

GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING 1971: A Year in the Life

Table of Contents

TERRITORY FACT SHEET	2
RANKINGS	3
WRESTLER PROFILES BY DAVID GIBB.....	4
ROSTER.....	9
EVENT CENTER.....	14
FEUDS.....	15
TITLE HOLDERS AND HISTORIES	21
TAKING ATTENDANCE.....	24
HOUSE SHOW LINEUPS AND RESULTS.....	25

Territory Fact Sheet

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

PRO WRESTLING TERRITORY FACT SHEET		1971
GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING		
SAMPLE WEEK		
MON 2/1	LAUREL MS	
	PANAMA CITY FL	
TUE 2/2	MERIDIAN MS	
WED 2/3	MOBILE AL	
THU 2/4	CRESTVIEW FL	
	HATTIESBURG MS	
FRI 2/5	DOTHAN AL	
	PASCAGOULA MS	
SAT 2/6	GULFPORT MS	
	QUINCY FL	
SUN 2/7	PENSACOLA FL	
TOP SINGLES	TOP TEAMS	
EDDIE SULLIVAN DON FARGO BOBBY SHANE THE WRESTLING PRO MIKE BOYETTE	DANDY JACK MORRELL & EDDIE SULLIVAN BOBBY SHANE & TERRY GARVIN JOHNNY WEST & KEN LUCAS	
TOP RIVALRIES		
DICK DUNN VS DON FARGO DICK DUNN VS WRESTLING PRO COWBOY BOB KELLY VS EDDIE SULLIVAN KEN LUCAS VS EDDIE SULLIVAN		
TITLE CHANGES		
GULF COAST HEAVYWEIGHT	9	
GULF COAST TAG TEAM	5	
U.S. TAG TEAM	9	
ALABAMA HEAVYWEIGHT	8	
MISSISSIPPI HEAVYWEIGHT	12	
MISSISSIPPI TAG TEAM	3	
HOUSE SHOW RECORDS		
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	471	SHOWS PER WEEK
		9.1
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS
		85-90%
MISC. BOOKING STATS		
HEEL/FACE TURNS	5+	ROSTER TURNOVER
		185%
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS
AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 20.0		OVERALL
MAIN EVENTERS (5.0)		
UPPER MID-CARDERS (7.6)		
MID-CARDERS (5.8)		
PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS (1.6)		
MID-CARDS		
PRELIMS		

ORIGINAL DESIGN: NICK BOND @THEINCKSTER

©2023 CHARTING THE TERRITORIES LLC

Rankings

This is a list of the “most pushed acts” in the territory during the year. For Gulf Coast, I separated the western part of the territory (Mississippi) and the eastern part (Alabama/Florida). While most of the wrestlers in the territory worked in towns on both ends in a given week, some wrestlers stayed more on one “side” than the other for periods of time.

RANKINGS FOR GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

ALABAMA/FLORIDA END

- 1 - THE WRESTLING PRO**
- 2 - DON FARGO**
- 3 - DICK DUNN**
- 4 - MIKE BOYETTE**
- 5 - BOBBY SHANE**
- 6 - MIKE BOYETTE & PRINCE PULLINS**
- 7 - DON & JOHNNY FARGO**
- 8 - JOHNNY WEST & KEN LUCAS**
- 9 - PRINCE PULLINS**
- 10 - KEN LUCAS**

MISSISSIPPI END

- 1 - EDDIE SULLIVAN**
- 2 - COWBOY BOB KELLY & FRANK DALTON**
- 3 - RIP TYLER**
- 4 - COWBOY BOB KELLY**
- 5 - FRANK DALTON**
- 6 - BOBBY SHANE & TERRY GARVIN**
- 7 - EDDIE SULLIVAN & PRINCE PULLINS**
- 8 - BOBBY SHANE**
- 9 - KEN LUCAS**
- 10 - ROCKET MONROE**

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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Wrestler Profiles by David Gibb

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

BOBBY SHANE

Bobby Shane is a little like John F. Kennedy. To those born after his death, he's primarily known for having died tragically, and the fuzzy glow of hagiography makes him difficult to reconstruct in a way that's free from nostalgia.

It's demonstrably true that his name was Robert Lee Schoenberger and he was wrestling in the Pacific Northwest by the time he was 18 as "Bobby Schoen." Soon, accuracy gave way to simplicity, and "Wonder Boy" Bobby Shane was born. The Wonder Boy was a literal babyface with a soft jawline and the sort of clean-cut good looks that were already a little dated by the mid '60s if you were a musician or an actor but worked for an athlete.



Throughout the first several years of his career, Shane competed in the wrestling hubs of Portland, Vancouver, Kansas City, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Detroit, and San Francisco, among others. At each step in his journey, he moved up the card, and he never returned to a territory for a spot that was below the one he had left there.

By the time he was 21, Shane had won titles in small territories like Heart of America and Joe Dusek's Nebraska promotion. Success in Georgia, one of the primary star-making territories, followed with his first Georgia Heavyweight Title reign in 1967. In 1970, he and Doug Gilbert were Georgia Tag Team Champions as The Challenger and The Professional, respectively.

Following that run, Bobby Shane moved into a feud with heel champion Nick Bockwinkel over the Heavyweight Title he'd held a few years prior. He and Bockwinkel had been a babyface tag team combination in Hawaii the previous year, even enjoying a month-long reign as Hawaii Tag Team Champions.

