

STAMPEDE WRESTLING 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.....	12
FEUDS.....	13
TITLE HOLDERS AND HISTORIES	19
TAKING ATTENDANCE.....	21
HOUSE SHOW LINEUPS AND RESULTS.....	22

Territory Fact Sheet

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

PRO WRESTLING TERRITORY FACT SHEET		1971			
STAMPEDE WRESTLING					
SAMPLE WEEK					
MONDAY 7/12	TABER				
TUESDAY 7/13	RED DEER				
WEDNESDAY 7/14	SASKATOON				
THURSDAY 7/15	REGINA				
FRIDAY 7/16	CALGARY				
SATURDAY 7/17	EDMONTON				
SUNDAY 7/18					
LEGEND					
METRO AREAS RUN REGULARLY	OTHER TOWNS RUN REGULARLY				
HOUSE SHOW RECORDS					
DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	296	SHOWS PER WEEK			
		5.7			
		ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS			
		90-95%			
MISC. BOOKING STATS					
HEEL/FACE TURNS	4	ROSTER TURNOVER			
		185%			
ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION		MATCH RESULTS			
TOP SINGLES	TOP TAG TEAMS				
<p>LES THORNTON</p> <p>BLACK ANGUS CAMPBELL</p> <p>CARLOS BELAFONTE</p>	<p>EARL BLACK & TIGER TOMASSO</p> <p>CHIN LEE & SUGI SITO</p> <p>BOB SWEETAN & PAUL PELLER</p>				
TOP RIVALRIES					
LES THORNTON VS. BOB SWEETAN					
BILL CODY & DAN KROFFAT VS. EARL BLACK & TIGER TOMASSO					
LES THORNTON VS. BLACK ANGUS CAMPBELL					
TITLE CHANGES					
NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT	6				
INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM	5				
AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 17.2					
MAIN EVENTERS (2.8)					
UPPER MID-CARDERS (4.3)					
MID-CARDERS (5.3)					
PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS (4.8)					
OVERALL					
<table border="0" style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">FACE WINS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">HEEL WINS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">DRAWS</td> </tr> </table>			FACE WINS	HEEL WINS	DRAWS
FACE WINS	HEEL WINS	DRAWS			
MAIN EVENTS		UPPER MIDS			
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.

RANKINGS FOR STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

- 1 - LES THORNTON**
- 2 - BLACK ANGUS CAMPBELL**
- 3 - CARLOS BELAFONTE**
- 4 - BOB SWEETAN**
- 5 - BOB LUECK**
- 6 - EARL BLACK & TIGER JOE TOMASSO**
- 7 - BUDDY AUSTIN**
- 8 - JOHNNY WAR LANCE**
- 9 - ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
- 10 - EMILE DUPRE**
- 11 - JOHN QUINN**
- 12 - KURT VON HESS**
- 13 - GIL HAYES**
- 14 - CHIN LEE & SUGI SITO**
- 15 - BOB SWEETAN & PAUL PELLER**

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 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Wrestler Profiles by David Gibb

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

LES THORNTON

Les Thornton broke into the wrestling business at roughly 23 in the late 1950s after serving in the British Royal Navy and trying his hand at professional rugby. Throughout the '60s, he honed his skills across Great Britain, including training at the legendary Snake Pit in Wigan, Lancashire, England (technically "Riley's Gym," after catch wrestling innovator and head coach Billy Riley), which was churning out legendary technical wrestlers like Billy Robinson, Karl Gotch, and Bert Assirati, just to name a few.

In early 1971, after more than a decade honing his craft, Thornton came to North America for the first time. Like many British wrestlers, he came to Canada before the U.S. because of the relative ease of working legally and the fact there were numerous English expatriates in western Canada looking for heroes and villains they could relate to. Thornton debuted in Vancouver's All-Star Wrestling at the very beginning of the year before transferring to Stampede, where he would make his name, at the end of February.



Today, many people think of Les Thornton as the multi-time junior heavyweight champion of the early 80s, but a decade before that, he started off in Stampede facing one of the definitive heavyweights of the era: Abdullah the Butcher. Thornton won the North American Heavyweight Title from Abby shortly after arriving in March of 1971, ending the Butcher's reign of terror over the territory, which had gone virtually uninterrupted since the madman from the Sudan first set foot in a Stampede ring in January 1970. With his victory over Abby, Thornton became the second British-born wrestler to hold Stampede's top title, following Snake Pit veteran and two-time champion Billy Robinson.

After capturing the North American Title, Thornton feuded with Bob Sweetan, retaining the title after a series of bouts that included lumberjack and strap matches. Before too long, Les found himself attaining one of the high honors of the day: a series of title matches with touring NWA World Heavyweight Champion Dory Funk Jr.

The World champion always came to Calgary for the week of the Stampede, the province's legendary state fair/rodeo/cultural event. In 1971, however, an additional week-long stay for the champ was scheduled for June, just a few weeks ahead of the big show. This gave Stu Hart the opportunity to use those June matches not only to establish Thornton as capable of standing toe-to-toe with the World champion, but to set up rematches while the first bouts between the two were still fresh in the minds of fans.

During Funk's pre-Stampede visit to Calgary in 1971, he faced Thornton three times, with all three contests resulting in draws. The first two were traditional one-hour "broadways," and the final match ended when both men went to the floor during the third fall and were counted out.

When the Stampede came in early July, Funk and Thornton faced off three more times, including once at the Stampede grounds. Funk won those matches to defend the reputation of the NWA World Heavyweight Championship, but even in losing, relative newcomer Les Thornton had been pushed up to the highest stage of public and local media awareness in Alberta. While it's never going to make the record books as one of the great canny power plays in wrestling history, Stu Hart's use of the World Champion ahead of the 1971 Calgary Stampede is a perfect illustration of how smaller promoters could leverage a relationship with the NWA to maximum effect.

After the Stampede, Thornton spent the much of the summer feuding with Moose Morowski, who would've towered over the North American Champion at 6'4" or 6'5". Like his feuds with Abdullah and Sweetan, Thornton's clashes with Morowski were exceptionally physical, including occasional no disqualification "fight to the finish" matches and at least one Texas death match.

