

QA's Police teams up with wrestlers to honor officers

By PETER HOWELL
Special to Bay Times

WYE MILLS — Two men who died violent deaths will be honored Friday night by men and women for whom violence is a way of life.

Maryland Championship Wrestling will team up with the Queen Anne's County Fraternal Order of Police to raise money to fund scholarships in memory of Jason Schwenz and Patrolman Michael Nickerson. Schwenz, a deputy with the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Department, and Nickerson, a patrolman with the Centreville Police Department, were shot to death in the line of duty in Centreville Feb. 13.

A Memorial Fund was established the day after the officers died. To date, more than \$20,000 has been raised. To benefit the fund, professional wrestling comes to the Chesapeake College gymnasium at 7:30 Friday. Doors open at 6:30.

"It was overwhelming the way people came out to support us," said FOP President Mike Branham, a sergeant with the Sheriff's Department. Some of the money will be used to erect a permanent memorial to Schwenz and Nickerson, the first law enforcement officers ever to die on the job in Queen Anne's County. The bulk will be used to fund college scholarships. Neither Schwenz nor Nickerson had children, so the scholarships will be awarded to students attending Chesapeake College or Anne Arundel Community College. Branham says he hopes the first scholarships will be awarded for the fall semester.

The Michael Nickerson and Jason Schwenz Memorial Fund is not the first beneficiary of Maryland Championship Wrestling's largesse. MCW has organized benefits for the Stephanie Roper Foundation and the family of



Above are The Holy Rollers Earl The Pearl, Platinum Nat, and Rambling Rich and below is, "Hot Stuff" Julio Sanchez.

Lisa Spicknall, whose estranged husband murdered their children last year.

Tonight's card consists of nine matches, including four championship bouts. Adam Flash will try — yet again — to wrest the MCW heavyweight title away from Jimmy Cicero. Tonight's bout, called The Last Flash Match, is Flash's last title shot.

A Special Ladies Match will pit Candie against Tara. Also scheduled to compete are former World Championship Wrestling superstar Van Hammer, former Worldwide Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion Gillberg and The Bruiser.

Cruiserweight champion Queenan Creed will defend his title. So will Redneck Billy Redwood, the TV Champ. He'll be challenged by The Black Dragon, Marcus Jordan.

Don't miss the no-holds-barred tag-team action. Romeo Valentino and "Soda Pop" Ronnie Zukko will take on Platinum Nat's Holy Rollers, Earl the Pearl and Rambling Rich Myers. Platinum Nat, whose silver lamé suit is a familiar sight on the MCW circuit, is better known locally as "Jiffy



Pop."

Advance tickets (\$15) are available from Chesapeake Photo & Frame, on Market Street in Denton (410-479-0777); the Fraternal Order of Police office at #3 Kent Towne Market in Chester on Kent Island; and at the door. All seats are general admission, so get there early.

Wrestlers entertain, raise money for officers' memorial funds

By ANN WHEELAN
Staff Writer

WYE MILLS — The master of ceremonies climbed into the ring and brushed off his black tuxedo before taking the microphone and laying out the house rules. There would be no smoking; no throwing stuff.

"This includes spitting," he said. Championship wrestling, with all its spandex, glitter, screaming and light raunchiness, came to Chesapeake College on Friday, May 18, to raise money for the memorial funds set up in the name of Jason Schwenz and Michael Nickerson, the two police officers killed

last February.

About 200 people watched as men the size of tugboats launched each other through the air and bounced off of ring ropes and a spring-loaded floor. There was something cathartic about the way a 280-pound man by the name of The Bruiser pretended to punch and choke his opponent. Women who very well could be serving doughnuts at Sunday morning church services were moved to holler "loser!", and young children voiced their opinions as to who was the most pathetic with boos and cat-calls.

It was all part of the script. The wrestlers got into shouting

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matches, threw punches that whiffed past shiny bodies with room to spare, and leapt off of the side of the ring like massive cats in an attempt to land on their fellow contestants. When enthusiasm ran too high, and a man by the name of Van Hammer had former WWF light-

weight champion Gillberg in a headlock, Gillberg stopped the thick man from completely rotating his head by yelping, "That's my head dude! Take it easy!"

The ladies match threw the crowd into a fervor. Before the competition, Mickie James,

who competes under the name Alexis Laree, talked about her training regimen. The 120-pound dynamo said she keeps in shape by sweating at the gym for an hour and a half every day, which compliments the moves she learned at Championship Wrestling School. During the competition, she teamed up with a fellow lady wrestler, Candie, who was dressed in shiny gold pants, and at one point the two were riding a woman in a red halter top as though she were a horse.

The cheers and thundering music were therapeutic for the police officers, friends and family members of the victims, said

Cherry Wilson, coordinator for the victim witness program. Wilson has been helping with the emotional and financial recovery for everyone affected by February's shooting deaths. "It's been three months, but it seems like it was yesterday," she said.

The officers who were able to come to the event joined the jovial atmosphere and Wilson listened as they erupted into applause. "It's going to be a long time before they get back to any kind of normalcy," she said. "This is the best I've seen them in a while: laughing, kidding, joking together. It's helpful in the grieving process."