

Goodbye, Latino Heat Intelligence & agility

THE VIEW FROM RINGSIDE

by Tony von Richter

Sunday was supposed to be a fairly exciting day in the world of wrestling; with a TNA pay-per-view and WWE taping both RAW and SmackDown! there would probably have been a lot of interesting news coming out of Sunday's events.

Unfortunately, wrestling fans across the world awoke Sunday morning to the shocking news that WWE Superstar Eddie Guerrero had tragically passed away in a hotel room in Minneapolis. He was only 38 years old.

Guerrero was a tremendously gifted wrestler, undoubtedly one of the best in the world, who could do it all in the ring and on the mic. He had the technical skill to compete with Chris Benoit and Kurt Angle, the quickness to keep up with Rey Mysterio, and the charisma to rival the likes of Shawn Michaels and The Rock. He put on top-rated matches with everyone from Mysterio to Brock Lesnar, and was able to control the emotions of the audience with

either comedy or drama.

As evident as his various talents, it was also no secret that Guerrero had more than his share of problems. He struggled with drugs and alcohol which eventually caused the breakup of his marriage and release from WWE. As sad a situation as it was, it had happened to numerous others before in wrestling and no one expected much more from Guerrero.

He proved all his detractors wrong however, managing to pull his life back together and become one of the greatest success stories in wrestling history. After cleaning up his life he reunited with his wife and 'Latino Heat' returned to work in WWE achieving greater and greater levels of success.

I won't recap Eddie's many achievements in WWE here, odds are if you're reading this you already know them, but suffice it to say that after returning to WWE he garnered more success than ever before culminating in winning the WWE Championship and releasing a DVD entitled *Cheating Death, Stealing Life: The Eddie Guerrero Story*, in which he discusses overcoming his personal demons to make it to the top of the industry.

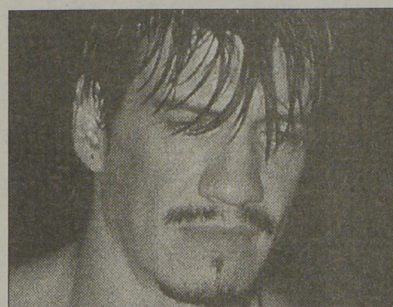
As of press time the WWE had

announced that both RAW and SmackDown! would be tribute shows to Eddie and his memory.

Most fans last memory of Eddie will be from this past week's SmackDown! where he defeated Ken Kennedy (by lying, cheating and stealing of course) to earn a place on the SmackDown! Survivor Series team.

My most enduring memory of Eddie Guerrero, however, will be from WrestleMania XX. After he defended his WWE Title against Kurt Angle earlier in the evening he stood side-by-side with longtime friend Chris Benoit celebrating Benoit's newly won World Heavyweight Championship, arms raised, confetti falling, and fans cheering like mad. That's how I'm going to remember Eddie Guerrero.

Goodbye, Latino Heat. You will be missed.



by Ike Ogosi

UNB boasts hundreds of accredited student athletes, and while their accomplishments with their respective teams consistently hog the limelight, little attention is paid by the public to the first - and arguably more critical - half of their moniker.

Last month, the university recognized its Academic All-Canadians, which, according to Canadian Interuniversity Sports, are student athletes possessing with an A- average in the previous academic year. UNB churned out 48 of them in the 2004-05 year, a robust number that proves the university's and athletes' commitment to academics.

Athletes practice and train to improve their game, while students study hard and pay attention in class to excel academically. But how do student athletes cope with the rigors of their lifestyles and still manage to remain competitive in both aspects?

Much of the success of student athletes boils down to teamwork; many teams have, in the past, organized mandatory study halls for their players, where a certain amount of time is devoted to studying in a group.

Women's volleyball coach John Richard admitted that, although his team has not gotten around to carrying out study hall this semester, it has been a regular fixture in the past.

"We meet outside our team environment, outside our normal training," he explained. "In the past what we've done is meet once or twice a week in a classroom at the gym or at the Aitken Center, and dedicate two hours together with everyone just doing their own thing."

Joyce Slipp, head coach of the women's basketball team, is in the similar position of currently not having study hall though it has always been a staple for her team.

"I've always made it compulsory for rookies to come to study hall, two hours, once a week," Coach Slipp said. "But we had no rookies on the team this year, and everyone did fairly well with their marks last year - everybody had a 2.5 or better - so I figured they had pretty good study habits and that they'd be okay this year."

Camaraderie figures into the academic success of student athletes, as does the leadership and stewardship of senior players looking out for rookies.

"A lot of student athletes that may be in third or fourth year took the same courses, if their in the same faculty as the first year girls, so there's a sort of mentorship going on," Coach Richard pointed out.

Men's hockey head coach Gardiner MacDougall agreed, despite never having formally set up study hall for his team.

"What we've found out over the last five years is that guys do a pretty good job at helping and looking after one another," Coach MacDougall said. "That's the veterans helping out the first or second year guys... our veteran player may give some advice on course selection."

Time management, a universal concept that is important to some people and crucial to the rest, is no less significant for student athletes. The athletics department routinely schedules workshops to help in the development of the skill, but Maureen Sparks, Communications and Special Events Manager for the department, insists that most of the athletes are already adept at it by the time they come to university, having juggled athletics and academics in some degree for years.

