



**INSIDE:** YOUR 2024 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BALLOT!

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED



**WOMEN'S 250**  
RATING THE TOP STARS

**TAKEN BY STORM**

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Patti NolanSENIOR WRITERS  
Harry Burkett, Al CastleCONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Mike Bessler, Brian R. Solomon, Kristen Ashly, Righteous Reg, Jason McVeigh, Brady Hicks, Louie Dee, Andrea Hangst, Ashley Morris, Jake Joyce, Candace Cordelia, Scott Fishman, Walter Yeates, Karen Peterson, Francesco Mandolini, Pat Laprade, Lochlan McGrath, Paul E. Pratt, Nick Perkins, Tamaya Greenlee, Alfonso LopezCONTRIBUTING EDITOR  
Jennifer OrehowskyCONTRIBUTING ARTIST  
Jason ConlanCONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
George Napolitano, Duane Long, JayLee Media, Earl Gardner, John Smolek, Issa Marie, Charlie H. Stern, Robert Starkz-Bellamy, George Tahinos, Anthony Pineiro Delgado, Steve Beyer, Basil Mahmud, Scott Lesh, Scott Finkelstein, Rob Brazier, Mikey Nolan, Mike Lano, Chris Grasso, Yuichi Kojima, Sarah Newman, Andre Beaupre, Jordan Williams, Dominique Dinh, Allie McPhetridge, Jon Washer, Jessica Torres, Samantha Crim, Ami MoregorePRESIDENT  
Steven KotokCREATIVE DIRECTOR  
Shaun BaronADVERTISING INFORMATION  
Kevin McElvaney  
215-643-6385  
pwi@kappapublishing.com

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# STORM CLOUDS

**THIS YEAR IS A SIGNIFICANT** one for All Elite Wrestling, as it marks the first time a member of its roster has topped *PWI*'s annual women's wrestling ranking.

Jon Moxley and Kenny Omega have each done AEW proud by placing #1 in the "*PWI* 500," in 2020 and 2021, respectively. FTR has stood tall atop our tag team rankings twice (2020 and 2023), while The Young Bucks garnered that spot once (2021). But, for all the plaudits the five-year-old company has received, this is the first time its women's division has, undeniably, become the buzz of the industry.

Toni Storm deserves plenty of credit for this distinction. After all, the former three-time AEW Women's World champion forged a colorful, yet dominant reign at the fore of her home promotion. She defeated a slew of challengers with a combination of grace and ruthlessness. And, by way of a fiery love triangle with Mina Shirakawa and Mariah May, "Timeless" Ms. Storm consistently drew some of the highest ratings on AEW's weekly TV shows.

Of course, Shirakawa and May deserve plenty of credit for this, too. After thrilling crowds at World Wonder Ring Stardom, the Rose Gold members have each made unique impressions upon the AEW faithful. May, in particular, was a massive fan favorite as she played the part of Toni Storm's understudy. Then, when she betrayed her mentor in a violent attack, she set the stage for a run as a hated Women's World champion.

Mercedes Mone helped fill up Boston's TD Garden after the mere suggestion she would make her AEW debut. She returned from injury at Double or Nothing to capture the coveted TBS championship; then, at Forbidden Door, became "Mercedes Two Belts" with a win over NJPW STRONG Women's champ Stephanie Vaquer.

"The CEO" introduced "The Brickhouse" Kamille to AEW television, bringing the

former NWA World Women's champion on in an enforcer role. "The Virtuosa" Deonna Purrazzo surprised many by signing with All Elite Wrestling after her contract with TNA/IMPACT had expired. Her rivalry with Thunder Rosa has been an underrated fixture of AEW TV in recent months.

Speaking of Rosa, she, Britt Baker, and Jamie Hayter are strong contenders for the World title they once held. Meanwhile, Kris Statlander and Willow Nightingale shine as homegrown stars, battling over (among other things) the CMLL World Women's championship. And it's exactly this sort of competition that becomes the cornerstone of any healthy pro wrestling roster.

This is just a brief overview of a division that is brimming with world-class talent, from Hikaru Shida, Nyla Rose, and Taya Valkyrie to Riho, Saraya, and Queen Aminata. The overall presentation of the AEW women was long considered a weakness of the company. With many weeks when only a small chunk of TV time would be devoted to these athletes, the division remained underrated. Now, it is undeniable.

As the headlining star of the division, Toni Storm played no small role in this. Having previously featured her on our March 2024 cover, *PWI* reached out to the fallen champion, hoping to get her thoughts on the honor of being ranked #1 in the "Women's 250." With Storm keeping a low profile since her loss at All In, multiple attempts to contact the "Timeless" one (and her butler, Luther) went unanswered.

However, close to press time, we received an envelope at *PWI* HQ, marked "From The Office Of Betty Van Buren." Inside the envelope, we found a world map from 1964, a half-used tube of lipstick, and a lock of hair. We hope this means that, somewhere, Ms. Storm is pleased.

**Kevin McElvaney**  
Editor-in-Chief

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

## 20 THE 2024 WOMEN'S 250

"Timeless" Toni Storm stands atop our 17<sup>th</sup> annual women's wrestling ranking. Find out who else made the cut (and why).

BY PWI STAFF

## 56 2024 PWI AWARDS BALLOT

Accept no substitutes: This is *your* chance to weigh in on the best wrestlers, matches, and rivalries of 2024 with an official "Achievement Awards" ballot.

BY PWI STAFF

COVER PHOTO:

**TONI STORM**

(BY SARAH BARRACLOUGH/@BRITWRESPICS)

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Editorial Inquiries:  
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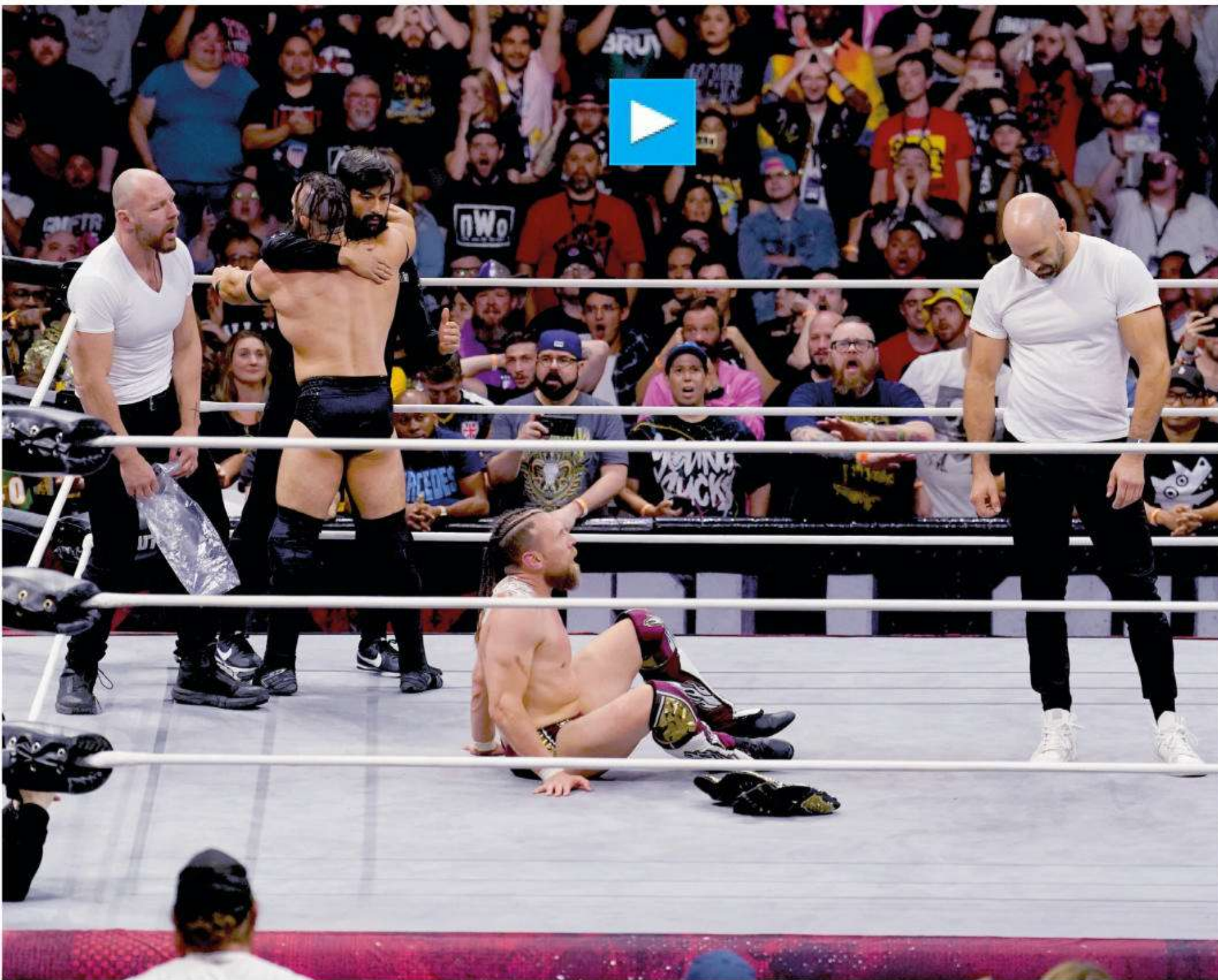
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*Before*

# THE BELL

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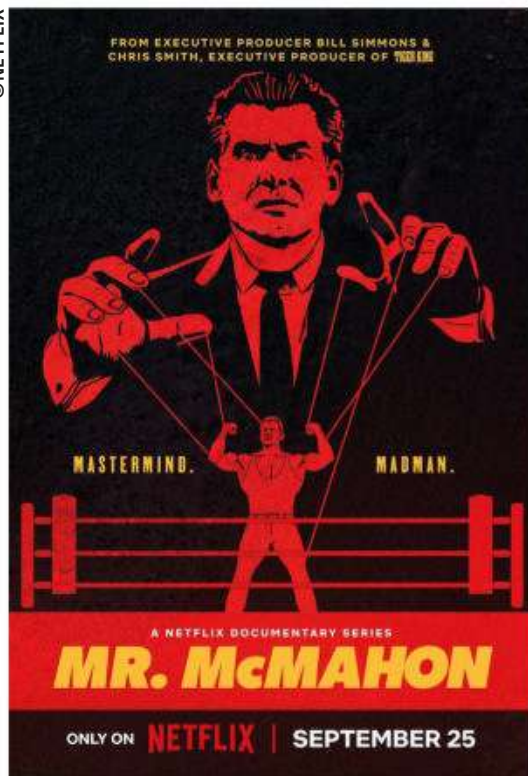


**BRYAN DANIELSON** stares at **CLAUDIO CASTAGNOLI** in disbelief after being betrayed with a European uppercut. Meanwhile, **PAC** distracts **WHEELER YUTA** with a deceptive embrace, as **JON MOXLEY** prepares to make the situation a whole lot worse.

# NETFLIX & GRAPPLE

A pair of new releases from the streaming giant document the outsize impacts of **VINCE McMAHON** and **DUMP MATSUMOTO**.

©NETFLIX



## MR. McMAHON

SEVERAL YEARS IN THE making, *Mr. McMahon* is a six-part docuseries focusing on the triumphs, controversies, and chaos behind the career of one Vincent Kennedy McMahon.

The Bill Simmons-produced show features interviews with some of the

most relevant individuals in McMahon's life, along with journalists such as Phil Mushnick and Dave Meltzer. Meltzer plays the role of wrestling historian, providing necessary context and rebuking inaccurate statements (including the inflated attendance number for WrestleMania 3 at the Pontiac Silverdome). Mushnick, a longtime columnist for the *New York Post*, is ruthless—though, in many instances, just—in his criticism of McMahon.

Notably, *Mr. McMahon* commenced production with hands-on cooperation from WWE and its former chairman. It contains far more official footage than similar independently produced documentaries. It's also full of news footage, outside interview clips, and still photographs from sources including the *PWI* archives. These resources make for a higher level of production and an enhanced viewing experience.

The show benefits, as well, from the involvement of key players in McMahon's story. VKM speaks more extensively and frankly about himself than is typical in WWE productions. So, too, do his wife Linda, son Shane, and daughter Stephanie. Yet, later in the production, as allegations of impropriety and sexual

misconduct result in Vince's removal (twice) from power in WWE, most of these figures disappear—leaving Bruce Prichard as perhaps the lone voice of support for his former boss in the series finale.

Truthfully, this documentary series isn't designed for hardcore wrestling fans. McMahon's successes and challenges have been explored in depth elsewhere, between WWE docs and the likes of *Dark Side of the Ring*. Still, *Mr. McMahon* offers interesting (and sometimes controversial) reflections from legends including Steve Austin, The Undertaker, Hulk Hogan, Tony Atlas, and Trish Stratus; and words from more contemporary stars, such as Cody Rhodes and John Cena.

As Dave Meltzer would later note on *Wrestling Observer Radio*, the production may feel like a hit piece to McMahon's defenders, and it won't go far enough for his fiercest critics. Nevertheless, it will open plenty of eyes amongst more casual Netflix viewers, as an effort on par with past Library Films productions, such as *Tiger King* and *Fyre*. And, due to the high production values, it is well worth the watch. **We give *Mr. McMahon* four out of five suplexes.**

©NETFLIX



## THE QUEEN OF VILLAINS

Produced in Japanese with optional English overdubs or subtitles, this five-part biopic tells the story of legendary joshi villain Dump Matsumoto and her rise through the increasingly violent All Japan Women's Pro-Wrestling promotion in the 1980s. Almost equally, it is the story of the iconic Crush Gals tag team—Chigusa Nagayo & Lioness Asuka—as the targets of Matsumoto's ringside ire.

Matsumoto and Nagayo start off as friends at the All Japan Women's Dojo before becoming heated rivals. The final episode focuses heavily on a bloody hair-vs.-hair match between the two, followed by Matsumoto's

retirement from the ring. Yuriyan Retriever shines as Matsumoto, showcasing tremendous range in her transformation from the bright-eyed young wrestling fan, Kaoru, into the maniacal, chain-wielding Dump. The lines blur between predetermined matches and wrestlers going into business for themselves.

Like most biopics, some creative license is taken, with inaccuracies and anachronisms visible for those looking closely enough. And a couple of the episodes, with runtimes north of one hour, feel a bit longer than necessary. However, it remains a fascinating—and, at times, heartwarming—look at a pivotal period in pro wrestling history. **18 out of 20 chained-up fists.**





# TALKIN' TRASH

Here's a list of the **TOP 10 WRESTLING-RELATED ITEMS** you've been talking about lately and our tongue-in-cheek reactions to each:



AEW medical personnel attends to Bryan Danielson after Jon Moxley has attempted to suffocate him with a plastic bag.  
 PHOTO BY BASIL MAHMUD

**10. "HANGMAN" ADAM PAGE ATTACKS SWERVE STRICKLAND WITH A SYRINGE AT ALL OUT.**

During the post-show scum, Tony Khan defended the producers of the bout, which included Pennywise The Clown, a capybara, and the ghost of Ed Wood.

**9. DAVE BAUTISTA ROLLS OUT A NEW LOOK ON THE RED CARPET.**

The new look is apparently entitled "I'm still trying to make people forget I was Drax."

**8. HULK HOGAN ANNOUNCES A NEW, FIVE-YEAR DEAL WITH WWE.**

The deal allegedly includes a "no cringe" clause, which basically restricts Hulk Hogan from saying anything to anyone, ever.

**7. BRET HART RETURNS TO A WWE RING.**

"The Hitman" explained that his visit was part of an ongoing quest to insult Goldberg in every possible setting. Next week, he'll be trashing Bill from the tiger cage at the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo.

**6. A NEW LOGO IS UNVEILED FOR SMACKDOWN.**

The stark, angular emblem edged out a more unconventional

offering from noted Belgian death metal artist Christophe Szpajdel.

**5. ERIC BISCHOFF BEGINS A NEW CAREER AS A MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICER.**

In a related story, Bischoff has launched a new podcast in which he criticizes other mortgage loan officers.

**4. WWE NXT IS HEADED TO A SPOT ON THE CW.**

Network execs hope it will fill the longstanding void left by the cancellation of *Gilmore Girls*.

**3. CM PUNK AND DREW MCINTYRE CONTINUE THEIR HEATED RIVALRY.**

The bitter feud has prompted Punk's hometown of Chicago to cancel this year's Haggisfest event.

**2. JON MOXLEY BRUTALLY ATTACKS BRYAN DANIELSON AT ALL OUT.**

The Terry Funk-esque affair has profoundly affected Danielson, who now suffers flashbacks at the grocery store whenever he's asked, "Paper or plastic?"

**1. WWE PLANS TO CUT BACK ON HOUSE SHOWS IN 2025.**

In an additional cost-saving move, Triple H has now changed his moniker to "Two And Two-Thirds of An H."

**WE HEARD THAT! FROM AROUND THE WRESTLING MEDIA-SPHERE, HERE'S A ROUNDUP OF INTERESTING QUOTES THAT HAVE BEEN ON OUR MIND.**

"He had no clue, absolutely no clue that I was named 'The Rock.' In fact, when I came to him and I kind of joked about it, that I had that carved out in my contract, I kind of laughed about it. He was like, 'Oh, what? Really?' I was like, 'Brother, don't worry about it, man. It's not a big deal. I don't care.' He made it more famous than me, right?"

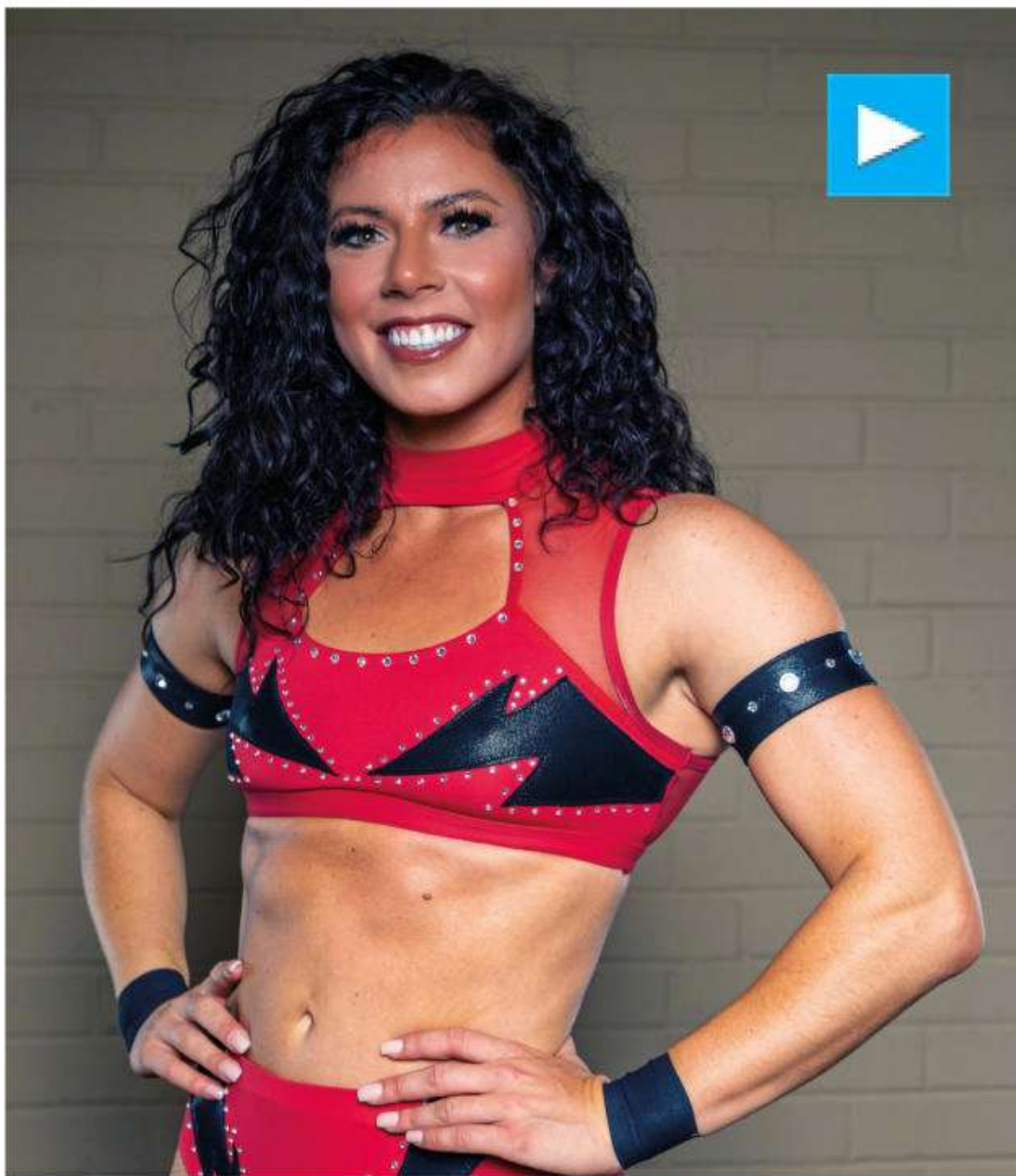
—Ken Shamrock, recalling his early ring name in an interview with Vlad TV

"PAC is a guy with whom I have a lot of unfinished business ... That's something that's going to be rekindled, too. If you remember, before Ricochet and Ospreay, it was Ricochet and PAC lighting the world on fire."

—Ricochet to *The Takedown* on potential dream matches in the next phase of his career

"Triple H, in the ring, had world champion instincts long before he ever was one. He applies those instincts expertly today as chief content officer."

—Cody Rhodes to ESPN, discussing Paul Levesque



Jessica Roden, aka J-Rod, has plans to become “a dominant force in women’s wrestling.”

PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE DINH

## THE ULTIMATE ATHLETE

In a short period of time, **J-ROD** has made a strong impression on wrestling enthusiasts across the U.S.

**IT ISN'T TYPICAL FOR** a pro wrestler to make her in-ring debut on a stage the size of All Elite Wrestling, nor against an opponent the caliber of Mercedes Martinez. However, Jessica Roden—better known as J-Rod—isn't your typical wrestler. She's got big-time dreams and is on a path to making them come true.

For her part, the multi-sport athlete understands how fortunate she was to have competed on that 2022 episode of *AEW Dark*, calling it “an amazing experience to start my career.”

And the hits have kept coming. At press time, the former softball and volleyball player is the reigning Women's champion

of Ohio Valley Wrestling—a title that has been held by the likes of Serena Deeb, Ruby Soho, and Beth Phoenix. Thanks to OVW's syndicated TV show, Roden is able to grow as a performer while showcasing her athletic prowess in front of a wide audience.

“I got into wrestling a little later, but I knew right away it was what I was meant to do,” says Roden. “After years of success in other sports, transitioning to wrestling didn't feel late—it felt like the perfect time. I had the maturity and the drive to come in stronger than ever.”

Indeed, J-Rod has a good idea of what makes for a wrestling star, citing the

aforementioned Beth Phoenix and Randy Orton as early influences. “They didn't just look the part,” she told *PWI*. “They were absolute beasts in the ring.”

That same variety of grit and determination led Roden to the KnokX Pro Academy in Los Angeles, California. There, she trained under Rikishi and Reno “Black Pearl” Anoa'i. “They taught me everything from psychology to the fundamentals of the ring,” she says.

From there, J-Rod took full advantage of the opportunities she was given, whether grappling on the indie circuit with the likes of Gabbi Tuft, Hyan, and Zeuxis or appearing on *WOW Superheroes* as Nikki Nashville. She's captured championships in KnokX Pro Entertainment, the Arizona Wrestling Federation, and Venue Wrestling Entertainment, as well as the Southbay Women's title. Her resume includes work with AEW, the NWA, and The Crash in Mexico.

One mark of a great pro wrestler is the desire to evolve in one's craft. J-Rod certainly possesses this trait. She has further honed her ring skills, first developed with Rikishi and Black Pearl, at the NJPW Academy. The school doesn't work with just anyone, and Roden's graduation from the Academy demonstrates a strong work ethic to complement her innate athleticism.

Roden fancies herself an all-rounder in the ring, wearing down opponents with various suplexes and slams, often following up the Snake Eyes with a big boot. Although she's been known to put foes away with a frog splash on occasion, her frequent use of the jackhammer and spear as finishing maneuvers recalls another multi-sport athlete: Bill Goldberg. That seems fitting, given J-Rod's ambitions for the future.

“My main goal is to sign with WWE and become a dominant force in women's wrestling on the global stage,” she says. “I'm focused and ready to get there.”

For now, Jessica Roden can be seen competing for promotions across North America, plying her trade with plenty of skill and in-ring presence. If you're hoping to see her wrestle in a smaller venue, you might want to do so sooner rather than later. Considering the ground J-Rod has already covered in just a few short years, her plans for WWE domination may not be too far off.



# NOSTALGIA REWIND: SURVIVOR SERIES 1994

**YOKOZUNA vs. THE UNDERTAKER** with **CHUCK NORRIS** at ringside?  
Yes, please.

PHOTO BY MIKE BESSLER



**FOR THOSE OF US** who were already hip to wrestling back in '94, it's almost incomprehensible that the Survivor Series from that very year is now literally decades in the past. The watershed moments, larger-than-life personalities, and even the cringeworthy parts still stand out in the mind's eye of seasoned wrestling fans.

Unlike most present-day Survivor Series shows, this one made ample use of the traditional elimination match concept, with three such matches on the card. The first of these contests—a meeting between Razor Ramon's "The Bad Guys" team and "The Teamsters," captained by Shawn Michaels—ended with the breakup of best pals HBK and Diesel, which led to a bitter rivalry and a feud for the title. Ted DiBiase's "Million Dollar Team" notched a victory over Lex Luger's "Cuts And Glory" gang. And in a scene of complete silliness, Jerry "The King" Lawler led a trio of mini-monarchs—Queasy, Sleazy, and Cheesy—against Doink The Clown

and three diminutive doppelgangers, Dink, Wink, and Pink.

The undercard also brought about a flashpoint between brothers Owen Hart and Bret Hart, as Owen's ringside chicanery caused Bret to lose the title to the psychopathic Mr. Bob Backlund. In the show's main event, special outside referee Chuck Norris presided over a casket match in which Undertaker put away Yokozuna. The bout ultimately stands as Yoko's final appearance in a big-time main event.

Rewatching this show thirty years later provides a stark reminder that many of wrestling's biggest and brightest stars are no longer with us. Gorilla Monsoon, The British Bulldog, Bam Bam Bigelow, Yokozuna, Mabel, and Owen Hart are just a handful of those who have passed on since their prominent roles at Survivor Series 1994. Just like pay-per-views from any era, Survivor Series 1994 was a mixed bag of sorts, but it's the special moments and the memories of our bygone favorites that rank this show as a gem for the ages.

## PRO WRESTLING GOES TO THE OLYMPICS

*For better or for worse, the 2024 Olympics are in the books. With all of the momentous (and notorious) pop culture moments in this year's games, it's fun to ruminate on what it might look like if professional wrestling got its own slate of events.*

**MEN'S RAP-OFF:** John Cena, R-Truth, and Max Caster diss each other with rhymes in a quest for gold, silver, and bronze bling-bling.

**DREW MCINTYRE'S HIGHLANDER GAMES:** The surly Scot runs competitors through a custom course of games from the old country, including the shot put, the cager toss, and Hot Potato with Grado.

**MIXED SYNCHRONIZED POSEDOWN:** Jordynne Grace, Randy Orton, and Finn Balor lead teams featuring wrestling's best physiques in a posedown battle set to the hits of Bonnie Tyler.

**RACEWALKING, FEATURING THE YOUNG BUCKS:** The Bucks don their limited-edition Reeboks for a brisk stroll around the track. Whoever has the fewest scuffs on their kicks wins the gold.

**IN-RING BREAKING:** While Breaking is seemingly off the list for 2028, a head-to-head featuring Otis (doing The Worm) and Booker T's Spinaroonie would surely bring down the house.

# MR. McMADMAN?

Considering **VINCE McMAHON'S** behavior over the years, some fans just want him to go away. But a Netflix docuseries has brought the controversial titan back into our lives.



Is it unfair to conflate the Mr. McMahon persona with the real-life Vince McMahon, or did the man himself invite some of those comparisons? A new docuseries, available on Netflix, looks at the former WWE chairman's life, career, and controversies.

**THOSE WHO WATCHED** the *Mr. McMahon* docu-series that dropped on Netflix on September 24 realize that it was an attempt to explain **Vince McMahon**—in the context of a very unique industry—to a mass audience. McMahon ensured that an enormous number of people

would sample the program... by doing preemptive damage control the day before its release.

McMahon posted on X: “The producers had an opportunity to tell an objective story about my life and the incredible business I built, which were

equally filled with excitement, drama, fun, and a fair amount of controversy and life lessons.

“Unfortunately, based on an early partial cut I’ve seen, this doc falls short and takes the predictable path of conflating the ‘Mr. McMahon’ character with my true self, Vince. The title and promos alone make that evident... In an attempt to further their misleading account, the producers use a lawsuit based on an affair I ended as evidence that I am, in fact, ‘Mr. McMahon.’

“I hope the viewer will keep an open mind and remember that there are two sides to every story.”

Considering the tagline for *Mr. McMahon* is “Mastermind, Madman,” one can see Vince’s point. Then again, those closest to the third-generation promoter always viewed the Mr. McMahon character as an extension of the real Vince, unfettered and without guardrails. And without wife **Linda McMahon** or son **Shane McMahon** in his corporate orbit over the past decade or so, it seemed that he indeed lived his gimmick.

McMahon participated in the documentary through extensive interviews, covering some of the same topics as WWE-produced releases, but his input was captivating nonetheless, as he is the historic, integral figure who transformed the entire wrestling industry. His participation, however, occurred while he remained executive chairman and before reports of several inappropriate hush payments to various women and salacious allegations of sexual harassment, sex trafficking, and overall deviant behavior regarding one particular employee forced his ouster.

**Janel Grant**, who worked for WWE from 2019 to 2022, alleged she had received only one-third of a \$3-million NDA payment from McMahon. Grant declined to participate in the *Mr. McMahon* documentary, with her lawyer suggesting on a media call that she would like to tell her own story on her own terms. Additionally, there is the matter of a federal investigation that is pending against McMahon. Grant is at the center of sex trafficking allegations that involved other WWE employees, including top executive **John Laurinaitis**.



William Regal makes his AEW debut at Revolution 2022, compelling Jon Moxley and Bryan Danielson to shake hands—and, effectively, forming the Blackpool Combat Club. Regal has rebuked ugly rumors that he was a “snake” in the company’s ranks.

PHOTO BY JOHN SMOLEK

**William Regal** faces allegations of another kind, but so far these seem to have no grounding in fact. A running joke on social media for the past couple of years is that Regal, a longtime friend and confidant of **Paul “Triple H” Levesque**, acted as a double-agent of sorts—funneling inside intel to HHH and his associates within NXT, a brand that he still held dear to his heart.

Regal, along with “**Road Dogg**” **Jesse James**, numbered among the Triple H allies who McMahon dismissed during his “NXT 2.0” makeover three years ago.

Yet, sometimes a joke runs for such a long time that people begin to accept it as truth. Regal, now back with WWE after his role as a trainer and founder of the Blackpool Combat Club in AEW, responded to a post on X that read, “Thank you for everything you did for NXT and also snaking out the competition.”

Regal proverbially cleared his throat and posted this response: “I went to AEW to help because **Bryan Danielson** asked me to ... I arrived at 10 a.m. until 6:15 p.m. to train anyone who wanted to come, apart from going to the restroom and refilling my water container. I never attended a single

production meeting. (As I knew, if I were to stay there) I needed people to realize I was only there to help.

“Nor did I ask a single question about anybody that works there’s contract

status. I helped at the ring with what any of the talent needed. I showered and got into a suit by 6:30, then watched the monitor with everyone else.”

Another aspect of the Regal espionage story is that the British star informed **Tony Khan** of his desire to return to NXT—as his short-term contract was about to expire—while the AEW president’s mother was in the hospital. Regal contends that he didn’t know Mrs. Khan was ill, and that he appropriately spoke to Khan about the matter at a later date.

Actually, it feels silly going into this level of petty detail, even in a news column such as this. But the Regal situation is an example of how simple assumptions can blow up into wrestling lore on social media. And the most effective response is to get into the petty details to extinguish the embers of a false story.

NXT Women’s champion **Roxanne Perez**, fresh off her successful title defense against **Jaida Parker** at No Mercy, is now faced with two internationally respected newcomers as *NXT* establishes its home on The CW. **Byron Saxton** moderated a conversation between Perez and former World of Stardom champion **Giulia**. Perez

In a despicable turn, Jon Moxley holds a plastic bag over the head of Bryan Danielson. Harry Burkett wonders why AEW hasn’t seen fit to punish Mox for his heinous actions.

PHOTO BY BASIL MAHMUD





What is John Layfield doing in the IMPACT Zone?! The former WWE champion has a word with Nic Nemeth at TNA Emergence 2024—one of several surprise appearances from Layfield in recent months.

PHOTO BY BASIL MAHMUD/COURTESY TNA WRESTLING

exuded brattiness, as an interpreter spoke for the Japanese star.

Shockingly, the in-ring conversation didn't result in either woman going through a table. More shocking, though, **Stephanie Vaquer**—a vaunted former CMLL Women's champion of Chilean descent—appeared on the big screen.

Almost treating Perez as an afterthought, the celebrated luchadora directed her attention to Giulia, asking, "What happens when you have to meet me on the other side of winning that championship?"

Ladies, don't overlook Perez. From **Jordynne Grace** to Jaida Parker, Perez has been adept at dealing with new challengers from the most unexpected places.

Speaking of Grace, the TNA Knockouts champion still finds herself at the nexus of the TNA-NXT working relationship. On the September 26 edition of *IMPACT*, she teamed with surprise partner **Sol Ruca** to face the NXT/TNA tandem of **Wendy Choo** & **Rosemary**, which seems to have

inspired Choo's embrace of the dark side. While Ruca was at a temporary disadvantage, she quickly tagged Grace, who ran through Rosemary and Choo. Ruca returned to hit both with a big splash and flip Rosemary over with a hurricanrana.

**Tasha Steelz** ran in and attacked Grace—just to make her presence felt, apparently—which resulted in a DQ victory for Grace and Ruca. Darn it!

Congratulations to **Jey Uso** for his WWE Intercontinental championship win over **Bron Breaker** on the September 23 edition of *Raw*. Uso had won a rugged four-way match also involving **Ilja Dragunov**, **Pete Dunne**, and **Braun Strowman** to earn the title opportunity. It was an upset of sorts, considering that Breaker seemed to have monster momentum after steamrolling **Sami Zayn** for the belt at SummerSlam.

Others view Uso's victory as long overdue, particularly his father, **Rikishi**. The WWE Hall-of-Famer had been very

critical of WWE's creative handling of Uso, even suggesting that his son explore his options in AEW. Rikishi pointed to Uso's massively popular public appearances and merchandising sales as barometers of his value.

Indeed, "YEET" T-shirts (which seem to be produced in yet another color every week) might have been just as responsible for Uso's win as the two spears he delivered to Breaker to secure his victory.

By the way, Rikishi and Jey are the second father-and-son to hold the Intercontinental title, along with **Curt Hennig** and **Curtis Axel**. Uso revealed a customized belt with blue highlights

on the September 30 edition of *Raw*.

Bryan Danielson barely had time to appreciate his AEW title defense over **Jack Perry** at All Out before **Jon Moxley's** heinous attack on the World champion with a plastic bag. Moxley was paying bizarre homage to his idol, **Terry Funk**, who tried to asphyxiate NWA World champion **Ric Flair** with a plastic bag on a *Clash of the Champions* special in 1989.

It's unbelievable that AEW hasn't taken strong action against Moxley for his abhorrent behavior. Instead, it looks like Moxley will be rewarded with a World title bout at *WrestleDream*.

In between, Danielson found time to address **Nigel McGuinness**, who had been dogging Danielson on commentary for nearly a year. McGuinness, incensed with Danielson's success, is still smoldering over his epic feud with the "American Dragon"—specifically, their wars over the Ring of Honor Pure and World championships—two decades ago.

I could almost read McGuinness' mind. Why is Danielson hailed as a legend when McGuinness—now best known for his acerbic color commentary—at times dominated Danielson in his prime? McGuinness' hectoring became a full-blown challenge, and their match was set for the September 25 edition of *Dynamite* during “Grand Slam Week.”

McGuinness was surprisingly spry despite his long layoff and scored several near-falls, even working in some signatures, such as his Tower of London rope-hung cutter and his London Dungeon wristlock. Danielson survived a lariat and snared McGuinness in the LeBell Lock, with his foe tapping out at 18:51.

Superb storytelling from two all-time greats.

