

Zoo takes GLADIATORS

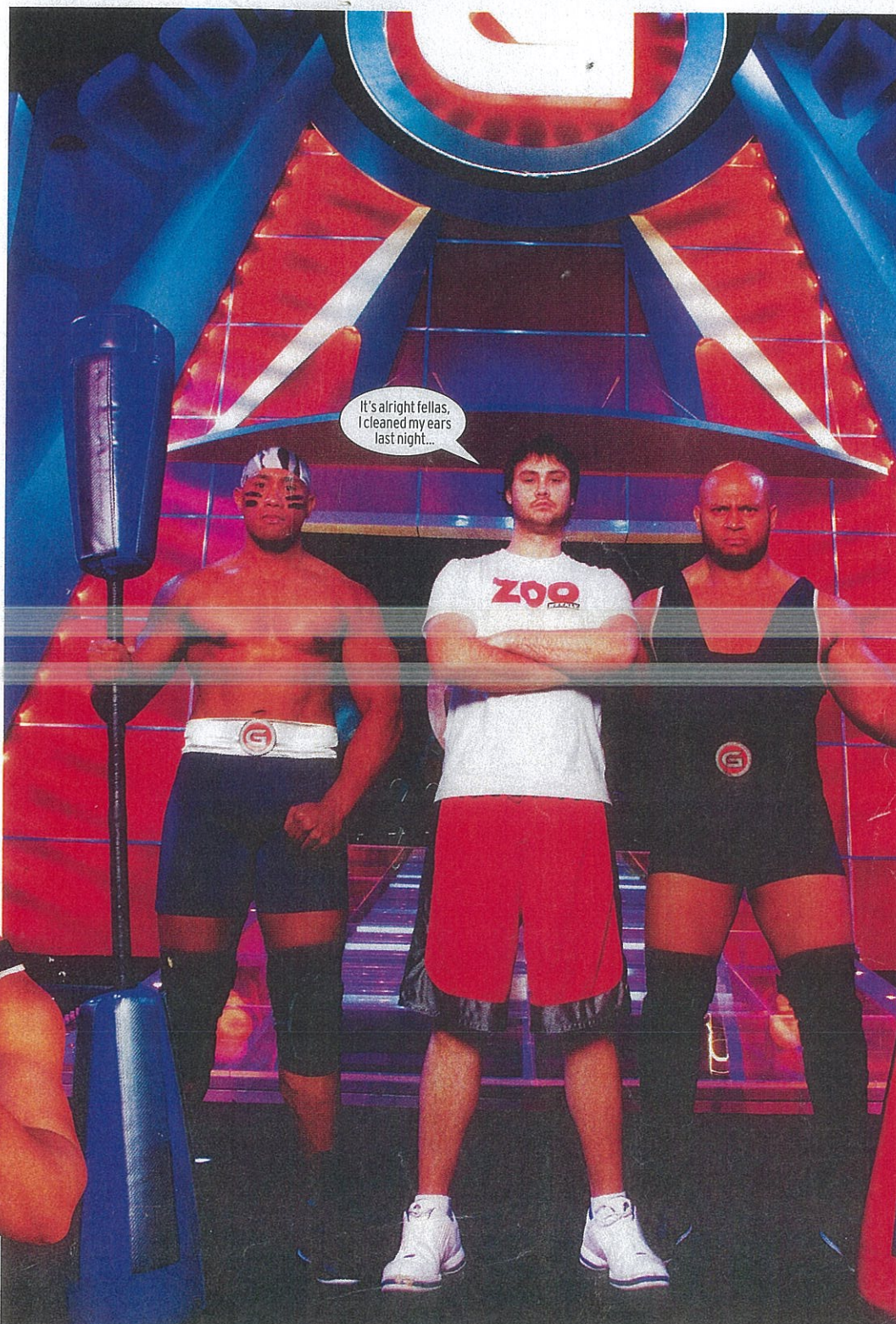
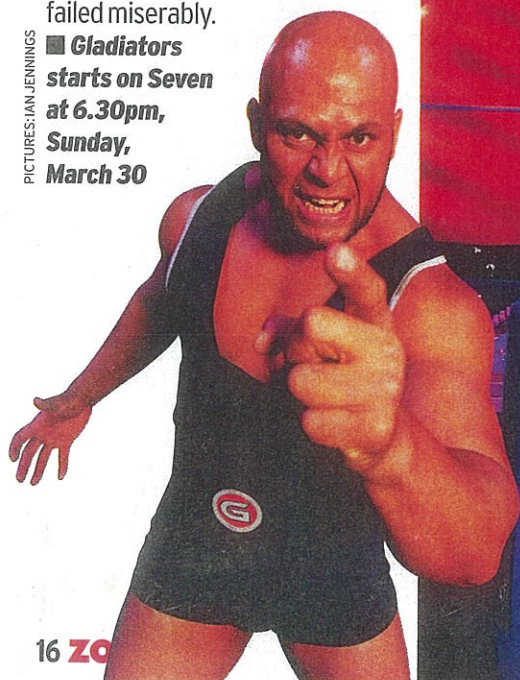
As *Gladiators* returns to TV, ZOO Man tests out the new crop of lycra warriors

Good news for fans of pain and lycra: Channel Seven has resurrected *Gladiators*, the bastard offspring of rock 'n' roll wrestling and TV gameshows.

