

# On This Day: November 22, 1986 – Superstars of Wrestling: One Of The Best Episodes ever

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: November 22, 1986

Location: Broome County Arena, Binghamton, New York

Attendance: 6,400

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bruno Sammartino

Wow I haven't done one of these in awhile. We're closing in on 1987 and the beginning of the build towards Wrestlemania. I'm hoping the source I get these from finishes out the year because I have about the first three months worth of Superstars from that year already done. It's an awesome time period for the company and things are just about to explode. Let's get to it.

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Vince runs down the card and HOKEY SMOKE there are two famous things on this show.

Steamboat talks about his match later on but I won't spoil who it's against. Never mind as it's the opener.

## Intercontinental Title: Randy Savage vs. Ricky Steamboat

Hebner and Danny Davis argue over who gets to be the referee here. Steamboat is all fired up but Hebner (who I guess won the argument) tears him off Savage. Ricky speeds things up again and slams the champ down for two before hitting the armdrag into the armbar as only he can. Savage gets up and runs Steamboat over a few times but gets caught in another perfect armdrag.

Savage counters by ramming Ricky into the buckle and drops a knee for

two. The double ax off the top gets a somewhat delayed two but Savage thinks he won. Steamboat sends him into the corner but Savage comes out with a spinning crossbody. Ricky rolls through it and gets two for himself though. Now Randy gets whipped into the corner and Steamboat hits a top rope chop but doesn't cover.

Steamboat pounds away and even Vince isn't sure why he didn't cover. When 1986 McMahon questions you, you must have REALLY done something stupid. Sunset flip doesn't work for Steamboat but he skins the cat and gets an O'Connor Roll for two. The referee gets knocked down by Savage (accident) and Steamboat hits the cross body.

Hebner tries to count but Davis blocks the count for no apparent reason. Well that's assuming you don't count being EVIL as a reason. They go to the floor and Savage rams him into the barricade. He goes up top and drops the ax onto Steamboat, ramming the Dragon's throat into the barricade. That gives Savage the countout win but the more important stuff is coming.

**Rating:** B-. Even though it ended with a countout, this was one of the best Superstars matches I can ever remember. Then again, look at the people in it. Would you expect anything else? This was much more about building an angle rather than the match though, so we should get back to what's going on.

Savage gets the bell and drives it into Steamboat's throat, further injuring Steamboat's windpipe. This draws MOLTEN heat from the crowd and would set up their rematch and arguably the best match ever at Wrestlemania 3. Savage would go on to feud with Steele for a few months until on SNME when Steele said he had a surprise for Savage. I think you can fill in the blanks yourself, and it was AWESOME. Steamboat is taken out on a stretcher while Vince shouts about how he can't breathe.

UPDATE!

Paul Orndorff is the #1 contender to Hulk Hogan and thinks anyone claiming otherwise is crazy. Orndorff says comparing him to Hogan is like comparing ice cream to horse manure.

### Al Navaro vs. Junkyard Dog

Powerslam in maybe 35 seconds ends this. Next.

Bruno can't believe what he just saw with Steamboat and Savage. Steamboat is getting looked at and can't breathe still. An ambulance is coming.

Hogan says he's ready for Kamala in the Boston Gardens. I've seen that match actually and it sucked.

Billy Graham is out in Phoenix and says he's training in the desert.

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Outback Jack is training with some natives in Australia. Ok then.

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Oh jeez the Rebel Dick Slater. This was one of those gimmicks that went NOWHERE and thankfully didn't last long. Slater says that he's from the south while Funk jumps him. He fights back but goes up and gets slammed off. Dick comes back with a neckbreaker and Funk begs off. An elbow to the head sets up the figure four but Funk escapes. Slater sends him into the buckle and hits a top rope elbow to the back followed by a regular one for the pin. Just a squash for the most part.

Time for Piper's Pit. The guests are King Curtis, Kim Chee and Kamala. Curtis shouts a lot as he is known to do and talks about Piper needing friends in the future. Piper wants to know what the moon on Kamala's stomach means. Kamala takes his mask off and that's about it.

### Billy Jack Haynes vs. Ray Vance

This is almost joined in progress for some reason. Haynes pounds him down

with pure power and hooks the full nelson for the tap out. This lasted maybe a minute or so.

