

National Wrestling Alliance

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The National Wrestling Alliance (NWA) is the largest governing body for a group of independent professional wrestling promotions and sanctions various NWA championships, including four championships of "World Title" stature. The NWA has been in operation since 1948, and is the sole governing body for most of professional wrestling. It operates as a talent and brand name franchiser for the inter-regional "territory" system.

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History

Classic Territory System Era

1940's

Before the NWA was founded in 1948, there existed many regional promotions across North America and Japan (each promoting its own "World" champion). However, none of them had backing or recognition outside of their own respective geographic base-areas. The concept of the NWA was to consolidate the championships of these disparate regional companies into one true world championship of pro wrestling, whose holder would be recognized worldwide.

In 1948, Paul "Pinkie" George, a promoter from the Midwest, founded the original version of the National Wrestling Alliance with the backing of five other promoters (Al Haft, Tony Stecher, Harry Light, Orville Brown, and Sam Muchnick). This newly-formed NWA Board of Directors recognized Brown as the first-ever NWA World champion. During the reign of the second NWA World Heavyweight Champion, Lou Thesz (1949-1956), the title was further unified with several more previously-competing "World" titles, such as those recognized jointly by the National Wrestling Association and American Wrestling Alliance (in Boston), plus another version promoted from the Los Angeles Olympic Auditorium. This legitimized the NWA's claim that its title was a "Unified World Title," and its lineage continues to this very day.

The NWA members divided up North America, as well as Japan, into territories that each promoter would "own" and operate in. Having a territory meant that no other NWA member could promote wrestling in that area. If non-NWA promoters tried to promote their show in an NWA territory, then the other member groups were obliged to send stars to help force the intruder out. Reportedly, threats of violence or physical retaliation were used against any promoters (and/or talent) who disregarded the territory system. If any member territory broke the NWA's rules, it faced expulsion, and thus risked missing out on having nationally-known wrestlers appear on their local shows. For most promoters under the NWA umbrella, the benefits of membership were well worth the dues. Usually, the NWA President's territory was the main territory of the entire alliance.

Beyond the benefit of having other promotions to draw on in case of an intruder, each territory also received periodic guest visits from the NWA World Heavyweight Champion. The champion did not have a "home territory" as such, but instead traveled from territory to territory, defending the title against the top stars of each territory. Many promoters would build up to the appearance of "The NWA World Heavyweight Champion" weeks or months in advance, making the local World title matches that much more special, and the shows they headlined more lucrative. In addition, each NWA member promotion usually produced a TV show that aired in their territory only, meaning that the local fans only saw the World champion when he came to their area, not year-round. It was not just the champion that would travel the territories; often, wrestlers from a different area would come into a territory (often the heels / "bad guys"), and run an angle or two with its top local faces ("good guys"). Also, if the local fans ever tired of a wrestler, he could go to a whole new area and perform the same act for new audiences, who would think the act was

National Wrestling Alliance	
	
Details	
Acronym	NWA
Style	Various
Location	World Wide
Founders	Paul "Pinkie" George
	Al Haft
	Anton "Tony" Stecher
	Harry Light
	Orville Brown
	Sam Muchnik
Owners	See NWA presidents
Website	NWAWrestling.com

brand-new.

1950s

Upon becoming the booker for Lou Thesz in 1950, Muchnick, who was the head of the St. Louis Wrestling Club, became the new NWA President, and maintained that position until 1960.

In the mid-1950s, serious disputes broke out within the NWA. There were antitrust problems with the government and there were a number of competing factions who wanted to replace Thesz as champion with different wrestlers such as Verne Gagne. There were also disputes over the number of dates wrestled by the champion in various parts of the country.

The first break within the organization occurred in 1957 when Montreal promoter Eddie Quinn walked out of the August NWA meeting in St. Louis. Quinn had fallen out with Sam Muchnick over a number of issues. Quinn was a partner in the St. Louis territory and disagreed with how it was being run. Quinn was also angry that Muchnick had business dealings with rogue promoter (and Quinn rival) Jack Pfefer. At the time Quinn walked out, a wrestler of his named Edouard Carpentier was involved in an angle where he and Lou Thesz were both being presented around the NWA as champion. The original idea was to build the idea of the "disputed" NWA title into a high profile rematch. When Quinn left the NWA, Muchnick announced that Carpentier had never been an official champion and had no claim on the title.

Afterward, Quinn saw the financial possibilities in the Carpentier situation and began to negotiate with factions within the NWA. He offered to have Carpentier lose a title match to their prospective champion thus giving them if they decided to break away a legitimate claim on the world title. In 1958, it was arranged that Carpentier would drop his title to Verne Gagne in Omaha. But at the same time, Quinn also arranged for Carpentier to drop his title in Boston to Killer Kowalski which formed the basis for the AAC/Big Time Wrestling (Boston) title which lasted until 1975. Gagne tried for two more years to work things out with the NWA but finally in 1960 left the organization forming the American Wrestling Association. Gagne's win over Carpentier was used to legitimize the world championship status of the AWA title.

In 1959, Quinn began negotiating with the Los Angeles NWA affiliate. The promotion recognized Carpentier as NWA champion in 1959. In June 1961, Carpentier dropped the title for a third time to Fred Blassie. The promotion then left the NWA officially and became the WWA until it returned to the NWA in 1968.

Muchnick's replacement at the NWA's helm in 1960 was Toronto's Frank Tunney; he in turn was succeeded by Fred Kohler, who was the main booker for the new NWA World champion, "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers.

1960s

October 1962 saw Rogers defeat Killer Kowalski, a match which was promoted by Doc Karl

Sarpolis, the NWA member promoter in Amarillo, Texas. As a result, Sarpolis rose to the NWA presidency.

Rogers became the most popular wrestler of his time, and dominated wrestling shows in the Northeastern U.S. However, the NWA board voted to put the title back on Thesz, a decision which Rogers and the northeastern promoters backing him were loath to accept. Nevertheless, the board's decision prevailed, and Thesz defeated Rogers in Toronto on January 24, 1963. In reaction to the move, the Northeastern member promotion, Capitol Wrestling Corporation, seceded from the NWA and renamed itself the World Wide Wrestling Federation (WWWF), later to be known as the World Wrestling Federation (WWF). The WWWF, headed by Vince McMahon, Sr. and Toots Mondt, recognized Rogers as its first World champion in April 1963. Although both Verne Gagne and Vince McMahon promoted their own World champions, their promotions continued to have representatives on the NWA Board of Directors and regularly exchanged talent with NWA promotions.

1970's

The 1970's saw the National Wrestling Alliance on a truly Global scale when NWA Champion Jack Briscoe dropped the title to Giant Baba in Kagoshima Japan. Briscoe would regain the title six days later in Toyohashi, but Baba had already cemented his name in the record books as the first Japanese wrestler to win the title. While the first half of the '70's were dominated by the Funk Brothers and Jack Briscoe, the second half undoubtedly belonged to two of the NWA's (now) most legendary names in Harley Race and "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes.

Second only to Andre The Giant in terms of world wide fame and fan support, Dusty was probably the most loved wrestler in the sport from the mid-1970's throughout the 1980's, consistently drawing exceptionally large crowds wherever he wrestled. There was something different about the fast talking, down-to-earth "son of a plumber" that endeared him to wrestling fans everywhere, and his non-stop traveling between promotions helped him become one of the top 5 drawing cards in the history of wrestling. Race had already made a name for himself in 1973 when he upset Dory Funk, Jr. for the NWA title, and was revered for his ring skill, legitimate toughness, and ability to put on classic matches. The two would trade the title an astonishing 4 times throughout their careers.

Decline of the Classic Territory System

Early 1980's

In the 1980s, video tape trading and cable television paved the way for the eventual death of the NWA's classic inter-regional business model, as fans could now see for themselves the plot holes and inconsistencies between the different regional storylines. Also, the presence of stars like Dusty Rhodes, and Harley Race on TV every week made their special appearances in each region less of a draw. Vince McMahon, Jr., who had bought the WWWF from his father and renamed it the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) in 1982, used these gathering trends, as well as raids of competing promoters' talent pools, to turn his Northeastern

territory into the first truly national promotion. To compete against this threat, various NWA promoters, along with the AWA, attempted to co-promote shows under the Pro Wrestling USA banner. However, internal disputes over power and money caused this deal to eventually fall apart. The AWA ended up owning the group's ESPN timeslot, and used it to broadcast its own weekly shows.

Meanwhile, to hold off the threat of the WWF, Charlotte, North Carolina-based Jim Crockett Promotions decided to unify certain NWA territories and "go national" itself. Accordingly, Jim Crockett, Jr. began buying out some of the other NWA member promotions including Mid South or, in some cases, allowed them to quietly die and just absorbed their rosters. Because of his acquisition spree, and because he failed in proper marketing, TV production values, and merchandising, Crockett was quickly swimming in debt. As a result, in 1984 he sold the company to Ric Flair. Flair had been a rising star in the NWA before a tragic plane crash ended his career. Flair had also been one of Crockett's right hand men, and had an amazing mind for the business.

RFP wasn't the only NWA promotion expanding its borders as World Class Championship Wrestling consumed various promotions in the South West. In Mexico, EMLL with the backing of the NWA also consumed or put out of business most promotions south of the border and in 1987 the promotion changed its name to Imperio De Lucha Azteca (ILA). With Cable TV exposing the plot holes in the classic territorial system however, it was clear that a new order would certainly need to be devised.

Death of the WWF, Revision of the Territory System

It was of course, Vince McMahon Jr. that shattered the traditional territorial system, and exposed the plot holes of it. NWA promoters were furious when McMahon began syndicating WWF television shows to television stations across the United States, in areas outside of the WWF's traditional northeastern stronghold. McMahon also began selling videotapes of WWF events outside the Northeast through his Coliseum Video distribution company. He effectively broke the unwritten law of regionalism around which the entire industry had been based. To make matters worse, McMahon used the income generated by advertising, television deals, and tape sales to poach talent from rival promoters.

According to several reports, the elder McMahon warned his son, "Vinny, what are you doing? You'll wind up at the bottom of a river." In spite of such warnings, the younger McMahon had an even bolder ambition: the WWF would tour nationally. However, such a venture required huge capital investment; one that placed the WWF on the verge of financial collapse. The future of not just McMahon's experiment, but also the WWF, the NWA, and the whole industry came down to the success or failure of McMahon's groundbreaking concept, WrestleMania. WrestleMania was a pay-per-view extravaganza (in some areas; most areas of the country saw WrestleMania available on closed-circuit television) that McMahon marketed as being the Super Bowl of professional wrestling.

