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**STING
IS BACK!**

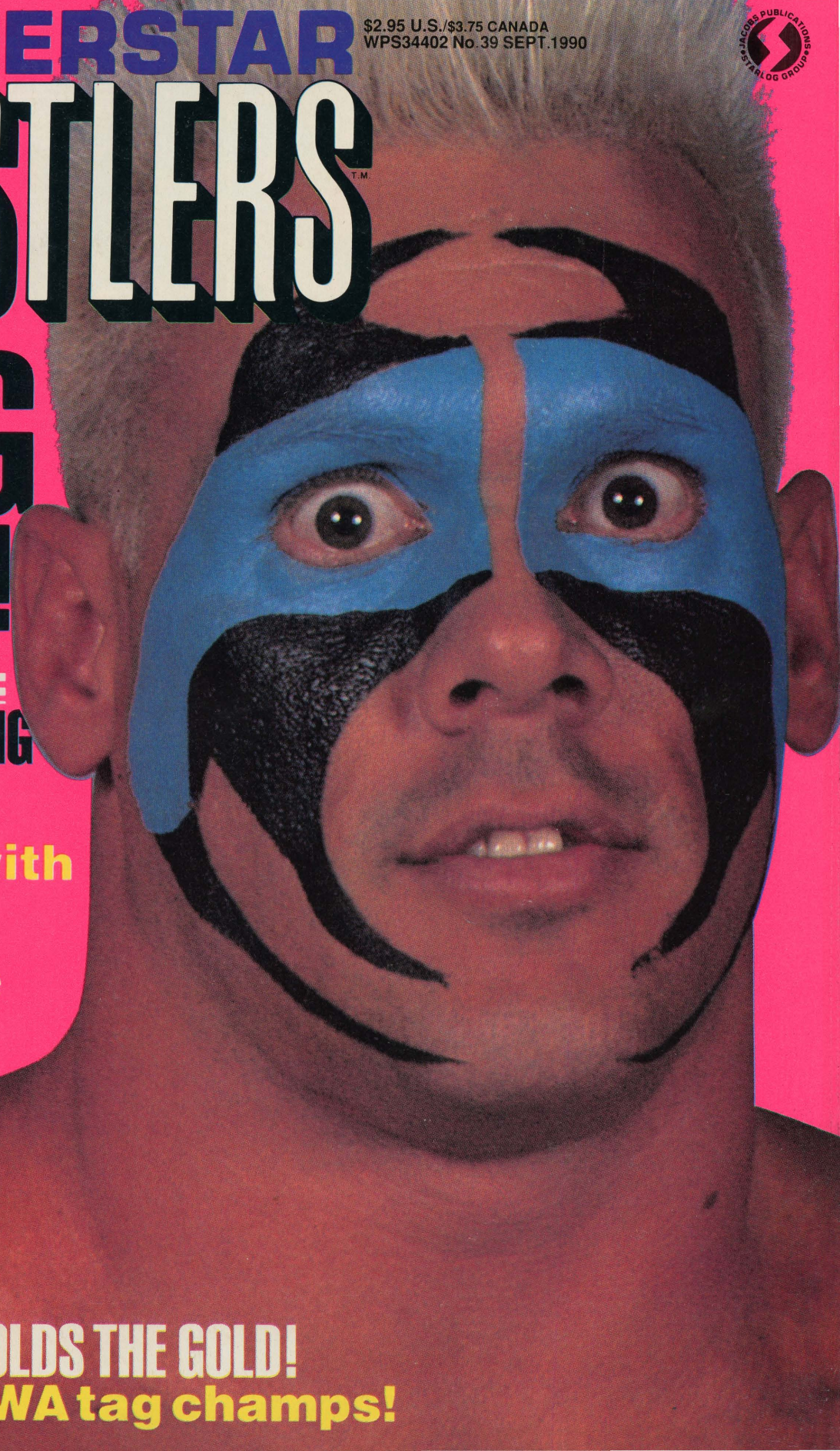
**Dusty Rhodes:
"THE MACHO KING
MUST DIE!"**

**Workin' out with
FLYIN' BRIAN!**

**Biggest dude
in wrestlin'!
EL GIGANTE!**



DOOM HOLDS THE GOLD!
New NWA tag champs!



