

= Ion Croitoru =

Ion (John) William Croitoru (born December 7 , 1965) is a Canadian former professional wrestler . He was born and raised in Ontario , Canada . To wrestling fans , Croitoru is better known by his ring names , Johnny K @-@ 9 and Bruiser Bedlam . He competed in several Canadian wrestling promotions , including Stampede Wrestling , and later wrestled for New Japan Pro Wrestling , Smoky Mountain Wrestling , and the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) . He wrestled as a jobber in the WWF , but he was booked to win titles in several other promotions .

Croitoru is also famous for his history of legal problems . He was a member of Satan 's Choice , a biker gang , and has also been convicted of assault , trafficking cocaine and bombing a police station . In 2005 , Croitoru was arrested for the murder of lawyer Lynn Gilbank and her husband Fred . After a lengthy investigation , the charges were dropped in June 2006 because of insufficient evidence . He worked as a security guard in Vancouver , British Columbia until being arrested in May 2009 for conspiracy to commit murder . On January 24 , 2011 , Croitoru was charged with first degree murder in connection with the 2008 execution of Jonathan Barber in Burnaby , British Columbia .

= = Wrestling career = =

= = = Early years = = =

Croitoru trained with Nick DeCarlo and Vic Rossitini before debuting in Stampede Wrestling in 1984 . Bruce Hart gave Croitoru the ring name Orhan Turgedan , The Terrible Turk , a name Croitoru only wrestled under for a short time after leaving the promotion . He continued to wrestle in Canadian independent promotions , such as Grand Prix Wrestling in the Maritimes and Superstars of Wrestling in Windsor , Ontario .

In 1985 Croitoru wrestled for the American Wrestling Association (AWA) , where he received a push and was given a reign as AWA Southern Heavyweight champion . He defeated Jerry Lawler to win the belt on August 16 , but dropped it back to Lawler in a rematch on September 6 . The following month , Croitoru joined the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) as Johnny K @-@ 9 , where he competed until 1989 . Croitoru claims that he decided on this name while being arrested after a fight . He saw " K @-@ 9 " written on a paddywagon and decided on the ring name . He worked as a jobber to the stars , putting over such wrestlers as Pedro Morales , Tito Santana and Paul Orndorff . He wrestled in many tag team matches and formed a short @-@ lived team with Barry O in 1986 , but his biggest match in the WWF was a televised match against Hulk Hogan . After leaving the WWF , he wrestled on a tour of Japan for New Japan Pro Wrestling ; he later returned to Japan to compete for Frontier Martial @-@ Arts Wrestling and Wrestle Association R. In the late 1980s , Croitoru also worked as a promoter along with Mike Kelly and Bob Clarke , operating the short @-@ lived Canadian International Championship Wrestling in Hamilton , Ontario .

= = = Smoky Mountain Wrestling = = =

Croitoru joined Smoky Mountain Wrestling (SMW) in 1994 , where he was given the ring name Bruiser Bedlam . According to the storyline , he was brought in by manager Jim Cornette to help settle Cornette 's feud with Bob Armstrong . Bedlam and Cornette combined for a victory in a two @-@ on @-@ one handicap match over Armstrong at SMW 's Blue Grass Brawl II show on April 1 . That year , he wrestled many tag team and six @-@ man matches while teaming with Cornette .

Bedlam was booked for one title reign with the SMW Beat the Champ Television Championship during his stint in SMW . The kayfabe rules behind the title state that any wrestler winning five consecutive matches as champion would win \$ 5 @ , @ 000 but be forced to vacate the title . He won a match against Mike Furnas on April 4 , 1994 to win the title , and he defended it over the following

month . Bedlam won his fifth match on May 2 with a victory over Anthony Michaels , and the storyline saw him forced to give up the title . He went on to feud with Tracy Smothers , and the two wrestled in a lengthy series of matches , including several Coalminer 's glove matches , in which a glove is available for the wrestlers to use as a weapon . Later that year , Bedlam wrestled several matches against " Dirty White Boy " Tony Anthony . The series consisted of several steel cage matches in which Bedlam put Anthony over .