The concept of a wrestling super card was nothing new in North America; the NWA had been running Starrcade a few years prior to WrestleMania, and even the elder McMahon had

marketed large Shea Stadium cards viewable in closed-circuit locations. However, McMahon wanted to take the WWF to the mainstream, targeting the public who were not regular wrestling fans. He spent loads of money on celebrities such as Mr. T and Cyndi Lauper to participate in the event.

WrestleMania, held in 1985, was a resounding failure. As Gregory Thatus put it in his book, "The Fall of The World Wrestling Federation,"

"WrestleMania was a colossal failure, and crippled the World Wrestling Federation in such a way that it was termed 'Black Sunday' within the promotion, and led to the eventual bankruptcy of Vincent Kennedy McMahon Jr. within months, paving the way for the National Wrestling Alliance's domination."

Sports Entertainment was dead at birth. Within months the WWF ceased operations, and in its wake the NWA launched a new campaign to revamp their Territorial System. Cable Television had changed the business in a way that it could not go back to the way things once were, each promotion while separate had to add to the NWA as a whole. In 1985 Ted DiBiase defeated Dusty Rhodes for the NWA World Heavyweight Championship, and in turn the NWA gave control of the NWA Championship to Ric Flair Promotions.

The Late 1980's

With control of the NWA World Championship in RFP, and the plot lines of the old territorial system exposed, the NWA World Champion began to tour less (In an effort to make instances when he did seem more meaningful.) As well, many territories including RFP, WCCW and ILA began airing Cable Television shows of their own and the NWA made an effort to update fans on going ons all around the Alliance with "NWA News" segments that appeared on all territories' broadcasts, and established an "NWA Hotline" that fans could call for "breaking news" at a fee per minute basis. The NWA also sanctioned various NWA wide super cards including the biggest event of the year, Starrcade.

It's also important to note that in 1986, Dusty Rhodes purchased World Class Championship Wrestling, and established a lucrative co promoting deal with Ric Flair Promotions that delivered a large number of lucrative shows.

The breakout success story of the period however was that of a young, charismatic and flamboyant newcomer by the name of Sting. With his bleached blond hair and varying colorful face painted designs, not to mention his great athletic ability, Sting had become massively over all across the NWA, especially in the Mid Atlantic and all across the south. On November 26, 1987 Sting defeated Ted DiBiase for the NWA World Heavyweight Championship a mere two years after his pro debut. With the working relationship between RCP and WCCW in full effect, Sting finished out the 80's as the new face of the NWA and traded the title back and fourth with Michael Hayes in perhaps the greatest feud of the decade.

1990's

The '90's began in a bit of controversy in what is often known as the "Controversy Over Canada." In 1990, Sting was out on injury wanted to put the title on Bret Hart, who had built a reputation for himself as "the best wrestler in anywhere in the World." The NWA wanted Michael Hayes, who was the reigning Champion to drop the title to Bret in Calgary. Hayes, for whatever reason claimed that in his contract as Champion, he was in no way contractually obligated to go to Canada, or tour anywhere for that matter to drop the title. The NWA answered back by stripping Hayes of the championship, but there was only one problem. Hayes had the physical possession of the title belt. When the NWA offered to give back the deposit Hayes had put down on the title, he rejected it and kept the strap. With no other option, and a tournament for the belt scheduled in Calgary, the NWA came up with a new belt design, one that is often today nicknamed "Big Gold," or the "Big Gold Belt."

Undeterred, the scheduled tournament for the Championship went as planned with Bret Hart going over Davey Boy Smith in the finals. While Bret stayed primarily in Canada, he did make sporadic appearances in Memphis Championship Wrestling and Ric Flair Promotions. "The Hitman" Held onto the strap before dropping it to Davey Boy Smith in London, England on Dec. 28, 1992. It was during Davey Boy's reign as Champion that yet another controversy would arise.

In 1993 the wrestling world was abuzz with the news that Vince McMahon of all people was back in the wrestling business, and of all places, in the NWA. In the "Handshake That Shocked the World," NWA President Harley Race shook McMahon's hand and accepted the payment into the National Wrestling Alliance of McMahon's new promotion, Titan Wrestling Entertainment. McMahon, ever the salesman had now joined up with his enemies.

However the larger story broke out in that McMahon had signed Davey Boy Smith, the reigning NWA Champion to an exclusive contract, and that his contractual obligations would prevent him from defending the title in Canada as scheduled against Bret Hart. The NWA, not wanting their World Title in McMahon's promotion then scheduled an earlier show down between Hart and Smith in Memphis, where Bret regained the title.

The 90's also saw the emergence of new promotions into the NWA as Eastern Championship Wrestling debuted, and went gradually from a family oriented style to a style that would become known as "Hardcore" and based off of Japanese Death Matches. The NWA wasn't at all impressed, and put constant pressure on the group. As well, Sabu, the nephew of the legendary "Original Sheik" revive his Uncle's territory in Detroit and name it Motor City Wrestling.

In 1996, Sting regained the World Heavyweight Championship after a successful tag team run with Lex Luger that saw the duo win the World Tag Team Titles a number of times. Sting would become a traveling Champion as he visited a number of North American territories, the United Kingdom, and Japan. As the decade closed, Sting dropped the title to Mark Callous at a WCCW show and the title would remain there for the next two years, being traded by Dusty Rhodes and his son Dustin in a feud that got very bloody at times.

2000's

In 2000 no one man was hotter than "Superstar" Steve Austin. A former member of the Hollywood Blonds, and former World Tag Team Champion, Austin had landed a few roles in Hollywood movies and television series that saw him change his character from a brash redneck, to an overconfident wanna be movie star. His act and star power became so popular that by December he topped The Giant, Paul Wight to become the NWA World Champion. Austin's reign lasted nearly a year before tragedy struck in October of 2001 when he was involved in a head on collision while traveling home. With the title picture in shambles, and the hottest star in wrestling out for what some thought for the rest of his career, it was decided that the title would be put on one of the breakout young stars in WCCW, a former Olympic Gold Medalist in Kurt Angle.

Angle had began his professional career in Ric Flair Promotions, where he quickly won the NWA United States Championship. Angle's thirst for Gold wouldn't be quenched by any secondary title though, and he moved to WCCW where he mixed it up in the Main Event scene. Quickly advancing through a one night tournament, Angle pinned Jeff Jarrett at Starrcade to win his first World Title.

In Kurt Angle, the NWA saw an investment. As an Olympic Gold Medalist, Angle brought a sense of legitimacy like never before. It's no wonder then that the NWA spent the time on Angle with a lengthy reign on top of the ladder over the next five years, with brief interruptions by Paul Wight, Chris Benoit (who became the NWA's first Triple Crown Champion in doing so) and Sting. Angle was also a controversial Champion, and such an effective heel champion that he could get the crowds to reach riotous amounts of anger. One instance in particular occurred on February 17, 2002 at NWA Motor City's Original Sheik Memorial Show. Angle, the reigning NWA Champion defended his title against Sabu in a Hardcore Match. Sabu pinned Angle, and in turn thought he had won the title, but Angle quickly got on the microphone and demanded that it was against NWA Rules to defend the title in a Hardcore Match. Therefor, the match was restarted as a traditional affair, and in the end, Angle forced Sabu to tap out to the Ankle lock in the center of the ring. Angle narrowly escaped as the crowd broke through the barricade hot after him.

As 2007 came around, there was no more clear of a number one contender for Angle's strap than Brock Lesnar. After placing third in the 2004 Olympics, Lesnar signed with WCCW at the urging of Angle himself. Brock was pushed hard from the get go, winning quick and decisive matches. Before you knew it, two years had passed and still unbeaten, Lesnar boasted a record of 225 wins, and 0 losses. Billed as the matchup between the two finest wrestlers on the planet, Lesnar defeated Angle on April 15, 2007 for the NWA Title in San Antonio, Texas keeping his undefeated streak in tact and becoming the first man to ever win the Championship with a perfect record.

Current NWA Territories

This is a list of National Wrestling Alliance territories which are a group of professional

wrestling promotions that use the NWA name, or claim some affiliation with the governing body of the National Wrestling Alliance. Currently there are 17 active promotions within the NWA Banner.

Big Time Wrestling

Small, Portland, OR Hybrid Lucha/American Pro Style

Not to be confused with the Original Sheik's Detroit promotion Big Time Wrestling, this BTW is owned and operated by the "Love Machine" Art Barr. Being described as American Pro Style, the company is heavily based on Lucha Libre found in Mexico and is one of the only Northern promotions to boast ILA talent. With names such as Eddy Guerrero and the Villanos mixing it up with up and coming stars such as Judas Diabolos, and a faction of Athletic Arts stars, BTW offers a refreshing change from classic pro wrestling.

Calgary Stampede

National, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Hybrid Canadian Style Pro Wrestling

Having been in existence nearly as long as the National Wrestling Alliance itself, Calgary Stampede is one of the oldest and most prestigious promotions in the entire world. Ran by the legendary Hart family, Calgary boasted some of the greatest technical wrestlers the sport had ever seen, and still does. In the eighties, Bad News Allen, The Hart Foundation and the British Bulldogs all reached great levels of success but it wasn't until the 1990's that Calgary truly shined as the franchise promotion of the NWA, producing four NWA World Champions in Bret Hart, Davey Boy Smith, Curt Hennig and Owen Hart.

While Bret shined as the promotion's biggest star of the nineties, his focus shifted following the death of his father in 2003 when he sought control of the day to day operations of the promotion behind scenes. It was around this time that Chris Benoit, a Stampede original accomplished something no man had ever done before when he defeated Kurt Angle for the NWA World Heavyweight Championship; he became the first man to hold all three World Titles in the men's division, a accomplishment known as the Triple Crown.

Recently, with the signing of former NWA World champion Kurt Angle, Bret Hart made his return to active competition in a sign that things look to be heading for a show down between two of the most accomplished names in NWA history.

