

N.W.A. *Official*

AUG 2023

# WRESTLING

Before Their *NWA 75*  
World's Title Match...

**TYRUS**  
MUST *NOT*  
TURN HIS  
BACK ON  
**EC3**

**THE COUNTRY  
GENTLEMEN**

NWA U.S. Tag Champs

LEGEND:

*Leilani Kai*

THE FORMER NWA WOMEN'S  
WORLD CHAMPION SPEAKS

INSIDE THE 2023  
**BURKE INVITATIONAL  
GAUNTLET**



**THOM LATIMER**  
An Interview with the  
NWA World TV Champ



**ALSO INSIDE:** THE BROTHERS OF FUNSTRUCTION • ALLYSIN KAY • CJ  
• BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA • HEATHER MONROE • VIOLENT J • W.O.A.D



An Official Publication of the National Wrestling Alliance

From the Desk of . . .

# NWA 75: Three-Quarters of a Century of Legends & Memories

As the **NWA 75** pay-per-view approaches, it's more than just the anniversary of the oldest existing and continuously running pro wrestling promotion in the United States. August 26-27 in St. Louis also marks my own, second anniversary with the National Wrestling Alliance.

I initially joined the NWA family for **NWA 73** in 2021. Though a life-long fan, it was my first opportunity to work with the company I grew up watching and loving – and, unquestionably, a dream-come-true. There I watched history-making moments, such as Trevor Murdoch defeating “The National Treasure” Nick Aldis for “The Ten Pounds of Gold.”

Nobody, least of all me, might have guessed it was only the beginning of a long, exciting adventure with the NWA. There were no indications I might later be part of historic moments all my own, such as the launch of this publication.

Still, it's now standard to anxiously await the star-studded, two-day extravaganza commemorating the NWA's birth! Each year, the weekend seems to offer ever-more-exciting moments, giving rise to new legends and celebrating those past. Undoubtedly **NWA 75** will be no different.

Fans will be treated to back-to-back Women's World title defenses as Kamille looks to extend her groundbreaking, 800-plus day reign champion. World's Heavyweight Champion Tyrus puts his title and career on the line against EC3. The Burke Invitational Gauntlet crowns a new women's No. 1 contender. Matt Cardona returns to face a surprise competitor. The Insane Clown Posse's Violent J debuts.

The sheer volume of action, the number of matches and competitors – each poised to make moments and memories for the ages – is massive. While it's virtually impossible to cover it all, our NWA *Official* Wrestling team tries its best.

I hope to see many of you in St. Louis. Any who cannot attend live, do **not** miss the action. Order **NWA 75** on FiteTV today. Until then, let's take a look at what's ahead in this all-new issue of NWA *Official* Wrestling!

*Warmest Regards,*  
*Paul E. Pratt*  
Editor-in-Chief, NWA *Official* Wrestling



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# IS MATT CARDONA FINALLY READY?!

*He's baaaack!*

It's been nearly two years since Matt Cardona arrived, proclaiming himself "The Savior" of the National Wrestling Alliance. Soon after, in February 2022, Cardona did the unimaginable — defeating then-champion Trevor Murdoch for NWA's coveted "Sweet Charlotte."

Unfortunately for Cardona, major injury cut his celebration short. Scant months later, at an NWA pay-per-view named in his honor, the man called "Alwaysz Ready" was *not*. He begrudgingly — and angrily — relinquished the championship.

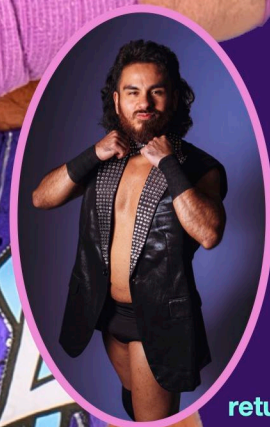
The road to recovery was bumpy for Cardona, including upset losses to Rolando Freeman. Then after two failed attempts to regain the World's title, perhaps in shame, he disappeared from the NWA soon thereafter.

Now Cardona returns at **NWA 75**, yet again declaring himself "The Savior" of NWA. Fully healed, and once more on an indie wrestling hot-streak, the former champ has issued still another open challenge.

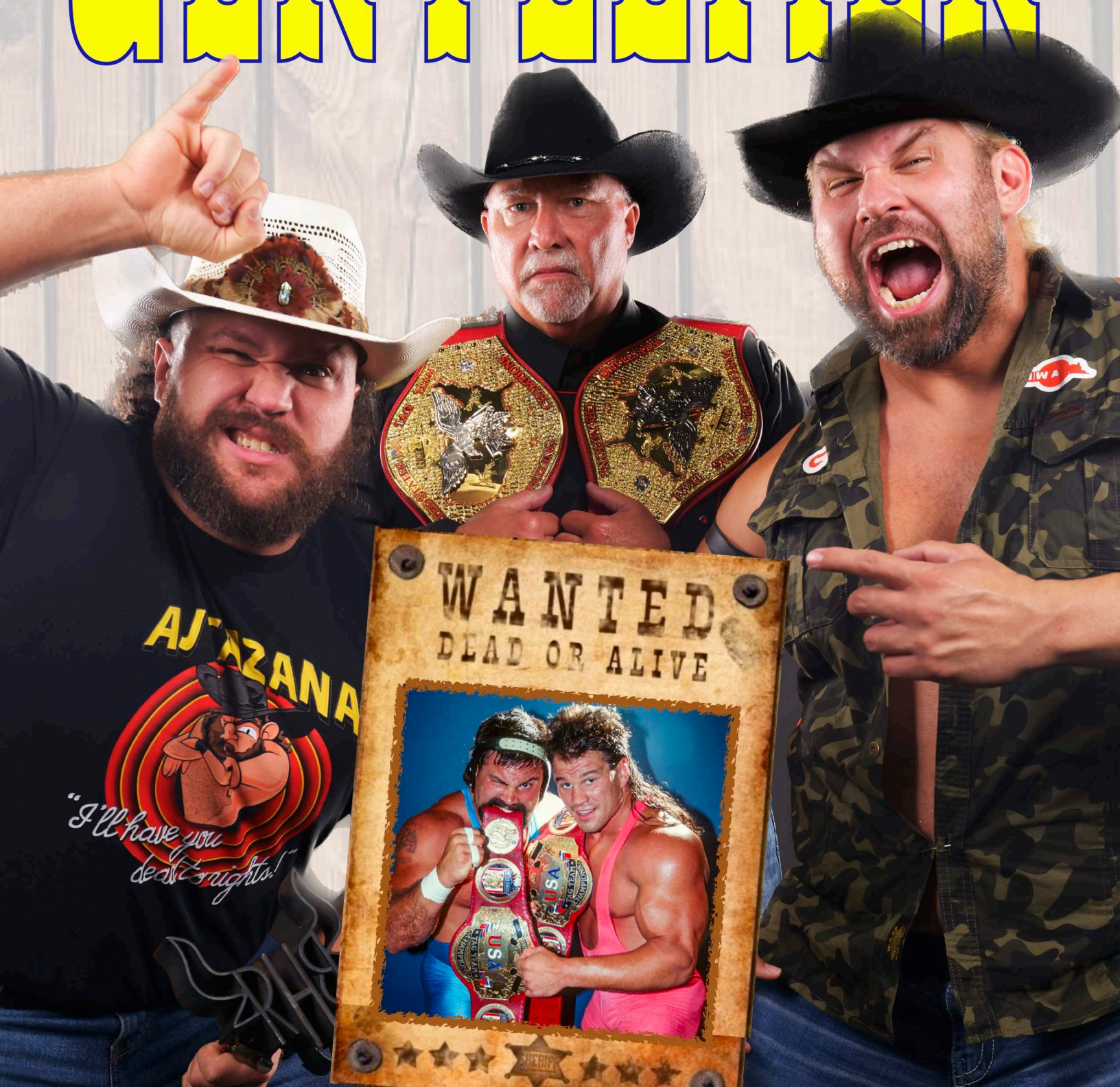
It doesn't matter *who* answers, insists Cardona, even if it's Freeman. After he's victorious, Cardona says his next step is once again the NWA World's championship.

