

Upset Victory Scored In Pro Football Arm Wrestling Tournament At Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino



In the pro womens world championships - 140 lbs. & under, which took place during the Myoflex Pro Football Arm Wrestling Tournament at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino, there was an upset when defending champion Sharon Brandes (R) of Vernon, B.C. had to give up her title to challenger Christine Jaworski (L) of Fudbury, Ontario, who won \$1,200 for the first place title. The only American to place in the top four in the women's division was Kathy Dudley of Las Vegas, a waitress, who came in fourth winning \$200.

When the smoke cleared at the hotly contested Pro Football "Super Classic IX" Team Arm Wrestling Championship, it was Woody Bennett and Mike Charles of the Miami Dolphins who stood alone and alive at center stage. Held at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, the tournament pitted two members of each pro football team in a triple elimination face-off.

Sponsor of the event was Myoflex Pain Relief Rub with the Imperial Palace being a co-sponsor. Promoter was Arm Wrestling International (AWI) under Tony Celeste, president.

In the NFL contests, the Miami Dolphins upset the 1985 defending champions, the San Fran-

cisco 49ers, who did not place in the prize money this year. Bennett and Charles split prize money of \$6,000.

Mike Merriweather of the Pittsburgh Steelers was the decisive underdog since he had never competed in the arm wrestling tournament before. He was, though, the most determined to win and that determination along with team partner Pete Rostosky, took home \$3,000 and the second place title.

The New Orleans Saints, the 1984 Champs, this time Derland Moore and Hogie Gajan took the third place title and \$2,000 prize money while Kevin Mack and Mike Baab of the Cleveland Browns took home \$1,500 for fourth place.

Each of the 16 pro football teams was invited to send one big man -- and one bigger man! To balance the competition, the "lighter" men had to compete in at least the first and fourth rounds. With few exceptions, it was the behemoths who bellied up to the table in the fifth, sixth and final rounds.

Separate competition (with more than equal enthusiasm) paired off professional men and women arm wrestlers. For the men, weight limit was 210 lbs.; for women, 145 lbs.

Victory in the men's light heavyweight division was another upset. 1985 defending champion, John Buononato of Tustin, CA, was out-muscled by John R. Brzenk, Jr., of Sandy, UT, an airline maintenance man who took home \$1,700 for his efforts.

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The pro football players mix business with

pleasure each year at the Imperial Palace. Several of the players on opposing teams were teammates in college or on pro teams before being bought by other teams, so there is a sense of reunion among them. There is much good-natured rivalry between winners/losers during the previous football season. Time is allowed for informal interviews by the press and an autograph party for fans. But things get serious in the showroom of the Imperial Palace when the scoreboards go up, the stage lights go on, and the referee says, "Take your places, please." These are men who do not like to lose!

After nine years of participating in arm wrestling tournaments, this year was the first time the Pittsburgh Steelers placed in the money thanks to outside linebacker, Mike Merriweather, and offensive tackle, Pete Rostosky.

The tournament was taped for ESPN Sports Network to air in its entirety during the first week in September. Exact air dates will be released at a later time. Portions of the tournament were also taped for "Entertainment Tonight" and "PM Magazine."

Announcers were Paul Maguire, former NFL All-Pro kicker, Tom Flores, head coach of the L.A. Raiders, and Kellen Winslow, tight end with the San Diego Chargers.

AWI also sponsors arm wrestling championships between professional baseball players with plans of having arm wrestling tournaments with professional basketball and hockey players as well.

Proceeds from the program went to the Candlelighters, an organization which helps children who are terminal cancer patients.

The Imperial Palace has been the site of these Celebrity Arm Wrestling Tournaments since 1982 and is set to host several more in the future. During the 1986 tournament, all previous attendance records were broken.

Israel Concerned Over Increased Drug Smuggling

TEL AVIV (WNS) — smuggling, especially Israel Defense Force and police officials have expressed concern at the increase in the incidence of

smuggling, especially of drugs, from Lebanon into Israel since the IDF withdrawal from its northern neighbor a year ago.

Since then, three major smuggling attempts have been foiled and over 8,000 doses of heroin and more than 60 kilograms

of hashish have been seized at the border. Large quantities of smuggled property, including video recorders and other electronic equipment, have been found in searches of cars being driven through the border gate near Metullah by Israeli civilians employed in southern Lebanon.

Brigadier General

Danny Rothschild, commanding officer of the IDF's liaison with the South Lebanon Army, told reporters that there had been a considerable increase during the past three months of the Shiite Moslems joining the SLA. He also noted better cooperation between the Shiite villagers and SLA and Israeli officers responsible for security in the security zone. Rothschild said he thought that members of the Amal militia group now preferred to act against the Palestinian presence in south Lebanon rather than carry out attacks against the SLA and Israeli interests in south Lebanon.

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