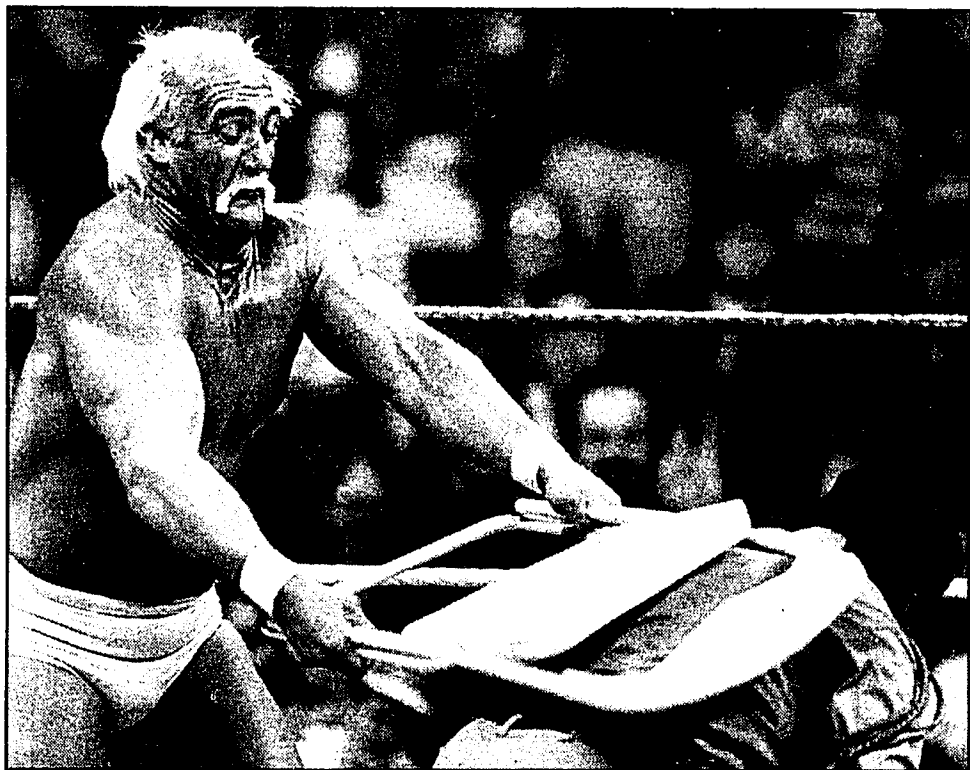
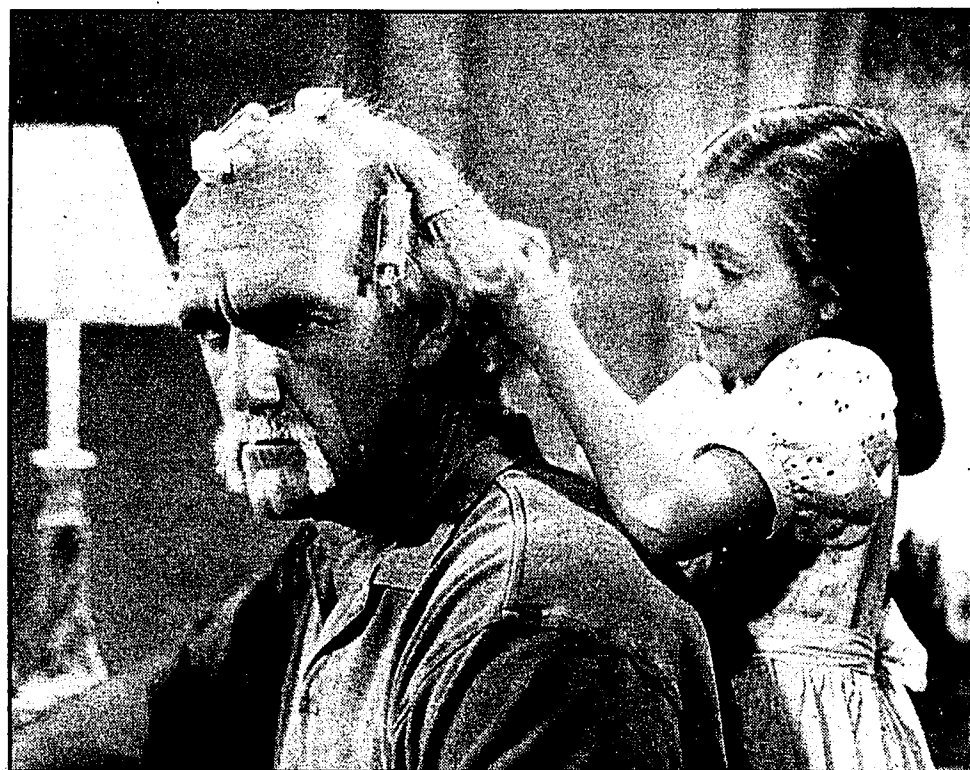


WEEKEND INTERVIEW



Hulk Hogan nails an opponent's henchman during a 1991 match at the Five Seasons Center.