Championship Wrestling from Florida

Regional, Tampa, FL, Classic American with Caribbean Influence

When "The Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan retired from in-ring action, he was offered a booker role with the company he had been faithful to for ten years in Ric Flair Promotions. He decided to turn it down, wanting to reform his own federation back in his native state of Florida instead. Championship Wrestling from Florida had its first show in June 1997, drawing 1000 people, an amazing number considering how small the company was. This was thanks to how CWF was (and still is) the first wrestling company to originate from Florida.

Show one saw a tournament to crown the first Florida Southern Heavyweight Champion, won by Lex Luger. The event was seen as a success as show two drew 250 more people. But from that point, everything went downhill. Inspired by his old gimmick, Kevin Sullivan adopted a sports entertainment approach by bringing in a group known as "The Master's Lair", a bunch of 6'6, 300lbs plus monsters with cartoonish Halloween gimmicks looking to control the entire NWA through evil trickery. The Florida natives weren't impressed by grown men pretending to be creatures of the night, never mind their ability to defeat the (more over) good guys all the time. By the Halloween event in 1998, CWF were drawing just 150 people, and had lost its frustrated top stars like Lex Luger, Barry Windham and The Road Warriors. Always one to make things go out with a bang, Sullivan finally killed off The Master's Lair when their mystic energies were "literally" consumed by the new monster heel: Yokozuna. Yokozuna helped CWF during its two year transition period as champion, raising the average attendance number slightly by squashing his competition like a bug. But when Yokozuna seriously injured a young enhancement talent after a Banzai Drop, he was released on the grounds of being a liability due to his weight.

Meanwhile Kevin Sullivan would stumble upon a person who would change CWF to the product it still is today - Carlos Colon. Colon had links all over America and the Caribbean, and a deal was eventually struck for him to bring stars into CWF. There was only one condition: Colon's son of the same name would be pushed to the moon to make him ready for the big leagues. Sullivan agreed and as a result, the company radically changed into a mix of classic American and Caribbean wrestling, built around wrestlers of the present and future. With stars like Carlos Colon Jr, Dean Malenko, Lash Leroux and The Samoan Headshrinkers - Championship Wrestling from Florida has steadily gained popularity and a fanbase. Heading into 2008, things look bright in the sunshine state.

Eastern Championship Wrestling

Cult, Philadelphia, PA, Hardcore 'Extreme' Pro Wrestling

When asked where the most vicious wrestling fans in the world preside, don't be surprised by the unanimous answer you'll get, Philadelphia. The Philly fans know what they want and when they don't get it they will let you know. It's this very reason so many promotions have struggled to run shows in the historic city. However, over the last decade one man has been able to please the 'mutant' fan base, Paul Heyman and his Eastern Championship Wrestling.

ECW was created in 1996 by Todd Gordon and was not affiliated with the NWA at that stage. Gordon, having come from MCW as a successful manager, booked very similar to Memphis style shows and it wasn't what the crowd wanted. Towards the end of 1998 ECW was averaging only 100 people to their shows and was on the verge of going broke until Paul Heyman stepped in and took the remains. Heyman, having left WCCW after a dispute with management (and a load of up cash) bought Eastern Championship Wrestling and quickly brought a new vision to the booking table.

ECW started delivered hardcore, cutting edge wrestling that wasn't being seen in America at

the time and the fans (unlike the NWA Board) ate it up. All of a sudden they were seeing weapons, scantily clad women, and blood in excess. With wrestlers like Taz, Raven and The Sandman, ECW quickly turned the corner and started gaining popularity to a point in which the Viking Hall (dubbed the ECW Arena) was booked out by fans months in advance.

Through out the years 1999 to 2003, ECW featured some of the best brawling that has ever been seen in the NWA. Feuds between Raven and The Sandman, Raven and Tommy Dreamer and Taz and Shane Douglas along with the Dudley Boyz causing riots in the crowd mixed with a talented undercard those 4 years were majestic in ECW history.

By 2004 things started looking downhill for ECW. Raven, their biggest draw card had a falling out with owner Paul Heyman and headed down to Motor City. Shane Douglas was forced to retire due to nagging injuries, and their Main Event scene had become stale. Heyman knew it was time for a change, and in turn undercard workers like Joey Malibu (formerly Matthews), and Kanyon received huge pushes that launched them into the Main Event scene along with the arrival of 'The Monster' Abyss and Baldo The Destroyer (formally just Baldo in TWE) had ECW looking fresh again.

Today, ECW can be seen weekly on Hardcore Television where Joey Styles and former ECW Heavyweight Champion Shane Douglas call all the action as well as on Pay Per View where ECW presents three showings a year with the biggest being 'November 2 Remember.'

GLAM! (Gorgeous Ladies of the American Mat)

Regional, Las Vegas, NV, Women's

GLAM! may only be three years old, but it has already seen controversy. Many on the NWA board opposed what would become the first ever affiliate dedicated to women's wrestling. In the end, GLAM! won the vote through the slenderest of majorities. The federation thanked the board by putting on the most baffling, shocking debut show in the history of wrestling. It featured half naked women rolling around on the canvas, a "pudding" match involving a woman with a nymphomaniac gimmick, and a segment called "Tyleno Talks" where Tyleno Buck interviewed the show's sponsor while licking a banana suggestively. The immediate impact saw GLAM!'s next show canceled and Rena Mero installed as owner.

Since Rena's falling out with TWE over a sexual harassment lawsuit in 2001, she has been a strong advocate of women's roles in the wrestling business. She is a firm believer that women should be wrestlers as well as eye candy. Rena fired half the original roster (most of whom were pornstars and models anyway), removed all degrading gimmicks and gimmick matches, and began booking the women just like men in other federations. Heading into 2008, GLAM! features a packed roster. The belt holders: Jazz, Beth Phoenix and April Hunter have gained a reputation for being three of the deadliest women around. And along with the likes of Alexis Laree, Nora Greenwald and Lisa Varon, they have been credited with the renaissance of women's wrestling, turning GLAM! into a credible NWA affiliate.

Honolulu Championship Wrestling

Regional, Honolulu, HI, Hybrid Classic American/Puro Style

'It's a Family Thing' certainly describes Honolulu Championship Wrestling, the land of sun and surf is also home to what is termed simply 'The Samoans', an extended family of grapplers who have ran and maintained the promotion in some shape or form since its foundation in 1988. With ties to both Canada and Japan, which earned the promotion the nickname of 'Gateway to the East', HCW has brought its fans both family oriented entertainment, as well as some great matches in its past. In a time of turmoil, the company is searching for a new identity, having lost its top draw in Rikishi Fatu. However, without Rikishi, Rocky Johnson Jr., the legendary Ron Simmons and Bob "The Beast" Sapp have stepped up to the plate and regardless, the promotion still has its history and, as always, family, to fall back on.

Imperio De Lucha Azteca

National, Mexico City, Mexico, Hybrid Lucha Libre

Wrestling in Mexico is a tradition that has its roots dating back to the days of the Aztecs. Lucha stars such as Santo, Blue Demon and Mil Máscaras were not just famous in the ring but cultural icons that helped establish a national tradition that carries on to this day. Formerly EMLL, the company changed its name to Imperio De Lucha Azteca in the late 1980's as it had absorbed many other Mexican promotions, becoming the one true promotion south of the border. While the history of many of the American promotions are known in great detail, not much is known of ILA's history north of the border. Though, stars such as Rey Mysterio Jr., Eddy Guerrero and Konnan have certainly made their presence felt in the states as many regions now offer high flying Junior Heavyweight Divisions, and many of the workers involved in them have appeared in, or at least have seen tapes of ILA Events.

Controversy came in 2002 however when at Starrcade, NWA World Champion Kurt Angle successfully defended the championship against ILA's Eddy Guerrero. Konnan, the operator of ILA stated that the NWA had promised to put the title on Eddie, and it was only a last minute decision just before the Main Event to change the outcome. Konnan called the NWA Board a bunch of racists, and in turn cut off the border, preventing ILA talents from appearing in the states. This lasted until about two years ago when Big Time Wrestling, and Calgary Stampede created working agreements. With a crop of excellent talent, ILA isn't going away anytime soon.

Memphis Championship Wrestling

Cult, Memphis, TN, Memphis Style Pro Wrestling

You can't have smoke without fire and you can't have wrestling without Memphis. Memphis Championship Wrestling is one of the oldest wrestling federations in the world since, creating a legacy admired and unmatched by the rest of the wrestling world. In fact, when the National Wrestling Alliance looked to dominate after the WWF's failings in the 80's, MCW's membership gave the NWA legitimacy, especially in the form of Jerry 'The King' Lawler, and many followed in their footsteps towards creating what the business is today.

However leading into the 21st century, they had fallen to the lower end of the top ten. The shows had always remained entertaining; the problem was that it was behind on the times. Audiences had moved on and desired either for wrestling with pure athletic ability or edgy sports entertainment. Memphis Championship Wrestling, while once cutting edge and risky, was still in the old-school, holding its events in rundown arenas, giving the spotlight to the same wrestlers who were in the spotlight five years ago, and rarely pushing the envelope.

When further cracks began to show in the Memphis Empire, it was decided there needed to be changes. They weren't prepared to emulate the trash of Titan Wrestling Entertainment – they were going to have the athletic competition instead. MCW created the Memphis City Junior Heavyweight division and brought in some of the hottest, youngest stars in the world. These days, the championship division features the likes of "The Lost Prophet" Christopher Daniels, Austin Aries, Bryan Danielson, Shane Helms, Shannon Moore and much more – drawing crowds through their amazing endurance and acrobatic abilities. But MCW hasn't resorted just to being a precursor to NWA: Athletic Arts. MCW also features great Heavyweight wrestlers, the likes of former NWA World Champion Jeff Jarrett, The Armstrong Family, "The Music City Mastadon" Mabel and Memphis legend: Jerry "The King" Lawler. Since the changes, MCW once again looks to be a leading force.

NWA: Athletic Arts

Regional, Raleigh, NC, high flying lucha inspired

From its inception in 2004, Jim Kettner's NWA Athletic Arts (formerly East Coast Wrestling Association) has had a unique place among the National Wrestling Alliance. It was the place that gave career long journeymen who had been constantly overlooked and underutilized a place to finally shine. Stars such as Matt Hardy, Jeff Hardy, Shane Helms and Shannon Moore, who had been deemed as "too small" to become big stars for any organization, received exposure in the small Carolina based promotion and are now some of the top ranked Junior Heavyweights in all of the National Wrestling Alliance. Athletic Arts was also the place that saw the emergence of new stars, eager and ready to prove themselves to a newer type of fanbase.