Can Cardona recapture past glory? If so, is he *finally* ready to make good on his threats? Only time will tell. Either way, his journey begins Aug. 26-27 in St. Louis.

Rolando Perez was a small thorn in the side of the returning Cardona during his previous stint with NWA.



# THE COUNTRY GENTLEMEN



AJAZANA  
*"I'll have you  
dead tonight!"*

WANTED  
DEAD OR ALIVE



# CAN AJ CAZANA & ANTHONY ANDREWS BRAND THEIR NAMES IN NWA HISTORY?

*It's been 200 days and counting!*

Anthony Andrews and AJ Cazana are already the third-longest reigning United States tag team champions in National Wrestling Alliance history. As the upcoming NWA 75 pay-per-view approaches, The Country Gentlemen have runner-up honors firmly in their crosshairs!

"We're walking out of St. Louis 'and still,'" says Andrews, "Then our next stop is passing The Steiners in the record books!"

No team has come close to catching U.S. Tag team leaders The Midnight Express (*Top Right*). Starting in 1987, "Sweet" Stan and "Beautiful" Bobby — led by Jim Cornette — became the most dominant duo in the titles' storied existence, relinquishing the straps only after winning the World tag titles from Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard.

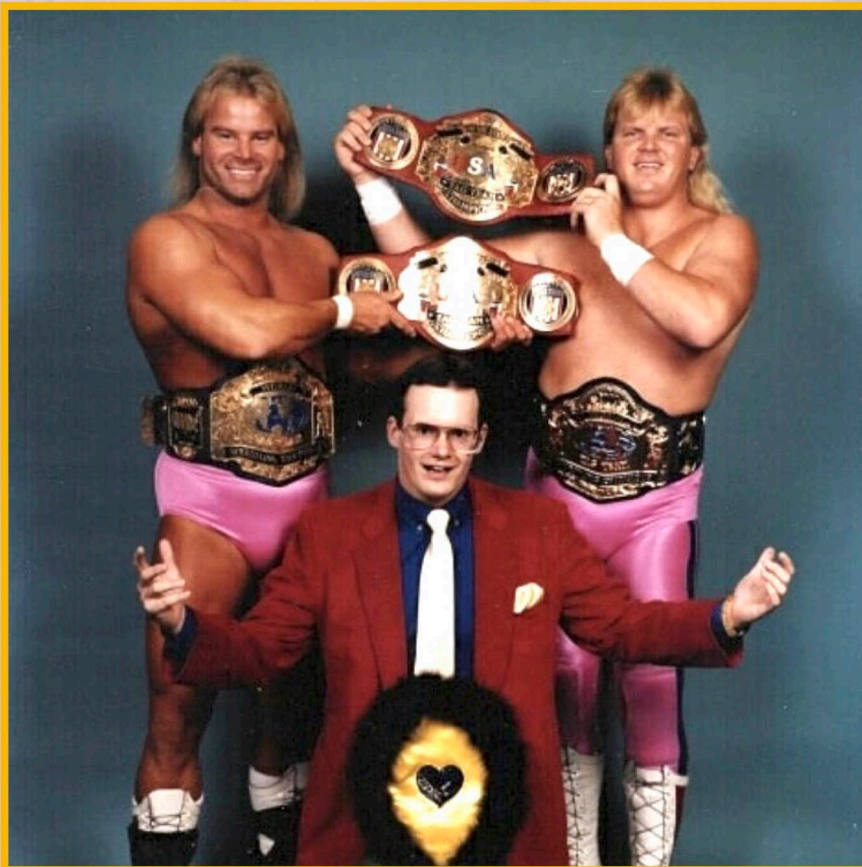
For now, The Midnight's mind-blowing 346 days as champions remain out of reach. Still, The Country Gentlemen are jockeying to pass second-placeholders Rick and Scott Steiner. In 1990, the brothers from Michigan ended The Midnight's historic *third* tenure to begin a legendary 225 days as champs in their own right.

Finally, an astonishing three-plus decades later and with AJ's dad Joe Cazana guiding the way, the Gentlemen are nipping at the Steiners' heels. To reach that goal, the cousin combo has a few mighty hurdles in their path.

First Andrews and Cazana must survive NWA's annual Aug. 26-27 anniversary extravaganza and the subsequent television tapings in Nashville. If they can walk out of those with the straps, The Country Gentlemen *will* claim the second-longest U.S. tag title reign.

Ready to play spoiler are two teams who face off on night one of NWA 75 for a title opportunity the following day. The Country Gentlemen will defend against either Daisy Kill and Talos or The Fixers, the very duo they defeated for the belts.

"It doesn't matter *who* we face in St. Louis," insists third-generation star AJ Cazana. According to "The Brute from Bullhead Ranch," "There's no way in hell anyone is going to stop us from making our mark in history."