This 'n' that: **Thom Latimer** defeated **EC3** for the NWA World title at the sold-out NWA 76 event in Philadelphia... **The Lucha Bros.** seemed all set for their WWE debut, until Tony Khan reportedly added injury time to **Rey Fenix's** current AEW deal. It's unclear whether **Penta El Zero Miedo (Pentagon Jr.)** will compete in singles bouts in WWE ... **The Young Bucks** recently shared a first-class flight with **Shane McMahon** and posted the resulting photo on X... **JBL** crashed MLW's Fightland event, nailing **Mr. Thomas** with a Clothesline from Hell to help **Brock & CW Anderson** beat **The Bomaye Fight Club** ... GCW owner **Brett Lauderdale** directed a message to, presumably, departing star **Zilla Fatu**, posting on X: “Wrestlers with under 40 matches in their career should be setting up rings, not demanding flights and hotels for their ‘management’ and entourage”—*Ouch!* ... **Doug Delicious** is experiencing a resurgence as Mid-Atlantic Territorial Wrestling champion, turning back challengers such as **Beer City Bruiser**, **Chase Emery**, **Rhett Titus**, and “**Big**” **Ace Montana**.

Our best wishes to the loved ones of “**Jersey**” **Joe Wilchak**, who passed away September 28 after a long fight with lung cancer. As part of the legendary Atlas Security, Wilchak kept ECW from getting too out of control back in the day.

That's all for now. Save a ringside seat for me.



## NEWS ANALYSIS

**HARRY BURKETT** explores a relationship that fascinates him endlessly, two wrestlers who have become legends, and a rascally veteran who's anxious for a bar fight.

### VINCE Mc(MAD)MAN

We referred to Vince McMahon as a madman long before Netflix. The “Vince Mc(Mad)man” headline emblazoned on the cover of the November 1998 issue of *PWI* must have caught Jim Ross' attention, because “good ol' J.R.” used the “Mc(Mad)man” line on *Raw* soon after that magazine hit the newsstands. We've always been glad to inspire WWE with a few ideas.

### WHY, J.R.?

I've mentioned Jim Ross' two autobiographies, *Slobberknocker* and *Under the Black Hat*, in this column in the past, partly because I've been fascinated by Ross' relationship with McMahon. Even when Ross was fully aware of his boss' shortcomings, including McMahon's delight in watching him squirm (both professionally and on TV), he felt an inexplicable need for McMahon's approval. Yes, fascinating.

### PURE EXCELLENCE

I talked with Bryan Danielson on the day he was released from WWE developmental in 2001. I spoke to Nigel McGuinness a few years later when a severely torn biceps threatened his career. Having witnessed their all-time lows, I've been thrilled to see Danielson and McGuinness experience the fullness of their careers, becoming the legends they always dreamt of being.

### JBL GONE WILD

John Bradshaw Layfield, seemingly the ultimate corporate superstar, has been making surprise appearances at promotions big and small, including AAA, GCW, TNA, and MLW—and that's in 2024 alone. Judging from his Clothesline from Hell to Mr. Thomas at Fightland, JBL seems to enjoy his brand of vigilante justice. Here's what I want to see: Layfield and Ron Simmons in next year's Battle Riot!

# FIGHT SONG

International crowds make noise; **RICOCHET** is All Elite; and ROH isn't going away anytime soon.



At AEW's All In 2024, Jamie Hayter receives a hero's welcome from the fans at Wembley Stadium.

PHOTO BY SARAH BARRACLOUGH/@BRITWRESPICS

**SINCE 2008, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** has done its part to help empower women through its annual ranking of the best female wrestlers in the world, which has evolved into the "Women's 250."

For even longer than that, female singers have sought to empower women through their music. Heck, if it weren't for the inspiring lyrics of Cyndi Lauper's iconic hit, "Girls Just Want To Have Fun," Wendi Richter may never have won the WWF Women's championship 40 years ago. What's worse: She may never have had any fun.

When the working day is done, enjoy this edition of "Quick Count," dedicated to some of music's most timeless female anthems.

## INDEPENDENT WOMEN

Well before Rhea Ripley and Mercedes Mone earned main-event slots in their respective promotions, women like Madison Eagles and Cheerleader Melissa did the same in theirs ... but to much less fanfare.

When American women's wrestling was struggling to break out of the exploitative "bra-and-panties

match" era that dominated the 1990s and much of the 2000s, the earliest iterations of *PWI's* annual women's ranking—when it was still known as the "Female 50"—leaned heavily on indie promotions like SHIMMER and Women Superstars Uncensored to flesh out the list with credible female competitors.

Eagles and Melissa each held the number one spot, in 2011 and 2013, respectively—a feat that would be nearly unthinkable for a male indie wrestler on the "*PWI* 500."

Now that WWE, AEW, TNA, and ROH all boast solid women's divisions, you may have to dig a little deeper into this year's list to find an unsigned American wrestler. Thankfully, the pool of talented female stars has grown exponentially over the years, along with the size of our list.

## STRONGER

Not only has women's wrestling gained strength over the last 16 years, but so have the actual women's wrestlers.

Whereas Chyna was treated as something of a freakshow attraction at points in her career, today's women's scene includes several powerhouses. WWE Women's champion and Queen of the Ring Nia Jax is as physically intimidating a wrestling figure as they come. TNA Knockouts champ Jordynne Grace holds several powerlifting records. And Kamille earned her reputation as the "Brickhouse" by competing in bodybuilding, football, and softball before embarking on her successful wrestling career.

Those three women—and several others—have proven capable of physically dominating most women, and many men, too. Think a male wrestler could never be afraid of a female one? Just ask Dominik Mysterio.

## ROAR

Helping fuel wrestling's top women in some of the biggest matches of the year, we have heard some of the hottest crowds in recent memory—especially across the pond.

AEW's All In event in London, England, and WWE's Bash in Berlin a few weeks later have continued the





Britt Baker and Mercedes Mone exchange words during a featured in-ring segment on *Dynamite*. According to *Fightful*, Baker earned a brief suspension at another TV taping, following a “heated” exchange of words backstage. PHOTO BY JOHN SMOLEK

### RUN THE WORLD

When Ricochet announced that he was leaving WWE over the summer, some fans became concerned about the future of one of wrestling’s most celebrated couples—Ricochet and his girlfriend, Samantha Irvin.

Rather than concern themselves with rumors of separation, the two partners seemed focused more on domination. With high-profile roles in the two biggest wrestling companies in the U.S., Ricochet and Irvin have the opportunity to increase their individual stocks in the sport, while also gaining influence as a wrestling power couple. There’s certainly a blueprint for that strategy, as Rhea Ripley & Buddy Matthews, Adam Cole & Britt Baker, and Charlotte Flair & Andrade all remained items while working for rival promotions. In two of those cases, the couples were eventually reunited in one promotion—perhaps with one partner lobbying for the hiring of the other.

So, whether we one day see Irvin doing ring intros on *Dynamite*, or Ricochet returning to WWE as a much bigger star than when he left, I don’t doubt they’ll share a locker room once again in the future.


### BAD REPUTATION

It sounds like getting along with Dr. Britt Baker, D.M.D., is like pulling teeth for some.

The former AEW Women’s champion came back in June following a ten-month injury hiatus, and wasted no time making her presence felt. If rumors were to be believed, it was not entirely for the better.

Just weeks after her return, Baker was suspended following what *Fightful* described as a “heated” backstage incident involving her, MJF, and Alicia Atout.

Baker returned in time for her highly anticipated match against Mercedes Mone at All In, but also caught some heat for her performance in the bout, which many saw as disappointing.

Baker needs to be mindful about ruffling too many feathers backstage in AEW. You know what that can get you: a big, fat WWE contract. 

streak of European fans turning up in big numbers ... and turning up the volume in the process.

To be sure, the decibel meter-busting audiences are a testament to European fans having been starved of major wrestling events for too long. But now that both WWE and AEW have held several big shows in Europe over the last year, has the novelty worn off?

Certainly, on a continent as expansive as Europe, there remain several major markets yet to be booked for premium live events, including Italy. With any luck, WWE will have some idea what to do with Giovanni Vinci before then.

### I WILL SURVIVE

As Athena closes in on two years as Ring of Honor Women’s champion, some are questioning whether her title reign will outlast ROH itself. Don’t count on it.

Between Tony Khan suggesting a rebranding of ROH, to make it a de-

velopmental subsidiary of AEW, and the company moving most of its TV tapings to a small venue in Arlington, Texas, speculation has surfaced that the end may be near for the 22-year-old promotion that helped forge the modern American wrestling style. But it’s not the first time that ROH has nearly been counted out. There were similar doomsday predictions when booker Gabe Sapolsky was fired in 2008, when Ring of Honor lost its HDNET television deal, and when Sinclair Broadcast Group shut down production of ROH events at the end of 2021.

While ROH hasn’t exactly been setting the wrestling world afire since being acquired by Khan in 2022, it has maintained its reputation for wrestling excellence. And with AEW’s resources behind it—including, potentially, an expanded TV distribution deal—ROH can remain an important player for as long as Khan wants it to be.

# EUROPE'S BEST EVER?

WWE World champion Gunther has been touted as the greatest European wrestler ever. Is that true? Is it possible for one individual to claim that rich legacy?



Gunther, then Intercontinental champion in his record-smashing reign, enters the ring at WrestleMania 40. Harry Burkett finds no shortage of evidence that the World heavyweight champ is Europe's finest wrestling export. **PHOTO BY EARL GARDNER**

**AMID THE TITANIC** battle between WWE World heavyweight champion Gunther and Randy Orton at Bash in Berlin, color commentator Wade Barrett proclaimed, "Randy Orton is about to face the most unstoppable force the continent of Europe has ever created in the wrestling industry."

It's interesting that few people would question such a bold statement. Would I question it? Not necessarily. But Barrett did say "ever."

Gunther went on to force the seemingly indomitable Orton to tap out—clean, no interference, not even a distracting glance from Ludwig Kaiser. In a show of class and respect in his adopted hometown of Berlin, Gunther shook Orton's hand after the bout.

That was 28 days after his World title victory over Damian Priest at SummerSlam. Gunther intends to make this reign as significant as his 870-day NXT U.K. title reign and his 666-day Intercontinental title reign. Combine those championship achievements with his domination of England's PROGRESS Wrestling and Germany's Westside Xtreme Wrestling, then (at least on the surface) Barrett's remark rings true.

It's also a reminder of the tremendous responsibility that Gunther has placed upon himself. Not satisfied with the daunting goal of elevating the relatively new WWE World championship to the level of Cody Rhodes' WWE Undisputed title, he has become the personification

of European wrestling: then, now, and forever.

At least from an American perspective, no European has dominated—save for Andre The Giant—more than Gunther. I'd need to go back more than 40 years for anything approaching the Gunther phenomenon, to Otto Wanz' AWA World title win over Nick Bockwinkel in August 1982 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Wanz was already four years into his reign as Catch Wrestling Association heavyweight champion when he defeated Bockwinkel.

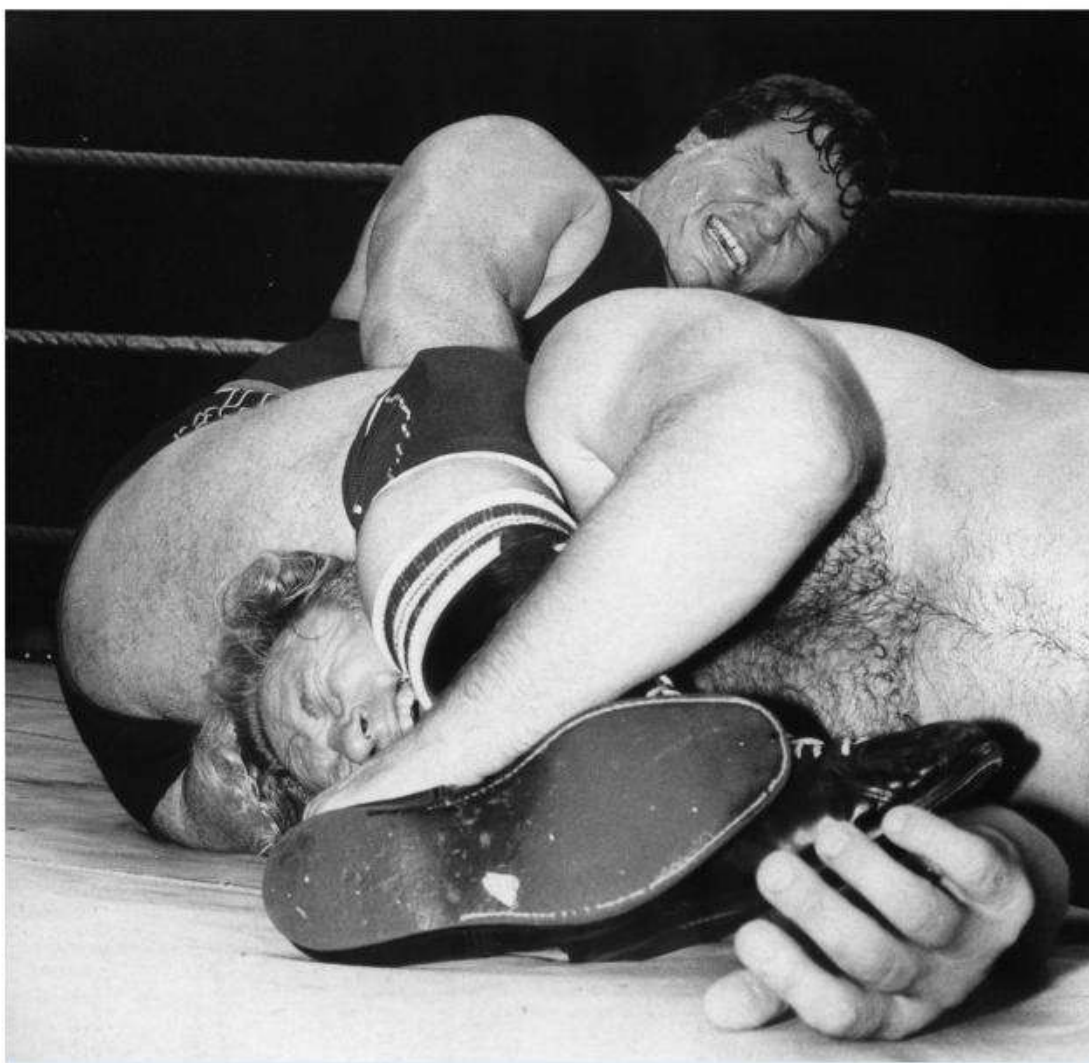
Unlike Gunther, Wanz didn't dominate in North America, dropping the AWA title back to Bockwinkel 41 days later in Chicago.

Yet, there are parallels. Both were born in Austria. Both were in their late-30s when they made their greatest impact in the United States. Both had been known for their girth, with Wanz standing 6'2" and weighing 375 pounds in his prime, and Gunther standing 6'4" and weighing 310 pounds during his NXT U.K. dominance.

Wanz was known for his stunning physicality, waging war with Don Leo Jonathan. He once dropped the CWA title to Jonathan in Johannesburg, South Africa, before regaining it in Graz, Austria. He even bodyslammed Andre The Giant.

Like Wanz, Gunther grinds through first-class opponents: Ilja Dragunov, Sheamus, Randy Orton. Just going toe-to-toe with Gunther earns admission into an exclusive club.

Catch wrestling traces its roots to the county of Lancashire in Northwest England. It featured many elements of pro wrestling today: collar-and-elbow tie-ups, headlocks, half-nelsons, single- and double-leg takedowns. Low-brow techniques such as kicking, headbutting, and biting were prohibited. Nevertheless, it was the most rugged and aggressive style in all of England. Similar styles evolved in Germany and Belgium.



Otto Wanz applies the headscissors to Nick Bockwinkel during their October 1982 rematch for the AWA World heavyweight title. Wanz and Gunther have more than a few things in common aside from their continent of origin. PHOTO BY BILL APTER

Karel Istaz represented Belgium at the 1948 Summer Olympics in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling, but he didn't master the scrappy Lancashire catch style until he trained at Riley's Gym in Wigan, England. Wrestlers came from around the world to be trained in these brutal fundamentals, even if they went on to learn more theatrical styles later.

Istaz—who was given the surname “Gotch,” in honor of the great world champion Frank Gotch, by Ohio promoter Al Haft—went on to mentor wrestlers throughout the States, Australia, and Japan, including Antonio Inoki, Seiji Sakaguchi, Hiro Matsuda, Bob Backlund, Killer Khan, Akira Maeda, and Tatsumi Fujinami. Six-time world champion Lou Thesz, who shared a similar central European heritage but was trained in St. Louis, respected Karl Gotch immensely.

As with the Hart Dungeon in Calgary, trainees of the Wigan “Snake

Pit” emerged capable of defending themselves when controlled environments suddenly turned real. I'm thinking of Dungeon graduate Chris Jericho immobilizing Bill Goldberg with a simple front facelock in a backstage altercation a couple of decades ago.

Billy Robinson, one of the most famous Wigan School trainees, commanded the utmost respect from Verne Gagne during his AWA appearances of the 1970s and '80s. Likewise, Les Thornton brought international prestige to the NWA junior heavyweight championship, even demonstrating the British rounds system on Georgia's *World Championship Wrestling*. During his swings through West Texas, he and Dory Funk Sr. would move the coffee table and lock up right there in the Funk family living room (which is exactly what happened only minutes before Funk's fatal 1973 heart attack).


Wanz, Gotch, Robinson, and Thornton mastered wrestling and fighting at their most basic levels. That commanded mandatory respect, rather than freewill admiration.

In America, Olympic-level athletes ranging from Verne Gagne to Kurt Angle have excelled in the same manner. Even Undisputed champ Cody Rhodes, the face of modern sports entertainment, has a stellar amateur background from which he could draw upon in a real fight. I'd wager he'd fare better than any member of the Blackpool Combat Club.

Despite being Undisputed champion, Rhodes doesn't instill the same fear as World champion Gunther. Perhaps it is Gunther's relentless focus, menacing posture, and sheer size. He doesn't possess the array of mat-based, joint-wrenching methods of Gotch and Robinson; but, like Gotch, who popularized the German suplex, Gunther maximizes leverage for his suplexes and various throws. He's more imposing than Gotch and Robinson, merely because his huge frame and sheer power can do more damage.

With his blistering chops and clubbing forearms, striking is another area where Gunther could compete with the all-time greats. And isn't it a prerequisite for every European wrestler to utilize the European uppercut?

Though Gunther saw catch-inspired British stars such as William Regal, Fit Finlay, and Robbie Brookside in Vienna, he credits All Japan Pro Wrestling as his greatest influence while a teenager. Breaking into the business, he trained at Pro Wrestling ZERO1-MAX, and, while a star in wXw, further honed his skills with Big Japan. Yet, the All Japan influence dominates, as Gunther—with his big kicks, lariats, and badassery—is often more reminiscent of Bruiser Brody or Stan Hansen than Gotch or Robinson.

Then again, considering Billy Riley, proprietor of Riley's Gym, trained New Japan founder Antonio Inoki in catch wrestling—and that Inoki influenced the entire puroresu scene—one might say the Wigan School inspired Gunther by way of Japan. Such is the beauty of the wrestling art. 

TAKEN BY

# Storm

THE 2024 WOMEN'S

# 250

"Timeless" Toni Is #1!

FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> STRAIGHT year, the staff of Pro Wrestling Illustrated is proud to present our annual ranking of the top competitors in the wide world of women's wrestling. From the big promotions in North America to the vibrant joshi scene of Japan, the thriving rosters of the Euro and Australian wrestling circuits to the premier independent grapplers found anywhere on the map, this year's "Women's 250" list was just as competitive as any that preceded it.

The incomparable Toni Storm makes history as the first All Elite Wrestling talent to place #1 in this storied ranking—putting an exclamation point on a year that saw her reign as a dominant and exceptionally popular world champion. To be sure, Storm's spot is well-earned. Yet, it's worth noting, the 249 performers who follow her are no less driven nor determined.

## THE CRITERIA

This second most senior in our triumvirate of annual rankings—also including our "PWI 500" and "Tag Team 100" lists—the "Women's 250" is an expansion of our weekly and monthly Top 10 Women's ranking.

### EVALUATION PERIOD:

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

### CRITERIA:

**IN-RING ACHIEVEMENT**—Win-loss records, championships, tournaments won.

**INFLUENCE**—Visibility and prestige within a promotion and/or the industry.

**TECHNICAL ABILITY**—Variety of moves, quality of matches, and in-ring storytelling.

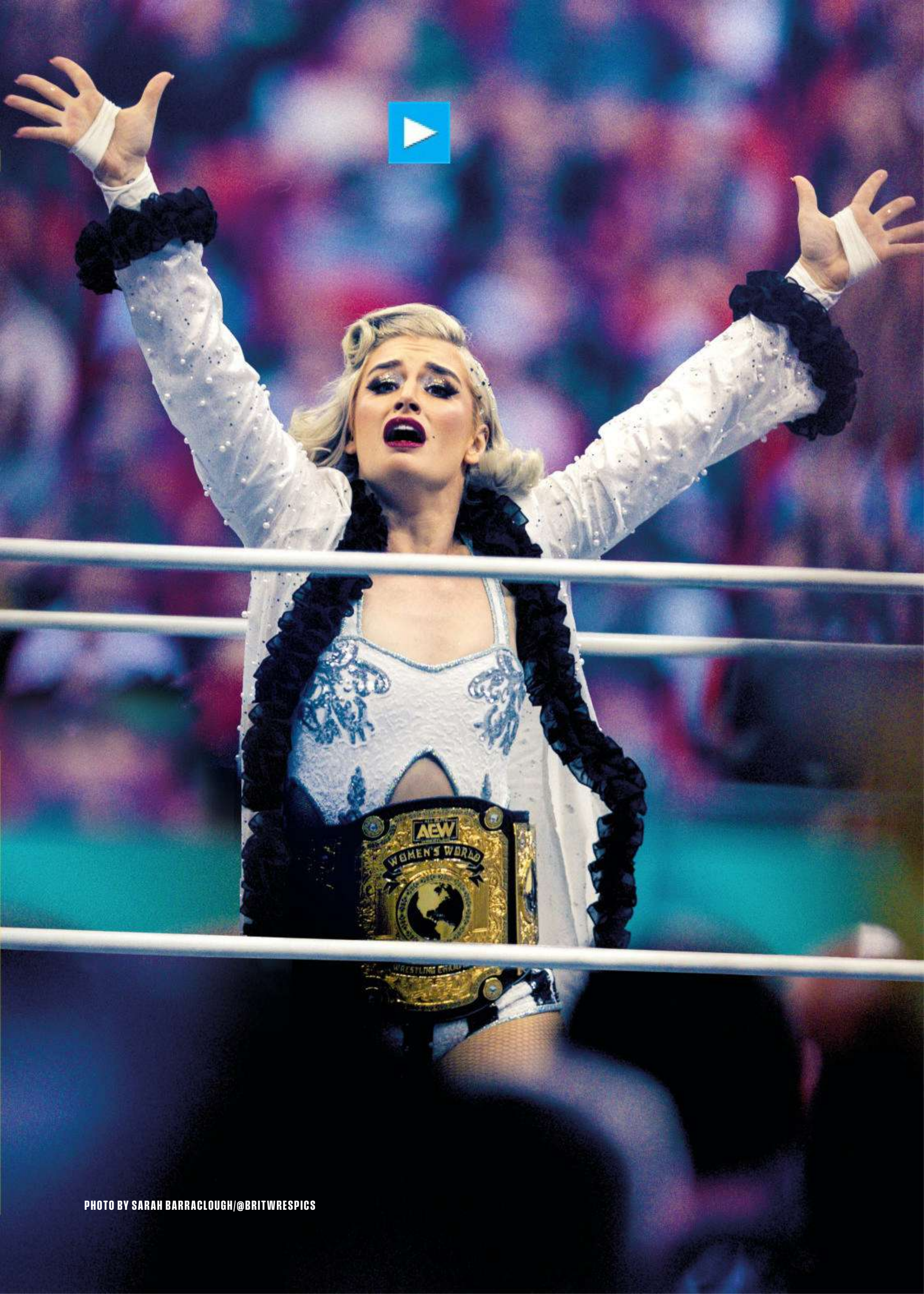
**COMPETITION**—Success against the most varied and highest-quality opponents.

**ACTIVITY**—Minimum 10 *singles* (non-tag) matches total; or, barring this, six such matches in separate months.

**THE COMMITTEE:** Kristen Ashly, Pat Laprade, Candace Cordelia, Patricia Rogers, Warren Hayes, Lyric Swinton, and Kevin McElvaney.

**ADDITIONAL BIOS WRITTEN BY:** Al Castle, Jason McVeigh, and Liz Hunter.

**NOTES:** This list prioritizes success in singles competition and in vying for individual women's championships/accolades. The numbers in parentheses next to each name indicate that wrestler's total years competing professionally and placement on last year's list, respectively, with an "NL" designation for those who were unlisted.



# Toni Storm

# 01

PHOTO BY JOHN SMOLEK



## PATH TO NUMBER 1

**YEARS PRO:** 14  
**2023 RANK:** 12  
**MANSERVANT:** LUTHER

24 IN 2017  
18 IN 2018  
13 IN 2019  
45 IN 2020  
121 IN 2021  
25 IN 2022  
12 IN 2023

## Why She's Number 1

At the risk of sounding overly dramatic, it's fair to say Toni Storm isn't just a star, she's a phenomenon ... In a company that has prided itself as an alternative to the sports entertainment fare that, historically, has been WWE's calling card, the Auckland, New Zealand, native has unapologetically immersed herself in her "Timeless" character—and, in doing so, has found the notoriety she's pursued since beginning wrestling at age 13 ... Beyond just being a hoot, Storm's comfort on the microphone and in front of a camera have been integral to some of AEW's most compelling storylines of the last year; not the least of which was the saga involving protege-turned-enemy Mariah May, who ended her title reign in August ... Not only is Storm's flashy presentation the stuff of Hollywood blockbusters, her execution in the ring is Oscar-worthy ... Her most recent title reign lasted an impressive nine months, including successful defenses against Skye Blue, Deonna Purrazzo, and Saraya ... Before holding the AEW Women's championship for a combined 423 days, Storm held titles in promotions around the world, including the NXT U.K. Women's title and the World of Stardom championship ... A year before her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, Storm still has plenty of road ahead, and isn't ready to ride off into Sunset Boulevard.

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated Hikaru Shida at Full Gear on November 18 in Inglewood, California, to win the AEW Women's championship for a record-tying third time.
2. Beat inaugural AEW Women's champ Riho to retain her title at World's End in Uniondale, New York, on December 30.
3. Used her Storm Zero piledriver to pick up the win against Mina Shirakawa in a championship grudge match at Forbidden Door in Elmont, New York, on June 30.
4. Pinned another former AEW Women's champion, Thunder Rosa, on April 21 at Dynasty in St. Louis, Missouri, to retain her title.
5. Successfully defended her title against ring veteran Serena Deeb at Double or Nothing in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 26.

# Jordynne Grace

# 02

**YEARS PRO: 13**  
**2023 RANK: 10**  
**SIGNATURE MOVE:**  
**JUGGERNAUT DRIVER**

## Why She's Number 2

Just as AJ Styles did during his tenure with the company, Jordynne Grace has, in many ways, developed into TNA Wrestling's foundational player ... Her unique combination of charisma, power, and, yes, grace, even caught the eye of WWE shot callers, who invited her to participate in the 2024 Women's Royal Rumble match ... Impressive performance in that match—coupled with fans' enthusiastic reaction to Grace—helped jumpstart a once-unthinkable working relationship between WWE and TNA that has seen Grace challenge Roxanne Perez for the NXT Women's title, as well as defend her own Knockouts title against NXT competitors, including Wendy Choo ... Kept a busy schedule over the evaluation period, successfully defending her crown in televised matches against Rosemary, Tasha Steelz, and Gisele Shaw, and competing outside of TNA for promotions around the world, including Game Changer Wrestling, Mystery Wrestling in Quebec, and Sendai Girls in Japan ... Accomplished powerlifter raised eyebrows on social media with a pic of her "post-workout meal"—a sandwich of Pop Tarts and raw ground beef that was dubbed "Pop Tart-tar" ... Although Grace later confirmed it was a joke, the combo seems perfectly suited for the sweet, beefy Texan.

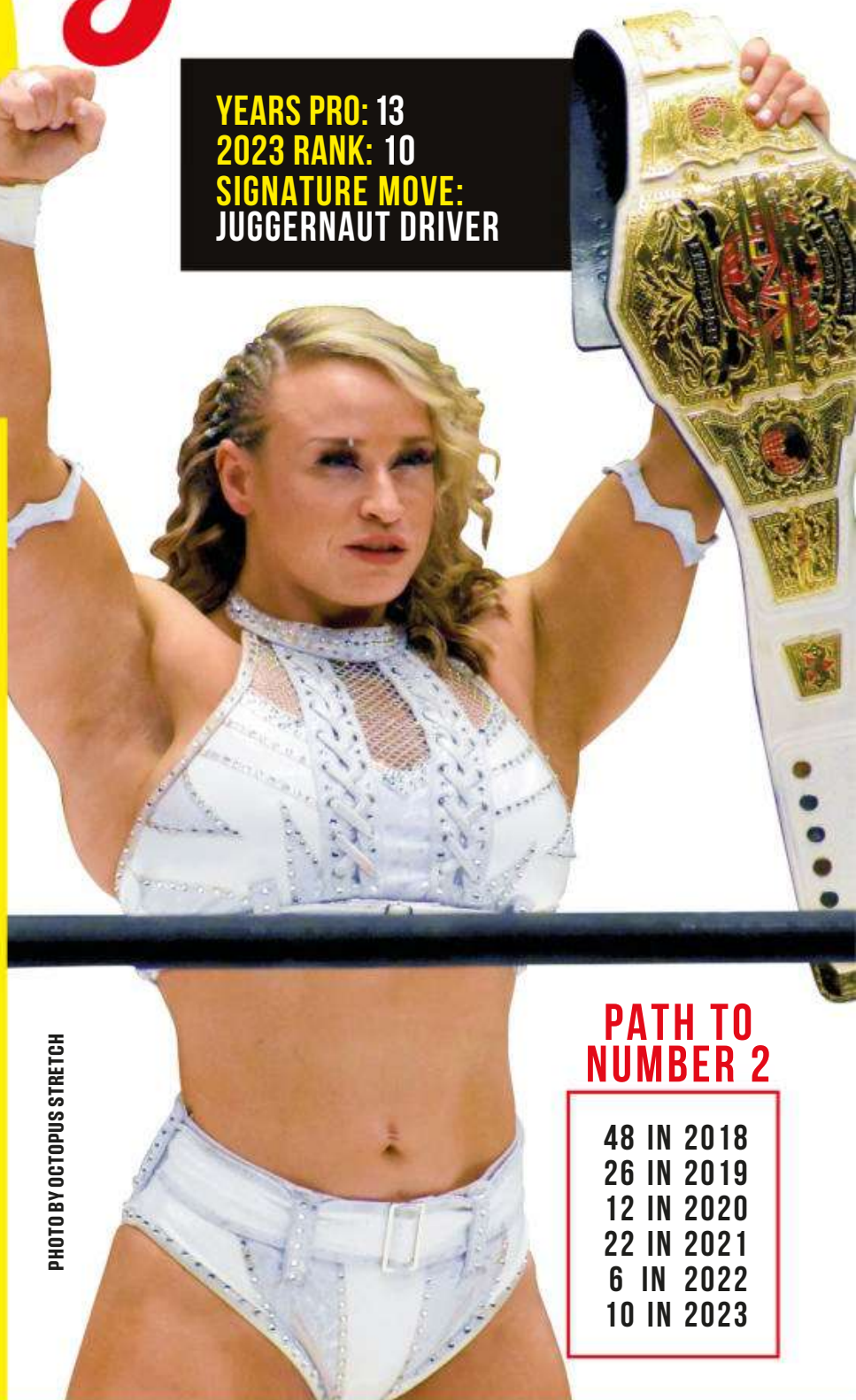


PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH

## PATH TO NUMBER 2

48 IN 2018  
26 IN 2019  
12 IN 2020  
22 IN 2021  
6 IN 2022  
10 IN 2023

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Won her third TNA Knockouts World title by defeating Trinity (Naomi) at Hard to Kill on January 13 in Las Vegas, Nevada.
2. Beat Ash By Elegance to retain the Knockouts title at Slammiversary on July 20 in Montreal, Quebec.
3. Successfully defended her Knockouts belt against WWE-contracted competitor Sol Ruca on the September 10 episode of *NXT*.
4. Used her Juggernaut Driver to finish off Steph De Lander in another title defense at Rebellion, April 20 in Las Vegas.
5. Emerged victorious in a 20-person Call Your Shot gauntlet match at Bound for Glory on October 21, 2023, in Cicero, Illinois, eliminating Matt Cardona and Bully Ray.

# Rhea Ripley

PHOTO BY EARL GARDNER



## PATH TO NUMBER 3

63 IN 2018  
35 IN 2019  
11 IN 2020  
12 IN 2021  
42 IN 2022  
1 IN 2023

**YEARS PRO:** 11  
**2023 RANK:** 1  
**ACHILLES' HEEL:** DOMINIK MYSTERIO

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Successfully defended her WWE Women's World title against Nia Jax in the main event of Elimination Chamber on February 24 in her native Australia.
2. Beat Becky Lynch in the opening match of WrestleMania 40 on April 6 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to keep her championship.
3. Won a Fatal Five Way match against Jax, Zoey Stark, Raquel Rodriguez, and Shayna Baszler to retain her title at Crown Jewel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 4.
4. Used her Riptide pumphandle slam to beat Rodriguez at Payback on September 2, 2023, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
5. Teamed with Terror Twins partner Damian Priest to vanquish Liv Morgan and Dominik Mystério at Bash in Berlin on August 31.

## Why She's Number 3

"Mami" seemed on pace to once again be *on top* of this year's "Women's 250," but suffered a setback after a shoulder injury in April caused her to relinquish the WWE Women's World title and sit on the sidelines for four months ... Although she had long been cheered by crowds, completed her transformation into a full-fledged fan favorite upon her return this summer, parting ways with Dominik Mystério and The Judgment Day, but remaining aligned with fellow expat Damian Priest ... Came up short in an attempt to win back the title from Liv Morgan at SummerSlam, but another championship reign seems likely ... Has gotten as much TV time as just about anyone on the Raw brand over the last year, solidifying her place as a main-event player when she headlined Elimination Chamber in front of nearly 53,000 adoring fans in Perth, Australia ... At just 28, has already amassed a hall-of-fame-worthy career that has included wins in world title matches at three of the last four WrestleManias ... A fine example of a performer finding herself in her wrestling persona, and, in doing so, developing a comfort and confidence that exudes star power.



# Maika

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

**YEARS PRO: 5**  
**2023 RANK: 71**  
**AFFILIATION:**  
**EMPRESS NEXUS VENUS**

## Why She's Number 4

Japanese powerhouse seized the opportunity when Tam Nakano was forced to vacate the World of Stardom title just weeks before she was set to defend it at the company's big year-end show, where Nakano was scheduled to face 2023 5STAR Grand Prix tournament winner Suzu Suzuki ... After suffering several setbacks throughout the year—including losing to Suzuki in the tournament final—Maika won a one-night, four-woman tournament to earn the right to stand across from Suzuki in the title match ... Avenged her earlier loss to Suzuki and won the prestigious “Red Belt”—her first major singles title ... Went on to have an impressive seven-month title reign that saw her defend the championship seven times, including against Saya Kamitani, Megan Bayne, and Tomoka Inaba ... Ramped up her aggression after Donna Del Mondo, the faction she cofounded, disbanded in January ... Later that month, formed a new stable dubbed Empress Nexus Venus, or ExV for short, and went on to win her third Artist of Stardom trios title with stablemates Mina Shirakawa and Xena ... Overwhelms opponents with her strength and physicality, which is on display in her brutal clotheslines and her Michinoku driver—a tribute to the man who trained her, TAKA Michinoku.

## PATH TO NUMBER 4

46 IN 2021  
71 IN 2023

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Beat rival Suzu Suzuki in the main event of Stardom Dream Queendom on December 29 in Tokyo, Japan, to capture the vacant World of Stardom title.
2. Emerged victorious in the 2024 5STAR Grand Prix tournament, winning all six matches in her block; then, beat Saya Kamitani in the tournament final on August 31.
3. Retained her title in a Three Stages of Hell bout with Momo Watanabe at All Star Grand Queendom on April 27 in Yokohama, losing the first fall in a standard match, then winning a hardcore contest and a Last Woman Standing bout.
4. Defeated former World of Stardom champ Utami Hayashishita to retain her title on March 20 in Nagoya.
5. Bested fellow Empress Nexus Venus stablemate Xena in a championship defense at The Conversion on June 22 in Tokyo.

# Stephanie Vaquer



PHOTO BY ISSA MARIE

**YEARS PRO: 15**  
**2023 RANK: 54**  
**NICKNAME: LA PRIMERA**

**PATH TO  
NUMBER 5**

**54 IN 2023**

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Beat Giulia at Stardom's Cinderella Tournament event on March 10 in Tokyo, capturing the NJPW STRONG Women's title.
2. Beat AZM in a fast-paced and hard-hitting match to retain the STRONG belt at NJPW's Windy City Riot event on April 12 in Chicago, Illinois.
3. Defeated Tessa Blanchard to retain her CMLL World Women's title on December 1 in Mexico City.
4. Successfully defended her STRONG title against La Catalina at CMLL/NJPW Fantasticamania on June 21 in Mexico City.
5. Bested Isla Dawn in her WWE debut match on July 13 in Mexico City, winning with her signature package backbreaker.

