

# Alberto Del Rio Released

According to WWE.com it was due to an altercation with an employee and unprofessional conduct. This sounds like something where more details will come out later.

I can't say I'm complaining as he hasn't meant anything like forever, so I'm not the most annoyed, though I always liked his in ring work. If nothing else, this cuts down even more salary.

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# Smackdown Possibly Moving Back To Thursdays

Yeah according to a photo from tonight's tapings.



Photo Credit: [wrestlingrumors.net](http://wrestlingrumors.net)

This one could change a lot of things as NXT would have to move and Impact's negotiations would take a BIG hit as they would be going head to head with the first hour of Smackdown.

However, keep in mind that nothing official has been said and this could be doctored.

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## **WWE Cuts Five NXT Talents, Ends WWE Magazine**

Garrett Dylan, Travis Tyler, Slate Randall, Mac Miles and Dani Jax.

Dylan is the only one that jumped to my mind though I've seen Tyler a few times too. These are really basic cuts and an easy way to save money.

In something that doesn't really need a full entry, WWE also ended WWE Magazine. With WWE.com, it really hasn't needed to exist for years so that's another big way to cut costs.

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## **International Network Dates**

They finally announced some countries for the Network.

The UK gets the Network at some point in October.

Over 170 countries and territories get it on August 12, including Canada, Australia, Spain and Mexico among many others.

There's good stuff in the report, but the number of buys still isn't great. International will help A LOT though. There's

also an offer of one month for \$19.99, which will come off as a great deal for people wanting a pay per view and nothing more. This could be far worse.

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## **WWE Network Does 700,000 Buys**

That's not good. Here's the report from 411mania.com.

– The WWE released their 2014 Q2 earnings reports today, and in that report they announced that the WWE Network is up to 700,000 subscribers. This is up from the 667,00 announced the day after WrestleMania. It is also far below the 850,000 figure that most analysts felt that the company should be at, especially with WWE stating that they want to hit the 1 million subscriber mark in the US by the end of 2014. Some notes from the financials on the Network...

**Customer Engagement:** Viewer data indicates that, on average, 91% of subscribers access the network at least once per week and use 2.5 devices to consume network content. Moreover, consumer research indicates that 90% of subscribers are satisfied with WWE Network (with 51% extremely satisfied and 39% somewhat satisfied).

**International Availability:** The Company plans to make the U.S. version of WWE Network available on an over-the-top basis starting August 12th in over 170 countries and territories, including Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico, Spain and the Nordics, among others. The network is expected to be live in the U.K. by October 2014. Plans for the network in Italy, UAE, Germany, Japan, India, China, Thailand and Malaysia will be communicated at a later date.

**Canada:** The Company has entered into a new 10-year partnership

with Rogers Communications, a leading media enterprise in Canada, under a landmark television programming and WWE Network agreement. The partnership facilitates the launch of WWE Network as a traditional a-la-carte Pay-TV channel in Rogers' cable systems with a preview beginning August 12 and thereafter through other Pay-TV providers outside Rogers' footprint. The partnership also renews Rogers' license of the Raw and SmackDown television programs, and grants Rogers distribution rights to the Company's pay-per-views.

**Consumer Marketing:** To enhance awareness, additional marketing investment is planned around the popular SummerSlam pay-per-view event in August. The Company will also introduce new payment plans in August, including a \$19.99 monthly plan (with no commitment) and an upfront one-time payment option for its existing \$9.99 per month offering (with six month commitment).

**Other Developments:** Content coming to WWE Network includes The Monday Night War and WWE Rivalries, the most recent addition to the network's program schedule, both of which provide a documentary-style look at some of the greatest moments in WWE history. Expanding current distribution, WWE Network is launching on several smart TVs and Blu-ray players in mid-August. The Company also plans to deliver a new "resume play" feature later this year.

– George Barrios, Chief Strategy & Financial Officer had the following to say about the future of the Network...

"As we expanded WWE Network to 700,000 subscribers, our earnings performance surpassed our guidance, which targeted a Net loss ranging from \$15 million to \$18 million. Our key metrics continued to show strength as average North American attendance increased 11%, representing the fourth consecutive quarter of year-over-year growth. Raw and SmackDown TV ratings increased 5% and 3%, respectively, marking SmackDown's 7th quarter of growth among the past 8 quarters. We identified efficiencies across WWE, which include a 7% reduction in

staff, and improved our 2015 OIBDA outlook by \$30 million. We developed plans to make WWE Network available in over 170 countries, and entered a 10-year deal that provides for the WWE Network launch as a traditional a-la-carte Pay-TV channel in Canada and renews our television licensing agreement for Raw and SmackDown. The progress in our strategic initiatives reinforces our view that successful execution of our WWE Network strategy can generate meaningful economic returns.”

Read [more](http://www.411mania.com/wrestling/news/330556#ueZCGt88VbQrckCc.99) at <http://www.411mania.com/wrestling/news/330556#ueZCGt88VbQrckCc.99>

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## **Ricardo Rodriguez Released By WWE**

Confirmed on Twitter. This could be the first of many names coming this weekend. Stay tuned.

There isn't much to say about Rodriguez. Without Del Rio, he was pretty expendable. I did like his comedy stuff though.

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## **Thought of the Day: Pick One**

Regarding the WWE Network.