After overcoming the big Moose, Thornton moved onto feuding with a fellow Briton, Scotland's Black Angus Campbell (Francis Patrick Hoy). Campbell and Thornton were both far from home in Canada's wild west, but the two men had a lot in common: they were only six months apart in age, had both been in the business since their early 20s, and they were hoping to turn time in Canada into bigger paychecks in Europe and Japan.

Thornton feuded with Black Angus for about a month, with their rivalry playing out slightly differently from town to town, although the overarching theme of wild action in North American title matches continued. In Calgary, for example, they faced each other in title matches for five weeks straight, with two double disqualifications opening the series before a second referee was assigned to ensure nothing untoward occurred during the third match. Despite the best laid plans of mice, men, and matchmaker Stu Hart, untoward things did occur, and both referees were knocked out during a wild melee, necessitating a fourth match with no disqualifications and lumberjack enforcers at ringside.

In that lumberjack match, Campbell defeated Thornton decisively, winning the title after delivering a crushing piledriver in the middle of the ring. (We don't know for certain that the heel lumberjacks at ringside worked over Thornton to give him "an out," but we've all seen wrestling before.) In the final match of the series, Campbell defended the title when Thornton "was absolutely demolished by Campbell... and wound up unable to continue," according to the Calgary Herald.

Although he left Calgary on his shield in September, Les Thornton's 1971 was a great illustration of what was special about Stampede wrestling: the British influence, the ultra-tough matches, the crowd that was willing to embrace its heroes, and Stu Hart's single-minded focus on doing wrestling his way at scale, making a relatively small territory in terms of population and money one of the go-to places to get over. After a star-making run, Thornton returned to the U.K., where he would stay until the following spring.

TIGER JOE TOMASSO

Joseph DiTommaso, originally of Montreal, Quebec, was entering at least his 17th year as a professional wrestler in 1971. He'd been a regular in Stampede in the late 1950s, but prior to December of 1970, he hadn't been in the territory for more than six years.

Tomasso was nicknamed "Tweet Tweet" because of his way-out promos where he would always find a way blame his heelish misdeeds on birds ("The birds did it!" or "The birds told me to do it!" or "He insulted my birds!"), but he was determined that his return to Calgary wouldn't be for the birds.

In his youth, Tiger Joe had been portrayed as all bark and no bite. He was a cocky loudmouth who talked a big game, but when it came time to grapple, he would find a way to bow out or cheat at the first convenience.

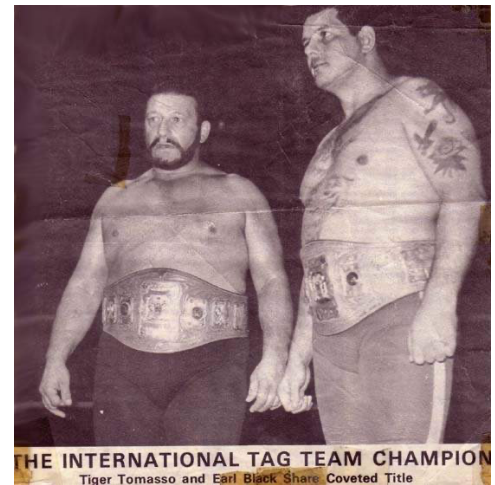
Since then, Tomasso had primarily been working in the U.S., often partnering with Guy Mitchell (real name John Hill, a man of 1,000 names including Jerry Valiant and a dubious claim on "The Stomper") as a pair of masked Assassins. During his runs in American territories, he'd also competed in singles matches as Joe Tomasso and sometimes simply "The Rat."

Coming back to Calgary after a half-decade working in the states and settling right back into where he left as a bigmouth with no credibility probably would've been a big disappointment to Tiger Tomasso, and that's almost exactly what happened, at least initially. He formed a tag team with wrestler Ed Sullivan, but the two were decidedly mid-card and only lasted a few months.

In May, however, two truly special things happened to Tweet Tweet Tomasso. First, he was paired with an English-born boxer-wrestler named Earl Black. Black had turned pro in New Zealand after wrapping up his professional boxing career, which he began at the tender age of 15 – as a heavyweight, no less. Black made his bones wrestling across Asia and Oceania in the '60s before being invited to wrestle in Vancouver by Gene Kiniski.

Earl Black was exactly the partner Tiger Joe Tomasso needed to go to the next level in Stampede. He was broad-chested and covered in tattoos, which was still something of an oddity at the time, especially among genteel English expatriates. He oozed toughness, and if it came to a legitimate contest of who could knock out whom, everybody in the stands and the locker room knew who would win. Partnering with Black, Joe Tomasso could use more of the main event tag psychology he'd seen in territories like the AWA and deliver both a promo and a match. It was a winning formula.

The second truly special thing that happened to Joe Tomasso that May is one of the most bizarre and illustrative stories of wrestling fandom during the territory years that somehow, thankfully, was not lost to history. On May 7 at the Victoria Pavilion (the ironically formal name given to a building used for agricultural demonstrations at the Stampede Park), a fan released a small flock of pigeons that had



been smuggled into the arena in a cardboard box during the introductions for a match pitting Tweet Tweet Tomasso and Earl Black against Nick Pacchiano and John Helton. The pigeons, frightened at having been confined and surely startled by the sheer spectacle of professional wrestling, began flying through the house, squawking and dropping tiny white bombs all over spectators, seats, and the ring. The fly-in by Tweet Tweet's avian allies failed, as Tomasso and Black were disqualified amidst the chaos.

Shitstorms aside, Tomasso and Black were International Tag Team Champions by the end of June, winning a semi-phantom nonsensical tournament that played out in random towns across the territory for several weeks (this was actually something of a common practice). Their first feud as champions saw them face Bill Cody and Dan Kroffat, the latter of whom would take several steps up in the world the next year as a participant in the first well-documented ladder match. (To be clear, this was not Phil Lafon, the wrestler from the '80s and '90s who took the name "Dan Kroffat" in Japan because his own was difficult for many native Japanese speakers to pronounce.)