## Why She's Number 5

As it ultimately ended in defeat for her, you won't find Vaquer's match against Mercedes Moné in the list of evaluation period highlights. But make no mistake: It may have done more to elevate the Chilean competitor than any victory she had over the last year ... Vaquer put her STRONG title up against Moné's TBS crown at Forbidden Door, and, although she ended up losing her belt, she won over fans with her spirited performance in the high-profile battle ... The match helped put her on the radar of WWE, which swooped in and signed Vaquer to a contract before AEW could do so ... Debut as part of the NXT brand was temporarily held up by visa issues ... Did have one win on AEW TV, against Lady Frost on a June episode of *Collision* ... Won the CMLL World Women's championship just before the start of the evaluation period ... New WWE gig meant vacating that title, as well as the CMLL Women's tag team title, which she held concurrently with Zeuxis ... Previously tried out for WWE in 2018, but, by her own admission, was not ready for the post at that stage in her career ... Punishes opponents with an aggressive moveset, which includes repeatedly driving their heads into the mat with her knees ... Has a huge upside.

# Sareee

PATH TO  
NUMBER 6

NOT PREVIOUSLY LISTED

PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH

**YEARS PRO:** 13  
**2023 RANK:** NOT LISTED  
**HOME PROMOTION:**  
DREAM STAR FIGHTING MARIGOLD

## Why She's Number 6

Not everybody gets to make their “Women’s 250” debut in a top-10 spot. But, sorry, Sareee’s not sorry ... Coming off an unremarkable three-year run in WWE that ended early in 2023, the former Sarray began freelancing throughout Japan, and displaying a profound intensity that soon made the “Sun God” one of the most talked-about joshi competitors ... That buzz put her in a prime spot when former Stardom promoter Rossy Ogawa launched his new promotion, Marigold, in April of this year ... In defeating Giulia—once a pillar of Stardom—Sareee not only helped put the new promotion on the map, but she cemented her status as one of Japan’s elite competitors ... Had previously shown her world championship mettle in a losing effort against IWGP Women’s World champion Mayu Iwatani—a grueling match deemed by many as one of the year’s best ... Displayed hints of her superstar potential in NXT, despite being saddled with a vapid Japanese schoolgirl gimmick that was going nowhere ... Has also shown off her entrepreneurial chops by promoting several independent shows under the Sareee-ISM banner, drawing big crowds ... Holds nothing back in a physical style highlighted by stiff strikes and devastating suplexes.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated Giulia at the Summer Destiny pay-per-view event on July 13 in Tokyo, Japan, to become the inaugural Marigold “Red Belt” champion.
2. Took IWGP Women’s World champion Mayu Iwatani to the limit in a thrilling dream match at Stardom’s All Star Grand Queendom event, April 27 in Yokohama.
3. Made first defense of the SEAdLINNNG Beyond The Sea title on December 28, beating Ayame Sasamura at the Last Battle event in Tokyo.
4. Beat former Wonder of Stardom titleholder Mika Iwata at a Sendai Girls event on November 5 in Tokyo, winning with her signature exploder suplex.
5. Won a four-way match involving Atomic Banshee, Babyface, and Countess Saori at a Sukeban event in Miami, Florida, on December 6.

# Bayley



PHOTO BY JORDAN WILLIAMS

## PATH TO NUMBER 7

- 47 IN 2013
- 19 IN 2014
- 11 IN 2015
- 5 IN 2016
- 5 IN 2017
- 17 IN 2018
- 6 IN 2019
- 1 IN 2020
- 21 IN 2021
- 41 IN 2023

**YEARS PRO: 15**  
**2023 RANK: 41**  
**FINISHER: BAYLEY TO BELLY SUPLEX**

## Why She's Number 7

Between dealing with injuries and having to compete for attention in an increasingly star-studded women's locker room, Bayley had lost much of the momentum she had earned since topping this list in 2021 ... Reversed that trajectory early in 2024 with an inspired performance at the Royal Rumble that saw her enter at #3, last more than an hour, and eliminate seven women en route to punching her ticket to a WrestleMania world title match ... Although she's long had a loyal following, fan support for Bayley only grew after her Damage CTRL stablemates turned on her and kicked her out of the group ... Bayley's winning effort against Iyo Sky was considered by many the best wrestling match on a very loaded WrestleMania card ... Unfortunately, the follow-through on Bayley's championship win was lackluster, at best, and relatively few fans batted an eye when she lost the title to Nia Jax ... Even in the role of fan favorite, hasn't exhibited the kind of joyful enthusiasm that first made fans take notice of Bayley on *NXT* nearly a decade ago ... It may be time to dust off the giant, inflatable Bayley Buddies.

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated Iyo Sky to win the WWE Women's championship on night two of WrestleMania 40, on April 7 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
2. Won the 2024 Women's Royal Rumble match on January 27 in St. Petersburg, Florida, earning a world title opportunity at WrestleMania.
3. Retained her title in a triple-threat match involving Naomi and Tiffany Stratton at Backlash in Leon, France, on May 4.
4. Successfully defended her championship against Piper Niven at Clash at the Castle on June 15 in Glasgow, Scotland.
5. Beat Tiffany Stratton at the September 6 *Friday Night Smackdown*, winning with her Rose Plant face slam, and an unintentional assist by Nia Jax.

# Willow Nightingale

# 08

**YEARS PRO: 9**  
**2023 RANK: 8**  
**PAST LIFE: PROFESSIONAL PIERCING ARTIST**

## PATH TO NUMBER 8

94 IN 2020  
57 IN 2021  
40 IN 2022  
8 IN 2023

## Why She's Number 8

Affable New Yorker has solidified her place as one of the best female competitors in AEW—and the world, for that matter—with the championship resume to prove it ... A year after becoming the inaugural NJPW STRONG Women's champion with an upset win over Mercedes Moné, competed in her highest-profile match to date as Moné's first AEW opponent at Double or Nothing ... Lost the match (and the TBS title) to Moné, but kept most of her momentum, even making it to the finals of the Owen Hart tournament ... Admittedly thrilling rivalry with former partner Kris Statlander has eaten up too much of Nightingale's time and attention ... Made her Stardom debut in April, winning matches on back-to-back nights ... Overwhelms opponents with her size and strength, which is on display with her pounce and gutwrench powerbomb finisher ... Although she's played the role of a villain before, the "Babe With The Power" is as natural a babyface as they come, with the kind of jubilant personality that would give 2015-era Bayley a run for her money.



PHOTO BY JOHN SMOLEK

## TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated Julia Hart in a "House Rules" match at AEW's Dynasty pay-per-view event on April 21 in St. Louis, Missouri, winning the TBS championship.
2. Captured the vacant CMLL World Women's title by winning a three-way match with Lluvia and Viva Van at Fantasticamania in San Jose, California, on July 13.
3. Beat two-time World of Stardom champion Tam Nakano in a TBS title defense at Stardom's Flashing Champions event on May 18 in Yokohama, Japan.
4. On the July 3 edition of *Dynamite*, beat friend-turned-foe Kris Statlander in the semifinals of the 2024 Owen Hart Foundation Tournament in Chicago, Illinois.
5. Won a "Manitoba Massacre" grudge match against Skye Blue to retain her TBS title on the May 1 episode of *Rampage*, pinning the challenger after a powerbomb from the ring apron through a barbed wire board.

# Mariah May

PATH TO  
NUMBER 9

95 IN 2023



PHOTO BY BASIL MAHMUD

**YEARS PRO:** 5  
**2023 RANK:** 95  
**FIRST WRESTLING GIG:**  
RING ANNOUNCER

## Why She's Number 9

They say crime doesn't pay, but Mariah May's despicable betrayal of Toni Storm no doubt helped elevate "The Glamour" into the spotlight—and to the AEW Women's World title ... Former Stardom tag team champion arrived in AEW with plentiful fanfare late last year, and cunningly hitched her wagon to Storm, one of the hottest acts in the company ... Loyalty to Storm was first tested when the "Timeless" one feuded with May's former Club Venus tag team partner, Mina Shirakawa, but May managed to keep both relationships intact ... After serving as Storm's "understudy" for months, shocked fans by viciously attacking the champion right after earning a shot at her title by way of the Owen Hart tournament ... Having grown up as a fan of the WWE Divas division—and having previously worked as a WWE merchandise model—the English native has embraced the aesthetic side of women's wrestling ... Glamorous presentation belies a well-rounded wrestling arsenal that was honed competing in Japan and the United Kingdom ... With only five years of experience, and fewer than 200 matches under her belt, May still needs some polish; but for now, she's more than content polishing her world title belt.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated former mentor Toni Storm to win the AEW Women's World championship at All In—in her native London, England—on August 25.
2. Won the 2024 Owen Hart Foundation Women's Tournament, taking matches against Hikaru Shida and Saraya before beating Willow Nightingale in the final on July 10 in Calgary, Alberta.
3. Made her first successful AEW World title defense against former champion Nyla Rose on the September 4 episode of *Dynamite* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
4. Beat former world champion Trish Adora on the March 7 *Collision* from Duluth, Georgia, finishing Adora with her "Mayday" fireman's carry slam.
5. Bon her AEW debut match against Lady Frost on the January 3 *Dynamite* from Newark, New Jersey.

# Athena

## PATH TO NUMBER 10

25 IN 2013  
23 IN 2014  
24 IN 2015  
37 IN 2016  
18 IN 2017  
21 IN 2018  
27 IN 2019  
90 IN 2021  
76 IN 2022  
6 IN 2023

PHOTO BY JOHN SMOLEK

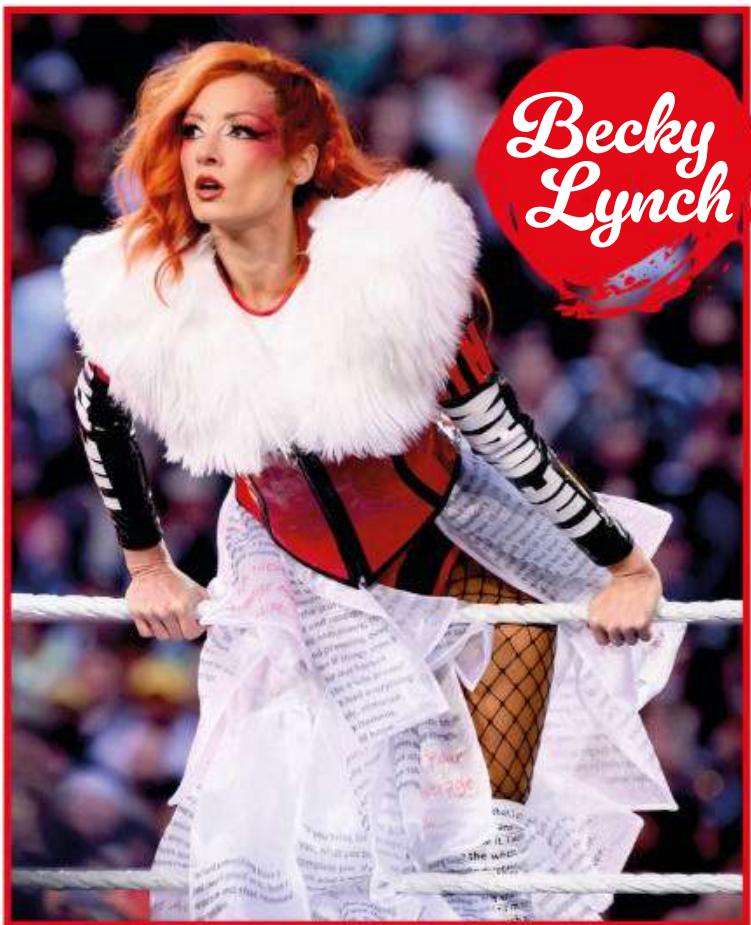
**YEARS PRO: 17**  
**2023 RANK: 6**  
**HOBBY: VIDEO GAMES**

## Why She's Number 10

When Samoa Joe's title reign finally came to an end 20 years ago, there were many who assumed that no man would ever surpass his 645 days as an ROH World champion ... They were right—a woman did ... Shortly before the end of the evaluation period, the “Forever Champion” marked her 646<sup>th</sup> day wearing the ROH Women's World title belt that she won from Mercedes Martinez in December 2022 ... Beyond just holding onto the title, the “Fallen Goddess” has been an absolute workhorse since coming to work for Tony Khan ... Has defended her crown against a slate of formidable challengers from both ROH and AEW, while giving independent wrestlers a chance to earn title shots in “Proving Ground” matches, going a perfect 14-0 in singles bouts during the evaluation period ... Even held her own against Ronda Rousey in a pair of tag team matches last year ... Refused to let ligament tears in her ankle slow her down, competing with her left leg in a walking boot ... Self-professed “overlord” has proven herself a true leader, not only to her Minions, but to the entire Ring of Honor promotion.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated three-time AEW World champion Hikaru Shida to retain her Ring of Honor Women's title at Supercard of Honor, on April 5, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
2. Beat her protege, Billie Starkz, by submission to keep her title in the main event of ROH's Final Battle event, December 15 in Garland, Texas.
3. Pinned Queen Aminata after hitting her with a microphone—and her O-Face finisher—to retain her championship at Death Before Dishonor on July 26 in Arlington, Texas.
4. Won best-of-three-falls tables match against former AEW World champion Nyla Rose—February 2 in Cedar Park, Texas—to retain the ROH Women's title.
5. Defeated Masha Slamovich at a Prestige Wrestling show in Portland, Oregon, on July 12—her first match back following a two-month injury hiatus.



Becky Lynch

PHOTO BY EARL GARDNER

at NJPW STRONG Lonestar Shootout ... Also victorious against Mina Shirakawa at NJPW's New Beginning in Sapporo ... Joined Sareee at Sareee-ISM in thrilling tag bout with Chihiro Hashimoto and VENY.

**15 Masha Slamovich** (8, 13) Home Promotion: TNA Wrestling ... Kept full schedule, wrestling 100+ matches in more than 35 promotions ... Held six different titles during evaluation period ... Defeated Ava Everett in Last Woman Standing match for wXw Women's title ... Vied for Princess of Princess crown ...

Has beaten many of your favorites.

**16 Mina Shirakawa** (6, 51) Tagline: "We Want Mina" ... Debuted for AEW in April to save former tag partner Mariah May ... Part of fan favorite triangle with May and Toni Storm ... Defeated Dani Luna for RevPro Undisputed British Women's title ... Challenged Toni Storm for AEW Women's World title at Forbidden Door.

**17 Becky Lynch** (21, 29) Side Hustle: Author ... Held NXT Women's title for first time ... Became five-time WWE Women's World champion by winning a battle royal for the vacant title ... Won Women's Elimination Chamber match to secure WrestleMania title shot ... Released *New York Times* best-selling autobiography ... Fans await her next move.

**18 Miu Watanabe** (6, 78) Signature Move: Giant swing ... Compact powerhouse defeated Miyu Yamashita at Grand Princess 2024 to become Princess Of Princess champion ... True pillar of TJPW throughout evaluation period ...

Bested Hyan at Prestige/TJPW Combat Princess USA ... Downed KiLynn King at SPARK Joshi show in Orlando.

**19 Miyu Yamashita** (11, 17) Signature Move: Skull Kick ... Held 3 titles during period, including fourth reign as Princess of Princess champion ... Defended belt in MLW ... Challenged for TNA Knockouts World title, SHINE championship, and MLW World featherweight title ... Took fight to Shayna Baszler at Bloodsport ... Appeared for more than 16 promotions.

**20 Lyra Valkyria** (9, 190) Hometown: Dublin, Ireland ... Jumps 170 spots from last year's ranking after having busiest year of career ... Won WWE NXT Women's title and the rub from Becky Lynch at Halloween Havoc ... Competed in finals of Queen of the Ring against Nia Jax ... Bright future ahead of her.

**11 Roxanne Perez** (8, 15) Nickname: "The Prodigy" ... One of two NXT entrants in the 2024 Royal Rumble at #27 ... Became the youngest two-time NXT Women's champion after reclaiming the crown at Stand & Deliver 2024 ... Defended title against TNA Knockouts World champion Jordynne Grace at NXT Battleground ... October *PWI* cover star.

**12 Liv Morgan** (9, 38) Side Hustle: Soap maker ... Defeated Becky Lynch at King & Queen of the Ring to become two-time WWE Women's World champion ... Successfully defended title against Rhea Ripley at SummerSlam ... Part of captivating love triangle with Ripley and Dom Mysterio ... Chaotic energy is making her new fans, foes.

**13 Iyo Sky** (17, 24) Affiliation: Damage CTRL ... Held WWE Women's title until April ... Successfully defended belt against Bianca Belair, Asuka, and Charlotte Flair ... Feud with Bayley culminated in intense showdown at WrestleMania 40 ... Returned to Japan to defeat Utami Hayashishita at Rossy Ogawa's new promotion, Dream Star Fighting Marigold.

**14 Mayu Iwatani** (13, 30) Nickname: "Icon Of Stardom" ... Hit one year as IWGP Women's champion in April ... Retained title against Stephanie Vaquer



Miu Watanabe

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY



**21 Giulia** (6, 2) Home Promotion: WWE (NXT) ... Held NJPW STRONG Women's championship for half of the evaluation period before losing it to Stephanie Vaquer ... Joined Rossy Ogawa in May as central player in new promotion Dream Star Fighting Marigold ... Likely the hottest free agent signed to NXT in 2024.

**22 Nia Jax** (9, NL) Wrestling Style: Powerhouse ... Returns to PWI Women's ranking after multi-year absence ... Became two-time WWE Women's champion after defeating Bayley at SummerSlam ... Toppled Naomi, Jade Cargill, Bianca Belair, and Lyra Valkyria to become 2024 Queen of the Ring ... Challenged Rhea Ripley for WWE Women's World title at Elimination Chamber.

**23 Dani Luna** (7, 116) Home Promotion: TNA ... U.K. standout signed with North American outfit in December ... Overthrew Alex Windsor at RevPro Uprising to become Undisputed British Women's champion ... Challenged Jordynne Grace for TNA Knockouts World title ... Dominated

Knockouts tag division as part of Spitfire with Jody Threat.

**24 Renzie Paige** (7, 33) Trained By: Tom Pritchard & Ricky Morton ... Center-piece of NWA Women's division reigned as World Women's champion for entire evaluation period ... Successfully defended title 17 times across five promotions, with wins over Natalia Markova, Freya The Slaya, and Max The Impaler ... Teams with sister Kylie as Pretty Empowered.

**25 Rhio** (9, 86) Birthplace: Preston, England ... PROGRESS Women's champion for almost entire evaluation period ... Ended ICW Women's World title reign at 553 days ... Challenged Stephanie Vaquer for NJPW STRONG Women's title at Fantasticamania U.K. ... Retained PROGRESS Women's title in ThrashElvania (Williamstown, NJ) triple-threat with Delmi Exo and Shazza McKenzie.

**26 Julia Hart** (4, 105) Secret Weapon: Black mist ... Former *Wrestling Observer* Most Improved Wrestler won first title, usurping TBS champ Kris Statlander at Full Gear ... Retained title against Lady Frost, Abadon, and Anna Jay in 155-day reign ... Won majority of matches during evaluation period ... Missed key time due to unfortunate injury.

**27 Saori Anou** (9, 81) Trained by: Yuna Manase ... Stardom standout visited TJPW, Sendai Girls, and OZ Academy ... Sendai Girls champion and two-time Wonder of Stardom champ during evaluation period, dethroning Mika Iwata for

both titles in July ... Challenged for OZ Academy's Pioneer and openweight titles ... Stared fans down with ice-cold entrance gaze.

**28 Tam Nakano** (8, 5) Affiliation: Cosmic Angels ... Two-time World of Stardom champion during evaluation period ... Lost first title due to injury hiatus ... Returned strong after injury, dethroning Natsuko Tora for the "Red Belt" ... Teamed with Willow Nightingale at AEW Forbidden Door ... Also appeared at ROH Supercard of Honor.

**29 Kelani Jordan** (1, NL) Sports Background: Gymnastics ... Debuts on PWI Women's ranking after stellar performance during rookie year ... First-ever WWENXT Women's North American champion after besting five opponents in ladder match at NXT Battleground ... Made it to finals of Women's Breakout Tournament ... Should be a star for years to come.

**30 Naomi** (15, 23) Hometown: Orlando, Florida ... Former Knockouts World champion returned to WWE as surprise entrant in Royal Rumble ... Successfully defended Knockouts title against Mickie James and Deonna Purrazzo ... Competed in Women's Elimination Chamber and Money in the Bank matches ... Has rounded out in-ring game with submission skills ... Glows.

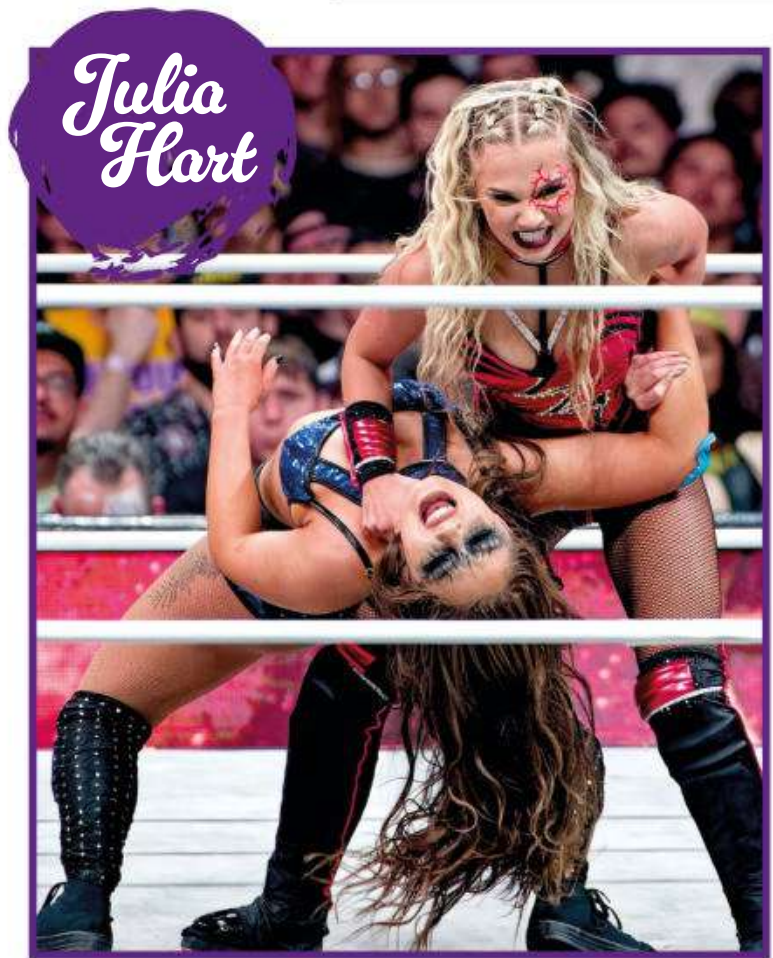
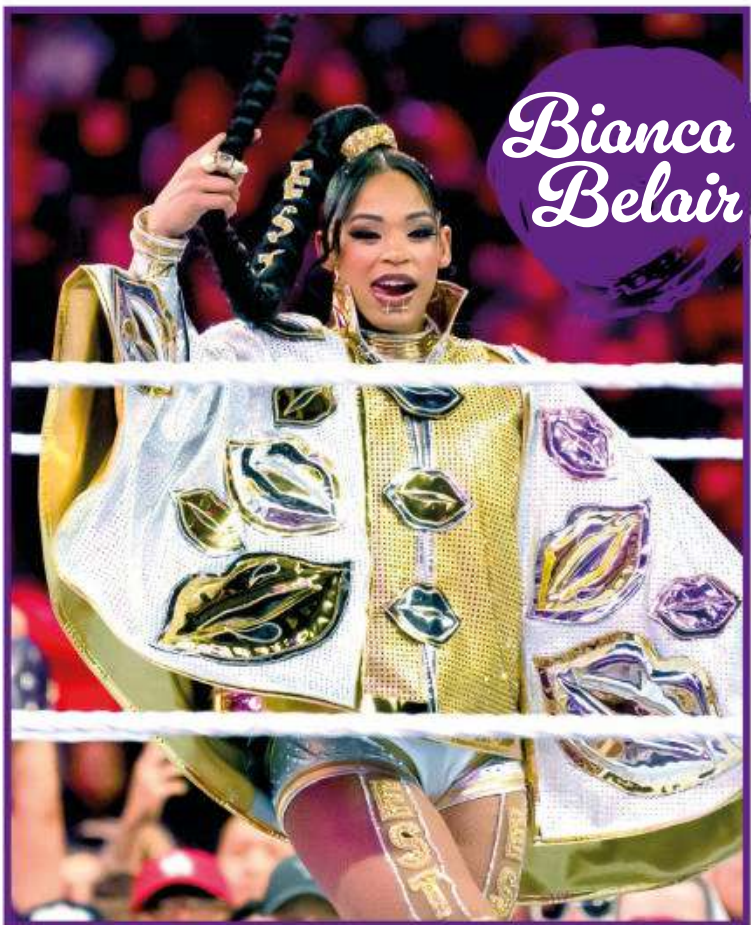


PHOTO BY SCOTTELESH



PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH



Bianca Belair

PHOTO BY EARL GARDNER

**31 Hikaru Shida** (16, 28) Home Promotion: AEW ... Split time between All Elite Wrestling and joshi promotions ... Held Regina Di WAVE title and AEW Women's World title at very beginning of period ... Stalwart competitor earned TBS title and ROH Women's World title opportunities ... Still a favorite of AEW diehards.

**32 Tiffany Stratton** (3, 25) Signature Move: Prettiest Moonsault Ever ... Spent third year of career as emerging star on main roster ... Participated in namesake matches at Royal Rumble, Elimination Chamber, and Money in the Bank ... Wins over Iyo Sky, Lyra Valkyria, and Naomi ... MITB briefcase suggests future world title reign; continued "Tiffany Time."

**33 Billie Starkz** (5, 56) Side Hustle: College student ... ROH Women's division pillar wrestled in more than a dozen promotions during evaluation period ... Defeated Marina Shafir to win first-ever REVOLVER Women's Grand Prix ... Toppled Queen Aminata in final of ROH Women's TV championship tourney to become inaugural titleholder ... Athena's loyal Minion.

**34 Bianca Belair** (7, 3) Ring Style: Powerhouse ... Former WWE Women's champion spent most of evaluation period in tag

team competition ... Challenged Iyo Sky for the WWE Women's title at Crown Jewel ... Participant in Women's Elimination Chamber match ... Teamed with Jade Cargill and Naomi at WrestleMania 40 in important moment for representation.

**35 Flyan** (10, 45) Trained By: Booker T ... Native Texan continued global campaign, competing for wXw Women's title in Germany ... Challenged Giulia for NJPW STRONG gold ... Defeated Masha Slamovich at West Coast Pro Wrestling to win

coveted Queen of the Indies tourney ... Also shined at Deadlock Pro, FIRST Wrestling, and New Texas Pro.

**36 Kris Statlander** (7, 18) New Bestie: Stokely Hathaway ... Former AEW TBS champion dropped title to Julia Hart at Full Gear ... Shocked fans by ending friendship with Willow Nightingale, creating a vicious feud ... Challenged for the CMLL World Women's title ... Defeated Nightingale at All Out in Chicago Street Fight ... Boasts impressive 450 splash.

**37 Janai Kai** (6, 205) Sports Background: Kickboxing ... Acted as face of Major League Wrestling Women's division throughout indies ... MLW Women's World Featherweight champion held title from early in evaluation period ... Defended against Delmi Exo, Maki Itoh, and Miyu Yamashita ... Dragon sleeper is highly effective ... Strong striker hails from Washington D.C.

**38 Mika Iwata** (9, NL) Home Promotion: Sendai Girls' Pro Wrestling ... First annual PWI ranking for Fukuoka native, who entered evaluation period as Sendai Girls champion ... Traded Sendai Girls, Wonder of Stardom belts with Saori Anou in memorable series ... Holds singles wins over Lena Kross, Manami, and ZONES ... Trained by Meiko Satomura.

**39 Deonna Purrazzo** (11, 7) Nickname: "The Virtuosa" ... Former Knockouts World champion heard strong ovation after debuting for AEW in January ... Challenged Toni Storm for the AEW Women's World title at Revolution ... Traded wins with Thunder Rosa in violent rivalry ... Hackettstown, New Jersey native holds key victory over Mariah May.

**40 Natsupoi** (9, 143) Secret Weapon: Fairy energy ... Meltar member jumps 100+ spots from last year's ranking ... Defeated teammate Saori Anou to snag Wonder of Stardom title in July ... Appeared at TJPW show in tag action ... Defended Stardom title against Hazuki in highly acclaimed match ... Strong high-speed wrestler with plentiful spirit.



Mika Iwata

PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH

**41 Megan Bayne** (6, 196) Nick-name: "Megabus" ... Hit ground running by touring Stardom at beginning of evaluation period, ending extended stint on sidelines ... Faced Giulia at Stardom Dream Queendom for the NJPW STRONG Women's title ... Challenged Maika for the World of Stardom title ... Remained dominant on American indie circuit.

**42 Alex Windsor** (15, 34) Affiliation: Cutthroat Collective ... Longest-reigning RevPro Undisputed British Women's champion dropped title to Dani Luna in December ... Challenged Stephanie Vaquer for NJPW STRONG Women's title and Aliss Ink for BODYSLAM! Women's crown ... Appeared for AEW and ROH ... Deft grappler would be strong addition to any women's division.

**43 Natsuko Tora** (7, 127) Ring Style: Brawler ... Former Oedo Tai villainess bagged biggest career win to date, downing Maika for World of Stardom title ... Challenged Giulia for NJPW STRONG Women's belt ... Took VENY to double-countout at Natsu Sumire 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show ... Feared member of new Stardom group, H.A.T.E.

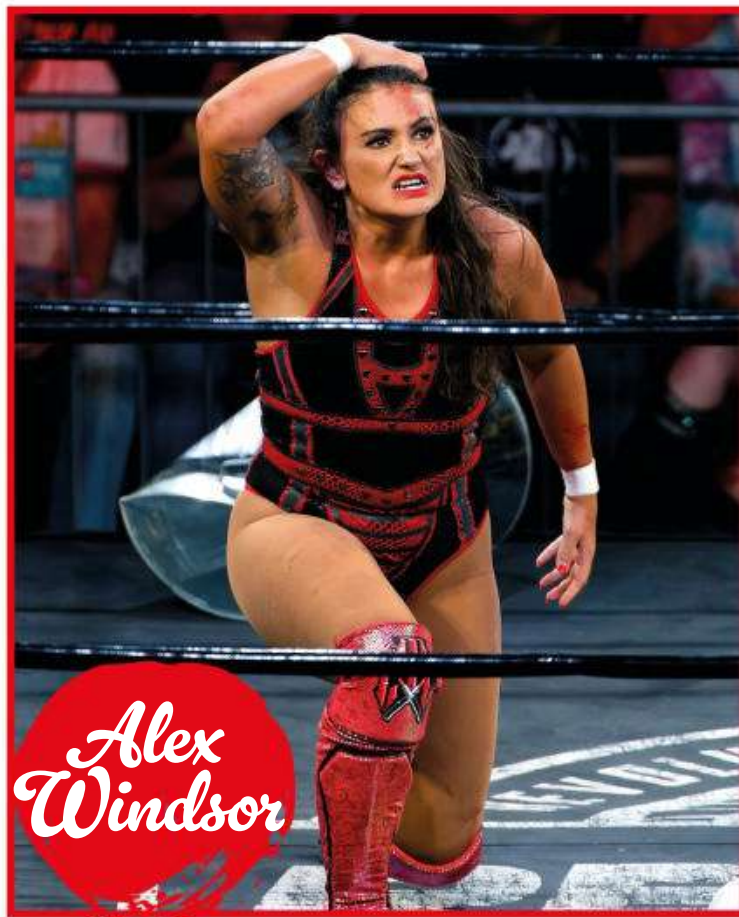
**44 Jade Cargill** (3, 14) Sports Background: Basketball ... Joined WWE as one of most talked-about interpromotional jumps ... Debuted at Royal Rumble as surprise entrant ... Teamed with Bianca Belair and Naomi at WrestleMania 40 less than three months later ... Competed in Queen of the

Ring tournament ... Potential future world champion.

**45 Ash By Elegance** (10, NL) Home Promotion: TNA Wrestling ... WWE alum returns to this list after a successful, classy rebrand ... Snagged first non-WWE title by winning fatal four-way for World Series Wrestling (Australia) Women's championship ... Challenged Jordynne Grace twice for TNA Knockouts World title ... Accompanied by The Personal Concierge.

**46 Shayna Baszler** (8, 58) Tagline: "Loyalty Is Everything" ... Stepped outside of tag competition to focus on singles efforts ... Took a holiday from WWE to visit GCW twice, defeating Miyu Yamashita and Masha Slamovich ... Remained consistently in WWE Women's World title picture on house shows and on TV ... Top-tier submission game.

**47 Chihiro Flashimoto** (8, 146) Trained By: Meiko Satomura ... Powerhouse competed across various Japanese promotions ... Paired with Sareee to defeat Cosmic Angels ... Main-evented Sareee-ISM show against its namesake in a 23-minute, all-out



Alex Windsor

PHOTO BY SCOTTELESH

donnybrook ... Battled Jordynne Grace at a Sendai Girls' event ... Defeated MICHIKO at GLEAT ... Thrived in tag environments.

**48 Zeuxis** (16, NL) Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico ... Lucha freelancer appears on "Women's 250" for first time ... Joined Stephanie Vaquer in tag competition at NJPW STRONG ... Defeated Willow Nightingale to become CMLL World Women's champion ... Challenged Mercedes Mone for AEW TBS title ... Appeared in ROH dark match.

**49 Shazza McKenzie** (16, 88) Hometown: Sydney, New South Wales ... Beloved star of the American indie scene, which she's made her new home ... Charted impressive reign as Wrestlemax (St. Louis) Women's champ, before falling to protege Nixi XS ... Wins over Maggie Lee, Kaia McKenna, Rachel Armstrong ... Fares well in occasional no-holds-barred bouts.

**50 Flanan** (7, NL) Trained By: Fuka ... Former Future Of Stardom champion returns to our list after a true breakout year ... Won Stardom's 2024 Cinderella Tournament, last defeating Ami Sohrei in the final ... Picked up some major wins in 5STAR Grand Prix, too, besting Syuri, Saya Kamitani, Thekla, and Risa Sera.



Shazza McKenzie

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA CRIM

Queen Aminata vs. Skye Blue

PHOTO BY DAVID FITZGERALD JR.



**51 Red Velvet** (8, NL) Signature Move: Final Slice ... Career year for popular talent, who vied for TBS title, AEW Women's World championship, and ROH Women's World title ... Defeated Billie Starkz for ROH Women's TV belt at Death Before Dishonor ... Went on to successfully defend said belt against Lady Frost and Allysia Kay.

**52 Nina Samuels** (10, 163) Signature Move: Hell to the Knee-na ... Did her best Ultimo Dragon impression by holding seven concurrent singles championships from 2023 into 2024, eventually increasing the number to 10 ... Came up short in bid for PROGRESS Women's belt ... Defeated Miyu Yamashita in defense of Pro Wrestling: EVE crown.

**53 Viva Van** (6, 68) Nickname: "HellBent Vixen" ... Driven performer continued reign as Big Time Wrestling Women's champion, with successful defenses against Jada Stone, Brittne Brooks, Sandra Moone, and Su Yung ... Lost PCW ULTRA Women's title to Zamaya ... Fought Athena and Toni Storm for ROH Women's and AEW Women's World titles, respectively.

**54 Skye Blue** (7, 89) Side Hustle: Professional model ... Captured Warrior Wrestling Women's championship for first time in 2023 ... Fought Mercedes Moné for AEW TBS title in May ... Alongside Julia Hart, defeated Kris Statlander & Willow Nightingale in Rampage streetfight ... Scored key singles wins against Emi Sakura, Queen Aminata, and Kris Statlander.

**55 Queen Aminata** (7, 189) CV: Held Generation Championship Wrestling Women's title for 400+ days ... Reached final of ROH Women's TV title tourney with wins over Red Velvet and Taya Valkyrie ... Came up short to Mariah May in AEW Women's World title Eliminator match on Dynamite ... Bested Skye Blue in hard-fought Rampage bout.

**56 Miku Aono** (7, 195) Home Promotion: Marigold ... Defeated Bozilla, immediately after besting MIRAI, to become inaugural Marigold United National champion ... Lost Actwres girl'Z title to Mari after a notable string of successful defenses ... Battled Giulia to 20-minute draw at Marigold Summer Gold Shine ... Finalist in Twin Star tag title tournament.

**57 Natsumi Showzuki** (12, NL) Nickname: "723" ... Defeated Mari to win Actwres girl'Z championship ... Retained it over Chika Goto ... Won inaugural Marigold Superfly (High Speed) title after downing Misa Matsui ... Began Marigold Dream Star Grand Prix journey in August with time-limit draw against Victoria Yuzuki; win over Nagisa Nozaki.