Today, many of the the top stars in the Junior Heavyweight Divisions all across the NWA at least passed through Athletic Arts. Though only Arch Kincaid, and Keven Martel, the promotion's champion remain from the inaugural class, there is an abundance of fresh new stars ready to stake their claim at fame, with just one big win away from NWA title contention. 'The OC Boy' Aden Chambers, and Chase Del Monte are simply two of the newer stars of the exciting brand of wrestling that is Athletic Arts, driving home their motto of "Adapt, Adopt and Improve."

NWA: Los Angeles

Regional, Los Angeles, CA, Edgy, Urban, Entertainment

Founded in 2002 out of the ashes of NWA Golden West, NWA Los Angeles was, from the

very beginning, regarded as one of the most violent, and controversial, of the NWA branches. At once an outcast and also highly regarded, the territory, in its early days, featured stars such as 'The Fallen Angel' Christopher Daniels, American Love Machine, and The Masked Nazis. While the top of the card featured some of the best wrestling in the western United States, the rest of it was considered to be filled with hacks who were of a level of talent akin to 'yardtards', who cut and bled for the crowd's amusement.

Be that as it may, NWA Los Angeles was able to gain some measure of fame, or rather, infamy, through the use of controversy and the money of its owner, porn mogul Rob Black. While Black, in the early days, had a heavy hand in the day to day operation and booking of the promotion, that has since lessened considerable, most notably at the time in which Kevin Kleinrock took over as the head booker. It was in 2001 when NWA Los Angeles ran what is, to this day, considered one of the most revolting angles in professional wrestling history, when The Masked Nazis, a tag team who's gimmick was, quite obviously, that of nazi sympathizers in luchadore masks, 'murdered' a young worker of supposedly Jewish heritage (which he was not). This led to a massive backlash on the company, as many workers left along with the fanbase. At this point, and with the urging of the NWA board, NWA Los Angeles closed down for nearly a year, before returning with Kleinrock at the helm, and Black in a purely monetary role.

Since then, the company has found a renewed sense of purpose, but has never completely left its 'ultra-violent' roots behind. It was mid-2004 when the company's biggest coup came, in the form of the decorated tag team Harlem Heat, who, after an incident in World Class Championship Wrestling, came to Los Angeles. From that point, NWA LA has ridden the rise of Booker T, who, with the retirement due to injury of his brother and tag team partner Stevie Ray, has become one of the true top stars of the NWA, although World Championship gold has eluded him. Recently, with the rising interest in the promotion, due to Booker T's rise, as well as the young guns the company has created, NWA Los Angeles has begun to cut a more favorable mark for itself, and, has, for the first time in its young history, begun to create relationships with other NWA affiliates, most notably Calgary Stampede and Athletic Arts. In fact, one of the most heated feuds in recent NWA history involves Los Angeles young gun Kaos and former Athletic Arts ace Jeff Hardy.

NWA: Motor City

Regional, Detroit, MI, Hard Hitting American Pro Style

1998 saw Sabu (Terry Brunk) return to his uncle, The Original Sheik's stomping grounds in Detroit to open up NWA: Motor City and left right where Sheik left off. NWA:MC's debut show saw Sabu versus Rob Van Dam in the main event where the crowd was treated to chairs, tables, blood and barred wire that was much to the dismay of the NWA Board of Directors.

The Insane Clown Posse arrived in the Motor City in the summer of 1999 which would be dubbed "The Summer of Violence" where Shaggy 2 Dope and Violent J would cause terror on a weekly basis beating down and bloodying their opponents each week and by the end of

August they defeated Sabu in a "Echocide Death Match" to become Co-Holders of the Motor City Heavyweight Title. The Juggalo influence on Motor City saw their popularity reach huge heights with many ICP music fans begging to show up in numbers to shows.

In 2004, Motor City gained a huge acquisition in the former NWA World Tag Team and ECW Heavyweight Title holder Raven after a fall out with ECW Owner Paul E. Heyman. Raven would go to dark places citing Paul E. Heyman kicking him out of ECW was horribly reminiscent of his childhood memories when his father made him leave home. Raven said the best revenge would be capturing the Motor City Heavyweight Title to ultimately show that even the Raven has his day.

In recent years Motor City has been criticized for not being up the times and "still being stuck in 1998 instead of 2008" but the rise of the Murder City Machine Guns (Alex Shelley and Chris Sabin) as well as Monty Brown are two reasons to keep an eye out for the renegade promotion.

Ric Flair Promotions

Cult, Charlotte, NC, Old School NWA Style, Formerly Jim Crockett Promotions

Jim Crockett Promotions was at one point the biggest, and undisputed best promotion under the NWA umbrella, but tragedy struck in 1975 when a plan carrying Crockett, Johnny Valentine, "Mr. Wrestling I" Tim Woods, Bob Bruggers, and a young prospect in Ric Flair crashed. Flair broke his back in three places and was told that he could never compete again or risk paralysis. Crockett, feeling sympathetic about how Flair's career had been cut short hired him as apart of the booking team.

As time went on, and with pressure from the ever expanding WWF to go bigger, Crockett did just that as he put all of his money into the company, and then some. Crockett however wasn't much of a business man when it came to expanding, and in 1984 he sold the company to Ric Flair for an undisclosed sum and Flair renamed it to Ric Flair Promotions. Flair became head booker and gave a young man by the name of Sting the NWA World Heavyweight Title, and started to build his company around him. The push of Sting was a complete success, and he has since gone on to reach iconic status within not only the NWA, but the entire world of professional wrestling.

RFP carried on even when the NWA Board made the crucial decision to remove the company's exclusive rights to the NWA World Heavyweight Title, and bringing it to Canada. The promotion builds around the technical skill of a wrestler rather than the character like McMahon's Titan Wrestling Entertainment. But don't be fooled into thinking character isn't important, as can be told by the reigning Mid-Atlantic Heavyweight Champion, and top draw 'Lion Heart' Chris Jericho.

The charismatic Canadian proved that he can do what the legendary Sting did the past decade and carry the promotion on his shoulders, as a matter of fact it was Jericho who "forced" 'The Man They Call' Sting to pass the torch to him on the biggest drawing show for

the company since Flair took the reigns. Although Sting remains a constant threat to the title, 'Lion Heart' has new challengers coming at him left, right and center with 'Kamikaze' Ken Anderson in particular looking to be the number one challenger for Jericho's title.

Titan Wrestling Entertainment

National, Stamford, CN, Sports Entertainment

Call Vince McMahon what you will, liar, politician, tyrant, and even failure. One thing no one can deny however is the fact that the man is above all else, a gambler. WrestleMania may have been a vision well ahead of its time, but there's no doubt that McMahon believed in the concept behind it, after all he had invested all of his fortune into the event. As the old saying goes, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, McMahon did just that in 1993, eight years after the WrestleMania failure, when he established Titan Wrestling Entertainment in the WWF's old stomping grounds.

His crop of top talent included a major coup in former NWA World Champion 'British Bulldog' Davey Boy Smith, Curt Hennig, who would be repackaged as the loudmouthed 'Mr. Perfect,' Sgt. Slaughter, 'Hacksaw' Jim Duggan and perhaps the most controversial signing of all, Jim Helwig. As the Dingo Warrior, Helwig had a history of being controversial, if not clinically insane all across the other promotions in the NWA leading to no less than blacklist status. In Helwig however, McMahon saw a million dollar body, and the face of his promotion. Repackaged as the energetic, flamboyant 'Ultimate Warrior,' he would topple Sgt. Slaughter in a tournament final to become the inaugural TWE Heavyweight Champion.

Using 'Sports Entertainment' in small doses over the next decade McMahon's promotion grew, and fans eventually grew accustomed to the 'Soap Opera' feeling of the promotion. This was in direct contrast to the rest of the NWA, who still promote wrestling above all else. In recent years TWE has seen its share of controversy. With the formation of GLAM!, it was a guarantee that the NWA Women's Championship would go to that promotion as the top title, but McMahon instead opted to purchase the rights to the title from the NWA for ten years. The smarks went berserk at the thoughts of many of TWE's untrained 'Divas' holding what is supposed to be the highest honor in all of Women's Wrestling. McMahon's actions didn't stop at titles, earlier in the year he signed a promising young upstart by the name of Chris Mordetsky away from Championship Wrestling Unleashed. A little background on Mordetsky, he was groomed by CWU owner Paul Orndorff as his greatest student and Orndorff even handed down the moniker of "Mr. Wonderful" to Mordetsky. How did Mordetsky show his gratitude? He left the company as Heavyweight Champion, signing with TWE and taking the 'Mr. Wonderful' name with him as well as Orndorff's famed piledriver finishing move.

Today the promotion headlined by such top names as Jean Paul Levesque, the giant Paul 'The Great Wight', 'Heart Break Kid' Shawn Michaels and 'The Cuban Stud' Scott Hall. In addition to that, there are plenty of young and hungry stars fleshing out the line up including 'Mr. Wonderful' Chris Mordetsky, 'Macho' Matt Morgan (who is on a collision course with former NWA World Champion Randy Savage, who is the commentator for TWE), and Dave Batista.

Vancouver Championship Wrestling

Regional, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Hybrid Strong Style, Technical Pro Wrestling

Yet another federation highly influenced on the fast paced style of today, Dave Republic's Vancouver Championship Wrestling features primarily Junior Heavyweights from Canada, the US and even Great Britain. With the likes of Spanky, Paul London, NWA World Junior Heavyweight Champion PAC, and others VCW has the ability to put on great shows filled with exciting athletic competition.

Windy City Wrestling

Regional, Chicago, IL, Classic American Style with Hardcore Elements

Based out of Chicago, Windy City Wrestling is considered "the underground movement" of the NWA. One of the most talked about lesser promotions in the NWA, their DVDs are third highest selling on NWA Wrestling.com Their mix of Classic American Wrestling with Hardcore Elements produces a unique blend and feel to their shows that the promotion's following loves.

Former NWA World Tag Team Champions, the Road Warriors founded WCW in 1998. Hawk and Animal were the stars of the show with them heavily being featured in the main events and even getting a NWA World Tag Team Title shot at 'Windy City Classic' but were unsuccessful.

Over time, The Road Warriors returned to touring with other NWA promotions and in 2001, sold the promotion the operators of the 'Windy City Gym,' Ace Steel and Danny Dominion, who then sold it to Dave Prazak.