Hulk Hogan, who played Sean Armstrong in New Line Cinema's "Mr. Nanny," went to hair-curling lengths to win over little Kate Mason (Madeline Zima).

Hulk speaks of steroid affair

By Cindy Cullen Chapman
Hulk Hogan speaks seriously and candidly about what he called "the greatest nightmare of my life."

Hogan recently was called upon to testify at the East Coast trial of Vince McMahon, president of the WWF, who was being tried for making steroids available to professional athletes. (He ultimately was acquitted.)

"Thank God it's all behind me," Hogan says fervently. "It haunted me for, like, four years."

"It was a situation where . . . God, how do I put it?," he says, searching for words.

"During the '70s and '80s, the stuff was legal, and all the athletes . . . I don't mean to point fingers, but you'd have to be stupid if you don't realize by now that almost every professional athlete used it. There were a few exceptions (but) it pretty much was the thing to do."

"Then the Food and Drug Administration and the American Medical Association and everybody came up to speed on how dangerous this stuff was. It became illegal in 1988, and that meant you had to quit using it."

"When it became newsworthy during that time, one of the people they pointed out (who had used steroids) was me."

Hogan says reports made him out to be the bad guy. "I felt like maybe I was being unfairly pointed out, and for four years I had people asking me and I'd have to explain myself."

Hogan says he was one of several wrestlers called to testify during the trial. "I just told them what the deal was: Yeah, I had used it, and I quit using it when it became illegal. I said, 'You know, I'm just glad I'm getting to tell my story and get this whole thing behind me.'"

"It's like having a thousand pounds lifted off my shoulders, and I'm just glad it's over with."

Turn to 5W: **Steroids**

He's one Hulk of a nice guy

■ **What:** "LIVE Clash of the Champions," featuring Hulk Hogan

■ **When/Where:** Wednesday, Five Seasons Center. Main event, 7:05 p.m., preceded by 6:30 p.m. "dark match"

■ **Tickets:** \$15, \$12, \$9 at Five Seasons Center box office and Ticketmaster outlets. Discounts for groups of 20 or more.

By Cindy Cullen Chapman
Gazette arts & entertainment editor

The title of Hulk Hogan's 1992 movie was "Mr. Nanny."

"Mr. Nice Guy" would have been a truer description.

Hogan was scheduled to call for an interview at 10 a.m. At 10 on the dot, the phone rings.

The voice on the other end booms: "Is it OK if I call you back in about 40 minutes? I'm in the middle of my workout — I couldn't get my kids to eat breakfast this morning, so I'm behind schedule."

What?! The Hulkster's kids dare to not eat when they're told?

Later, Hogan admits his two children, Brooke, 6, and Nicholas, 4, aren't as easily intimidated as his opponents in the ring.

"I cooked all the power-ranger eggs, with the cheese and stuff, then I couldn't get 'em to eat," he says.

Hulk "Terry" Hogan (his real name is Terry Bollea) was calling from his home in Clear Water Beach, Fla. He'll be appearing Wednesday with the World Championship Wrestling's (WCW) "Live Clash of the Champions," to be televised live from the Five Seasons Center on cable channel WTBS.

Hogan is recognized as an all-around good guy. He's asked how he gets that across, given the usual persona of professional wrestlers.

"I think it's kinda like being yourself, really," he replies. "For eight years, I yelled and screamed Hulk Hogan this, and Hulk Hogan that: Train, and say your prayers, and take your vitamins . . . I yelled and screamed for so long because the guy I worked for (with World Wrestling Federation) had me just paranoid

about letting my guard down."

"Finally, my mom told me, 'Damn, Terry, if you just let people know what you're really like, they'll like you better. And so the first thing I did was a Right Guard (deodorant) commercial, and I just really let my guard down. I could have yelled and screamed, but I did it real light and fluffy . . .'"