Now we get what is probably a one time only thing in wrestling history: Honky Tonk Man hears the results of a fan poll, asking for a vote of confidence. If the fans vote him down then they don't approve of him. If they vote for him, they like him. This is basically voting for him to stay face or turn heel. With 674,000 votes in, over 600,000 are against Honky. He's not happy and storms off.

#### Hillbilly Jim/Tito Santana/Pedro Morales vs. Dream Team/Johnny V

Jim and Valentine start things off but it's off to Morales very quickly. Off to Beefcake who gets backdropped quickly and Tito gets the tag. Santana cleans house and it's back to Jim. Beefcake takes the Hillbilly down and Johnny V comes in. That goes nowhere so Santana comes in for the Figure Four. Everything breaks down and Davis throws it out, but DQ's Santana's team for starting the whole thing. Too short to rate but it was about Davis so there you go.

More Boston show stuff with Heenan talking about how great Pedro Morales used to be. He's facing Harley Race, but let's talk about Orndorff instead. Heenan doesn't like that Kamala is getting the title match against Hogan but it's the JYD that is getting Orndorff in Boston. JYD is just a roadblock and he needs to get ready to get run over. Solid promo here.

Steamboat has been taken to the hospital. Savage wants an update and Sammartino isn't happy. They get in a fight which led to a brief feud between the two of them.

**Overall Rating:** B. Considering my biggest complaint about this show is that nothing ever happens, how can I not give this a higher than average rating? Two BIG things happened here as well as we had what was probably the best match in the history of the show up to this point. Good show here and easily the best they've had so far.

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# On This Day: August 6, 1988 – Superstars of Wrestling 1988: How Could They Do This To Tito?

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: August 6, 1988

Location: LaCrosse Center, LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura

This is an interesting time for the company as we're coming up on the first Summerslam. Interestingly enough Hogan isn't champion at this time as Savage won the title at Wrestlemania IV. There's almost no way of telling what you're going to get on these syndicated shows but odds are there will be a lot of squashes. Let's get to it.

Vince and Jesse talk about Summerslam where Jesse will be the guest referee in the main event.

Intro sequence.

## Don Muraco vs. Dave Wagner

The arena appears to be tiny. Wagner looks like Taz with Daniel Bryan's

beard. Muraco takes him into the corner as Greg Valentine talks trash in the inset interview. They didn't have a match at Summerslam so I'm not sure why we'd hear from him. The announcers talk about Muraco having a match against Dino Bravo at the PPV so I wonder why Valentine is already setting up another feud. Muraco sends him into the corner and rides Wager down to the mat with a knee. A tombstone so sloppy it would get Taker fined today is good for the pin.

UPDATE!

This is the control center segment, which is something I'd like to see come back. It's Gene in a studio previewing various Summerslam matches. We get a clip from a few weeks ago of DiBiase jumping Savage from behind so Andre could destroy him. Savage needed a partner for the main event of Summerslam and the choice was obvious. Jesse was named as guest referee, which made it look like DiBaise had the match in the bag. Jesse appeared to be afraid of Andre and to be on DiBiase's payroll. It's a really basic video but it hits every point it's supposed to and tells you exactly what you need to know.

Also Summerslam is on a Monday. Sign of the times.

#### Ted DiBiase vs. Mike Richards

Richards is from Milwaukee so he gets one of the biggest reactions ever for a jobber. He would have a long run in WCW as part of the jobbing tag team Disorderly Conduct as Mean Mike. DiBiase has Heenan, Andre and Virgil with him. Richards scores a quick armdrag but DiBiase easily takes him down and hits a series of falling fists. A powerslam plants Mike and the Million Dollar Dream ends this quick.

#### Hart Foundation vs. Tom Stone/Chris Curtis

The Harts are faces here and get a tag title shot at Summerslam. Jimmy

Hart is still their official manager but he doesn't associate with them anymore. Stone was one of the longer tenured jobbers of the company. Why am I going into such detail on a squash? Anvil dropkicks Curtis down and it's off to Stone for a hard slam. Off to Bret who drops some elbows before it's back to Anvil for shouting. The squash just keeps going and Anvil pulls Stone up after a powerslam. The Hart Attack finally ends it.

**Rating:** D. Nothing to see here but the fans were excited for the Hart Attack. The idea of the tag title match is that the Harts have no chance without Jimmy in their corner so they get to look good in a squash. It's a simple idea that doesn't involve a GM or a qualifying match or anything stupid like that.

