

Detours

[A NOTEBOOK OF THE CITY]

Mo Jabari pulls no punches when it comes to wrestling. In the ring he's "Kid Chocolate," a technical wrestler known for performing "the flying elbow" (a jump from the ropes, elbow-first, landing on his opponent). Off the ropes, Jabari is a key member of Dungeon Wrestling, Calgary's newest wrestling promotion company, founded by his long-time friends Dallas and Blade Hart — sons of iconic Calgary-born wrestler Bret "Hitman" Hart.

The trio soft-launched Dungeon Wrestling in April with a showcase at Tool Shed Brewing Co. for the brewery's 10-year anniversary; "Showdown at the Arbor," at the Gordon Yellow Fly Memorial Arbour on Siksika Nation, followed in May. At the Showdown, Jabari, who has a flair for brightly coloured attire, donned what he calls his "Bret Hart tribute gear": pink socks with the Hitman's face on the front and black and pink shorts to match. The idea came to him after years of watching players in his other favourite sport, basketball, imitate their idols on the court. "Bret Hart is one of



Two wrestlers face off at Dungeon Wrestling's "Showdown at the Arbor."

WELCOME TO

THE DUNGEON

DALLAS AND BLADE HART — YES, OF THOSE HARTS — ARE PROMOTING A NEW GENERATION OF WRESTLERS IN CALGARY

my favourite wrestlers ever. So, I made that gear and I wear it for my special shows," says Jabari.

Both events were held in the lead-up to the official debut of Dungeon Wrestling: the Romero Rumble, which took place in July. The event, held at Romero Distilling Co., included a six-match card, plus food trucks, live music and meet-and-greets with the Hitman himself, in honour of his recent induction into Canada's Walk of Fame.

You can't talk about wrestling without talking about the Harts, a family synonymous with decades of international wrestling fame — and diehard wrestling fans will undoubtedly recognize nods to Stu Hart, Dallas and Blade's grandfather and the founder of Calgary-based Stampede Wrestling, in Dungeon Wrestling's branding. "We want it to feel like it's Stampede Wrestling, but we want it to feel like it's our own, too," says Dallas Hart.

"Dungeon" references Stu's private "training facility" in the basement of the Hart mansion — a place where both newbies and pros were invited to spar with the legend himself. Stu's famed Stampede Wrestling routinely