By MIKE
ALLEN

Sting is back! WILL FLAIR GET STUNG?

The NWA belt hangs in the balance!



Even though he was nearly permanently injured at the hands of the Four Horsemen, Sting continues to be a king-sized thorn in the side of Ric Flair and company as he launches his comeback attempt. His target: the NWA World Heavyweight Championship. Despite sustaining a ripped patella tendon, a career ending injury for most athletes, the Stinger embarked on a rigorous rehabilitation program to get back into the ring. Fully recovered, he's now ready to take on the Horsemen and avenge his suffering.

When the injury took place in Corpus Christi, it was evident that the Horsemen feared Sting's wrath. After expelling him from the group, they tried to get him eliminated from the sport permanently, rather than meet him somewhere down the road. After Ole formally kicked him out of the group on national television, Sting was attacked in the parking lot by the Horsemen. Instead of putting Sting on the shelf forever, the Horsemen merely awakened a

This is Ric Flair's worst nightmare. Sting has not only returned from his knee injury at the hands of the Four Horsemen, but he seems stronger and tougher than ever! In a recent match in Philadelphia, Sting came very close to taking Flair's championship belt. Here, the Stinger has the Nature Boy trapped in the corner, and he's ready to dish out the punishment!

sleeping giant. His comeback attempt was the most difficult thing he has ever endured, as his weight training regimen is intensive and designed to repair the injury at a fast rate.

As he trained and attended sessions with his doctor, Sting was planning his strategy. He wanted to make the Horsemen realize that his return will be a triumphant one. Instead of watching *World Championship Wrestling* from the comfort of his living room, Sting attended the television tapings, making his presence known to the

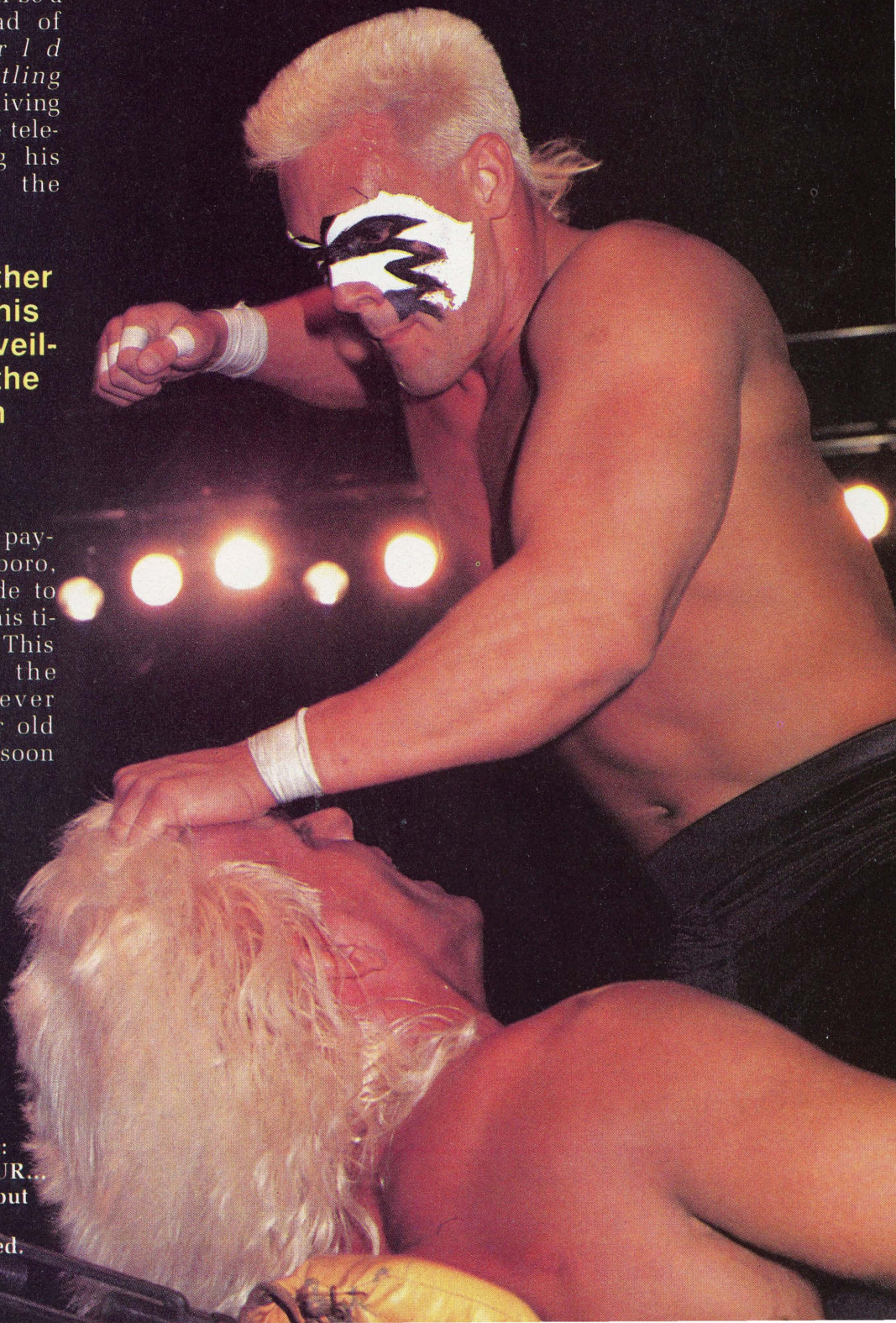
Sting pulled another surprise out of his bag of tricks, unveiling El Gigante, the largest man in wrestling!