= = = Later career = = =

In 1994 , Croitoru also began wrestling in Midwest Territorial Wrestling , an independent promotion based in Michigan . He took on the ring name Taras Bulba and proclaimed himself " King of Chain matches " . He competed in a tournament to determine the promotion 's first heavyweight champion , but Al Snow defeated him in the final round . Bulba was pushed for a run with the belt , however , defeating Mickey Doyle on January 21 , 1995 to win the vacant title . He held the championship for almost four months before dropping it to Marty Jannetty .

As Johnny K @-@ 9 , Croitoru returned to the WWF for one match where he defeated Gary Scott in a dark match on January 23 , 1995 . He then competed briefly in Cleveland All Pro Wrestling , where he wrestled against Cactus Jack in a booked loss on March 23 . Croitoru also wrestled in Border City Wrestling (BCW) and was pushed to win the BCW Can @-@ Am Heavyweight Championship by defeating Scott D 'Amore on May 21 , 1995 . He held the title for a little over a month before dropping it back to D 'Amore .

Once again using the ring name Bruiser Beldam , he wrestled for Insane Championship Wrestling (ICW) for a short time in 1996 . While there , he competed in a barbed wire baseball bat match against Ian Rotten ; Bedlam was booked for the victory in the match . He also wrestled New Jack at ICW 's Holiday Hell supercard in a match that ended in a double countout . He wrestled on World Championship Wrestling 's first annual Ilio DiPaolo tribute show , teaming with Cowboy Johnson in a loss to Tony Parisi and Dominic DeNucci . In the late 1990s , Croitoru wrestled in Cambridge , Ontario @-@ based International Championship Wrestling . He feuded with Greg Valentine , and the two wrestled in a series of matches . Bedlam won the ICW Heavyweight Championship from Valentine and used heel tactics such as brass knuckles to defend the belt .

Croitoru has also trained several wrestlers , including Pure Wrestling Association 's Eddie Osbourne and Melissa Maughn , who competes under the ring name 21st Century Fox .

= = Legal trouble = =

= = = Satan 's Choice motorcycle gang = = =

Croitoru has a history of run @-@ ins with the police . Many of his legal problems came while he was president of the Hamilton , Ontario chapter of the Satan 's Choice Outlaw motorcycle club . He was arrested for trafficking cocaine and served ten months in prison . Soon after , he was convicted of assault and was given a sentence of seven months . He encountered more problems on December 15 , 1996 when he and several friends from Satan 's Choice were kicked out of a strip club for wearing their gang 's colors . To get revenge , Croitoru and his friends planned to blow up the strip club . They changed their minds , however , and decided to bomb the local police station instead . The bomb caused \$ 133 @,@ 000 in damages to the Sudbury , Ontario police station and a nearby bank and injured a police officer . Croitoru and two friends were arrested and charged , but the trial did not begin until almost two years later .

While Croitoru was awaiting trial for the bombing , the Hamilton branch of Satan 's Choice was shut down after an informant gave the police information about the gang 's involvement with drug dealing and extortion . The gang 's clubhouse was confiscated and the club 's national leadership decided to disband the Hamilton chapter . Croitoru got in a fight in Hamilton with another former Satan 's Choice member on January 13 , 1998 . A police officer saw Croitoru punch the other man in the face

and arrested Croitoru for assault . In addition to the assault charge , Croitoru was charged with extortion from an unrelated incident as well as carrying a concealed weapon and breaking the conditions of his release following the police station bombing . In September 1998 , Croitoru was brought to trial for his role in the bombing . He was convicted and sentenced to 33 months in prison .

Hitman Ken Murdock , who was himself jailed in 1999 , has claimed he was hired by the mafia to kill Croitoru but instead chose to spare his life .

