

# Masked Ranger wins Lights Out match

Rock-N-Roll Express scare off sneaky wrestlers who try to steal his glory

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

“The Sheik from the Middle East” stepped out into the Kings Mountain Middle School gym Friday night with a bit of hesitation...or so it seemed. In his role as the obvious villain he had a lot to give him pause.

The crowd booed and hissed at him. The kids encircled him, hurling insults. But he entered the ring with his head-dress on and his Iraqi flag waving. Then the music changed from Arabian chants to a different beat, a beat that excited the crowd in a different way.

As Bruce Springstein’s “Born in the USA,” blared from the speakers, “The Masked Ranger” (KMMS teacher David McDonald) burst through the doors into the gym with the “Star-Spangled Banner” flying high.

For nearly two months, he waited for this moment – a chance to get back at the “Sheik”, who (with a sneaky partner “Jimmy Jack Funk Jr.”) put him in a neck brace for two weeks after their match Dec. 17. The day of reckoning had arrived.

The crowd seemed to know it as they boisterously cheered for their hero.

“U-S-A, U-S-A,” they chanted as kids swarmed around him for high-fives. He climbed into the ring and he faced his opponent with the eyes of a tiger staring through a camouflaged mask, embroidered with a red “M”.

McDonald has served two tours of duty in Iraq with the United States’ Army National Guard. He stood in the ring “Army Strong” and turned to his opponent with the hint of a smile. It was clobbering time!

“The Masked Ranger” seemed to have the “Sheik” in the ring as he pinned him in the corner and climbed up on the ropes to deliver some blows to the head. He seemed to have him out of the ring as he grabbed his opponent and ushered him back in while he let the kids deliver some blows of their own, slapping him on his chest. But, even though “Jimmy Jack Funk Jr.” swore to National Wrestling Alliance Referee Tommy Young, who attended the event, that he wouldn’t interfere he had the “Ranger” in a choke-hold while the other referee tended to the “Sheik”.

“The Masked Ranger” was named the champion of the match after pinning the “Sheik”. He ventured out to grab a metal chair from the audience and returned to beat the “Sheik” with it. The “Ranger” only got one blow in before his fellow compatriot, the “American GI” turned against him, grabbed the chair and beat him with it.

Pleased to see the extra help “Jimmy Jack Funk Jr.” sprang into action and joined the brawl. After all, it was a “Lights Out” match – anything goes.

The crowd erupted with boos as the champion was laid out on the floor of the ring. But the three scoundrels quickly exited the arena when they saw who was coming to the “Ranger’s” aid.

It was the one, the only, the original “Rock-N-Roll Express”. This tag team terror had already showed the crowd they could still double dropkick with the best of them. Not wanting any piece of that action, the “Sheik”, “Jimmy Jack Funk Jr.” and the “American GI” ran away.

Ricky Morton helped “The Masked Ranger” to his feet and the crowd cheered. The three of them, together, gave the coveted “Rock-N-Roll Express” teddy bear to the winner of the night’s raffle. The lucky winner was 12-year-old Mikayla Altman, daughter of a man McDonald served with in Iraq.



photo by DICK BOURNE/ www.midatlanticgateway.com  
Ricky Morton of the Rock-N-Roll Express checks on the Masked Ranger (David McDonald), who won his match against the Sheik in a benefit wrestling tournament Friday at KMMS.



photo by DICK BOURNE/ www.midatlanticgateway.com  
Left to right, NWA Referee Tommy Young, Robert Gibson of Rock-N-Roll Express, Mr. No. 1 George South, Ricky Morton of Rock-N-Roll Express, and the Ragin' Bull Manny Fernandez.



Mikayla Altman, 12, wins the Rock-N-Roll Express teddy bear and poses with Robert Gibson, right, Ricky Morton, left, (both of the Rock-N-Roll Express) and David McDonald (The Masked Ranger).



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD  
Four-year-old Kinley Putnam meets Ricky Morton of the Rock-N-Roll Express after picking the winner of Friday night’s raffle during the 5th Annual Anderson Brothers Classic Tag Team Tournament at KMMS.  
At right, George South takes the ring in a special jacket like the one Paul Jones once wore. photo by DICK BOURNE



PHOTO COURTESY OF DICK BOURNE OF THE MID-ATLANTICGATEWAY.COM  
“The Minnesota Wrecking Crew!” Promotional photo of all three Anderson Brothers, left to right, Lars, Gene and Ole Anderson. Circa 1968.



photo by DICK BOURNE/ www.midatlanticgateway.com  
Kids scream for their champion Friday night at KMMS.



photo by DICK BOURNE/ www.midatlanticgateway.com  
The Masked Ranger runs his opponent around the ring.

For more on the tournament or the Anderson Brothers, check out:  
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