"I swear, the response I got from that was so positive that on my interviews now, if I go on Jay Leno, I'll start out screamin' 'Hey, Jay Leno, you're in my parking space!' Then, as soon as I give them a little bit of Hulk Hogan, I go into the normal Terry. Then, whenever they want me to jump into character, I'll jump in and out, but I really like lettin' my guard down."

Hogan projects a positive aura, both in conversation and nowadays in the ring. That was one of his demands when he returned to professional wrestling via WCW after leaving the WWF a couple of years ago. He left, he says, because he didn't go along with the negative message professional wrestling was sending.

"During the '80s, we were real positive. It just seemed like, the last couple of years, they started going to the dark side, characters were more into talking about the dark side and death and stuff. I didn't feel comfortable with that."

His choice to return certainly wasn't out of necessity. He's got several films under his belt (most recently, "Suburban Commando" and "Mr. Nanny"), plus his syndicated television series, "Thunder in Paradise." It is carried locally on KOCR-TV (Channel 28) and airs at 9 p.m. Fridays.

"I really wasn't planning on wrestling again," he admits, but the positive approach of the WCW, backed by Ted Turner, was one thing that changed his mind.

"Ted Turner has made a commitment verbally that he's gonna stand behind (the WCW). And with Ted Turner's resources, I really think we can make a major

■ Turn to 5W: **Hulk**

Yes, Hulk is also a songbird

By Cindy Cullen Chapman
If Hulk Hogan ever decides to quit wrestling permanently, he does have other career choices.

He's already a movie star, having headlined the films "Suburban Commando," "Mr. Nanny" and "No Holds Barred." He made his big-screen debut as Thunderlips, who tossed Sylvester Stallone out of the ring in "Rocky III," and appeared as himself in Steven Spielberg's "Gremlins II." And Hogan was the voice of "Hulk Hogan Rockin' Wrestlin'," an animated series which ran for three seasons.

His latest acting project is "Thunder in Paradise," an action-adventure syndicated series which airs locally on KOCR-TV. He portrays R.J. "Hurricane" Spencer, an ex-Navy SEAL for hire, who captains a 43-foot high-tech, super-charged vessel named Thunder.

So what's next — singing perhaps? "You just hit the nail on the head," he says with amazement. "We've been in the studio the last two weeks."

"Hulk Hogan's Wrestling Boot Band: American Made" will feature at least 10 original songs, eight of which were written by the Hulkster himself. It's scheduled to be released around Christmastime.

"Before I ever wrestled, I played music for 10 years," Hogan says. "I played bass guitar — my mom was a music teacher. That's how I made my play money in high school."

This actually is Hogan's second album. The first hit No. 18 in the United Kingdom.

He says because of contract difficulties with the Arista label, it never was available in the United States.

His wife, Linda, took part in the recording session and is featured on the cut, "Ain't Nothin' But a Honky Dog."

She also makes a brief appearance in a "Thunder in Paradise" episode in which she delivers a motorcycle.

WEEKEND INTERVIEW

Steroids: Hulk

■ From page 1T

"The hard thing was . . . I could understand people pointin' at me, and it was almost like a compliment if you could look at this left-handed scenario: Hey, Hulk is so important that without him, we don't have a story.

"But that hard part was that it hurt my mom and dad, and my family. That was tough. My dad's like 88 years old and he didn't understand it.

"And I said, 'Well, Dad, it was legal,' and you know it was just hard to explain it to him . . . they understand now, and we're all really glad it's behind us."

Hogan says he's tried to turn a negative into a positive.

"It's great to be able to talk to kids and say, it was a short cut and here's the lesson about short cuts — when you take a short cut, you fall behind.

"The bottom line with this whole deal is when you want something in life, whether it's an athletic position or a goal in life such as a good education or to get a good job, if you work hard enough and don't take short cuts, you can have whatever you want.

"That's the lesson there."

Hulk: Fighting wrestling's violent image

■ From page 1W

statement here and get things back to a very positive role, and get away from the violence and concentrate on the action, which it should be.

"The whole deal is, if it doesn't do a turnaround — which it is doing — I told them if Hulk Hogan comes on board, it doesn't have to change overnight, but it is going to have to gradually do a (turnaround) to action and family entertainment. If it remains violent, I will be gone.

"I'm kind of like using my leverage to get my way. I know that sounds terrible (but) when Mom and Dad bring their kids, they're gonna have fun for three hours instead of worrying about seeing some weird guy come out and beat some guy in the head with a chair. I think people want to yell and scream and have fun, and now that I've got kids, I'm really aware of this whole deal."