#### Terry Taylor vs. Chris Todd

Taylor has been in the company for about a week here. His inset interview would suggest he's a heel but with a nickname of Scary Terry, I don't see good things in his future. It could be worse though: he could be a cross between a person and a bird. Jesse brags about how he's in good shape until Taylor finishes this with a Sharpshooter.

The Mega Powers are ready for the Mega Bucks. Liz gives Savage a kiss on the cheek and Hogan asks for one as well.

#### Tito Santana vs. Tim Dixon

Tito grabs the arm to start as the announcers talk about Summerslam matches other than the main event. That lasts for all of twenty seconds as Vince asks Jesse if he's afraid of Andre. Tito stays on the arm for a minute and a half until Dixon bails to the floor. The announcers bicker some more until Tito realizes how boring this is and wins with the forearm.

**Rating:** D-. My goodness dude you're Tito Santana. You're better than

this. The match was terrible with the whole match being an armbar until the ending. I'm a big Santana fan but this was really dull stuff. That being said, it's a late 80s Superstars match so this is par for the course for the most part.

Here's Honky Tonk Man with something to say. Summerslam is Beefcake's final chance at Honky Tonk Man's title so Honky is thrilled to sign. Beefcake won't be cutting Honky's hair or taking the title.

#### Bolsheviks vs. J.T. Thomas/Warren Bianchi

We get the Russian national anthem before the beating begins. The Powers of Pain are ready for the Russians and talk about a wild kingdom. Boris slams Warren down and drops him throat first on the top rope. Off to Bianchi who gets kneed in the head and put on Nikolai's shoulder for a powerbomb. Boris comes off the top with a forearm to the chest for good measure and we're done.

#### Jake Roberts vs. Harley Manson

We're almost out of time so Jake hits a quick DDT for the pin. Seriously there's almost nothing more to it than that.

Demolition is ready for the Hart Foundation.

Dino Bravo of all people gets to say he'll beat Muraco to take us out.

**Overall Rating:** D-. This was boring even for Superstars standards. The whole thing was dull squash after dull squash and Vince accusing Jesse of not being a good choice as referee for the Summerslam main event. When you can bore me with a Tito Santana match, it's clearly not a good show.

Here's Summerslam if you're interested:



<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2013/07/24/summerslam-count-up-1988/>

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Savage counters by ramming Ricky into the buckle and drops a knee for two. The double ax off the top gets a somewhat delayed two but Savage thinks he won. Steamboat sends him into the corner but Savage comes out with a spinning crossbody. Ricky rolls through it and gets two for himself though. Now Randy gets whipped into the corner and Steamboat hits a top rope chop but doesn't cover.

Steamboat pounds away and even Vince isn't sure why he didn't cover. When 1986 McMahon questions you, you must have REALLY done something stupid. Sunset flip doesn't work for Steamboat but he skins the cat and gets an O'Connor Roll for two. The referee gets knocked down by Savage (accident) and Steamboat hits the cross body.

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# Superstars of Wrestling – October 18, 1986: Drinking Soap And Wrestling Dogs

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: October 18, 1986

Location: Onadonga War Memorial, Syracuse, New York

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bruno Sammartino

TNA shows take awhile to find so here's something else to fill in the time with. We're still in late 86 here and it's still Piper vs. Adonis and Hogan vs. Orndorff, which will go on for a few more months. After that we upgrade to the biggest one on one storyline of all time. Still though, this is a very fun time in the company's history. Let's get to it.

Theme song and the usual Vince preview of the show.

## SD Jones vs. Hercules Hernandez

Herc jumps him to start and Danny Davis is all cool with that. The fans already think this is boring. It's a total squash so far with Hernandez running over Jones with a variety of clotheslines and chokes. Slick says Hogan is next. Jones comes back with a headbutt and some punches but that's about it. A Torture Rack ends SD quick.

**Rating:** D. Just a squash here for Hercules who was supposed to be a big deal but it never really happened. I'll go with this as proof of that: at Wrestlemania II, the original plan was Bret vs. Steamboat in the show stealer, but Hercules got the match with the Dragon instead because Herc was seen as the better prospect. See, he's strong.

UPDATE!

This gives us a strange sequence of Orton and Muraco watching Superstars reruns at Muraco's house. They see themselves beating up Piper and hurting his leg.