**58 Rina** (6, NL) Signature Move: Hydrangea ... H.A.T.E. member's star continued to rise, thanks to successful run as Future of Stardom champion ... Reigned with triumphant title defenses against Lady C, Waka Tsukiyama, Azusa Inaba, HANAKO, Victoria Yuzuki, and more... "Pink Devil" became New Blood tag team champion (w/ Inaba) in July.

**59 Max The Impaler** (6, 74) Nickname: "Non-Binary Nightmare" ... Defeated Kenzie Paige to become NWA Women's TV champion ... Launched successful reign with wins against Ruthie Jay, Taylor Rising, MJ Jenkins, Regina Rosendahl ... Went on to defeat reigning TJPW International Princess champion Rika Tatsumi ... Later dropped International Princess title to Yuki Arai.

**60 Mei Seira** (6, NL) Home Promotion: Stardom ... Held Goddesses of Stardom championship and became a two-time High Speed champion in 2024 ... Competed in a slew of notable matches with Crazy Star teammate Suzu Suzuki ... Wrestled in #1 contendership rumble match for Wonder of Stardom title ... Claimed Ws against Hina, Victoria Yuzuki.

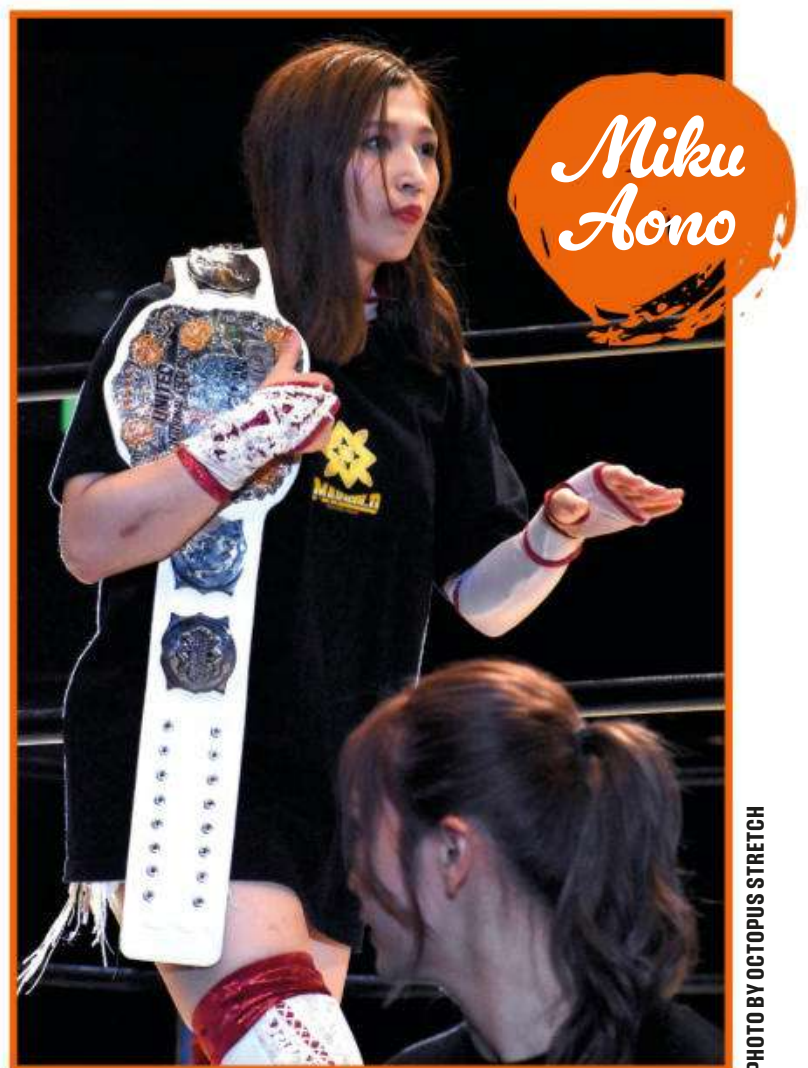


PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH

**61 Vertvixen** (5, 39) Signature Move: Finish Her ... Ended a prosperous run as the DEFY Women's champion—including wins over Allie Katch, Nicole Matthews—with loss to Marina Shafir ... Challenged Miu Watanabe in Princess Of Princess title match ... Had multiple matches on Ring of Honor programming ... Competed in 2024 Queen of the Indies.

**62 Mirai** (5, 43) Nickname: "Child Of The Soul" ... Held Wonder of Stardom championship until December loss to Saori Anou ... Claimed Artist of Stardom title (w/ Ami Sohrei & Syuri) from Donna Del Mondo ... Helped launch Marigold promotion ... Intense ring rivalry with Miku Aono ... Won Marigold Twin Star title (w/ Mai Sakurai).

**63 AZM** (10, 47) Hometown: Tokyo, Japan ... Shined in numerous Stardom matches as a member of Queen's Quest ... Made it to semifinals of Cinderella Tournament by downing Sayaka Kurara and Miyu Amasaki ... Took Stephanie Vaquer to limit for NJPW STRONG Women's title ... Beat Tam Nakano and Mayu Iwatani in 5STAR Grand Prix.

**64 Ultami Flayashita** (6, 40) Signature Move: BT Bomb ... Following a tri-

umphant U.S. indie tour, returned to Stardom, then Marigold ... With Saya Kamitani, conquered Megan Bayne & Maika to win Goddesses of Stardom title ... Waged intense ring war with Iyo



Sky ... Needs some big wins to secure title as Marigold ace.

**65 Thunder Rosa** (10, NL) Side Hustle: Singing ... After long stint recovering from injury, made TV return on *AEW Collision*, teaming with Abadon to defeat Julia Hart & Skye Blue ... Triumphant against Queen Aminata, Lady Frost, Mariah May ... Traded Ws in brutal feud with Deonna Purrazzo, including victory in Texas Bullrope match.

**66 Delmi Exo** (9, 62) Hometown: Providence, Rhode Island ... Held MLW World featherweight title before dropping it to Janai Kai ... Remained top contender in division, defeating Miyu Yamashita at Summer of the Beasts in August ... Challenged Rhio for PROGRESS title in triple-threat ... Holds singles wins against Paris Van Dale, Tiara James (among others).

**67 Momo Watanabe** (10, 133) Affiliation: H.A.T.E. ... Became three-time Goddesses of Stardom champion with Thekla in July ... Competed at AEW/NJPW Forbidden Door 2024 in *Zero Hour* match ... Battled Mercedes Moné in



PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH



barnburner for the NJPW STRONG Women's title ... Defeated Saya Iida, Tam Nakano in 5STAR Grand Prix action.

**68 Kristara** (3, 223) Trained by: Mike Bailey & Shayne Hawke ... "Sweetest Pea" defeated Krystal Moon for the CBPW (Ontario) Women's title ... Continued successful reign as Acclaim Pro Wrestling Women's champion in matches against Beaa Moss, Seleziya Sparx, Kacey Diamond, Melanie Havok, and Katrina Creed ... Defeated by Rosemary in *TNA IMPACT* debut.

**69 Maki Itoh** (9, 60) Tagline: "World's Cutest Wrestler" ... Became GCW Extreme champion and two-time TJPW Princess tag team champion (w/ Miyu Yamashita) ... Scored significant singles wins over Kylie Alexa (Paige), Sandra Moone, Shazza McKenzie, and Nicole Matthews ... Unsuccessful in bid against Janai Kai for the MLW Women's World featherweight title.

**70 DELTA** (4, 219) Nickname: "Adelaide Powerhouse" ... Exciting Aussie talent made headlines and new fans after reportedly signing with WWE ... Held three Riot City Wrestling championships and two Melbourne City Wrestling championships within the evaluation period ... Faced Jordynne Grace in TNA Knockouts World title match at Oceania Pro Wrestling H.E.R. pay-per-view.



PHOTO BY ALLIE MCPHETRIDGE



PHOTO BY SCOTT LESH

**71 Unagi Sayaka** (5, 218) Sports Background: Swimming ... Reigning CMLL-Japan Women's champ defeated Dark Silueta for it in June ... Won the DDT Ironman heavymetalweight title a whopping 12 times in 2024 ... Was also Kitsune champion and JTO Girls champion during the evaluation period, in which she wrestled more than 110 matches.

**72 Syuri** (15, 37) UFC Record: 1-3... Leader of God's Eye won Artist of Stardom title for a second time with her stablemates Ami Sohrei & MIRAI ... Also won—for a second time—the Goddesses of Stardom tag title with Konami ... Former World of Stardom champion reached quarterfinals of 5STAR Grand Prix ... Tough as nails.

**73 Arianna Grace** (6, NL) Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario ... Made TNA debut in September, becoming a liaison between the company and NXT ... Second-generation wrestler is the daughter of Santino Marella, with whom she appeared on-screen for the first time at Victory Road ... In NXT, had wins over Roxanne Perez, Fallon Henley, and Sol Ruca.

**74 Asuka** (20, 11) 2017 "Female 50" Ranking: #1 ... In November, joined former Kabuki Warriors partner Kairi Sane in Damage CTRL ... Won

the WWE Women's tag team title with Sane on *Smackdown* in January, defeating Katana Chance & Kayden Carter ... Infrequent singles bouts, but notched wins over Michin and Charlotte Flair.

**75 Bozilla** (2, NL) Hometown: Hanover, Germany ... 2024 was a breakout year for Marigold's monster ... Competed on company's first-ever show, teaming with Saree to beat Giulia & Utami Hayashishita ... Had wins in singles competition against Hayashishita, Nanae Takahashi, and Miku

Aono ... Was the SIRIUS Women's champion in her home country.

**76 Jody Threat** (6, 49) Trained By: Josh Alexander ... Won TNA Knockouts World tag title twice with Spitfire teammate Dani Luna ... They defeated MK Ultra in March; Masha Slamovich & Tasha Steelz in September ... Downed Vanna Black to win the Smash Women's title ... 503-day reign as Winnipeg Pro Women's champion ended in January.

**77 Thekla** (7, 155) Nickname: "Idol Killer" ... Won the Goddesses of Stardom title with Oedo Tai ally Momo Watanabe in July, defeating Konami & Syuri... Formed H.A.T.E. with Watanabe and Konami... Challenged for High Speed title in December... Employs agile attacks, taking special exception to pop idols-turned-wrestlers.

**78 Ava Everett** (6, 66) Trained By: NEPW Academy ... Defeated Vicious Vicki to win the

ISPW Women's title in March ... Had tough November, dropping Pro Wrestling Holland, German Wrestling Federation, and wXw Women's titles ... Despite losses, remains a star talent in the U.S. and Europe ... Teams with LSG as Cosmic Cuties.

**79 Zoey Stark** (11, 75) Affiliation: Pure Fusion Collective ... Won a battle royal to face WWE Women's champion Rhea Ripley at Survivor Series ... Battled Becky Lynch 12 times in singles competition ... Mostly teamed with Shayna Baszler, challenging for the WWE Women's tag team title ... Competed in Money in the Bank ladder match.

**80 Takumi Iroha** (11, 124) Trained By: Chigusa Nagayo... Defeated Marvelous AAW champion Mayumi Ozaki to win title for second time ... In December, won RCW Women's title in Barcelona, Spain ... Retained West Coast Pro Women's crown over Masha Slamovich, Sandra Moone in California ... Worked for various Japanese promotions, including NOAH and Sendai Girls.



PHOTO BY ISSA MARIE



**81 Marina Shafir** (6, 170) Sports Background: MMA... Defeated Vertvixen in May, ending her 559-day reign as DEFY Women's champion ... Won Bloodsport Women's tournament in April, defeating Lindsay Snow by KO ... Finalist in REVOLVER's Women's Grand Prix ... Boasts wins over Masha Slamovich, Janai Kai, Mike Bailey ... Aligned with Jon Moxley in AEW.

**82 Allie Katch** (9, 64) Affiliation: BUSSY (w/ EFFY) ... Main-evented IWS' 25th anniversary show in an eight-person tag team deathmatch ... Had title bouts against GCW Extreme champion Maki Itoh and DEFY Women's champion Vertvixen ... Wrestled in Japan, England, Scotland, and all over the U.S. and Canada during evaluation period.

**83 Suzu Suzuki** (6, 31) Signature Move: Tequila Shot ... Won the Goddesses of Stardom belts with her Crazy Star partner, Mei Seira, in March, defeating Saya Kamitani & Utami Hayashishita ... Lost title in May against STARS ... 2023 5STAR Grand Prix winner went 3-4 in this year's tournament ... Battled Maika at Dream Queendom 2023

**84 Loue O'Farrell** (16, NL) Signature Move: The Royal Decree ... Stayed NSPW junior heavyweight champion all year, nearing 700-day reign ... Defended her title 12 times during the evaluation period ... Had wins over LuFisto, Kristara,

and Azaelle... Longtime fan favorite, she turned heel and became the obnoxious "Queen Of NSPW."

**85 VENY** (9, 50) Trained By: Ayako Hamada ... Became Regina Di WAVE champion by defeating Hikaru Shida in October ... Lost the title to Yuki Miyazaki on Christmas Eve ... Former Sendai Girls champion, she wrestled Mika Iwata for the title in April ... Teamed with the legendary Jaguar Yokota at Korakuen Hall.

**86 Sandra Moone** (7, 164) Hometown: Las Vegas ... Competed in ROH Women's TV title tournament ... Challenged West Coast Pro Wrestling Women's champion Takumi Iroha twice ... Defeated Zara Zakher at "Untouchable" supershow ... Memorable outings against Rachael Ellering, Billie Starkz, and Jordynne Grace ... Among the most popular women on U.S. independent scene.

**87 Session Moth Martina** (13, 83) Hometown: Dublin, Ireland ... Twice won NLW Women's title in Ireland ... Defended her OTT Women's crown successfully throughout evaluation period ... Challenged Rhio for the PROGRESS Women's title in August ... Also worked for EVE and GCW ... One of the most fun, charismatic characters in all of wrestling.

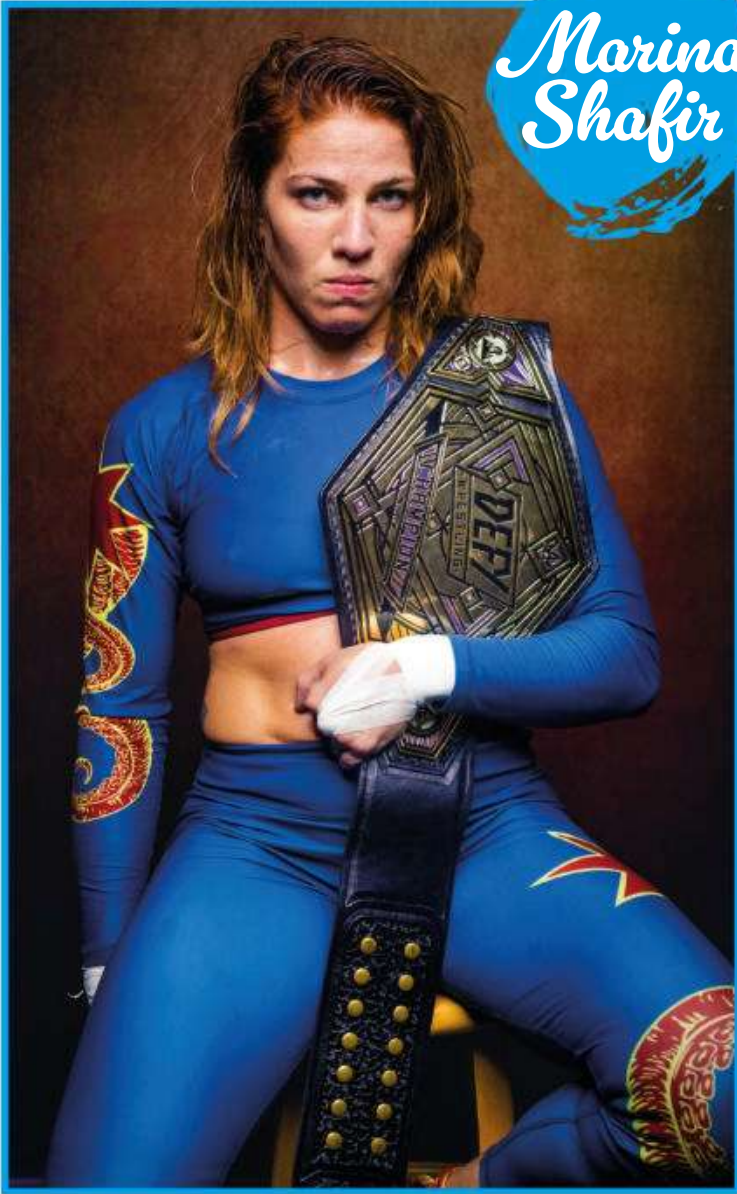


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home country, Denmark, Japan, Norway, and Austria ... In Stardom, wrestled as "Scandinavian Hurricane" ... Utilizing strong martial arts background, faced Nanae Takahashi in a UWF Rules match ... Top talent of Northern Europe held BODYSLAM! Women's title for entire evaluation period.

**89 Saya Kamitani** (5, 20) Ring Style: High-flyer ... Won Stardom High Speed title in April, before losing it to Mei Seira in July ... Finalist in both the 5STAR Grand Prix and Catch the WAVE tournaments ... Won vacant Goddesses of Stardom title with Utami Hayashishita ... Went rogue after long run as fan favorite.

**90 Jaida Parker** (1, NL) Sports Background: Soccer ... Was praised for effort against Roxanne Perez at No Mercy ... Wins over Michin, Gigi Dolin, Fallon Henley ... Wrestled in a six-way ladder match for the inaugural NXT Women's North American title at Battleground ... Excellent mic work ... One of NXT's most talented rookies.



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**88 Aliss Ink** (6, 70) Ring Style: MMA/striker ... Swedish-born wrestler worked in

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**Gisele Shaw vs. Lizzy Evo & Mercedes Blaze**

**91 Alexis Lee** (11, 148) Hometown: Singapore ... Hit 3,000 days as WWE Vixens champion ... Retained over Hibiscus Mii, Ricky D. Licious, and Poppy ... Feud continued against Yuki Kamifuku ... Defeated Kaya Toribami and Miyu Yamashita in three-way bout ... Former SPW Queen of Asia shined in Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, South Korea.

**92 Gisele Shaw** (9, 63) Nickname: "The Quintessential Diva" ... Has victories over Tasha Steelz, Laynie Luck, and Shazza McKenzie ... Helped steal show at RevPro 12 Year Anniversary in thrilling tag bout ... Challenged for the TNA Knockouts World championship after winning January 13 Ultimate X match ... Beat Steph De Lander on Jericho Cruise.

**93 Anna Jay** (5, 111) Trained By: Nightmare Factory ... "Queen Slayer" sharpened in-ring skills with Stardom excursion, where she competed in the illustrious 5STAR Grand Prix tournament ... Picked up wins over Saori Anou and Koguma ... In AEW, claimed victories against Ruby Soho and Red Velvet ... Also fared well at ROH tapings.

**94 La Catalina** (5, NL) Nickname: "La Diva Del Ring" ... First Chilean woman to wrestle in WWE ... Considered one of CMLL's top luchadoras ... Frequently teamed

with Tessa Blanchard ... Made impact in hard-hitting best-of-three-falls matches ... Challenged Stephanie Vaquer for NJPW STRONG Women's belt at Fantasticamania ... Wins over La Jarochita, Reyna Isis.

**95 Lola Vice** (2, NL) Hometown: Miami, Florida ... Former Bellator star signed with WWE Developmental in 2022 ... Used MMA skills to win the WWE NXT Women's Breakout Tournament, beating Kelani Jordan in the final ... Holds victories over Elektra Lopez, Jacy Jayne, and Sol

Ruca ... Has contended for the NXT Women's championship.

**96 Lana Austin** (7, 48) Hometown: Manchester, England ... Defeated Rhio to become Insane Championship Wrestling Women's champion ... Entered evaluation period as PROGRESS Women's champ before falling to Rhio ... One-half of The Austins (with LA Austin), she also held the Grand Pro Wrestling tag title ... Won Pro Wrestling Chaos Maiden Voyage tourney.

**97 Mizuki** (12, 19) Home Promotion: Tokyo Joshi Pro-Wrestling ... Princess of Princess championship reign ended early in evaluation period (at 205 days) after defeat by Miyu Yamashita ... Found more success as a tag wrestler this year, winning Gatoh Move's Asia Dream title with SAKI ... Singles Ws against Allie Katch and Pom Harajuku.

**98 Lizzy Evo** (11, 108) Hometown: Liverpool, England ... Defeated Jessie Jay to become the German Wrestling Federation Women's champion at the GWF/RevPro supershow ... Retained title in a three-way

against Amy Heartbeat, Iva Kolasky ... "Princess Of Wrestling" also wore gold for TNT and Slammasters Wrestling ... Part of RevPro's Cut-Throat Collective.

**99 Lena Kross** (7, 92) Hometown: Perth, Western Australia ... Wrestled worldwide, including notable stints in Japan for Sendai Girls ... Made PROGRESS Wrestling debut in the U.K. ... Learned from Nina Samuels as they teamed in Sendai Girls, Pro Wrestling: EVE ... Defeated Baby Allison, Nanami ... Dethroned Lady Frost for WrestlePro Women's crown.

**100 Natalya** (24, 101) Nickname: "The BOAT Of WWE" ... Wrestled on Raw, NXT, and Main Event ... Boasts victories over Elektra Lopez and Alba Fyre ... Teamed with Tegan Nox in feud against Shayna Baszler & Zoey Stark ... Number-one entrant in 2024 Royal Rumble ... The only woman to rank on every edition of this list.

PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH





**101 Steph De Lander** (7, 69) ...Hometown: Melbourne, Victoria ... “Death Match Queen” held Premier Women’s title throughout evaluation period ... Challenged Jordynne Grace at TNA Rebellion for the Knockouts World championship ... “Married” PCO ... Indie superstar announced she would be undergoing neck surgery soon and taking needed time off ... Get well soon, Steph!

**102 YuuRI** (4, 211) Signature Move: Sleeperhold... “Glamorous Valkyrie” won the vacant ICEX-Infinity championship—Ice Ribbon’s top prize—defeating Hamuko Hoshi in tournament final ... Retained against Tsukina Umino... Battled Mio Momono in main event of Ganbare Pro Emerald Dragon ’24 ... Fared well in three-way matches ... YuuRI also wore tag gold for Ice Ribbon.

**103 Sierra** (9, 96) AKA: Evil Sierra ... Wisconsin native scored singles wins over Missa Kate, Gypsy Mac... Has perfected the Shotgun Knees corner strike ... Simultaneously held Discover Pro Women’s title, AAW Women’s title, and Chicago Style Wrestling tag team championship (w/ Joey Avalon) ... Concluded 428-day reign as Midwest Pro Women’s champion.

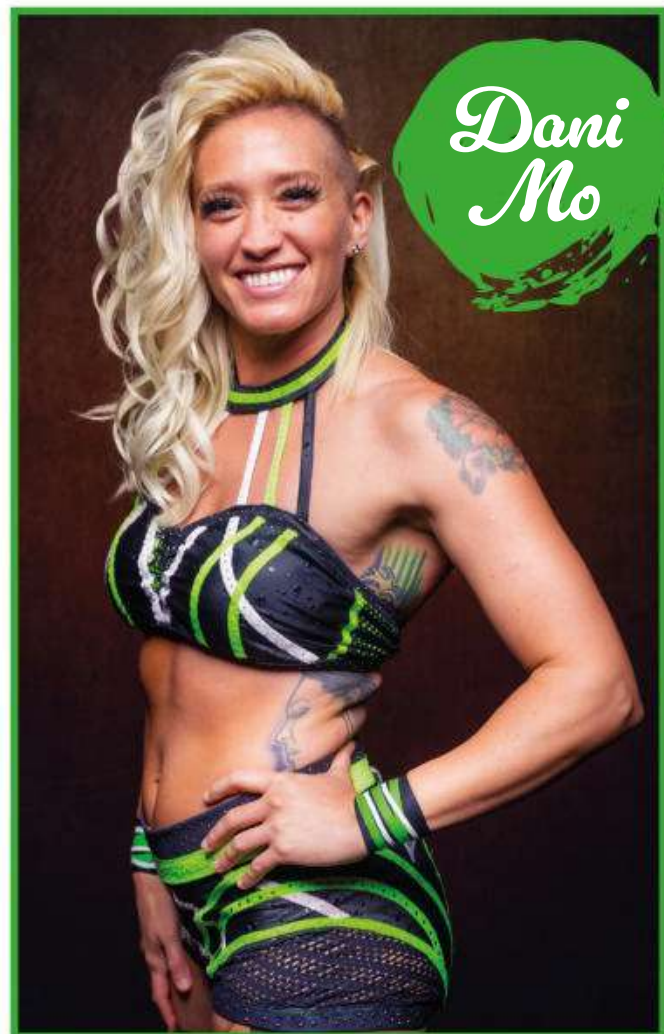


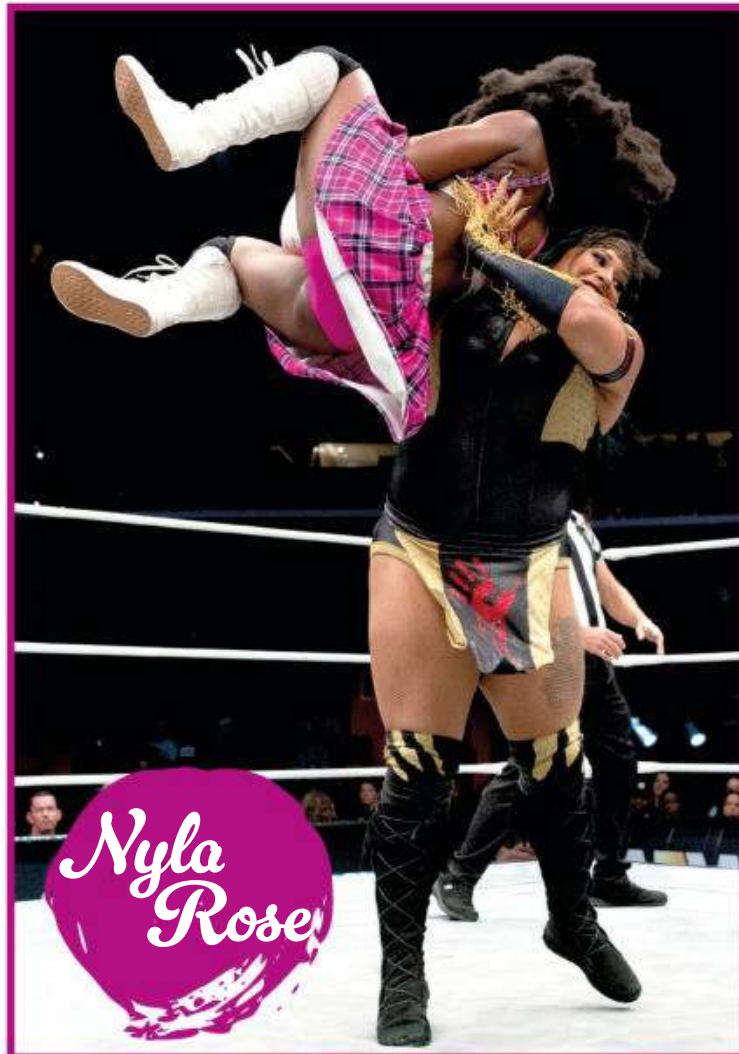
PHOTO BY ALLIE MCPHETRIDGE

**104 Konami** (9, NL) Home Promotion: World Wonder Ring Stardom... Known as the “Fighting Princess” and “Submission Sniper,” veteran MMA-style competitor is renowned for being both a great technical wrestler and striker ... Held Goddess of Stardom championship (w/ Syuri) ... Beat Hazuki, Ruaka, and Yuna Mizumori in 5STAR Grand Prix action.

**105 Nyla Rose** (11, 113) Home Promotion: AEW ... “Native Beast” challenged Mariah May for AEW Women’s World title; Mercedes Moné for TBS belt... Won Pandemonium tag title with social media rival Serpentico (whom she mocked with a paid advertisement in *PWT*) ... Dominated competition on *ROH On HonorClub*, including Erica Leigh and Alexia Nicole.

**106 Starlight Kid** (8, 76) Home Promotion: World Wonder Ring Stardom... Fast-paced high-flyer reached quarterfinals of the 5STAR Grand Prix, having defeated Anna Jay, Koguma, and Xena ... Captured the SPARK Joshi championship, defeating Sumie Sakai over WrestleMania Weekend ... Downed HANAKO on New Japan card ... Still one of Stardom’s most promising athletes.

**107 Sol Ruca** (2, NL) Hometown: Ontario, California ... Turns heads with her finisher, the Sol Snatcher ... Challenged Jordynne Grace for the TNA Knockouts title as part of the NXT-TNA crossover ... Also faced Roxanne for the NXT Women’s title ... Earned her way into the ladder match for the inaugural NXT Women’s North American title.



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**108 Yuki Arai** (3, NL) Hometown: Kyoto, Japan... Known as the “Genius Girl”... Held TJPW International Princess championship at press time... Defeated Max The Impaler in January to win the title ... Made it to the semifinals of Tokyo Princess Cup ... Retained International Princess title against Yuki Kamifuku, LA Taylor, and Juria Nagano.

**109 Dani Mo** (4, 147) Affiliation: Neon Blondes (w/ FACADE) ... Set world record for highest elevation women’s wrestling match, competing atop a mountain in Nepal ... Recently defeated Sammi Chaos for Pennsylvania Premiere Women’s belt ... Held Battleground Women’s and Remix Pro Fury crowns ... Beat Shazza McKenzie at Next Generation Wrestling.

**110 Debbie Keitel** (7, 110) Hometown: Galway, Ireland ... Coffee-fueled competitor captured the Community Pro Women’s title and the EVE tag team championship (w/ Anita Vaughan) ... Challenged Rhio for the PROGRESS Women’s crown ... Bested Eve Bateman and Lizzy Evo for NORTH Wrestling ... Likes to finish opponents with The Debbie Downer.

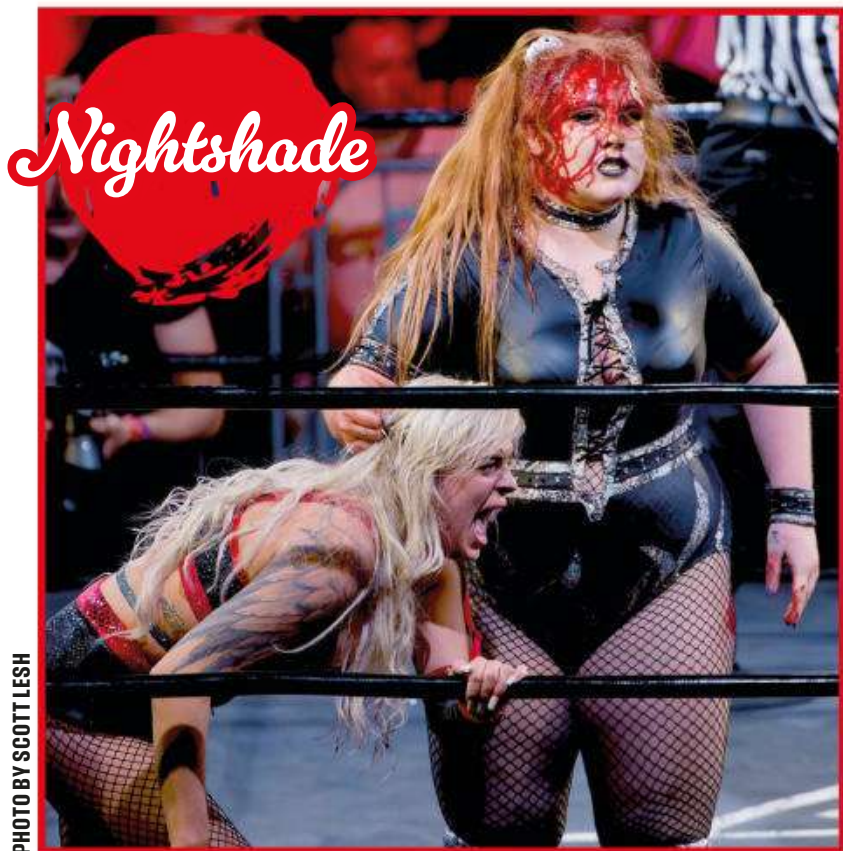


PHOTO BY SCOTTELESH

**111 Yuu** (8, 35) Sports Background: Judo ... At press time, nearing 700 days with Pro Wrestling: EVE International championship ... Has mounted successful defenses against Rhio, Yoshiko Hasegawa, Kaori Yoneyama, and Yuuki Mashiro (among others) ... Entered evaluation period as Queen of JTO champion ... Also wore Sendai Girls tag, All Japan six-man gold.

**112 Chelsea Green** (10, 150) Side Hustle: Dog mom ... Defeated Bianca Belair and Michin to qualify for the Women's Money in the Bank ladder match ... Then, proceeded to steal the show by falling off the top of a ladder and crashing through two tables ... Has singles victories over Tegan Nox, Natalya, and Candice LeRae.

**113 Serena Deeb** (18, NL) Nickname: "The Professor" ... Challenged Toni Storm for the AEW Women's World championship at Double or Nothing ... Advanced to the quarterfinals of the Owen Hart Women's Tournament ... Returned to action in January 2024 after nearly 16 months on the shelf ... Superb mat skills.

**114 Nightshade** (10, 128) Hometown: Buckingham, England ... Holder of Immortal Wrestling and Pro Wrestling EAST Women's championships in England ... Teamed up with Debbie Keitel, Gisele Shaw, Kanji, & Rhio to take on the Cut-Throat Collective in a show-stealing no-DQ match at RevPro's

12<sup>th</sup> anniversary show ... Challenged Dani Luna for Undisputed British Women's title.

**115 Gabby Forza** (1, NL) Trained By: Create A Pro Academy ... Inaugural Create A Pro Women's champion ... Won Beyond Wrestling's \$10,000 Women's Rumble ... "Gnomie" picked up key dukes over Masha Slamovich, Megan Bayne, and Allie Katch ... Third-runner up

for 2023 PWI Rookie of the Year Award.

**116 Haruka Umesaki** (5, 160) Home Promotion: World Woman Pro-Wrestling Diana ... Was Diana champion for 474 days ... Successful title defenses against Mei Seira, Unagi Sayaka, and Tae Honma ... Wrestled in Stardom, NOAH, Marvelous, Evolution Joshi, WAVE, and OZ Academy during the evaluation period ... Finalist in Strong Style Women's Tag Team Title Tournament.

**117 Lluvia** (16, 123) Ring Style: Technical ... Defeated Dark Silueta for the Occidente Women's championship in April ... Faced Viva Van and Willow Nightingale in a three-way match at Fantasticamania U.S.A. for the vacant CMLL World Women's championship ... Decorated tag team wrestler as one-half of Chicas Indomables (w/ La Jarochita).

**118 Kylie Paige** (2, 158) AKA: Kylie Alexa ... NWA JCP Women's champion was also the inaugural Hooligan Championship Wrestling Women's Heritage champ ... Winning singles record in 2024 with victories over Freya

The Slaya, Alice Crowley, and Tiffany Nieves ... Faced Maki Itoh in GCW during WrestleCade Weekend ... Hails from Sevierville, Tennessee.

**119 Flammer** (15, 42) AKA: Lady Flammer ... AAA pillar burned bright on indies ... Held AAA Reina de Reinas title during entire evaluation period ... Defended title against Faby Apache at Triplemania ... Spent most of the year tagging as part of Las Toxicas ... Visited Australia for a championship showdown with Jessica Troy.

**120 Missa Kate** (6, 140) Nickname: "Chicago's Sweetheart" ... Held the Pro Wrestling Epic, GALLI, & Chicago Style Wrestling Women's championships during the evaluation period ... Appeared on AEW TV as a local talent during Illinois Rampage tapings ... Challenged Kenzie Paige for the NWA World Women's title in April.



PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

**121** *Jessy Jay* (11, NL) Country Of Origin: Austria... Reached finals of Walkyrien Cup tournament ... Holder of German Wrestling Promotion Women's championship and Baltic Championship Wrestling North Division title... Held German Wrestling Federation Women's championship for 292 days ... Defeated Nightshade in 20-minute no-DQ Iron Man match to retain the title.

**122** *Racey Diamond* (22, NL) Signature Move: Perfect Diamond ... Defeated Nova and Beaa Moss to become Gatineau Pro Wrestling Women's champion... Seven successful defenses as the first and only woman to hold the AWE heavyweight championship in Quebec ... Vied for Federation Canadienne de Lutte and Acclaim Pro Wrestling Women's titles.

**123** *Zayda Steel* (2, NL) Nickname: "The Real Deal" ... Was a part of the inaugural Marigold roster in Japan ... Eliminated from the Marigold Superfly title tournament in the first round ... Challenged for the MLW World Women's featherweight championship in four-way match in May ... Ws over Gia Scott, Notorious Mimi, Kennedi Copeland.



