THE DAILY TAR HEEL

Thursday, November 21, 1968

By Art Chansky Killer's Claw, Pepper's Tummy—What A Craze!

Almost allowing myself to basketball and hockey. get talked into intramural wrasslin' the other day brings back some hysterical memories of a professional sports craze that swept the nation less than a decade ago-pro wrestling.

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Although the sport still exists and the pro tour continues to sneak in and out of many American cities, all the glamour and mania that once made the spectacle a top attraction has died.

Carpentier and Gorilla Monsoon once drew rowdy and capacity crowds into the huge arenas throughout the country, momentarily pushing to the

Thousands of fervent fans jammed big name auditoriums such as Madison Square Garden, Boston Garden and San Francisco's Cow Palace to watch the grapplers pound

Killer Kowolski, the enormous dum-dum that used the feared each other into the mat. abdominal claw hold to punish The ironic thing about the his opponents. whole craze was that it was a Kowolski took the

big hoax, and everyone that championship from Carpentier went to watch knew it. and held it for almost five Every drop kick, flying years. Then the wrestling mare and airplane spin was promoters cleaned up more Names like Eduard preplanned, and the outcome than any other period, of every match was known because the more times the before any of the monsters

unpopular Kowolski climbed between the ropes. But the fans loved it. The successfully defended his title, the fans became that much harder someone got hit, the

background professional better they liked it. The more more anxious to see him lose

shenanigans that went on

scheduled card.

Two of Kowolski's matches would just bring the crowd especially stand out, both of back again for the next which enraged the fans to the point of almost going after the Probably the most popular Killer themselves. champion of the time was

The first involved a veteran pro wrestler named Lou Thesz whose most potent weapon was something called the Greco-Roman backdrop. These pinned Kowolski to begin their two-of-three fall match by dumping Killer on his head and pouncing on him while the referee dramatically banged the mat three times to the delight of the fanatical crowd.

Kowolski evened the score shortly after by using his claw hold which was supposed to rip his opponents' stomachs apart. He got Thesz on the mat and then dived into his mid-section like a leapord stalking his prev.

Kowolski to apparently capture the title, but the ref claimed that one of Killer's legs was under the ropes, nullifying the victory. The crowd went beserk.

The referee, whose name has since been forgotten, was immediately stripped of his license by the wrestling commission and decided to become a grappler himself. In his first bout the following night, he was pinned in thirty seconds of the introduction.

The other Kowolski match was against little Pepper Gomez, the man with the cast

NEED MONEY FOR

YOUR DATE?

iron stomach. Everyone his cast iron tummy, thought Gomez was a cinch to take the title, because his tough midrift couldn't be penetrated by Kowolski's claw. But after Pepper airplane spinned the Killer into a pin, the match ended in a draw when Kowolski rallied to knock Gomez cold with what was supposed to be an illegal punch.

wrestling show called "Bedlam

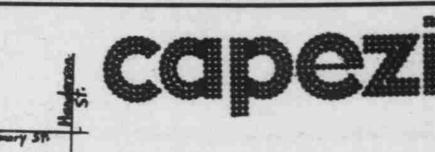
The two met once more on a Saturday afternoon television in Boston." Gomez, boasting

challenged Kowolski to climb to the top of the ring post and jump on his stomach. The Killer accepted the invitation, but instead of jumping on the Pepper's abdomen, he leaped from the ropes crashing down with a knee drop on Gomez's neck. You can imagine what followed. They were still hitting each other over the head with wooden chairs when the show went off the air.

And finally, there were the femininity.

women. One famous tag team of June Byers, the girl's heavy champ, and the Blonde Bombshell had a post-match ritual in which they grabbed each of their opponents in a headlock and after a running start smashed their noggins together in the center of the ring.

The women would wrestle last when there was no championship bout scheduled and many times it was a fitting ending for the epitomes of





with a 9-0 record is helpless, but that's North Dakota State's Illinois. current situation.

The Bisons, who completed their regular season schedule last week, know their hopes for derailing San Diego State from a third consecutive small college championship lies completely with the unbeaten Aztecs.

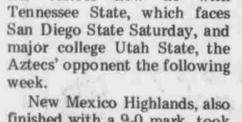
San Diego State, which retained its top ranking Wednesday when the 35-member United Press International board of coaches cast 29 first place ballots for the Aztecs, has two games remaining. North Dakota State's only hopes to surpass the Aztecs now lie with

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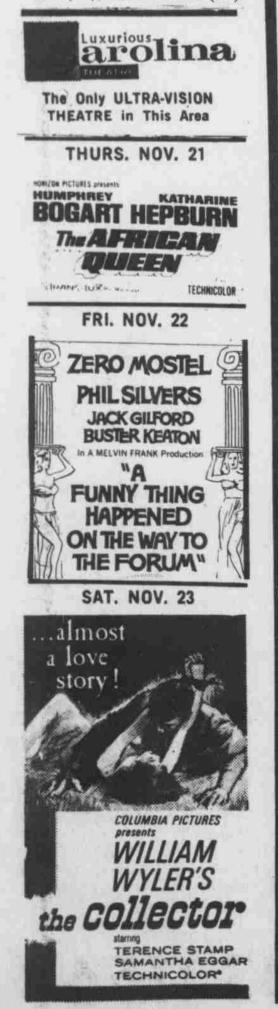






finished with a 9-0 mark, took third with Chattanooga moving up to fourth and Texas A&I capturing fifth. Morgan State

TEAM POINTS 1.San Diego St.(29)(8-0) 330 2.x-N. Dakota St.(3)(9-0) 302 3.x-N.M.Highlands(2)(9-0),245 4. Chattanooga (8-1) 235 5. Tex. A&I (8-1) 159 6. Morgan St. (7-1) 105 7. Tampa (7-2) 102 8. W.Ky.(7-1-1) 51 9.x-Troy St. (9-1) 41 10.x-Adams St. (8-1) Second 10-11. Eastern Kentucky (36); 12. Humboldt State (35); 13. Indiana (Pa.) State (34); 14. Willamette (33); 15. Weber State (30); 16. Arkansas State Univ. (25); 17. North Carolina A&T (22); 18. Tie, Kings Point and Florida A&M (14); 20. Delaware (20).



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