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OBITUARIES;
Owen Hart, 33, wrestler in the WWF

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A World Wrestling Federation wrestler was fatally injured Sunday when he fell 50 feet into the ring as he was lowered from the ceiling of the arena --- stunning the sold-out crowd and pay-per-view TV audience who initially thought the accident was a stunt.

Owen Hart, 33, hit his head on a turnbuckle. Mr. Hart, who wrestles under the nickname "Blue Blazer," was given CPR in the ring in front of the audience at Kemper Arena and then taken to a nearby hospital. "We thought it was a doll at first," said Robert McCome, 15. "We thought they were just playing with us. We were really shocked when we found out that it was no joke. "

Michelle Hindorff, a paramedic and dispatcher for the city ambulance service, said Mr. Hart was supposed to be lowered down into the ring. "

Commentator Jim Ross repeated over and over to the audience that Mr. Hart's fall was not scripted, as professional wrestling matches openly are. The event was televised live on pay-per-view and seen around the country. Mr. Hart's fall happened in the second part of the event called "Over the Edge." The first part, "Sunday Night Heat," was televised live on the USA network. " We at the WWF are saddened by the tragic accident that occurred here tonight," Vince McMahon Sr., chairman of WWF, said at a news conference. "We don't have any answer as to why this happened. . . . There is an ongoing investigation." He declined to comment further.

Mr. Hart is the younger brother of World Championship Wrestling star Bret " The Hitman" Hart.

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Owen Hart