

# WWF World Tour 1990: Mr. Worldwide?

## World Tour 1990

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Lord Alfred Hayes, Hillbilly Jim, Gorilla Monsoon, Jesse Ventura, Vince McMahon

Host: Sean Mooney

This one has me a bit worried as we're going international, which has hit and miss results to put it mildly. There is a good chance that this is going to be just some matches taped from various house shows, meaning the quality very well might not be all that high. It doesn't help that it's not the best time for the company but they can throw in some curve balls every so often. Let's get to it.

Sean Mooney runs down just about the entire card, which is more than we usually get.

We open with a profile on Jimmy Snuka, who talks about how everyone thinks about the challenge around here and that's why he's in the WWF. There's a reason Snuka didn't get to talk very often.

From Long Island, New York, June 10, 1989.

## Jimmy Snuka vs. Boris Zhukov

Jimmy Hart is here with Zhukov (who is apparently substituting for the Honky Tonk Man) and yes, the WORLD Tour is starting in New York. Zhukov knees him outside to start fast and Hart is rather pleased. Back in and Snuka hits a quick crossbody but Zhukov hammers him down again and grabs a backbreaker for two, setting up the chinlock. Snuka fights up and gets pulled right back into the chinlock as Hart mocking the fans is by far the most interesting thing going on here. That's broken up as well and Snuka fights back, drops Hart, and hits the Superfly

Splash for the pin at 7:21.

**Rating:** D+. What exactly were you expecting here? Zhukov is hardly the person you call when you need a good match and while the Superfly Splash looked good, it was hardly enough to make up for the rest of the dull match. I get the idea of having a substitute if Honky Tonk Man was unavailable, but would that match have been much better?

From New York City, New York, September 30, 1989.

### Jimmy Snuka vs. Honky Tonk Man

Well that's irony for you. Jimmy Hart is here with Honky Tonk. The place goes nuts for Snuka as he hasn't been in the Garden since 1985. Snuka beats him down before even taking his gear off, then beats him up even more while disrobing. An atomic drop gives us one of those hilarious sells from Honky Tonk, followed by a top rope chop to the head for two. Snuka knocks him to the floor where Hart gets in a distraction, allowing Honky Tonk to cheap shot Snuka and take over.

Back in and Honky Tonk starts with his assortment of choking, followed by a jumping knee to the back to send him outside again. Honky Tonk beats him up on the floor and goes back inside to drop Snuka again, only to stop to yell at the fans and referee. That's a bit of a lost art today, as so much is spent on trying to get in every move possible. The Shake Rattle And Roll is blocked though and Snuka Hulks Up. Honky Tonk is sent into Hart and a top rope headbutt (Honky Tonk was out of position so it was the best Snuka could do) gives Snuka the pin at 10:29.

**Rating:** C-. Actually yeah, it was a bit better, if nothing else because Honky Tonk knew how to work a crowd a good bit more. He knew how to make you want to see him get beaten up and that is an incredibly valuable tool. It's part of why he kept a job for so long, as people wanting to see someone give you what you deserve is a huge part of wrestling.

A fan wants to see Bret Hart vs. Dino Bravo. That fans needs to be tested.

Jimmy Hart and Dino Bravo are ready for Hart, with Bravo praising Hart's conditioning.

Hart is ready to put some speed up against some strength and promises to destroy Bravo.

From London, England, October 10, 1989 (the WWF's first event in the UK).

### Bret Hart vs. Dino Bravo

Jimmy Hart is here with Bravo as he's getting quite the set of appearance fees for this tape. Bravo backs him up against the ropes to start and a running shoulder puts Hart down as the strength takes over early on. Hart makes a quick comeback with a dropkick and clothesline to send Bravo outside, with the fans loudly booing. Back up and Hart knocks him down again, with Bravo teasing a walk out.

Jimmy talks him out of that and Bravo gets back inside, where Hart takes him down by the arm with a variety of armbars. Bravo fights up as well and knocks him to the floor, which doesn't have the fans overly pleased. Hart gets knocked off the apron and into the barricade for a nasty crash and has to be thrown back in. Bravo's chinlock and reverse chinlock (which should cancel each other out), followed by the bearhug.

