

Continental Championship Wrestling CCW INTERACTIVE.COM

In Your Corner

2/29/08

"Backyarders/Leap Year"

It's not very often someone gets to do something on the LEAP YEAR, so I decided it might be cool to write this week's In Your Corner on this special day. It's an extra day, but somehow it seems to have only made me feel even further behind.

I've heard people use a certain term as a negative in wrestling circles lately, and it saddens me that it has become a bad thing. The term I am talking about is "backyarder". To the people using it, what they are wishing to express is that someone has no real training, and no real experience working inside a professional wrestling ring. I understand the reason why this has happened, but I feel it degrades the history of some really outstanding talent.

I'm not putting down the people using this term in the way they have, it has become a common term, and I know I am not going to change the way it is used. I have to remind myself that there are thousands of "backyard" feds out there, that have no clue what it would take to start a real independent professional wrestling federation, much less run a successful one.

I have to admit, however, that there are some cornerstones of professional wrestling that say with pride they started with a dream, as a backyarder, of sorts. Three that come to mind off the top of my head are Mick Foley, Matt Hardy, and Jeff Hardy. WWE loves to show the grainy home videos of them doing the same stupid stunts we all cringe to witness that is a staple of "Backyarders". They got motivated, got the training, learned the business and I think we would be hard pressed to say they had not made a huge mark on this sport we love.

I point this out because I want to stress that anyone with enough drive, focus, and determination, can find their way out of the backyard and into being an outstanding worker. Promoters look for someone that has the ability to use his (or her) charisma, and energy to put the crowd in the palm of his (or her) hand. You can be the most proficient technical grappler in the world, but if you put the fans to sleep, you don't put asses in seats.

Natural ability to work the crowd is essential, and basic wrestling can be taught. Some of the most well known talents in Professional Wrestling were and are solid basic wrestlers, but work a crowd into a frenzy like few others with the motion of a finger, the raise of an eyebrow, or the snort of some smoke.

The first step for anyone looking to work in this sport is to get the basic training needed to make sure you don't hurt yourself or anyone else in the ring. Our part of that equation is to be watching for the people with the natural abilities we need and help point them in the right direction, bring them into focus, and give them the chance to prove they can do the hard work needed to live their dreams.

That is just my opinion, and I look forward to hearing yours. You can always reach me at: BigDaddy@ccwinteractive.com anytime.