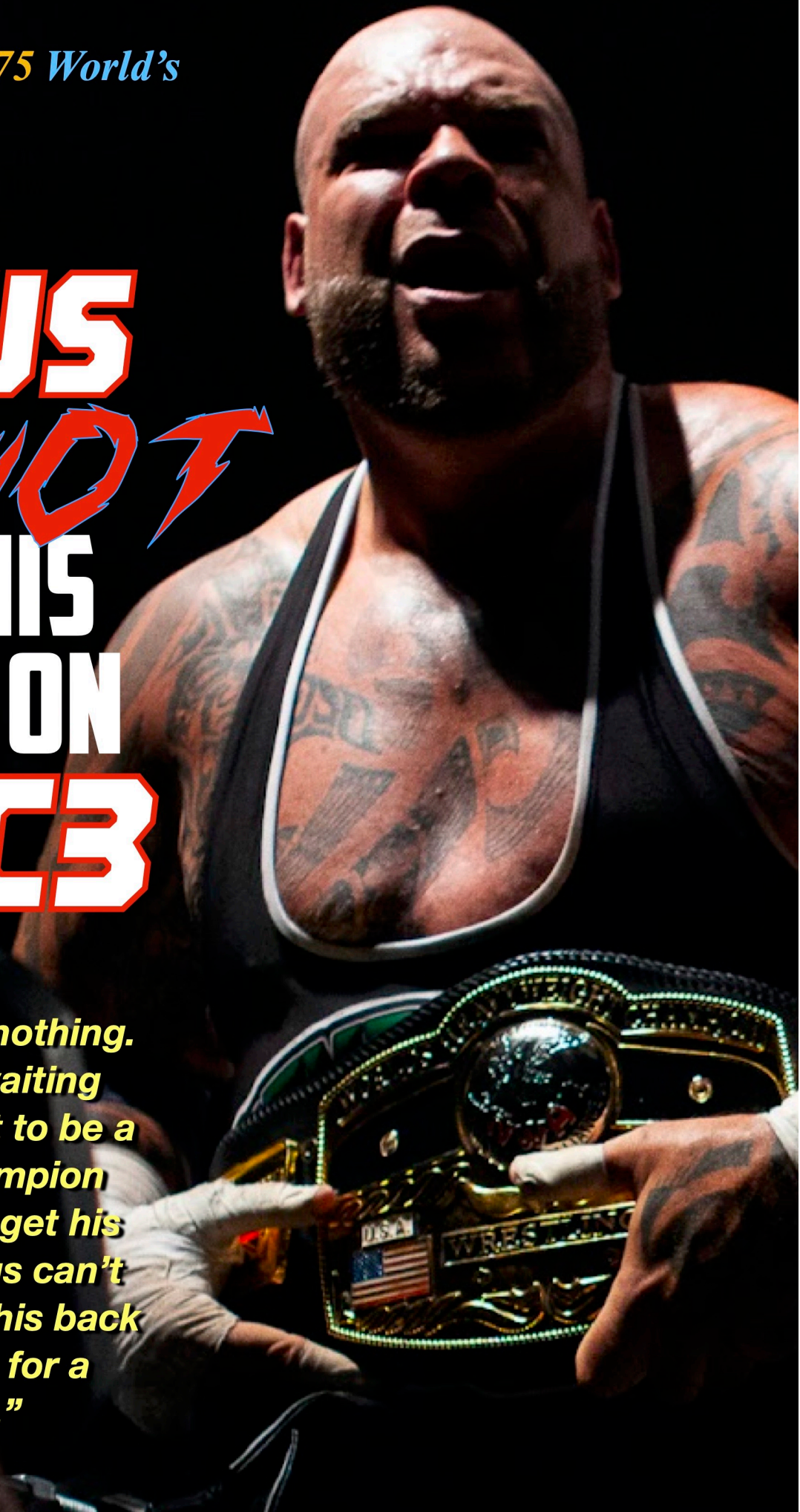
*Either The Fixers (Above) or Daisy Kill and Talos (Below) will challenge The Country Gentlemen on Day 2 of NWA 75.*



*Before Their **NWA 75 World's**  
Title Match...*

# **TYRUS** MUST **NOT** TURN HIS BACK ON **EC3**

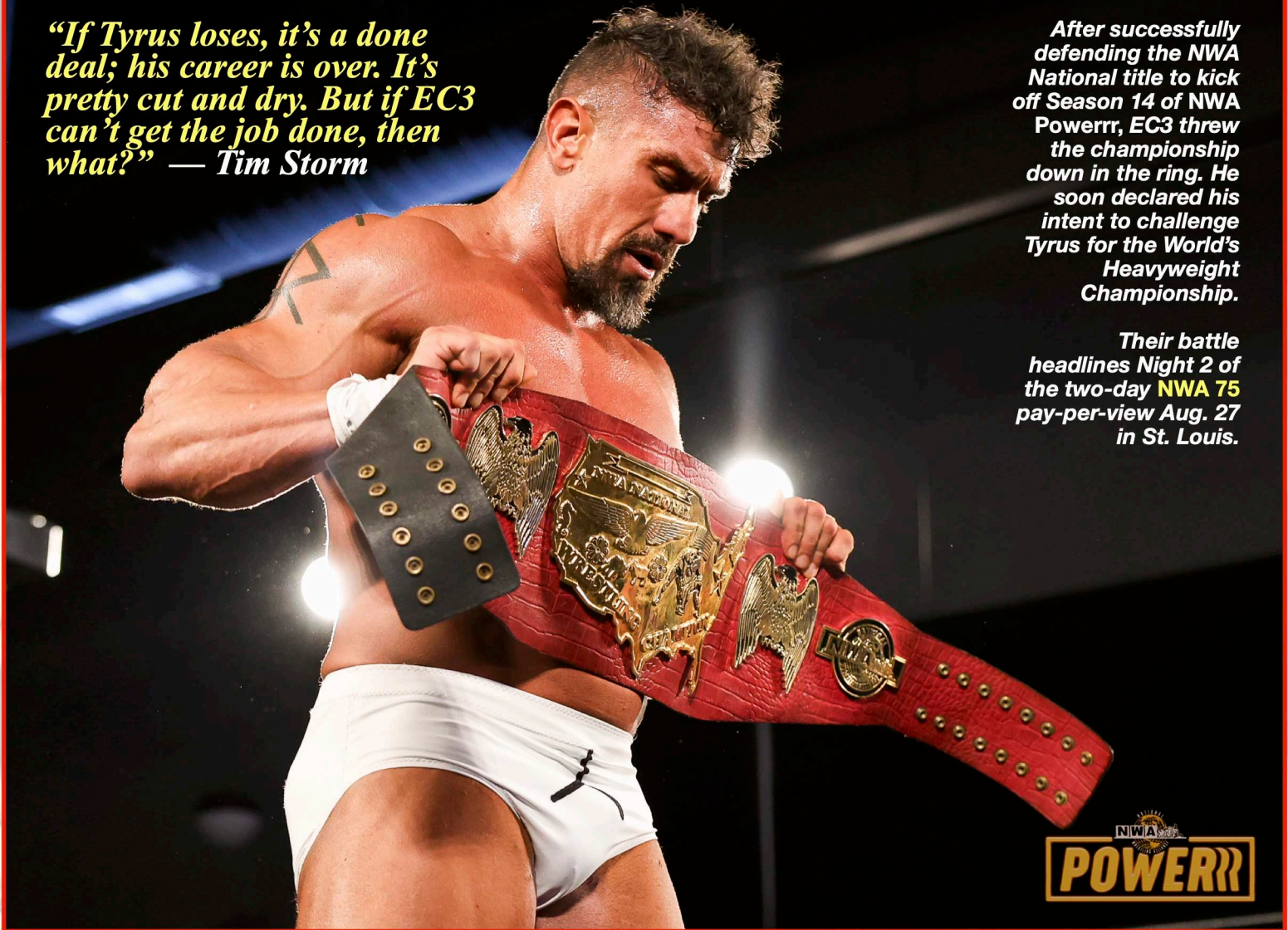
*“EC3 forgets nothing.  
He’s been waiting  
years, not just to be a  
World’s Champion  
again, but to get his  
revenge. Tyrus can’t  
afford to turn his back  
— not even for a  
second.”*



***“If Tyrus loses, it’s a done deal; his career is over. It’s pretty cut and dry. But if EC3 can’t get the job done, then what?” — Tim Storm***

***After successfully defending the NWA National title to kick off Season 14 of NWA Powerrr, EC3 threw the championship down in the ring. He soon declared his intent to challenge Tyrus for the World’s Heavyweight Championship.***

***Their battle headlines Night 2 of the two-day NWA 75 pay-per-view Aug. 27 in St. Louis.***



On the surface, it’s simply another, epic battle for the National Wrestling Alliance World’s Heavyweight title. On Aug. 27, at the NWA 75 pay-per-view, champion Tyrus puts the belt on the line against No. 1 contender EC3.