Maybe seeing the success Bockwinkel was having as a rule-breaker stirred something in the twenty-five-year-old Shane – Nick was someone who'd stagnated as an up-and-coming babyface exploding into undeniable superstardom thanks to an attitude change. Unlike Bockwinkel, however, Shane didn't have the patience (or, ultimately, time) to wait until his mid-thirties.

In the final weeks of 1970, Bobby was booked on a Christmas Day show in Dothan, Alabama for Gulf Coast Championship Wrestling, which was promoted by Lee Fields, a cousin to the expansive Welch wrestling family, motorsports pioneer, and alleged descendant of *those* Hatfields. The results of that show are lost, but Shane must've made an impression, as he returned to Gulf Coast on a full-time basis by mid-January of 1971. For the first time in his life, the Wonder Boy was positioned as a villain.

In the Gulf Coast region, where pretty much every legally designated place had its own championship, the way to show you were a serious competitor was to win titles, and Bobby Shane did just that in the first four months of 1971. On January 17th, he defeated Ken Lucas to win the City of Pensacola Heavyweight Title. Five days later, he bested Dick Dunn to capture the Alabama State Heavyweight Title. Six days after that, he overcame local stalwart Bobby Fields to claim the Mississippi State Heavyweight Title. The first week of February, he won the City of Mobile Title from Cowboy Bob Kelly. A few weeks in Japan for the JWA offered a brief respite for the other babyface titleholders. By mid-April, however, Shane and Terry Garvin were tag team champions in the cities of Laurel, Meridian, and Hattiesburg.

All those reigns were relatively short, as was the norm in the territory, but the sheer number of notches Bobby put on his proverbial belt during his introduction to Gulf Coast fans showed that he was rapidly evolving into an entity that a smaller territory could build around. The one title he was conspicuously kept away from in those early days was the Gulf Coast Heavyweight Title, which was generally defended in Mobile and Pensacola, the promotion's two biggest cities. That title belonged to "Cowboy" Bob Kelly, the top area star since Fields himself had retired in the late '60s.

Shane and Kelly found themselves across the ring from each other in Mobile on April 14th for a six-man tag match that saw The Wrestling Pro (Leon "Tarzan" Baxter) and Terry Garvin team with Shane against Kelly and his back-up of Ken Lucas and Mike Boyette. That match was part of a special card Gulf Coast bolstered with national stars like The Fabulous Moolah, Bearcat Brown, and the Infernos called "The Spring Wrestling Festival." The show reportedly drew over 9,000 fans to the Mobile City Auditorium, massively eclipsing the normal weekly crowds at the Fort Whiting Armory.

Moving forward, Bobby Shane was treated like a top star in Mobile, feuding with area legend Lee Fields. When Shane's regular partner Terry Garvin was injured, Fields, the circuit's authority figure, forced Shane to partner with "younger brother" Jimmy Garvin instead of his preferred substitute, Eddie Sullivan. A television angle filmed in Pensacola saw Shane attack Fields, leading to a wild brawl which included Lee's 12-year old son Ricky grabbing hold of Shane's ankle and biting it. This led to a grudge match main event on May 19th between Shane and Fields that drew more than 6,000 to the City Auditorium without the presence of any outside stars.

That main event was something of a breakout for Shane. He wore a crown and white gloves to the ring for the first documented time, perhaps to assert himself as the king of wrestlers, or perhaps as a mockery of Fields' old-time ego. The match was a wild, bloody, deeply personal affair that foreshadowed the style Shane would become known for, and unlike most snotty young heels taking on area legends, he prevailed, defeating Fields.

And then he wrapped up. Just a few days after besting Fields in Mobile and asserting himself as one of the business' great rising young heels, Shane headed to the McGuirk territory for a couple of months followed by a run in East Texas. He wasn't moving on to find the next person to put over like a journeyman heel; he had been leveled-up by a promoter/former star who had something to give, and he was sent on his way to continue growing as a star – with one expected condition, of course.

Throughout the rest of the year, Bobby would return to Gulf Coast for profitable one-offs, and he undeniably helped grow the territory, which took on the City Auditorium as its regular venue in Mobile based on the strength of the business Shane had helped build. In August, a rematch between he and Fields drew 8,000 fans – nearly matching the all-hands-on-deck number they had drawn in the spring – all of whom went home happy when Shane submitted to Fields' armbar.

In November of '71, Shane brought the "King of Wrestling" gimmick to Florida for the first time, and by 1973, he was one of the Southeast's biggest regional stars, receiving invitations to wrestle on Vince McMahon Sr.'s showcase cards in Boston and Philadelphia. By early 1975, Shane was 29 and had just accepted his first big management position, taking on booking the Florida territory for Eddie Graham, when the airplane he was traveling in missed the runway of Tampa's Peter O. Knight Airport, killing Shane and severely injuring three others.

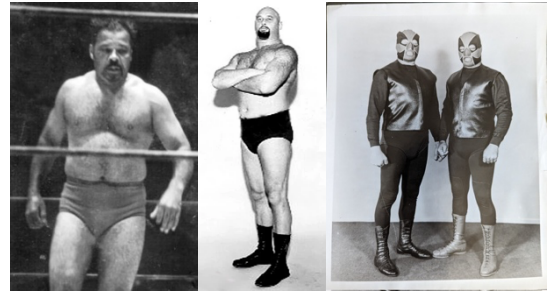
THE UNTOUCHABLES (FRANK MARTINEZ & KARL VON STROHEIM)

The Untouchables, Frank Martinez & Karl Von Stroheim, were two decade-plus veterans and known tag team specialists who hooked up in 1971 in hope of making one more good run.