Contestants will take on the elite team of *Gladiators* – seven men, seven women – in 13 paralysis-risking challenges, from Sumo Ball and Duel (see right), to wrestling while dangling from gymnasts' rings (Hang Tough) and being crash-tackled off a pyramid (er, Pyramid).

So to test just how tough the new crop are, ZOO Man limbered up and took on two *Gladiators* in battle... and failed miserably.

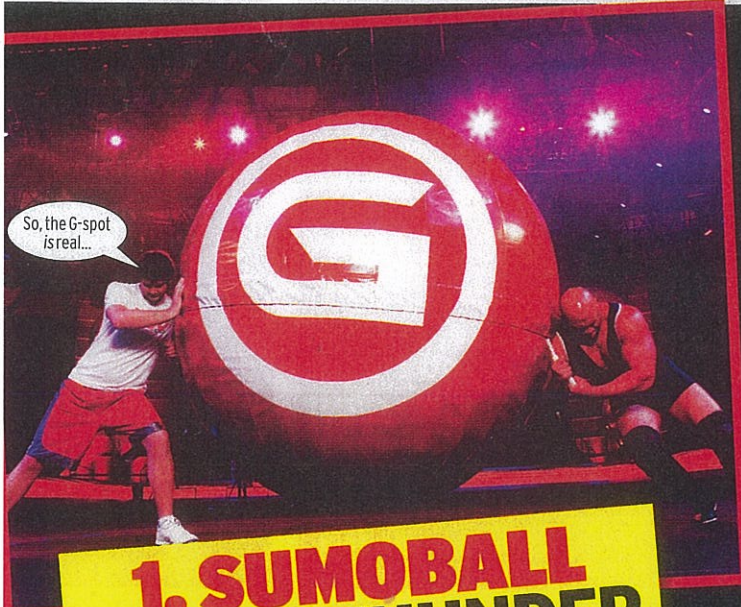
PICTURES: IAN JENNINGS
■ ***Gladiators* starts on Seven at 6.30pm, Sunday, March 30**



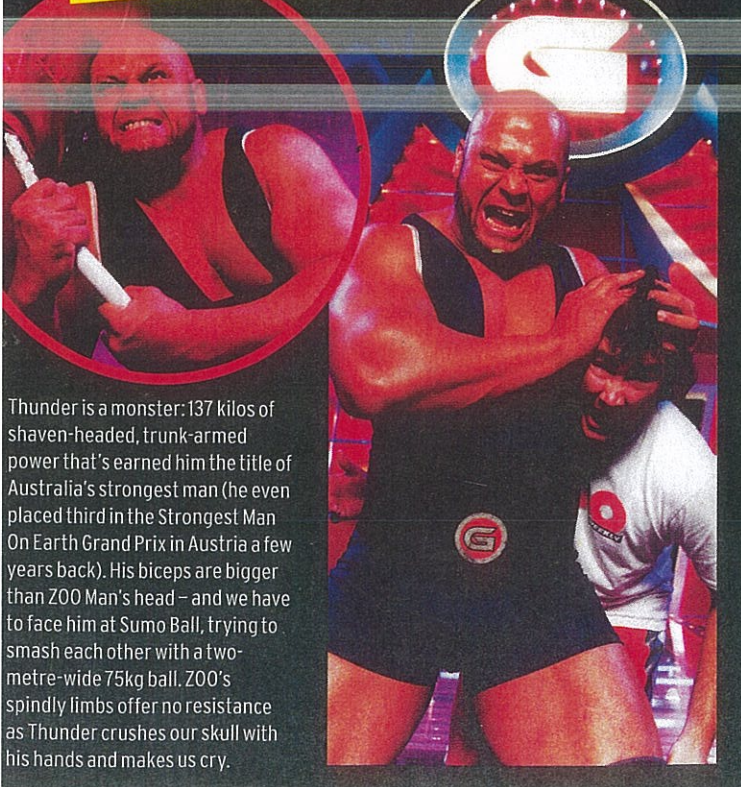
On the DARS



So, the G-spot is real...

