

# Wherein B.C. Rassler Turns Into Referee

A Boulder City wrestler, "turned referee" to separate his opponent and their referee last night in a grappling bout last night in the Legion arena in Las Vegas.

The bout, which was scheduled between "Cowboy" John Laney and Deputy U. S. Marshall Ted "Stecher" Jensen, both of Boulder City, turned into a three-cornered melee when Referee George Batalis of Las Vegas, a hard-boiled wrestler of no mean reputation in the gateway city, threw off his shirt and waded into the middle of things.

The bout ended a draw, the time limit being fifteen minutes and no fall having been made.

In the first place, the two wrestlers got squirmed through under the ropes. Referee Batalis tried to get them up to pull them back inside, and when he failed to separate the grapplers, he got rough with Laney.

Angered, Laney turned loose of Jensen and went after Batalis, going after a headlock on the referee, evidently.

Being a wrestler of ability himself, Batalis felt he didn't have to take such treatment, and a genuine bout was promised. Jensen, sidetracked by this tussle, refused to stay sidetracked. He dived in and separated the men, proving himself thereby a referee of no mean ability as well as a wrestler.

Later, when Laney felt he had been treated too rough by Batalis, words were hurled and challenges flew thick and fast, Batalis evincing a willingness to take on Laney himself. Laney offered to bet \$50, and Batalis offered to triple the bet. This was punctuated by removal of the referential shirt by the referee.

The bout went on, ending with no fall at the gong.