

# My Wrestling Journey



*The travels of Our Man from Down Under*

# John Shelvey



## Part 19

**TV Mayhem**  
**The Cowboy and The Spoiler**



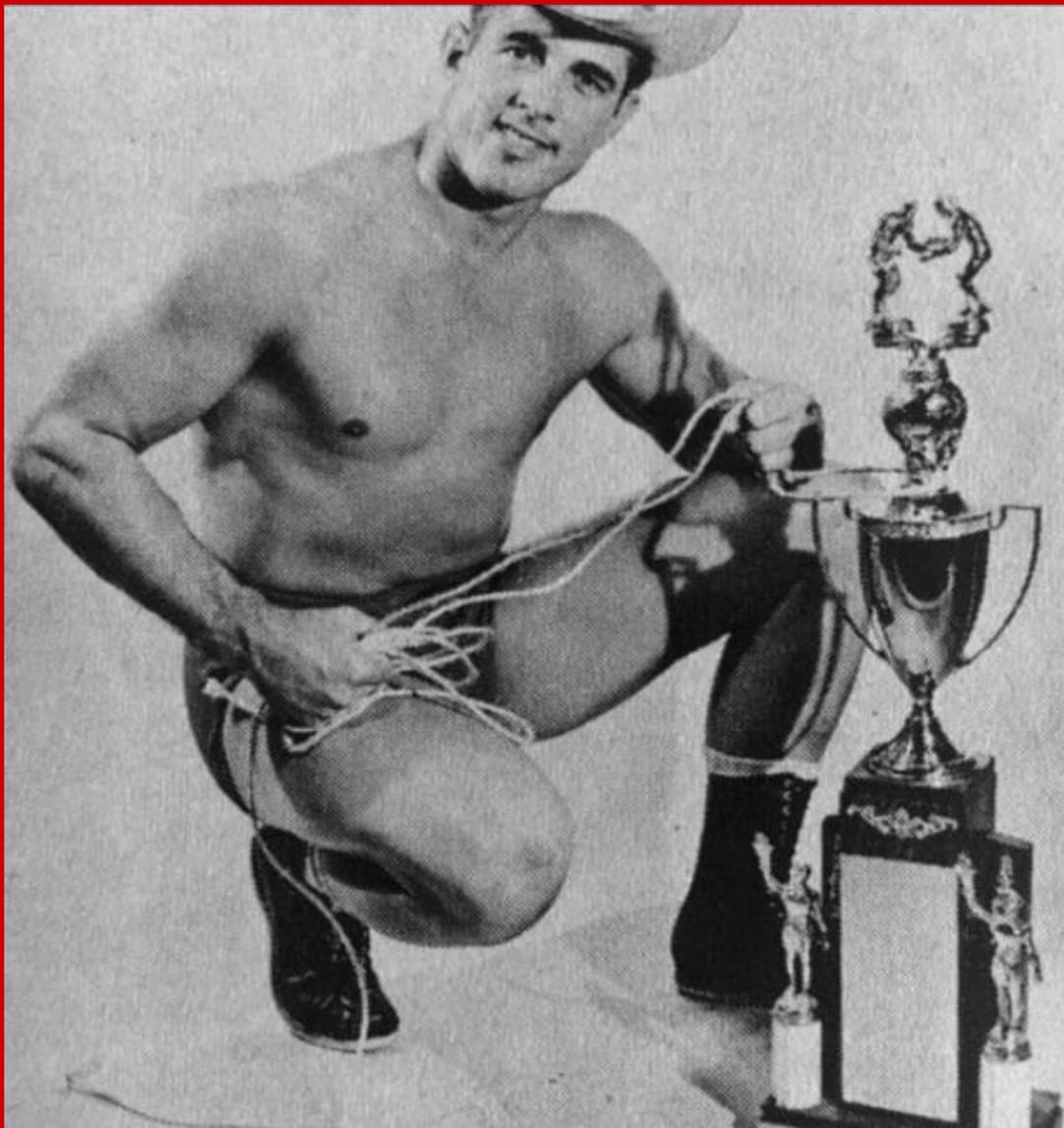
## **Playboy Gary Hart and The Spoiler**

You may recall my boss Cyril, who claimed he was 'the most hated man in Sydney/Australia?

Well, Cyril disappeared one day. All the contractors that had been coming and going over my last eighteen months were no longer seen and the building materials used to construct houses vanished. All that was left were the woodworking employees and the timber in the racks. Baker was the new owners name, a little prissy man who was totally different in physical appearance to Cyril, whilst being just as nasty. Apparently he had been the firms' accountant and I wouldn't have been surprised if Cyril hadn't shown him a 'second' set of books to seal their deal. Baker I heard, had once owned a tobacco plantation in Papua New Guinea, which I found a bit hard to believe as he seemed to turn his nose up just negotiating the factory dust! He had a quick temper and I once witnessed him talking to a tradesman who was twice his size. As I came