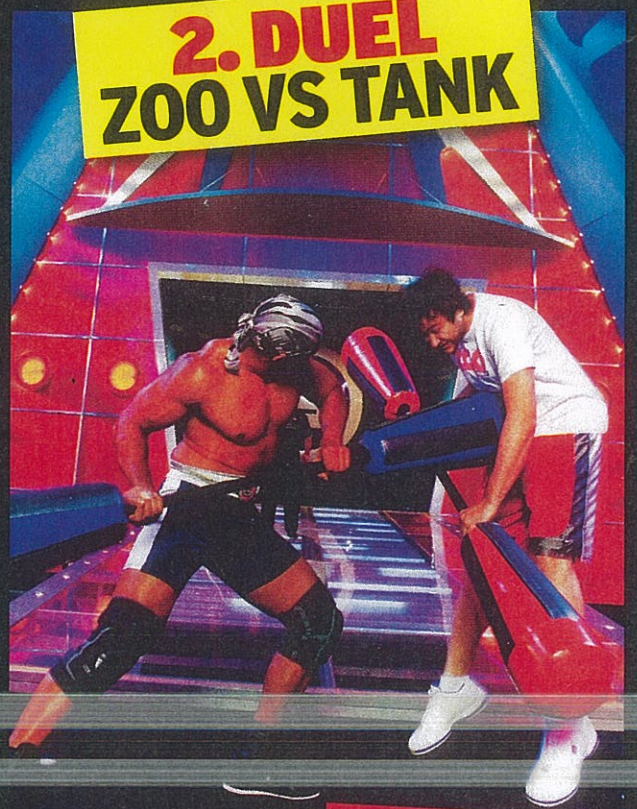


1. SUMO BALL ZOO VS THUNDER



Thunder is a monster: 137 kilos of shaven-headed, trunk-armed power that's earned him the title of Australia's strongest man (he even placed third in the Strongest Man On Earth Grand Prix in Austria a few years back). His biceps are bigger than ZOO Man's head - and we have to face him at Sumo Ball, trying to smash each other with a two-metre-wide 75kg ball. ZOO's spindly limbs offer no resistance as Thunder crushes our skull with his hands and makes us cry.

2. DUEL ZOO VS TANK



The aim of the Duel is to knock the other guy off a raised platform with a pugil stick - a padded staff that the army uses for bayonet training. We take on 6ft 4 Tank, but without the platforms - which is lucky, as it turns out, because Tank smashes ZOO Man in the guts, we double-up in pain, and probably would have fallen to our death. As it is, we need a little lie-down afterwards.



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rewarding when you see your client's fitness, appearance and quality of life changing for the better. Being a Gladiator is great, too – we get to train, perform and compete. I hope to continue doing these three things when the show wraps, as well as helping others go on to achieve their fitness and lifestyle goals.

▶ **Nomad**, what's the most unforgettable challenge you've faced on the show?

Mary

That would have to be my battle on Hang Tough with challenger Nick Hicks in the third episode. Nick was being cheeky – he was flipping around to avoid me, but I stayed focused. He made a mistake and got lost like a wandering camel in the desert. Nomad took that opportunity to make him fall like a flightless duck.

▶ **Destiny**, out of all the Gladiators, who are you closest to?

Chelsea

We all get on so well! I went to dinner with Nitro last week, Thunder

trains at my gym, and a few months ago Amazon and I went to Perth to visit Bionica and Hunter for a party! Our biggest common interest is training – and us girls all love shopping, too!

▶ **Nitro**, have you experienced any embarrassing moments on the show? Also, what are some of the most common questions fans ask you?

Vince

Nothing really embarrasses me much, but I would have won the wedgie award if there was one! The most common question would be, "Are you really as fast as the speed of lightning?" I always answer yes, because I really am!

▶ **Viper**, what kind of training do you do, and do you follow a strict diet to stay in shape?

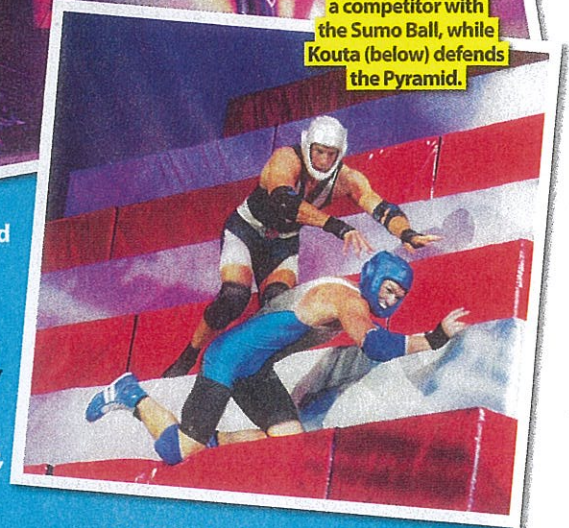
Claire

I train every day. I'm a fighter, among other things. So, leading up to a fight, I train twice a day, which involves a lot of bag work, sparring

and drills. I also love running. I used to really dislike it, but I started making myself do it – only short distances to begin with – and now it's my favourite form of exercise. When it comes to nutrition, I don't follow a diet, I just eat good, clean food every two to three hours. I feel so much better for it.



Thunder topples a competitor with the Sumo Ball, while Kouta (below) defends the Pyramid.



Got a question for Caitlin Stacey from *Neighbours*? Email it to us at tvweek@acpmagazines.com.au and we'll pass it on to her. We'll publish her responses in a future issue of TV WEEK.