Also wooing him back was the public.

"People would say, 'Hulk, when you gonna wrestle?' Or, 'Hulk Hogan, wrestling's not the same without you!' And then my kids started saying, 'Dad, are you ever going to wrestle again?'"

Hogan describes himself and his fellow professional wrestlers as "good athletes, and good entertainers, and also good actors.

"It used to be broken noses and cauliflower ears, and everybody was fighting for position," he says. "Now, it's more oriented toward building a character and being able to have charisma . . . You make yourself valuable. If all you can do is wrestle, you can forget it."

Hogan says he doesn't argue with those who consider professional wrestling "entertainment."

"The only people I argue with are the ones who say it's fake. When somebody says fake, it makes

me feel like (it means) you don't get hurt. . . . we get hurt every night. We work really hard, we get a lot of lumps, a lot of bruises, a lot of torn muscles, break bones once in a while. Sometimes major accidents happen.

"I wrestled the other night in Orlando . . . oh, my God, I was crippled for, like, five days. I just could not even get out of bed! But the body gets used to that."

To be able to take that physical abuse, Hogan, who laughs that his age makes him a "mature athlete," works out two hours every day. "I do the body-building stuff, but I use real light weights and I do it real fast, like an aerobic workout with weights. Basically, I stay soaking wet with sweat, and then I'll ride the Stairmaster for 30 minutes, then situps."

Hulk is in for the long haul right now.

"But as long as I can have fun with the people and don't get hurt too bad out there and don't make a fool of myself, I'll keep doing it.

"I've got this stuff down — a little bit of wrestlin', a little bit of entertaining, and a whole lot of playin' possum."

So, what would his reaction be if 4-year-old Nicholas someday tells him he'd like to follow in his father's footsteps, possibly in wrestling?

"I'll give him good advice," Hogan promises. "I don't know what shape wrestling will be in in 14 or 15 years, but it's something he can make a good, honest living at. If he wanted to do it, and he drove me crazy about it, I wouldn't discourage him."

And daughter Brooke?

"Oh my God! Stop it, stop it! Brooke's going to be a singer. She likes to sing."

A Hulk attack?

Is Hulk in for a fall? In last Friday's edition of The Detroit News, writer M.L. Curly said that Hogan's opponent Ric Flair is planning to sabotage Hulk's fight Wednesday night.

"Flair is keying all of his resources to incapacitate The Hulkster when the two battle for Hogan's WCW title Aug. 24 . . . in Cedar Rapids, Iowa . . . Flair has already secretly enlisted virtually every 'bad guy' in the WCW to attack Hogan before The Hulkster even has a chance to enter the ring and put Hogan out of wrestling for two months," writes Curly.

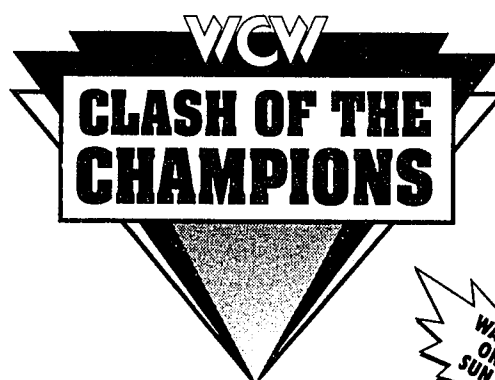
Way? No way, according to WCW public relations manager Alan Sharp, who promises a "tremendous match" between the two.

"They will do battle" in the ring, Sharp promised Wednesday.

He said Curly's story is all "rumor and gossip." You heard it here, uh, second, folks.

Five Seasons Center
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24
6:30PM CENTRAL



WATCH WCW
ON KOVR
SUN. NOON

**WCW WORLD TITLE
RETURN MATCH**

HULK HOGAN

with Jimmy Hart

— VS —

RIC FLAIR

with Sensuous Sherri

TAG TEAM MATCH

**DUSTY RHODES &
DUSTIN RHODES**

VS

**TERRY FUNK &
BUNKHOUSE BUCK**
w/Col. Parker & Meng

**U.S. TITLE
RETURN MATCH**

RICKY STEAMBOAT

VS

STUNNING STEVE AUSTIN

ANTONIO INOKI

VS

LORD STEVEN REGAL
w/Sir William

**SPECIAL CHALLENGE
TAG TEAM MATCH**

PRETTY WONDERFUL

VS

NASTY BOYS
PLUS MUCH MORE!!!

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