Of course, there *are* the added stipulations, which make it much more interesting. For reasons still unclear to many, the champion requested a bullrope match — and upped the ante considerably, putting his career on the line in the main event of the two-day anniversary spectacular.

For the former National champion, it’s more than just a chance to win the most coveted World’s Heavyweight championship in professional wrestling (his third World title, but first in the NWA). It’s a rare opportunity to retire his opponent.

Beneath all that, though, insiders say this is much more than just a World’s title match. They suggest it is actually a very pointed, extremely personal confrontation more than a half-decade in the making.

Years ago, when both worked for TNA, the men were thick as thieves. Then acting as a special enforcer, for months Tyrus protected World Champion EC3.

“At the time, everyone knew Tyrus was the primary reason EC3 was so incredibly successful,” says one grappler, who worked closely with the two in 2016 and — until recently — competed in the NWA as well.

“Tyrus ran interference for him,” says the source, “Even though it helped make him a two-time TNA World Champion, I think EC3 became bitter some folks thought he only had the belt *because of Tyrus.*”

More importantly, the source says, EC3 could blame Tyrus for playing a role in his forced departure from the company. By 2018, their relationship had fallen apart, leading to Tyrus defeating EC3 by pinfall only weeks before the latter received a “pink slip” which ended his tenure with IMPACT.

“Daddy, EC3 was sent packing — and Tyrus was the last person to defeat him before he left,” says NWA manager Aron Stevens, also in TNA at the time.



After being injured at Crockett Cup by eventual winners Trevor Murdoch (Right) and Mike Knox, some wonder if champion Tyrus (Left) will be 100-percent at NWA 75 Aug. 27 in St. Louis.



“That’s got to be a tough pill to swallow,” Stevens said, “And a guy with an ego like EC3 doesn’t forget that. At NWA 75, you can bet he’s got more on his mind than just becoming NWA World’s champion!”

Now many years down the road, the roles are reversed. Tyrus is NWA World’s Heavyweight champion; EC3 seeks to reestablish himself as one of pro wrestling’s top names. The battle lines are drawn for a war that, for the men involved, could either be career-redefining...or career-ending.

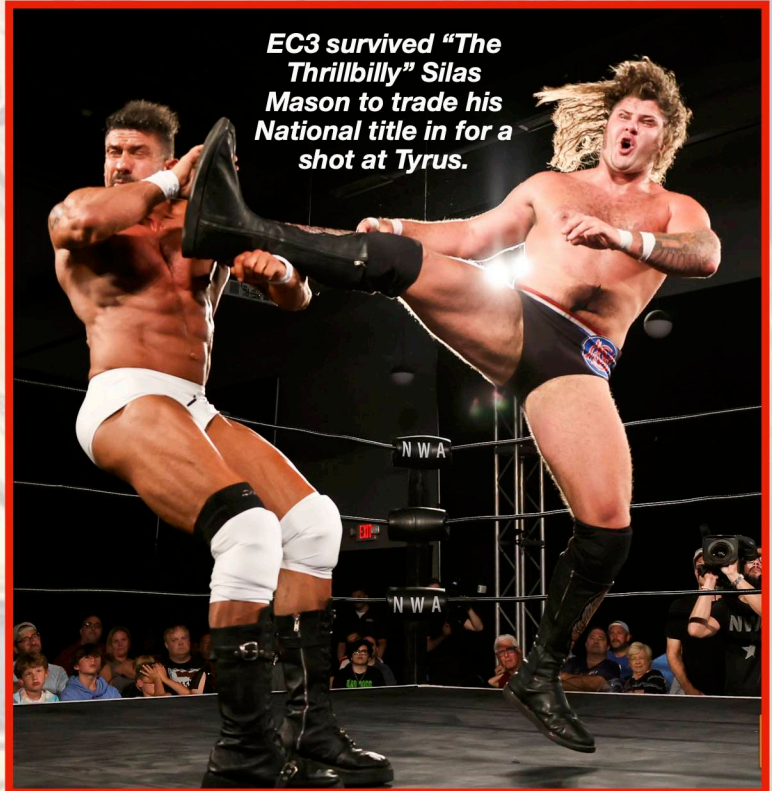
“We’ve heard it time after time; EC3’s here to ‘control his narrative.’ It’s possible that means re-writing everything fans know of his career to date and successes in other companies,” notes Joe Galli.

“What absolutely goes without saying,” NWA’s senior broadcaster continues, “Is winning the NWA World’s heavyweight title and *retiring* Tyrus on our biggest pay-per-view event of the year absolutely *will* write a whole new chapter of his ‘narrative’ moving forward.”

Tim Storm won’t speculate on why EC3 might target Tyrus beyond the obvious: The NWA World’s Championship. He does share an opinion which seems to differ from others on what the match might mean to both competitors.

Most consider the stakes highest for the champion – who will be forced to retire if he does not win. The former NWA World’s champion, though, is certain *both* men “are feeling the pressure”... for entirely different reasons.

EC3 survived “The Thrillbilly” Silas Mason to trade his National title in for a shot at Tyrus.



“If Tyrus loses, it’s a done deal; his career is over. It’s pretty cut and dry. But if EC3 can’t get the job done, then what?” Storm asks.

“His career *will* continue,” he asserts, “But he’s already relinquished the National belt just to get this shot at the title. I don’t think EC3 has a *clue* what to do if he doesn’t walk out as champ.

“For a guy all about ‘control,’ that thought must scare him to death,” Storm concludes, “And I think he’ll do anything necessary to make sure he *never* has to face it. If I were Tyrus, I’d be very, very careful.”



# The **VIOLENT** New Directive of **THE BROTHERS OF FUNSTRUCTION**

Violent J, half of hip-hop legends Insane Clown Posse, is coming to the National Wrestling Alliance. No stranger to pro wrestling, the leader of the Juggalos says he was “inspired again” by Lucha legend Vampiro — and will be at NWA 75 Aug. 26-27 in St. Louis.

## **VIOLENT J DEMANDS: “DESTROY VAMPIRO AND LA REBELIÓN!”**

It was more than just an upset victory. When Ruffo and Yabo — The Brothers of Funstruction — shocked the world by defeating National Wrestling Alliance World Tag Team Champions Mecha Wolf and Bestia 666, led by legendary Vampiro, it was a wake up call.

In the dark recesses of pop culture, someone was watching. Soon after, NWA received word from a destructive, tormented figure long on the periphery of not just professional wrestling but society as a whole.