Luscious Johnny V has a new man in Dino Bravo, who has dark hair here.

#### Tony Parks vs. Dino Bravo

Apparently the announcers have seen Bravo before. He throws Parks around and atomic drops him to the floor. Parks makes a quick comeback but gets his head clotheslined off. Bravo throws him to the floor, brings him back in for a dropkick and a belly to back suplex ends the massacre.

House show ad. Piper says he doesn't need a referee when he's beating up Muraco.

Brutus talks about taking care of himself outside of the ring and we get a clip of Greg Valentine getting a massage on Tuesday Night Titans.

#### Bob Bradley/Tiger Chung Lee vs. Killer Bees

The Bees are in their masks still here but they take them off before the match starts. Lee and Blair get us started and it's off to Brunzell very quickly. Lee hits some kind of shot to the throat to take over but Bradley doesn't have such good luck. Blair hits a powerslam and it's back to Blair. Bradley tries a splash but it gets knees. Brunzell's dropkick gets the pin. More squashification but the Bees would hook up with the Harts soon and things would get a lot better.

Another ad for the same Boston house show. Savage is ready for Steamboat, who is a great athlete. He's just not great enough to take the title.

#### Butch Reed vs. Rick Hunter

Hunter actually gets a quick headscissors to take Reed down which is more offense than I was expecting from him. Reed grabs one of his own and punishes Hunter with it a little bit. Off to a chinlock but Hunter breaks out of it. Not that it matters as a jumping knee takes him down. Top rope clothesline ends this quick.

Time for Piper's Pit with the guest Jimmy Hart. Hart has presents in an attempt to buy his own safety. Everyone chipped in and got him a crutch. Muraco got him a Hawaiian lei, Fuji got him a pair of women's underwear and Orton got him a cowboy hat and a noose to hang himself with. Piper forces him into a chair and says he has a surprise for him.

Jimmy has to close his eyes so Piper can tie Jimmy to the chair with the rope. Oh wait that's not the present. He has a bottle of I think soap to wash Jimmy's mouth out. Piper: "You can give this lei back to Muraco because it's the only lay you're ever going to get." He puts the soap in Jimmy's mouth and makes him spit it into the cowboy hat. As for the bad leg, Piper hops off on one leg. Good segment.

We get a clip from Hillbilly Jim's house with Granny. Jim plays the guitar and sings a song for her. Then he heats up a wooden stove and shows us his workout routine. Then he wrestles a dog but Granny comes in to yell at him. This whole thing ate up several minutes.

Paul Orndorff looks into three mirrors while Heenan praises him.

### Mike Sharpe vs. Ricky Steamboat

Feeling out process to start but Sharpe gets in a shot with the loaded pad to knock Steamboat to the floor. Steamboat comes back and hits a top rope chop to get back into the ring. Regular chop sets up the cross body for the pin.

Muraco is ready for Piper in Boston. He talks about how they



used to be friends but now things have changed. Really good promo here.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This was a very segment heavy show which is ok but a lot of the segments were pretty random. The Hart/Piper thing was hilarious as Piper was insane as usual. Other than that though there wasn't much here, especially the Hillbilly deal. One thing I will say though: some character development such as stuff like that is better than almost none that we get today.

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## **Superstars of Wrestling – October 11, 1986: Roddy Piper The Carpenter**

### **Superstars of Wrestling**

Date: October 11, 1986

Location: Baltimore Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Attendance: 7,000

Commentators: Jesse Ventura, Vince McMahon, Bruno Sammartino

Back to Superstars again as we continue what would become the build to Wrestlemania 3 in a few months. If we somehow get to the new year, I've already reviewed the January through March shows so I have a lot of this covered. Today we have a big match as the Dream Team faces the Bulldogs in a Wrestlemania rematch. Let's get to it.

Usual opening jazz.

## Dream Team vs. British Bulldogs

This is non-title. We get a quick interview backstage where Matilda the dog debuts. The non-champions jump the Bulldogs before the bell to take over. We start with Valentine vs. Dynamite and there's the snap suplex. Off to Davey who clotheslines Greg down but walks into a back elbow.