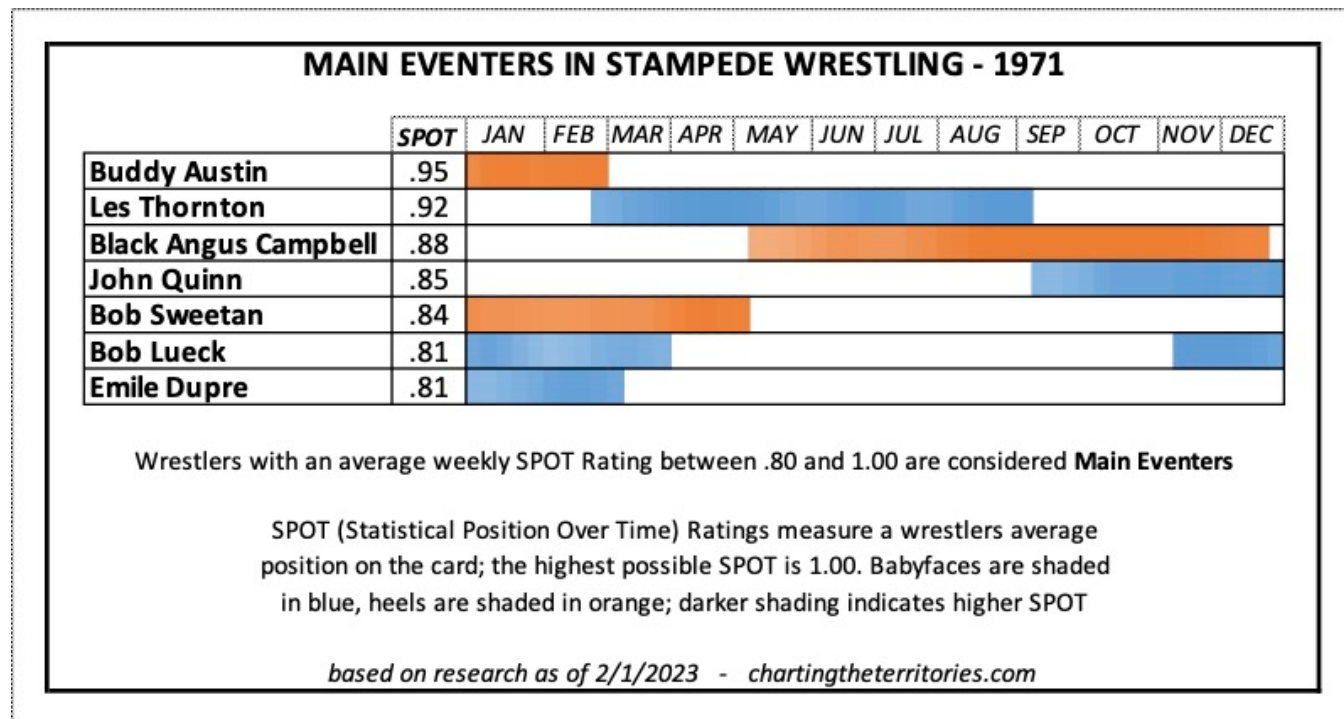
Kroffat and Cody downed the devilish duo to win the titles in August, but their reign was short-lived as Tomasso and Black regained them a couple of weeks later. Their next challenge came from the team of Danny Babich and Michel Martel, the older brother of Rick, who would've been a teenager at the time. As the summer turned to Calgary fall (which counts for winter in many places), Babich and Martel won the titles. Like Cody and Kroffat before them, their reign was brief; but unlike the last set of babyface champions, who dropped the titles back to Tomasso and Black, Babich and Martel lost them quickly to Sugi Sito and Chin Lee.

Even with heels Sito and Lee carrying the International Tag Team Titles, Tiger Tomasso and Earl Black remained the top contenders, setting up a series of heel-heel matches that lasted from late October through mid-December. In most of the territory's cities, they had rematches with hot finishes that led to no disqualification matches, which ended poorly for Tweet Tweet and Black. In one documented instance, during their third match in Saskatoon, Tomasso lost the second fall and popped up froggy and disoriented, taking a few frustrated or punch-drunk swings at his own partner. The former boxer Black immediately employed his fist in self-defense against his own partner, however, leading to Sito and Lee capturing a quick third fall.

After spending much of the second half of 1971 in an unfamiliar role, that of a champion, Tiger Joe Tomasso found himself in yet another unfamiliar role as the calendar turned: that of a babyface, hearing cheers (and perhaps a few "Tweet Tweets") from the fans. Maybe being beaten up by someone tougher isn't so bad after all.

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.



Les Thornton <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2005/02/23/les-thornton-a-life-on-the-road/>

John Quinn <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2019/04/22/big-john-quinn-dead-at-78/>

Bob Sweetan <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2017/02/24/bruiser-bob-sweetan-leaves-a-complicated-legacy/>

Emile Dupre <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1999/10/20/slam-wrestling-canadian-hall-of-fame-emile-dupre/>

UPPER MID-CARDERS IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Abdullah the Butcher	.79	[Orange]											
Moose Morowski	.78						[Orange]						
Chin Lee	.76										[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]
Kurt Von Hess	.75								[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]
Carlos Belafonte	.74			[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]		[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]
Johnny War Lance	.73			[Blue]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]						
Sugi Sito	.73										[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]
Earl Black	.71			[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]
Mighty Ursus	.68							[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]			
Michel Martel	.66									[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]
Paul Peller	.64	[Orange]	[Orange]	[Orange]									
Bill Cody	.63					[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]			
Dan Kroffat	.60		[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]			
Danny Babich	.60	[Blue]	[Blue]						[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]	[Blue]

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 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Abdullah the Butcher <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2011/03/22/abdullah-the-butcher-forks-his-way-to-wwe-hall-of-fame/>

Moose Morowski <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2016/09/12/moose-morowski-dead-at-81/>

Kurt Von Hess <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1999/03/13/slam-wrestling-canadian-hall-of-fame-kurt-von-hess/>

Earl Black <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2006/04/05/earl-black-a-career-cut-short/>

Michel Martel <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2004/10/11/michel-martel-forgotten-great/>

