

'THE THRILLBILLY' SILAS MASON WANTS THE NWA WORLD'S TITLE!



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APRIL/MAY 2024

WRESTLING



CAN ARON STEVENS LEAD

**BLUNT FORCE
TRAUMA**

TO VICTORY AT THE 2024

CROCKETT CUP?

**THIS MONTH IN
NWA HISTORY**

**STEVE CORINO
KERRY VON ERICH**



**ALSO INSIDE: KYLLIE PAIGE • MISSA KATE • "NATURE BOY" RIC FLAIR
• BRYAN IDOL • JAX DANE • ANTHONY ANDREWS • LA ROSA NEGRA**



An Official Publication of the National Wrestling Alliance

From the Desk of . . .

An Island in the Stream

Weeks before the pandemic brought the world to a screeching halt, the first person I knew was diagnosed with Covid.

Having just moved into a new apartment days before, my friend's cable was connected, but he had no television. Realizing he would be quarantined for two weeks minimum, I took the TV off my wall and dropped it at his doorstep without a second thought.

That was the last day I had a television – or cable – in my home. I haven't missed either one bit. I'd long-since stopped watching "traditional" television. Even then, all my favorite programs were accessible via streaming services and web-based applications from my laptop or even phone.

While my move away from TV entirely is not the norm, the proliferation of digital media is. Platforms like Netflix, Hulu Peacock and more are now broadcast giants. Their content even qualifies for Emmy Awards previously reserved exclusively for televised programming.

That's why it's so confusing when anyone fails to be enthused about **NWA Powerrr** joining **The CW**. Through its app-based streaming partnership, the **National Wrestling Alliance's** flagship program is available online each Tuesday, right next to many of the Top 20 network's most viewed television series.

The platform not only dramatically expands visibility for the brand by promoting it to users, The CW partnership delivers far more tangible rewards. NWA Powerrr now includes the highest production values – crisper colors, clearer picture quality, better sound – and best in-ring action of the **Lightning One Era**.

The NWA also plans to reward fans in other ways. Going forward, future CW episodes will include the action and excitement of Signature Live Events like **The Crockett Cup**, **NWA 76** and more.

NWA Powerrr can be streamed using the very internet access which allows you to read this article or download the issue of **NWA Official Wrestling** it accompanies. Best yet, all are free-of-charge, no sign up, cable fees or subscription required!

Warmest Regards,
Paul E. Pratt

Editor-in-Chief, NWA Official Wrestling



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THIS MONTH IN NWA HISTORY

APRIL 24, 2001 • STEVE CORINO

By the time he arrived in the National Wrestling Alliance in Spring 2001, Steve Corino was an established superstar — especially among fans of hardcore wrestling.

Just weeks prior to his NWA debut, Corino lost the Extreme Championship Wrestling World Championship to The Sandman. As a result, he jumped into immediate contention for "The Ten Pounds of Gold."

It took "The King of Old School" little time to make it to the top of the mountain. On **April 24, 2001**, Corino defeated then-champion Mike Rapada for the NWA World's Heavyweight title in Tampa, FL.

