

= Cormier wrestling family =

The Cormier wrestling family is a group of Canadian brothers who competed in professional wrestling . They were born in New Brunswick and wrestled primarily in Canada . They also competed in the United States and had stints in several other countries . On many occasions , the Cormiers wrestled together as tag team partners . Two of the brothers were also involved in promoting wrestling . The family has been honored by the Cauliflower Alley Club , a social organization composed of people in the wrestling business , for their contributions to the sport . Jean @-@ Louis died in 2008 , and Yvon died in 2009 ; Leonce and Romeo still wrestle occasionally .

= = Family = =

The Cormier brothers were the sons of Edmond Cormier and Bernadette Doucette . They grew up on a farm in what is now Memramcook , New Brunswick . Four of the brothers had long careers as professional wrestlers , while a fifth , Malcolm Cormier , competed briefly before becoming a referee . None of the brothers wrestled under the family surname , however , as they all adopted ring names . One of the brothers explained that the brothers ' real names were too hard to pronounce , so they adopted other names that were easier for international fans . Yvon Cormier was given the name The Beast , Jean @-@ Louis was known as Rudy Kay , Leonce took the name Leo Burke , and Romeo competed as Bobby Kay . Malcolm , the oldest of the brothers involved in wrestling , used the name Mel Turnbow while working as a referee .

The brothers often competed together in various promotions ; in the Eastern Sports Association ( ESA ) , which Jean @-@ Louis ( Rudy ) owned , they scripted the feuds so that the four brothers often faced a common opponent . A heel ( villain ) wrestler would face Rudy and emerge victorious from a series of matches ; they would then do the same with Bobby and then Leo before facing The Beast . They also held numerous tag team titles together .

= = Brothers = =

= = = The Beast = = =

Yvon Cormier , competing mainly as The Beast , made his professional wrestling debut in 1963 . He has been described as " probably the most @-@ travelled " of the brothers , but most of his title victories came in the Maritimes . He held the ESA International Tag Team Championship eight times , including at least one reign with each of his three brothers . He also competed internationally , including stints in the United States , Japan , and Australia . He was known for his strength and demonstrations of his power . During his career , he wrestled against seven world champions . Yvon Cormier died of bone marrow cancer on March 4 , 2009 .

= = = Rudy Kay = = =

Jean @-@ Louis Cormier , who was given the ring name Rudy Kay because he resembled a retired wrestler who had used the same name , spent much of his career balancing his roles as promoter and wrestler . He helped found the ESA in 1969 and operated shows under the title International Wrestling ( IW ) . He won five tag team championships while teaming with The Beast and held two titles as a singles wrestler . He retired from active competition in 1982 and died of septicemia on May 25 , 2008 .

= = = Leo Burke = = =

Making his debut in 1966 , Leonce Cormier took the ring name Leo Burke because he wanted to prove that he could succeed on his own rather than because of his brothers ' fame . He held forty

championships , including six reigns with the IW North American Heavyweight Championship and eight with the Stampede Wrestling International Tag Team Championship . He also held major titles in New Zealand and Puerto Rico . After retiring from wrestling , he began training aspiring wrestlers for both the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling . He has moved to Calgary , Alberta and had several other jobs since retiring , but he continues to wrestle occasionally while visiting the Maritimes .

= = = Bobby Kay = = =

Romeo Cormier , the youngest of the brothers to wrestle professionally , made his debut in 1967 . Although he used the name Bobby Kay for the majority of his career , he also used different ring names while teaming with his brother Leonce . While Leonce was competing as Tommy Martin , Romeo took the name Terry Martin ; in 1977 , when Leonce had returned to the ring name Leo Burke , Romeo competed as Bobby Burke to win the Stampede Wrestling International Tag Team Championship with his brother . The majority of his championships came as part of a tag team , but he also won the NWA Central States Heavyweight Championship in 1974 . Late in his career , he became co @-@ owner of the ESA , but the promotion closed due to conflicts between the owners and the rival Atlantic Grand Prix Wrestling 's ability to secure an important television contract . Cormier now works for Loblaw Companies but continues to wrestle on occasional shows .

= = Legacy = =

Jean @-@ Louis 's ESA promotion helped launch the careers of several wrestlers , including Rick Martel , who went on to win the American Wrestling Association World Championship . After retiring from full @-@ time competition , Leonce trained many professional wrestlers , including Ken Shamrock , Mark Henry , Edge , Christian , and Test , all of whom have worked for World Wrestling Entertainment .

All five of the Cormier brothers involved in wrestling were honored during a celebration in their home town of Memramcook in 2006 . They also received an award from the Cauliflower Alley Club in 2009 . Canadian wrestling promoter Emile Dupré has said that the Cormiers " were to New Brunswick what the Hart family was to Calgary " .