Horsemen. Then, at the pay-per-view from Greensboro, Sting strolled to ringside to encourage Lex Luger in his title match against Flair. This further unnerved the Horsemen, who never thought they'd see their old adversary in public so soon after his injury.

Sting does his best to open Flair with these awesome closed-fisted blows to the Nature Boy's skull. As the Stinger repeatedly smashed Flair's head, the excited Philadelphia crowd counted the blows in unison: "ONE...TWO...THREE...FOUR...FIVE...!" By the time Sting put an end to the assault, Flair was dazed and confused.

It turned out to be Sting's presence at that match which cost Luger the title, but it also brought the two wrestlers back together after numerous months of battling each other. Luger and Sting soon formed a bond which saw Sting accompany Luger to matches in

various cities in order to encourage him and also to prevent outside interference. One such incident backfired, though. When the Horsemen secretly brought Barry Windham back into the fold, he attacked Sting from behind. This dastardly deed was



orchestrated by Ole and Woman, who wanted to let Luger and Sting know never to mess with the Horsemen.

Instead of knuckling under after this incident, Sting became even bolder. He brought RoboCop to Capital Combat as his bodyguard, with the hopes that the Horsemen would be foolish enough to mess with the world's most dangerous law enforcement officer. After his appearance with RoboCop, Sting pulled yet another surprise out of his bag of tricks, unveiling the

largest man in wrestling, El Gigante. They strolled down to ringside together when the Horsemen interfered in the cage match. Seeing the fired-

Sting will soon be the next NWA World Heavyweight Champ, and there's nothing that Ric Flair can do about it!

