**The History of the Anal Lifting Championship**

 The Anal Lifting Championship, or ALC, currently maintains monumental prestige, with contenders and affiliates representing almost every country on the planet. Stadiums consistently fill to capacity with hordes of fans eager to see *alternative athletes* demonstrate their physical prowess, and double their number lurk in pay-per-view specials and streams.

 So it may surprise the reader that the ALC came from beginnings most humble. Not so long ago, the ALC was a mere niche entertainment for a handful of *enthusiasts* on the internet, with a revolving door cast of amateur athletes.

 The story of this organization begins in the not-so-distant past of 2008, with the creation of the adult entertainment company *Gladianal. Gladianal* was an internet start-up created by college drop-outs Mark Schutz and Jon Wilson, using the shared pseudonym “Gemanus” (later *cASStor* and *HOLEux*, respectively, as the pair began interacting with fans individually). The pair found modest success with a small cast of pornographic actors, producing videos that focused heavily on anal sex and distributing them on their site with various, embarrassing, pun titles based on Rome. The site trundled along, steadily releasing a body of content and growing its fan base, and were it not for a twist of fate, this would likely be where the story ended.

 In mid-2010, business for *Gladianal* began to plateau. Schultz, hoping for an injection of fresh new content, approached his cast for new ideas. His cast at the time included the now widely-respected actress “HotDonkeyJo”, who was a major draw to *Gladianal* in her early pornographic career. It was Jo who suggested a BDSM piece in which one of her colleagues bound Jo’s arms and legs, then suspended various weights from a chain attached to a plug in Jo’s anus. Schutz and Wilson both enjoyed the novelty of the idea, and agreed to film it.

 It was this novel idea that would begin *Gladianal*’s rise to fame, as the released video became wildly popular almost overnight. Clipped segments of the video became viral hits, and mass traffic was funneled back to the site. Wilson took the reins in response and immediately spearheaded production on *The Gladianal Games,* a collection of videos containing more of this anal weight-lifting, with a wider variety of actors and actresses, as well as other displays of anal strength and dexterity; some of which formed the basis for events that appeared in the current incarnation of the ALC. *Gladianal* continued to gain traction and prestige as they continued to innovate, and they were soon becoming a household name, if such a term can apply to the field of adult video enterprises. It began to look like *Gladianal* was becoming the authority in their field, and in a sense, *Gladianal* still guides the world of anal weight-lifting. But, as the reader surely knows, *Gladianal* is now defunct…

 Sometime in 2013, Schutz and Wilson suffered a falling out over an undisclosed matter, and began to argue publicly in the *Gladianal* forums. Their performers began leaving their production, and fans noticed a sudden drop in production quality. Finally, on Christmas Day of that year, Schutz made an announcement on the site that Wilson had locked him out of the Gemanus account and absconded to some unknown location with the company’s funds and two of their actresses. Seemingly overnight, *Gladianal* had been killed, and Schutz was now facing destitution…

 But its legacy lived. Inspired by the anal feats she witnessed, Halcyon “Haley” Last-Name-Withheld-Upon-Request began practicing the art of anal weight-lifting in her spare time, and soon discovered that she had an immense talent for it. In late 2015, Haley recorded a series of lifts jokingly titled “America’s New Favorite Gameshow” to distribute as a means of picking up income on the side while she ran a bookstore. Schutz stumbling upon Haley’s videos, and didn’t find them to be any joking matter. What he witnessed was a total newcomer lifting seemingly hundreds of pounds with her anus with an inhuman level of grace and poise, and whose quiet charm was drawing fans to her side in their thousands. Schutz was determined not to let this golden opportunity go to waste. Schutz approached Haley and, with the last of his diminished savings from *Gladianal*, offered to sponsor her.

 Haley agreed to work with Schutz, so Schutz began promoting her on different sites, and even convinced Haley to dip her delectable toes [*editor’s note: subconscious slip, Phil? Scrub this before it gets published*] into the first of her many live performances. Haley was a godsend to the industry, perhaps literally, as her unmatched anal strength continued to amaze and transfix fans. Soon, rival performers began popping up, motivated by the inexplicable prowess Haley displayed. Schutz seized his opportunity and began organizing exhibitions and competitions involving these new contenders who wished the challenge the woman who was increasingly being billed as one of the strongest people alive.

 In only a short period of time, the two of them found unmatched success, and countless aspiring athletes now follow in their wake. Schutz was able to recover from the financial loss of *Gladianal* and planted the roots of the Anal Lifting Championship, of which he is currently the commissioner. Haley, fearing that the godly power within her would discourage spirited competition, stepped down from her role as an official competitor once more regions and countries began fostering their own sponsored athletes. She now acts as a spokesperson for the sport, performing live as an exhibition at official events and going on talk show tours. Wherever she goes, her dignified charm and mystifying strength draws in new fans of the sport.

 Perhaps the reader has been inspired by her, and other rising figures in the sport as it continues to flourish. If the reader wishes to support this still-growing sport, as an athlete or simply as a casual fan, then we here at the ALC encourage one to read further, and discover more about the sport within these pages!

-Phil Whitewind, ALC North American Commentator, 2020