= = = Murder accusations = = =

Croitoru 's most famous encounter with the law occurred on January 6 , 2005 when he was charged with the November 16 , 1998 murders of Lynn and Fred Gilbank . The couple was shot execution @-@ style with a shotgun . Police suspect that the murders were in response to Lynn Gilbank 's assistance in getting William and Angie Smith into a witness protection program after William Smith gave the police information about the Gravelle crime family . Croitoru , who had several contacts within the Gravelle family (including a contract to kill police inspector Rick Wills , who was investigating the Gravelles) , was a suspect in the investigation and had his phones tapped during the investigation .

After an investigation that lasted six years and cost \$ 6 million , police laid charges against Croitoru and Andre Gravelle . Croitoru was charged with two counts of first degree murder and two counts of conspiracy to commit murder . After spending seven months in prison , Croitoru was released on \$ 100 @,@ 000 bail . He was arrested on December 2 , 2005 for violating his bail terms , and police filed another extortion charge against him .

Evidence against Croitoru and Gravelle was presented over the course of eight weeks in 2006 , but the judge stated that the case against the two accused was not strong . Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant withdrew the charges on June 12 , 2006 . Following this action by the attorney general , both Croitoru and Andre Gravelle announced plans to file lawsuits against people involved with the prosecution . Gravelle is suing for \$ 25 million , and Croitoru is seeking \$ 15 million for wrongful imprisonment and malicious prosecution . Hamilton Police Services was ordered to pay Gravelle \$ 10 @,@ 000 for court costs . In June 2006 , Croitoru also pleaded guilty to the charges of extortion and violating the terms of his bail . As a result , he was forced to forfeit \$ 10 @,@ 000 of the bail money .

= = = United Nations gang = = =

On May 15 , 2009 , Croitoru was arrested , along with seven other members of the United Nations gang . They were charged with conspiracy to commit murder for allegedly plotting to kill the Bacon Brothers and other members of the Red Scorpions gang . On January 24 , 2011 , Croitoru was charged with first degree murder in connection with the execution of Jonathan Barber and the attempted murder of Barber 's girlfriend Vicky King , then 17 , in Burnaby on 9 May 2008 . In July 2013 , he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder , and the murder charges were stayed . He was sentenced to 13 years in prison , which was reduced to four years and eight months after factoring in time served . In January 2015 , he applied for parole , stating that he had agreed to help with the murders to impress members of the United Nations gang , but that he did not intend to kill anyone . The application was denied .

= = Personal life = =

Before entering wrestling , Croitoru played junior hockey for the Kitchener Rangers in the Ontario Hockey League . He was not drafted to the National Hockey League , however , and he decided to pursue professional wrestling instead . Croitoru is an accomplished weightlifter , and he once bench pressed 625 pounds . While awaiting his murder trial , Croitoru ran a home renovation business until he was unable to secure a bank loan to cover business expenses . After closing the business ,

Croitoru supported himself by working as a used car salesman . Croitoru came from a large family from Dundas , Ontario .

Croitoru currently lives in Vancouver , British Columbia with his common @-@ law wife to Tracy Edwards and his daughter Tiandra He most recently worked as a bodyguard for Lion 's Gate Entertainment , providing protection for such actors as Jack Nicholson and Cyndi Lauper . Croitoru also had a brief acting career , appearing in a movie titled Oklahoma Smugglers , in which he portrayed a wrestler , and such television shows as Reaper .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

Stomach claw

Signature moves

Diving headbutt

Powerslam

Managers

Handsome Johnny Bradford

Jim Cornette

Pandora

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

American Wrestling Association

AWA Southern Heavyweight Championship (1 time)

Border City Wrestling

BCW Can @-@ Am Heavyweight Championship (1 time)

International Championship Wrestling (Cambridge , Ontario)

ICW Heavyweight Championship (1 time)

Midwest Territorial Wrestling

MTW Heavyweight Championship (1 time)

Smoky Mountain Wrestling

SMW Beat the Champ Television Championship (1 time)