Paul Peller <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2001/11/17/slam-wrestling-canadian-hall-of-fame-stompin-paul-peller/>

Dan Kroffat <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1999/06/14/slam-wrestling-canadian-hall-of-fame-dan-kroffat/>

MID-CARDERS IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
Tiger Joe Tomasso	.59	[Darker Orange Shading]												
Gil Hayes	.55	[Blue Shading]			[Orange Shading]		[White]			[Orange Shading]	[Blue Shading]			
Killer Karl Krupp	.54	[White]											[Orange Shading]	
John Helton	.50	[White]	[Blue Shading]				[White]				[White]			
Dave Ruhl	.46	[Blue Shading]						[White]		[Orange Shading]	[Blue Shading]	[White]	[Blue Shading]	[White]
Nick Pacchiano	.45	[Blue Shading]						[White]		[Blue Shading]	[White]	[Blue Shading]		[White]
Ed Sullivan	.41	[Orange Shading]					[White]		[Orange Shading]	[White]	[Orange Shading]			[White]
Buck Jones	.40	[White]	[Orange Shading]		[White]	[Orange Shading]	[White]	[Orange Shading]	[White]	[Orange Shading]	[White]	[Orange Shading]	[White]	

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 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Tiger Joe Tomasso <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1999/06/30/tiger-joe-tomasso-all-about-the-tweet-tweet/>

Gil Hayes <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2022/07/31/stampede-legend-gil-hayes-dies/>

Dave Ruhl <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2021/06/09/dave-ruhls-lengthy-career-ended-abruptly/>

PRELIMINARY WRESTLERS IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	SPOT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Frank Butcher	.39												
Dick Medrano	.39												
Don Fargo	.37												
Johnny Fargo	.37												
Gordon Ivey	.37												
John Anson	.37												
Nano Ortega	.37												
Great Moki	.37												
Victor Jovica	.36												
Bob Pirie	.35												
Sterling Gaylord	.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 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

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

Johnny Fargo (Greg Valentine) <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2011/07/07/before-he-was-the-hammer-valentine-was-johnny-fargo/>

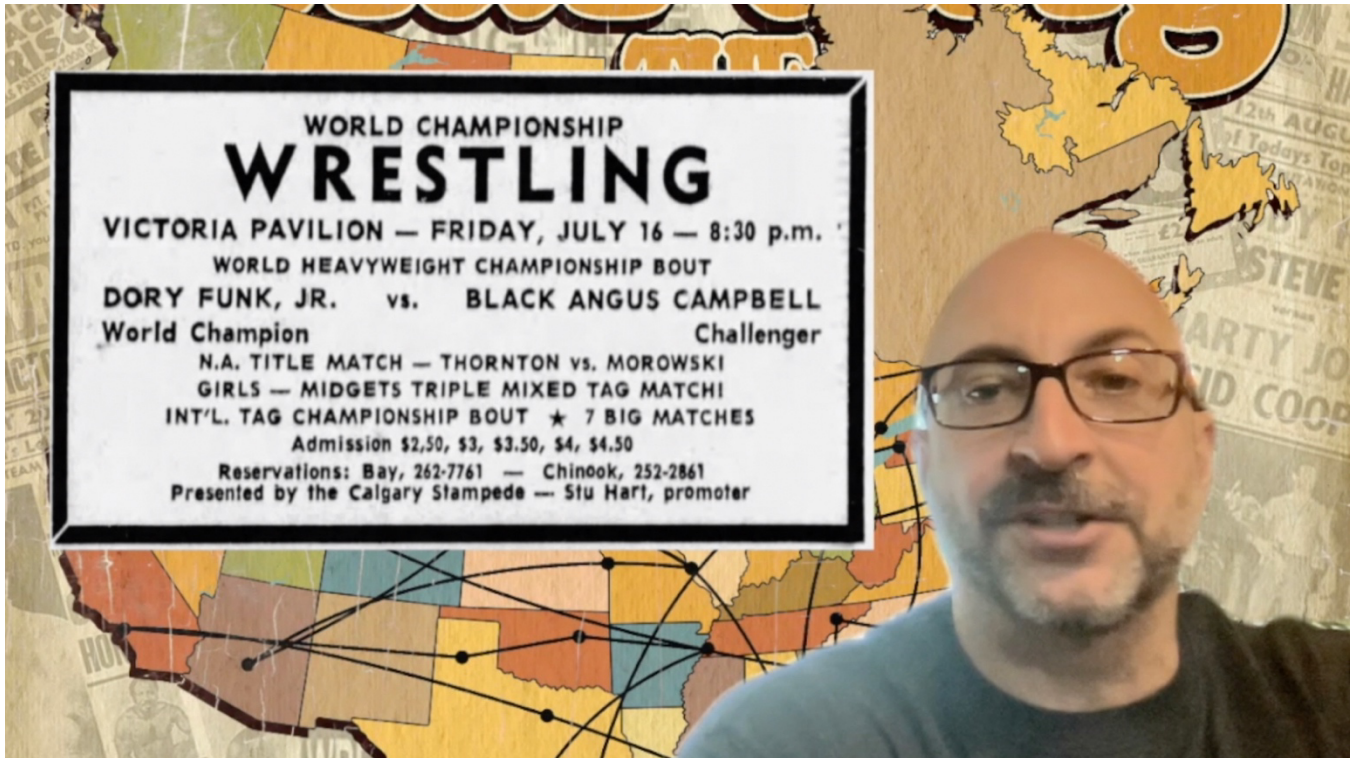
John Anson <https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/1998/08/25/slam-wrestling-canadian-hall-of-fame-john-anson/>

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/oLDUsXdSr90>



**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLING**

VICTORIA PAVILION — FRIDAY, JULY 16 — 8:30 p.m.

