

"I don't limit the time students have to do the program. The school we have here is one of the most comprehensive. We teach technique and ring psychology. We teach students all the moves, from the basics to the high-flying stuff. These days the arm bars, eye-gouging, and back-rakes just don't work. I myself like the technical stuff. The Rob Van Dam-Jerry Lynn kind of matches. Fans like a few more stunts, I think, so we teach everything."

Bottom line: You learn not only how to wrestle classically—you learn how to wrestle theatrically.

"We teach everything. Lock-ups. Missile drop-kicks. Hurancanranas. You name it. We run Monday and Tuesday from 4 to 7 PM. Wednesday we have our TV taping. Thursday and Friday again 4 to 7. On Saturdays we go from 10 AM to 2 PM. Then on Saturday night we have our show. The ring we train in is also the ring we use for our shows. There's another ring we use for road-shows. Like next week, we're going out and doing a show at a bar. Through the summer we do a lot of fairs and carnivals. We do fundraisers, too."

Students are generally from the Midwest, but Jason is happy to take on anyone from anywhere provided they want to move to Indiana for a while.

Not that just anyone can go to Extreme Wrestling Federation School.

"First thing we do when prospective students come in is to give them a tryout. I'm amazed at the number of people who come in here after years of lying on couches, stuffing their faces, and think they can do this. Now, I'm not making fun of people. I mean, I'm a large man. But when I get new guys in here and have them do Hindu squats, run the ropes, or do push-ups or sit-ups—and they can't even keep up with me ... sheesh!"

So it helps not only to be prepared for pain—but to be in shape.

"Still, I'm not going to turn away someone with a dream. And although it helps to have great cardio—let's face it, some of us don't—some wrestlers just have great gimmicks. So if you come in here with a good work ethic and want to do it and not give up—then I think you've got something from the very beginning. I don't want to make someone's dream not come true just because they need some help along the way.

"I don't turn anyone away because of their shape or size. Now if you don't have any athletic ability—well, that's a problem. But hey—would you like to be a manager? There's all kinds of things you can do in the business. Right now, for instance, I've got a female manager and a few



male managers."

Sound good? You bet! Not only that, it's not too expensive, either. The going rate is \$1,500 for wrestler training, and \$1,000 for manager training. You can find out more about the EWF school by tuning into their Web site or by writing, or even calling, Jason.

When I checked out the Web site, EWF was hosting the Blue Meanie and Jasmine St. Clair at an upcoming show—and Jerry "The King" Lawler and his wife (better known as The Kat) were discussing a visit to the Indiana ring.

Jason Maples is a congenial, laid-back guy who seems not only to have the wrestling school goods—but also an independent promotion that appeals to families as well as WWF viewers. Jason isn't happy with the crude and racy paraphernalia of RAW—and don't look for too many badasses at EWF shows. It's babyfaces vs. heels, the eternal conflict of Good vs. Evil, that makes this wrestling world go 'round.

Want to be a wrestler? The EWF sounds like a good place to start. Just don't eat too much popcorn and Jelly Bellies between matches.

And save the balcony for me. ☐



ABOVE LEFT: Grizzly scoop slams Phoenix. ABOVE RIGHT: Hardcore Superstar splashes Homeless Hank off the top rope. TOP: Adonis Jones give a cross body to Dyson Pryce.