With the Road Warriors gone, Prazak changed WCW's style to what we know today. Steel and Dominion battled over the WCW Heavyweight Title and introduced the WCW Junior Heavyweight Title that was won in a tournament by one of their students, CM Punk. WCW's Junior Heavyweight Division is what drew all the attention to them in 2002 with wrestlers like CM Punk, American Kickboxer, Michael Shane (now Matt Michaels) and Low Ki and (depending on who you ask) the Junior Heavyweight belt was considered more prestigious than the Heavyweight Title.

WCW is home to 'Chicago's Elite' consisting of CM Punk, Colt Cabana and Ace Steel. CM Punk holds the WCW Heavyweight Championship and has done so for a year, he has fought off challengers including his trainer Danny Dominion, Adam Pearce (who left for WCCW afterwards), Jerry Lynn and most recently AJ Styles. Punk though has everything to be worried about, as Chris Hero looks to have his number, pinning the champion in a Tag Team Match.

Windy City Wrestling can be seen via syndication around the country and most

importantly in the Illinois area. Their biggest show of the year 'Windy City Classic' is only a few months away, will Hero get his title shot?

World Class Championship Wrestling

National, Dallas, TX, Southern Style Wrestling

WCCW has been the top dog of the NWA since Memphis Championship Wrestling lost popularity in the mid 1990's. While both federations are distinctively southern, WCCW entices more fans through its cast of gritty southern wrestlers providing unrelenting brutality. Every week on WCCW Ignition, people are busted open, struck with weapons and simply beaten to a bloody pulp in a way that the TWE's sports entertainment can't come close to emulate. On a recent episode of Championship Wrestling on ESPN, Cactus Jack and Abdullah the Butcher assaulted sixty-three year old Terry Funk with forks and barbed wire in a sickening assault that left Funk face down in a pool of his own blood. WCCW's audience is so used to this style of product however; the television network only received a small number of complaints.

WCCW are not slackers in the character department either. 'Superstar' Steve Austin has evolved from a beer drinking redneck with an attitude to a film star as a result of appearing in several Hollywood productions. NWA Champion: Brock Lesnar is a bad ass killing machine whose actions speak louder than words. He decimates opponents typically in one/two minute matches, and is headed on a collision course with Austin. And the Rhodes in Dusty, Cody, Dustin and his wife Terri are in a continual saga where they yo-yo from happy families into being worst enemies thanks to Terri's manipulative ways.

In recent times, WCCW's top spot has been in trouble. Despite TWE lacking in a couple of departments, its soap opera/entertainment value and sheer accessibility has seen the Vince McMahon owned company loom ever closer to the coveted top spot. WCCW's policy has been to continue as normal and hope the threat goes away. But with the TWE drawing in southern audiences too, that seems unlikely. In order to maintain its 10+ year reign at the top of the mountain, WCCW needs to do something drastic to make sure it stays that way.

Xtreme Fight Club

Small, Las Vegas, Nevada, Mixed Martial Arts based Pro Wrestling

Opened in 2005 as the NWA's attempt to capitalize on the ever growing popularity of Mixed Martial Arts. The XFC style is a mix of MMA and Pro Wrestling where 'Fights' take place inside a Octagon Cage where pin falls and submissions still apply but the chance of a Knock Out or Referee Stoppage is more likely to occur. XFC is headlined by Al Snow, Paul Birchall, Eric Angle (brother of Kurt Angle) and former MMA Fighter Daniel Puder, who was wooed away from signing with the UFC by XFC owner Dana White.

Women are also not afraid to step inside the Octagon with the XFC Knockouts fighting over their 'Knockouts' Championship with GLAM! Star Jessica J. Dalton fighting off such women like Lacey and Mercedes Martinez. Currently in the XFC, a fight has been signed to take place

in February at XFC 20: No Disqualifications, where Daniel Puder will set to defend his XFC Championship against Paul Burchill where there will be No Disqualifications.

Championship History

NWA World Heavyweight Championship Title History

- 1 - **Orville Brown** - Jan. 5, 1948 - Des Moines, IA
 - 2 - **Lou Thesz** - Nov. 27, 1949 - N/A
 - 3 - **Whipper Billy Watson** - Mar. 15, 1956 - Toronto, ON
 - 4 - **Lou Thesz** [2] - Nov. 9, 1956 - St. Louis, MO
 - 5 - **Dick Hutton** - Nov. 14, 1957 - Toronto, ON
 - 6 - **Pat O'Connor** - Jan 9, 1959 - St. Louis, MO
 - 7 - **Buddy Rogers** - June 30, 1961 - Chicago, IL
 - 8 - **Lou Thesz** [3] - Jan. 24, 1963 - Toronto, ON
 - 9 - **Gene Kiniski** - Jan 7, 1966 - St. Louis, MO
 - 10 - **Dory Funk Jr.** - Feb. 11, 1969 - Tampa, FL
 - 11 - **Harley Race** - May 24, 1973 - Kansas City, MO
 - 12 - **Jack Briscoe** - July 20, 1973 - Houston, TX
 - 13 - **Giant Baba** - Dec. 2, 1974 - Kagoshima, Japan
 - 14 - **Jack Briscoe** [2] - Dec. 8, 1974 - Toyohashi, Japan
 - 15 - **Terry Funk** - Dec. 10, 1975 - Miami, FL
 - 16 - **Harley Race** [2] - Feb. 6, 1977 - Toronto, ON
 - 17 - **Dusty Rhodes** - Aug 21, 1979 - Tampa, FL
 - 18 - **Harley Race** [3] - Aug. 26, 1979 - Orlando, FL
 - 19 - **Giant Baba** [2] - Oct. 31, 1979 - Nagoya, Japan
 - 20 - **Harley Race** [4] - Nov. 7, 1979 - Amagasaki, Japan
 - 21 - **Giant Baba** [3] - Sep. 4, 1980 - Saga, Japan
 - 22 - **Harley Race** [5] - Sep. 9, 1980 - Ohtsu, Japan
 - 23 - **Tommy Rich** - April 27, 1981 - Augusta, GA
 - 24 - **Dusty Rhodes** [2] - June 21, 1981 - Atlanta, GA
 - 25 - **Harley Race** [6] - Sep. 17, 1981 - Kansas City, MO
 - 26 - **Carlos Colon** - Jan. 6, 1983 - San Juan, PR
 - 27 - **David Von Erich** - Jan. 24, 1983 - Miami, FL
 - 28 - **Dusty Rhodes** [3] - Nov. 24, 1983 - Tampa, FL
 - 29 - **Harley Race** [7] - Mar. 21, 1984 - Wellington, New Zealand
 - 30 - **Kerry Von Erich** - May 6, 1984 - Irving, TX
 - 31 - **'Millionaire' Ted DiBiase** - May 11, 1985 - Austin, TX
- * DiBiase wins tournament final over Dusty Rhodes to crown a new champion after the title was vacated when Kerry Von Erich suffers an injury and is unable to defend the title within a 90 day period.
- 32 - **Jerry 'The King' Lawler** - Aug. 23, 1985 - Memphis, TN
 - 33 - **Ricky Steamboat** - Nov. 28, 1985 - Greensboro, NC
 - 34 - **Jerry 'The King' Lawler** [2] - Dec. 14, 1985 - Charlotte, NC
 - 35 - **Ricky Steamboat** [2] - Feb. 22, 1986 - New York, NY

36 - **'Millionaire' Ted Dibiase** [2] - Nov. 26, 1987 - Charlotte, NC

37 - **Sting** - Nov. 26, 1987 - Charlotte, NC

38 - **Randy Savage** - Aug. 28, 1988 - Dallas, TX

39 - **Sting** [2] - Sep. 11, 1988 - Atlanta, GA

40 - **Michael Hayes** - Oct. 10, 1988 - Austin, TX

41 - **Sting** [3] - Dec. 26, 1988 - Norfolk, VA

* July 1, 1989 Sting is forced to vacate the title through injury.

42 - **Michael Hayes** [2] - Aug. 6, 1989 - Irving, TX

* February of 1990, Hayes refuses to defend the title in Calgary citing that he isn't contractually obligated to compete in Canada, and is stripped of the title by the NWA. Hayes though, keeps physical possession of the title and the NWA creates a new representation of the Championship, often dubbed "Big Gold."

43 - **Bret 'The Hitman' Hart** - Mar. 24, 1990 - Calgary, AB

* Hart wins tournament final over Davey Boy Smith

44 - **Davey Boy Smith** - Dec. 28, 1992 - London, England

45 - **Bret 'The Hitman' Hart** [2] - April, 1993 - Memphis, TN

* Champion Davey Boy Smith had signed to work exclusively for Vince McMahon's new TWE Promotion. McMahon claimed that Davey Boy's contract wouldn't allow him to compete at the upcoming NWA Title Match in Calgary, therefore the NWA scheduled a special title match between Hart and Smith in Memphis.

46 - **Curt Hennig** - Jan. 29, 1994 - Minneapolis, MN

47 - **Bret 'The Hitman' Hart** [3] - Dec. 27, 1994 - Montreal, QC

48 - **Owen Hart** - Mar. 10, 1995 - Calgary, AB

49 - **Bret 'The Hitman' Hart** [4] - May 6, 1995 - Vancouver, BC

50 - **Jerry 'The King' Lawler** [3] - Aug 18, 1996 - Memphis, TN

51 - **Sting** [4] - Oct. 26, 1996 - Nashville, TN

52 - **The Great Muta** - Feb. 9, 1997 - Tokyo, Japan

53 - **Sting** [5] - Feb. 14, 1997 - Hiroshima, Japan

54 - **Shawn Michaels** - Apr. 19, 1998 - Memphis, TN

55 - **Jeff Jarrett** - July 12, 1998 - Nashville, TN

56 - **Sting** [6] - Dec. 27, 1998 - Charlotte, NC

57 - **Mark Callous** - Feb. 14, 1999 - Atlanta, GA

58 - **Dustin Rhodes** - June 27, 1999 - Irving, TX

59 - **Dusty Rhodes** [4] - Dec. 19, 1999 - St. Louis, MO

60 - **Dustin Rhodes** [2] - Dec. 19, 1999 - St. Louis, MO

61 - **Paul Wight** - May 7, 2000 - Irving, TX

62 - **'Superstar' Steve Austin** - Dec. 17, 2000 - Kansas City, MO

*October 2001, Champion Steve Austin is involved in a head on collision in Texas and is forced to vacate the title.