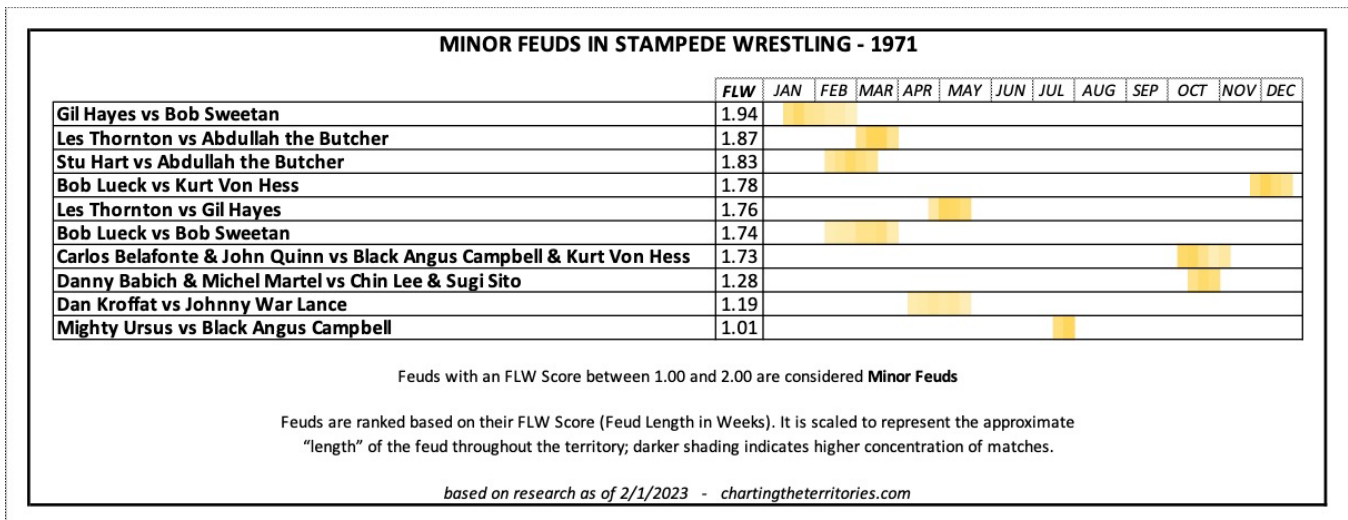
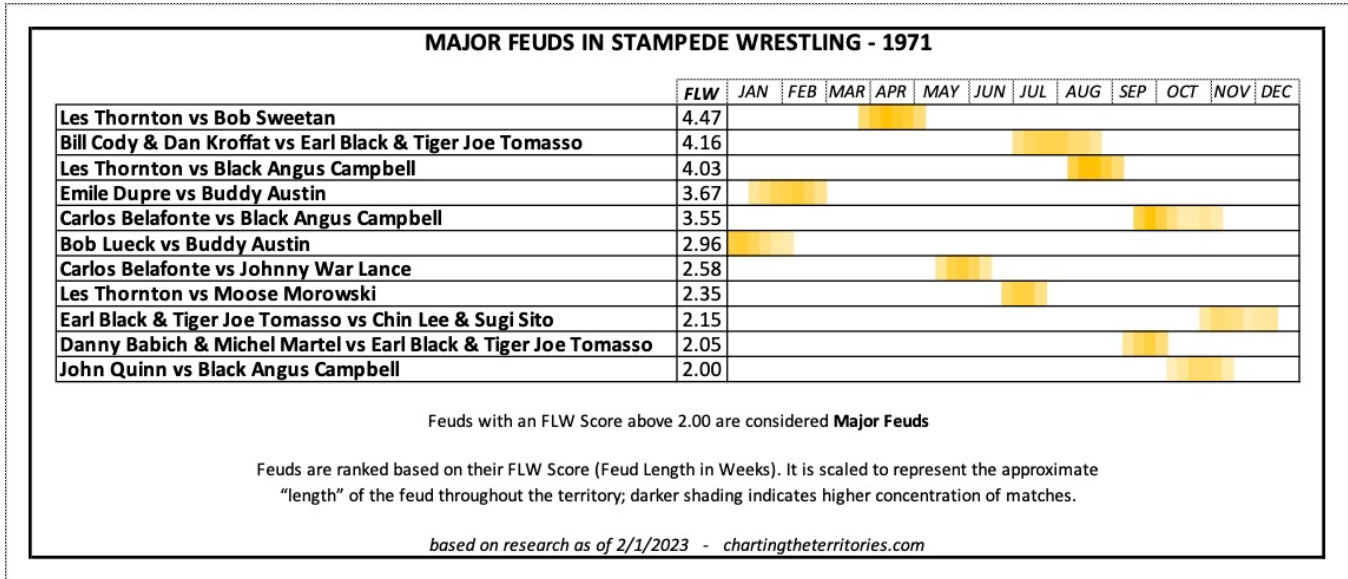
WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT
DORY FUNK, JR. vs. BLACK ANGUS CAMPBELL
World Champion vs. Challenger

N.A. TITLE MATCH — THORNTON vs. MOROWSKI
GIRLS — MIDGETS TRIPLE MIXED TAG MATCH!
INT'L. TAG CHAMPIONSHIP BOUT ★ 7 BIG MATCHES

Admission \$2.50, \$3, \$3.50, \$4, \$4.50
Reservations: Bay, 262-7761 — Chinook, 252-2861
Presented by the Calgary Stampede — Stu Hart, promoter

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.

Les Thornton vs Bob Sweetan in Calgary

- 3/26 North American title: Both men were disqualified.
- 4/2 North American title: Thornton won when Sweetan was disqualified “for illegal activities.” Sweetan also “administered an illegal pile driver” during the match.
- 4/9 North American title, two referees, no disqualification: Sweetan won the first fall, then “was chased to the dressing room by ... Thornton before the match was completed.”
- 4/16 North American title, lumberjack match: After each man won one fall, Gil Hayes “intervened” and “assaulted” Thornton; as a result, “the match was declared one of no contest.”
- 4/30 North American title, strap match: Thornton won.