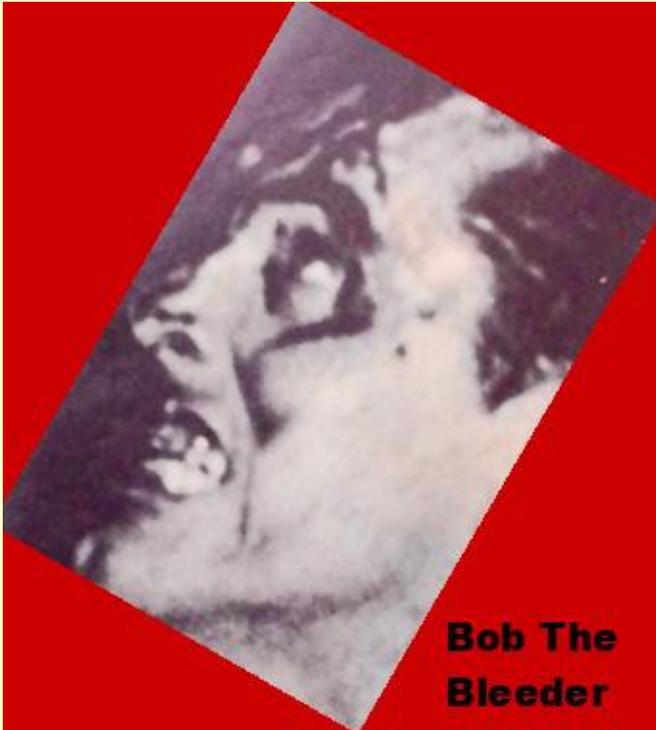
from an outer storeroom into his office, Baker dismissed the guy, who stood up and said 'well, I don't like the way you do business', Baker went scarlet in the face and shot to his feet shouting 'you don't what!' the big guy visibly blanched and turned away and departed in a hurry. Baker lost my respect when apparently one morning he went on a 'fishing trip' going into the street and peering through the workers car windows presumably for signs of theft from 'his' premises. He later told Alec, the owner of a motorbike and sidecar, that he had pulled back the cover of the sidecar to find a piece of timber there. Now, the Hungarian Alec, was the most gentle, reliable and honest person you'd care to meet and his explanation was that he had taken the timber (about a foot square) from the rubbish bin in the yard and was going to give it to his young son who was going to fashion a breadboard out of it at school. Baker's response was, that it was 'his' rubbish and therefore Alec had committed theft and he could count himself lucky that he was not being fired. An hour later Baker called Alec back up the stairs to his office and told him, he had changed his mind and Alec was fired, on the spot! to be continued.

Back to the 'rasslin'...



**Just one of the many titles Bob 'won'**

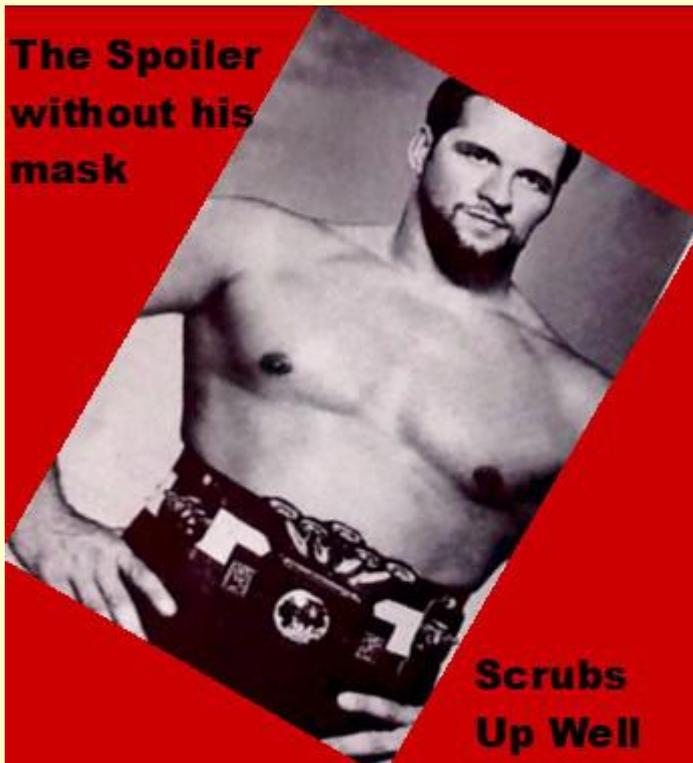
Cowboy Bob Ellis, like Mark Lewin, had matinee idol looks and like Lewin was a hit with the women because of those looks and with the male fans, due to his ability to both take and then hand out a beating to his protagonists. He was a main event attraction wherever he wrestled in the States and was accorded that status Down Under. The Bob Ellis match that has stayed with me for all those years, was one of those rarities, a televised match, one given time to tell a story, against a leading villain, The Spoiler, a masked man accompanied by his manager Gary Hart who was both debonair and a bit creepy at the same time.



Hailing from Texas, Ellis was a pretty big athlete but the Spoiler who was from that Country not found on any map but home to many masked men, 'Parts Unknown' was the larger man and as the two played out a mini war, Ellis had to keep an eye on Hart, who was always looking for a chance to interfere on his subject's behalf.

With the Spoiler looking like he was about to finish off an exhausted Cowboy, Ellis pulled a move out of the bag and pinned the bad guy. As Ellis sat slumped, the Spoiler attacked him, with Hart rolling through the ropes and putting his boots into the downed Texan. As he very often did, Bob bled and bled, something that only happened

occasionally on t.v. and eventually he had to be carried back to the dressing room, with the small studio crowd bordering on apoplexy.



Cowboy Bob had won the match, but his beat down meant the Spoiler stayed strong and dangerous in the minds of the fans, both at the studio and and those watching at home. Of course, Gary Hart was now totally reviled by the Aussie wrestling fans, which would warm promoter Jim Barnett's cockles, no end!

Both Bob and the Spoiler had a spell as the IWA World Champion and met each other in halls around the country (so I learned many years later) but the televised match I saw was a humdinger, the stouch to end all stouches (er stouchi, stouchees)?