Prior to partnering with Von Stroheim, Frank Martinez (born Efrain Martinez in Puerto Rico) had debuted in the Northeast in the early '60s before transferring south in 1966 and becoming a member of one of Nick Gulas' many

masked tag teams, The Blue Infernos. His partner at that time was

Gilberto Melendez, the future Gypsy Joe. After a year and half, Martinez bounced to Florida, where he was paired with Al Greene as The Blue Demons – basically the same gimmick. In the fall of '68, he brought the Demons to LeRoy McGuirk's territory with partner Joe Soto, who he'd later to bring to Florida and Georgia (where they were "The Super Assassins").



Martinez

Von
Stroheim

Together as Dr. Death #1
& #2 in Tennessee

In 1970, Martinez reunited with Greene sans masks for six months before heading to Florida in October as a single. Hopefully Martinez enjoyed the weather, as he plummeted down the card.

Karl Von Stroheim was also in Florida that fall, having struggled there for a better part of a year before Martinez arrived. He was the same age as Martinez (they both turned 43 in 1971) and had been wrestling a few years longer, starting his career in the '50s with the name Wally "The Skull" Nurnberg – a minor play on his legal name.

In the spring and summer of 1962 in the Detroit territory, Nurnberg tagged a few times with Willi Kurt Rutkowski, who had just changed his wrestling name from "Johnny Stein" to "Kurt Von Stroheim." Almost exactly a year later, the two debuted in the Gulas-Welch territory as Kurt & Karl Von Stroheim, making them essentially "The New Von Brauners."

The Von Stroheims enjoyed nearly four years of success, holding titles in the greater Memphis territory, Florida, and Australia – all former Von Brauner strongholds. In late '67, the two went their separate ways, with Karl having runs in Oklahoma, the Northeast, and Georgia before landing in Florida in early 1970. On cards in the Sunshine State, Karl was used as high as the upper-midcard, but not consistently, as the territory was absolutely flooded with strong talent.

In March of 1971, Martinez and Von Stroheim both wound up back in the Gulas territory, where they combined forces as the masked "Dr. Death #1 & Dr. Death #2." That team lasted a couple of months before being unmasked by Dennis Hall & Jimmy Golden in June.

Concurrently, the Doctors Death were appearing on John Cazana's Knoxville cards, which combined his local roster (famously Ron & Don Wright and Whitey Caldwell) with talent from the Gulas-Welch booking office. In Knoxville, Martinez and Von Stroheim worked as "The Untouchables." As in Birmingham, the Knoxville angle ended in June, putting both men in need of a new home.

In late June of 1971, Martinez & Von Stroheim debuted for Gulf Coast Championship Wrestling as The Untouchables. While they never reached the upper echelons of the roster, their dance card was full, wrestling night after night in a territory that covered the Florida panhandle, southern Alabama, and southeastern Mississippi.

Unlike most other territories, where one established heel team rotated through babyface combinations, the Gulf Coast territory had what we would call a “tag team division.” In addition to The Untouchables, the locker room included The Alaskans (Frank Monte & Mike York), The Daltons (Jim Baugus & Randy Colley), Eddie Sullivan & Rip Tyler, and The Blue Yankees (Billy Hamilton & Mark Starr). Babyfaces such as Cowboy Bob Kelly, Dick Dunn, Ken Lucas, and the recently-turned-good Mike Boyette took on various partners – including but not limited to each other – to oppose the various heel teams across the territory.

Thanks to that lineup, a main event spot in the big towns remained untouchable to Martinez & Von Stroheim, although they became a go-to team in the smaller rooms. In Laurel, Mississippi, for example, they faced Bobby Fields (Mississippi promoter Virgil “Speedy” Hatfield’s son) & Kelly in semi-main events for three straight weeks.