Still, the pressure of university life can get to the best of students, and those who participate in athletics as well as easily under double the stress. Student Services offer counseling to any student in need of help, but though a number of universities worldwide are establishing counseling services and resources explicitly geared towards their prized student athletes, UNB has no such system formally in place. In the end it boils down to finances.

"We don't have the resources to pay that kind of staff," Maureen Sparks said. "And we have a very good system set up already on campus, through counseling services, which is what they are paid and trained to do."

The Athletics Department also has a system implemented in which Maureen Sparks is automatically alerted should any student athlete drop below the minimum CIS requirements for athletes, which is passing at least nine credits every semester.

A number of coaches do have people working with their team on a volunteer basis, to enhance the mental and psychological strength of the players. Joyce Slipp and Gardiner MacDougall are two of the three or four coaches with such a system in place, out of the twelve varsity teams on campus.

"At this level of hockey, when you talk about physical health, people say the game is 50, 60 or 70 per cent mental," Coach MacDougall said. "So we thought that if we have a guy that's trained in that, if he can help in that aspect of the game, it's going to make us a better hockey club."

For a number of years Dr. David Scott, who has experience at the NHL level, worked in that capacity with the team. Now Ryan Hamilton, a student of Dr. Scott's, is in his third season working with the team, armed with a Masters degree and currently in pursuit of his doctorate.

"He's been a tremendous resource for our team, and he's got a pretty good read on the mental part of the game," Coach MacDougall said. "He does a pretty good job at reading people and having strategies that can help our team and our individuals."

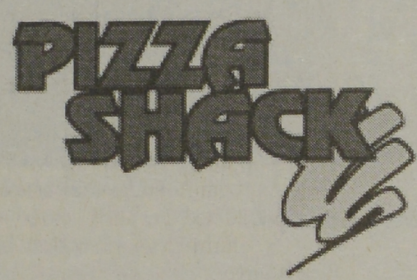
Hamilton helps Coach MacDougall's men with concentration and goal-setting, both on a game-by-game basis and in certain segments throughout the season, as well as on a personal level.

In the end though student athletes rely primarily on themselves, like any other students. Coach Richard said that his girls steal time to study whenever they can.

"There's a lot of down time when we travel on the road, so our girls often study on buses or in hotel rooms... a lot of times in a team environment, especially if they're all in the same faculty."

Kyle and Kevin Werner, on the men's hockey team, are students in good academic standing in Forestry Engineering, while Denny Johnston, in psychology, boasts an impressive 4.0 GPA.

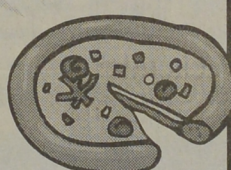
"We've averaged anywhere from 13 players with 3.0 or better GPA, and one year we had 19 players or staff with a 3.0 GPA," Coach MacDougall said. "I can remember six years ago when we had three or four players."



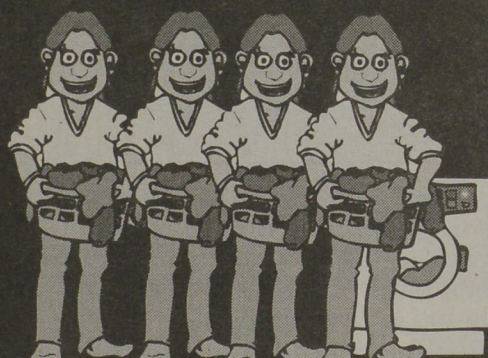
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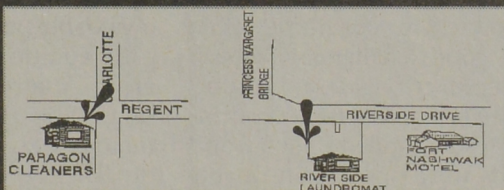
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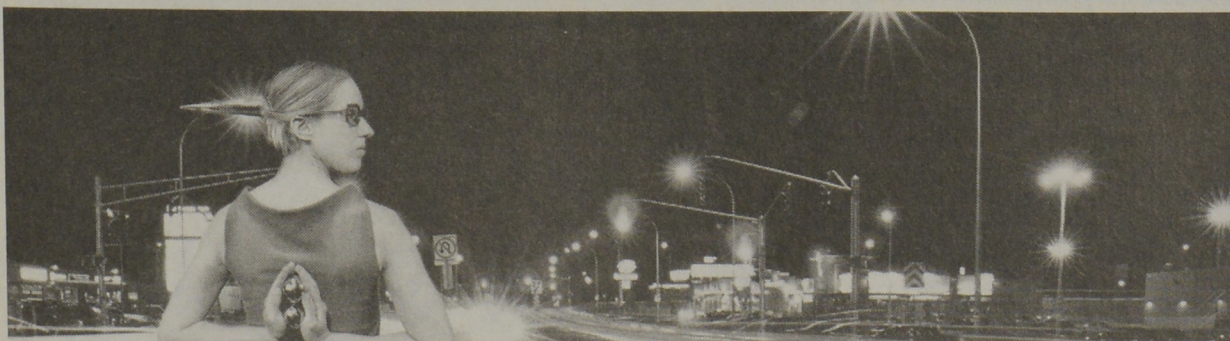
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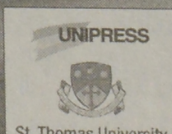
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