Bill Cody & Dan Kroffat vs Earl Black & Tiger Joe Tomasso in Saskatoon

- 6/30 International Tag Team titles: Results not available.
- 7/7 The match went to a 45-minute time limit draw after each team had won one fall.
- 7/14 International Tag Team titles: The match was stopped and the titles “held up” after Black rang the ringside bell while Tomasso was in trouble inside the ring; “the ringing of the bell brought the action to a standstill and the referee called it off.”
- 7/21 International Tag Team titles, two referees, no disqualification: Cody & Kroffat won the match and “claimed” the titles, winning the first fall when Kroffat used the sleeper at 42:46 and “they wrestled out the remaining time without a further fall.” (likely a title change)
- 7/28 International Tag Team titles: Cody & Kroffat won by reverse decision; Black & Tomasso originally won the third fall but referee George Demchuk “reversed the decision after “learning what had happened when his back was turned”.
- 8/11 International Tag Team titles: Results not available.
- 8/18 No time limit, disqualification rule waived, “a champion must be declared”: Black and Tomasso won the match. (likely a title change)

Emile Dupre vs Buddy Austin in Regina

- 2/4 Austin won by disqualification after Dupre hit him “over the head with a chair.”
- 2/11 No disqualification: Dupre won by disqualification (I’m not sure why there was a disqualification in a “no disqualification match”; perhaps Dupre actually won by countout, which would explain the stipulation for the following week’s rematch.
- 2/17 Lumberjack match: Austin was said to have “dislocated his shoulder” the Monday before this card and was unable to complete; Dupre faced (and defeated) Bob Pirie instead.

Carlos Belafonte vs Johnny War Lance in Calgary

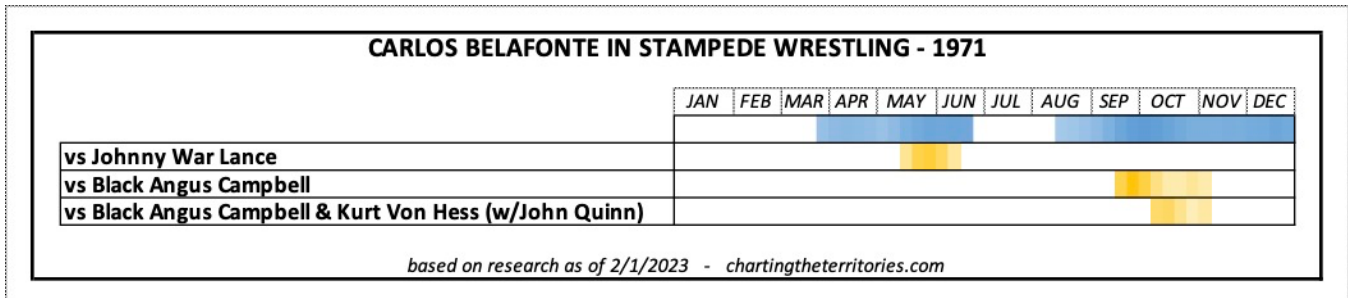
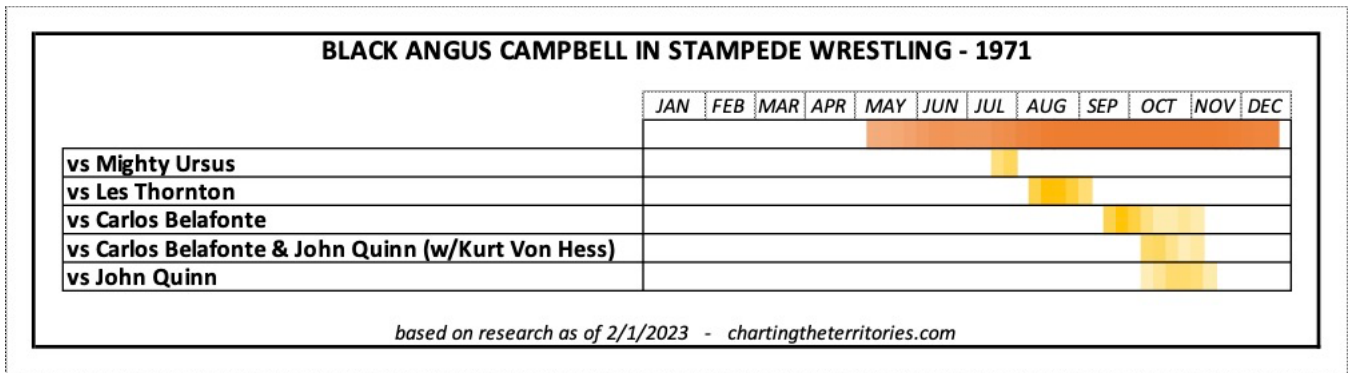
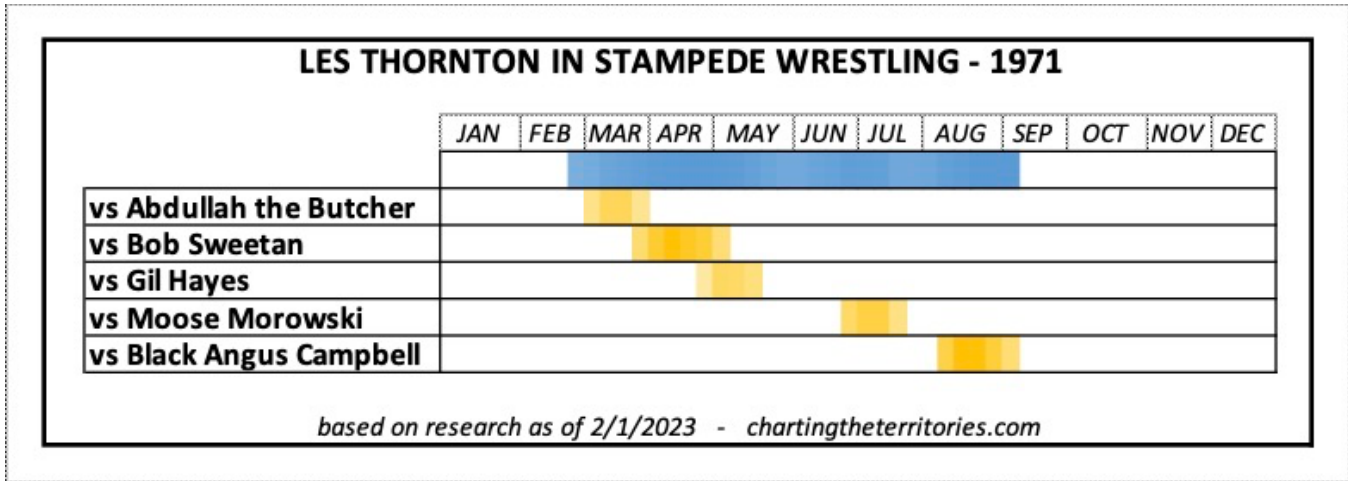
- 5/14 Belafonte won the first fall by submission, War Lance won the second fall, and in the third fall Belafonte had War Lane in “another submission hold” but his shoulders were “touching the match and the referee counted him out.”
- 5/21 Two referees: The match was “declared no contest.”
- 5/28 No disqualification, fight to a finish: Both men were disqualified (*shrug*) after the match “developed into something resembling a street brawl” and “even the presence of two referees failed to restore order”.