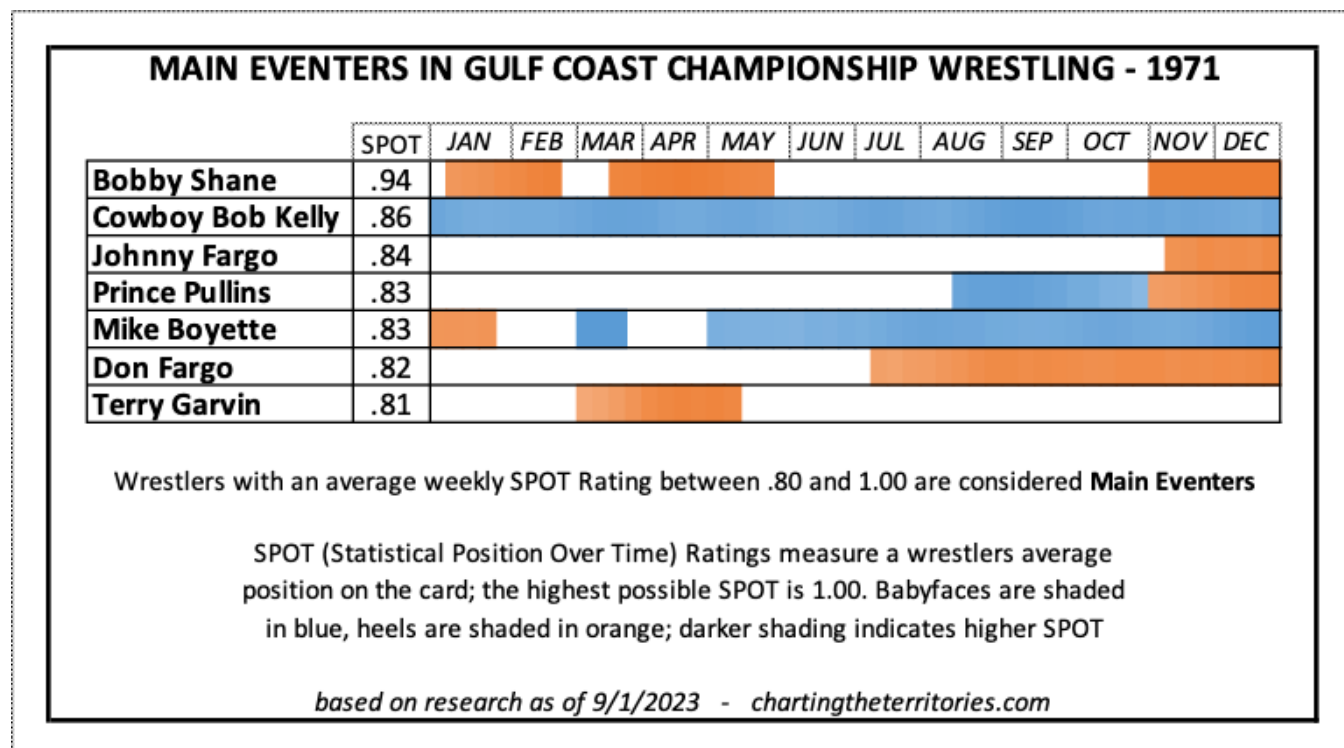
Two months later, in Laurel, The Untouchables had a three-match series with Kelly & Frank Dalton over the Mississippi State Tag Team Championships. To get their shot, Martinez & Von Stroheim had to unmask (a semi-common obstacle promoters would put in a masked heel team’s way, only to be shocked when the heels complied). The first match saw a screwy finish that necessitated a rematch with a special referee. The Untouchables wanted ally Eddie Sullivan to wear the stripes, but the promoters sided with the babyfaces, selecting Plowboy Frazier. Something untoward happened there as well, setting up a six-man tag that pitted The Untouchables & Sullivan against Kelly, Dalton, and Frazier.

Martinez & Von Stroheim also feuded with Kelly and Dalton in Pascagoula, having a five-match series that culminated in early September of ’71. Like many towns in the territory, Pascagoula had its own tag titles, which were signified by a pair of nifty jackets. Most of the details of that smaller-town rivalry are lost, but we know that in match three-of-five, promoter Speedy Hatfield held the jackets at ringside, indicating the titles were likely vacated at some point in the feud.

By the fall, The Untouchables had to have known that their days were numbered. They’d removed their masks in at least four of the territory’s towns, and they’d been soundly beaten by the area’s top stars. What looked like it could’ve been a career-extending partnership for both men fizzled out in six months. In November, Von Stroheim returned to Georgia, and Martinez went to Florida.

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.



Cowboy Bob Kelly

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/10/15/cowboy-bob-kelly-was-the-ultimate-hometown-hero/>

Johnny Fargo (Greg Valentine)

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2011/07/07/before-he-was-the-hammer-valentine-was-johnny-fargo/>

Mike Boyette <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2012/07/07/mike-the-hippie-boyette-dies/>

Don Fargo <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2015/11/08/don-fargo-man-of-many-names-dies/>

Terry Garvin <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/01/02/terry-garvin-a-career-overshadowed/>

UPPER MID-CARDERS IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Jack Dalton	.78						Orange	Orange					
The Wrestling Pro	.78	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green
Jim Dalton	.78						Orange	Orange					
Wrestling Pro #2/Tim Tyler	.76	Orange	Orange										
Eddie Sullivan	.76	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Don Carson	.76	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue							
Rip Tyler	.75						Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Ken Lucas	.73	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Frank Dalton	.72		Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Mark Starr/Blue Yankee #2	.72						Orange	Orange	Orange				
The Great Ota	.70				Orange	Orange	Orange						
Mr. Koma	.70												
Frank Monte	.69									Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Mike York	.69									Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Bobby Fields	.69	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Dick Dunn	.68	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Dandy Jack Morrell	.67	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange						
Flash Monroe	.62	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange							
Rocket Monroe	.61	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange							Orange

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 card; the highest possible SPOT is 1.00. Babyfaces are shaded in blue, heels are shaded in orange, The Wrestling Pro worked as a babyface in some towns and as a heel in others towards the end of the year; darker shading indicates higher SPOT

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

The Wrestling Pro (Leon "Tarzan" Baxter)

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2019/08/28/leon-the-wrestling-pro-baxter-was-a-top-gulf-coast-heel/>

Ken Lucas

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/08/07/ken-lucas-dead-at-73-was-a-consummated-babyface/>

Bobby Fields

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2011/08/17/bobby-fields-dead-at-77-was-gulf-coast-star/>

Rocket Monroe

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2010/06/08/maury-high-the-second-rocket-monroe-dies/>

MID-CARDERS IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Johnny West	.57												
Karl Von Stroheim	.56												
Frank Martinez	.54												
Nikita Mulkovich	.54												
Eduardo Perez	.52												
Gentleman Jim	.49												
Bob Boyer	.47												
Greg Peterson	.46												
Black Bart	.45												
Rick Sanchez	.45												
Pepe Gomez	.43												
Ramon Perez	.42												
Jackie Welch	.41												

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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Johnny West (Kevin Sullivan)

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2009/08/05/sullivan-youshoot-intriguing/>

Karl Von Stroheim

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/08/15/hockey-injury-led-to-wrestling-for-karl-von-stroheim/>

PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Hurricane Rivera	.39								■	■			
Pedro Columbo	.39							■	■	■			■
Ron Hill/Gladiator	.38								■	■			
Don Serrano	.37	■	■	■	■								
Oki Shikina	.32				■	■							
Marcel Vachon	.31							■					

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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Don Serrano <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2021/02/23/journeyman-don-serrano-dies/>

PART-TIME WRESTLERS IN IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
The Pascagoula Plowboy	.72	■			■		■			■	■	■	■
The Blue Yankee/Billy Hamilton	.61						■	■	■	■	■	■	■
The Destroyer	.50							■	■				
Miguel Feliciano	.44								■				
Ricky Gibson	.44										■		■
Joe Turner	.43	■											
Bill Sky	.42		■	■									
Al Coco	.40								■				
Bob Burns	.40				■								
Bad Boy Hines	.38											■	■
Joe Flaherty	.37		■	■									
Dick Taylor	.33										■		

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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Pascagoula Plowboy (Stan "Uncle Elmer" Frazier)

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2008/05/16/mat-matters-singing-the-praises-of-the-underappreciated-stan-uncle-elmer-frazier/>

Ricky Gibson <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/09/20/the-forgotten-talent-of-rick-gibson/>

Joe Turner

<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2014/05/03/southern-tag-team-legend-joe-turner-dead-at-74/>

Bill Sky (aka Bill Bowman)

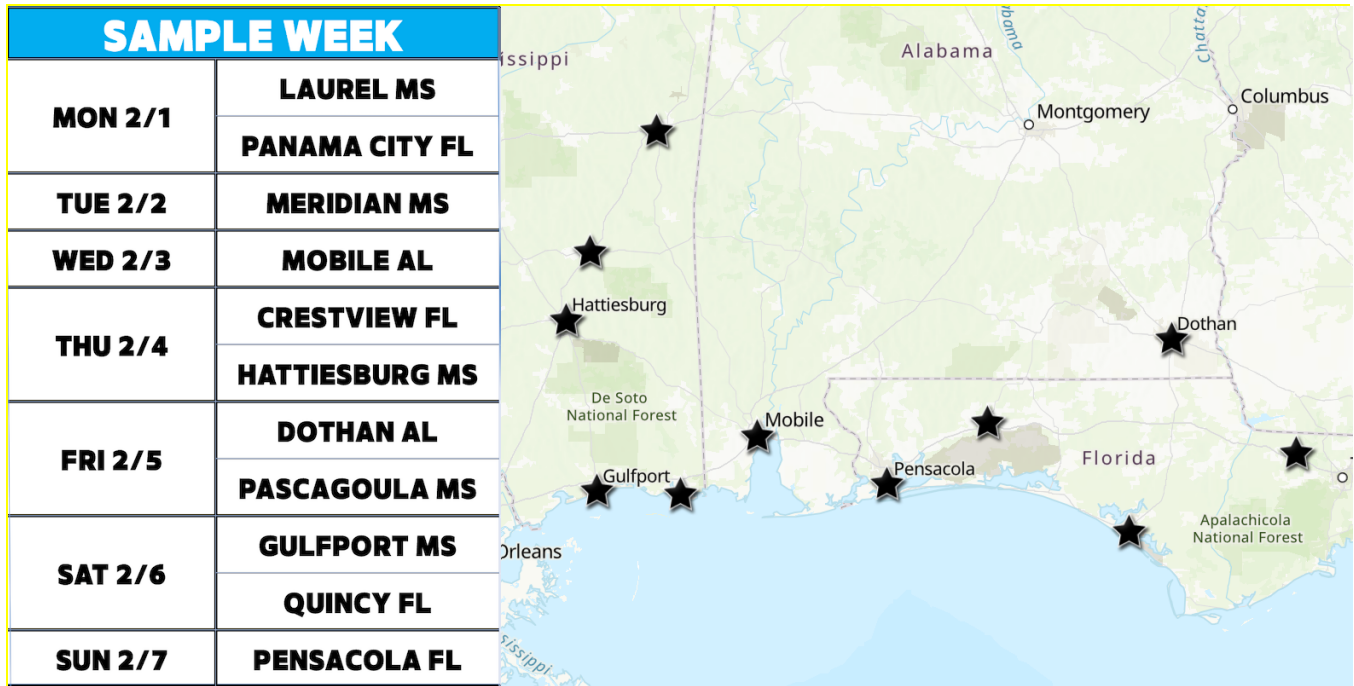
<https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2015/10/09/bowman-was-star-as-bill-sky-and-an-intern/>