63 - **Kurt Angle** - Dec. 9, 2001 - San Antonio, TX

*Angle wins the title in a one night tournament at Starrcade, defeating Jeff Jarrett in the tournament final.

*February 17, 2002, Sabu defeats Kurt Angle for the NWA World Heavyweight Title in Detroit at the Original Sheik Memorial Show. Angle however orders that the match must be restarted due to NWA rules stating that the NWA World Title couldn't be defended in a

Hardcore Match. The match is restarted as a traditional affair, and Angle forces Sabu to tap out to the Ankle Lock. The Detroit crowd reaches riotous anger.

64 - **Paul Wight** [2] - October 21, 2003 - St. Louis, MO

65 - **Kurt Angle** [2] - Dec. 16, 2003 - Pittsburgh, PA

66 - **Chris Benoit** - Feb. 15, 2004 - Calgary, AB

67 - **Kurt Angle** [3] - Feb. 22, 2004 - Calgary, AB

68 - **Sting** [7] - Dec. 19, 2004 - Los Angeles, CA

69 - **Kurt Angle** [4] - Mar. 13, 2005 - Irving, TX

70 - **Brock Lesnar** - April 15, 2007 - San Antonio, TX

NWA World Tag Team Championship History

1 - **Minnesota Wrecking Crew (Gene Anderson and Ole Anderson)** - Jan. 29, 1975 - N/A

* Title were awarded to the Minnesota Wrecking Crew, though it was announced on television that they won a tournament in California for the title. Also note that this was the Mid-Atlantic version of the NWA World Tag Team Championship at this point. Prior to 1982 many territories recognized their own version of the "World Tag Team Championship."

2 - **Wahoo McDaniel and Paul Jones** - May 15, 1975 - Greensboro, NC

3 - **The Minnesota Wrecking Crew** [2] - June 11, 1975 - Raleigh, NC

4 - **Wahoo McDaniel** [2] and **Rufus R. Jones** - Jan. 27, 1976 - Columbia, SC

5 - **The Minnesota Wrecking Crew** [3] - Feb. 3, 1976 - Raleigh, NC

6 - **Mr. Wrestling and Dino Bravo** - May 5, 1976 - Raleigh, NC

7 - **The Minnesota Wrecking Crew** [4] - June 28, 1976 - Greenville, SC

8 - **Don Muraco and Greg Valentine** - Dec. 26, 1976 - Greenville, SC

9 - **The Minnesota Wrecking Crew** [5] - May 8, 1977 - Charlotte, NC

* June 1977, The Minnesota Wrecking Crew defeat Mike Graham and Kevin Sullivan to unify the Mid-Atlantic and Mid-America versions of the World Tag Team Titles.

10 - **Dusty Rhodes and Dick Slater** - Sep. 23, 1977 - Atlanta, GA

11 - **Minnesota Wrecking Crew** [6] - Oct. 14, 1977 - Atlanta, GA

12 - **Don Muraco** [2] and **Greg Valentine** [2] - Oct. 30, 1977 - Greensboro, NC

*Stripped of title in April, 1978 after continually breaking NWA rules and getting disqualified.

13 - **Paul Jones** [2] and **Ricky Steamboat** - April 23, 1978 - Greensboro, NC

*Defeated Masked Superstar and Ken Patera in tournament final.

14 - **Baron Von Raschke and Greg Valentine** [3] - June 7, 1978 - Raleigh, NC

*November 1978, Raschke and Valentine defeat Bob Brown and Bob Sweetan in Des Moines, IA to unify the Mid-Atlantic and Central States versions of the "World Tag Team Titles."

15 - **Jimmy Snuka and Paul Orndorff** - Dec. 12, 1978 - Charlotte, NC

16 - **Baron Von Raschke** [2] and **Paul Jones** [3] - April 28, 1979 - Atlanta, GA

*May of 1979 Raschke and Jones defeat Ed Wisloski and Roddy Piper in Los Angeles to unify the Mid-Atlantic and San Francisco versions of the "World Tag Team Titles."

17 - **The Blackjacks (Mulligan and Lanza)** - Aug 8, 1979 - Greensboro, NC

18 - **Baron Von Rashke** [3] and **Paul Jones** [4] - Aug. 22, 1979 - Greensboro, NC

19 - **Ricky Steamboat** [2] and **Jay Youngblood** - Oct. 24, 1979 - Raleigh, NC

20 - **Ray Stevens and Greg Valentine** [4] - Mar. 29, 1980 - Charlotte, NC

21 - **Ricky Steamboat** [3] and **Jay Youngblood** [2] - May 10, 1980 - Gainesville, GA

22 - **Giant Baba and Jumbo Tsurata** - August, 20 1980 - Charlotte, NC

*Baba and Tsurata, the reigning World Tag Team Champions (Detroit version) defeat Steamboat and Youngblood to unify the Detroit and Mid-Atlantic versions of the "World Tag Team Titles."

23 - **Paul Jones [5] and Masked Superstar** - Nov. 27, 1980 - Greensboro, NC

24 - **Ray Stevens [2] and Ivan Koloff** - Feb. 22, 1981 - Greensboro, NC

24 - **Paul Jones [6] and Masked Superstar [2]** - Mar. 22, 1981 - Greensboro, NC

25 - **Minnesota Wrecking Crew [7]** - May 1, 1981 - Richmond, VA

*Title vacated December 1981 when Gene Anderson is injured

26 - **Ole Anderson [8] and Stan Hansen** - Feb. 28, 1982 - Atlanta, GA

* Awarded title by forfeit when Wahoo McDaniel and Don Muraco split before their scheduled title match.

*May 1982 Hansen and Anderson defeat Kerry Von Erich and Al Madril in St. Louis, MI to unify the Texas and Mid-Atlantic version of the "World Tag Team Titles."

*Title vacated in September of 1982.

27 - **Giant Baba [2] and Antonio Inoki** - Sep. 21, 1982 - Tokyo, Japan

*Baba and Inoki defeat Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle in tournament final.

*December 1982, the Los Angeles version of the "World Tag Team Titles" are retired with the closure of the promotion. The Mid-Atlantic version of the World Tag Team Title becomes the official undisputed NWA World Tag Team Championship.

28 - **Ricky Steamboat [4] and Jay Youngblood [3]** - Mar. 12, 1983 - Hiroshima, Japan

29 - **The Briscoe Brothers (Jack and Jerry)** - June 18, 1983 - Greensboro, NC

30 - **Ricky Steamboat [5] and Jay Youngblood [4]** - Oct. 3, 1983 - Greenville, SC

31 - **The Briscoe Brothers [2]** - Oct. 21, 1983 - Richmond, VA

32 - **Ricky Steamboat [6] and Jay Youngblood [5]** - Nov. 24, 1983 - Greensboro, NC

*Title vacated December, 1983 when Steamboat announces his retirement

33 - **Don Kernodle and Sgt. Slaughter** - May 5, 1984 - Jan. 8, 1984 - Greensboro, SC

*Defeated Dory Funk Jr. and Jimmy Valiant in tournament final.

34 - **Wahoo McDaniel [4] and Mark Youngblood [2]** - March 4, 1984 - Greensboro, SC

36 - **The Briscoe Brothers [3]** - April 4, 1984 - Spartansburg, SC

37 - **Wahoo McDaniel [5] and Mark Youngblood [3]** - May 5, 1984 - Greensboro, SC

38 - **Ivan Koloff [2] and Don Kernodle [2]** - May 8, 1984 - Raleigh, NC

39 - **Dusty Rhodes [2] and Manny Fernandez** - Oct. 20, 1984 - Greensboro, SC

40 - **Ivan Koloff [3] and Nikita Koloff** - March 18, 1985 - Fayetteville, NC

*Titles vacated in May of 1985 when the NWA's "reorganization" begins. A Tournament is decided to crown new champion in Texas.

41 - **The Fabulous Freebirds (Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts)** - May 11, 1985 - Austin, TX

*The Freebirds (Hayes and Gordy) defeat Kevin and Mike Von Erich in tournament final.

*"The Freebirds Clause" is added to the NWA World Tag Team titles, stating that any two man combination of Hayes, Gordy or Roberts could defend the titles legally.

42 - **The Rock 'n' Roll Express (Robert Gibson and Ricky Morton)** - June 23, 1985 - Nashville, TN

43 - **The Fabulous Freebirds [2]** - Sep. 21, 1985 - Memphis, TN

44 - **The Midnight Express (Stan Lane and Dennis Condrey)** - (Dennis Condrey and Bobby