“What up, Vamp?” asked Insane Clown Posse’s Violent J to kick off a jarring, occasionally disturbing video message which aired on *NWA Powerrr* just weeks after the non-title victory.

“I see you over there all grown up, living large,” Violent J continued, “Managing the NWA tag champs La Rebelión! And I’m over here thinking, ‘Is this dude doing it again? Is this guy inspiring me *again?!?*’

“Yes, yes you are, my man — in a *big way*,” Violent J confirmed.





**MECHA WOLF FEELS THE DESTRUCTION OF FUNSTRUCTION!** Half of the reigning NWA World Tag Team Champions eats a huge spinning heel kick from Yabo the Clown.

**A DEADLY NEW ALLIANCE?** With a non-title victory over tag champs Mecha Wolf and Bestia 666, Ruffo and Yabo have drawn the attention of Violent J. “The Duke of the Wicked” plans to lead the clowns into battle against Vampiro’s La Rebelión.

For those unfamiliar, the popular hip-hop artist and Vampiro’s careers have been intricately connected for decades. Insane Clown Posse debuted in World Championship Wrestling in 1999, pairing with Vampiro throughout their tenure.

With Vampiro and future NWA World’s Champion Raven, they teamed as The Dead Pool. Later as The Dark Carnival, ICP again partnered with Vampiro. During that time, Violent J, ICP partner Shaggy 2 Dope and his stablemates feuded with the likes of LWO members Eddie Guerrero, Konnan and Rey Misterio, Jr.

Now, Vampiro resurfacing in the NWA has drawn Violent J’s attention. In news which unquestionably rippled through ICP’s dedicated following of “Juggalos,” he announced plans to confront his long-time partner at the NWA’s upcoming 75th anniversary spectacular in St. Louis.

“It’s been a long time since Violent J has been in pro wrestling’s national spotlight,” says a source close to the situation.

“I think he was content watching Vampiro’s continued in-ring success in Mexico,” that individual went on to say, “But something changed when Vamp came back to the U.S., working with another team in the National Wrestling Alliance. Somehow, I think Violent J took that personally.”





It's possible. Weeks after Vampiro returned at Crockett Cup, Violent J popped back up.

"I'm over here thinking 'If Vamp can do it, maybe I can do it, and who's over there kicking mucho grande ass with a big clown shoe but Yabo and Ruffo, killing it!' Violent J stated.

"So I made the call...Now we're coming together at The Chase, *NWA 75!*" he said, issuing a challenge to his one-time partner. "I'm going to be in their corner management style — just like you, Vamp!"

While Violent J's taunts caught many off-guard, those close to the matter are not surprised. Reports indicate the his partnership with the clowns potentially started earlier this year, when The Brothers of Funstruction attended the 2023 Gathering of Juggalos in Ohio.

"Yabo and Ruffo were there," another insider confirms, "Two weeks later, they defeated La Rebelión and Vampiro on TV. That *can't* be a coincidence."

Others within NWA agree. Most realize Violent J's reemergence seems meticulously planned — as if to cause the most trouble possible for Vampiro.

Violent J has placed targets on the backs of the NWA World Tag Champs and their advisor at the most inopportune time of the year. La Rebelión already has a colossal task ahead at *NWA 75*, taking place Aug. 26-27 in St. Louis and broadcasting globally on FiteTV.

On night one, the champs are challenged by Aron Stevens' Blunt Force Trauma, who defeated them in this year's Crockett Cup. Should Bestia and Mecha Wolf survive with belts in-tact, they face Crockett Cup winners Mike Knox and Trevor Murdoch the next night.

According to our sources, Violent J insists The Brothers of Funstruction will make certain Vampiro's charges do *not* leave St. Louis with the gold. Whether that happens or not, The Brothers of Funstruction with Violent J in their corner are on a collision course with Vampiro's La Rebelión.

"I don't know what his motive is — and maybe we'll never find out — but one thing is definite: Violent J wants Vampiro to walk out of *NWA 75* empty-handed," the source said,

"Though Violent J doesn't seem to have a problem with La Rebelión specifically, unfortunately they stand in the way of his obvious desire to ruin his old pal," the insider confirmed, "And he's made it very clear to Yabo and Ruffo that they *must* destroy Vampiro at all costs!"

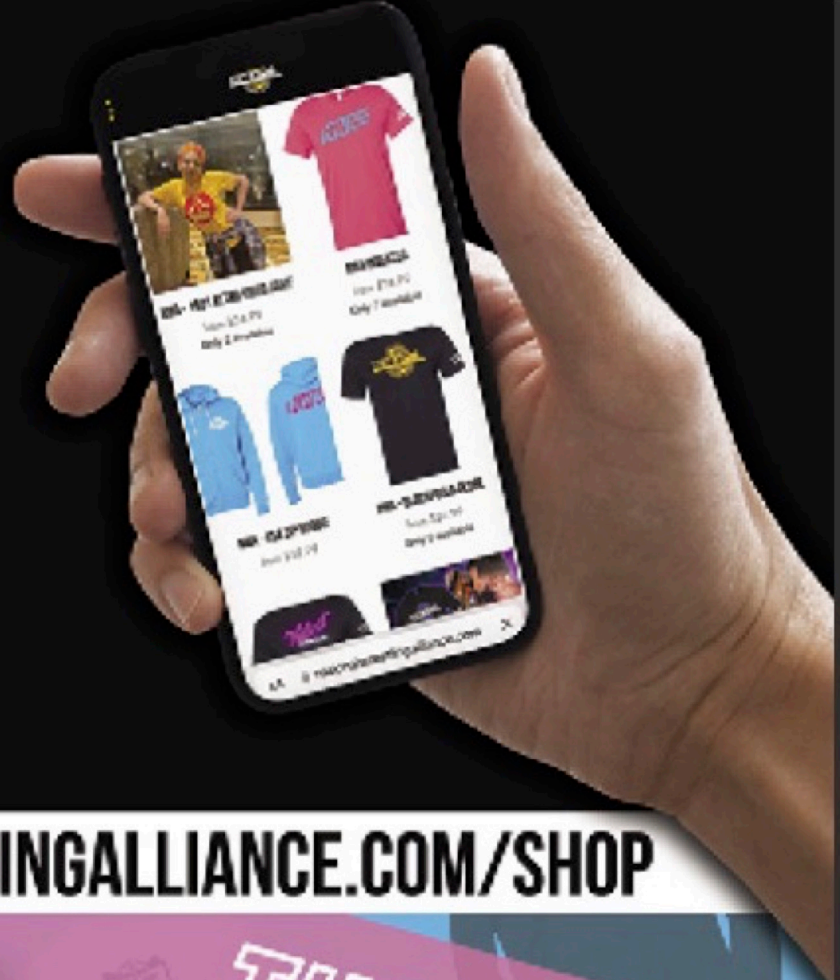


An affiliation with Vampiro (Top) has placed La Rebelión in Violent J's line of fire. Yabo and Ruffo the Clowns (Center) will be managed by "The Duke of The Wicked" Violent J at *NWA 75*. World tag champs Mecha Wolf and Bestia 666, with Vampiro (Bottom), picked up a six-man victory over The Brothers of Funstruction and Mario Parduá on an episode of *NWA Powerrr*.