Event Center

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

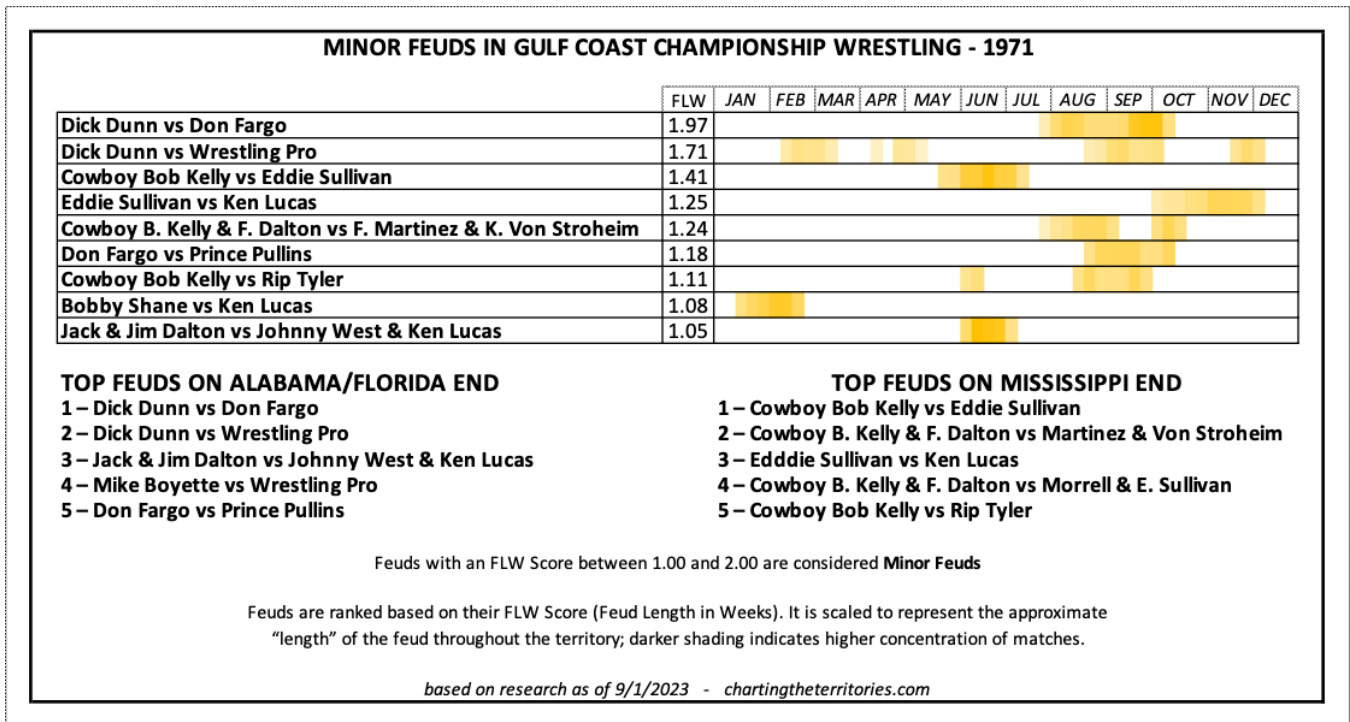
Video available on the Charting the Territories channel on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/-PjerzNsFt8>



Feuds

Here is a chart listing the biggest feuds in the territory using a metric called Feud Length in Weeks (FLW for short). It also lists the top feuds in each “end” of the territory.



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.

Don Fargo vs Prince Pullins in Mobile

- 8/18 Pullins won by countout after kicking Fargo over the top rope and to the floor (not seen by referee Lynn Sasser who was knocked out, but recovered in time to count Fargo out of the ring)
- 8/25 Gulf Coast Heavyweight title: Fargo won by disqualification after Pullins knocked him over the top rope to the floor
- 9/1 Gulf Coast Heavyweight title, no disqualification: Both men were counted out while fighting outside the ring
- 9/8 Ten rounds boxing: Pullins won by disqualification when Fargo kicked him in the stomach in the seventh round
- 9/22 Gulf Coast Heavyweight title: Fargo pinned Pullins after a back breaker

Cowboy Bob Kelly vs Rip Tyler in Mobile and Gulfport

Mobile

- 5/26 Gulf Coast Heavyweight title: Tyler won the match and the title. Kelly won the first fall with “his famed bulldog hold”, Tyler won the second fall with a backbreaker, and Tyler won the third fall when he “forced him [Kelly] to surrender to a tortuous arm hold”
- 6/9 Gulf Coast Heavyweight title: Kelly won the match. Kelly won the first fall with his bulldog hold and won the second fall after jumping on Tyler’s back from the top rope while Tyler was checking on referee Jack Morgan (who had been bumped twice during the second fall). Kelly was to have won the title due to this victory, but Tyler complained that Kelly had won with an illegal move (jumping off the top rope) and ran off with the belt.
- 6/16 Gulf Coast Heavyweight title: Kelly won the match and full claim to the title. Kelly won the first fall with his bulldog hold, Tyler won the second fall with a “shoulder slide”, and Kelly won the third by pinfall.

Gulfport

- 9/11 Kelly won the match, winning the third fall by countout when Tyler left the ring to avoid Kelly’s bulldog hold
- 9/18 Lumberjack match: Tyler won the match. Kelly won the first fall with his bulldog hold, Tyler won the second fall with “arm drops into the ropes and an elbow to the throat”, and Tyler won the third fall after interference from Eddie Sullivan.
- 9/25 Mississippi Heavyweight title, Eddie Sullivan to be escorted from arena: Kelly won in two straight falls. He won the first by disqualification when Eddie Sullivan refused to leave the arena and won the second fall by disqualification when he threw Kelly over the top rope.

Jack & Jim Dalton vs Johnny West & Ken Lucas in Panama City

- 6/10 West & Lucas won
- 6/17 Gulf Coast Tag Team titles: The Daltons won the match after Lucas and Jack were “floored in a double knockout” but Jim switched places with Jack
- 6/24 Gulf Coast Tag Team titles: West & Lucas regained the titles when the Daltons were disqualified
- 7/1 West & Lucas 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.