Stu Hart vs Abdullah the Butcher in Calgary

- 2/12 Stu won by disqualification after Abdullah “tossed pepper in [his] face”.
- 2/19 Abdullah to be searched in the ring: Results not available.
- 2/25 Rene Trudeau (Abby’s manager) to be handcuffed to Dave Ruhl: Abdullah won after “the bout had to be stopped when Abdullah opened a large cut over Hart’s eye.”

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.



BOB SWEETAN IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	Orange											
vs Gil Hayes	Yellow	Yellow										
vs Bob Lueck		Yellow	Yellow									
vs Les Thornton				Yellow	Yellow							

based on research as of 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

BOB LUECK IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	Blue										Blue	Blue
vs Buddy Austin	Yellow	Yellow										
vs Bob Sweetan		Yellow	Yellow									
vs Kurt Von Hess											Yellow	Yellow

based on research as of 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

EARL BLACK & TIGER JOE TOMASSO IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Black Tomasso				Orange								Blue
vs Bill Cody & Dan Kroffat							Yellow	Yellow				
vs Danny Babich & Michel Martel									Yellow			
vs Chin Lee & Sugi Sito											Yellow	Yellow

based on research as of 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

BUDDY AUSTIN IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	[Orange bar from JAN to MAR]											
vs Bob Lueck	[Yellow bar]											
vs Emile Dupre	[Yellow bar]											

based on research as of 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

JOHNNY WAR LANCE IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
				[Blue bar]	[Orange bar]							
vs Dan Kroffat					[Yellow bar]							
vs Johnny War Lance						[Yellow bar]						

based on research as of 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER IN STAMPEDE WRESTLING - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	[Orange bar]											
vs Stu Hart	[Yellow bar]											
vs Les Thornton	[Yellow bar]											

based on research as of 2/1/2023 - 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.

NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE - STAMPEDE - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Abdullah the Butcher	Orange											
Les Thornton			Blue									
Black Angus Campbell								Orange			Orange	
John Quinn										Blue		
Bob Lueck											Blue	
Kurt Von Hess												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 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM TITLES - STAMPEDE - 1971

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bob Sweetan & Paul Peller	Orange											
Earl Black & Tiger Joe Tomasso						Orange			Orange			
Bill Cody & Dan Kroffat							Blue					
Danny Babich & Michel Martel										Blue		
Chin Lee & Sugi Sito											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 2/1/2023 - chartingtheterritories.com

Charting the World Champ

In 1971, NWA World Heavyweight champion Dory Funk Jr. made two trips to the territory. All matches were title bouts unless otherwise noted.

May 31st through June 5th

- 5/31 Lethbridge: Dory vs Dave Ruhl. Results not available.
- 6/1 Red Deer: Dory vs Dave Ruhl. Results not available.
- 6/2 Saskatoon: Dory vs Dave Ruhl. Funk won the first fall in 17:19, Ruhl won the second fall with a full nelson at the 26:07 mark, and in the third fall Ruhl's "shoulders were counted out" in "a double back flip" at the 34:16 mark.
- 6/3 Regina: Dory vs Les Thornton. Funk won the first fall with a spinning toe hold at the 17-minute mark, Thornton won the second fall with a "backbreaker and press" at the 26-minute mark, and both men were counted out in the third fall.
- 6/4 Calgary: Dory vs Les Thornton. Funk and Thornton wrestled to a one-hour draw, with both men scoring one fall.
- 6/5 Edmonton: Dory vs Les Thornton. Funk and Thornton drew (no further info available)

July 9th through July 17th

- 7/9 Calgary: Dory vs Les Thornton. Dory "successfully defended his [title] ... when he got the only fall over Les Thornton."
- 7/10 Edmonton: Dory vs Les Thornton. Dory defeated Thornton (it is unclear if this was a title match).
- 7/12 Taber: Dory vs Black Angus Campbell. Results not available.
- 7/13 Red Deer: Dory vs Black Angus Campbell. Dory won the third fall by disqualification when Campbell "got Funk on the ropes ... and wouldn't break".
- 7/14 Saskatoon: Dory vs Les Thornton. Dory won (overall match time 35 minutes).
- 7/15 Regina: Dory vs Les Thornton. Funk and Thornton wrestled to a one-hour draw, with both men scoring one fall.
- 7/16 Calgary: Dory vs Black Angus Campbell. Funk "dispensed" Campbell.
- 7/17 Edmonton: Dory vs Black Angus Campbell. Results not available.

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 11 attendance figures from Regina. The average attendance for these shows was 722. These ranged from a high of 1,562 on July 15th (Dory Funk Jr. vs Les Thornton) to a low of 250 on September 9th (Black Angus Campbell vs Bob Brown).

We have 2 attendance figures from Saskatoon. They drew “about 800 fans” on March 3rd (Abdullah the Butcher vs Stu Hart) and 2,125 fans for a Saturday card (they normally ran the town on Wednesdays) on March 25th (Abdullah the Butcher vs Archie Gouldie).

We have 3 attendance figures from Edmonton. On January 23rd they drew 1,700 (Buddy Austin vs Emil Dupre) and the following week they drew 1,600 (for a rematch between Austin and Dupre). On July 10th they drew “more than 2,000” for Dory Funk Jr. vs Les Thornton.