Zayda Steel

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

**124** *Ryo Mizunami* (19, NL) Trained By: Meiko Satomura ... Winner of TJPW's Tokyo Princess Cup 2024 tournament with victories over Yuki Aino, Yuki Arai, Rika Tatsumi, and Haru Kazashiro ... Went on to challenge Miu Watanabe for Princess of Princess title at Wrestle Princess 5... Wore tag gold in TJPW, OZ Academy, Sendai Girls.

**125** *Rita Stone* (3, NL) Hometown: Central Coast, New South Wales ... Placed at number 11 on the 2023 Pro Wrestling Downunder Top 25 Women list ... Defeated Charli Evans in a 30-minute Iron Woman match at International Wrestling Australia "Take No Prisoners" event... Key singles wins over Lena Kross, Shay Cassidy, and Daisy.

lenged J-Rod for the OVW Women's championship in August... Faced Billie Starkz in a Proving Ground match for the ROH Women's TV title ... Was the inaugural Viral Pro Women's champion for 252 days ... Also reigned as champ in Ontario's Smash Wrestling.

**128** *Sexy Star II* (8, 221) Nickname: "La Gatita" ... Reigning New Tradition Lucha Libre Women's champion ... Competed in 2024 AAA Reina de Reinas tournament ... Won NTL's Victorian Cup tournament ... Scored singles victories against Brooke Havok, Shazza McKenzie, Keyra, Everly Rivera, Lady Lee ... Fought for KAOZ and House of Glory Women's championships.

**129** *Shoko Nakajima* (11, 98) TJPW Role: Pillar ... "Big Kaiju" defeated Masha Slamovich and Jada Stone in the Deadlock Pro Wrestling Battle of the Best tournament ... Faced Miu Watanabe for the Princess of Princess championship at Yes! Wonderland ... Beat PROGRESS Women's champ Rhio in non-title bout over WrestleMania Weekend.

**130** *Mila Smidt* (8, NL) Finisher: Widow's Peak ... Concurrently held Pakistan's ROP Women's championship, Germany's POWLadies championship, and France's ABC Women's title... Self-professed "belt collector" also possessed Unlimited Challenge title, European Wrestling Association Women's crown, and Tigers Pro Wrestling Tigress championship during the evaluation period ... Watch out for her in 2025.

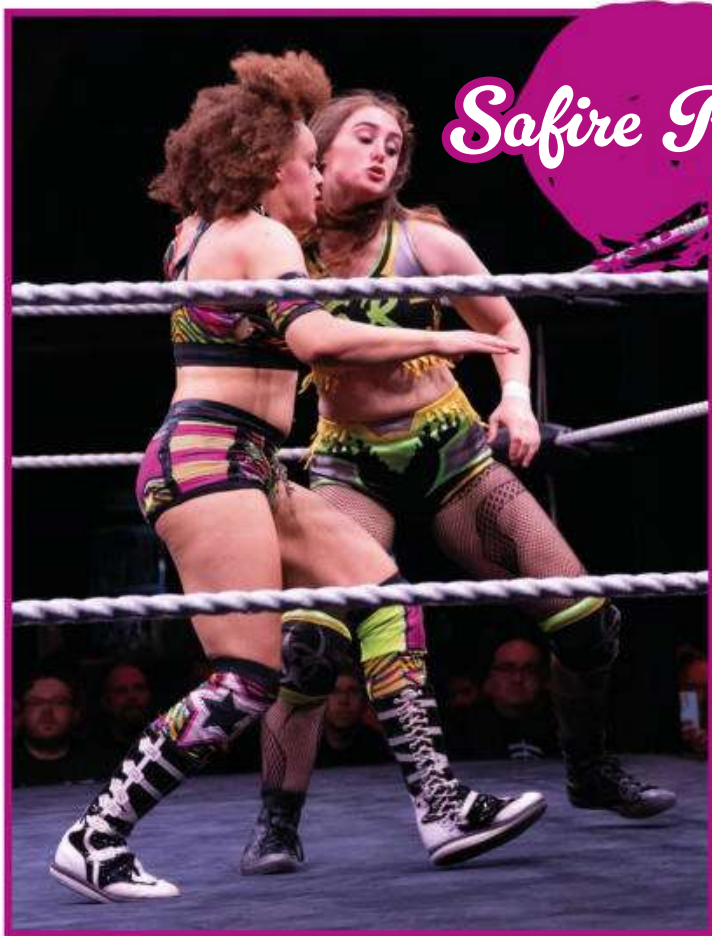


Shoko Nakajima

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

**126** *Mio Momono* (8, 132) Sports Background: Basketball... Spent 112 days as OZ Academy openweight champion ... Lost to then-AAAW champion Mayumi Ozaki in title-vs.-title bout... Competed in Sendai Girls, Marvelous, OZ Academy, Ganbare Pro, WAVE, NOAH, and others during evaluation period.

**127** *Dream Girl Ellie* (6, 129) Home Promotion: Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Chal-



Safire Reed

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

**131 Kira Chimera** (9, NL) Nickname: "The Anticonformist" ... Rennes native has become fixture of the French wrestling scene ... Punishes opponents with powerful in-ring style ... Defeated Celine to begin second run as Rixe Women's champion ... Was the inaugural titleholder until loss earlier in evaluation period ... Defeated Amale and Mila Smidt in a three-way match.

**132 Erica Leigh** (7, NL) Hometown: Richmond, Virginia ... Returns to annual Women's ranking on the strength of TV and indie appearances ... A frequent visitor of both AEW and ROH programming ... Picked up singles wins over Avery Jax, Gabby Ortiz, Ziggy Haim, and Vita VonStarr ... Wild-haired member of The Outrunners.

**133 Ranji** (7, NL) Hometown: Nottingham, England ... This staple of RevPro's women's division defeated Livvii Grace to become Pro Wrestling Chaos' Maiden of Chaos champion ... Wrestled Stephanie Vaquer at Fantasicamania U.K. ... Holds wins over Debbie Keitel, Millie McKenzie, and Lizzy Evo ... Defeated Freya The Slaya at Pro Wrestling: EVE.

**134 Safire Reed** (3, NL) Nickname: "The Radioac-

tive One" ... First-ever appearance on an annual PWI ranking ... Member of the dangerous Cut-Throat Collective ... Defeated Miyu Yamashita to win the Pro Wrestling: EVE championship ... Memorable battles with Aja Kong, Max The Impaler, Dani Luna, and others ... Defeated Rachel Armstrong in wXw debut.

**135 Aysa** (8, 215) Tagline: "First Class" ... Well-traveled Australian has held the Renegades of Wrestling Women's championship for more than 500 days, at time of this writing ... Retained it against Tarlee and Charli Evans

... Competed in all-star gauntlet match to crown a new World Series Wrestling Women's champion ... Keeps it classy.

**136 Mazzerati** (8, NL) Hometown: West Hills, California ... Returns to Women's ranking after one of her busiest years ... Defeated Rachelle Riveter to begin second reign as Future Stars of Wrestling Women's champion ... Appeared in ROH, AAA, House of Glory, and Game Changer Wrestling ... Overtook Zara Zakher as NTLL (California) Khutulun champ.

**137 Taya Valkyrie** (14, 26) Hometown: Victoria, British Columbia ... Magnetic vet has become a regular at Ring of Honor ... Made it to the quarterfinals of the ROH Women's TV title tourney ... Defeated Shoko Nakajima at Prestige/TJPW Combat Princess U.S.A. ...

Wins over Laynie Luck, Haley J, and Leila Grey.

**138 Heather Reckless** (5, 176) Hometown: Denver, Colorado ... Midwest-based wrestler jumps nearly 40 spots from last year's list after signing with TNA ... Has wrestled in Black Label Pro, Glory Pro, and West Coast Pro ... Battled Gisele Shaw in Shaw's final TNA match ... Promising new face in one of wrestling's best women's divisions.

**139 Blair Davenport** (11, 131) Home Promotion: WWE ... Native of Harrogate, England, was called up to Smackdown in the 2024 draft ... Won an Iron Survivor match to challenge Lyra Valkyria for the NXT Women's title ... Found a main roster rival in Naomi ... Scored wins over Wren Sinclair and Nikkita Lyons, among others.

**140 Trish Adora** (8, 57) Trained By: Team 3D Academy ... Despite having a home in ROH/AEW, mat maven showed out in indies like GCW and Deadlock Pro ... Challenged Giulia for NJPW STRONG Women's title ... Holds victories over Vertvixen, Brooke Havok ... Military vet is part of super popular ROH stable, The Infantry.



Trish Adora

PHOTO BY MIKEY NOLAN

**141 Tatum Paxley** (2, NL) Hometown: Dallas, Texas ... Spooky newcomer makes her first appearance on this list ... Challenged for every women's title in NXT ... Faced Jordynne Grace in TNA for the Knockouts World championship ... Holds wins over Rosemary and Thea Hail ... Texan should have a promising future in WWE.

**142 Kylie Rae** (9, NL) Hometown: Chicago, Illinois ... The longtime indie stalwart returned to the scene, much to the delight of fans ... Wrestled in several prestigious independents, including GCW and Black Label Pro ... Defeated DARK Sheik and Jazmin Allure in singles action ... Challenged Megan Bayne for House of Glory Women's title.

**143 Leyla Hirsch** (8, NL) Ring Style: Technical ... Her year was highlighted by a violent rivalry with Diamante in ROH that culminated in a Texas Death Match at ROH Death Before Dishonor ... Surpassed Rachael Ellering in ROH Women's Television title tournament ... Recorded solo Ws against Heather Reckless and both Renegade Twins.



Leyla Hirsch

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

**144 Reyna Isis** (11, 55) Home Promotion: CMLL ... Held Mexican National Women's title throughout evaluation period, retaining it in three defenses ... Holds wins over Zeuxis, Lluvia, and La Catalina ... Competed in the 2023 Women's Grand Prix and Universal Amazonas title tournament ... Recently challenged herself by branching out into bodybuilding.

**147 Miyu Amasaki** (3, NL) Home Promotion: Stardom ... Relative newcomer ranks for the very first time on this list ... Downed Ranna Yagami and Mai Sakurai in 2024 Cinderella Tournament ... Made an appearance in Gatoh Move against Mei Suruga ... Won mini-tourney to qualify for 5STAR Grand Prix, where she would upset Xena.

**148 Leila Grey** (5, 151) Signature Move: Facebuster ... "Baddie" claimed OVW Women's championship for fourth time, defeating Freya The Slaya ... Held onto it for 201 days ... Busy year saw Grey become a regular fixture of ROH, join Top Flight, and begin training at NJPW Academy ... Her best years still lie ahead.

**149 Izzi Dame** (2, NL) Home Promotion: WWE ... Another newcomer making "250" for the first time ... Despite relative inexperience, challenged Jordynne Grace for Knockouts World title in TNA; Kelani Jordan for NXT Women's North American belt ... Key win over Gigi Doli on *Level Up* ... Former volleyball star uses height, leverage to advantage.

**150 LA Taylor** (6, NL) Tagline: "Six Feet Of Fury" ... Challenged Yuki Arai for TJPW International Princess title in Japan ... Notable appearances for PROGRESS, Pro Wrestling: EVE ... Feuded with Nina Samuels ... Boasts wins over Dani Luna, Lizzy Evo ... Defeated Emersyn Jayne and Harley Hudson in defense of SOVPRO Women's crown.

**145 Miyuki Takase** (7, 188) Nickname: "Phoenix Of Osaka" ... Versatile competitor wrestles across Japan, North America, and the U.K., for companies such as WAVE, NOAH, Sendai Girls, Pro Wrestling: EVE ... Defeated Emi Sakura to win the Deadlock Pro Women's championship ... Retained over Tae Honma at show celebrating Takase's 7-year wrestling anniversary.

**146 Tiffany Nieves** (4, 184) Nickname: "La Princesa" ... Staple of OVW's women's division who signed exclusively with the NWA in July ... Captured NWA Exodus Pro Midwest Women's championship ... One of the final two competitors in the 2024 Mildred Burke Invitational Battle Royal ... Challenged for OVW Women's title ... PWI "One To Watch."



PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

Tiffany Nieves

**151 Keyra** (15, NL) Hometown: Mexico City, Mexico ... Tough as nails luchadora held IWRG Intercontinental Women's gold and The Crash's Femenil championship during our evaluation period ... Bagged key victories over Ayako Hamada, Natalia Markova, and Lluvia on the Mexican indie scene ... Experience and diverse moveset serve her well in high-flying lucha libre scene.

**152 Fallon Henley** (7, 240) Affiliation: Fatal Influence ... NXT's resident cowgirl continued to rein in competition, kick hides on Tuesday nights ... Triumphed over Tiffany Stratton in a match that saw "Tiffy" then have to serve as Henley's ranch hand ... Had wins over Lash Legend, Kiana James, Blair Davenport, and Carlee Bright.

**153 Abadon** (5, NL) Nickname: "Living Dead Girl" ... Ghoulish grappler lands on our list for the first time thanks to impressive outings in AEW and ROH ... Bested Anna Jay, Skye Blue, and Willow Nightingale in a four-way

on *Rampage*... Elsewhere, had wins over Allysia Kay, Kiera Hogan, and Trish Adora.

**154 Diamante** (16, 135) Home Promotion: Ring of Honor... Veteran competitor was a regular fixture of *ROH On Honor Club* ... Competed in quarterfinals of Women's TV title tournament before falling to eventual winner Billie Starkz ... Bloody war with Leyla Hirsch saw the two swap wins in Lights Out and Texas Death matches.

**155 Tessa Blanchard** (10, NL) Lineage: Daughter of Tully Blanchard... Former TNA World champ has been reigniting her career in CMLL ... Grabbed Ws over Zeuxis, La Catalina, Lluvia, and other top luchadoras ... Became a tag team champion alongside Lluvia... Capable technician held Rings of Europe's GLAM! championship during evaluation period.

**156 Millie McKenzie** (8, 94) Ring Style: Technical ... British battler was at the forefront of the U.K. scene throughout our evaluation period ... Secured wins against Harley Hudson, Ashley Vega, and Man Like DeReiss ... "Fight To A Finish" victory over Emersyn Jayne at Pro Wrestling EVE's Wrestle Queendom was a calendar highlight.

**157 Rika Tatsumi** (10, 53) Home Promotion: Tokyo Joshi Pro-Wrestling ... "The White Dragon" continues to breathe fire into TJPW ... Opened our evaluation

period as the International Princess champion... Downed Wakana Uehara, Shino Suzuki, and Haru Kazashiro in singles action ... Finalist in the Futari Wa Princess Max Heart tag tourney.

**158 Zoe Sager** (6, 67) Sports Background: Rugby... Native of Alberta, Canada, appears on both the "PWI 500" and "Women's 250" lists for a second year running... Held Love Pro Wrestling Challenge and Grand championships during evaluation period ... Downed Vertvixen, Kc Spinelli, and Kylie Rae ... Also bested Mike Bailey in a choice encounter.

**159 Zara Zakher** (1, NL) Nickname: "The Petite Powerhouse" ... Rookie sensation has already held several championships on the West Coast... Landed in Japan and made it to the semifinals of TJPW Tokyo Princess Cup, scoring impressive wins over Miu Watanabe and Mizuki ... Noteworthy athlete is one of many cheerleaders transitioning well to wrestling.

**160 Su Yung** (16, NL) Signature Move: Panic Switch... Fought motley crew of opponents, such as Joey Janela, Allie Katch, and Peter Olisander, on U.S. and European indies ... Challenged Nina Samuels for Pro Wrestling: EVE title at Fall Grrrls show ... Fared well at EVE, generally, with wins over Skye Smitson, Safire Reed.



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PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH

**161 Chantal Jordan** (6, 178) Hometown: Birmingham, England ... Held five different independent titles during the evaluation period ... Bagged wins over Harley Hudson, Su Yung, and Lucia Lee along the way ... Defeated Lana Austin at Kamikaze Pro's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show to become the promotion's Fighting Females champion ... Known to deliver a mean inverted piledriver.

**162 Marti Belle** (16, NL) Trained By: Johnny Rodz ... Hex member continues to cast a spell over the women's scene ... Won the EMERGE Women's championship by defeating Salena Dean ... Had successful title defenses over Freya The Slaya, Miss Larkan, and Joseline Navarro ... Beat Masha Slamovich in TNA.

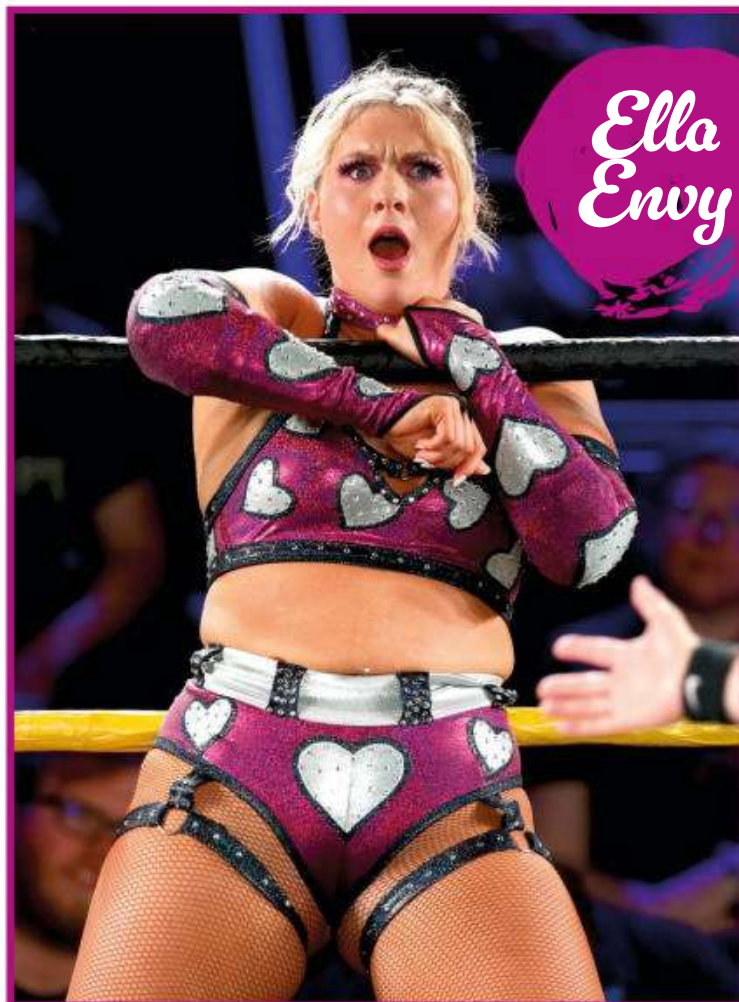
**163 Freya The Slaya** (7, 232) Signature Move: Off With Her Head ... "Queen Of The North" has been doing particularly well in the South ... Held gold in Ohio Valley Wrestling and NWA: JCP ... Had notable wins over Tiffany Nieves and Blair Onyx ... Formed unlikely team with Haley J in OVW.

**164 Natalia Markova** (17, 91) Nickname "Russian Crush"

... NWA mainstay also found success on the independent circuit ... Won Midwest All-Star's Women's Invitational tourney ... Bested Heather Monroe, Tiffany Nieves, and Allie Recks in singles contests ... Beat Max The Impaler via countout on *NWA Powerrr* ... Won Mildred Burke Invitational at NWA 76.

**165 Nanae Takahashi** (28, NL) Home Promotion: Marigold ... Veteran joshi competitor returns to our rankings ... Competed mostly in tag team matches in Stardom before finding singles success in Marigold ... Had an impressive MMA style win over Aliss Ink in Stardom last winter ... Took down Marigold challengers in "Passion Injection" matches.

**166 Jessica Troy** (10, 138) Nickname: "Granola Grappler" ... Australian armbars aficionado collected limbs and victories in the Southern Hemisphere ... Reigned as Pro Wrestling Australia's heavy-weight champ for almost our entire evaluation period ... Bested DELTA, Lena Kross, and Cherry Stephens in title defenses ... Also a proficient tag team wrestler.



Ella Envy

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

and Kelani Jordan on house shows ... As charismatic as anyone on any WWE brand.

**168 Ella Envy** (4, 152) Nickname: "The It Girl" ... Multi-time NWA women's tag champ was nearly as impressive in singles competition ... Scored indie wins over Kaia McKenna, Rachel Armstrong, and Amanda Kiss ... In the NWA, defeated Missa Kate and pushed Max The Impaler to a time-limit draw for the Women's TV championship.

**169 Taryn From Accounting** (5, 153) Signature Move: Death and Taxes ... Number-crunching Canadian has been crushing it on the indie scene ... Reigned as Nation Extreme Wrestling Women's champ for our entire evaluation period ... Enjoyed notable victories over Nicole Matthews, Zoe Sager, and Liiza Hall ... Tends to impress in tournament formats.

**170 Risa Sera** (11, 122) Hometown: Hiroshima, Japan ... Emi Sakura-trained competitor is as versatile as they come ... Became a three-time WAVE tag team champion and PURE J openweight champ ... Picked up wins in Stardom's 5STAR Grand Prix ... Loves to mix it up in deathmatches when the opportunity presents itself.



Risa Sera

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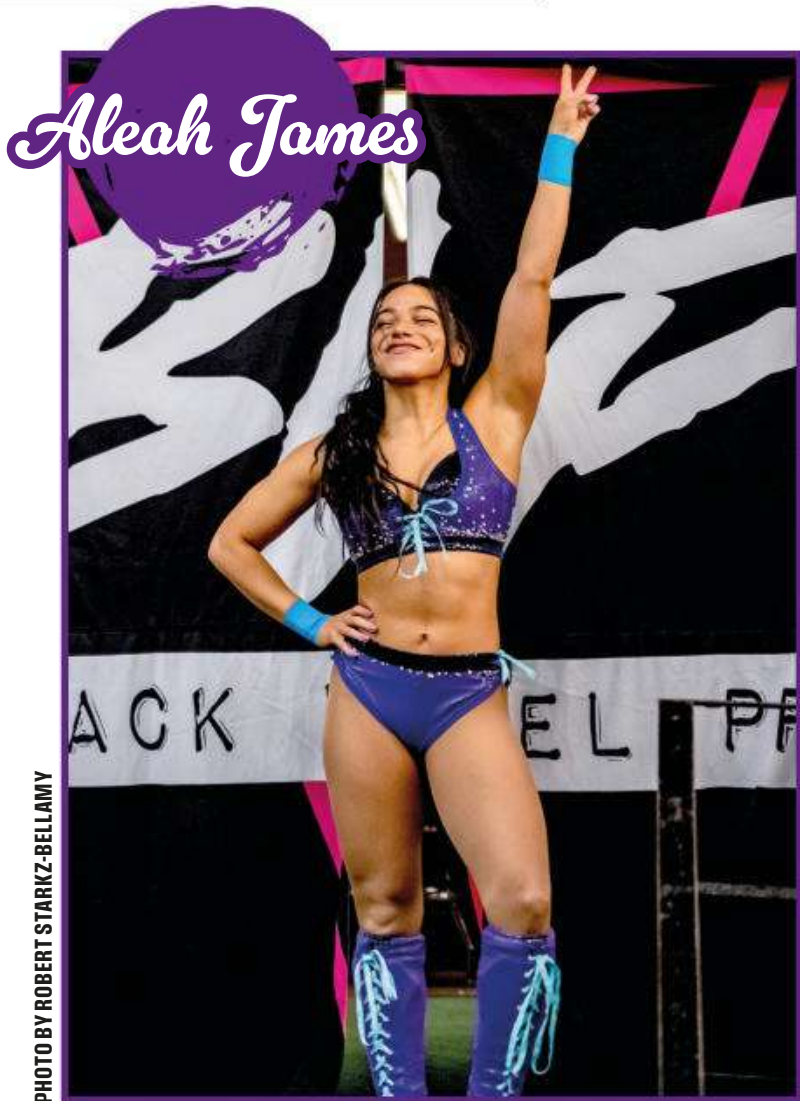


PHOTO BY ROBERT STARKZ-BELLAMY

**171 Harley Hudson** (7, 238)  
 Nickname: "Pink Princess"  
 ... Liverpool native held multiple British women's championships, including for FutureShock and Phenomenal Elite Wrestling ... Won Gut Check during TNA/IMPACT U.K. Tour ... Challenged for ICW Women's title in Scotland; PWA Queen of Diamonds crown in Belgium ... Beat Skye Smitson at SOVPRO.

**172 Nicole Matthews** (18, 32)  
 Ring Style: Technical ... Respected Canadian grappler still shines as a competitor while training the next generation at Vancouver's Lions Gate Dojo ... Held Femmes Fatales championship for most of our evaluation period, recording successful defense over Vanessa Kraven in April ... Defeated Vertvixen, Rachel Armstrong in Deadlock Pro.

**173 Michin** (15, 224) AKA: Mia Yim ... Enjoyed solid run in NXT, competing for Women's North American title and picking up wins over Arianna Grace, Tatum Paxley, and Jaida Parker ... Challenged Iyo Sky for WWE Women's title ... Battled Nia Jax in streetfight; defeated Piper Niven on *Smackdown* ... Holds singles victory over Asuka.

**174 Allysia Ray** (16, 186)  
 Hometown: Detroit, Michigan ... CLASH Women's champion throughout evaluation period, with successful defenses against Masha Slamovich and Jody Threat ... Competed in REVOLVER Women's Grand Prix ... Defeated Katie Arquette in steel cage match at Greektown Wrestling ... Challenged for Knockouts World title on IMPACT 20th anniversary show.

**175 Maika Ozaki** (9, NL)  
 Affiliation: Rebel X Enemy ... Native of Japan's Kyoto prefecture achieved career highlight, dethroning Haruka Umesaki as top champion of

World Woman Pro-Wrestling Diana ... Retained title against Nanami at September event ... Wrestled regularly for 666 and WAVE promotions, even challenging for Regina di WAVE title in the latter.

**176 Koguma** (7, 233) Affiliation: FWC (w/ Hazuki) ... Now a two-time Goddesses of Stardom champion, Koguma is no slouch when it comes to singles competition, either ... Picked up key wins over Syuri and Miyu Amasaki in 5STAR Grand Prix ... Bagged non-tourney Ws over Hanan, Rian ... Watch out for her bear pose!

**177 Aleah James** (5, NL)  
 Hometown: Romford, England ... Former NXT.U.K. star returned to the ring, making memorable appearances for Pro Wrestling: EVE and other promotions ... Began excursion to

U.S., where she notched victories over Heather Reckless and Aminah Belmont ... Battled Athena at ROH; Hikaru Shida on *AEW Collision*.

**178 Tegan Nox** (11, NL)  
 Home Promotion: WWE ... Started evaluation period strong on the Raw brand, where she defeated Chelsea Green and faced Becky Lynch for the Women's World title ... Eliminated Natalya from 2024 Royal Rumble match before being tossed out by eventual winner Bayley ... Defeated Blair Davenport at a recent *Smackdown* taping.

**179 Kiera Flogan** (9, 154)  
 Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia ... Good year was derailed by unfortunate shoulder injury ... Defeated Danni Bee, Diamante, Allysia Kay, and Ashley D'Amboise on *ROH On HonorClub* ... Bested Charity King at inaugural show from North Carolina's ASÉ promotion ... Former Knockouts champ should make strong contender to ROH Women's World title.

**180 Saki Kashima** (11, 73)  
 Home Promotion: Stardom ... Member of God's Eye faction racked up some notable wins, including defeats of Saya Kamitani and Hanan in 5STAR Grand Prix tourney ... Held High Speed title twice, regaining it in triple-threat bout at Stardom's Philadelphia debut ... Competed in nearly 100 matches during the evaluation period.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY



**181 Tasha Steelz** (9, NL) Hometown: Brick City, NJ ... “Boricua Badass” returns to this ranking after increased activity and key wins ... Beat Deonna Purrazzo, Dani Luna, Allie Katch, and Ava Everett at TNA TV tapings ... Also holds victories over Vicious Vicki and Xia Brookside ... Never count out this former Knockouts World champion.

**182 J-Rod** (2, NL) AKA: Jessica Roden ... “Ultimate Athlete” embodies nickname inside the ring, collecting Ws and championships ... Highlight of year is August defeat of Leila Grey for the OVW Women’s title ... Has also defeated Sawyer Wreck, Maya World, and Shalonce Royal (among others) ... Trained by Rikishi & Black Pearl ... Current “One To Watch.”

**183 Mei Suruga** (6, 212) Nickname: “The Big Apple” ... Emi Sakura-trained wrestler rose to top of home promotion, Gatoh Move, by defeating Sakura for the Super Asia championship ... Retained said title against Miyuki Takase in September ... Bested Stardom’s Miyu Amasaki ... Completed tour of CMLL in Mexico ... Natural charisma, star power.

**184 Maya World** (2, 249) Trained By: Lou Gotti ... Native

Texan collected several singles championships in the Lone Star State, as well as Mission Pro tag gold (w/ Kiah Dream) ... Defeated Alejandra Lion at All Caribbean Wrestling’s WrestleMania Week show ... Impressed in outings at AEW, ROH ... Young talent has great future ahead.

**185 Dark Silueta** (18, NL) Home Promotion: CMLL ... Luchadora is back in mix after missing much of prior evaluation period ... Entered this one as CMLL-Japan Women’s champion ... Retained title twice against La Catalina in Mexico before falling to Unagi Sayaka in Japan ... Saw singles success in Pro Wrestling WAVE, Michinoku Pro.

**186 Yuki Kamifuku** (7, 157) AKA: Kamiyu ... “Casual Beauty” continues to captivate audiences everywhere she goes ... Fared well outside her native Japan, capturing the Singapore Pro Wrestling Queen of Asia and Vietnam Pro Wrestling Women’s titles ... Secured both with wins over Alexis Lee ... Downed Pom Harajuku in TJPW Tokyo Princess Cup tourney.

**187 Brittnie Brooks** (3, NL) Signature Move: Brittnie Bomb ... Determined young grappler from Arizona has garnered nationwide attention due to indie circuit efforts ... Bested Zayda Steel to become inaugural DREAM-WAVE Women’s champ ... Retained title against

Masha Slamovich and Zamaya ... Holds singles wins over J-Rod, Maggie Lee, and CMLL’s Persephone.

**188 Maya Yukihi** (10, 222) Nickname: “Unbreakable Crystal” ... Joshi freelancer brings intensity, fan interest to any promotion that books her ... Recorded singles wins over the likes of Gigi Rey, Yurika Oka, and Alexis Lee ... Appeared as “Mama Mamushi” for upstart Sukeban promotion ... Surpassed Charlie Morgan in Pro Wrestling: EVE “SHE-1” tourney.

**189 Ivelisse** (20, NL) Nickname: “La Sicaria” ... Fourth reign as SHINE champion rolled on through evaluation period, featuring successful defenses over Lindsay Snow, Xia Brookside, and Miyu Yamashita ... Defeated Christina Marie on September 14 to win Immortal Championship Wrestling Women’s crown ... In February, vied for IWA Puerto Rico Women’s title.

**190 Chik Tormenta** (18, NL) Hometown: Guadalajara, Mexico ... Lucha veteran is still making new fans, due in part to work on *WOW Superheroes*—where she competes as simply “Tormenta” ... Couldn’t quite slay The Beast in *WOW* championship contest ... Battled Lady Shani in AAA cagematch ... Wins over Sexy Star II, Vanilla Vargas, Ruby Raze.



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PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE DINH





PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE DINI

**191 Lady Frost** (6, 79) Ring Style: High-flyer ... “Murder Gymnast” has increased profile through TV appearances on *AEW Collision*, *ROH On Honor Club* ... Held *WrestlePro Women’s* title for a full year ... Scored wins against Promise Braxton, Kayla Sparks, and Vertvixen during evaluation period ... “Frostbite” (corkscrew moonsault) is a deadly thing of beauty.

**192 Hazuki** (9, NL) Hometown: Fukuoka, Japan ... STARS stalwart remains one of the most reliable in-ring performers in Stardom ... Challenged for High Speed and Wonder of Stardom titles during evaluation period ... Had another exciting run with Koguma in champion FWC team ... Racked up three wins in 5STAR Grand Prix tourney.

**193 Gia Scott** (6, NL) Tagline: “The Greatest Damn Woman” ... Baltimore native makes first career appearance on this ranking ... Does so on strength of several regional titles, but especially the MCW Women’s crown ... Began sixth reign with said title by defeating Christina Marie ... Holds wins over Janai Kai, MYLO during evaluation period.

**194 Thea Flail** (3, 115) Affiliation: Chase U ... Another strong year for the charismatic NXT star, who’s competed for championships several times but not yet struck gold ... Defeated Ivy Nile, Arianna Grace, and Jaida Parker at house shows ... Showed lots of heart in main-event

challenge of Roxanne Perez at Great American Bash.

**195 Evie de la Rosa** (20, NL) Hometown: Ponce, Puerto Rico ... Ring vet split time between New England indies and native Puerto Rico, yielding solid results in both regions ... Entered evaluation period as IWA Puerto Rico Women’s champion ... Recorded successful defenses against Ivelisse, La Rosa Negra ... Also wore gold for TOS (Connecticut) Wrestling.

**196 Angelica Risk** (3, NL) Trained By: Nightmare Factory ... Reigning Ladies Night Out champ retained title in defenses against Renee Michelle and Ivy Malibu ... Made strong addition to OVW roster, stringing together victories over Freya The Slaya, Tiffany Nieves, and Haley J ... Also appeared for ROH, including at Death Before Dishonor.

**197 Myla Grace** (6, NL) Hometown: Belfast, Northern Ireland ... Has gotten international attention as part of Dream Star Fighting Marigold, where she managed two solo wins over Zayda Steel ... Held Titanic Wrestling Women’s title for more than 200

days ... Defeated Daisy Jenkins at Pro Wrestling: EVE and Emily Locke in CCW (Florida).

**198 Yuki Aino** (6, NL) Home Promotion: TJPW ... “Burning Venus” of Tokyo Joshi Pro had career year, reigning as tag team champion with Ryo Mizunami and reaching finals of Princess Cup, where she fell to Mizunami ... Garnered major wins over Shoko Nakajima and Yuki Kamifuku earlier in the prestigious tournament.

**199 Rachael Ellering** (8, NL) Lineage: Daughter of Paul Ellering ... Lance Storm-trained grappler blends raw power with mat prowess ... Fell in first round of ROH Women’s TV title tourney ... Fared better in other ROH bouts, bagging Ws against likes of Robyn Renegade and Little Mean Kathleen ... Beat Mio Momono at West Coast Pro Wrestling.

**200 MYLO** ( 213) Trained By: Santino Bros. Wrestling Academy ... California indie standout is a two-time NTLL Khutulun champion, as well as a multi-time champ for the HOODSLAM promotion ... Defeated Zoe Sager, Izzy McQueen in DOA Queen of Thorns tournament ... Has singles victories against Ruthie Jay, Lara Frazier, and Johnnie Robbie.



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**201** *Flaley J* (4, 243) Nickname: "Hollyhood" ... Second-gen grappler scored wins over Alexxis Falcon, Nightshade, and Tiffany Nieves ... Bested Kira Chimera for the IWN Women's championship ... Appearances in AEW, RevPro, and on Netflix's *Wrestlers* helped expand her profile ... Controversial character draws a mixture of adoration and condemnation.

**202** *Christina Marie* (8, 167) Nickname: "Courageous" ... New York native held gold in her home state, as well as on the New Jersey and Maryland indies ... Had victories against Sonny Kiss, Notorious Mimi, and Ava Everett in high-profile matches ... Albany athlete packs an impressive power game alongside technical savvy.

**203** *Cherry Stephens* (5, NL) Hometown: Sydney, New South Wales ... 126-day reign as Battle Championship Wrestling's Women's champ was worth celebrating ... In BCW, had wins over Vixsin and Caity Luxe ... Underdog pushed Jessica Troy hard in a matchup for the PWA heavyweight title belt ... Thinks that books are tight.

**204** *Raori Yoneyama* (24, 230) AKA: Fukigen Death ...



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Veteran has been on a tear across the joshi indies ... Held the Ice Ribbon Triangle Ribbon and Diana Queen Elizabeth championships ... Challenged Yuu for Pro Wrestling: EVE International title in Japan's YMZ promotion ... Still best known as Fukigen Death, Stardom's brooding clown.

**205** *Kiana James* (3, 166) Education: Degree in Science ... Had a huge win over Roxanne Perez inside a steel cage at NXT's Deadline event ... Also notched wins over Kelani Jordan and Brinley Reece ... Business savvy performer was promoted from NXT to Raw in April ... Defeated Natalya on the red brand.

town: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania ... Former member of The Righteous has been impressive on independent circuit ... Entered evaluation period as Catalyst Wrestling Women's champion and Blood, Sweat, and Tears Monarchs champ ... Retained the latter over Delmi Exo, Little Mean Kathleen, and Sammi Chaos ... Uses acrobatic skills to great effect.

**208** *Victoria Yuzuki* (1, NL) Trained By: Milano Collection AT ... Rising young competitor hadn't even made her debut when we put together last year's list ... Won the Rookie of Stardom tournament, beating HANAKO in the final ... Jumped to the upstart Marigold promotion and gathered wins over Zayda Steel and Myla Grace.