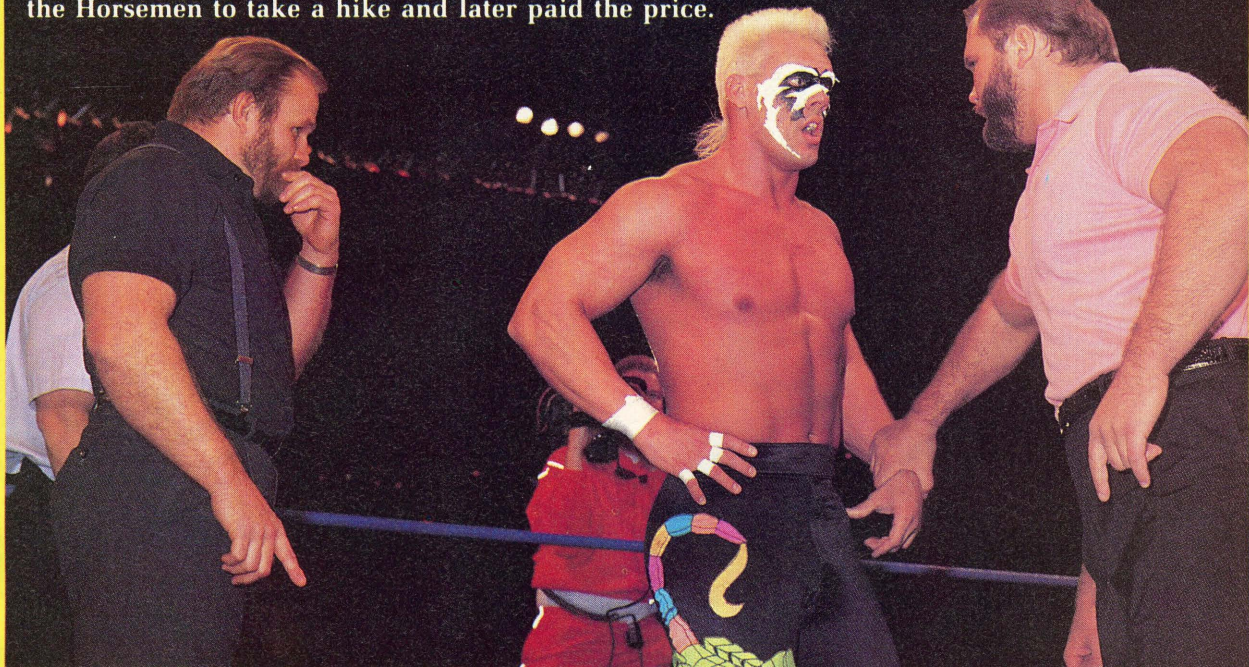
up Stinger accompanied by the human skyscraper, the Horsemen scrambled for cover. As if that weren't

enough, he even jumped Flair after the match, proving that the knee is almost at full strength. Nothing will keep Sting away from Flair once the doctors okay his return.