We don't have attendance figures for any shows at their normal venue in Calgary, the Victoria Pavilion. They did run a different venue, the “much more spacious” Stampede Corral on March 26th. That show, which featured Abdullah the Butcher vs Archie Gouldie, drew 6,500 fans.

House Show Lineups and Results

We have shared our newspaper clippings for just under 300 house shows in the territory during the year with wrestlingdata.com to aid them in providing comprehensive information.

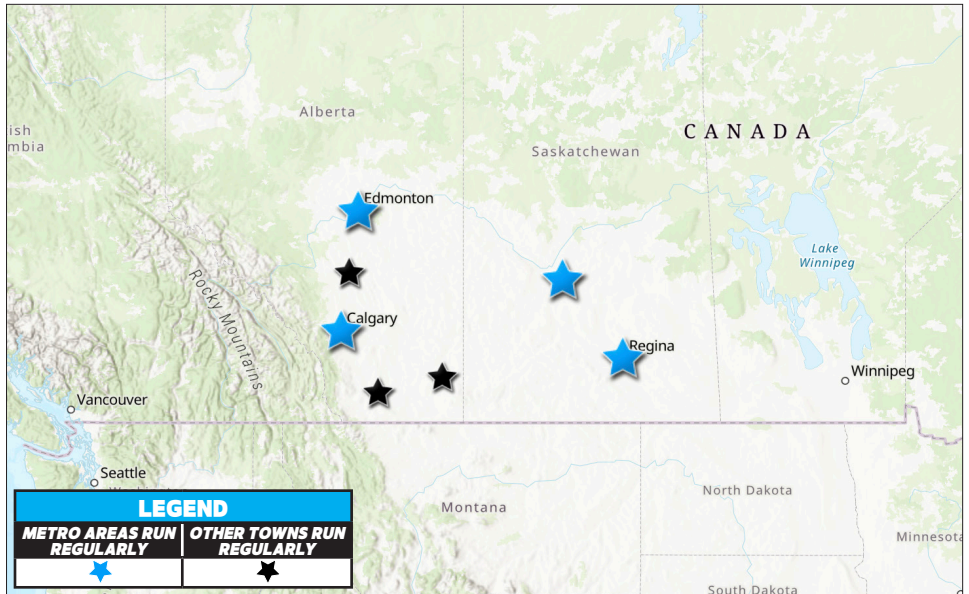
To see the cards and all available results, visit

<https://www.wrestlingdata.com/index.php?befehl=shows&sort=liga&kategorie=8&liga=152&ansicht=1&jahr=1971>

STAMPEDE WRESTLING

SAMPLE WEEK

MONDAY 7/12	TABER
TUESDAY 7/13	RED DEER
WEDNESDAY 7/14	SASKATOON
THURSDAY 7/15	REGINA
FRIDAY 7/16	CALGARY
SATURDAY 7/17	EDMONTON
SUNDAY 7/18	



HOUSE SHOW RECORDS

DOCUMENTED HOUSE SHOWS	296	SHOWS PER WEEK	5.7	ESTIMATED COMPLETENESS	90-95%
-------------------------------	------------	-----------------------	------------	-------------------------------	---------------

MISC. BOOKING STATS

HEEL/FACE TURNS	4	ROSTER TURNOVER	185%
------------------------	----------	------------------------	-------------

ROSTER SIZE/COMPOSITION

MATCH RESULTS

TOP SINGLES

TOP TAG TEAMS

LES THORNTON
BLACK ANGUS CAMPBELL
CARLOS BELAFONTE

EARL BLACK & TIGER TOMASSO
CHIN LEE & SUGI SITO
BOB SWEETAN & PAUL PELLER

TOP RIVALRIES

LES THORNTON VS. BOB SWEETAN

BILL CODY & DAN KROFFAT VS. EARL BLACK & TIGER TOMASSO

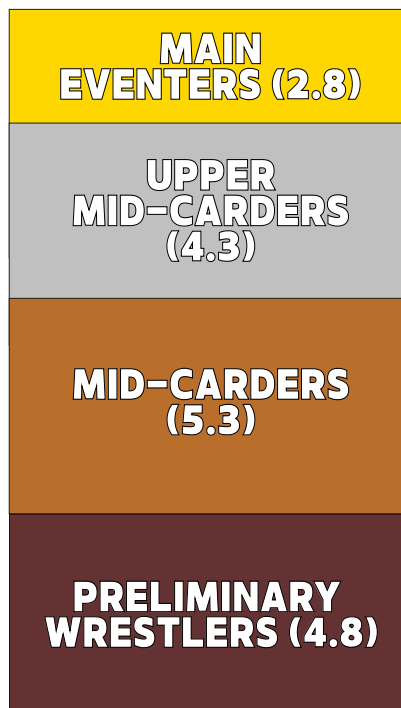
LES THORNTON VS. BLACK ANGUS CAMPBELL

TITLE CHANGES

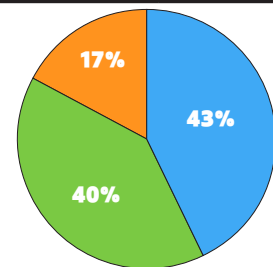
NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT **6**

INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM **5**

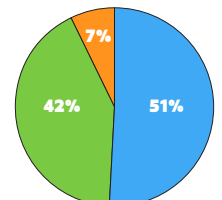
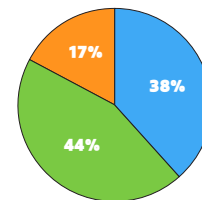
AVERAGE # OF WRESTLERS: 17.2



OVERALL

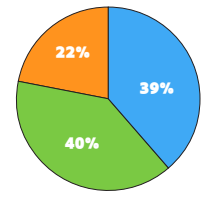
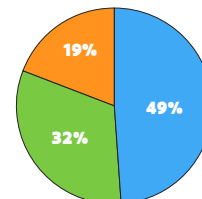


FACE WINS HEEL WINS DRAWS



MAIN EVENTS

UPPER MIDS



MID-CARDS

PRELIMS