**209** *Charli Evans* (9, 141) Affiliation: Medusa Complex ... "Chevs" makes fifth appearance on our women's list in as many years ... Split time between the U.S., Australia, Japan, and the U.K. ... Bested Jessica Troy, Risa Sera, and Cherry Stephens ... Versatile Aussie is also adept at tag team and deathmatches.

**210** *Yuuki Mashiro* (4, NL) Home Promotion: Ice Ribbon ... After a year away from the ring to pursue a career as a nurse, returned to form in 2024 ... Bested Ice Ribbon regulars Yappy and Saran ... Most success came in three-way matches, where she reigned as Triangle champion for four-plus months.

**206** *SARKI* (11, 118) Ring Style: Technical ... Colorful competitor held singles and doubles gold in Japan during the evaluation period ... Dethroned Maya Yukihi for the SPARK Joshi Atlantic championship ... Had successful defenses over Vertvixen and Sumie Sakai ... Bubbly persona masks a fierce competitor unafraid to mix it up in hardcore matches.

**207** *Vita VonStarr* (6, NL) Home-



PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY



PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

rifying veteran is still terrorizing the Japanese women's scene nearly four decades on ... Had wins over Trish Adora, DASH Chisako, and Raku... First appearance on this list is another accolade in a long, legendary career.

**215 Yuna Manase** (10, NL) Signature Move: Lariat ... Versatile competitor held tag gold in Ice Ribbon, the Ironman heavymetalweight championship in DDT, and the Kitsune championship in the promotion of the same name ... Enjoyed a high-profile win over Nao Kakuta in TJPW ... Is a highly respected

trainer, in addition to ring exploits.

**216 Mai Sakurai** (4, 226) Nickname: "Her Ladyship" ... Former Stardom star sparkled in previous promotion, besting Victoria Yuzuki, Fukigen Death, and Sayaka Kurara ... Jumped to the upstart Marigold promotion and established herself as a player there ... Scored victories over Bozilla, Myla Grace, and Nanae Takahashi ... Became Twin Star (tag) champ in Marigold.

**217 Savannah Evans** (10, 183) Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina ... "The Cannibal" continued to feast on indie opposition this year ... Downed Vanessa Kraven, Lexi Steel, and Jordan Blade ... Backed up Gisele Shaw in TNA until the SHAWntourage crumbled ... Tested Jordynne Grace in a Knockouts championship bout, but came up just short.

**218 Little Mean Kathleen** (4, 191) AKA: LMK ... Diminutive, angry grappler was highly prolific throughout New England ... Had wins over Tiara James and Elle Valentine ... Losses in ROH against Anna Jay

and Rachael Ellering didn't hurt her profile ... Small stature is offset by a giant personality that annoys opponents greatly.

**219 Seleziya Sparx** (14, NL) Signature Move: The Bedazzler ... Canadian competitor reigned as the top woman in Smash Wrestling for eight-plus months ... Successfully defended her title belt against Nikita, Haley Dylan, and Wanda Delrey ... Appeared for TNA in a clash with Ash By Elegance ... Has been scouted by top U.S. promotions.

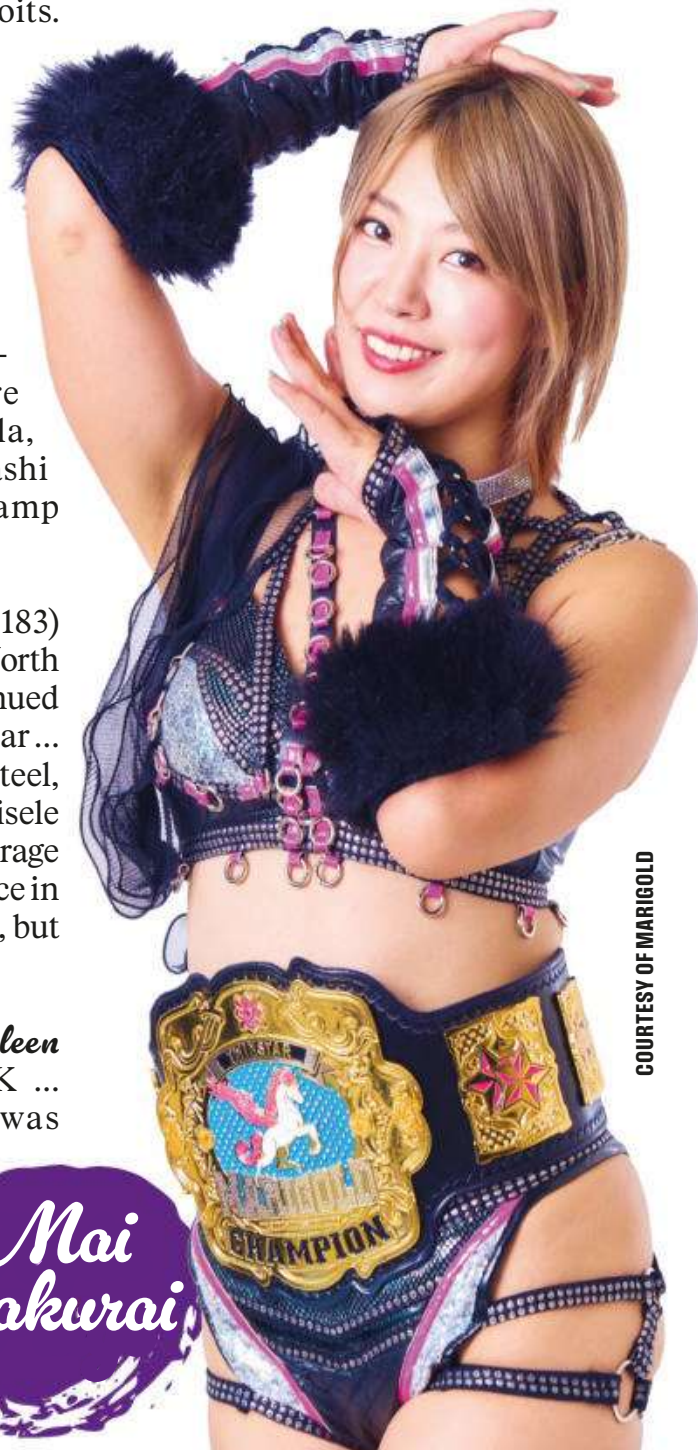
**220 Xia Brookside** (9, 193) Lineage: Daughter of Robbie Brookside ... This second-generation Brit is very much at home in the U.S. ... Scored indie wins over Masha Slamovich and Brittany Blake ... Became a TNA regular in January and beat Tasha Steelz, Ash By Elegance, and Steph De Lander ... Loves a good pop-punk banger.

**211 Saya Tida** (5, NL) Home Promotion: Stardom ... Plucky underdog makes up in heart what she lacks in height ... Bagged wins over Mai Sakurai and Koguma in singles outings ... Bested Tam Nakano and AZM in the 5STAR Grand Prix ... Blends power, occasional high-flying, and technical skills very successfully.

**212 Itsuki Aoki** (7, 179) Hometown: Hamada, Japan ... Joshi freelancer reigned as OZ Academy's Pioneer champ; also held tag team gold in SEAdLINNNG and Pro Wrestling WAVE ... Notched victories over Honoka in ZERO1, Saran in Ice Ribbon, and Ai Houzan in Marvelous as part of her travels around the Japanese wrestling circuit.

**213 Xena** (6, NL) Tagline: "A Touch Of Thunder" ... Jordanian-born joshi star competed mostly in tag team outings but fared very well in singles competition when the opportunity arose ... Reached the quarterfinals of the Cinderella Tournament ... Pushed stablemate Maika to the limit for the Stardom World championship in June.

**214 Aja Kong** (38, NL) Secret Weapon: Vast experience (and actual weapons) ... Timeless, ter-



COURTESY OF MARIGOLD

**221 Wendy Choo** (10, NL) Ring Style: Technical... Returned from a nearly one-year hiatus to rank again on this list, after last ranking six years ago ... Changed up fan-favorite sleepy girl act to become scary sleepy girl ... Challenged for TNA Knockouts title and NXT Women's North American title ... Formed alliance with Rosemary.

**222 Ami Sohrei** (4, 109) Home Promotion: Stardom ... Made it to the finals of the Cinderella Tournament, facing Hanan ... Beat Natsupoi to challenge for the Wonder of Stardom title in May ... Challenged Giulia for the NJPW STRONG Women's title at beginning of evaluation period ... Formidable member of God's Eye.

**223 Emersyn Jayne** (12, 103) Nickname: "The Main Event Empress" ... Glaswegian held Discovery Wrestling Women's title, successfully defending it against Kasey and Myla Grace ... Challenged Rhio for PROGRESS Women's title twice ... With Rhio, held NORTH Wrestling tag title for 154 days ... Took short trip to New Jersey for some hardcore graps.

**224 Ram Raichow** (19, 214) AKA: Atomic Banshee ... Corpse-painted competitor retained SPARK Joshi Pacific championship over Viva Van at WrestleMania Week show ...



PHOTO BY BASIL MAHMUD / COURTESY TNA WRESTLING

Won vacant GLORY title with win over Naoshi Sano ... "President Ram" picked up non-title victories against Brittany Blake and Raku ... Also competed for the new Sukeban promotion.

**225 Rebecca Scott** (4, 241) Secret Weapon: Jiu-jitsu skills ... Defeated J-Rod, Janai Kai, and Vertvixen to become inaugural Uprising Alternative champion ... Retained title in multiple defenses ... Held Pro Wrestling Magic Women's championship and successfully defended it four times ... Wins against Hyan, JC Storm, Vicious Vicki, and Heather Reckless.

ling Academy ... Frequent *PWI*-ranked competitor spent most of year dominating tag team and openweight competition ... Wins against Hyena Hera and Alexis Littlefoot ... Made it to Queen of Thorns semifinals before losing to Liiza Hall ... Held CFU Undisputed title for entire evaluation period.

**228 Jazmin Allure** (4, NL) Nickname: "Top Tier" ... Debut ranker started second reign as GulfCoast Wrestling Alliance Women's champion during evaluation period ... Challenged for seven different titles, including DEFY Women's championship bout with Vertvixen and Trish Adora ... Paired with Vertvixen to challenge for NWA World Women's tag title.

**226 Zamaya** (1, NL) Style Inspiration: Bull Nakano ... Newcomer to indie circuit makes debut *PWI* ranking ... Defeated Jazmin Allure and Viva Van to become new PCW ULTRA Women's champion ... Competed in The Crash Femenil title five-way against Dulce Tormenta, Keyra, Julissa, and Trish Adora ... Hails from Mesa, Arizona.

**229 Maggie Lee** (2, NL) Trained By: Seth Rollins & Marek Brave ... Newcomer to the "Women's 250" held four titles during the evaluation period, including the DREAMWAVE Women's championship ... Inaugural Hooligan Championship Wrestling titleholder ... Wrestled in 60-plus matches over the year ... Defeated Sierra in Tama Street Fight for Eminent Wrestling Alliance.

**230 Ruthie Jay** (4, NL) Trained By: Gangrel ... "Five Star Athlete" showed considerable star power in Florida's Coastal Championship Wrestling, where she held the Women's title nearly the entire evaluation period ... Dethroned Marina Tucker on October 7, 2023, then recorded 16 successful defenses ... Also competed in NWA, where she vied for tag gold.

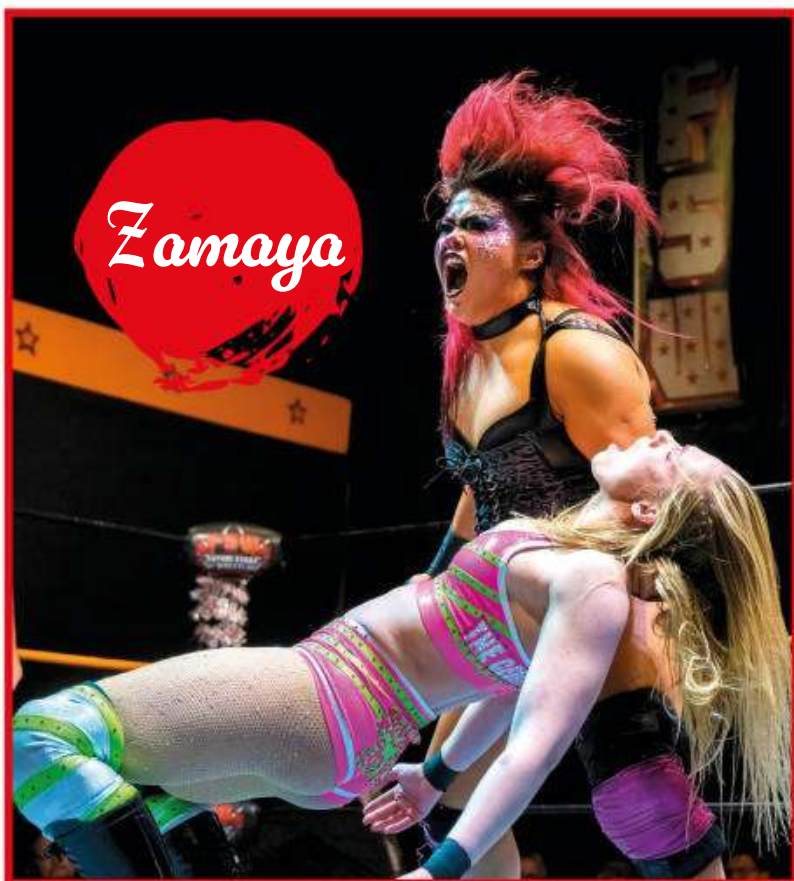


PHOTO BY GREG "SCOOP" BOXLY



Raia McKenna

PHOTO BY ISSA MARIE

**231 Nanami** (5, NL) Signature Move: Neckbreaker ... 18-year-old standout of joshi circuit fared well across multiple promotions ... Defeated Miran in tourney final to become inaugural Crystal champion of World Woman Pro-Wrestling Diana ... Briefly held Ice Ribbon's Triangle Ribbon championship, which is contested solely in triple-threat bouts ... Challenged for Future of Stardom title.

**232 Katie Arquette** (7, NL) Affiliation: The Production (w/ Derek Dillinger) ... Won International Wrestling Cartel Women's title in December, overtaking Holidoad ... Retained in three defenses ... Traded wins with Joseline Navarro in Absolute Intense Wrestling encounters ... Traveled to Ontario, where she bested Zoey Skye ... Wins over Dani Mo and Gia Scott.

**233 Raia McKenna** (4, NL) Ring Style: Technical ... "Good Witch" lifted first championship belts of career—Victory Pro and Invictus Pro Women's titles—by defeating Unwiling Tatiana and Clara Carreras ... Downed Vicious Vicki, Alexis Littlefoot, Kaitlyn Marie, Paris Van Dale ... Black Cauldron Bomb is a curse upon foes.

**234 Laynie Luck** (9, 187) Home Promotion: Freelance Wrestling ... Regained Midwest All-Star Women's crown with September win over Natalia Markova ... Took down Amazona at MAW Lucha-Mania event ... Made several appearances on ROH TV ... Surpassed Vertvixen in opening round of Glory Pro Women's tourney ... Wins over Maggie Lee and Lili Ruiz.

**235 Azaelle** (10, NL) Nickname: "Angry Red Woman" ... Impressive Quebecer stood out with key wins against Vanessa Kraven and Kacey Diamond, among others ... Vied for Federation Canadienne de Lutte Women's title, AWE (Quebec) heavyweight title, and North Shore Pro Wrestling junior heavyweight crown ... Won Femmes Fatales championship just before evaluation period ended.

**236 Alice Crowley** (6, NL) Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana ... Big year for "Big Al," who defeated Heather Monroe to begin notable run with WrestleARTS Global Women's title ... Challenged Kylie Paige for NWA JCP Women's championship ... Beat Free-Range Kara at F1RST Wrestling ... Competed in OVW Women's Nightmare Rumble ... Trained by Randi West.

**237 Vicious Vicki** (4, 185) Nickname: "The Vicious One" ... Garden State native continued picking up wins, slinging gold in Tri-State region, namely: New Jersey's ISPW and New York's BCW ... Retained latter over Lena Kross and Ultra

Violette; former against Angel Metro and Adena Steele ... Faced

Metro for Warriors of Wrestling Women's title.

**238 Delilah Doom** (10, 168) Entrance Music: "Let's Go To The Mall" by Robin Sparkles ... Spunky competitor has energy of an aerobics instructor, toughness of a veteran grappler ... Scored key victory over Janai Kai at ETU Wrestling ... Held Santino Bros. Inner City title until March ... Also competed on *WOW Superheroes* as Gloria Glitter.

**239 Riko Kawahata** (6, NL) AKA: The Great Sakuya ... Notable wrestler found greater acclaim after being rechristened the daughter of Great Muta, complete with red face-paint ... Held Marvelous tag title (w/ Maria) for 242 days ... Beat Honoka at January COLOR'S show ... As Sakuya, defeated Brooke Havok and Angie Savage in California.

**240 Alex Gracia** (6, NL) Nickname: "Pink Dream" ... Hard-working indie competitor returns to *PWI's* Women's ranking after two-year absence ... Visited Germany, where she defeated Mila Smidt ... Bested MYLO at NJPW Academy Showcase ... Also boasts Ws over Brittnie Brooks and Jazmin Allure ... Battled Ram Kaichow for SPARK Joshi Pacific belt.



Katie Arquette

PHOTO BY KEVIN McELVANEY

**241 Blair Onyx** (5, NL) Nickname: "Spider" ... Midwest standout held Pro Wrestling King Women's title for good portion of evaluation period ... Wrestled for more than a dozen promotions ... Competed in Glory Pro Women's title tournament before being eliminated by Heather Reckless ... Debut PWI ranking for Black & Brave Wrestling Academy alum.

**242 ZONES** (1, NL) Birthplace: Nikko, Tochigi, Japan ... Winner of Sendai Girls' Jaja Uma Tournament after defeating Yura Suzuki ... Promising rookie paired with Chanyota in 20-minute bout with Ryo Mizunami and Saya Iida ... Competed for the PURE-J Princess of Pro Wrestling title ... Singles wins over YUNA and Chi-Chi.

**243 Kelsey Raegan** (4, NL) Trained By: D-Von Dudley & Gangrel ... Competed successfully in tag team competition for SHINE ... Faced KZT for SPARK Joshi ... Competed in battle royal at Ladies Night Out 13 ... Wins over Rebecca Scott and Angelica Risk ... Spent majority of evaluation period in openweight and intergender battles.

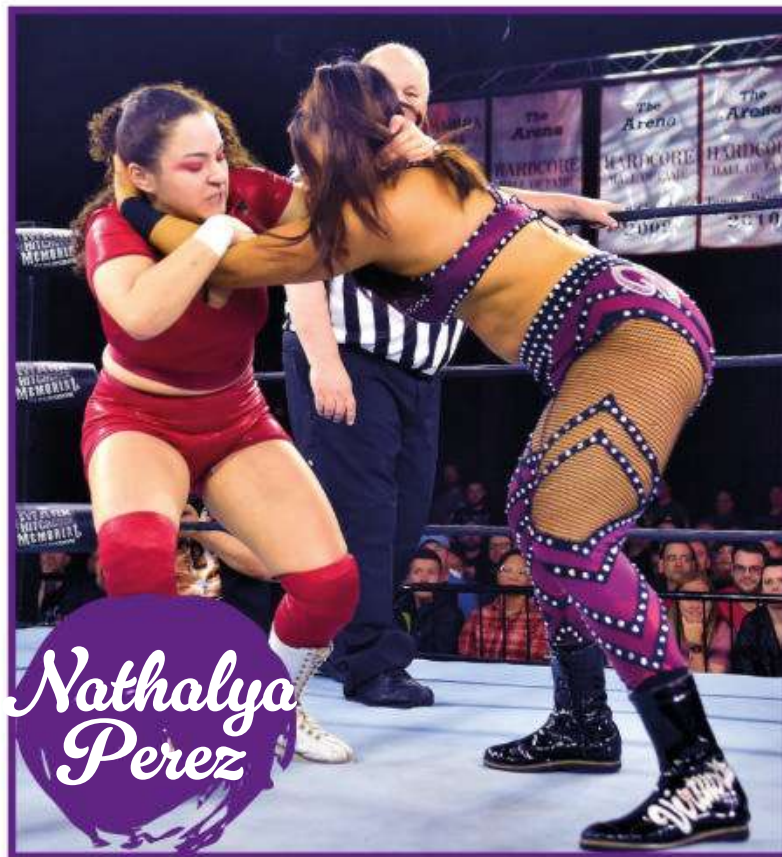
**244 Dev Lynn** (3, 216) AKA: Devlyn Macabre ... As Venom And Violence, teamed with Kelsey Raegan for much of evaluation period ... Regular fixture of Southeast promotions, including ACTION Wrestling ... Wins over Rachel Armstrong, Ultra Violette, Kaia McKenna, and

Brittany Blake ... Held a winning record during the year.

**245 Nathalya Perez** (2, NL) Lineage: Third-generation wrestler ... Newcomer from Puerto Rico ranks for first time on a PWI list ... Defeated Gema in Iron Man match to become Espiritu Pro Wrestling Dojo Women's champion ... Competed for IWA Puerto Rico Women's title against Evie De La Rosa ... Won IWA Copa Genesis in February.

**246 Tiara James** (2, 149) Tagline: "#TopTierExperience" ... Appeared for ROH and MLW ... Competed in a triple-threat with Janai Kai and Delmi Exo for the MLW Women's World featherweight title ... Participated in a six-way scramble at GCW For The Culture ... Wins over Notorious Mimi, Tina San Antonio ... Her 2025 looks bright.

**247 Brooke Havok** (3, NL) Trained By: Nightmare Factory ... West Coast workhorse wrestled nearly 70 matches during evaluation period ... Held PrideStyle New Wave championship ... Faced



Nathalya Perez

PHOTO BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

Rachael Ellering for ROH ... Defeated Tasha Steelz at GCW Aura ... Spent formative time in Japan, competing for Marvelous and NOAH ... Wore UGWA tag gold.

**248 Alexis Littlefoot** (2, NL) Signature Move: Pump kick ... "Big Flexer" brawled out in grudge match with Jordan Blade ... Participated in Women's Nightmare Rumble for OVW ... Faced Nyla Rose at AEW Dynamite taping ... Challenged for the NWF Women's Revolution title ... Picked up singles wins at Paradigm Pro and Tri-State Wrestling.

**249 Jazzy Yang** (5, NL) Lineage: Daughter of Jimmy Yang ... Competed in triple-threat with Miyu Yamashita and Dani Jordyn at MLW Anniversary '24 ... Defeated Kaia McKenna at Classic City Wrestling in Georgia ... Held Lariato Pro Women's title ... Competed for NWA JCP Women's title ... Could rank higher next year with more activity.

**250 Nahir Robles** (2, NL) Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico ... Faced Megan Bayne in *Wrestling Open* match ... Challenged for eight different titles during the evaluation period ... Picked up singles wins over Brittany Blake, Riley Krowe, and Gabby Forza ... Interviewer-turned-wrestler worked hard to get to where she is.



Tiara James

PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVAINEY

# 2024

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

**A**S WE ARE FULLY IN THE THROES of *PWT*'s "list season," we once again look to the end of the year: the time when we recognize fan favorites and hated rulebreakers alike for their achievements over the preceding 12 months.

Our annual Achievement Awards, which predate *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* itself, offer *you*, dear reader, the chance to decide who is worthy of honor or derision. So long as you get us your valid awards ballot (contained in this section) by the deadline listed, your votes count as much as anybody else's. The winners will be revealed in our upcoming Spring 2025 issue, which makes its way to subscriber mailboxes early in the new year.

Though we do preface the Awards Ballot with our shortlists (call them "nominees" only if you must) and some general guidance, it is ultimately up to you to vote for whomever your favorites are in each category.

Before we get to it, let's review some quick rules.

First, please keep in mind that the blank ballot for the 2024 awards is created in early-fall, so there could be candidates (particularly, for Feud or Match of the Year) not included

among our lists. Your valid write-in candidates will count every bit as much!

As always, we do reserve the right to discard "troll" votes, spam, and the like. It's easy for us to recognize a campaign designed to get votes for an undeserving wrestler (or one who does not qualify for that category). Those votes will be thrown out in the name of maintaining the integrity of the selection process.

Please make sure to select only one winner in each category (ties, like spam, will be discarded). And, when voting for Match of the Year, please specify the date of the particular match so as to avoid confusion with other matchups between the same participants.

Finally, don't forget to share your Unofficial Official Awards. When declaring your awards and winners, feel free to be imaginative, irreverent, or sarcastic. Want to poke fun at an on-screen story or lambast your least-favorite star for their long-winded promos? Feel compelled to compliment a wrestler's hair or entrance moves? Have at it. Just please keep things short and be respectful.

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

The wrestler you select as Rookie of the Year must fulfill two qualifications: They must have not been a runner-up in last year's vote, and they competed in their first professional match no earlier than January 1, 2023.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Kelani Jordan, Oleg Boltin, Jaida Parker, Zamaya, ZONES, Victoria Yuzuki, Paul Walter Hauser, Karmen Petrovic, Rian

### MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

For Most Improved Wrestler of the Year, select someone who, throughout 2024, did the most to improve their craft as a wrestler; the competitor who has stepped it up in the ring or captured a major title for the first time. Seasoned vet or relative newbie, their improvement must be notable and profound.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Mariah May, Shota Umينو, Oba Femi, Nia Jax, Mascara Dorada 2.0, Maxxine Dupri, Ash

By Elegance, Megan Bayne, Luke Jacobs, Yuma Anzai, Mai Sakurai

### COMEBACK WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

The "Comeback Of The Year" category honors a competitor who achieved greatness after suffering through a long period of stagnation, being overlooked, or being out of the sport entirely.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Mercedes Mone, The Rock, Liv Morgan, Randy Orton, Thunder Rosa, Mike Santana, Sheamus

### INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Pro wrestling has had its share of scandals and dark moments. This category is for those who bring light to the sport—and, in many cases, its fans—through their accomplishments within and/or outside of the squared circle.



**Top candidates for 2024:** Cody Rhodes, Jeff Jarrett, Bryan Danielson, Sami Zayn, Jessica Troy, Otis, Mike Santana

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Popularity used to be self-explanatory: cheers, adoration, and the love of the fans. But in recent years, some of the biggest heels have been among the sport's most popular stars. Those wrestlers are eligible in this category, as well as Most Hated.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Cody Rhodes, Bryan Danielson, Rhea Ripley, Swerve Strickland, Jey Uso, Jordynne Grace, Mark Briscoe, Roman Reigns, Will Ospreay, Toni Storm, Mina Shirakawa, LA Knight, CM Punk, Willow Nightingale, Joe Hendry, Giulia, Mistico, Tetsuya Naito



**CODY RHODES:**  
Most Popular Wrestler of 2023

## MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

The flip side of popularity: jeers and utter contempt from the public. Some wrestlers openly court the fans' hatred; others just don't care what they think. Who hears the loudest boos? That really is the only consideration here. Despite the "Wrestler" label, this category is open to anyone connected with the business.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Dominik Mysterio, MJF, Liv Morgan, Nia Jax, Solo Sikoa, Jack Perry, Chris Jericho, Mercedes Mone, Mustafa Ali, The Rock, Matt Cardona, EVIL, Drew McIntyre, Mariah May, Logan Paul, Athena, Roxanne Perez, Young Bucks, Don Callis

## FEUD OF THE YEAR

There is truly nothing like a great pro wrestling rivalry! Your choice for Feud of the Year should be one with an ongoing series of battles (verbal and/or physical) that you feel has dominated the careers of the participants to the exclusion of all other activities.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Toni Storm vs. Mariah May, Drew McIntyre vs. CM Punk, Swerve Strickland vs. Adam Page, Cody Rhodes vs. The Bloodline, Mance Warner vs. EFFY, The System vs. Nic Nemeth, NXT vs. TNA, Willow Nightingale vs. Kris Statlander, Carmelo Hayes vs. Trick Williams, Liv Morgan vs. Rhea Ripley, Los Ingobernables de Japon vs. House of Torture, MLW vs. WTF

## INDIE WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This category is for those who remained "independent" (not employed by any major promotion) throughout the

year. Eligible performers may have competed on TV, so long as they did so as a freelancer and not an exclusive, contracted talent. The Indie Wrestler of the Year should be graded on influence, notoriety, technical skill, and overall excellence.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Mustafa Ali, Matt Cardona, Alec Price, Mance Warner, Krule, Suge D, EFFY, Allie Katch, 1 Called Manders, Hyan, Shazza McKenzie, Darius Carter

## MATCH OF THE YEAR

Which contest did you find the most enjoyable, exciting, or memorable? Define "best match" however you wish, so long as the bout in question spoke to you and stuck with you. As has become tradition in this category, we've prepared a not-so-shortlist of match recommendations for you to select from. (*Editor's note: Please remember to give fair consideration to matches that occur after the press date of this issue.*)

**Top candidates for 2024:** Bryan Danielson vs. Kazuchika Okada (1/4), Mascara Dorada 2.0 vs. Templario (1/5), Will Ospreay vs. Josh Alexander (1/14), Bryan Danielson vs. Zack Sabre Jr. (2/11), Michael Oku vs. Will Ospreay (2/18), Gunther vs. Sami Zayn (4/6), Bayley vs. Iyo Sky (4/7), Cody Rhodes vs. Roman Reigns (4/7), Bryan Danielson vs. Will Ospreay (4/21), Mayu Iwatani vs. Saree (4/27), Cody Rhodes vs. AJ Styles (5/4), Tomihiro Ishii vs. Kaito Kiyomiya (5/22), Hechicero vs. Zack Sabre Jr. (6/22), Swerve Strickland vs. Will Ospreay (6/30), Miku Aono vs. MIRAI (7/13), Konosuke Takeshita vs. El Phantasma (8/7), Zack Sabre Jr. vs. Yota Tsuji (8/18), Bryan Danielson vs. Swerve

Strickland (8/25), Mayu Iwatani & Sareee vs. Chihiro Hashimoto & VENY (9/2), Kris Statlander vs. Willow Nightingale (9/7), Will Ospreay vs. PAC (9/7)

### TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

Experience, skill, and success all count in this category, though whether a team is scientific or rulebreaking should make no difference. The Tag Team of the Year should be more than a great pairing; it should dominate the promotion in which it competes and elevate the form of tag wrestling.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Jade Cargill & Bianca Belair, Saito Brothers, Axiom & Nathan Frazer, FTR, Young Bucks, The System, Bishamon, The ABC, FWC, The Judgment Day, DIY, Tama Tonga & Tanga Loa, Lucha Bros., The Unholy Union, Miracle Generation

### FACTION OF THE YEAR

Wrestlers have known it for years: There is safety, security, and, above all, power in numbers. The Faction of the Year should wield considerable influence in one or more promotions, while showcasing incredible talent along the way.

**Top candidates for 2024:** The Bloodline, The Judgment

**RHEA RIPLEY VS. CHARLOTTE FLAIR:**  
Match of the Year, 2023

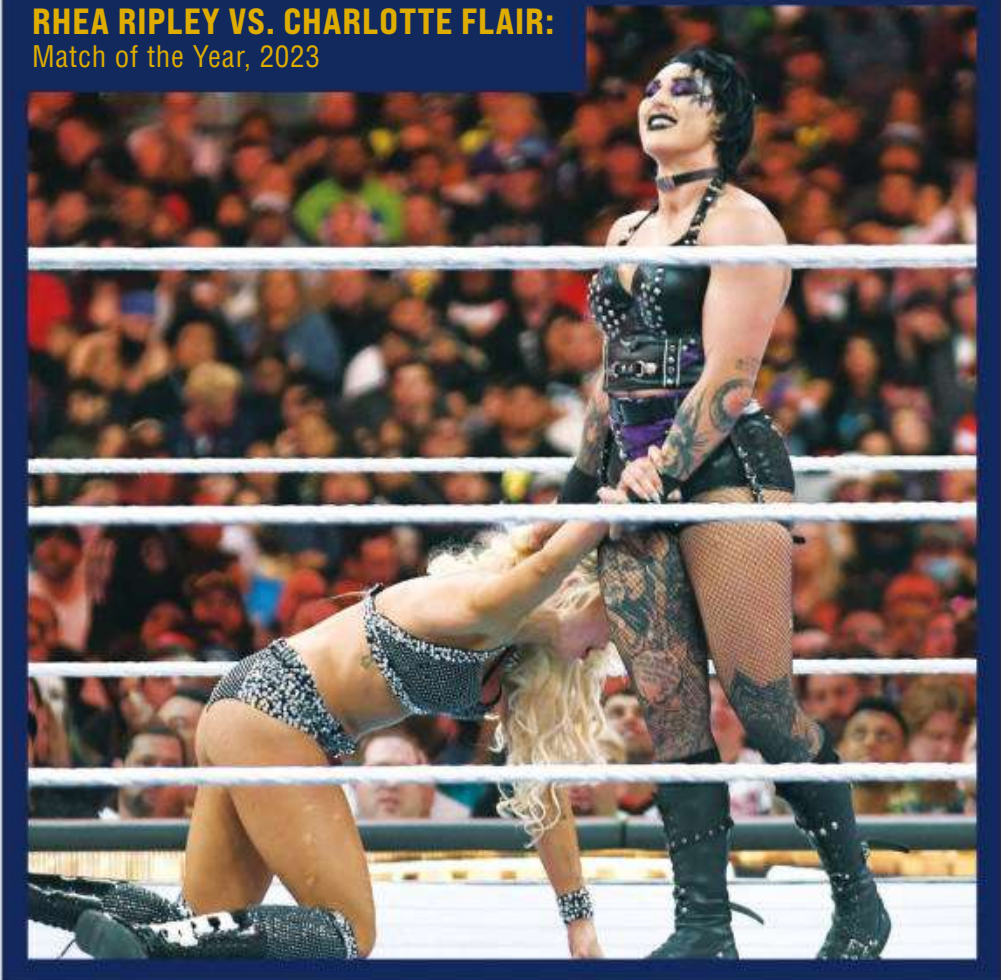


PHOTO BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

Day, Blackpool Combat Club, Don Callis Family, Bullet Club War Dogs, H.A.T.E., The System, Los Ingobernables de Japon, The Elite, The Patriarchy, Cut-Throat Collective, The Wyatt Sick6, WTF

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION—JORDYNNE GRACE:**  
Woman of the Year, Wrestler of the Year 2024



PHOTO BY JORDAN WILLIAMS

### WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Woman of the Year honor is open-ended, in that it can be awarded to an active wrestler or simply a woman in the business who has proven hugely influential this year. Although readers are encouraged to vote for women in any category, this longstanding award has consistently honored some of the top women in the industry; and, thus, continues to be among *PWT*'s most prestigious accolades.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Toni Storm, Jordynne Grace, Mercedes Mone, Rhea Ripley, Mariah May, Willow Nightingale, Liv Morgan, Rhio, Roxanne Perez, Athena, Tam Nakano, Nia Jax, Bayley, Giulia, Sareee, Stephanie Vaquer, Maika, Kenzie Paige, Masha Slamovich

### WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This is the top honor: The winner of this award should be the one person who has personified the essence of professional wrestling throughout 2024. Talent, skill, and achievement are the three prerequisites for this category. Regardless of gender, the competitor chosen as Wrestler of the Year should be the one whose accomplishments for the year stood out above all others.

**Top candidates for 2024:** Cody Rhodes, Swerve Strickland, Will Ospreay, Bryan Danielson, Gunther, Jon Moxley, Roman Reigns, Jordynne Grace, Mistico, Athena, Tetsuya Naito, MJF, Damian Priest, Drew McIntyre, Alex Kane, Sareee

# OFFICIAL FAN BALLOT

Send ballot to: Achievement 2024 Awards, PWI, 6198 Butler Pike Ste 200, Blue Bell, PA 19422  
or e-mail to [pwi@kappapublishing.com](mailto:pwi@kappapublishing.com).

ROOKIE:

INDIE:

MOST IMPROVED:

MATCH:

COMEBACK:

TAG TEAM:

INSPIRATIONAL:

FACTION:

MOST POPULAR:

WOMEN'S WRESTLER:

MOST HATED:

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR:

FEUD:

**BALLOTS DUE BY DEC. 11, 2024**

MY "UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARDS" FOR 2024:

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(Add more on separate sheet of paper if you like)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE SCRUMZA

THE W COLUMN **62** | TV BREAKDOWN **63** | MAT, STAGE, & SCREEN **64** | ON HEELS **66** |  
RIGHTEOUS WRAP UP **67** | FROM THE VAULT **68** | EL TIRABUZON **69**  
THE IRISH WHIP **70** | COAST TO COAST **71**



**MERCEDES MONE** powerbombs **HIKARU SHIDA** into the lower turnbuckle. “The CEO” didn’t have enough matches to make this year’s “Women’s 250,” but her 2024 output remains impressive.

# BON VOYAGE!

In her women's wrestling-focused column, *PWI's* **KRISTEN ASHLY** celebrates a few wrestlers whose retirement precluded them from being ranked earlier in this issue.



