



Fanpower

Without the fans there would be no stars, no wrestling, there would be no Heritage.

Norfolk Snake

I live in this strange world where I was the most enthusiastic punter, I lived and breathed it live and on the telly but then I made the jump to actually doing it, albeit for only six years and only on local shows and as sometimes a substitute on bigger Dixon shows.

It was a hard transition for many reasons. For a while I still watched to learn...but gradually my passion as a punter waned, I stopped recording the matches I saw, the results, collecting the programmes etc. What was the point I thought. But now I wish I had carried on with that side of it when I read all these posts today.

Then I knew I'd never reach the heights of my heroes and eventually quit. Funnily enough I look back at that era still with the eyes of a punter although I was pleased to have had a go and actually wrestle some of those I used to cheer on and boo.

In contradiction to many of the posters on here, I got the 'fun' side of it - Big Daddy, Catweazle etc but even then it was good v evil, something that seems for the most part missing today. More importantly for me in the 80s I saw the rise of a harder hitting style which as a punter looked so believable and real. I read those old Wrestler magazines retrospectively from cover to cover when I was given virtually the lot from 66 to 72 and so wish I could have seen all those characters and bouts I had missed out on yet read about.

The sad thing was, and I hate to say it here, but when I did actually get to see a lot of those 1970s matches that were shown on The Wrestling Channel etc in latter days I was slightly disappointed. The likes of Logan, Marino, Szakacs etc looked tired, old and far less believable than the matches we were seeing in the 1980s. For me in my time a lot of the bouts particularly Dixon shows were more like the real deal. Until I see lots more of those missing TV bouts that are hidden away in the ITV archives the 1980s was and will always be my golden era of UK wrestling.