

Pro Wrestler Says The Risks Are Real

"Anybody who thinks professional wrestling is staged is welcome to come and try it. The money is good," says professional wrestler Ed Fury. But a good look at the 253-lb. pro who looks like he could have starred in "Grizzly" ought to discourage you from trying it.

Fury, who is slated to wrestle Joe Turco in the Coliseum Friday night, lives in Greenville, N.C. but spends much of his time traveling with the year-round pro-wrestler circuit.

Fury has been in the business two years, since he was invited to join the pros by a manager who saw him lifting weights in a weight

room and was impressed by his strength. He bench presses 475 lbs.

Fury says he always wanted to be a professional athlete, but his original choice had been baseball. "I threw away my arm," he says. In high school, he played football for Statesville's Golden Tigers, which gave him some of the conditioning he later used in wrestling.

Did he ever consider professional boxing? No. "My brother is a pro boxer," he says, "But I was always too vain to do it. I saw how boxers get their faces messed up."

He calls boxing a dangerous sport, with the

risk of disfigurement and injury, but wrestling isn't safe, either.

"Bobby Becker was killed in the ring," Fury recalls, "And Killer Todd got his nickname because he killed a man."

You have to be careful with some of the holds, he warns. The Cobra, a hold in which your opponent's arm is used on his own neck, can break the neck if too much pressure is applied, and the Sleeper, applying pressure until the man passes out, can cause brain damage after 20 seconds.

Fury says he trains four times a week, lifting weights and practicing holds in the ring. His remedies for sore


muscles are large doses of vitamin C, lots of protein, and more exercise. In spite of all the workouts, he has to watch his diet. "No matter how much you exercise, if you eat too much, you'll get fat," says Fury. He avoids pastries, white bread, and too many sweets in his diet.

Being a pro wrestler can come in handy in situations outside the ring. "Wrestlers are used to pain," says Fury, which gives him an edge on anyone who wants to start trouble. Still, he feels that wrestlers are a pretty even-tempered group -- they don't have to prove anything.

In spite of the financial and physical advantages, Ed

Fury doesn't recommend the pros as a career for young people -- not in any sport. "The risk of injury is too great," he says, "And the length of a career is too short. I would recommend something more solid -- like medicine or law."

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Sports Section

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Pond Giants Record Increases

The Winston-Salem Pond Giants rolled to four more wins last weekend to extend their 1977 semi-pro baseball record to 10-0.

On Friday night Bill Key pitched the Giants to a 12-4 victory over the Greensboro All-Stars. The win in a WSBL league game extended the teams victory to seven.

On Saturday the Giants traveled to Granite Falls to play a non league game. Pitcher Pete Dillinger led in a solid pitching performance as the Giants won 6-2.

On Sunday they took a blowout victory over the Stokesdale A's. In the game, a non league game, Marvin Shaw's pinch hit drove in the tying run in the bottom half of the ninth inning and the winning run scored on a sacrifice fly as Ed Greene hit up an 8-7 win.

On Monday night another scoring affair, second baseman Jerry Tuttle drove in two runs with a double sacrifice fly to lead the team to a 12-9 victory. In the game, first baseman Rick Martin hit the Giants to a two run lead in the first when he hit a walk to third baseman Ken Valentine with

a shot over the right field fence. They added three more runs in the second on Tuttle's two run double and Greene's RBI single.

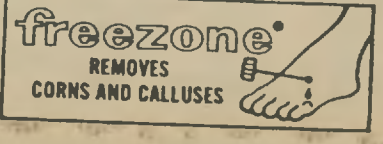
The A's tied the score in the bottom of the inning when third baseman Ed Adams hit an inside of the park grand slam homer after an error and three walks.

The Giants added single runs in the third and fifth and two in the fourth while the A's scored once in the fifth and three times in the sixth on a single by shortstop Robert Lowe and center-fielder Leroy Galloway's two run double setting the stage for the Giants winning rally.

T-fry Marcus picked up the win in relief of Bob Jones while Chester Vernon absorbed the loss.

The Winston-Salem Indians continued to keep pace with the Giants in the WSBL. They stopped the Astro's 5-2 to remain unbeaten in league play.

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