

= Rip Hawk =

Harvey Maurice Evers (June 6 , 1930 ? December 22 , 2012) was an American professional wrestler best known by his ring name , Rip Hawk . He began his wrestling career in the Mid @-@ Western United States before joining Jim Crockett Promotions (JCP) in the early 1960s . In the company , he teamed with fellow wrestler Swede Hanson as the " Blond Bombers , " and the duo held several championships . In the 1970s , he worked as a booker in JCP .

= = Early life = =

Evers was born on June 6 , 1930 in Indiana . He was raised in Ohio .

= = Professional wrestling career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Hawk made his wrestling debut in 1949 . He began as an amateur in Ohio and was discovered by professional boxer Jack Dempsey , who convinced him to wrestle professionally . His ring name came from a variety of sources : his sister called him " Rip " as a nickname , while a promoter gave him the last name " Hawk " due to his nose and his movements in the wrestling ring . His nickname , " The Profile " , was taken from actor John Barrymore . He began wrestling professionally in Ohio around his 18th birthday , and later moved to Chicago , where he trained for a year with Karl Pojello . He also briefly wrestled in New York .

Hawk was soon drafted to serve in the Korean War . He joined the United States Marine Corps and continued to wrestle during his service . He was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1954 , believing he could make a better living from wrestling . He competed in several territories after returning to the United States , including Tennessee and Atlanta , Georgia , Iowa . He later moved to Missouri , where he competed in St. Joseph and St. Louis . In St. Joseph , he had a scripted feud with Sonny Myers and Larry Hamilton . He continued to move around and held his first championship , the NWA Rocky Mountain Heavyweight Championship , while wrestling for NWA Western States Sports in 1958 .

= = = Jim Crockett Promotions = = =

Hawk moved to North Carolina in the early 1960s , where he began competing for Jim Crockett Promotions , an organization run by Jim Crockett , Sr. that promoted events in the Carolinas . He met fellow wrestler Swede Hanson and approached Crockett about forming a tag team with Hanson . Crockett agreed to the idea , and Hawk and Hanson began competing as the " Blond Bombers " , named after their matching blond hair and their strength in the ring . While competing in Australia , Hawk met manager Gary Hart . He approached Crockett and convinced him to bring Hart to the Carolinas to manage Hawk and Hanson .

The team competed as heels (villains) and was unique for wearing suits to their matches , as most wrestlers did not worry about dressing like professionals outside of the ring . They aroused anger from many spectators , some of whom threw acid or threatened the team with knives and guns . They also had a following among some fans , and a fan club was formed for them at one point . During interviews , Hawk spoke for the team while Hanson stood silently ; Hawk occasionally insulted Hanson in the interviews , but Hanson did not respond . The team competed in the Carolinas and Virginia , as well as touring overseas in Australia , New Zealand , and Japan .

Hawk wrestled in other territories , including Texas , where he held the NWA Texas Heavyweight Championship and the Texas version of the NWA World Tag Team Championship (the latter while teaming with Rock Hunter) . Nine of his championships came as a member of the Blond Bombers , however . Hawk and Hanson were booked in an angle to win their first title together , the Florida

version of the NWA World Tag Team Championship , on August 3 , 1965 . They combined to hold the NWA Atlantic Coast Tag Team Championship on four occasions , which was the center of their feud with Johnny Weaver and George Becker . They were also booked to win the IWA World Tag Team Championship on a wrestling tour of Tasmania .

The Blond Bombers were involved in a series of unusual matches in Jim Crockett Promotions ; they faced other heel tag teams , which was a rarity at the time because most promoters stuck to good versus evil storylines . They competed against such teams as Aldo Bogni and Bronko Lubich , Gene and Ole Anderson , and Skull Murphy and Brute Bernard . Hawk , along with Johnny Weaver , was also involved in booking , or scheduling , events in Jim Crockett Promotions , a task he took on in the early 1970s . He also collaborated with Johnny Ringo to design the National Wrestling Alliance logo .

In 1971 , Hanson suffered a heart attack and had to take time off of wrestling . Hawk competed as a singles wrestler and feuded with the Brisco brothers (Jack and Jerry) . During this rivalry , Hawk held the NWA Eastern States Heavyweight Championship four times . He was then paired with Ric Flair , who was billed as his nephew . On July 4 , 1974 , Hawk and Flair were booked the NWA Mid @-@ Atlantic Tag Team Championship .

Hanson returned to wrestling but soon became a face (fan favorite) and feuded with Hawk . The former partners faced each other in tag team matches in which Hanson teamed with Tiger Conway , Jr. and Hawk teamed with Flair . Eventually , the partners were dropped and the two faced each other in a series of singles matches . Hawk left Jim Crockett Promotions permanently in 1975 due to differences with booker George Scott .

= = = Later career = = =

Hawk then took on a new partner , Roger Kirby , with whom he held the NWA Florida Tag Team Championship twice over the next two years . Hawk and Hanson reunited as a tag team in Texas , where they competed for NWA Western States Sports . In 1976 and 1977 , they were booked to win the NWA Western States Tag Team Championship three times . After their final title reign , Hanson left to wrestle elsewhere while Hawk continued to wrestle in Texas .

Hawk and Hanson were inducted into the NWA Legends Hall of Heroes in 2007 . Hawk returned in 2008 to posthumously induct long @-@ time rival and real @-@ life friend Johnny Weaver .

= = Personal life = =

After retiring from wrestling , he moved to Hereford , Texas , where he lived with his wife , Kitty . They have 2 daughters . He worked as a personal trainer and wrestling coach at the YMCA in Hereford until 2011 . Several of his trainees went to the Junior Olympics and received athletic scholarships to college .

Evers died on December 22 , 2012 . He had suffered from cardiac problems prior to his death .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

Piledriver

Managers

Gary Hart

Homer O 'Dell

Nicknames

" The Profile "

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Championship Wrestling from Florida

NWA Florida Tag Team Championship (2 times) - with Roger Kirby
NWA World Tag Team Championship (Florida version) (1 time) - with Swede Hanson
Mid @-@ Atlantic Championship Wrestling
NWA Atlantic Coast Tag Team Championship (4 times) - with Swede Hanson
NWA Eastern States Heavyweight Championship (4 times)
NWA Mid @-@ Atlantic Tag Team Championship (1 time) - with Ric Flair
NWA Southern Tag Team Championship (Mid @-@ Atlantic version) (1 time) - with Swede Hanson
NWA Western States Sports
NWA Rocky Mountain Heavyweight Championship (1 time)
NWA Western States Tag Team Championship (3 times) - with Swede Hanson
Southwest Sports Inc .
NWA Texas Heavyweight Championship (1 time)
NWA World Tag Team Championship (Texas version) (1 time) - with Rock Hunter
St. Louis Wrestling Hall of Fame
Class of 2014
World Championship Wrestling (Australia)
IWA World Tag Team Championship (1 time) - with Swede Hanson