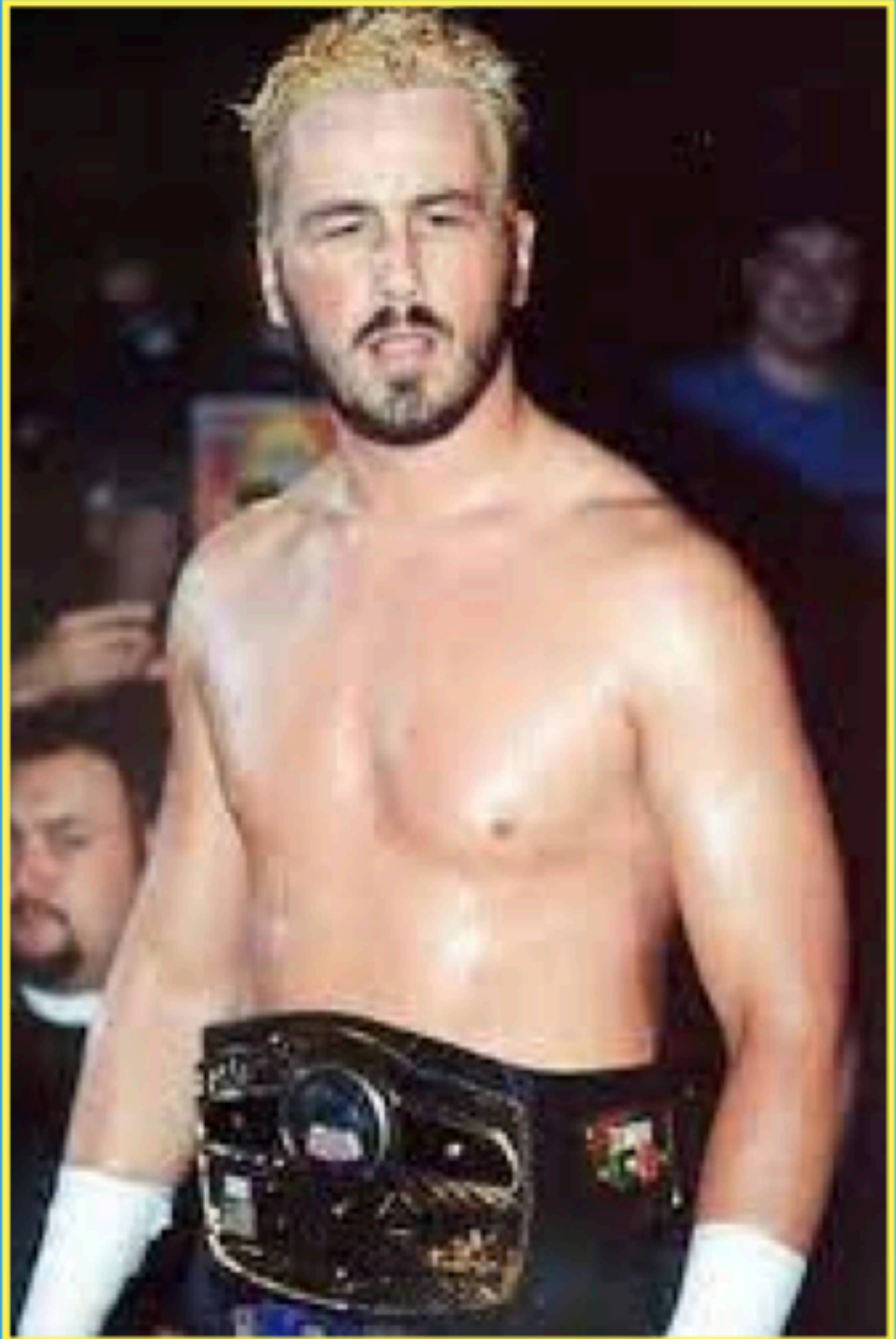
In many ways, Corino's victory was a landmark moment for NWA. Less than seven years prior, Shane Douglas infamously threw that very belt down after winning it in a tournament final at the historic 2300 Arena.

Declaring the NWA "dead," Douglas proclaimed his ECW championship a World Title in its stead. Corino proved the NWA was not "dead" at all, defending the belt for 172 days.

His reign ended October 13, 2001. At the company's anniversary show *NWA 53* in St. Petersburg, FL, Corino faced Japanese legend Shiota Hashimoto. After receiving a head injury, Corino was deemed unable to continue. Ruled a "No Contest," the match was thrown out, neither man victorious and the belt vacated.

Two months later, in McKeesport, PA, a new champion was crowned at *NWA Clash of Champions*. A three-man round robin tournament saw Gary Steele, Hashimoto and Corino compete for the belt — with Hashimoto emerging with the title.

While Corino was unable to reclaim "Sweet Charlotte," his career was far from over. He went on to two reigns as the prestigious World Wrestling Council Universal champion, capture the Major League Wrestling World Title and win the Ring of Honor World Tag Team titles.



The Corino legacy in the National Wrestling Alliance continues. This photo of Steve Corino as NWA World's Champion shows him in the ring with his young son Colby. Though the younger Corino arrived in the NWA bragging about his family's championship lineage, Colby ultimately saw the error of his ways, honorably winning the NWA World's Junior Heavyweight Championship on his own merits.

La Rosa NEGRA

Her time in the National Wrestling Alliance has been filled with setbacks for La Rosa Negra.

First an in-ring injury delayed the Puerto Rican superstar's NWA impact. Then a devastating auto accident threatened her career entirely.

After nearly a year out of action, though, La Rosa Negra is back! An awesome return at the NWA *Hard Times* Signature Live Event could mark the beginning of what many consider the Latina's inevitable climb to the top.

A well-traveled and globally beloved star, La Rosa has already received several title opportunities. She failed to defeat then-champion Kamille for the NWA Women's World title, later falling short in an attempt at the tag team championships as well.

Now that she is back, firing on all cylinders and seemingly better than ever, it might be a different story for La Rosa Negra. How long until this competitor takes NWA gold back to her home in Puerto Rico?



2023

In 2023, The Crockett Cup was won by Knox & Murdoch in Winston-Salem, NC.



