne Gagne & Haystack Calhoun went to a double disqualification with Mad Dog & Butcher Vachon
- 4/3 St. Paul – Gagne beat Mad Dog Vachon by countout

- 4/10 Chicago – Gagne defeated Strong Kobayashi
- 4/13 Bismarck – Gagne defeated Blackjack Lanza
- 4/16 Denver – Gagne defeated Strong Kobayashi by disqualification
- 4/28 Fargo – Gagne beat Blackjack Lanza
- 4/29 Winnipeg – Gagne defeated Strong Kobayashi
- 4/30 Milwaukee – Strong Kobayashi beat Gagne by disqualification (Verne DQ'd for choking Kobayashi)
- 5/15 Chicago – Gagne went to a double disqualification with Strong Kobayashi
- 5/22 Minneapolis – Gagne defeated Strong Kobayashi
- 7/10 Milwaukee – Gagne beat Edouard Carpentier
- 7/24 Minneapolis – Nick Bockwinkel pinned Verne Gagne in a non-title match (originally scheduled as Bockwinkel vs Hercules Cortez)
- 7/31 Milwaukee – Gagne beat Nick Bockwinkel by disqualification when Nick threw him over the ropes
- 9/10 Denver – Gagne defeated Nick Bockwinkel
- 9/24 Denver – Nick Bockwinkel beat Gagne by disqualification when Verne threw Nick over the top rope
- 10/7 Winnipeg – Gagne beat Blackjack Lanza; Bobby Heenan's attempted interference was thwarted, leading to him jumping off the top rope onto Lanza
- 10/30 Milwaukee – Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens beat Gagne & Billy Robinson by disqualification
- 11/9 Chicago – Nick Bockwinkel defeated Gagne by disqualification
- 12/4 St. Paul – Nick Bockwinkel beat Gagne by disqualification after Verne "used an illegal sleeper hold"
- 12/10 Denver – Gagne beat Ray Stevens by disqualification when Stevens rammed Verne's head into a corner post outside the ring
- 12/30 Chicago – Gagne defeated Nick Bockwinkel

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 85 house shows in 1971. They are broken down by market below.

DENVER

We have figures for 7 shows (out of 18). The average attendance for these was 5,154.

Largest crowd: 6,859 on 2/25 (Cortez & Bastien vs Hennig & Anderson)

DULUTH

We have figures for 11 shows (out of 14). The average attendance for these was 2,124.

Largest crowd: 3,100 on 3/21 (Cortez & Bastien vs Hennig & Anderson)

GREEN BAY (and De Pere)

We have figures for all 8 shows held in the greater Green Bay area (three in nearby De Pere and five in Green Bay). The shows in De Pere averaged 2,367 and the shows in Green Bay averaged 4,795 (average for all 8 shows was 3,885).

Largest crowd: 5,516 on 10/24 (Crusher vs Lanza)

MILWAUKEE

We have figures for 16 shows (out of 18). Eleven of the shows with attendance figures were held at the Milwaukee Auditorium and five were held at the Milwaukee Arena, a larger venue. The shows at the Arena averaged 10,806 and the shows at the Auditorium averaged 6,609 (average for all 16 shows was 7,549).

Largest crowd: 12,300 on 10/9 (Crusher vs Bockwinkel)

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

We have figures for 10 shows in Minneapolis (out of 17) and 6 shows in St. Paul (out of 13). The shows in Minneapolis averaged 5,835 and the shows in St. Paul averaged 5,098 (average for all 16 shows was 5,558).

Largest crowd: 8,500 on 12/4 (V. Gagne vs Bockwinkel)

SHEBOYGAN

We have figures for 4 cards (out of 5). The average attendance for these was 2,870.

Largest crowd: 3,684 on 3/25 (Cortez & Bastien vs Hennig & Anderson)

WINNIPEG

We have figures for 10 cards (out of 14). The average attendance for these was 6,196.

Largest crowd: 8,700 on 2/15 (Cortez & Bastien vs Hennig & Anderson + Crusher vs Mad Dog Vachon)

Other attendance figures:

- Bismarck drew 3,000 fans on 1/29 and 2,000 on 2/16
- Fond du Lac drew 2,300 on 5/30
- La Crosse drew 1,000 on 3/2
- Menomonie drew 750 on 1/11
- Oshkosh drew 2,000 on 5/12
- Peoria drew 1,000 on 10/28 and 3,000 on 12/28

Link to House Show Lineups and Results

We have shared our newspaper clippings and other documents with wrestlingdata.com to aid them in providing comprehensive information.

To see the cards and all available results from 1971, visit

<https://www.wrestlingdata.com/index.php?befehl=shows&sort=liga&kategorie=8&liga=16&jahr=1971&monat=0&showart=&ansicht=1>