

= Don Kent ( wrestler ) =

Leo Joseph " Joe " Smith Jr . ( June 24 , 1933 ? June 7 , 1993 ) was an American professional wrestler who wrestled as Don Kent and also as The Black Dragon , Doug Kent , Joe Smith and Super Medico III during his 20 years in professional wrestling .

Don Kent is one half of The Fabulous Kangaroos alongside partners Al Costello , Bruno Bekkar or Johnny Heffernan . Despite being born in America , Kent was billed as Australian when he competed as a Kangaroo using the Kangaroos ' " Ultra Australian " gimmick , complete with boomerangs , bush hats and " Waltzing Matilda " as their entrance music .

When Kent was not one half of the Kangaroos , he mainly worked as " Bulldog " Don Kent in NWA Mid @-@ America and NWA Detroit in the singles and the tag team divisions until his retirement in 1986 .

= = Career = =

Kent attended St. Philip Catholic Central High School in Battle Creek , Michigan . He was recruited by the Boston Red Sox as a catcher right out of high school . Kent ' s father thought that Kent was too young to play professional baseball and insisted that he go to St. Benedict ' s College in Kansas . After graduating , Kent worked at a Veterans Administration Medical Center in his hometown of Battle Creek while being trained by Leapin ' Larry Chene for a professional wrestling career .

= = = Starting out = = =

Kent made his professional wrestling debut in 1956 working under such names as " Don Kent " , " Joe Smith " and " The Black Dragon " , generally working as a heel ( bad guy ) in the Michigan area . In the first half of the 1960s Don Kent went to Arizona and worked in the local wrestling promotion , where he was booked as a sadistic heel . In Arizona , Kent worked a storyline that drew full houses at the Phoenix Madison Square Garden against local face ( good guy ) Tito Montez . The two faced off week after week in a variety of specialty matches such as a chain match , " Arizona death match " and falls count anywhere match . The angle ended with a steel cage match that saw Montez win after overcoming Kent ' s cheating ways . One week after the storyline ended , attendance dropped by half and Don Kent soon left the area .

= = = Fabulous Kangaroos = = =

In 1967 , Al Costello reformed the tag team The Fabulous Kangaroos with Ray St. Clair who retired after six months with knee problems . A few months after St. Clair retired , Costello found Don Kent to don the bush hat . Kent , who was from Michigan , adopted the Ultra @-@ Australian gimmick ( but retained his American accent ) and a second version of the Fabulous Kangaroos was formed . Costello and Kent teamed together on a regular basis from 1968 until 1974 , approximately the same amount of time that Costello spent teaming with his original partner Roy Heffernan . The Kangaroos won their first tag team championship a few months after teaming up , during a tour of Japan for " International Wrestling Enterprise " . Over the years , they defended their title in promotions around the globe . In Canada , they were the first Eastern Sports Association International Tag Team Champions ; in the World Wrestling Association , they held the WWA World Tag Team Championship twice . In addition to winning titles all over North America , they also made appearances for the World Wide Wrestling Federation ( now known as World Wrestling Entertainment ) .

The Kangaroos frequented NWA Detroit , where they held the Detroit version of the NWA World Tag Team Championship for most of 1971 . By the end of 1972 , the Kangaroos began working for Nick Gulas ' NWA Mid @-@ America . In Mid @-@ America , they held the local version of the NWA World Tag Team Championship , the Mid @-@ America version , on three occasions .

After a match in the Cincinnati Gardens , Costello ' s hip was damaged when an enraged fan threw

a fire extinguisher from the balcony . Costello had hip replacement surgery later that year . The fan was arrested , served 15 days in jail , and was fined fifty dollars for damaging the fire extinguisher . With Costello unable to compete , the Fabulous Kangaroos split up . After the Kangaroos went their separate ways Don Kent returned to NWA Mid @-@ America as a singles wrestler .

= = = Working alone = = =

When Costello retired , Kent remained with Mid @-@ America where he developed into a main heel as the " Dog Collar " wearing , barking " Bulldog " Don Kent . Kent teamed with Chris Gallagher and won the NWA Mid @-@ America Tag Team Championship on two occasions , beating the teams of Frank Monte and Nick DeCarlo as well as Steve Kovac and Ricky Gibson for the title . Kent teamed up with Count Drummer to win the Mid America Tag Team title once more , defeating Jackie Fargo and George Gulas on November 6 , 1974 , losing the title to Fargo and Gulas three weeks later . Kent won the NWA Mid @-@ America Heavyweight Championship , the main title of the promotion , in October 1974 by defeating Tony Charles . Kent lost his first Mid @-@ America title to Jackie Fargo and won it twice more in 1975 , first from Fargo and then later from " Crazy " Luke Graham . Graham defeated Kent on May 7 , 1975 to end his third and final reign with the title .

In late 1975 , Kent moved closer to home and work for The Sheik ? s " NWA Detroit " ( also known as " Big Time Wrestling " ) using his " Bulldog " Don Kent persona . On November 1 , 1975 , Kent defeated Mark Lewin to win the Detroit version of the NWA United States Heavyweight Championship . Lewin regained the title in December . On October 16 , 1976 , Kent regained the title in a bloody brawl against Pampero Firpo and held on to it until January 8 , 1977 , when he lost it to Gino Hernandez . Kent developed into a long running enemy of the Sheik , who was the most popular man in the promotion , with the two clashing many times in wild and bloody brawls .

In 1977 , having recovered from hip surgery , Al Costello teamed up with Kent as The Fabulous Kangaroos for a tour of Puerto Rico with the World Wrestling Council ( WWC ) . In Puerto Rico , the Kangaroos were billed on arrival as the WWC World Tag Team Champions . The Kangaroos lost the title to Carlos Colón and Jose Rivera on March 12 , 1977 . The Kangaroos remained in WWC throughout 1977 and into 1978 , never regaining the WWC World Tag Team Championship . After their tour in Puerto Rico ended , Don Kent returned to singles wrestling and Costello focused more on managing due to his bad hip .