Prior to a Prestige/TJPW show in Los Angeles, California, Nao Kakuta poses with her Princess tag team championship belt. Though she doesn't make this year's "Women's 250," her career is still well worth celebrating.

PHOTO BY KEVIN McELVANEY

**I TAKE GREAT PRIDE** in being a part of the "Women's 250" ranking committee. The list has increased over the last five years, and seeing it grow as a contributor to *PWI* is a great honor.

The criteria are straightforward, but always leave some important names out of the ranking. Whether it is Mercedes Moné being too inactive for the minimum requirements, women who didn't rank because the list was too competitive, or women who retired before the end of that year's evaluation period.

To me, it seems unfair to leave out wrestlers who retired. Being on the

*PWI* staff, I understand why they are; someone who has stepped away from the business is tough to rank above someone who is actively performing in the ring. Still, this technicality creates a deep hole in a list celebrating those dedicated athletes who sacrificed their bodies for fans.


Edith Surreal, a woman important to the business in many ways, retired for just that reason. Earlier in 2024, Surreal stepped away from wrestling after suffering a third major head injury. It was a safe move for her to leave the ring. Still, she is a missed presence on the "Women's 250."

Some wrestlers retire without really giving a concrete reason, and they shouldn't have to. U.K. legends Charlie Morgan and Jetta, as a pair, decided to walk away from wrestling this year. Rather than focusing on the reasons why they wanted to leave, both presented a tribute to why they joined wrestling in the first place—and how grateful they are to have been included in a competitive business. Morgan gave fans 13 years of experience. Jetta gave 21 years. It's understandable why they'd like to enjoy their life together in another setting. Still, both are missed presences on the "Women's 250."

Nao Kakuta, a nine-year standout of the joshi scene, graduated TJPW and wanted to move to the next step in her life. Perhaps TJPW was her endgame. Maybe Kakuta just wanted to prove to herself she could get there, with the intention of moving on with her ambitions. Her presence, too, is missed on the "Women's 250."

There are often deep, personal reasons why a wrestler leaves wrestling. Ziggy Haim, with seven years given to the ring, announced she was taking an indefinite hiatus from the ring because she felt wrestling was what "everyone else wanted me to do." Self-awareness that few hold and fewer still are willing to act on. And she is another missed presence on the "Women's 250."

Many more wrestlers will retire in the years ahead, as so many already have. It's a part of any occupation, if you're lucky enough. But in a world where wrestlers are performers for an adoring crowd, their departure is a bigger loss.

I'm writing this as a tribute to the wrestlers who didn't get proper send-offs during their last year. For myself, too, because the women who sacrificed for the sport are so important to who I am and my mission as an advocate for women's wrestling. Thank you for your years of dedication. Your time of service has not gone unnoticed. 



# SHOULD WE STAY OR GO?

AEW programming remains on TBS and TNT; *WWE Smackdown* adjusts to lower numbers on USA; and it's *Saturday Night's Main Event* at the Nassau Coliseum, brother!

## FOCUS ON ...

### AEW DYNAMITE

#### DYNAMITE VIEWER NUMBERS [TNT]

August 14: **703,000**

August 21: **698,000**

August 28: **691,000**

September 4: **660,000**

September 11: **716,000**

September 18: **687,000**

**ANALYSIS** Jon Moxley asphyxiating AEW World champion Bryan Danielson with a plastic bag at All Out, reminiscent of Terry Funk choking out Ric Flair with a plastic bag back in 1989, will be remembered as one of the most heinous acts in wrestling history. And it moved the ratings, as the September 11 edition of *Dynamite* earned 716,000 viewers, all waiting for Moxley to explain his actions. On average, *Dynamite's* numbers are down by about 150,000 viewers per week, compared to last year. Potential overexposure, with *Collision* airing Saturday nights on TNT, is the most likely reason—despite mounting criticism of AEW's creative approach.

#### DONE DEAL?

**AEW PRESIDENT TONY** Khan radiated confidence as he made the media rounds to promote Grand Slam Week, with AEW programming emanating from Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. Khan refused to say whether AEW's negotiations with Warner Bros. Discovery were complete, yet he sounded as if the main details had been worked out.

Khan told WFAN, "I can promise you, I'm 100-percent confident that you're going to have AEW on TBS and TNT for a long time to come."

Reports indicate AEW's earnings from TV-rights fees will double under the new deal. However, pay-per-view revenue may be reduced, as major events will most likely stream on MAX (another WBD property), just as WWE premium live events run on Peacock.

Also intriguing: All Elite Wrestling has registered a trademark for "*AEW Shockwave*." When asked about that during a recent press scrum after All Out, Khan simply raised his eyebrows and noted that AEW is "set to create a *shockwave* throughout all of pro wrestling."

#### THE DROP!

*WWE Smackdown* took a hit by moving from Fox to USA on Friday, September 13, with its audience shrinking to 1.7 million for its USA return and 1.5 million by its second week. That's a loss of roughly 500,000 viewers.

*NXT's* move to the CW on October 1 could mean a potential increase in viewers for that brand.

#### BACK TO THE FUTURE

WWE lost a substantial amount of mainstream exposure with *Smackdown's* move back to the USA Network after five years on Fox. Yet, there is some consolation: *Saturday Night's Main Event*, which helped establish WWE as a cultural juggernaut as a monthly replacement for *Saturday Night Live*, will return to NBC on a quarterly basis. Unlike the original 1980s series, it will most likely garner a prime-time slot.

The first broadcast is scheduled for December 1 at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, New York, site of the very first *SNME* in 1985.

#### SPOTLIGHT MATCH

IYO SKY vs.  
BIANCA BELAIR

*WWE RAW*, SEPTEMBER 16

Belair shows remarkable strength, pressing Sky high above the canvas. This full-contact game of "rock, paper, scissors" often resulted in stalemate until Sky reversed Belair's Kiss of Death facebuster into a small package pinfall.



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# TAG TEAM ADVENTURES

The former **RIDDICK MOSS** and **EMMA** return to TV, while **DAVE BAUTISTA** and **DREW McINTYRE** hit the big screen together.



Mike Rallis & Tenille Dashwood attend a screening of *Freelance* in October 2023. The couple were recently whisked to Alaska for an episode of the travel show *The Wanderer*.

PHOTO BY JOSE DEVILLEGAS/GETTY IMAGES

**THIS COLUMN MARKS THE** dawn of a new season; with that, come new opportunities to take in new sights and exciting activities. Pumpkin patches? Check. Concert tickets to declare just how much you don't want a lot for Christmas with **Mariah Carey**? Check. A new Amazon Prime ep with **Mike Rallis (Riddick Moss)** and **Tenille Dashwood**? Yes, please ... and double-check!

Yes, you read that right: Rallis and Dashwood are taking the reins in their careers to new heights, literally, with a travel show titled *The Wanderer*. Dashwood broke the news on Instagram with a post sharing exclusive clips she and her husband Rallis filmed for the series. She also thanked the crew for an "EPIC" time shared in Alaska.

And get this ... the happy couple had *no* idea where they were headed prior to arriving at their destination! "We just finished shooting a Travel TV show for @tripadvisor and oh man ... what a dream come true!" Dashwood wrote.

Rallis replied to Dashwood's post in the comments, writing, "Literally the top of my bucket list. Coolest place I've ever been." Other wrestlers and wrestling personali-





ties—including **Cassie Lee**, **Ash By Elegance**, **Renee Paquette**, **Santino Marella**, and **Jessicka Havok**—joined fans in congratulating Rallis and Dashwood on their newest adventure. Judging from the thrilling, action-filled clips available to view via Dashwood’s IG post, it looks like this episode of *The Wanderer* is primed to be a hit!

Another potential hit, in this case for Netflix, is the series *The Queen of Villains*. The show is based on the extraordinary wrestling journey of Japanese pro wrestler **Dump Matsumoto** and is set in the 1980s. The trailer struck a chord with many wrestling fans and enthusiasts. And, upon the series’ worldwide September release, English-speaking fans learned of **Alexa Bliss**’ involvement in the sports drama. On both Instagram and X (fka Twitter), Bliss revealed that she had voiced overdubs for the character **Maki Ueda** in the series and was “BEYOND thankful and honored” for the experience—especially as it was her first-ever voiceover project. “Thank you so much @netflix ... this was truly so fun.” I have a sneaking feeling this won’t be the last voiceover role for Alexa Bliss.

From streaming to the silver screen, it appears TNA Knockouts champion **Jordynne Grace** is now eyeing success in the moviemaking business. Grace shared an update on social media in September about her trip to the U.K. to star in a fantasy film called *Welcome to Paradise*. The upcoming film is directed, written, and co-produced by none other than former PROGRESS tag team champion **Charles Crowley**. Crowley has a ton of directing, acting, and producing experience, including a role on longrunning iconic British soap opera *EastEnders*. He is also slated to star in this movie about a woman “in a strange, magical carnival” with only the memory of her name. He appears alongside Grace and **Simon Miller**. Let’s hope for a red carpet premiere and screening in the U.S.—I’m in for whatever Crowley and crew have cooked!

All the stars, including **Bayley**, **Mercedes Moné**, and **Dave Bautista**



Drew McIntyre, pictured here at Fanatics Fest, appears in *The Killer’s Game*. The film’s star, Dave Bautista, had nothing but kind words for the former World heavyweight champion.

PHOTO BY GEORGE TAHINOS

showed up and showed out for the red carpet premiere of *The Killer’s Game*. Bautista and **Drew McIntyre** both took on roles in the action-comedy. When asked about the latter’s part in the movie via WWE correspondent **Cathy Kelley**, Bayley said, “I think that’s gonna be very interesting because he’s been in a crazy storyline these past few months.”

The former WWE Women’s champion added: “Talking crap about dogs and bracelets and stuff, so what’s he gonna

do in this movie? Who knows!” Fair enough, Bayley!

Bautista shared a heartwarming thought on the red carpet about his relationship with McIntyre. “I’ve known Drew for a very long time,” he said. “I watched Drew grow up in this business. I’m super proud of him.”

For continued, curated news about your favorite wrestlers and their out-of-ring escapades in Hollywood and beyond, keep it tuned right here to “Mat, Stage, & Screen”!



# EGO'S EDGE

Ever the fan of wrestling's most devious, **POLLO DEL MAR** celebrates **ETHAN PAGE** and **MAX THE IMPALER**.

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"All Ego" Ethan Page taunts special guest ref Trick Williams after a successful title defense at NXT No Mercy.

**WHEN "THE MANAGER OF** Champions, The Champion of Managers" has a plan ... *listen*. Sadly, some individuals simply don't know where their bread is buttered.

Since lowering myself to appear in Petaluma, CA, a pathetic enclave north of San Francisco, my charges have dominated Phoenix Pro Wrestling. With my brains, they could hold the heavyweight and tag team titles for a very long time ... *if* they follow instructions!

Sadly, PPW champion "The Necessary Evil" Sanders appears incapable of following that simple directive. Nobody, particularly my clients, should question my mental acumen, as those who do experience first-hand the devastating pitfalls of underestimating me.

I hope Sanders doesn't require this lesson. If he does, I promise—*promise*—the result will be the same.

## TURNING THE PAGE

"All Ego" Ethan Page's success in NXT has been nothing short of

masterful ... including the message it sends.

A year ago, Page was a literal afterthought in AEW. With little apparent corporate interest in his advancement, and even less prolonged air-time, the Canadian languished like far too many on the periphery of the company's talented but bloated roster.

At the first opportunity, Page wisely jumped ship. From his arrival, NXT's acquisition of the multiple-time IMPACT World tag team champion felt deservedly important. Quickly becoming NXT champion, Page has gone from all-but-forgotten to nearly unforgettable.

Most importantly, this sends a clear signal to many who shared the bench beside him in AEW. Job security is wonderful. But, for those withering in the shadows, spending their career primes waiting for opportunity, there is a choice.

"All Ego" certainly made the right one!

## ASSERT MAX CONTROL

Max The Impaler, the boundary-breaking National Wrestling Alliance Television champion, is a throwback to icons like Bruiser Brody, Stan Hansen, and Vader. "The Warlord Of The Wasteland" has taken a similar path from the margins of American wrestling to become an attraction in Japan, destroying joshis like so many broken Barbies. Now, nine months into their historic reign, the title held by greats like Dusty Rhodes, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, and Sting has traveled the world with "The Non-Binary Nightmare."

Max's next challenge comes October 26 in Sarasota, FL, at Samhain 2. Carson Drake competes for the gold at the NWA's Halloween-themed Signature Live Event from the legendary Roberts Arena.

Drake is a fine athlete, a cultured young man whose career took off in NWA's Exodus Pro territory. However, against "The Warlord Of The Wasteland," I expect a massacre.

One potential glitch is a growing rift between Max and Father James Mitchell after what I consider Max's upset loss to NWA World Women's champion Kenzie Paige at NWA 76. Like the aforementioned greats who molded Max, the TV champ needs firm leadership to stay focused.

Now, more than ever, "The Sinister Minister" *must* reinforce his spell over Max. Should those ties further deteriorate, I fear Max's TV title—and the crown jewel of Mitchell's Miserably Faithful—might quickly slip away!



# LONG MAY SHE REIGN

As the longest-running champion in the history of ROH, **ATHENA** is arguably the face of the promotion in 2024.



PHOTO BY JOHN SMOLEK

At the post-Supercard of Honor press scrum, Athena celebrates victory with her loyal Minions, Lexy Nair and Billie Starkz.

**ATHENA BECAME THE** longest-reigning Ring of Honor champion in any division when she surpassed Samoa Joe’s World title reign by holding the Women’s championship for more than 646 days (and counting). Becoming the face of ROH as a Black woman is a feat that has never been seen in the promotion. While being hidden away behind a paywall streaming service, Athena—along with a great roster of women—established a new identity for ROH, a promotion that started out as far from a women’s promotion as you can get.

Unable to show her full potential in her previous promotion, Athena used the vehicle of ROH to show that she’s not only one of the best wrestlers on the planet, man or woman, but also that she’s one of the best characters in all of wrestling. Bringing Billie Starkz and Lexy Nair along for the ride, Athena not only has cemented herself as one of the best ever in ROH, but has helped make the promotion’s

women’s division into one of the best in the world.

The identity of Ring of Honor since its purchase by Tony Khan has been confusing at times, with almost all the other championships in ROH being used as a vehicle to get wrestlers like Mark Briscoe, The Kingdom, and Kyle Fletcher onto AEW’s other programming. Yet, Athena was the total opposite, having 100% of her reign showcased on Honor Club or ROH pay-per-view. That, in itself, kind of encompasses the spirit of ROH. Most of ROH’s greatest moments were hidden behind VHS and DVDs, streaming services, and syndicated television. So, while many feel Athena has been hidden away, it almost is fitting that this historic reign has gone down in the way it has.

The longest-reigning, forever ROH champion, the “The Fallen Goddess” Athena had some tough competition along the way. Matches with Willow Nightingale are what brought eyes to the reign. The story of Billie Starkz’ rise as

her Minion (and the person to eventually end the reign?) has become one of the greatest stories in ROH history—and established Starkz as one of the young ones to watch in ROH. Other matches with Queen Aminata, Hikaru Shida, and Kiera Hogan were showcases that proved exactly why Athena is one of the best in the world. Along the way, she became one of the winningest wrestlers under Tony Khan’s employ, on a two-year undefeated streak in championship matches.

When we look back on the history of ROH and the greatest champions of all-time—wrestlers like Bryan Danielson, Samoa Joe, CM Punk, Jay Briscoe, and Jay Lethal—Athena will stand in front and above all of them after this monstrous reign. Let’s hope this is the beginning chapter of a long and prosperous AEW career.

Athena has shown she can lead a brand on top and be one of the best while doing it; it’s only a matter of time before that same fight is showcased in AEW.



THE SCRUM  
**FROM THE VAULT**

Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat relaxes at home by strumming out a tune on his guitar.  
PHOTO BY FLOYD SEE

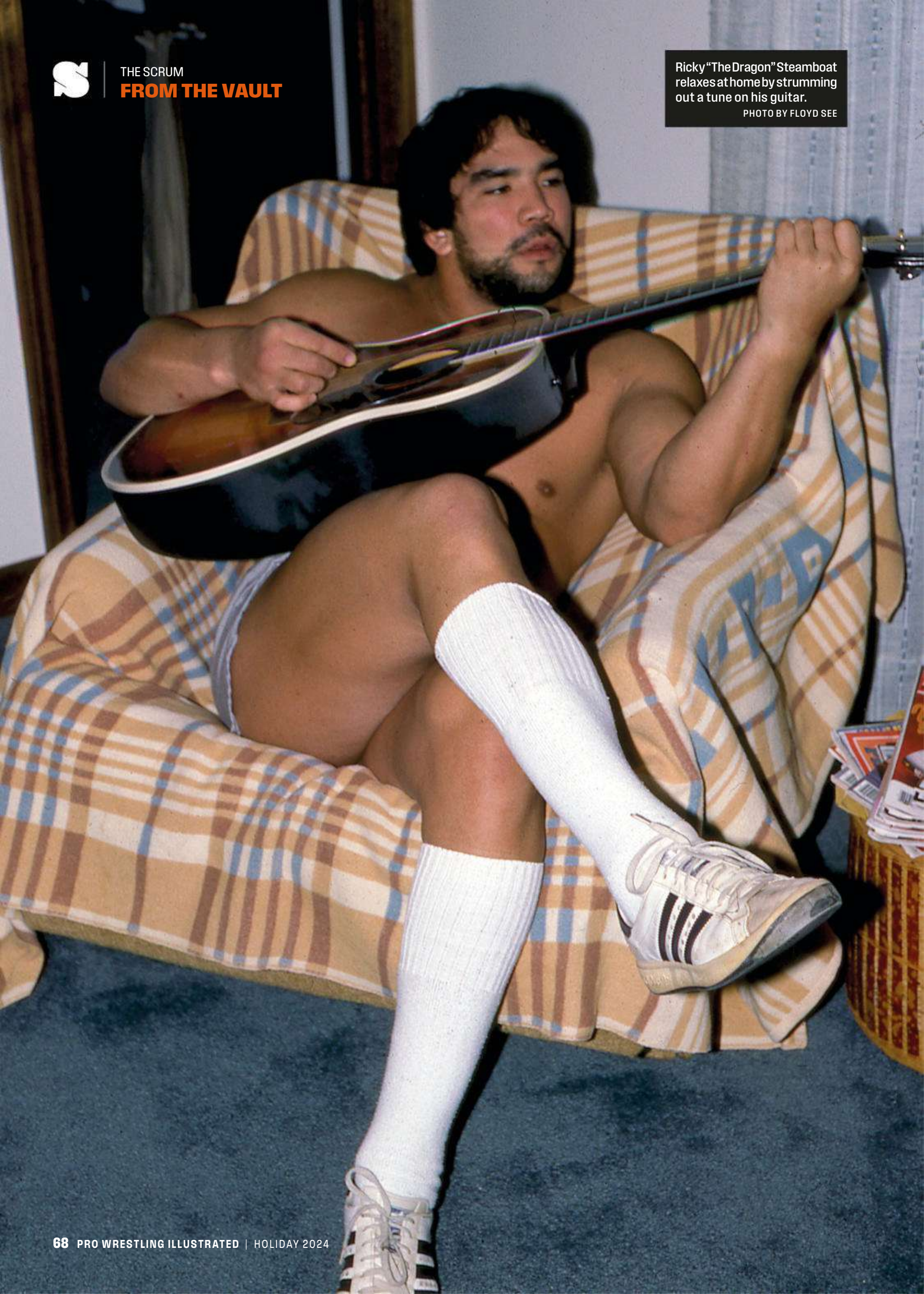




PHOTO COURTESY TNA WRESTLING



Laredo Kid has impressed fans and critics alike at recent outings for Lucha Libre AAA and The Crash.

# CURTAIN CALLS

**CMLL and AAA present their respective signature shows (with surprising results); The Crash continues to deliver; and two lucha legends prepare for retirement.**

**THE STRETCH FROM AUGUST** to September is always an eventful one in Mexico, as the two top dogs in the game, CMLL and AAA, present their respective biggest shows of the year, almost exactly one month apart.

Firstly, Consejo Mundial de Lucha Libre celebrated its 91<sup>st</sup> birthday with the traditional Aniversario show from Arena Mexico. Throughout the years, this has been the stage for some of the biggest matches in lucha libre history. This time around, the show was absolutely stacked, with the Arena Mexico debut of AEW's **Orange Cassidy**; a

four-way mask-vs.-mask match; and, in the main event, the long-anticipated return of **Chris Jericho**, the former **Corazon de Leon**, to face off against lucha libre icon **Mistico**.

While the vast majority of the Aniversario show lived up to the hype, the main event left a sour taste in the mouth of fans, who loudly booed the “dream match” pretty much from the beginning ... and would not stop throughout the full 22-minute bout. The booing was mainly due to the noticeable lack of chemistry and energy from both Jericho and

**Mistico**, which made for a slow and lackluster match.


On the flipside, AAA presented its third and final Triplemania show of the year, which, funnily enough, had a complete opposite effect on the fanbase compared to the CMLL anniversary show. Lucha Libre AAA Worldwide had been consistently dropping in popularity since last year. While the third edition of Triplemania was not the greatest of all-time, it is fair to say that it far exceeded fans' expectations.

From the match of the night, featuring **Komander**, **Laredo Kid**, and **Matt Riddle**, to the main event nine-man “Domo De La Muerte” hair-vs.-mask match, it was clear: While CMLL may have had a much stronger year, AAA won the most important yearly battle.

Moving on to the independent world of lucha libre, The Crash in Tijuana has gone back to its usual ways of bringing in some of the hottest indie stars in both the United States and Mexico. The company's most recent show was a resounding success, thanks, in no small part, to the performances of **Mustafa Ali**, **Matt Riddle**, and **Elijah** (the former **Elias** in WWE). This is not to mention some of the most incredible Mexican talent available, such as **Laredo Kid**, **Rey Horus**, and **DMT Azul**.

Lastly, two of the most iconic luchadores of all-time are preparing for the end of their respective in-ring careers at the same time, albeit in two very different fashions.

**El Hijo Del Santo**—son of the most legendary luchador ever, **El Santo**—kicked off his retirement tour in September, set to consist of about 12 dates throughout Mexico and a couple in England. It is set to run through June 2025, when we'll see the final match of one of the greatest second-generation luchadores of all-time.

And, on the other hand, **LA Park**, the original **La Parka** from WCW in the 1990s, decided to use the final stretch of his career to build his own lucha libre arena. While small, the venue has already welcomed some of the biggest names in Mexican wrestling, such as **Pentagon Jr.**, **DMT Azul**, **Cibernético**, and **Fresero Jr.**, rapidly making “La Real Arena” the hottest spot for lucha libre in Coahuila, Mexico. 



The Cut Throat Collective stands victorious at the RevPro 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. From left to right: Safire Reed, Lizzy Evo, Alex Windsor, Nina Samuels, Mercedes Blaze.

PHOTO BY SCOTT LESH

## REVPRO TURNS 12

In the United Kingdom, Revolution Pro Wrestling recently celebrated its anniversary with a banner event.

**GREETINGS, GRAPPLE FANS.** And welcome to another edition of “The Irish Whip,” where we bring you all the happenings from the U.K. and European scene. In this edition, we lead off with a look back at a monumental weekend for British wrestling.

With AEW in town for All In, several U.K. promotions staged shows in and around London on the weekend of August 24—with the biggest being Revolution Pro Wrestling’s 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show. The event saw several title changes, as well as a slew of top international talent descend on the Copper Box Arena, including: **Donovan Dijak**, **Tomohiro Ishii**, **El Phantasma**, and **Dante Martin**. In notable happenings from the show: **Sunshine Machine** toppled **Grizzled Young Veterans** for the Undisputed British tag team championship; **Mina Shirakawa** dethroned **Dani Luna** to

become Undisputed British Women’s champ; and, in a barnstorming main event, **Michael Oku** saw his impressive 412-day reign as Undisputed British heavyweight champion come to an end, after falling to **Luke Jacobs**. Post-match, Ishii confronted Jacobs and signaled his desire for a title shot. For full results from the show, check out “Arena Reports” elsewhere in this issue.


Speaking of Michael Oku, plaudits must be given to the former RevPro champ for his placement in this year’s “PWI 500.” Oku came in at #38, and was the highest ranked Brit not named **Ospreay**, **McIntyre**, or **Sabre Jr.** The fact that Oku managed this without being signed to AEW, WWE, or NJPW—like his three compatriots are—speaks volumes about the year he has had.

Someone else having a career year is Sweden’s **Aliss Ink**, who also made the “500” at #297. The “Scandinavian Hurricane” is approaching 800 days as **BODYSLAM!** Women’s champion and continues to have successful title defenses, like her victory over **Emersyn Jayne** on August 31. The win also saw Ink advance in the the ScandiGraps Invitational tourney, ultimately reaching the final, where she came up just short to eventual winner **Carlos Zamora**.

Insane Championship Wrestling held the third installment of its “Barred” event on September 1 in Glasgow, Scotland. The theme of the show is similar to TNA’s past Lockdown events, in that every match takes place inside a steel cage. **Lana Austin** beat **Rhio** to become the new ICW Women’s champion, and **Jack**

**Jester** retained his ICW heavyweight championship against **Alexander Darwin MacAllan**. Unfortunately for Jester, his celebrations were cut short, thanks to the arrival of **Kenny Williams**—who cashed in his guaranteed title shot and ended up beating the exhausted Jester in just seven seconds. The move was a tad opportunistic by Williams, but smart nonetheless.

Bits & bobs: A new champion was crowned in Ireland’s Over The Top Wrestling on August 11, as **Big Damo** beat **Trent Seven** and **Man Like DeReiss** in a three-way for the OTT title at the Europa Hotel in Belfast, Northern Ireland ... **Peter Tihanyi** outlasted 29 other competitors to win the 2024 Shortcut To The Top match in Oberhausen, Germany, on August 10. The prize for winning is a shot at the wXw Unified championship further down the road ... The relaunched World of Sport brand was about to hold TV tapings just as we prepped this column, so we hope to bring you the major happenings from the proceedings in the next issue.

That’s it from me for this edition. Have a good time ... till next time. 



Azaelle strikes a pose at NSPW's Rise Above event. On September 14, she would defeat Nicole Matthews for the Femmes Fatales championship. PHOTO BY ANDRE BEAUPRE

## WRESTLIN' IN THE YQB

The end of summer saw some big shows—and notable title bouts—in the Quebec capital.

**IN THE WEEKS LEADING** up to our press deadline, Quebec City has been the center of Canadian wrestling.

At the end of August, NSPW held its 500<sup>th</sup> show, with a thousand-plus fans at Canac Stadium. To celebrate the event, the three members of **Untouchables**, **Marko Estrada**, **Travis Toxic**, and **Matt Angel**, teamed in the main event to beat **The Union**.

Two weeks later, it was back-to-school time with NSPW's first show of the season, **Rise Above**. Junior heavyweight champ **Louie O'Farrell** solidified her

position in the company with a 21<sup>st</sup> title defense. **Zak Patterson** became the number-one contender to Travis Toxic's NSPW title by defeating Marko Estrada, **Benjamin Tull**, and **Kristara** in the main event.


Then, on September 14, Femmes Fatales held its 15<sup>th</sup>-anniversary show. In the main event, **Azaelle** defeated **Nicole Matthews** to win the Femmes Fatales championship. Matthews had won the title in Toronto in June 2023. A former FCL Women's champion, this is Azaelle's first major title. Also on

the show, Louie O'Farrell and **Kacey Diamond** had a wrestling clinic, won by the latter after **The Wicked Ones** interfered.

And then, Sans Restriction Chrono, owned by TVA Sports *WWE Raw* commentator **Kevin Raphael**, held its second show on September 20. Travis Toxic and **Laredo Kid** gave the fans a high-flying classic. The Internet champion, **Matt Cardona**, left his first mark on the Quebec indie scene by defeating the beloved **Michel Plante**. Louie O'Farrell won an eight-person tournament in which every match had a four-minute time limit, while Zak Patterson beat Marko Estrada to become Sans Restriction's first champion.

Elsewhere, C\*4 started its season with a huge story. **Evil Uno** defeated his former student, **Junior Benito**, to win the C\*4 heavyweight title. Uno has been part of C\*4 for 17 years and never captured the title before. AEW's **The Butcher (Andy Williams)** made his return to Ottawa after two years, defeating **Mike Marston**. And in tag team competition, TNA Knockouts tag team champions **Spitfire (Jody Threat & Dani Luna)** defeated the C\*4 tag team champions, **TDT**, in a much-talked-about, hard-hitting, non-title match.

On the West Coast, a relatively new wrestling promotion is making waves as of late. Vancouver-based DUSK Pro drew more than 500 fans on September 15. The show had wrestlers from four different wrestling schools, demonstrating a very healthy local scene. Owned by local wrestler **Parm Singh Mann**, DUSK Pro started in 2022, but only held three shows prior to 2024. The September show was its fourth of the year. And with the recent success, the company announced it would start doing monthly shows in November.

"DUSK is born of hopes and dreams for the potential of talent," said Mann. "The PNW is kind of a cramped scene. There's a lot of talent and only so many places to work. I want to provide the opportunity for talent to flourish. I'm taking it a day at a time. I'm not acting like I'm carrying a scene on my back or that the talent needs me. DUSK is simply going to be a fun experience where I try to highlight cool talents." 

REMEMBER OUR WEEKLY PRINT NEWSLETTER?

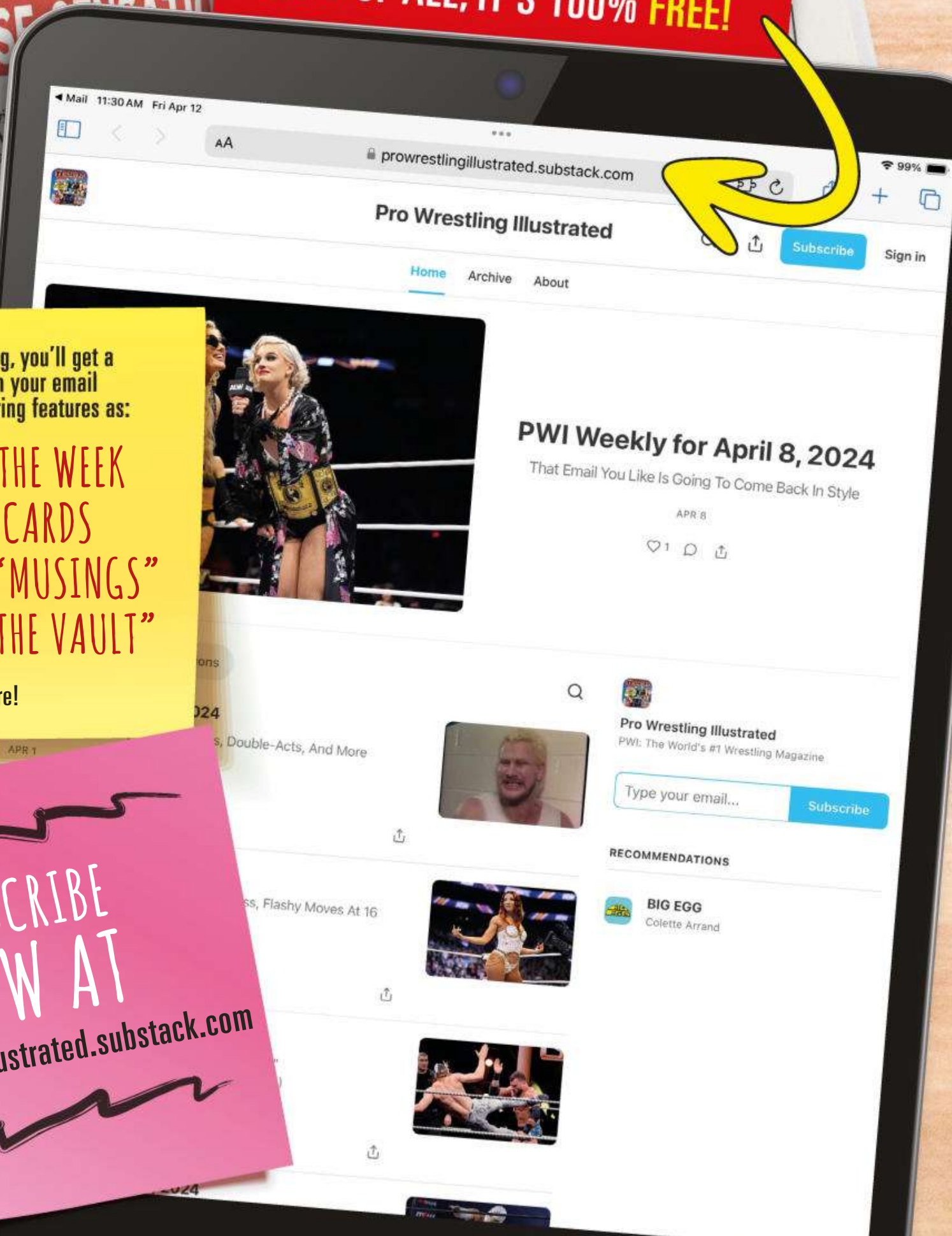
May 25, 1992

# PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

## JAPANESE GENERATION

Former WCW televi-  
sion champion **The Great M**  
one of the greatest aeri-  
alists in the sport today  
returned to WCW.  
In the Japanese  
generation's first week he  
took on an interest-  
ing variety of opponents. (C  
by Joseph, Misso

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# THE FINISH

ARENA REPORTS **74** | OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS **78** | DRAWING BLOOD **82**



**MICHAEL OKU** hooks in his signature single-leg Boston crab on challenger **LUKE JACOBS** during their battle over the RevPro British Undisputed championship.



From local independents to the largest stages, here's the latest roundup of live event results. Got a report you'd like to share? Send to [pwresults@yahoo.com](mailto:pwresults@yahoo.com) (and please do your best to mirror the format used here).

## SPOTLIGHT CARD OF THE MONTH

### ENGLAND

**LONDON**—Revolution Pro Wrestling at Copper Box Arena: **Joshua James, Sha Samuels, Oskar Leube, & Yuto Nakashima** defeated **David Francisco, Goldenboy Santos, Brendan White, & Danny Jones** ... **Ethan Allen** beat **Connor Mills** ... **Ricky Knight Jr.** defeated **Zozaya** ... **Will Kaven** beat **Cameron Khai, Dante Martin, El Phantasma, Leon Slater,** and Undisputed British cruiserweight champion **Neon** in a six-person scramble to win the title ... **Tomohiro Ishii** defeated **JJ Gale** ... **Alex Windsor, Lizzy Evo, Mercedes Blaze, Nina Samuels, & Safire Reed** defeated **Debbie Keitel, Gisele Shaw, Kanji, Nightshade, & Rhio** ... **Chuck Mambo & TK Cooper** beat Undisputed British tag team champions **Zack Gibson & James Drake** to win the title ... **Mina Shirakawa** defeated Undisputed British Women's champion **Dani Luna** to win the title ... **Zack Sabre Jr.** beat **Hechicero** ... **Luke Jacobs** defeated Undisputed British heavyweight champion **Michael Oku** to win the title. (08-24-24)

—Spotlight photos by Scott Lesh

### CALIFORNIA

**OAKLAND**—HOODSLAM "Forever Hold Your Peace" at Continental Club: **Captain MYLO** defeated **Jaguar Montoya** to retain the Champion Ship ... **Ricky & Scotty Stoner & Richard Shhhnary** defeated **Chris Nasty, Gin Sevani, & Finch** ... The wedding of **DARK Sheik & Vipress** was annulled after **Jamie Senegal & Allysin Kay** interfered ... **Cereal Man & El Chupacabra** defeated **Juice Lee & Grief Counselor Marco** ... **Brittany**



RevPro's 12<sup>th</sup>-anniversary event was headlined by a thrilling fight between Michael Oku and Luke Jacobs over the Undisputed British championship. Unsurprisingly, the heated match became a bloody one.