- Eaton) - Feb. 2, 1986 - Atlanta, GA
- 44 - **Jerry 'The King' Lawler and Bill Dundee** - Aug 16, 1986 - Memphis, TN
- 45 - **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** [2] - Oct. 4, 1986 - Memphis, TN
- 46 - **The Midnight Express** [2] - Dec. 6, 1986 - Atlanta, GA
- 47 - **The British Bulldogs (Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith)** - May 26, 1987 - Calgary, AB
- 48 - **The Hart Foundation (Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart)** - Aug. 16, 1987 - Toronto, ON
- 49 - **Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard** - Oct. 3, 1987 - Atlanta, GA
- 50 - **Barry Windham and Lex Luger** - Mar. 27, 1987 - Tampa, FL
- 51 - **Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard** [2] - April 20, 1988 - Jacksonville, FL
- 52 - **The Midnight Rockers (Mart Jannetty and Shawn Michaels)** - Sep. 10, 1988 - Philadelphia, PA
- 53 - **The Road Warriors** - Oct. 29, 1988 - New Orleans, LA
- 54 - **The Midnight Express** [3] - April 2, 1989 - New Orleans, LA
- 55 - **The Fabulous Freebirds (Terry Gordy [3] and Jimmy Garvin [3])** June 14, 1989 - Ft. Bragg, NC
- 56 - **The Steiner Brothers** - Nov. 1, 1989 - Atlanta, GA
- 57 - **DOOM (Ron Simmons and Butch Reed)** - May 19, 1990 - Jacksonville, FL
- 58 - **The Steiner Brothers** [2] - Feb. 24, 1991 - Phoenix, AZ
- *February 18, 1991 Steiners are forced to vacate the titles when Scott suffers an injury.
- 59 - **Sting** [1] and **Lex Luger** [2] - Mar. 3, 1991 - Charlotte, NC
- *Sting and Luger defeat Terry Gordy and Jimmy Garvin in tournament final.
- 60 - **Barry Windham** [2] and **Dustin Rhodes** - Nov. 19, 1991 - Savannah, GA
- 61 - **Pretty Wonderful (Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma)** - Jan. 16, 1992 - Jacksonville, FL
- 62 - **The Steiner Brothers** [3] - May 3, 1992 - Atlanta, GA
- 63 - **The Road Warriors** [2] - July 5, 1992 - Chicago, IL
- 64 - **Sting** [2] and **Lex Luger** [3] - Sep. 21, 1992 - Atlanta, GA
- 65 - **Shane Douglas** [1] and **Dustin Rhodes** [2] - Sep 21, 1992 - Atlanta, GA
- 66 - **Mad Men (Cactus Jack and Abdullah The Butcher)** - Nov. 18, 1992 - Macon, GA
- *Titles vacated when Abdullah The Butcher fails to make a scheduled title defense in Georgia due to commitments in Japan.
- 67 - **The Hollywood Blondes (Steve Austin and Brian Pillman)** - Mar. 2, 1993 - Macon, GA
- *Austin and Pillman def. Dustin Rhodes and Shane Douglas in tournament final.
- 68 - **The Fabulous Freebirds (Terry Gordy [4] and Jimmy Garvin [4])** - Aug 18, 1993 - Jacksonville, FL
- 69 - **The Steiner Brothers** [4] - Sep. 19, 1993 - Houston, TX
- 70 - **The Hollywood Blondes** [2] - Oct. 4, 1993 - Columbus, GA
- 71 - **Sting** [3] and **Lex Luger** [4] - Oct. 24, 1993 - New Orleans, LA
- 72 - **The Smokin' Guns (Kip Winchester and Bart Winchester)** - May 22, 1994 - Austin, TX
- 73 - **Stars 'n' Stripes (Marcus Bagwell and The Patriot)** - Sep. 25, 1994 - Atlanta, GA
- 74 - **The Smokin' Guns** [2] - Oct. 23, 1994 - Detroit, MI
- 75 - **Sting** [4] and **Lex Luger** [5] - Nov. 16, 1994 - Jacksonville, FL
- 76 - **Harlem Heat (Booker T and Stevie Ray)** - Dec. 8, 1994 - Houston, TX
- 77 - **The Smokin' Guns** [3] - May 21, 1995 - Austin, TX
- 78 - **Harlem Heat** [2] - May 21, 1995 - Irving, TX

- 79 - **The Smokin' Guns** [4] - June 24, 1995 - Atlanta, GA
 80 - **Harlem Heat** [3] - July 22, 1995 - Irving, TX
 81 - **Justin 'Hawk Bradshaw and Bobby Duncum Jr.** - Sep. 17, 1995 - Dallas, TX
 82 - **Harlem Heat** [4] - Sep. 27, 1995 - Atlanta, GA
 83 - **Jerry 'The King' Lawler** [2] and **Jeff Jarrett** - Oct. 12, 1995 - Memphis, TN
 84 - **Sting** [5] and **Lex Luger** [6] - Jan. 22, 1996 - Charlotte, NC
 85 - **Harlem Heat** [5] - June 24, 1996 - Atlanta, GA
 86 - **The Triple Threat (Shane Douglas [2], Bam Bam Bigelow and Chris Candido)** - Oct. 28, 1995 - Philadelphia, PA
 *The Freebirds Clause is used once again as any two man combination of Douglas, Bigelow and Candido are legal to defend the titles.
 87 - **Public Enemy (Johnny Grunge and Rocco Rock)** - Aug 3, 1996 - Philadelphia, PA
 88 - **The Eliminators (Perry Saturn and John Kronus)** - Dec. 20, 1996 - Middletown, NY
 89 - **The Dudley Boys (Buh Buh Ray and D-Von Dudley)** - Mar. 15, 1997 - Philadelphia, PA
 90 - **The Eliminators** [2] - Sep. 20, 1997 - New York, NY
 91 - **The Can-Am Connection (Doug Furnas and Phil Lafon)** - Dec. 5, 1997 - Detroit, MI
 92 - **The Dudley Boys** [2] - Oct. 24, 1998 - Collegetown, PA
 93 - **Rob Van Dam and Sabu** - Aug. 14, 1999 - Detroit, MI
 94 - **The Dudley Boys** [3] - Jan. 9, 2000 - Philadelphia, PA
 95 - **Tommy Dreamer and Raven** - Aug. 26, 2000 - New York, NY
 96 - **The Dudley Boys** [4] - December 11, 2000 - Pittsburgh, PA
 *February 2000, The Dudley Boys vacate the titles when Buh Buh Ray suffers a torn bicep.
 97 - **The Blue Bloods (Steven Regal and David Taylor)** - Mar. 4, 2001 - London, England
 *Regal and Taylor defeat The Steiner Brothers in a one night tournament final.
 98 - **The Haas Brothers (Charlie Haas and Russ Haas)** - Aug. 12, 2001 - Memphis, TN
 99 - **The Samoan Headshrinkers (Ekmo and Kimo)** - Sep. 16, 2001 - Miami, FL
 100 - **Texas' Most Wanted (Chris Harris and James Storm)** - Dec. 9, 2001 - Austin, TX
 101 - **The Dudley Boys** [5] - Aug. 18, 2002 - Memphis, TN
 102 - **The Road Warriors** [3] - Aug. 17, 2003 - Tokyo, Japan
 103 - **The Dudley Boys** [6] - Aug. 23, 2003 - Tokyo, Japan
 104 - **Chris Benoit and Owen Hart** - Nov. 16, 2003 - Calgary, AB
 105 - **The Dudley Boys** [7] - Jan. 10, 2004 - Philadelphia, PA
 106 - **The Hardy Boys (Matt and Jeff Hardy)** - Mar. 11, 2007 - Los Angeles, CA
 107 - **The Dudley Boys** [8] - April 15, 2007 - Pittsburgh, PA
 108 - **Sex and Steel (Sexton Hardcastle and Christian Cage)** - Dec. 9, 2007 - Calgary, AB

NWA (Unified) World Junior Heavyweight Championship History

- 1 - **Tiger Mask** - May 18, 1985 - Tokyo, Japan
 2 - **The Great Sasuke** - Dec. 31, 1985 - Osaka, Japan
 3 - **Jushin 'Thunder' Liger** - Aug. 8, 1986 - Tokyo, Japan
 4 - **Tiger Mask** [2] - Sep. 10, 1988 - Hiroshima, Japan
 5 - **Hiro Saito** - Jan. 23, 1989 - Osaka, Japan
 6 - **Jushin 'Thunder' Liger** [2] - Mar. 15, 1990 - Tokyo, Japan
 7 - **Wild Peagusus/ Chris Benoit** - July 15, 1990 - Tokyo, Japan
 8 - **Jushin 'Thunder' Liger** [3] - July 18, 1990 - Tokyo, Japan

- 9 - **Wild Peagusus**/Chris Benoit [2] - July 21, 1990 - Osaka, Japan
- 10 - **Black Tiger**/Eddy Guerrero - Sep. 15, 1991 - Hiroshima, Japan
- 11 - **Rey Misterio Jr.** - July 30, 1992 - Mexico City, Mexico
- 12 - **Scotty The Body** - May. 16, 1993 - Mexico City, Mexico
- 13 - **Rey Misterio Jr.** [2] - Sep. 19, 1993 - Los Angeles, CA
- 14 - **Psicosis** - Nov. 6, 1994 - Los Angeles, CA
- 15 - **Ultimo Dragon** - June 17, 1995 - Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 16 - **Brian Pillman** - Dec. 26, 1995 - Sinaloa, Mexico
- 17 - **Chris Jericho** - Feb. 2, 1996 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 18 - **La Parka** - Sep. 15, 1996 - Tijuana, Mexico
- 19 - **Brad Armstrong** - Dec. 29, 1996 - Loredon, TX
- 20 - **Scotty The Body** - April 13, 1997 - San Diego, CA
- 21 - **Eddy Guerrero** - Oct. 12, 1997 - Mexico City, Mexico
- *May 12, 1998, Guerrero Weighs Over The Weight Limit and the title is Vacated*
- 22 - **El Scorpio** - Aug. 19, 1998 - Mexico City, Mexico
- * Defeats Rey Misterio Jr. in tournament final.
- 23 - **Juventud Guerrera** - Nov. 27, 1998 - Sinaloa, Mexico
- 24 - **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** - Mar. 14, 1999 - Tijuana, Mexico
- 25 - **Psicosis** - July 18, 1999 - Los Angeles, CA
- 26 - **Jerry Lynn** - Sep. 21, 1999 - San Diego, CA
- 27 - **Rey Misterio Jr.** - November 13, 1999 - San Diego, CA
- 28 - **Steel** (Sean Morley) - May 24, 2000 - Mexico City, Mexico
- 29 - **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** - Mar. 21, 2001 - San Antonio, TX
- *Championship Suspended by the NWA after ILA owner Konnan prevents ILA talent from leaving Mexico.
- 30 - **Shane Helms** - Jan. 16, 2005 - Raleigh, NC
- *Defeats Matt Hardy in tournament final.
- 31 - **AJ Styles** - April 12, 2006 - Atlanta, GA
- 32 - **Christopher Daniels** - July 21, 2006 - Chicago, IL
- 33 - **Shane Helms** - Sep. 23, 2006 - Memphis, TN
- 34 - **Christopher Daniels** - Oct. 12, 2006 - Nashville, TN
- 35 - **Bryan Danielson** - Dec. 20, 2006 - Tokyo, Japan
- 36 - **Low Ki** - May 16, 2007 - Portland, OR
- 37 - **PAC** - Oct. 20, 2007 - London, England

NWA World Women's Championship History

- 1 - **The Fabulous Moolah** - Sep. 18, 1956 - Baltimore, MD
- *Defeats Judy Grable in tournament final.
- 2 - **Betty Boucher** - Sep. 17, 1966 - Seattle, WA
- 3 - **The Fabluous Moolah** [2] - Oct. 14, 1966 - St. Louis, MI
- 4 - **Yukiko Tomoe** - Mar. 10, 1968 - Osaka, Japan
- 5 - **The Fabulous Moolah** [3] - Apr. 2, 1968 - Hamamatsu, Japan
- 6 - **Sue Green** - Feb. 2, 1976 - New York, NY
- 7 - **The Fabulous Moolah** [4] - Mar. 5, 1976 - New York, NY

8 - **Evelyn Stevens** - Oct. 8, 1978 - New York, NY

9 - **The Fabulous Moolah** [5] - Oct. 10, 1978 - Fort Worth, TX

*1983, the NWA Women's Championship is sold to the World Wrestling Federation.