A suplex gives Bravo two and we're right back to the bearhug. Hart finally fights out but misses the middle rope elbow, allowing Bravo to go up top. This goes as well as you might expect, with Hart knocking him out of the air. Hart gets in a backbreaker and a hot shot sends Bravo outside in a heap. There's the slingshot dive to drop Bravo again and they get back in where Bravo reverses a rollup for the clean (well cleanish as he used the tights to get the reversal) pin at 16:10.

**Rating:** C+. Believe it or not, this wound up being fine and that shouldn't be the biggest shock given Bret's involvement. There is a reason they were starting to test the waters for a singles push around this time, as he was so good that you couldn't leave him out much longer. Bravo wasn't as bad as he is remembered (he's bad, but not THAT bad) and this showed that he could be carried to an acceptable match.

We go to Brussels, where Hulk Hogan is promoting No Holds Barred.

Lord Alfred Hayes is going to various European cities to talk about various historic landmarks. We'll start in Paris, with various shots of things that don't include Hayes. Now it's off to London for more of the same. There's nothing funny or overly interesting here, as it's really just a travelogue of famous sites in Paris and London.

Next up is a Manager's Profile on Jimmy Hart, who has already been in every match on the tape thus far.

Hart talks about his gold record for the Honky Tonk Man and says the Bushwhackers need to learn already. Rhythm & Blues don't like that and they'll get revenge. Moving on, we have Earthquake, who is ready to make an example out of Hulk Hogan. They're going to have Hogan taken out on a stretcher, which is exactly what happened that summer.

From Paris, France, October 13, 1989.

### Fabulous Rougeau Brothers vs. Rockers

Jimmy Hart is here with the Rougeaus. The Rockers jump them to start but we settle down to Jacques leapfrogging Michaels a few times, only to get faceplanted into the mat. Raymond and Jannetty come in, with the latter taking him down and starting in on the leg. Michaels adds a splash to the leg and it's time to start cranking away. Jacques tries to come in but Jannetty switches behind the referee's back as commentary talks about

various French wrestlers over the years.

Jannetty gets to crank on the leg a bit more as Hart is losing his mind over the switching, including Michaels coming in to work on the leg (again sans tag). Raymond finally manages to send Michaels into the post to take over, including hammering away in the corner. Jacques' always nice jumping back elbow to the face puts Michaels down again and Raymond superkicks him out to the floor.

Back in and a reverse chinlock works on Michaels' back, followed by some hair pulling and taunting of the crowd, with Jacques giving a great grin as a result. Jannetty tries to come in for the save, resulting in Michaels being dragged back to the corner again. Raymond put son a front facelock but Michaels gets up and brings Jannetty back in.

Everything breaks down and Jannetty gets a backslide on Jacques but Raymond has the referee to prevent the count. Raymond decks Jannetty so Jacques can hit a piledriver. The referee yells at Raymond, allowing Michaels to sneak in and hit his own piledriver behind the referee's back (continuing the theme of the match) for the win at 15:00.

**Rating:** B. This was a great example of what good storytelling can get you in a match. They built up the idea of everything taking place behind the referee's back, with the Rougeaus getting more and more annoyed with the Rockers. Then the Rougeaus did the same thing, only for the Rockers to cheat again to steal the win. The fans were into it and it was an easy story to follow, which is all you need sometimes. Very fun match.

From Tokyo, Japan, April 13, 1990.

WWF Title: Ultimate Warrior vs. Ted DiBiase

Warrior is defending less than two weeks after winning the title at Wrestlemania. DiBiase jumps him from behind to start

fast and even gets in a belt shot. That's completely shrugged off and Warrior hits a clothesline out to the floor. Back in and Warrior beats on him again, setting up a crisscross. DiBiase gets smart by avoiding a flying shoulder to send Warrior crashing down, allowing DiBiase to really take over.

A clothesline gives DiBiase one and the kickout has him surprised. DiBiase hits a suplex and a piledriver for two, with Warrior's kicking out meaning it's time to Warrior Up. Warrior hits the clotheslines and runs the ropes nowhere near DiBiase, who has to get in his path for the big clothesline. The splash retains the title at 6:12.

