

Thomas gets swept into 'Hulkmania' after he loses TV's 'Remote Control'

Take it from me. Being stranded in front of a television without a remote control isn't any day in the park.

It happened on a Saturday. Nebraska had just dumped Creighton in hoops. It was too late to make a night of it, too early to call it a day.

Television was the only option. With too much turkey in the tummy, I wasn't about to come unglued from my couch.

I'd be content with whatever appeared on my screen. But laziness laughed last. I had to watch the "The Main Event." Optimists call it professional wrestling.

To me, it's goofy grappling. It's All-Star Insanity, two talentless, tasteless larger-than-life creeps who hoot and holler until you turn the volume down.

And so the matches began, with the "Ultimate Warrior" knocking the bejesus out of some leotard-wearing chump.

After the breathtaking bout, the promoters cut to "Mean" Gene Okerland -- that short, balding fella who has interviewed wrestlers since Joan of Arc was in junior high.

Gene is everything Ted Koppel isn't. He asks a harmless question, then gets tossed like a salad by some sloth.

And Gene's would-be interview is transformed into a forum for the flamboyant and the odiously obnoxious.

But on that particular night, Hulk Hogan stepped up for an interview. (For you rookies, Hulk is la creme de la creme of the wrestling world -- a real gent.)

But my faith in Hulk (we're on a first nickname basis) waned when he called his biceps "24-inch pythons."

I glanced at my arms. And if Hulk sports 24-inch pythons, I've been blessed with a couple of 10-inch earthworms. Though it was a devastating blow to my manhood, I kept watchin'.

And Hulk kept talkin' -- about Hulkmania, of course. Historians tell me the Hulk craze gave rise to Hulkmania. Groupies cleverly were dubbed "Hulkamaniacs."

Funny how things change. When I

the man mountain, "Andre the Ugly Mug."

Andre donned an unbecoming black garment -- probably bought it at Tent & Awning. And I know not where he lives, but the place doesn't have a sun. He's a walking argument for electric tanning booths.

Macho Man entered the ring with his manager-bimbo, Elizabeth. (Proud Elizabeth often brags to jealous women, announcing that her Macho Man is "Nacho Man.")

Anyway, it was a good match until Jake "The Snake" Roberts stormed into the arena uninvited. Unbeknownst to me at the time, Andre fears snakes.

To keep it short, Macho Man and Jake tied Andre in the ropes and threw the lifeless, drugged-up serpent on Andre.

I could go on, telling tales of Hill-billy Jim and Junkyard Dog. Or I could tell you about a guy named Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake who bludgeons his foes senseless -- then gives 'em a haircut to boot.

But you get the gist of what I endured that night. Sympathy cards are welcome. But keep 'em sincere.

The last thing I need is some Hulkamaniac telling me that I'm jealous because the clods make a heckuva lot more from a pin than I'll ever make from my pen.

Thomas is a senior news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.



Steve Thomas

was in second grade, Skeeter wanted to be a cop. Eddy wanted to be a fireman. And the rest of us wanted to be like Skeeter and Eddy.

But now, playgrounds runneth over with aspiring Hulkamaniacs.

Back in the ring, Andre the Giant and "Macho Man" Randy Savage were set to wage war. This was to be a real humdinger -- title belts, frenzied fans, all that garbage.

Andre's an ornery cuss. Big, too. Standing 7-foot-4 and weighing 570 pounds, he wears a wide load triangle on his gargantuan buttocks.

And he's as ugly as he is big. Guys down at the nickname factory told me there was heavy support to label



CHRISTMAS DAY WAS ALWAYS A TREAT... FIRST, THE GIFTS WERE EXCHANGED, THEN A SUMPTUOUS FEAST OF SPAM AND WARMED DINNER ROLLS WAS ARRANGED. FINALLY, ROY READ ALOUD TO ARLENE FROM BACK ISSUES OF THE TABS.

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Sanders regrets Heisman hassle

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) - Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders never seems to tire of running around on the football field. Off the field, it's another story.

"I don't hate anyone, but it is a hassle," the Oklahoma State tailback said Tuesday of the media demands in recent weeks. "I wish you could understand how I felt about it. I just look at it as I have a lot of things to do besides responsibilities to the media.

"It's been tough this semester, but I guess it's just something I'll have to deal with from here on out."

Sanders, who broke nearly two dozen NCAA records this year, including Marcus Allen's single-season rushing mark of 2,342 yards, held his first formal news conference since returning from Tokyo where the 12th-ranked Cowboys beat Texas Tech 45-42 Sunday.

Sanders said it was a great relief to have the Heisman race over with, and admitted he was uncomfortable with the extra attention he was receiving from fellow students.

The junior from Wichita, Kan., officially will receive the Heisman Thursday in New York. He again shared credit with his teammates, especially the offensive line and fullback Garrett Limbrick.

Sanders said he has not planned an acceptance speech and hopes his hosts in New York aren't expecting much. He also said he does not know where he will display the trophy, but that he expects his father will want to show it off to friends for a while.

Sanders originally was credited with 257 yards rushing against Texas Tech, which gave him 2,553 yards on the season. However, a review of the game videotape revealed that two running plays were incorrectly credited as pass receptions by Sanders.

The revision gave Sanders a career-high 332 yards rushing on 44 carries -- his fourth 300-yard game of the season -- and 2,628 yards this season.

While the NCAA routinely makes small statistical adjustments several days after games end, a change of such a magnitude is unprecedented, said Steve Boda, the NCAA's associate director of statistics.

JESUS IS THE REASON

FOR THE SEASON

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