

= Rudy Kay =

Jean @-@ Louis Cormier (June 24 , 1942 ? May 25 , 2008) was a Canadian professional wrestler best known by his ring name Rudy Kay . Cormier competed primarily in Canada and often formed a tag team with his brothers ; together , they are known as the Cormier wrestling family . He also worked behind the scenes , operating both the Eastern Sports Association (ESA) and its television program , International Wrestling . Kay held seven championships while wrestling for the ESA : five tag team titles while wrestling alongside his older brother Yvon ; the short @-@ lived Taped Fist Championship ; as well as the promotion 's most prestigious singles title , the North American Heavyweight Championship .

= = Career = =

Cormier competed in boxing as a teenager . He was then trained for a professional wrestling career by Yvon , who was known professionally as The Beast , and another wrestler named Dutchie the Spinner . During his early career , Cormier used the ring name Rudy LaBelle while touring Australia with The Beast . Back in North America , he was given the ring name Rudy Kay by a promoter who thought that Cormier looked almost identical to a retired wrestler who had used the name .

In 1969 , Cormier and Al Zinck formed the Eastern Sports Association (ESA) , which promoted a television program named International Wrestling (IW) . Several years later , Atlantic Grand Prix Wrestling , operated by Emile Dupré , took over the time slot from IW . In the ESA , the four Cormier brothers (Yvon ; Leonece , who wrestled as Leo Burke ; Jean @-@ Louis , who used the ring name Rudy Kay ; and Romeo , who was inspired by Jean @-@ Louis to create the moniker Bobby Kay) often aligned with each other in feuds . The opponent would face one brother , and then move on to face the rest in succession . Jean @-@ Louis also wrestled on occasional trips to Australia with his brother The Beast .

Cormier won his first title on July 29 , 1969 when he teamed with The Beast to win the ESA International Tag Team Championship . They defeated The Fabulous Kangaroos (Al Costello and Don Kent) to win the title but soon dropped it to Jos and Paul LeDuc . They won the title back later that summer in a rematch and held it until the end of the 1969 ESA season . Two years later , they regained the championship with a victory over Eric Pomeroy and Fred Sweetan . Their final reign together began on October 28 , 1975 with a win over Bob Brown and The Patriot . Once again , the brothers held the title until the end of the ESA wrestling season .

On November 18 that year , Rudy Kay also won the IW North American Heavyweight Championship by defeating Bob Brown . He was stripped of the title , however , because the ESA operated only during the summer months and the season ended without notice . He was unable to fulfill his obligation to defend it within 30 days. The ESA , which promoted shows until 1976 , operated during the summer because the venues were used for ice hockey during the other months . The following year , he won the vacant ESA Taped Fist Championship with a victory over Mad Dog Martel . When the ESA closed in 1977 , the title became part of Romeo Cormier (Bobby Kay) ' s Trans @-@ Canada Wrestling (TCW) . TCW closed later the same year , and the Taped Fist Championship was retired . His final championship win came in September 1976 ; he teamed with The Beast again and defeated The Mercenaries (Mad Dog Martel and Frenchy Martin) to win the ESA Maritimes Tag Team Championship . Later that month , Martel and Martin regained the title in a rematch . Cormier retired as a professional wrestler in 1982 .

= = Retirement = =

After retiring from wrestling , Cormier took a job with Federal Express , which he held for five years . He also underwent knee surgery to fix problems resulting from his wrestling career . Cormier had a wife , Claudette , and four children : daughters Monique and Michelle , and sons Jamie and Jason . On May 25 , 2008 , Cormier died of septicemia in Moncton , New Brunswick .

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Eastern Sports Association

ESA International Tag Team Championship (4 times) ? with The Beast

ESA Maritimes Tag Team Championship (1 time) ? with The Beast

ESA Taped Fist Championship (1 time)

IW North American Heavyweight Championship (1 time)