**Rating:** C. I know the fans liked him and he had all kinds of charisma, but Warrior could not back it up in the ring with day to day matches like this one. DiBiase was doing what he could here but then had to really crank up the effort when Warrior started his comeback. At the end of the day, it was way too much like Hogan but without Hogan's fine tuning which really made the matches work. Throw in Warrior being so all over the place when he talked and it was never going to work long term.

From London, England, October 10, 1989.

### Jim Duggan vs. Honky Tonk Man

Jimmy Hart is here with Honky Tonk Man after getting one match off and Duggan is the King at the moment. Honky Tonk bails to the floor to start and Hart gets on the mic, threatening the fans with NO SINGING if they don't shut up. Duggan finally chases Honky Tonk on the floor and hammers away to take over. They get inside for a clothesline and Duggan sends Honky Tonk into Hart.

Back in and the atomic drop sets up the right hands in the corner as it's all Duggan so far. Hart grabs the leg though and Honky Tonk can choke on the ropes. Hart's choking makes it worse and the lamest neck crank I've ever seen ensues.

Thankfully it doesn't last long as Duggan fights up, only to be kneed does, setting up another neck crank. The closeups show how weak it really is so of course they KEEP SHOWING IT.

Duggan gets up again and is knocked outside again, meaning it's time for more pausing. A posting drops Duggan again and we hit the third neck crank. Thankfully this time it's switched into a chinlock, which isn't good either but at least it doesn't look as bad. Back up and Honky Tonk misses a charge into the corner, allowing Duggan to hammer away. The three point clothesline finishes for Duggan at 8:07.

**Rating:** D+. It's a standard house show match with the hero winning so the fans liked it, but my goodness those neck cranks were embarrassing. At least pretend to twist the head a bit so people might think it's something. Honky Tonk was hardly known for what he could do bell to bell, but he was better than this.

Post match Hart throws in the megaphone and Duggan gets decked. Not that it matters as he grabs the 2x4 and clears the ring.

From Paris, France, October 13, 1989.

WWF Title: Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage

Savage, with Sherri, is challenging but Hogan has Elizabeth with him (as accompanied by Pat Patterson), who Monsoon describes (along with Terry Garvin) as "a couple of short fat guys." We get the long stall to start as commentary makes its usual jokes about Garvin. Savage throws a chair inside and gets it swatted away before they lock up for the first time about two and a half minutes into the match. A headlock grinds away on Hogan, until he powers Savage back to the floor.

Savage grabs the microphone and rants about how he's going to win. He even dedicates the match to Sherri, who gets in the ring for a distraction so Savage can ax handle Hogan. That

doesn't work either as Hogan takes Savage down and atomic drops him to the floor. Hogan follows him out and even sends Sherri into the apron before going after Savage again. Back in and Sherri offers another distraction so Hogan threatens to punch her (our hero), earning himself a jumping knee to the floor.

Sherri distracts Hogan AGAIN and Savage gets in another cheap shot, followed by your standard choking. The top rope ax handle gets six and we hit the chinlock. The sleeper goes on and Sherri yells a lot as I forget that Elizabeth is there in the first place. Hogan fights up but gets knocked down again. Some top rope ax handles connect, including one with a foreign object. That just triggers the Hulk Up and Elizabeth gets in a slap (which the camera mostly misses), setting up the legdrop to retain at 11:57.

**Rating:** C. Elizabeth being out there with Hogan never felt right at all and that was the case again here. It felt like the most forced together pairing and I forgot she was even there for multiple stretches. That's a bad sign for what she's going and thankfully it wouldn't last much longer. Savage vs. Hogan is always worth at least a look, but even they could only do so much with this story.

Hogan and Elizabeth celebrate.

Mooney wraps us up.

**Overall Rating:** C-. It's a fine idea for a collection and there are a few decent (and one good) match included, but for the most part this was a pair of house shows with some other stuff here and there. I've seen both the full London and Paris shows before and somehow, these were indeed the highlights. It shows you how much you can get away with when it comes to international audiences, but that wasn't going to be enough for something like this.

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