THE Legacy OF THE CROCKETT CUP

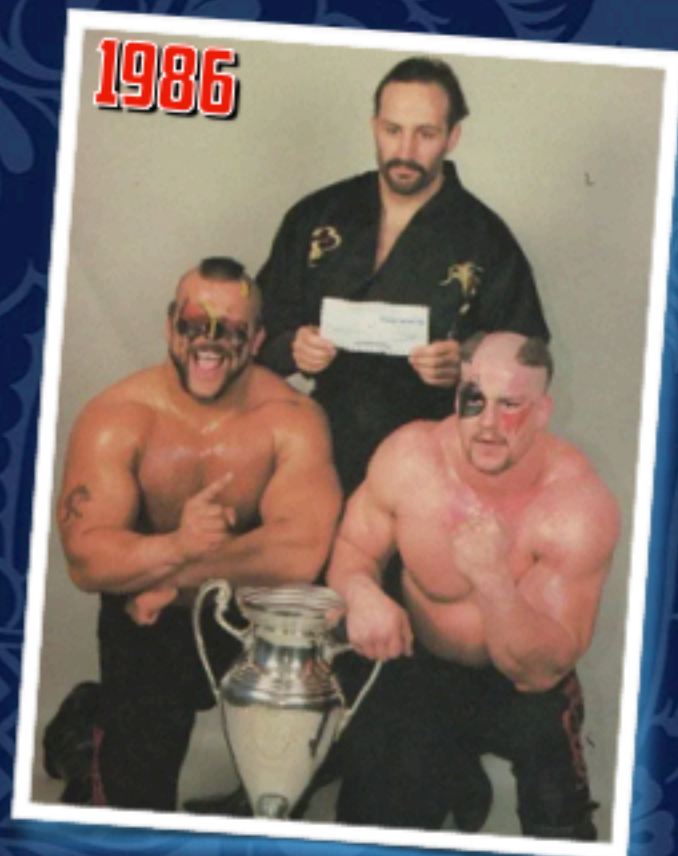
It's more than than simply the most iconic tag team tournament in history, though that alone is ample reason many eagerly anticipate The Crockett Cup each year.

The Crockett Cup presents pro wrestling fans a snapshot of the National Wrestling Alliance as a whole. Each year's winner tell the story of what is happening in the legendary promotion — and who the stars dominating the sport are at that exact moment.

From The Road Warriors destroying the opposition in 1986 to Knox & Murdoch winning in 2023, only six teams have claimed The Crockett Cup. The names engraved on this cherished prize include a veritable who's who of professional wrestling legends dating back nearly 40 years.

On May 18, 2024, in the shadows of Dallas, an all-new chapter in this tournament's storied history will be written! Now we trace the road that leads NWA and The Crockett Cup 2024 to The OC Theatre in Forney, TX.

Tickets to The Crockett Cup 2024 on sale now.
www.NWALiveEvents.com



In 1986, the Inaugural Crockett Cup was won by The Road Warriors, managed by "Precious" Paul Ellering. Arguably wrestling's greatest tag team, Animal & Hawk are the only duo to claim World tag gold in the NWA, WWF and AWA — and twice held the NWA World 6-Man Tag belts with Dusty Rhodes.

1987



The Second-Annual Crockett Cup was won by "The Super Powers," the unlikely pairing of "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes and "The Russian Nightmare" Nikita Koloff. These once heated rivals were brought together by the unspeakable tragedy of Magnum T.A.'s near fatal accident just months before, dominating the competition to bring home the 1987 cup in his honor.

1988



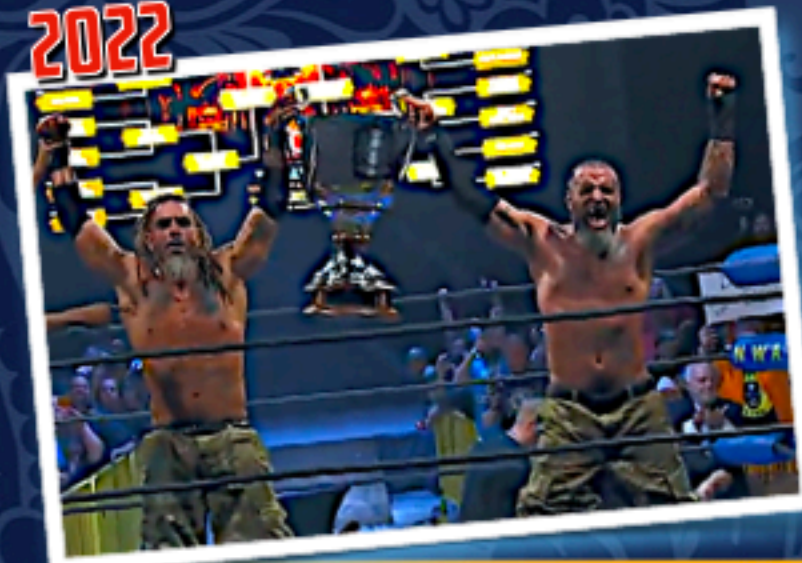
Sometimes two great singles competitors can make an incredible tag team — as Sting and Lex Luger proved in 1988. The two top, young challengers to "The Nature Boy" Ric Flair's NWA World's title joined forces for the 1988 Crockett Cup. Ultimately they faced Flair's Four Horsemen cohorts — and reigning NWA World Tag Team Champions — Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard in the finals, up-ending the champs to take home the coveted Cup!

2019



When The Crockett Cup returned in 2019 as part of the Lightning One Era, the National Wrestling Alliance found itself without World Tag Team Champions and under attack by interlopers from Ring of Honor. When the dust settled, Villain Enterprises members Brodie King and former ROH World Champion PCO stood atop the rest, becoming the first team in more than three decades to claim the Cup — and taking home the NWA World Tag Team Champions in the process.

2022



Had anyone even an inkling of what would come just months later, the conclusion of the 2022 Crockett Cup would have been even more special.


With countless tag team titles already under their belts, Jay and Mark Briscoe were arguably the greatest tag team in generations. The Brothers returned to The Crockett Cup after being eliminated by disqualification the previous year. In their second go, they proved unstoppable, winning the most prestigious tag team tournament in wrestling history.

In a devastating turn, Jay did not live to see the Brother's time with the Cup to its conclusion. He passed away in an horrific auto accident just nine months later.

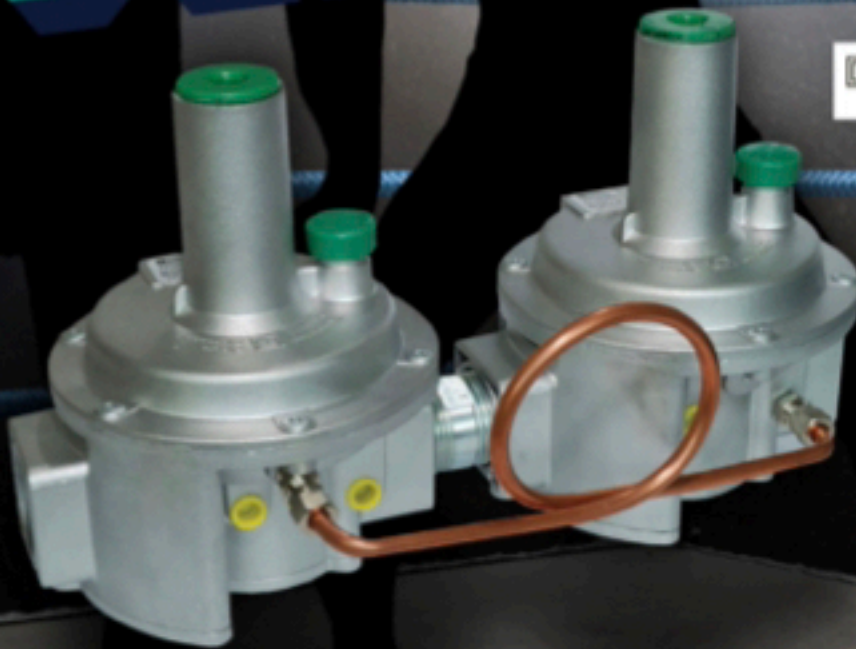
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**CAN ARON STEVENS LEAD
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA
TO VICTORY AT THE 2024
CROCKETT CUP?**



He made them National Wrestling Alliance World Tag Team Champions, but can Aron Stevens lead Blunt Force Trauma to victory in the 2024 Crockett Cup? Their opportunity to make history hangs in the balance!

For over nine months, Blunt Force Trauma has held the National Wrestling Alliance World Tag Team Titles in a stranglehold.

With manager Aron Stevens at the helm, Damage and Carnage have mowed through the competition with reckless abandon. Though countless teams have stepped to the plate for an opportunity at the gold, each has fallen short in their quest.

"As champions, Blunt Force Trauma has been more dominant than anyone could have imagined," admits NWA Senior Broadcaster Joe Galli.

"Aron Stevens is undoubtedly a key to their success," continues Galli, who has called the action during all of BFT's defenses since winning the titles last August at NWA 75. "Whether because of his ability to strategize, or that damn loaded glove, he's factored into almost every victory."

BFT has unquestionably paved a path of destruction through the NWA. However, with the 2024 Crockett Cup looming, notes *NWA Official Wrestling* Editor-in-Chief Paul E. Pratt, the champions soon enter uncharted territory.

Considered by many authority on a wide array of NWA history, specifically the Crockett Cup, Pratt points out the 2024 tournament offers Stevens' pairing a chance to become the first reigning NWA World Tag Team Champions to win it all.

"No team to enter the tournament with the belts has ever taken home the Cup," states Pratt. "The closest any reigning champions have gotten was in 1988 — when Lex Luger and Sting defeated defending champs Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson in the finals."

At the 2023 Crockett Cup, BFT crushed any hopes La Rebelión had for making history. They defeated then-champions MechaWolf and Bestia 666 in the semi-finals before falling to eventual winners Mike Knox and Trevor Murdoch in the finale.



Aron Stevens led Blunt Force Trauma to the finals of the 2023 Crockett Cup, last held in Winston-Salem, NC (Above).

"After the tear they've been on since that loss, this could be Blunt Force Trauma's year opines manager-turned-commentator Danny Dealz.

Stevens has BFT running like a well-oiled machine, he says, and they already hold impressive victories over most top competition within the company.

Despite their Crockett Cup victory last year in Winston-Salem, Knox and Murdoch have not fared so well against BFT since. Naturally, Stevens played a huge role in those losses, but the fact remains they repeatedly failed to wrest the belts from BFT

"It shocked many to watch Knox and Murdoch come up short every single time against the champs," says NWA agent and tag team specialist Dr. Tom Prichard.

"Personally, I'm not entirely surprised," he admits. "BFT are a top-tier team, and Aron Stevens is a very, very smart manager."



NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA
WITH ARON STEVENS



In 2019, Villain Enterprises' Brody King and PCO claimed the Crockett Cup...and the vacant NWA World Tag Team titles in the process (Left). However, to date no reigning tag champions in NWA history have won the tournament. On May 18, in Forney, TX, Aron Stevens and Blunt Force Trauma look to become the first. In 2023, just months before capturing NWA gold, Stevens and the masked pairing of Damage and Carnage (Below) fell short of capturing the Cup — losing to winners Trevor Murdoch & Mike Knox (Bottom).

In addition to surviving Knox and Murdoch, duos like The Fixers and even former World's champions Jax Dane and Tim Storm have fallen to Stevens' masked monsters. Many insiders agree it's hard to picture any current NWA pairing beating the champs amidst the pressure of pro wrestling's most legendary tag tournament.

"The problem BFT *could* face is the unpredictability of The Crockett Cup," suggests Joe Cazana.

In addition to frequently leading his sons The New Country Gentlemen to ringside, the veteran grappler also heads Joe Cazana Promotions, the NWA's Southeastern Territory. Having been at the very first NWA Crockett Cup in 1986, Cazana points to the tournament's tradition of gathering the top duos in the world to compete.

"History has shown the Crockett Cup attracts the best talents from across the United States and around the world," Cazana continues. "While Aron Stevens might have every team in the NWA scouted, he couldn't possibly have his eyes on teams from every corner of the earth all at once!"

Dealz isn't so certain. Stevens has traveled to NWA territories across the country, and works for promotions around the world, says 'The Deals Man.'

"If there's ever been an NWA manager capable of making the kind of history BFT has the chance to at Crockett Cup, it's Aron Stevens," he says.

"That brother always has a plan," Dealz concludes, "And you *know* it involves BFT walking out with the Cup!"



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CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

What's gotten into Missa Kate?! The former NWA Women's World Tag Team Champion has seemed rather...conflicted...of late.

Her dueling personalities were particularly evident during a recent NWA Powerrr outing against Taylor Rising. The grappler went from empathetic to down-right vicious, leading commentator Danny Dealz to dub her "Mean" Missa.

Is it possible the former M95 member hasn't yet shaken her *Samhain* character... or was it *always* far more than an homage?



MISSA KATE



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EC3
"Champion" T-Shirt



MECHAWOLF
"Drac" T-Shirt



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The banner features a black background with the NWA logo and the text "FIND DEALZ NOW!". A QR code is positioned to the left of the text. A hand is shown holding a smartphone displaying the NWA shop app. Below the banner, a group of people are shown wearing NWA merchandise, including a black t-shirt with a star and a purple t-shirt with a pink graphic.

*"I'll put this whole
damn company on
my back & carry it
if that's what it
takes to be the
NWA World's
Champion!"*

- SILAS MASON

**BIG
DADDY
THRILL**

SILAS

SILAS MASON:

“ I’M COMING FOR THE
TEN POUNDS
OF
Gold!
... AND
THOM
LATIMER
IS FURIOUS!



As the National Wrestling Alliance National Champion, “The Thrillbilly” Silas Mason defended the title against opponents around the country.

On an episode of NWA Powerrr, Silas Mason shocked the National Wrestling Alliance. His decision to relinquish the National Heavyweight Championship has many scratching their heads. Perhaps more importantly, one superstar finds the decision downright offensive!

During an interview with Kyle Davis, “The Thrillbilly” stunned the wrestling world, giving up the National Heavyweight Championship. Instead, he announced, he’s now solely focused on EC3’s World’s title.

“I’ve been the NWA National Champion for six months,” declared “Big Daddy Thrill” when asked about his choice after-the-fact. “But it’s become pretty obvious this belt just ain’t big enough for ‘The Biggest Man Who Ever Lived’ EC3, I’m coming for ‘The Ten

Pounds of Gold,’ baby!”

While many are left to question the decision, one person is particularly disturbed by it. National Wrestling Alliance star Thom Latimer seems irate.

“What’s the bloke’s thinking?” asks a bewildered Latimer. “He busted his arse to win that title — just to give it up? It makes no sense!”

For months, Mason doggedly chased National champion EC3. Coming just shy of success in a series of hard-fought, evenly-matched encounters throughout 2023, EC3 vacated the belt when “Big Daddy Thrill” seemed closer to victory than ever.

Even then, some speculated EC3’s move served not



Not long after defending the National Championship at the launch of NWA: Chicago (Left), Silas Mason vacated the belt on an episode of *NWA Powerrrr*.

says it was not a decision he wanted to make — nor should any 'true' champion.

"I defended my belt with pride to *earn* that title shot," Latimer notes. "People expect the TV champion to 'cash in' the Lucky Seven. Otherwise, there's no way in hell I would treat such a prestigious belt as a stepping stone."

The perception Mason has done exactly that with the National title seems to exist, even among those close to him. The announcement he was vacating caught NWA agent Dr. Tom Prichard off-guard.

"Silas gave up so much to become the National champion," notes Prichard, who helped train Mason before his arrival in NWA.

"It's hard to imagine what would influence him to just give it away for a chance at 'The Ten Pounds of Gold,'" the legend continues. "It's especially confusing since historically whomever holds that belt is automatically the No. 1 contender!"

"There's no way I'd use such a prestigious belt as a stepping stone!"

- THOM LATIMER

"Nowhere in the NWA bylaws does it say the National Champion must or even *should* 'trade it in' to get a World's title shot," Latimer agrees, "And here two champions in a row have done exactly that! It's bloody disrespectful!"

Again, Latimer is correct. Mason followed the exact precedent set by EC3 before him, gambling everything for a shot at the World's title. While the choice paid off for his predecessor, it's yet to be seen whether "The Thrillbilly" is similarly successful.

Riled to the core by the whole situation, Latimer says he's lost respect for both competitors after their treatment of the National title. Rather than expressing interest in a possible Mason vs. EC3 World's title match, he blasts both.

"After the way they treated it, I hope the National title goes to somebody who shows it some damn respect," he states emphatically.

"I can't blame anyone for wanting to be NWA World's champion," he concludes, "But there's got to be a better way to get there than crapping on one of the greatest championships in pro wrestling history!"

one but two purposes.

While the cerebral spartan outwardly stated intent to challenge then-World's champion Tyrus, many viewed it as a calculated twisting of the knife for Mason.

By vacating the title amidst a rivalry grown ever-more-personal for Mason, EC3 effectively blocked "The Thrillbilly" from completing his self-professed destiny.

Though Mason ultimately claimed the strap at NWA 75, some believe defeating Odinson and Kratos rather than EC3 made the victory — and therefore the championship — feel hollow. Tim Storm speculates whether Mason's *real* mission was equal parts winning the belt *and* defeating EC3.

"It's possible Silas felt his reign would *never* be what he imagined since he didn't beat the champion," suggests former World's champion Storm.

"For the last two years, EC3 has repeatedly said the only way others can 'live up to their true potential' is by going through him," Storm continued, "If the champ's propaganda has gotten into Silas' head, I can see how that might compel him to put everything on the line to shut EC3's mouth and prove himself."

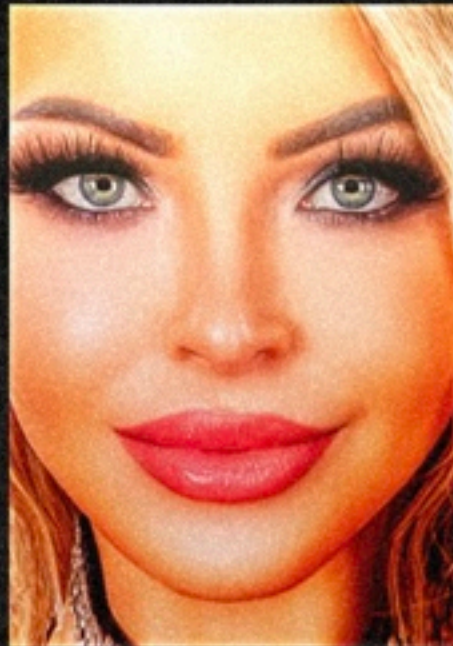
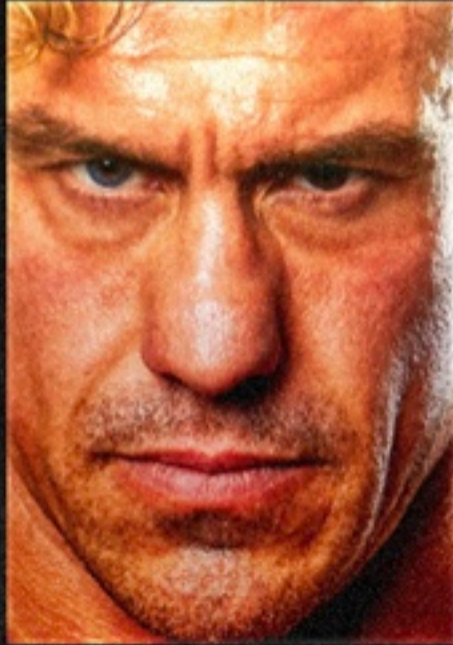
Malarkey, says Latimer. No stranger to giving up a championship for a World's title match, the British superstar vacated the NWA World Television title to unsuccessfully face EC3 at NWA *Samhain*. Latimer

***“I hope the
National title
goes to somebody
who shows it
some damn
respect!”***

- THOM LATIMER



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Kylie Paige

Kylie Paige Has An Unenviable Task Ahead.

*How Does She Step Out of the Shadow of Her Older Sister, National Wrestling Alliance Women's World Champion **Kenzie Paige?***

**THE FUTURE OF
THE WOMEN'S
DIVISION?**

Kylie Paige

By anyone's standards, the doors to the National Wrestling Alliance opened quickly for Kylie Paige!

It's unquestionable Kylie gained the attention of NWA a bit more easily than some talent. And, as the younger sister of NWA Women's World Champion Kenzie Paige, she certainly had the right references!

Once in, Kylie received an almost obligatory place in the spotlight. Her immediate entry into Pretty Empowered led to the immediate ousting of one member (poor Roxy!) so Kylie could join Ella Envy as the powerful faction's primary tag team.

While the benefits of being the champ's sister are obvious, and it certainly made jumping into an international conversation easier, it comes at a price. The other side of the coin is, of course, Kylie now stands at the edge of the long shadow she casts.

"Kenzie is the first-ever NWA Women's Grand Slam Champion," reminds NWA legend Jazz. "Those are some sizable shoes to fill. Nobody — not even Kylie — should feel pressured to live up to that so early in their career."

At NWA 75, Kylie took a tremendous step toward building her own legacy. Just as Kenzie had before her, she teamed with Envy to capture the NWA Women's World Tag Team titles. In defeating M95, together they became the youngest champions in NWA history.

The pairing have since lost the titles to The King Bees — Charity King and Danny Bee. Still, it might all be part of a grand plan for Kylie.

As the young wrestler gains more confidence and skill with each outing, many have started to wonder which of the Paige sisters will ultimately prove superior in the ring.



"Kenzie's age gave her a head start, but Kylie is coming up on her fast," shared one insider who knows the pair well.

"I think Kylie could actually go *farther* than even Kenzie," the individual stated on the agreement their identity remain secret. "There's just something about Kylie that seems even more hungry — and definitely more vicious — than her big sister!"

If there is a sibling rivalry at play, it has not yet shown itself publicly. Pretty Empowered remains the single most dominant group in the the women's division, perhaps all of NWA.

And the more Kylie grows, the more she seems poised to make her next move. Is it only a matter of time before fans demand sister-vs.-sister for NWA's richest prize?

SISTER ACT!

At NWA 75, Kylie Paige won her first National Wrestling Alliance championship. With Ella Envy, she captured the NWA Women's World Tag Team titles. Apparently it runs in the family. Her sister Kenzie Paige — the current NWA Women's World Champion — also marked her first title win in NWA by teaming with Envy!

HE CALLS HIMSELF

Mr.

NWA



AND NOW

JOE ALONZO CAN CALL HIMSELF CHAMPION!

For months, Joe Alonzo has called himself "Mr. NWA" — all while claiming to be the uncrowned National Wrestling Alliance World Junior Heavyweight Champion. At *NWA Hard Times 2024*, all it took was a low-blow and a three-count to prove both!

Throughout his reign, Colby Corino put the World Junior Heavyweight title up-for-grabs multiple times a week. Since winning the championship from Kerry Morton at *NWA 75* in August, Corino defended over 30 times nationwide.

When the NWA rolled into Dothan, AL, the title was again on-the-line as Corino faced Alonzo on the Season 18 debut of *NWA Powerrr*. A rematch from *NWA Samhain*, where the competitors brawled throughout the Cleveland arena, it was a hotly-contested back-and-forth battle between the champion and the No. 1 contender.

Second-generation star Corino seemed to have the victory in hand. However, never one to be deterred, the arrogant Alonzo capitalized when Senior Referee Kevin Keenan was distracted.

After delivering a vicious low-blow, Alonzo hit a devastating elevated version of "The Stroke." Three seconds later, the Chicago native claimed his first NWA championship.

As the new NWA World Junior Heavyweight Champion, Alonzo's already massive ego is sure to further explode. With gold around his waist, though, who *can* refute his claim to be "Mr. NWA"?!



POWERRR



For over a year between Aug. 2015 and Oct. 2016, Jax Dane held "The Ten Pounds of Gold."

FEW IN THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE ARE MORE DECORATED THAN JAX DANE.

Though Dane's wowed fans worldwide, he's stayed true to NWA from the start. It's also where "The Dane Event" has seen his greatest success.

JACKED DANE

On Aug. 29, 2015, Dane defeated Japanese legend Hiro Yoshi Tenzan to win the NWA World's Heavyweight title. He eventually lost the strap to Tim Storm, the first champion recognized during the current Lightning One Era, on Oct. 21, 2016.

Nearly 14 months atop NWA obviously highlights Dane's resume. However, it's but the pinnacle of a career which brags a laundry list of championships.

Jax previously formed a very successful team with Rob Conway. This pairing of two-time former World's Champion Conway and future champ Dane, dubbed The IronGodz, debuted in New Japan Pro Wrestling Nov. 9, 2013.

That night The IronGodz defeated Davey Boy Smith, Jr. and Lance Archer (K E S) and Tenzan and Satoshi Kojima (Tencozy) in a triple-threat to become the NWA World Tag Team champions. They lost the titles to Tencozy the following year on April 6 of at NJPW's *Invasion Attack 2014*.

Despite tremendous success with multiple tag partners, Dane's true mark in NWA is as a single's competitor. A two-time National Heavyweight champion, he unified the NWA National and North American titles and held the NWA Texas title.

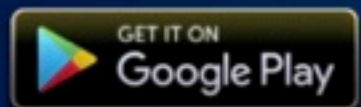
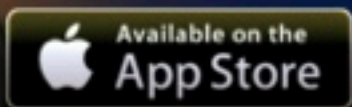
At 6'3" and a rock-solid 285 lbs., Jax remains a credible threat to anyone holding NWA gold. Having accomplished so much during just a 15 year career, it's possible the best is yet to come for "The Dane Event."



POWER

NEW EPISODES

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Anthony Andrews is no gentleman — at least not any more! After The Country Gentlemen lost the United States tag team titles at *NWA 75*, Andrews abruptly departed the National Wrestling Alliance. However, he made a surprise return at *NWA Paranoia* — targeting his cousins AJ and KC Cazana (The *New* Country Gentlemen) and their father, his uncle Joe Cazana. Now under the tutelage of “The International Heart Throb” Austin Idol, Andrews is more vicious — and therefore more dangerous — than he’s ever been before. It means big trouble for the NWA... particularly anyone he once considered family!



ANTHONY ANDREWS

Bryan Idol is a star in National Wrestling Alliance rings and around the world! Known collectively with long-time NWA partner Natalia Markova as "Looks That Kill," the duo have picked up signature wins over Thom Latimer and former NWA Women's World Champion Kamille. He appears ready to make a significant impact on the newly-launched NWA: Chicago territory as well. In Puerto Rico, Idol is the World Wrestling Council Television champion.



BRYAN IDOL

THIS MONTH IN NWA HISTORY

MAY 6, 1984 • KERRY VON ERICH



The release of *The Iron Claw* has interest in the Von Erich legacy at high not seen in generations!

Though the film chronicles the legendary Texas wrestling family's countless, heartbreaking lows, it also shines a spotlight on its many highs. The family's most bittersweet moment came three months after the crushing death of David due to medical complications while the eldest Von Erich son toured Japan.

On **May 6, 1984**, younger brother Kerry faced National Wrestling Alliance champion Ric Flair in the main event of a memorial scheduled to honor David. In front of more than 45,000 fans packed into Texas Stadium, Kerry pinned "The Nature Boy" with a backslide to win the NWA World's Heavyweight title.



Though Kerry's NWA World's Championship victory was certainly a high point for the often-troubled Von Erich family, the celebration was short-lived.

On **May 24**, Flair regained the title in Yokosuka, Japan. The finish was scarred by controversy, as Von Erich's feet were clearly in the ropes during the pinfall. However, the referee's decision was final, ending Kerry's reign atop after just a scant 18 days.



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76
Philadelphia
8.31.24

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BELL TIME: 8PM

AUGUST 31ST, 2024

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