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# THE BURKE INVITATIONAL GAUNTLET

In just three short years, the Burke Invitational Gauntlet has established itself as one of the most exciting, high-stakes events in the National Wrestling Alliance.

Named for the legendary Mildred Burke, a Hall of Fame wrestler who held the NWA Women's championship for nearly two decades, the annual event offers hand-selected competitors from around the world a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The last combatant standing not only earns the prestigious Burke Memorial Cup but a shot at the Women's World title, also dubbed "The Burke" to honor the all-time great, the following night.

Held on the opening night of NWA's two-day anniversary spectacular, the Burke Invitational is conducted under "gauntlet" rules. A new contestant enters the ring every 90 seconds with eliminations coming via pinfall or submission. To date, two grapplers have claimed victory on NWA's grandest stage.

At NWA 73, Chelsea Green outlasted the competition in her NWA debut to take home the obscenely large trophy — and (unsuccessfully) challenge Kamille for gold the next night. A year later, Max the Impaler bulldozed the field of contestants to claim the cup for The Wasteland...and, like Green, also came up short against Kamille.

As in years past, Kamille pulls double duty at NWA 75, taking place Aug. 26-27, in St. Louis. On opening night, "The Crush" Natalia Markova challenges for the strap.

After battling coast-to-coast in a heated rivalry, Markova has yet to wrest the title from "The One Time" champ. Though "The Crush" has proven a game challenge, even picking up victories over "The Brickhouse" in tag action, many — including Kamille — have confirmed this is likely the Russian bombshell's last shot at the champion.

Whoever emerges with the title is guaranteed a tough weekend. The champ (whether Kamille or Markova) faces the winner of the Burke Invitational on Night 2.

With so much riding on the outcome of the Burke Invitational, and a new No. 1 contender guaranteed to emerge, we take a look at this year's crop of known competitors.

*This NWA promotional photo from the 1950s read: "Mildred Burke Worlds Champion Lady Wrestler." Burke became so synonymous with the NWA Women's World title, the belt currently held by Kamille — and the annual gauntlet to determine a new No. 1 contender to it — both bear her name.*

# The Competitors

Currently nine names have been formally announced for the Burke Invitational Gauntlet. The talent pool combines returning favorites, current NWA stars and top prospects from across the country. Additional names could be added at a later date.



**ALLYSIN KAY**  
A former NWA Women's World and Tag Team Champion, AK returns for another crack at the gold.



**RUTHIE JAY**  
Still getting her footing in NWA, Ruthie Jay wowed at Crockett Cup. Might she do it again?



**CJ**  
The wily Magician's Assistant has shown she has a few tricks up her own sleeve lately!



**THE W.O.A.D.**  
Will the cheeky Weapon of Ass Destruction be a wrecking ball for others' dreams?

**SAMANTHA STARR**  
Can the third-generation grappler write her name in the stars?



**MJ JENKINS**  
Oh, honey, there's "A Whole Lotta Woman" returning to NWA with her sights squarely on winning it all at NWA 75.



**HEATHER MONROE**  
"The Killer Bae" is on her way! NWA last saw Monroe and partner Rae Lyn challenge for M95's tag titles.



**SIERRA**  
Impressing during NWA's 312 PPV weekend got this Chicago fave invited to NWA's biggest event of the year.



**TAYLOR RISING**  
Perhaps the contestant NWA fans know least, the announcement of Rising's entry into the Burke Invitational set social media ablaze!

**NWA 75**  
75th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH  
**KAMILLE (C) VS NATALIA MARKOVA**

TICKETS: [NWA.TIX.COM](http://NWA.TIX.COM)  
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO

7/6c  
PRE-SHOW  
[YouTube.com/nwa](https://www.youtube.com/nwa)  
PPV MAIN SHOW  
LIVE ON  
**FITE**

**NWA 75**  
75th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH  
**LA REBELIÓN (C) VS BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA**

TICKETS: [NWA.TIX.COM](http://NWA.TIX.COM)  
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

W/ VAMPIRO  
W/ ARON STEVENS

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO

7/6c  
PRE-SHOW  
[YouTube.com/nwa](https://www.youtube.com/nwa)  
PPV MAIN SHOW  
LIVE ON  
**FITE**

**NWA 75**  
75th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NWA WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH  
**M95 (C) VS PRETTY EMPOWERED**

TICKETS: [NWA.TIX.COM](http://NWA.TIX.COM)  
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO

7/6c  
PRE-SHOW  
[YouTube.com/nwa](https://www.youtube.com/nwa)  
PPV MAIN SHOW  
LIVE ON  
**FITE**

**NWA 75**  
75th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

A MATTER OF RESPECT - NO DISQUALIFICATION MATCH  
**TIM STORM VS JAX DANE**

TICKETS: [NWA.TIX.COM](http://NWA.TIX.COM)  
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO

7/6c  
PRE-SHOW  
[YouTube.com/nwa](https://www.youtube.com/nwa)  
PPV MAIN SHOW  
LIVE ON  
**FITE**

**MATT CARDONA**  
**OPEN CHALLENGE**

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CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**NWA 75**  
75th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NWA U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE #1 CONTENDERS MATCH  
**TALOS & DAISY KILL VS THE FIXERS**

TICKETS: [NWA.TIX.COM](http://NWA.TIX.COM)  
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

YouTube  
PRE-SHOW  
[YouTube.com/nwa](https://www.youtube.com/nwa)

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
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7/6c  
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[YouTube.com/nwa](https://www.youtube.com/nwa)  
PPV MAIN SHOW  
LIVE ON  
**FITE**

**NWA**  
**75**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NWA WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP - **BULLROPE MATCH**  
**TYRUS (C) VS EC3**

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
**AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO**

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PRE-SHOW  
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**NWA**  
**75**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NIGHT 1 WINNER OF  
**LA REBELIÓN (C) VS BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA**

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH - NIGHT 2  
**KNOX & MURDOCH VS NIGHT 1 WINNER**

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
**AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO**

TICKETS:  
**NWATIX.COM**  
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75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOW

NWA JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH  
**KERRY MORTON (C) VS COLBY CORINO**

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
**AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO**

TICKETS:  
**NWATIX.COM**  
CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**7/6c**  
PRE-SHOW  
YouTube.com/NWA  
PPV MAIN SHOW  
LIVE ON **FITE**

**NWA**  
**75**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOW

SCHEDULED TO APPEAR: **VIOLENT J**

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
**AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO**

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**NWA**  
**75**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOW

WINNER-TAKE-ALL FOR THE NWA  
NATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP  
**THRILLBILLY SILAS MASON VS KRATOS VS ODINSON**

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
**AUGUST 26TH & 27TH, 2023 · ST. LOUIS, MO**

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SINGLES MATCH  
**HOMICIDE VS JOE ALONZO**

- TWO HISTORIC DATES -  
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# THOM LATIMER