10 - **Wendi Richter** - July 18, 1998 - Buffalo, NY

*Richter wins tournament final over Rondah Singh to become the first Women's Champion after the title is reactivated.

11 - **Madusa** - Jan. 9, 1999 - Cincinnati, OH

12 - **Sherri Martel** - Mar. 5, 1999 - Gainesville, GA

13 - **Madusa** [2] - Sep. 11, 1999 - Green Bay, WI

14 - **Brandi Alexander** - Nov. 20, 1999 - Rochester, MN

15 - **Miss Texas** - Jan. 8, 2000 - Dallas, TX

16 - **Madusa** [3] - Mar. 17, 2000 - Colorado Springs, CO

17 - **Lisa Moretti** - October 28, 2000 - Cleveland, OH

18 - **Aja Kong** - Apr.13, 2001 - Tokyo, Japan

19 - **Jazz** - Jan. 11, 2003 - New York, NY

20 - **Trish Stratus** - Oct. 20, 2003 - Toronto, ON

21 - **Jazz** [2] - Jan. 13, 2004 - Niagra Falls, NY

* January 2005, the NWA strips Jazz, and after purchasing the sole rights to the title for a reported ten years, the Championship becomes exclusive to Titan Wrestling Entertainment.

22 - **Secretary Stacy** (Keibler) - Feb. 13, 2005 - N/A

*Title Awarded

23 - **Nidia** - June 19, 2005 - New York, NY

24 - **Secretary Stacy** [2] - Aug. 16, 2005 - Boston, MA

25 - **Nidia** [2] - Aug. 30, 2005 - Providence, RI

26 - **Torrie Wilson** - Feb. 19, 2006 - Syracuse, NY

27 - **Nidia** [3] - May 30, 2006 - Cleveland, OH

28 - **Miss Jackie** - Sep. 10, 2006 - Pittsburgh, PA

29 - **Melina Perez** - Jan. 16, 2007 - Baltimore, MD

30 - **Nidia** [4] - May 13, 2007 - New York, NY

31 - **Melina Perez** - Sep. 18, 2007 - Tampa, FL

32 - **Candice Michelle** - Oct. 7, 2007 - Albany, NY

NWA Top 23 @ 23

In January of 2008, NWA Magazine released an official list of the top 23 wrestlers of the past 23 years within the NWA. Here is the official listing;

1. **Sting**
2. **Kurt Angle**
3. **Bret Hart**
4. **Ricky Steamboat**
5. **Jerry Lawler**
6. **Steve Austin**
7. **Dusty Rhodes**
8. **Chris Benoit**

9. **Ted DiBiase**
10. **Michael Hayes**
11. **Davey Boy Smith**
12. **Mark Callous**
13. **The Road Warriors**
14. **Brock Lesnar**
15. **Midnight Express**
16. **The Great Muta**
17. **Shawn Michaels**
18. **The Fabulous Freebirds**
19. **Eddie Guerrero**
20. **Trish Stratus**
21. **Rock and Roll Express**
22. **Curt Hennig**
23. **Jim Ross**

NWA Top Ten Stories of the Past 23 Years

In January of 2008, NWA Magazine released an article on the top ten stories of the past twenty three years, the following is that article.

Bret Hart defeats Davey Boy Smith for the NWA World Title at a “Special Event” in Memphis.

After the failure of WrestleMania the fans thought they had seen the last of Vince McMahon, but in 1993 “The Handshake That Shocked The World” between McMahon and NWA President Harley Race saw McMahon open his NWA affiliated Titan Wrestling Entertainment. During a press conference, McMahon dropped a bombshell that he had signed the current NWA World Heavyweight Champion, Davey Boy Smith to an exclusive contract.

This sent shock waves through the NWA as the board didn’t want the World Championship being associated with McMahon so soon, and with McMahon stating that Smith's contract prevented him from appearing at a scheduled title defense against Bret Hart in Calgary, the NWA put together a “special event” in Memphis. The event saw 10,000 people cram into the arena to see Bret Hart make Davey Boy tap out to the Sharpshooter to win his 3rd NWA World Championship.

The Fans Riot in Detroit

In 2002, Kurt Angle became the first true ‘traveling’ world champion since Sting in the late 80’s. Angle would visit to all of the NWA territories and defend the championship against the top challengers. With his stop in the “Motor City” of Detroit, a showdown was scheduled between himself and Detroit Icon Sabu.

Sabu would challenge Angle in a hardcore match for the title at the “Original Sheik Memorial Show’ in a match that saw the death defying competitor pin Angle following a Arabian Facebuster through a table. The crowd was up in arms, in full celebration and there wasn’t a

dry eye in the area as Sabu held the Big Gold over his shoulder and pointed to the sky, saluting his uncle, The Sheik.

However, following the sound of the bell Angle would come to his senses and demand a microphone. Having refreshed his knowledge of the rule book, Angle declared that the NWA World Championship could not change hands in a hardcore match and demanded the match to be restarted. Seconds later Angle leveled Sabu with the Angle Slam and locked in an Ankle Lock, forcing Sabu to tap.

With the sound of the bell, trash started flying into the ring as Angle stood in the middle raising the Big Gold above his head. What came next is the stuff of local legend, as it is claimed that the mood was so chaotic that fans tore down the barricade and charged Angle. When all was said and done, Angle had escaped the arena lucky to have not lost his life.

Ted DiBaise becomes NWA World Heavyweight Champion in the 'New Era'

After the collapse of "WrestleMania" and Kerry Von Erich's stripping of the NWA World Heavyweight Championship for failure to defend the title within a 90 Day period, A Tournament was held to decide the first NWA World Heavyweight Champion of 'The New Era'. 'Millionaire' Ted DiBiase was victorious over 'The American Dream' Dusty Rhodes in the finals of the tournament in Austin, TX.

Hayes refuses to defend in Canada and "The Big Gold" is Born.

On August 6th 1989, 'Freebird' Michael Hayes won the NWA World Heavyweight Championship in Irving, TX. Hayes was scheduled to defend the Championship in Calgary against 'Hitman' Bret Hart but refused citing that he wasn't contractually obligated to compete in Canada. The NWA board fired back by stripping Hayes of the Championship. Hayes would maintain physical possession of the belt and the board introduced a new physical representation of the title, the "Big Gold" Belt.

World Class Championship Wrestling Buys Out Universal Wrestling Federation.

In July of 1984 Bill Watts' UWF brought out Georgia Championship Wrestling and took their Saturday Night WTBS Time slot. Two years later after failing to produce original programming for WTBS (During that time, Turner gave WCCW a one hour slot on Sundays which upset Watts) and a number of financial problems, Bill Watts sold his UWF to the Von Erichs. It was rumored that media mogul Ted Turner financially helped WCCW purchase UWF in order to keep his top rated show on his network.

WCCW launches the first ever NWA Live Cable Television show "Monday Nite Ignition".

Wrestling on Cable television was nothing new in 1995, it had been on cable for years by then. However a two our weekly live show was something that had never been attempted, that is until the launching of WCCW Monday Night Ignition in September of that year. Ignition offered something completely new to the old business model, often giving away huge marquee matches on Cable TV instead of Pay Per Views. With the intent to build up to WCCW's array of Pay Per View spectacles each month, the company created an entirely new way of using Cable Television that other promotions, including TWE would soon follow.

The first NWA PPV (Starrcade 87)

After "WrestleMania's" failure to to draw a Pay Per View audience the NWA was apprehensive to go on PPV. NWA Events had been shown on Closed Circuit TV that was fed out to arena's with big screens and people would pay a cover charge to watch the event. By 1987 the NWA was riding high, 'Millionaire' Ted DiBiase made for a great "love to hate him" NWA Champion, and a great foil to everyone's certain new favorite face painted star. The event, which saw Sting defeat DiBiase for his first NWA World Champion was hailed as a complete success and relieved lead to many more Pay Per View Events down the line.

Chris Benoit becomes first Triple Crown Champion

Capturing a world championship is no easy task, and a feat that only the best of the best are able to do. Capturing the NWA World Heavyweight Title, World Tag Team Title and World Junior Heavyweight Title? Nearly impossible. The astounding feat however was accomplished on February 15, 2004 in Calgary, Alberta when the "Canadian Wolverine" forced Kurt Angle to tap out to his patented Crossface, and thus capture his first NWA World Heavyweight Championship. That title, joined by Benoit's 2003 reign as NWA World Tag Team Champion with Owen Hart, and his previous two reigns as NWA World Junior Heavyweight Champion as Wild Pegasus put him an elite class that anyone else is yet to join.

Controversy at Starrcade 2002

Starrcade 2002 saw for the first time, a competitor from Mexico's ILA challenge for the NWA World Heavyweight Championship in a Starrcade Main Event as NWA Champion Kurt Angle put his Gold on the line against former multi time World Junior Heavyweight Champion, and one of the most popular stars in Mexico, Eddy Guerrero. After a fast paced, and ultra intense match, Angle successfully defended the title following an Angle Slam and pin fall.

The controversial part though, was what happened off camera as Konnan, ILA's owner claimed that the NWA board had told him Guerrero would be leaving with the title, only to change their decision right before the Main Event Match itself. Konnan claimed that the NWA Board was a bunch of racists, and following Starrcade he imposed a blockade, preventing ILA contracted stars from competing in other NWA territories. In the controversy, the NWA World Junior Heavyweight Championship held by Chavo Guerrero was abandoned and forgotten in Mexico until it was resurrected in 2005.

NWA holds first Ever Pay Per View from Australia

In an effort to get many of the NWA's top stars to visit an array of International countries, in 1996 the company put together a group of competitors to tour the globe, culminating in a super card Pay Per View in Australia. The tour of "Dream Team" stars visited Japan, the Philippines, Africa and Australia. The Pay Per View, headlined by the tag team showdown between WCCW's Mark Callous and Steve Austin against Sting and Bret Hart was a considerable success.