On Raw, WWE hyped up an airing of Summerslam 1998 this Sunday night. That's fine and a good idea as it's an awesome show, but at the same time, why would I want to tune in at a

specific time for one show when I could pull it up and watch it at any given time? With the full PPV library on demand, it makes these sort of specials kind of a waste of time. The same is true for people watching the live <http://onhealthy.net/product-category/pain-relief/> stream. I missed Wrestlemania Rewind tonight, but I know I can watch it any time I want. It defeats the intended purpose. Either have the library available on demand (far better option) or stop hyping these airings up as a huge deal.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of on the History of ECW Pay Per Views at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling books for under \$4 at:

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## Thought of the Day: They Are The Nation

Of Domination?

As you might have seen on Raw, it seems that we're getting a new Black Power stable with Xavier Woods as the Malcolm X character, leading Big E. and Kofi with possibly Titus O'Neil and Mark Henry joining. THis is an idea I've heard batted around forever and in this case, why not do it? It's not like any of these guys are lighting the world on fire otherwise, so why not give them something to do? The last team was around like 15 years ago so it's not like it's a fresh idea.

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# Sting: The Ultimate Collection Contest Revealed

It comes out in September.

Bringing the Game Up a Level

The Blade Runners vs. Bret Wayne Sawyer and Sean O'Reilly  
UWF Power Pro Wrestling • April 1986

Sting & Rick Steiner vs. Mike Rotundo & Ron Simmons  
NWA Southern Pro Wrestling • May 19, 1987

NWA World Heavyweight Championship  
Ric Flair vs. Sting  
NWA Pro Wrestling • January 2, 1988

On the Map

Sting vs. Stan Lane  
Main Event • October 2, 1988

Sting vs. Butch Reed  
Main Event • March 26, 1989

Superstar

NWA World Television Championship Match  
Sting vs. Mike Rotundo  
WCW World Championship Wrestling • April 1, 1989

Sting vs. Ron Simmons  
WCW Power Hour • August 18, 1989

NWA World Television Championship  
Sting vs. Great Muta

WCW Power Hour • September 1, 1989

Bleach Blonde Rivalry

NWA World Heavyweight Championship Match

Ric Flair vs. Sting

Great American Bash • July 7, 1990

Sting vs. Dutch Mantel

Main Event • September 2, 1990

Face of WCW

Sting vs. Nikita Koloff

Clash of the Champions XIV • June 14, 1991

Sting & The Great Muta vs. The Steiner Brothers

WCW/New Japan Supershow II • January 4 1992

Vader Rivalry

Bounty Match

Sting vs. Van Vader

WCW WorldWide • February 9, 1992

Sting, Barry Windham, Ricky Steamboat & Dustin Rhodes vs. The Dangerous Alliance (Rick Rude, Larry Zbyszko, Arn Anderson & Bobby Eaton)

WCW World Championship Wrestling • February 22, 1992

Sting vs. Diamond Dallas Page WCW Saturday Night • June 13, 1992

Sting vs. Barry Windham

WCW Saturday Night • February 6, 1993

Face Paint

Sting vs. Stunning Steve Austin

WCW Pro Wrestling • January 8, 1994



Viewers Choice Match

Sting vs. Ric Flair

WCW Nitro • November 6, 1995

Sting vs. Arn Anderson

WCW Nitro • July 8, 1996

Sting & "Macho Man" Randy Savage vs. The Nasty Boys

WCW Saturday Night • July 27, 1996

The Crow

Sting Becomes Free Agent WCW Nitro • October 21, 1996

WCW World Championship Match

Hollywood Hogan vs. Sting

Starrcade • December 28, 1997

Scorpion Death Lock

Sting & Lex Luger vs. Hulk Hogan & "Macho Man" Randy Savage

WCW Nitro • February 16, 1998

Sting vs. Kevin Nash

WCW Nitro • April 6, 1998

Sting vs. Scott Steiner

WCW Thunder • April 22 1998

Wolfpak

Sting & Kevin Nash vs. Harlem Heat WCW Nitro • June 15, 1998

Sting & The Warrior vs. Bret "Hitman" Hart & Hollywood Hogan

WCW Nitro • October 12, 1998

Sting vs. Bret "Hitman" Hart

WCW Nitro • October 19, 1998

Rafters

Sting vs. "Macho Man" Randy Savage

WCW Nitro • June 7, 1999

WCW World Heavyweight Championship

Booker T vs. Sting

WCW Nitro • July 31, 2000

Best 2 out of 3 Falls Match Sting vs. Jeff Jarrett

WCW Thunder • September 13, 2000

Sting, Booker T & Goldberg vs. Jeff Jarrett & Kronik

WCW Thunder • October 25, 2000

Sting vs. Ric Flair

WCW Nitro • March 26, 2001

Blu-Ray exclusives to be announced.

I really like this set as there's a lot of rare stuff instead of all the usual stuff you would expect on a set like this.

Thoughts/omissions?

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## **Thought of the Day: The Legend of Brock Lesnar**

As you may have heard, Paul Heyman's client Brock Lesnar conquered the Undertaker's Streak at Wrestlemania, becoming the 1 in 21-1. Since then, Brock has been seen once on WWE TV and.... That is the most brilliant thing WWE could have done with him. For the last three months, Paul Heyman has reminded us of Brock Lesnar. We've heard of him doing the impossible and being the monster that even the Undertaker couldn't stop. As time has gone on, that's the image that people have gotten in their heads: Brock Lesnar as an unstoppable beast that

destroyed the Undertaker without breaking a sweat, instead of Brock Lesnar having a war with Undertaker and barely beating him. The longer you know that he's lurking, the bigger an impact his return makes. They're building up his mystique and that's the best thing they could have done.

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And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling books for under \$4 at: