

He went to college, turned pro wrestler

July 30, 2010

- His college degree.

"If something happens, it's nice to have that to fall back on."

- What it feels like in the ring.

"It's so much fun. There's no other feeling like it in the world. Whether they're booing you or cheering you, it's a great feeling."

- Developing his spoiled-rich kid personae - basically the same one his father used as The Million Dollar Man,

"Why wouldn't I get that from my dad? It's a proven recipe.

"Everybody hates a spoiled rich kid. Nobody likes Paris Hilton. I don't. I'm kind of like the Paris Hilton of the WWE - the male version."

- His hectic touring and training schedule, including near-constant trips to the gym.

"I'm at the gym right now. I actually stopped working out to do this interview.

"I worked my butt off to get where I am today. It wasn't given to me on a silver platter.

"That's what I like about him (his wrestling personae). It's being something you're not. You take on a role and make him bigger than life."

By CHARLES RUNNELLS

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Ted DiBiase Jr. never wanted to do anything but wrestle.

His father wrestled.

His grandfather wrestled.

He wanted to wrestle, too.

"Most kids want to be like their dad - and I happened to have a dad who toured the world as a professional wrestler," said DiBiase, 27, who fights with other WWE wrestlers Sunday at Germain Arena. "He was my hero."

DiBiase Jr. also fell in with wrestling's drama and the larger-than-life characters.

"It's WWE," he says. "It's kind of like a male soap opera."

DiBiase's father - "Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase Sr. - tried to discourage those wrestling dreams.

First go to college, he told his son. Then we'll talk.

So DiBiase Jr. went to college and earned a business degree.

And then he got right back into the wrestling business.

"I did it to appease my father," he says of that college degree. "But I always wanted to be a wrestler.

"I never wanted to be anything else."

DiBiase continues living that dream this Sunday.

Before the wrestling match, though, he chatted with The News-Press about his wrestling persona, his business degree and other aspects of the wrestling life.

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- Sharing stories with Dusty Rhodes' son, Cody Rhodes, who helped him win the World Tag Team Title. Both of them have famous wrestlers for fathers.

"It's crazy, because you pretty much all have the same stories. You grew up in this crazy lifestyle, and you're always on the road with him (your dad).

"We instantly had a common bond. It helped our chemistry."

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