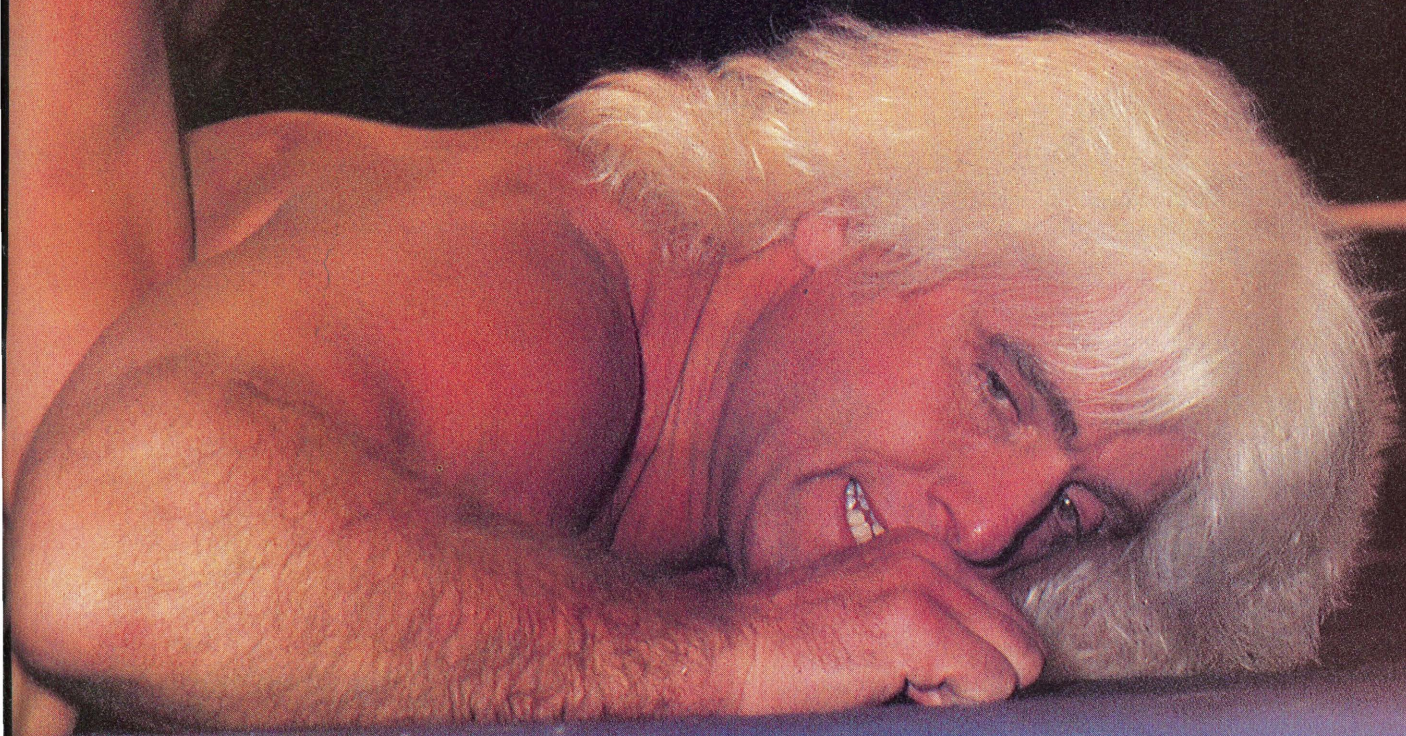
What does Sting's rapid recovery mean for him, the NWA and the Horsemen? It seems that once the doctors give the word for his return, there will be hell to pay all summer long, since Sting will get a chance at Flair's title. Prior to their brief alliance, Sting gave Flair the toughest matches of his career, almost



Flashback: This was the scene just days before Sting's injury. The Andersons are telling the Stinger that if he wants to stay a member of the Horsemen (and if he wants to stay alive, for that matter) he'd best not challenge Ric Flair for the World Championship. Sting told the Horsemen to take a hike and later paid the price.



The rumor is that Flair, because of his age, isn't the wrestler he used to be. As is true of all athletes, wrestlers lose the strength of youth in their legs first. Knowing this, Sting attacks Flair's legs, bending them and stretching them every which way, making the NWA World Heavyweight Champion scream like Tarzan with his agony!



winning the belt on numerous occasions. He even defeated Flair in the final match at Starrcade, winning the Ironman competition and setting in motion the events leading up to his injury.

Sting's determination and tenacity, exhibited during his injury, showed that he fears no man, and that nothing will ever stand in his way again. Nobody will be able to intimidate him again now that he has El Gigante on his side, in addition to new friends Junkyard Dog and Paul Orndorff who have returned to the NWA after long absences. The combination of his newly-formed alliances and his pact with Luger are enough for experts to peg Sting as the chosen one in the NWA.

And finally, since Luger was thwarted by the Horsemen, the only one left who could win the belt is the Stinger. No one besides Luger ever came close to winning the title. His determination is there, along with the support of the fans. It's all up to the Stinger. Judging by the way his game plan has worked out so far, he'll soon be the next NWA World Heavyweight Champion. And there's nothing that Ric Flair or the Horsemen can do about it.

Sting pinned Flair in that ring in Philadelphia, and for a moment he thought that he was, at last, the brand new World Champ. Referee Dick Kroll holds Sting's arm aloft, proclaiming him victorious. Moments later, a check with the official time-keeper revealed that the time-limit had expired seconds before Sting pinned Flair. The match was officially called a time-limit draw, and Flair was allowed to keep his belt.