## 5 QUESTIONS WITH THE NWA WORLD TV CHAMP

*The pressure's on! At NWA 75, Thom Latimer faces Chris Adonis in a marquee match-up for the NWA World Television title.*

*On the last NWA Powerrr before the NWA 75 pay-per-view, Adonis attacked his partner Latimer during a battle with Crockett Cup winners Mike Knox and Trevor Murdoch. Now it appears a title match between the two joins the already stacked PPV.*

*It's not just Latimer's belt up for grabs though. If he can survive his former 'Strictly Business' stablemate, Latimer finally reaches the "Lucky 7" — and receives a World's Title opportunity! We speak to him ahead of the battle.*

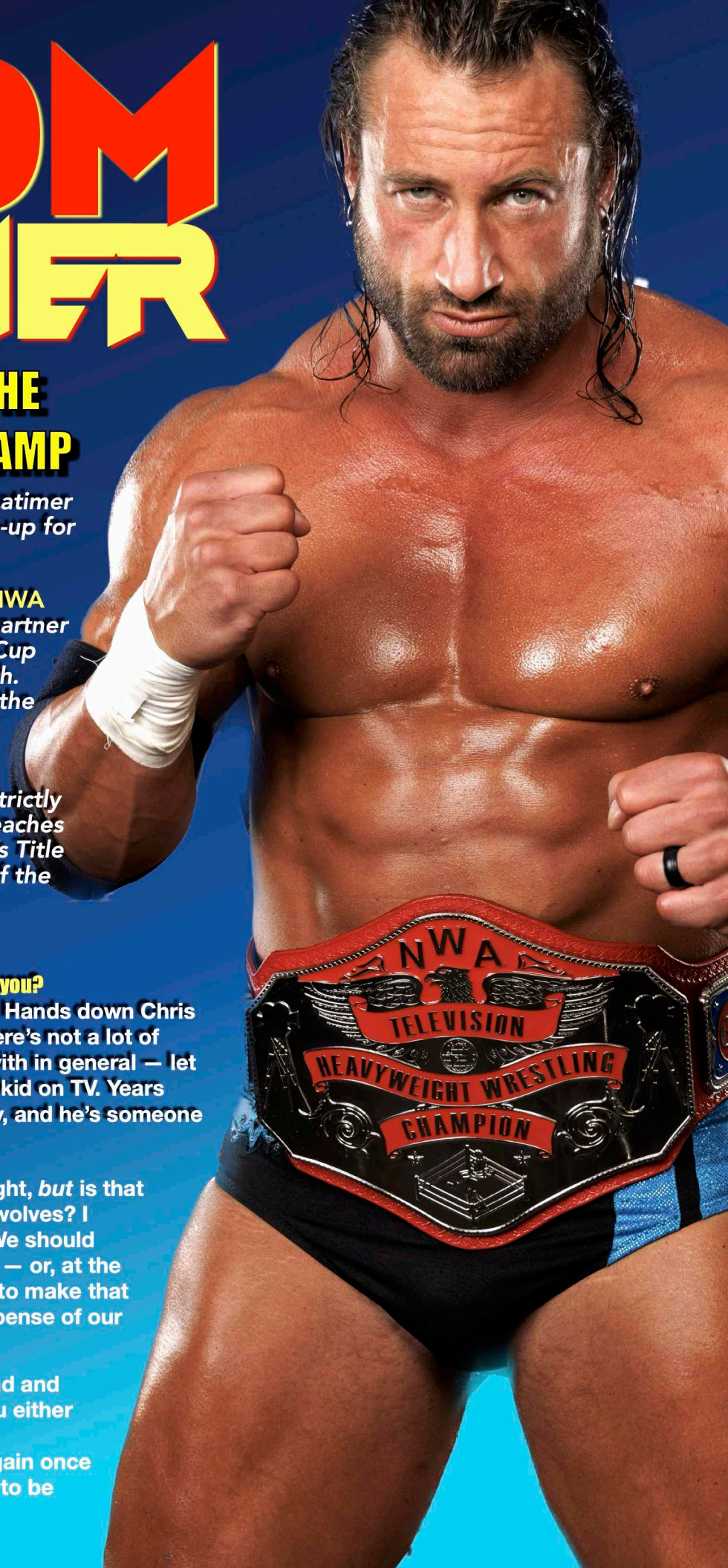
**Chris Adonis and you were friends a long time.**

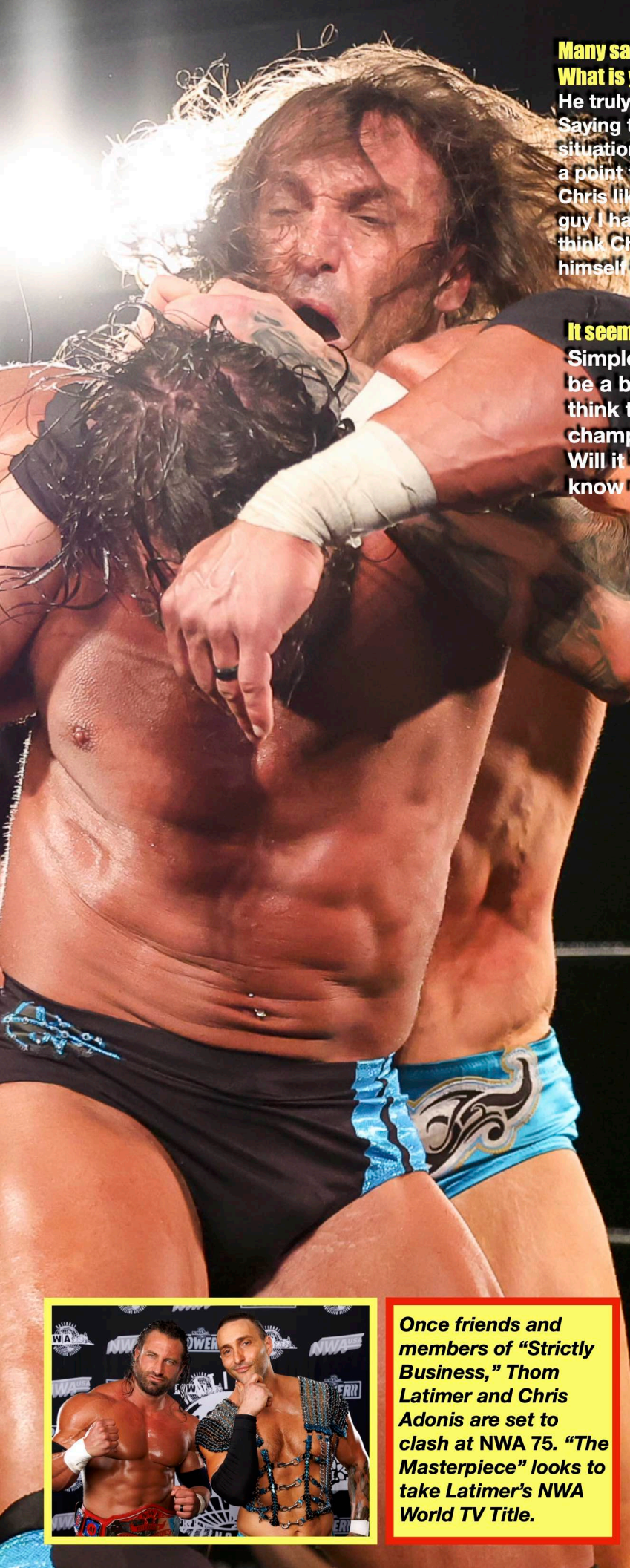
**What went through your mind when he attacked you?**

I can't say it didn't break my heart a little. Hands down Chris is the best wrestler the company has. There's not a lot of people I look up to, respect, and get on with in general — let alone in the NWA. I watched the guy as a kid on TV. Years later, we form a close bond, text everyday, and he's someone I look forward to seeing.

