

Hero Banner Series
Angelo Mosca

Angelo Mosca, originally from Massachusetts, impacted Canadian Sport with his ‘free-spirited nature’ personality in both the CFL (Canadian Football League) and the NWA (National Wrestling Alliance)[Histori]. Mosca was a force in both sports, excelling and shaping his distinctive notability. Beginning in 1958 he began his career with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats turning down a 30th round draft with the NFL Philadelphia Eagles. Mosca was quickly traded within a year of playing with the Tiger-Cats, to the Ottawa Rough Riders where he won his first (of five) Grey Cup Championship [Histori]. He returned to the Tiger-Cats in Hamilton in 1962 to win the Grey Cup four more times until 1972, when he retired from his football career.

While Angelo Mosca played in the CFL he built a “Nasty” reputation for himself through his rough and aggressive play on the field. The epic play of a delayed hit on B.C. Lions star, Willie Fleming, in the 51st Grey Cup game, has become a national definition of him [Wikipedia]. This event gained Mosca a nickname that he used in his part-time wrestling career, “Big Nasty”. “Big Nasty” Angelo Mosca wrestled while playing football with the Ticats in 1960 until he retire from football and took up wrestling full time [Canoe]. Mosca came across a few other nicknames while wrestling. He was known as the Mighty Hercules when he competed in the Calgary's Stampede Wrestling, and then eventually was labelled King Kong. With a strong personality and a big build, Mosca was immovable in both his strength and character. He was a definable man that stood out from the crowd in which he would later use these qualities of integrity to help those around him.

After Mosca's Wrestling career he still gave back into the community. This tough, 6'4, 310lbs football/wrestler is still just as involved and energetic as he was when he started playing. Angelo has used his well-known name and connections to promote and bring awareness of the NWA back to his area by hosting several shows known as "Mosca Mania" [Maple Leaf Wrestling]. He has also been a huge impact in the Hamilton community by staging a wrestling promotion to raise money for the Spinal Cord Society. He still wrestles once a month in Hawaii as another promoter. This exuberant, outgoing retiree also has an interest in the media. Mosca represented General Motors in several truck commercials as well as the Schick razors commercial. He was also offered a co-host position of television talk show about sports and TV. The producer/writer of this show described Mosca as, "visible, versatile, [and] likeable" which helps to grab the audiences attention as well as Angelo's familiar face [Canoe]. Angelo began to show his soft side and is no longer seen as just a aggressive, mean and rowdy football player.

Angelo Mosca has had many achievements in both his careers of wrestling and football. He is a staple in the Hamilton community as well as all of Canada. Angelo has taken his achievements and given back to the community with a big heart, changing his "Nasty" reputation into a kind, modest personality still with a massive presence. Of all the places Angelo Mosca has been he still feels at home in Hamilton and he shows it by giving back to the community through his experiences. He is truly a hometown hero of Hamilton but his enormous hands reach out to all of Canada as well.

Interview with Angelo Mosca- April 1, 2009

1. Where are you from?

Boston Massachusetts

2. How old are you?

72

3. Where did you go to school?

Notra Dame. It was a great school. I majored in math and minored in English. It was an all boys school, and had a beautiful church, as it was a catholic school.

4. How many years of professional football did you play?

I played 15 years of professional football and wrestled for 25 years.

5. Do you have and children?

I have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

6. What is an interesting fact about you?

I love to cook.

7. What are your career highlights?

I won 9 grey cups and there were only 3 guys in the history of CFL who did this. I won 5 of these cups. I was the line man of the year twice which was tough in those days against linebackers. It was tougher for regular defense guys to win this, which I was.

8. What are you doing presently?

Right now I am the Tiger Cats ambassador. I am very proud of this. I enjoy working with people. I am also writing a book.

9. Do you have any memorable stories?

I wrestled many times against Andre "The Giant" who was a great individual. But died of giant's disease-overactive. He was a great character that I met along the way. I have seen the world and am a very fortunate guy. I have done 350 national TV commercials and didn't even have an agent, you didn't in those days. I've done parts in movies. I am a character type person, and interesting person. In football, offensive players are passive people and defensive players are aggressive, that's what I was. I used to say if you don't like me its your loss. I respect people for what they stand for and have a lot of fun with life.

10. Did you have to overcome barriers?

I am saving this for my book. But I have no regrets or animosities.

11. Did you have support throughout your career?

I am also saving this question for my book. But I made own way in this world. One of dear friends just passed away, he was like a father to me. I also went to school with some great people. One was Bronco. We had a great relationship for 55 yrs and were chosen out of 60 players as the 2 of the best football players in USA.

12. Where did u feel you belonged?

Hamilton is where I belonged. I was a Hamilton player. The 60s was a great year for the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

References

1. Histori <<http://www.histori.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=14251>>
2. Canoe <<http://www.canoe.ca/SlamWrestling/mosca.html>>
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4. Maple Leaf Wrestling
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