EDDIE SULLIVAN IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Cowboy Bob Kelly	[Orange bar from JAN to AUG]								[Orange bar from SEP to DEC]			
vs Ken Lucas										[Yellow bar from OCT to NOV]	[Yellow bar in DEC]	
vs Cowboy B. Kelly & F. Dalton (w/Dandy Jack Morrell)					[Yellow bar in MAY]	[Yellow bar in JUN]						
vs Frank Dalton						[Yellow bar in JUN]	[Yellow bar in JUL]					
vs Mike Boyette											[Yellow bar in NOV]	[Yellow bar in DEC]
vs Cowboy B. Kelly & K. Lucas (w/Dandy Jack Morrell)	[Yellow bar in JAN]	[Yellow bar in FEB]										

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

DON FARGO IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Dick Dunn							[Orange bar from JUL to DEC]					
vs Prince Pullins							[Yellow bar in JUL]	[Yellow bar in AUG]	[Yellow bar in SEP]	[Yellow bar in OCT]		
vs Ken Lucas						[Yellow bar in JUN]				[Yellow bar in OCT]	[Yellow bar in NOV]	
vs Wrestling Pro										[Yellow bar in OCT]	[Yellow bar in NOV]	

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

BOBBY SHANE IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Ken Lucas	[Orange bar from JAN to FEB]			[Orange bar from APR to MAY]								[Orange bar in DEC]
vs Cowboy Bob Kelly	[Yellow bar in JAN]	[Yellow bar in FEB]										
vs Wrestling Pro				[Yellow bar in APR]								

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

THE WRESTLING PRO IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	Orange						Orange				Green	
vs Dick Dunn		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
vs Mike Boyette							Yellow	Yellow				
vs Don Carson & Ken Lucas (w/Pro #2)	Yellow	Yellow										
vs Don Fargo										Yellow	Yellow	
vs Bobby Shane				Yellow	Yellow							
vs Dick Dunn & Don Carson (w/Pro #2)	Yellow	Yellow										

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

MIKE BOYETTE IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	Orange		Blue		Blue							
vs Wrestling Pro							Yellow	Yellow				
vs Eddie Sullivan											Yellow	Yellow
vs Cowboy Bob Kelly	Yellow	Yellow										
vs Rip Tyler						Yellow	Yellow					
vs E. Perez & R. Tyler (w/P. Pullins)								Yellow	Yellow			

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

RIP TYLER IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
						Orange						
vs Cowboy Bob Kelly						Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
vs Mike Boyette						Yellow	Yellow					
vs Ken Lucas							Yellow	Yellow				
vs M. Boyette & P. Pullins (w/E. Perez)								Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
vs Prince Pullins								Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

PRINCE PULLINS IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Don Fargo												
vs E. Perez & R. Tyler (w/M. Boyette)												
vs Rip Tyler												

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

COWBOY BOB KELLY IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Eddie Sullivan												
vs F. Martinez & K. Von Stroheim (w/F. Dalton)												
vs Rip Tyler												
vs Dandy J. Morrell & E. Sullivan (w/F. Dalton)												
vs Bobby Shane												
vs Jack & Jim Dalton (w/F. Dalton)												
vs Terry Garvin												
vs F. Dalton & T. Garvin (w/B. Fields)												
vs Mike Boyette												
vs Dandy J. Morrell & E. Sullivan (w/K. Lucas)												

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

DICK DUNN IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Don Fargo												
vs Wrestling Pro												
vs Flash & Rocket Monroe (w/D. Carson)												
vs Wrestling Pro & Pro #2 (w/D. Carson)												

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

KEN LUCAS IN GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
vs Eddie Sullivan												
vs Bobby Shane												
vs Jack & Jim Dalton (w/Johnny West)												
vs Wrestling Pro & Pro #2 (w/D. Carson)												
vs Great Ota & Mr. Koma (w/J. West)												
vs Don Fargo												
vs Dandy J. Morrell & E. Sullivan (w/Cowboy B. Kelly)												
vs Rip Tyler												

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - 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.

GULF COAST HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE - GULF COAST - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mike Boyette	Orange											
Cowboy Bob Kelly		Blue		Blue		Blue						
The Wrestling Pro			Orange								Orange	
Rip Tyler						Orange						
Don Fargo								Orange	Orange			Orange
Ken Lucas										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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

GULF COAST TAG TEAM TITLES - GULF COAST - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Don Carson & Greg Peterson	Blue	Blue										
Dandy Jack Morrell & Eddie Sullivan			Orange	Orange								
Johnny West & Ken Lucas					Blue	Blue	Blue					
Jack & Jim Dalton							Orange					
Frank Dalton & Mike Boyette										Blue	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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

U.S. TAG TEAM TITLES - GULF COAST - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Great Ota & Mr. Koma												
Mike Boyette & The Wrestling Pro												
Ken Lucas & Mike Boyette												
Johnny West & Ken Lucas												
Eddie Sullivan & Rip Tyler												
Mike Boyette & Prince Pullins												
Frank Monte & Mike York												
Cowboy Bob Kelly & Mike Boyette												

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.

Green shading denotes the team broke up but were still acknowledged as champions.

based on research as of 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

ALABAMA HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE - GULF COAST - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Dick Dunn												
Bobby Shane												
The Wrestling Pro												
Don Fargo												

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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

MISSISSIPPI HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE - GULF COAST - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rocket Monroe	Orange											
Bobby Fields		Blue	Blue									
Bobby Shane		Orange										
Terry Garvin			Orange									
Cowboy Bob Kelly				Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue		
Eddie Sullivan					Orange				Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Ken Lucas											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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

MISSISSIPPI TAG TEAM TITLES - GULF COAST - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cowboy Bob Kelly & Frank Dalton						Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Eduardo Perez & Rip Tyler								Orange				
Eddie Sullivan & Prince Pullins												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 9/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Charting the World Champ

In 1971, NWA World Heavyweight champion Dory Funk Jr. made one appearance in the territory. All matches were title bouts unless otherwise noted.