In 1977 Kent returned to the Alabama area to work for NWA Mid @-@ America once more . Kent defeated Lanny Poffo to win his fourth Mid @-@ America Heavyweight title in December 1977 and lost it to Poffo ? s brother Randy Savage on January 3 , 1978 . In 1979 , Kent wrestled in Puerto Rico as a singles wrestler , winning the WWC Caribbean Heavyweight Championship from Chief War Cloud on January 6 , 1979 and holding it for over 6 months until he lost it to Hurricane Castillo on July 21 , 1979 . Shortly after losing the Caribbean title , Kent moved up a level and defeated Puerto Rican legend Carlos Colón on August 3 , 1979 only to lose the title to Invader I three weeks later in Ponce , Puerto Rico .

In the early to mid 80s , Don Kent returned sporadically to Big Time Wrestling to wrestle the Sheik 's nephew Sabu .

= = = Kangaroo return = = =

In 1981 , Costello teamed Kent with Bruno Bekkar , who was best known for working in his native New Zealand and Australia , and work a tour as The Kangaroos for the WWC with Costello serving as their manager . Kent and Bekkar won the WWC North American Tag Team title from the team of Jack and Jerry Brisco on October 22 , 1981 . This version of the Kangaroos first lost to , then regained the titles from , Invader I and Super Gladiador before losing them for good on January 26 , 1982 to Invader and Gladiador . After this tour of the Caribbean , Bruno Bekkar returned to Australia and New Zealand to work for the local promotions there .

Bekkar was replaced with " Johnny Heffernan " ( Canadian Bob Della Serra ) , a storyline cousin of Roy Heffernan for what was the final Kangaroo version to compete . The team ended Terry and

Dory Funk , Jr . ? s year and a half long run with the WWC World Tag Team championship when they defeated them on May 1 , 1982 . The team held the gold for less than 2 months before losing the belts again . After ending their tour in Puerto Rico , Kent and Heffernan returned to mainland USA to work for Championship Wrestling from Florida , a promotion the Kangaroos had worked in 1962 . In Florida , The Kangaroos won the NWA Florida Global Tag Team Championship four times . The final storyline involving the Fabulous Kangaroos saw Al Costello bring in J.J. Dillon to act as his short term replacement as he " took care of business " . When Costello returned from his business trip , Dillon refused to give up the Kangaroos ' contracts and was backed up by both Kent and Heffernan ( in storyline terms ) . This storyline was designed to write Al Costello out of The Fabulous Kangaroos storyline and allow him to retire from wrestling altogether . Not long after Costello retired , Kent and Della Serra went their separate ways .

= = = After The Kangaroos = = =

After The Kangaroos split up for the last time , Kent worked mainly in Michigan with tours of Puerto Rico . In Puerto Rico , Don Kent donned a mask and worked under the name " Super Médico III " alongside Super Médico I. Kent was brought in as a storyline replacement for the real Super Médico III , who was played by Jose Estrada , Jr . Médicos I & III won the WWC World Tag Team Championship on August 4 , 1984 from King Tonga and Gran Apollo . When Super Médico III was unmasked in October and revealed to NOT be Jose Estrada , Jr . , the team was stripped of their titles because they used an illegal man to help defend the title . After being exposed as the fake " Medico III " Kent returned to the United States and worked primarily in the Indianapolis @-@ based World Wrestling Association where he continued to wrestle until 1986 , when he went into semi @-@ retirement . By 1988 , Kent was back wrestling tours of Puerto Rico 's WWC as a single . He would continue to wrestle sporadically over the years to follow , stepping into the ring as late as 1992 at the age of 59 . Don Kent died on June 14 , 1993 after suffering from Leukemia for a long period of time .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

Bulldog

Managers

George " Crybaby " Cannon

Sir Dudley Clement

Al Costello

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Central States Wrestling

NWA Central States Heavyweight Championship ( 1 time )

Championship Wrestling from Florida

NWA Florida Global Tag Team Championship ( 4 times ) ? with Johnny Heffernan

Eastern Sports Association

ESA International Tag Team Championship ( 1 time ) ? with Al Costello

International Wrestling Enterprise

Trans @-@ World Wrestling Alliance World Tag Team Championship ( 1 time ) ? with Al Costello

NWA Detroit

NWA United States Heavyweight Championship ( Detroit version ) ( 2 times )

NWA Mid @-@ America

NWA Mid @-@ America Heavyweight Championship ( 4 times )

NWA Mid @-@ America Tag Team Championship ( 3 times ) ? with Chris Gallagher ( 2 ) and Count Drummer ( 1 )

NWA World Tag Team Championship ( Mid @-@ America version ) ( 3 times ) ? with Al Costello  
World Wrestling Association

WWA World Tag Team Championship ( 5 times ) ? with Al Costello ( 2 ) , Dr. Jerry Graham ( 2 )  
and Chris Carter ( 1 )

World Wrestling Council

WWC Caribbean Heavyweight Championship ( 1 time )

WWC Caribbean Tag Team Championship ( 1 time ) ? with Bruno Bekkar

WWC North American Heavyweight Championship ( 1 time )

WWC North American Tag Team Championship ( 4 times ) ? with Bruno Bekkar ( 1 ) , Johnny  
Heffernan ( 2 ) and Super Médico I ( 1 )

WWC World Junior Heavyweight Championship ( 1 time )

WWC World Tag Team Championship ( 2 times ) ? with Al Costello ( 1 )