

The Territories: Where Wrestling Legends Were Made

Introduction

The territories were a vital part of the professional wrestling landscape for decades. They were where some of the greatest wrestlers of all time got their start, and where some of the most iconic rivalries in the history of the sport took place.

The territories were also a breeding ground for innovation. They were where new styles of wrestling were developed, and where some of the most creative minds in the business got their start.

In recent years, the territories have declined in popularity, but they still play an important role in the professional wrestling landscape. They are a place

where young wrestlers can learn their craft, and where fans can see some of the best wrestling in the world.

This book is a celebration of the territories. It is a look back at their history, their impact on the sport of professional wrestling, and their legacy.

The book is divided into ten chapters. The first chapter covers the origins of the territories and the early stars of the sport. The second chapter covers the Golden Age of the territories, a time of great expansion and innovation. The third chapter covers the territories in the 1980s, a time of decline and change. The fourth chapter covers the territories in the 1990s, a time of resurgence and new beginnings. The fifth chapter covers the territories in the 2000s, a time of continued growth and innovation. The sixth chapter covers the territories in the 2010s, a time of change and consolidation. The seventh chapter covers the territories in the 2020s, a time of uncertainty and new beginnings. The eighth chapter covers the legends of

the territories, the greatest wrestlers, managers, and promoters of all time. The ninth chapter covers the legacy of the territories, their impact on the sport of professional wrestling, and their lessons for the future. The tenth chapter covers the territories today, their current state, and their challenges and opportunities.

I hope you enjoy this book. It is a labor of love, and I believe it is a valuable contribution to the history of professional wrestling.

Book Description

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This book is a must-read for any fan of professional wrestling. It is a comprehensive look at the territories, their history, their impact on the sport, and their legacy.

Chapter 1: The Pioneers of the Territories

1. The origins of professional wrestling in the United States

Professional wrestling has its roots in the ancient sport of pankration, which was practiced in Greece as early as the 7th century BC. Pankration was a brutal sport that combined elements of boxing, wrestling, and grappling. It was often fought to the death, and the only rules were that no biting or eye gouging was allowed.

Professional wrestling came to the United States in the early 19th century, brought over by European immigrants. The first professional wrestling matches in the US were held in carnivals and circuses, and they quickly became a popular form of entertainment.

Early professional wrestlers were often strongmen and carnival performers. They would challenge members of

the audience to wrestling matches, and if they won, they would be awarded a prize. These early matches were often fixed, but they were still exciting to watch, and they helped to popularize professional wrestling in the US.

In the late 19th century, professional wrestling began to evolve into a more organized sport. The first wrestling organizations were formed, and rules and regulations were established. The first professional wrestling championship was awarded in 1887 to William Muldoon.

By the early 20th century, professional wrestling was a major sport in the United States. Wrestlers such as Frank Gotch, Ed "Strangler" Lewis, and Jim Londos were household names. Professional wrestling was also becoming more popular in other parts of the world, such as Canada, Europe, and Japan.

Chapter 1: The Pioneers of the Territories

2. The first territorial promotions

The first territorial promotions were founded in the early 20th century. These promotions were typically small, regional operations that promoted wrestling matches in a single city or town. The first territorial promotion was founded in San Francisco in 1905 by Martin "Farmer" Burns. Burns' promotion, known as the San Francisco Athletic Club, was one of the first to promote wrestling matches on a regular basis.

Other early territorial promotions were founded in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. These promotions were all owned and operated by local businessmen who saw wrestling as a way to make money. The early territorial promotions were not very sophisticated. They were often held in small, rundown buildings and the wrestlers were not very well paid. However, these

promotions were the foundation for the professional wrestling industry that we know today.

The early territorial promotions played a vital role in the development of professional wrestling. They were the first to establish the basic rules and regulations of the sport. They also helped to develop the early stars of professional wrestling, such as Frank Gotch and Ed "Strangler" Lewis.

The territorial promotions also helped to create a sense of community among wrestling fans. Fans would often travel to see their favorite wrestlers compete in their local territory. This sense of community would continue to be a defining characteristic of professional wrestling for decades to come.

Chapter 1: The Pioneers of the Territories

3. The early stars of the territories

The early stars of the territories were a diverse group of wrestlers, each with their own unique style and personality. Some were brawlers, some were technicians, and some were high-flyers. But all of them had one thing in common: they were all pioneers of the sport of professional wrestling.

One of the most famous early stars of the territories was Lou Thesz. Thesz was a technical wrestler who was known for his strength and endurance. He held the NWA World Heavyweight Championship for a record 10 years, and he is considered by many to be one of the greatest wrestlers of all time.

Another early star of the territories was Buddy Rogers. Rogers was a charismatic wrestler who was known for his good looks and his flamboyant personality. He was

one of the first wrestlers to use television to promote himself, and he is credited with helping to popularize professional wrestling in the United States.

Other early stars of the territories include:

- **Gorgeous George** - A flamboyant wrestler who was known for his good looks and his valet, Baby Doll.
- **Antonino Rocca** - A technical wrestler who was known for his strength and his innovative moves.
- **Killer Kowalski** - A brutal brawler who was known for his toughness and his finishing move, the Boston Crab.
- **The Sheik** - A masked wrestler who was known for his sadistic personality and his use of foreign objects.

These are just a few of the many early stars of the territories. These wrestlers helped to lay the foundation for the sport of professional wrestling, and
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they continue to be remembered and respected by fans today.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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