- 10/26 Mobile: Dory went to a time limit draw with Don Fargo (wrestling under a mask as Mr. D but his identity was acknowledged). Fargo won the first fall “when Funk injured his knee and surrendered to Fargo’s toe hold”. Funk won the second fall with a “whirling toe hold”.

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 only have a few attendance figures, all from Mobile. They had been running the Fort Whiting Armory every Wednesday but ran some cards in the larger Municipal Auditorium during the spring. In June, they moved to the Auditorium permanently. All the attendance figures listed below are from the Municipal Auditorium.

- 4/14: Drew “over 9,000” for a loaded card featuring Cowboy Bob Kelly & Ken Lucas & Mike Boyette vs Bobby Shane & Terry Garvin & The Wrestling Pro, The Fabulous Moolah defending the World Women’s title against Marie Dannell, The Infernos vs Don Carson & Dick Dunn plus advertised matches including Herb & Lester Welch, Bearcat Brown & Sonny King, and Darling Dagmar & Diamond Lil
- 5/19: Drew “approximately 6,000” for a card featuring Lee Fields vs Bobby Shane
- 7/14: Drew “slightly more than 9,000” for a card headlined by Cowboy Bob Kelly vs Bobby Shane and Lee Fields vs a mystery opponent (whose identity remains a mystery to this day)
- 8/11: Drew 8,000 for a card headlined by Lee Fields vs Bobby Shane

House Show Lineups and Results

We have shared newspaper clippings for over 450 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

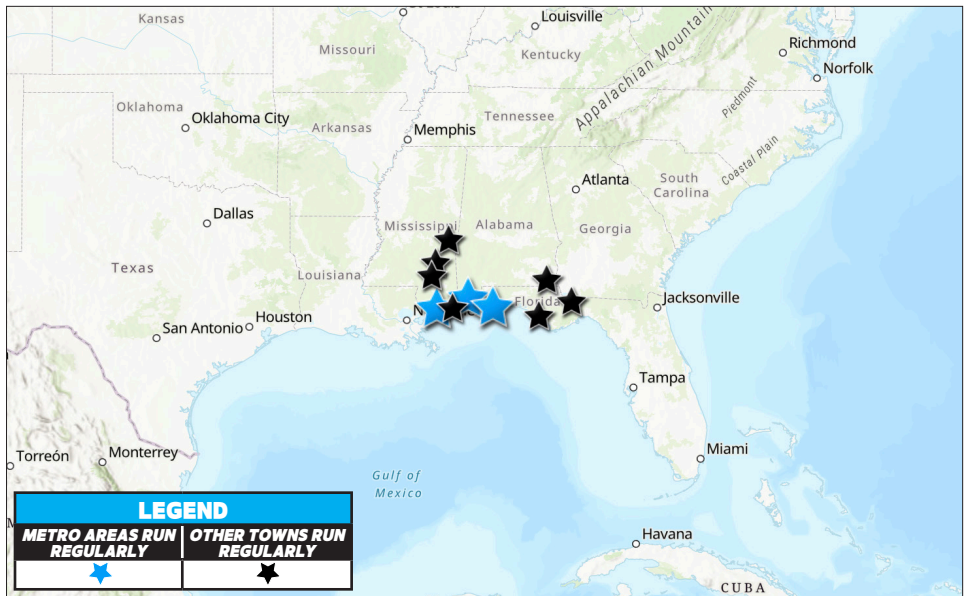
<https://www.wrestlingdata.com/index.php?befehl=shows&sort=liga&kategorie=8&liga=1167&jahr=1971&monat=0&showart=&ansicht=1>

GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

1971

SAMPLE WEEK

MON 2/1	LAUREL MS
	PANAMA CITY FL
TUE 2/2	MERIDIAN MS
WED 2/3	MOBILE AL
THU 2/4	CRESTVIEW FL
	HATTIESBURG MS
FRI 2/5	DOTHAN AL
	PASCAGOULA MS
SAT 2/6	GULFPORT MS
	QUINCY FL
SUN 2/7	PENSACOLA FL



LEGEND

METRO AREAS RUN REGULARLY	OTHER TOWNS RUN REGULARLY
★	★

TOP SINGLES	TOP TEAMS
EDDIE SULLIVAN	DANDY JACK MORRELL & EDDIE SULLIVAN
DON FARGO	BOBBY SHANE & TERRY GARVIN
BOBBY SHANE	JOHNNY WEST & KEN LUCAS
THE WRESTLING PRO	
MIKE BOYETTE	

HOUSE SHOW RECORDS			
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	471	SHOWS PER WEEK	9.1
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS	85-90%
MISC. BOOKING STATS			
HEEL/FACE TURNS	5*	ROSTER TURNOVER	185%
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS	

TOP RIVALRIES

- DICK DUNN VS DON FARGO
- DICK DUNN VS WRESTLING PRO
- COWBOY BOB KELLY VS EDDIE SULLIVAN
- KEN LUCAS VS EDDIE SULLIVAN

TITLE CHANGES

GULF COAST HEAVYWEIGHT	9
GULF COAST TAG TEAM	5
U.S. TAG TEAM	9
ALABAMA HEAVYWEIGHT	8
MISSISSIPPI HEAVYWEIGHT	12
MISSISSIPPI TAG TEAM	3

AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 20.0