We didn't have the best chemistry that night, *but* is that a good enough reason to toss me to the wolves? I don't think so. He's frustrated; I am too. We should both be World's Heavyweight Champions — or, at the very least, be in the mix. I think he wants to make that point. Unfortunately, he made it at the expense of our friendship, and — worse for him — me!

After our match, I hope he shakes my hand and realizes he f\*cked up. And I'll tell him, 'You either get to the back of the line, or once I'm heavyweight champion, we can do this again once it means something.' He jumped the gun, to be honest.





**Many say “The Masterpiece” is the greatest TV title challenge to date. What is your take?**

He truly is the real bench mark for my reign as NWA TV champion. Saying that, I’ve beaten him before, so I know it’s doable. This situation is different, however; he’s got a chip on his shoulder and a point to prove. He’s got nothing to lose, and I do. I’m looking at Chris like he’s the NWA World’s Heavyweight Champion. He’s the guy I have to beat to become what I already *should* be. I don’t think Chris realizes what he’s done. He has to be able to live with himself after his failure to capture my TV title.

**It seems nobody can escape “The Masterlock.” How will you avoid it?**

Simple, I’ll never get in it! When we meet at NWA 75, it will be a battle of which of us locks on our submission first. I think the person who walks out as NWA World Television champion will be as simple as who gets his hold on first. Will it be The Masterlock or my Crossface? I think you know my answer.

**Kamille keeps saying you’re destined to be NWA Worlds champion. Do you feel she’s under appreciating your reign as NWA World TV champion?**

No, not at all. I think Kamille sees me as more than *just* the NWA World Television champion — like I do. In both our minds, I *should* be holding the “Ten Pounds of Gold” right now as the NWA World’s Heavyweight Champion. The TV title has a legendary history, which I’m proud to be part of... and Kamille is incredibly happy for and supportive of that. At the same time, she also knows I currently own the wrong belt

**If you successfully defend against Adonis at NWA 75, you could cash in your ‘Lucky 7’ for a shot at the World’s Title. Do you have a preference whether Tyrus or EC3 walks out as champ?**

Correct, if I beat Chris, I get to ‘Lucky 7’ for a shot...It’s funny though. I didn’t realize I could just toss away a championship and somehow get a shot at the World’s heavyweight champ. Here I am, defending my title over and over... What an idiot! Why do I even defend it? Next time I’ll just toss the TV championship away like trash and get my title shot. Got it!

‘Jokes’ aside, I am a fighting champion. If that means I go another seven, or 20, or 50 wins, I’ll do whatever to solidify my name as a fighting, defending, winning and people’s champion. I’ll fight until it’s undeniable to everyone that I *am* the future of the NWA, the benchmark and measuring stick of what it is to be a professional wrestler in the NWA and the world.

EC3 or Tyrus? I couldn’t give a @#%\$. One *will* have what I want... and that one will know 100-percent that the target on their back is reason to worry — because I’ll be coming for the bullseye!

**Once friends and members of “Strictly Business,” Thom Latimer and Chris Adonis are set to clash at NWA 75. “The Masterpiece” looks to take Latimer’s NWA World TV Title.**



FORMER NWA WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION

# Leilani Kai

By Paul E. Pratt

Leilani Kai remembers it well, that day in 1971. Though she'd seen the greats of her generation on television, she was 14-years-old before she saw women's wrestling *live* for the first time.

"After that, I knew I was going to end up being a wrestler," admits Kai. "I'd skip school to run to the TV to watch it."

Kai didn't take long to go from cutting classes to attend Florida Championship Wrestling TV tapings to being in the ring. Shortly after high school, the Fabulous Moolah pushed the future star from trainee to professional in just *two weeks!*

"Maybe I got all my basics down really quickly," jokes Kai of her lightning-fast debut, "Or maybe I was just ahead of myself."

Either way, over the next 30 years, Kai didn't *just* "end up being a wrestler." She became one of the most accomplished women in history, amassing three World singles championships and *six* World tag title reigns. In 2006, she was inducted into the NWA Hall of Fame.

Within months of turning pro, Kai was traveling the expansive 1970s territory system, working NWA promotions from Alaska to Florida and coast-to-coast. By 21, she was a two-time NWA Women's tag champ with long-time partner Judy Martin.

Eventually Kai "went north to New York." There she and Wendi Richter swapped the WWF Women's title in 1985.

Much of her career though, Kai notes, was spent overseas. During one of 40-plus tours of Japan, Kai and Martin met career-defining rivals The Jumping Bomb Angels.

Soon Martin and Kai — now 'The Glamour Girls' managed by "The Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart — began trading the WWF Women's tag titles with the legendary Japanese tandem. Even then, Kai says, she took the NWA with her... Quite literally.

"We used the NWA titles when we worked up there," she admits, "They never gave us WWF titles, so we used the NWA belts — the whole time!"

On March 12, 2003, Kai fulfilled a lifelong goal, capturing



*Hall of Famer Leilani Kai held both the NWA and WWF Women's World titles — and, with partner Judy Martin (above left), is a multiple-time World Tag champion.*



the NWA Women's World title. "It was a dream come true when I became a champion for the NWA," she recalls, "I never thought that would happen."

More recently, Kai's watched current Women's World Champion Kamille far eclipse her own 465 reign. The legend heaps praise on "The Brickhouse."

"She's just wonderful, such a great athlete," Kai gushes.

"I think Kamille's the perfect champion," she continues. "She's going to be a Ric Flair type, someone who just lingers in the title picture forever."

Equally fond of Natalia Markova, who challenges for "The Burke" in the Night 1 main event of the upcoming two-day NWA 75 pay-per-view, Kai's known "The Crush" since her arrival in the U.S. from Russia, She says Markova could be the one to finally unseat Kamille.

"Natalia is really working so hard," she says, "She's changed so much since she got here. She's always loved the NWA; she and Kamille will be great together."

As a lifelong fan, Tuesday episodes of *NWA Powerrr* occasionally make Kai emotional. It's a reminder, she says, of what she's long loved about pro wrestling.

"It's like it was! It's entertaining, it's fun, and it reminds me of how it used to be — especially the studio setting," she shares. "It reminds me of going to those studio TV tapings when I was 14."

"I've always been old-school — and always will be," Kai concludes. "And I'll always be NWA, no matter what. It's just me!"



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