**Wonder** defeated **Lara Frazier** ... **Anton Voorhees** beat **D-Torch** ... **Mighty Mayra** beat **Ashton Starr** to win the GLAMPionship ... **Keita Murray** defeated **Kenny K** to win the Best Athlete in the East Bay Golden Fannypacks Award ... Intergalactic tag team champions **Brooke Havok & Rob Hands** beat **Jorel Nelson & Royce Isaacs** to retain. (09-06-24)

—Jane Doe

### DELAWARE

**HOUSTON**—First State Championship Wrestling (ICW) at the Houston Volunteer Fire Company: **Ranchhand Carlson** defeated **Mr. Grim** ... **Tons of Fun** defeated **Tommy Fame & Jake Blake** ... **Shaun Smith** beat **Keo Vandu, Mike Zee, and Nikita** in a fatal four-way ... **Tiberius & Chris Wylde** defeated **The Body Snatchers** ... Women's champion **Adrianna** defeated **Lena Kross** to retain ... **Dustin Tarr** defeated **Nick Battee** and **Marshall E** in a three-way to win the Bulletproof title ... **The Harrobes** defeated **Amish Country & Stone Age Boys** in an eight-man tag match ... DSN champion **Myles Millenium** defeated **Twitch** to retain ... **BT Windsor** wrestled **Tim**

**Taber** to a draw ... **Ranchhand Carlson** defeated **Brian Morris** and **Ty Awesome** in a three-way to win the ICW Pro Wrestling championship. (09-14-24)

—David Valentin

### ILLINOIS

**SAUGET**—Grandel Wrestling/Pro Wrestling Epic at Pop's Nightclub: **Davey Vega** defeated **Xavier Walker** ... **Rachel Armstrong** defeated **Rebecca J Scott** and PWE Women's champion **Missa Kate** in a triple-threat to win the title ... **Jake Bosche & Scott Stanley** beat **Devin & Mason Cutter** and **Calvin Kelly & Cash Kennedy** in a triple-threat to win the vacant PWE tag team title ... **Lenny Mephisto** beat PWE Powerhouse champion **Nick Natural** in a no-DQ match to win the title ... **Benjamin Trust** pinned **Vic Capri** ... **Alex Herzog** won a battle royal ... **Camaro Jackson** defeated PWE Interstate champion **Heath Slater** to win the title. (09-14-24)

—Patrick Brandmeyer

### MICHIGAN

**DETROIT**—Game Changer Wrestling at Harpo's Music Theatre: **Alec Price** pinned **Arez** ... Tag team champions **Dominic Garrini & Kevin Ku** defeated **Malcolm Monroe III &**



Sunshine Machine (Chuck Mambo & TK Cooper) pulled off some innovative tag team offense against Zack Gibson (pictured) and his Grizzled Young Veterans partner James Drake.

Tommy Vendetta to retain ... Maki Itoh pinned Kylie Rae ... Gringo Loco pinned Man Like DeReiss ... Megan Bayne pinned Brooke Havok ... Ciclope pinned Blake Christian ... 1 Called Manders, DARK Sheik, & EFFY defeated Madman Pondo, 2 Tuff Tony, & Breyer Wellington ... Sawyer Wreck pinned Crazy King ... John Wayne Murdoch pinned Dr. Redacted ... Heavyweight champion

Mance Warner wrestled Danhausen to a no-contest ... Danhausen & Joey Janela defeated Mance Warner & Broski Jimmy.  
(09-14-24)

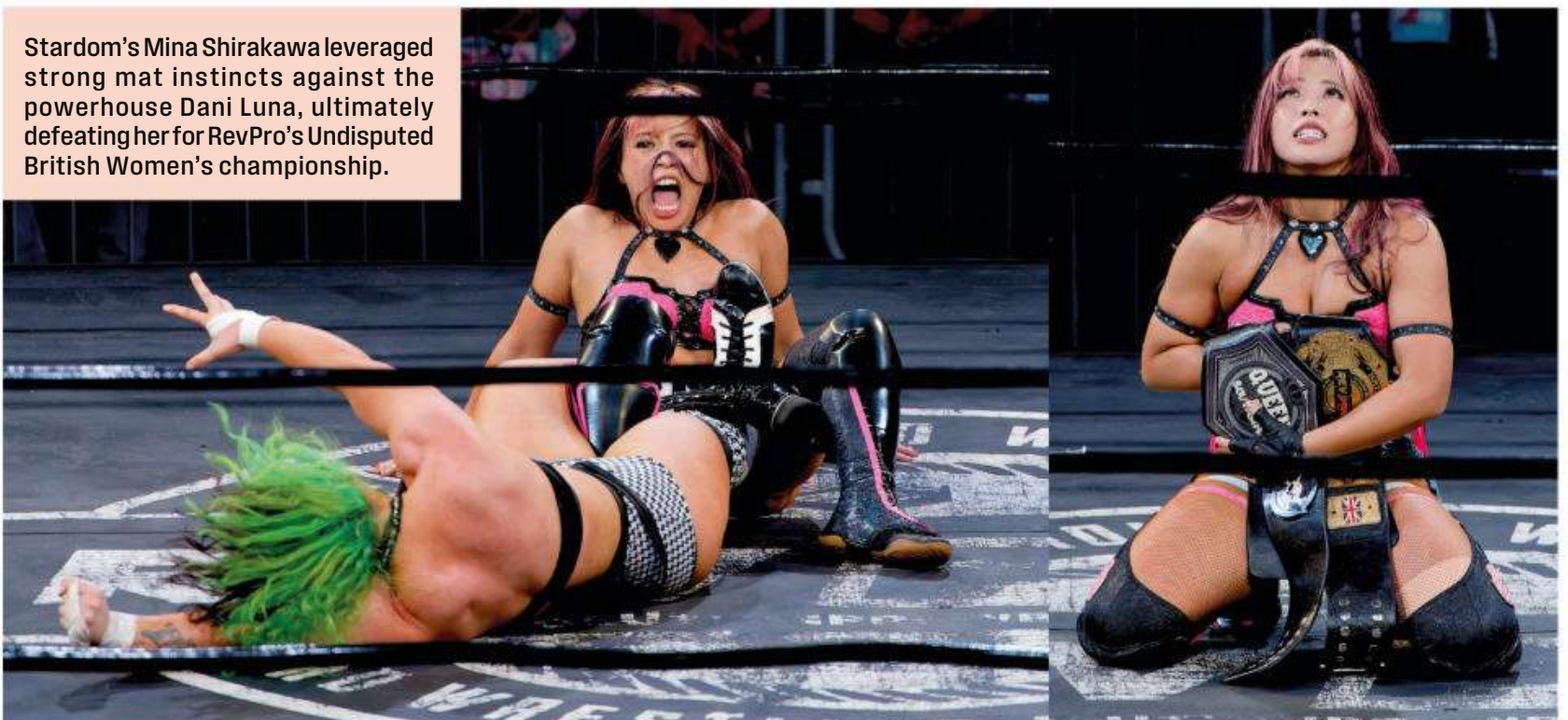
—Leonard Brand

OSCODA—Imperial Wrestling Entertainment at Furtaw Field: Shaun Mortekai pinned John Campbell ... Pun The Psych pinned

Kingpin Rob Frost ... 24K & Derric Crow defeated Cody Leedy & Tyler Dean ... Stuntman Mike defeated Officer Scott Atlas ... Jeremiah J. Hughes & Big Bufford defeated Nick Baker & Roberto Cruz ... The Mighty Bojack pinned Bill Blackwell to win the IWE heavyweight championship.  
(09-07-24)

—John Campbell

Stardom's Mina Shirakawa leveraged strong mat instincts against the powerhouse Dani Luna, ultimately defeating her for RevPro's Undisputed British Women's championship.





Hechicero applies a stretch muffler to Zack Sabre Jr., who looks for a way to counter the hold.

## MINNESOTA

**WOODBURY**—Midwest All-Star Wrestling at Woodbury Leadership Academy: **Maggie Lee** pinned **Heather Malone** ... **J Fowler** defeated **Samuray Del Sol** and **Ethan Everheart** in a three-way match ... **Laynie Luck** pinned Women's champion **Natalia Markova** to win the title ... Heavyweight champion **JDX** pinned **GPA** to retain ... **Jordynne Grace** pinned **Sierra** ... **Joey Avalon & Joe Hendry** defeated tag team champions **Aaron Arsenal & Lennox Leone** to win the title. (09-15-24)

—*Ryan Medeiros*

## OKLAHOMA

**BROKEN ARROW**—Wrestling for a Cause “Last Stop” at The Property Event Center: **Justin Lee & Cappuccino Jones** defeated **Titan Yin & Zachariah Zeus** ... **Logan Knight** defeated **Johnny Lightning** ... **Riker, Mr. Nasty, Dutch Hagen, & Richie Adams** beat **Tim Rockwell, Duke Cornell, Duke Blanchard, & Jack Davenport** ... WFC Hometown Heroes champion **Wesley Crane** defeated **Eddie LeVaughn** to retain ... **Derek James & Cade Fite** defeated **Justin Lee & Cappuccino Jones** and WFC tag team champions **Johnny Lightning & Johnny Dynamite** in a triple-

threat to win the title ... **Tommy Dean** defeated **Riley Grinn** in a no-holds-barred match ... **Silas Young** beat **Jack Vaughn** ... **Dan Webber** defeated **Zac Royal** by submission ... **Bobby Dylan** beat **Logan Knight** ... **Wrangler Rhett** defeated WFC Prime champion **Alex Royal** in a steel cage match to win the title. (09-07-24)

—*Mike Iles*

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**ANDERSON**—3 Count Pro Wrestling “Westside Fury” at Westside High School ... **Chrisifix** pinned **Ken Magnum** ... **Joshua O’Glesby** pinned **Jake Jacobs** ... **Lance Glenshaw** pinned **Atom Honu** ... **Zach Stewart** defeated **Zuka King** by countout ... Next Level champion **Bebop** pinned **Sgt. Code Name Flex** to retain ... Heavyweight champion **Jacob Armachain** wrestled **Chase Emery** and **Quan Anderson** to a no-contest ... **Jacob Armachain & Zach & Dylan Stewart** defeated **Quan Anderson, Bebop, and Zuka King**. (09-14-24)

—*Brett Wolverton*

## WEST VIRGINIA

**KEYSER**—Elite Pro Wrestling Alliance at the Indie on Main Theatre: **Troy Thunder** pinned **Sean Evans** ... **Cizzko** beat **Dallas Riggs** by ref stoppage ... **Jason Radatz** wrestled **Blackhawk** to a time-limit draw ... **KP McGregor** beat Elite Pro Hybrid champion **Israel Sharif Phakur** by DQ ... **Cooper Lark & Andrew Stevens** defeated **Tjay Sykes & Leslie Leatherman**. (09-05-24)

—*Tim Walker*

By many counts, it was the 10-woman tag match that stole the anniversary show. Bloody yet determined, Nightshade seeks to put Alex Windsor through a table.



## CANADA

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**VICTORIA**—365 Pro Wrestling at White Eagle Polish Hall: **Devon Shooter** defeated **Elliot Tyler** ... **Thelonious Jovinius Harlequin** defeated **Ramone Carlton** ... **Damien Caines** beat **Chip Chambers** ... 365 Combat champion **Maxwell Benson** defeated **Eli Surge** to retain ... Tag team champions **Sawyer Stein & Johnny Rostyn** defeated **Inferno & Zack Andrews** in a best-of-three-falls match to retain. (09-21-24)

—*J Hardy*

### ONTARIO

**COTTAM**—Border City Wrestling at the Cottam Fair: **Psycho Mike** pinned **Tyler Tirva** ... **N8 Mattson** pinned **TARIK**... **Jonny Deluca** pinned **Bryce Hanson** ... **Wanda Delrey** pinned **Taylor Rising** ... **Rohan Raja** pinned **Bhupinder Gujjar** ... **El Reverso & Aiden Prince** defeated **Sheldon Jean & N8 Mattson** to win the tag team title. (09-15-24)

—*Leonard Brand*

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Jacobs defeated Oku to become the RevPro Undisputed British heavyweight champ—adding the prize to a trophy case that already included the PROGRESS Men's championship.

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# FOR PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

For decades now, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* has helped readers keep tabs on the best and brightest grapplers from around the world. Now, our widely read Ratings section is bigger and better than ever!

## HEAVYWEIGHT

- 1** **CODY RHODES**  
(1) *WWE Undisputed Universal champion*  
Atlanta, GA
- 2** **BRYAN DANIELSON**  
(-) *AEW World champion*  
Aberdeen, WA
- 3** **GUNTHER**  
(2) *WWE World heavyweight champion*  
Vienna, Austria
- 4** **NIC NEMETH**  
(6) *TNA World champion*  
Hollywood, FL
- 5** **TETSUYA NAITO**  
(4) *IWGP World champion*  
Tokyo, Japan
- 6** **MISTICO**  
(-) *World Historic middleweight champion*  
Mexico City, Mexico
- 7** **SATOSHI KOJIMA**  
(-) *MLW World champion*  
Tokyo, Japan
- 8** **KAITO KIYOMIYA**  
(8) *GHC champion*  
Saitama, Japan
- 9** **YUMA AOYAGI**  
(9) *Triple Crown champion*  
Nagano, Japan
- 10** **THOM LATIMER**  
(-) *NWA World champion*  
Chesterfield, U.K.

## WOMEN

- 1** **JORDYNNE GRACE**  
(4) *TNA Women's World champion*  
Austin, TX
- 2** **MARIAH MAY**  
(-) *AEW Women's World champion*  
London, U.K.
- 3** **MERCEDES MONE**  
(7) *AEW TBS/NJPW STRONG Women's champion*  
Boston, MA
- 4** **LIV MORGAN**  
(1) *WWE Women's World champion*  
Elmwood Park, NJ
- 5** **NIA JAX**  
(3) *WWE Women's champion*  
San Diego, CA
- 6** **TAM NAKANO**  
(-) *World of Stardom champion*  
Aichi, Japan
- 7** **ROXANNE PEREZ**  
(-) *NXT Women's champion*  
Laredo, TX
- 8** **NATSUPOI**  
(-) *Wonder of Stardom champion*  
Kanagawa, Japan
- 9** **MIU WATANABE**  
(9) *TJPW Princess of Princess champion*  
Saitama, Japan
- 10** **ZEUXIS**  
(-) *CMLL Women's World champion*  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



PHOTO BY GEORGENAPOLITANO

**MISTICO**



PHOTO BY BASIL MAHMUD

**MERCEDES MONE**

### WWE RAW MEN

- C** **GUNTHER**  
(C) Vienna, Austria
- 1-BRON BREAKER**  
(1) Atlanta, GA
  - 2-DAMIAN PRIEST**  
(2) New York, NY
  - 3-JEY USO**  
(3) San Francisco, CA
  - 4-BRONSON REED**  
(4) Black Forest, South Australia
  - 5-SHEAMUS**  
(5) Dublin, Ireland

### SMACKDOWN MEN

- C** **CODY RHODES**  
(C) Atlanta, GA
- 1-LA KNIGHT**  
(1) Las Vegas, NV
  - 2-ANDRADE**  
(3) Gomez Palacio, Mexico
  - 3-CARMELO HAYES**  
(5) Worcester, MA
  - 4-KEVIN OWENS**  
(4) Marietta, QC
  - 5-APOLLO CREWS**  
(-) Sacramento, CA

### AEW MEN

- C** **BRYAN DANIELSON**  
(2) Aberdeen, WA
- 1-WILL OSPREAY**  
(3) Essex, U.K.
  - 2-ADAM PAGE**  
(-) Aaron's Creek, VA
  - 3-KAZUCHIKA OKADA**  
(-) Aichi, Japan
  - 4-JACK PERRY**  
(4) California
  - 5-CHRISTIAN CAGE**  
(-) Toronto, ON

### TNA MEN

- C** **NIC NEMETH**  
(C) Hollywood, FL
- 1-MIKE BAILEY**  
(1) Laval, QC
  - 2-ZACHARY WENTZ**  
(-) Lima, OH
  - 3-JOE HENDRY**  
(3) Edinburgh, Scotland
  - 4-MIKE SANTANA**  
(4) Brooklyn, NY
  - 5-STEVE MACLIN**  
(-) Rutherford, NJ

### NJPW

- C** **TETSUYA NAITO**  
(C) Tokyo, Japan
- 1-GREAT-O-KHAN**  
(4) Maebashi, Japan
  - 2-ZACK SABRE JR.**  
(1) Isle of Sheppey, U.K.
  - 3-DAVID FINLAY**  
(3) Atlanta, GA
  - 4-HENARE**  
(-) Auckland, New Zealand
  - 5-DOUKI**  
(-) Kanagawa, Japan

### WWE RAW WOMEN

- C** **LIV MORGAN**  
(C) Elmwood Park, NJ
- 1-IYO SKY**  
(1) Tokyo, Japan
  - 2-LYRA VALKYRIA**  
(2) Dublin, Ireland
  - 3-SONYA DEVILLE**  
(3) Los Angeles, CA
  - 4-NATALYA**  
(-) Calgary, AB
  - 5-ZOEY STARK**  
(5) Las Vegas, NV

### SMACKDOWN WOMEN

- C** **NIA JAX**  
(C) San Diego, CA
- 1-BAYLEY**  
(1) San Jose, CA
  - 2-NAOMI**  
(2) Orlando, FL
  - 3-TIFFANY STRATTON**  
(-) Prior Lake, MN
  - 4-CHELSEA GREEN**  
(-) Victoria, B.C.
  - 5-MICHIN**  
(5) Los Angeles, CA

### AEW WOMEN

- C** **MARIAH MAY**  
(2) London, U.K.
- 1-MERCEDES MONE**  
(1) Boston, MA
  - 2-WILLOW NIGHTINGALE**  
(-) Long Island, NY
  - 3-JAMIE HAYTER**  
(-) Southampton, U.K.
  - 4-HIKARU SHIDA**  
(3) Kanagawa, Japan
  - 5-KRIS STATLANDER**  
(-) Long Island, NY

### TNA KNOCKOUTS

- C** **JORDYNNE GRACE**  
(C) Austin, TX
- 1-ASH BY ELEGANCE**  
(5) Cleveland, OH
  - 2-TASHA STEELZ**  
(2) Brick City, NJ
  - 3-HEATHER RECKLESS**  
(-) Denver, CO
  - 4-XIA BROOKSIDE**  
(4) Liverpool, U.K.
  - 5-MASHA SLAMOVICH**  
(-) Moscow, Russia

### STARDOM

- C** **TAM NAKANO**  
(-) Aichi, Japan
- 1-NATSUPOI**  
(1) Kanagawa, Japan
  - 2-THEKLA**  
(2) Vienna, Austria
  - 3-MOMO WATANABE**  
(3) Kanagawa, Japan
  - 4-MAYU IWATANI**  
(5) Yamaguchi, Japan
  - 5-NATSUKO TORA**  
(C) Kanagawa, Japan



Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or tag team. Unless submitted by promoters, ratings are compiled by a committee consisting of Kevin McElvaney, Jason McVeigh, Kristen Ashly, Harry Burkett, Paul Pratt, and STRIGGA (Cagematch.net, Purolove.com). The numbers in parentheses indicate a wrestler's position in that category last issue.

## TAG TEAM

- 1 THE YOUNG BUCKS**  
*Matthew & Nicholas Jackson*  
(7) AEW World tag team champions
- 2 THE BLOODLINE**  
*Tama Tonga & Tanga Loa*  
(2) WWE tag team champions
- 3 THE SYSTEM**  
*Brian Myers & Eddie Edwards*  
(-) TNA World tag team champions
- 4 THE JUDGMENT DAY**  
*Finn Balor & JD McDonagh*  
(1) WWE World tag team champions
- 5 VODOO MURDERS**  
*Jun & Rei Saito*  
(4) All Japan tag team champions
- 6 BIANCA BELAIR & JADE CARGILL**  
(-) WWE women's tag team champions
- 7 AXIOM & NATHAN FRAZER**  
(-) NXT tag team champions
- 8 DUSTIN RHODES & SAMMY GUEVARA**  
(-) ROH World tag team champions
- 9 KNOX & MURDOCH**  
*Mike Knox & Trevor Murdoch*  
(-) NWA World tag team champions
- 10 ANGEL DE ORO & NIEBLA ROJA**  
*Angel de Oro & Niebla Roja*  
(-) CMLL World tag team champions



PHOTO BY OCTOPUS STRETCH

GIULIA



PHOTO BY SCOTT LESH

SARAYA

## MOST POPULAR

- 1-CODY RHODES
- 2-BRYAN DANIELSON
- 3-JEY USO
- 4-JOE HENDRY
- 5-CM PUNK
- 6-WILL OSPREAY
- 7-RHEA RIPLEY
- 8-LA KNIGHT
- 9-TRICK WILLIAMS
- 10-GIULIA

## MOST HATED

- 1-DOMINIK MYSTERIO
- 2-LIV MORGAN
- 3-SOLO SIKOA
- 4-JACK PERRY
- 5-CHRIS JERICHO
- 6-MJF
- 7-ETHAN PAGE
- 8-EVIL
- 9-SARAYA
- 10-ADAM PAGE

### MLW MEN

- C SATOSHI KOJIMA**  
(C) Tokyo, Japan
- 1-MATT RIDDLE  
(1) Las Vegas, NV
  - 2-MADS KRUGGER  
(3) Unknown
  - 3-MINORU SUZUKI  
(2) Kanagawa, Japan
  - 4-DONOVAN DIJAK  
(-) Worcester, MA
  - 5-KENTA  
(5) Tokyo, Japan

### NWA MEN

- C THOM LATIMER**  
(1) Chesterfield, U.K.
- 1-MIMS  
(1) Clarksville, TN
  - 2-MAX THE IMPALER  
(2) The Wasteland
  - 3-SILAS MASON  
(3) Blount County, TN
  - 4-JACK CARTWHEEL  
(-) Sacramento, CA
  - 5-EC3  
(C) Boca Raton, FL

### NXT MEN

- C ETHAN PAGE**  
(C) Hamilton, ON
- 1-Oba Femi  
(1) Lagos, Nigeria
  - 2-CHARLIE DEMPSEY  
(2) Blackpool, U.K.
  - 3-TRICK WILLIAMS  
(4) Columbia, SC
  - 4-JEVON EVANS  
(-) Greensboro, NC
  - 5-JOE HENDRY  
(5) Edinburgh, Scotland

### ROH MEN

- C MARK BRISCOE**  
(C) Sandy Fork, DE
- 1-ATLANTIS JR.  
(1) Mexico City, Mexico
  - 2-LEE MORIARTY  
(2) Pittsburgh, PA
  - 3-WHEELER YUTA  
(3) Philadelphia, PA
  - 4-KATSUYORI SHIBATA  
(4) Mie, Japan
  - 5-ACTION ANDRETTI  
(-) Philadelphia, PA

### AAA MEN

- C ALBERTO EL PATRON**  
(C) San Luis Potosi, Mexico
- 1-MATT RIDDLE  
(1) Las Vegas, NV
  - 2-OCTAGON JR.  
(2) Mexico City, Mexico
  - 3-NIC NEMETH  
(3) Hollywood, FL
  - 4-KOMANDER  
(4) Reynosa, Mexico
  - 5-VAMPIRO  
(5) Thunder Bay, ON

### MLW WOMEN

- C JANAI KAI**  
(C) Washington, D.C.
- 1-MIYU YAMASHITA  
(1) Fukuoka, Japan
  - 2-DELMÍ EXO  
(2) Providence, RI
  - 3-NAO KAKUTA  
(4) Chiba, Japan
  - 4-HANAKO  
(3) Kyoto, Japan
  - 5-GIGI REY  
(5) Edmonton, AB

### NWA WOMEN

- C KENZIE PAIGE**  
(C) Sevierville, TN
- 1-MAX THE IMPALER  
(1) The Wasteland
  - 2-NATALIA MARKOVA  
(2) Moscow, Russia
  - 3-KYLIE PAIGE  
(3) Sevierville, TN
  - 4-TIFFANY NIEVES  
(4) New York, NY
  - 5-SANTANA GARRETT  
(-) Ocala, FL

### NXT WOMEN

- C ROXANNE PEREZ**  
(C) Laredo, TX
- 1-KELANI JORDAN  
(1) Boynton Beach, FL
  - 2-LOLA VICE  
(2) Miami, FL
  - 3-GIULIA  
(-) London, U.K.
  - 4-TATUM PAXLEY  
(-) Texas
  - 5-JAIDA PARKER  
(5) Port St. Lucie, FL

### ROH WOMEN

- C ATHENA**  
(C) Dallas, TX
- 1-RED VELVET  
(1) Miami, FL
  - 2-BILLIE STARKZ  
(2) Louisville, KY
  - 3-QUEEN AMINATA  
(3) Guinea, West Africa
  - 4-MINA SHIRAKAWA  
(-) Tokyo, Japan
  - 5-ABADON  
(-) The Black Hills

### AAA WOMEN

- C FLAMMER**  
(C) Monterrey, Mexico
- 1-FABY APACHE  
(1) Mexico City, Mexico
  - 2-DALYS  
(2) Panama
  - 3-REINA DORADA  
(3) Mexico City, Mexico
  - 4-LA HIEDRA  
(4) Nuevo Laredo, Mexico
  - 5-MARAVILLA  
(5) Monterrey, Mexico



# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**IF THERE'S ONE TREND** we like to see in our ratings, it's relative parity between companies and representation from multiple promotions within our Heavyweight, Tag Team, and Women's Top 10s. This month is a perfect illustration of that, as all three lists are topped by people from different organizations.

WWE Undisputed champion **Cody Rhodes**, TNA Knockouts champion **Jordynne Grace**, and AEW World tag team champions **The Young Bucks** all did enough for our Ratings committee to declare them #1 in their respective categories. The Heavyweight list, in particular, offers a window into just how many quality wrestlers are making waves around the globe. **Bryan Danielson (#2)** and **Gunther (#3)** had big time title defenses in locales such as London, Chicago, and Berlin. **Nic Nemeth (#4)** dropped the AAA Mega championship during our evaluation period but put in stellar performances on big TNA shows, remaining the promotion's World champion. Though not the heavyweight champion of CMLL, **Mistico (#6)** continued to state his case

as the top star in Mexico, while the Japanese quartet of **Tetsuya Naito (#5)**, **Satoshi Kojima (#7)**, **Kaito Kiyomiya (#8)**, and **Yuma Aoyagi (#9)** remained the gold standard in NJPW, MLW, NOAH, and AJPW, respectively. Throw in new NWA World heavyweight champion **Thom Latimer (#10)** and you have representation from nine different promotions on that list alone.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MCELVANEY

**SATOSHI KOJIMA LIFTS THE MLW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT BELT AFTER DEFEATING ALEX KANE FOR IT BACK IN FEBRUARY. THE VETERAN GRAPPLER IS ONE OF FOUR JAPANESE WRESTLERS IN THIS MONTH'S TOP 10 HEAVYWEIGHT RANKING.**

## CMLL

### MEN

- C GRAN GUERRERO**  
(C) Gomez Palacio, Mexico
- 1-MISTICO**  
(1) Mexico City, Mexico
- 2-TITAN**  
(-) Guadalajara, Mexico
- 3-MASCARA DORADA**  
(2) Mexico
- 4-HECHICERO**  
(-) Monterrey, Mexico
- 5-ATLANTIS JR.**  
(-) Guadalajara, Mexico

## NOAH

- C KAITO KIYOMIYA**  
(C) Saitama, Japan
- 1-MASA KITAMIYA**  
(-) Toyama, Japan
- 2-MANABU SOYA**  
(-) Nagano, Japan
- 3-DAGA**  
(-) Mexico City, Mexico
- 4-TAKASHI SUGIURA**  
(5) Aichi, Japan
- 5-HAYATA**  
(-) Hiroshima, Japan

## AJPW

- C YUMA ANZAI**  
(C) Gunma, Japan
- 1-REN AYABE**  
(-) Saitama, Japan
- 2-RYUKI HONDA**  
(-) Tokyo, Japan
- 3-NARUKI DOI**  
(2) Nara, Japan
- 4-KENTO MIYAHARA**  
(5) Fukuoka, Japan
- 5-REI SAITO**  
(-) Miyagi, Japan

## INDEPENDENT



- C KRULE**  
(C) Unknown
- 1-LOU NIXON**  
(2) Newcastle, U.K.
- 2-DARIAN BENGSTON**  
(4) Waterloo, IA
- 3-1 CALLED MANDERS**  
(5) Iowa City, IA
- 4-CHANNING THOMAS**  
(-) Saugus, MA
- 5-JUNIOR BENITO**  
(-) Ottawa, ON

## PROGRESS

### MEN

- C LUKE JACOBS**  
(C) Manchester, U.K.
- 1-MAN LIKE DEREISS**  
(4) Birmingham, U.K.
- 2-LEON SLATER**  
(-) Bradford, U.K.
- 3-KID LYKOS**  
(1) Cambridge, U.K.
- 4-TATE MAYFAIRS**  
(-) London, U.K.
- 5-CARA NOIR**  
(-) Essex, U.K.

## CMLL

### WOMEN

- C ZEUXIS**  
(5) San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 1-WILLOW NIGHTINGALE**  
(C) Long Island, NY
- 2-TESSA BLANCHARD**  
(2) Charlotte, NC
- 3-LLUVIA**  
(1) Mexico City, Mexico
- 4-LA CATALINA**  
(-) Santiago, Chile
- 5-PERSEPHONE**  
(-) El Paso, Texas

## TJPW

- C MIU WATANABE**  
(C) Saitama, Japan
- 1-YUKI ARAI**  
(1) Kyoto, Japan
- 2-RYO MIZUNAMI**  
(-) Aichi, Japan
- 3-YUKI AINO**  
(4) Okayama, Japan
- 4-ARISU ENDO**  
(3) Fukushima, Japan
- 5-POM HARAJUKU**  
(5) Tokyo, Japan

## MARIGOLD

- C SAREEE**  
(4) Tokyo, Japan
- 1-MIKU AONO**  
(2) Saitama, Japan
- 2-NATSUMI SHOWZUKI**  
(-) Hyogo, Japan
- 3-BOZILLA**  
(3) Hanover, Germany
- 4-GIULIA**  
(-) London, U.K.
- 5-MIRAI**  
(1) Iwate, Japan

## PAN-AFRIKAN

- C SUGED**  
(C) Augusta, GA
- 1-JORDAN BLADE**  
(1) Richmond, VA
- 2-PAPA JACE**  
(2) Las Vegas, NV
- 3-EEL O'NEAL**  
(3) Baltimore, MD
- 4-SHELTON BENJAMIN**  
(4) Orangeburg, SC
- 5-BILLY DIXON**  
(5) New York, NY

## PROGRESS

### WOMEN

- C RHIO**  
(C) Preston, U.K.
- 1-LIZZY EVO**  
(3) Liverpool, U.K.
- 2-NINA SAMUELS**  
(1) London, U.K.
- 3-KANJI**  
(2) Nottingham, U.K.
- 4-SESSION MOTH MARTINA**  
(4) Dublin, Ireland
- 5-EMERSYN JAYNE**  
(-) Glasgow, Scotland





## JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT

- 1 MISTICO**  
(-) MLW/CMLL middleweight champion  
Mexico City, Mexico
- 2 DOUKI**  
(-) IWGP junior heavyweight champion  
Kanagawa, Japan
- 3 MIKE BAILEY**  
(-) TNA X division champion  
Laval, QC
- 4 TITAN**  
(-) CMLL welterweight champion  
Guadalajara, Mexico
- 5 NARUKI DOI**  
(-) AJPW junior heavyweight champion  
Nara, Japan
- 6 DAGA**  
(-) GHC junior heavyweight champion  
Mexico City, Mexico
- 7 AVERNO**  
(-) CMLL World light heavyweight champion  
Mexico City, Mexico
- 8 DRAGON DIA**  
(-) Open the Brave Gate champion  
Nagano, Japan
- 9 ZACHARY WENTZ**  
(-) Former TNA X division champion  
Lima, OH
- 10 WILL KAVEN**  
(-) RevPro British cruiserweight champion  
Portsmouth, U.K.

## TOP 10 UNSIGNED REFEREES

- 1-NICK SHIN
- 2-STEVEN DUMENG
- 3-DARRICK MOORE
- 4-BEN SHEINBERG
- 5-GINA MONTI
- 6-ALEX SCHNEIDER
- 7-MIKE FULLBLACK
- 8-LARRY PEACE
- 9-ANDREW GORDON
- 10-MJ BELL

—Sent by Nick Shin  
Teaneck, NJ

## TOP 10 RIC FLAIR RIVALRIES

- 1-DUSTY RHODES
- 2-RICKY STEAMBOAT
- 3-STING
- 4-LEX LUGER
- 5-HARLEY RACE
- 6-BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 7-HULK HOGAN
- 8-BARRY WINDHAM
- 9-RODDY PIPER
- 10-SHAWN MICHAELS

—Sent by Jimmy Nance  
Myrtle Beach, SC



PHOTO BY SCOTT LESH

WILL KAVEN

## TOP 10 FACTIONS

- 1-THE FOUR HORSEMEN
- 2-THE NEW WORLD ORDER
- 3-THE BLOODLINE
- 4-DEGENERATION-X
- 5-THE HART FOUNDATION
- 6-THE HEENAN FAMILY
- 7-THE DANGEROUS ALLIANCE
- 8-THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS
- 9-THE MILLION DOLLAR MAFIA
- 10-BULLET CLUB

—Sent by Jimmy Nance  
Myrtle Beach, SC

**DRAGONGATE: CHAMPION**—YAMATO; 1-Dragon Dia; 2-Ben-K; 3-ISHIN; 4-JACKY KAMEI; 5-BIGBOSS Shimizu

**DDT: CHAMPION**—Shinya Aoki; 1-Yuki Iino; 2-Shunma Katsumata; 3-MAO; 4-Tetsuya Endo; 5-Yuki Ueno

**GAME CHANGER WRESTLING: CHAMPION**—Mance Warner; 1-Alec Price; 2-Brandon Kirk; 3-Matt Tremont; 4-John Wayne Murdoch; 5-Megan Bayne

**DEFY WRESTLING: CHAMPION**—KENTA; 1-SCHAFF; 2-Cody Chhun; 3-Mark Haskins; 4-Nick Wayne; 5-Jon Moxley

**HOODSLAM: CHAMPION**—Vipress; 1-Brooke Havok; 2-Emo Rob; 3-Captain MYLO; 4-Mighty Mayra; 5-Keita Murray

**JUGGALO CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: CHAMPION**—Matt Cross; 1-Caleb Konley; 2-Willie Mack; 3-Nick Gage; 4-James Storm; 5-Simon Gotch

**OHIO VALLEY WRESTLING: CHAMPION**—Cash Flo; 1-EC3; 2-Tony Gunn; 3-Kal Herro; 4-Crixus; 5-Jamin Olivencia

**WWC: CHAMPION**—Ray Gonzalez; 1-Mike Nice; 2-Sr. Anthony; 3-Chicano; 4-Eddie Colon; 5-Ryan Nemeth

**ICW (SCOTLAND): CHAMPION**—Kenny Williams; 1-Theo Doros; 2-Jack Jester; 3-Landon Riley; 4-Lee McRae; 5-Stevie James

**REVOLUTION PRO WRESTLING: CHAMPION**—Luke Jacobs; 1-Will Kaven; 2-Zozaya; 3-Zack Sabre Jr.; 4-Michael Oku; 5-Leon Slater

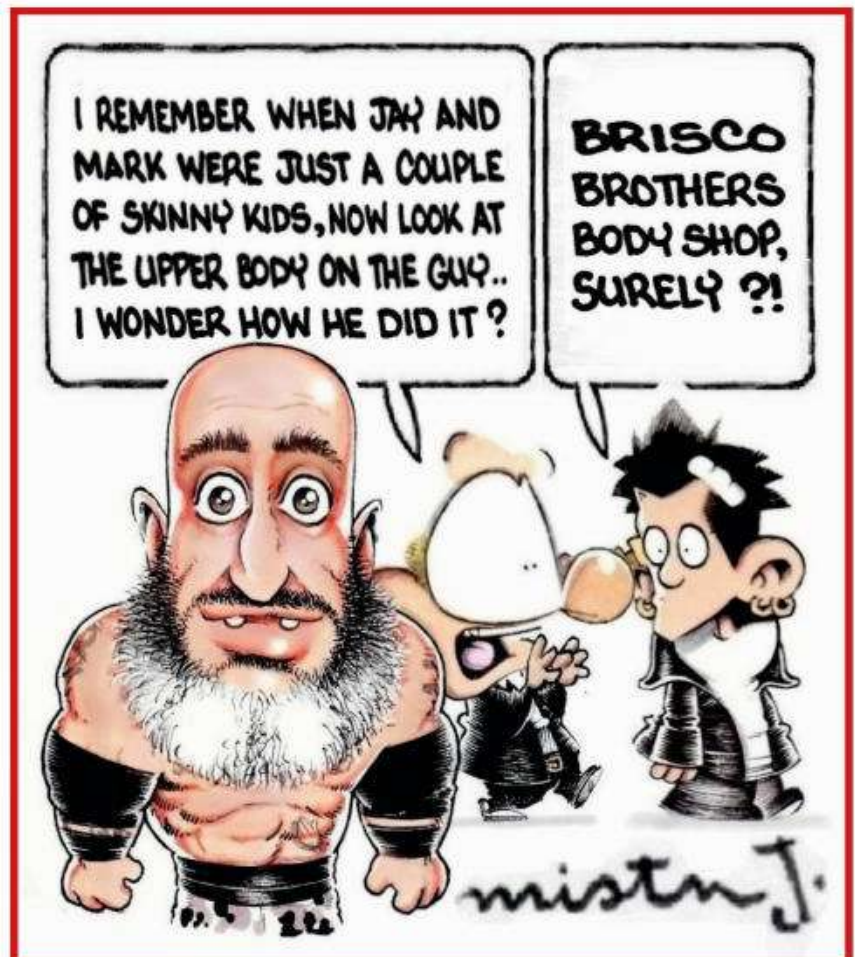
**WXW: CHAMPION**—Laurance Roman; 1-Levaniell; 2-Aigle Blanc; 3-Robert Dreissker; 4-Ahura; 5-Pahlevan Nima

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Each issue, we'll include a reader submission or two. Have fun! And don't forget to include your name and hometown, so that we can credit you.

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BY JASON CONLAN



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