Off to Beefer who suplexes Davey but has it no sold. Greg comes in again and hits a backbreaker on Dynamite but gets slammed off the top. Valentine hits a backbreaker of his own for two. Hot tag brings in Davey and everything breaks down. The referee goes down and comes up to count a pin from Valentine, but since he's not legal it's a DQ? Ok then.

**Rating:** C-. Well it wasn't exactly their match in Chicago. This was nothing to see for the most part as neither team seemed all that fired up. Then again it wasn't for the titles and they didn't even get five minutes so how good can it be? The Bulldogs would drop the titles to the Harts soon enough after this.

The Update this week is about Jake Roberts and Damien. They're in the shower and Jake talks about fear. The audio is really bad here and you can barely understand what he's saying.

## Don Muraco/Bob Orton Jr. vs. Billy Jack Haynes/Sivi Afi

Muraco and Orton come out to the bagpipe music. Afi and Muraco start. Sivi works on the arm of the bearded wonder before it's a double tag. Muraco and Orton tag in and out quickly before the superplex pins Afi. Squash.

Savage says Steamboat will be a three time loser in Boston.

## Big John Studd/King Kong Bundy vs. Dick Slater/Ricky Hunter

The jobbers actually get an entrance here. This is when Slater was The Rebel and was getting a small midcard push. He and Studd get things going with Slater punching him into the

corner and avoiding a splash. The size and power becomes too much though and Slater is carried into the corner. Bundy misses a big elbow and the place gets all fired up. Hunter comes in and the heels take over. Studd hooks a chinlock and the fans want the Machines. Avalanche pins Hunter.

**Rating:** D. Literally a squash. Slater was in there for about 45 seconds and after that it was all downhill for him and Hunter. Studd and Bundy would challenge the Bulldogs a bit on some house shows but nothing would ever come of it. Studd would be gone fairly soon after this if I remember correctly.

Steamboat is ready for his shot at Savage and that he's waited his 30 days to get his rematch. Savage would only defend when he had to at this point, allegedly.

#### Rougeau Brothers vs. Hercules/Barry O

Ray and Barry start off and Barry gets thrown around so much that he tags out quickly. Hercules uses his power but the speed frustrates him enough to bring in Barry to face Jacques. The Cannonball gets the quick pin.

We go to Roddy Piper as he builds the set for the new Piper's Pit. Nothing is said.

We get a clip from SNME with Piper chasing Adonis off with a crutch.

Piper says it hurt when Adonis and company attacked his leg and he's going to take out Muraco first.

#### Islanders/Pedro Morales vs. Ken Glover/Hart Foundation

One of these things just doesn't belong. The Islanders team jump the other guys and clear the ring. We start with Tama vs. Hunter as Jimmy praises the Harts in an inset. Top rope splash ends this quick. The Harts were never in and I don't think Morales was either.

Post match Hunter takes the Hart Attack.

We see Slick, Volkoff and Sheik arriving in a limo. Jesse greets them and Slick says he wants the tag titles.

### Junkyard Dog/George Steele vs. Steve Regal/Terry Gibbs

No not that Regal. Regal jumps the Dog and that goes as well as you would expect it to go. Steele comes in to a nice reaction and then it's back to Dog for the powerslam and the pin. This didn't last a minute. Steele throws out Regal post match because he's a nice animal. Kids get to dance with the winners.

Bob Orton is ready for Billy Jack Haynes and Piper needs to find a new job.

Muraco warns Piper to stay away too.

Vince wraps things up.

**Overall Rating:** D. This flew by but there wasn't enough angle building to make the squashes interesting. That's been one of the things you can get from the previous shows: there have been a lot of angles thrown out there to balance out the weak wrestling, which is a lot more than you can ask for in a lot of these shows. Not much here this week.

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# Superstars of Wrestling –

# February 3, 1990: Drinking The Devil's Armpit Sweat

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: February 3, 1990

Location: Jefferson Civic Center, Birmingham, Alabama

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Alfred Hayes, Tony Schiavone

Ok I promise this is the last Superstars for awhile as even I'm sick of watching it at this point. I wasn't going to do another one but this is from my birthday so I have to do it. We're past the Rumble and coming up on Wrestlemania with Warrior challenging Hulk for the title. Other than that it's too early to know much about it and that match hasn't been announced yet. Let's get to it.

Theme song opens us up. It's nice to see some fresh faces in there.

Roberts vs. DiBiase today, which should be a good one.

## Dusty Rhodes vs. Tony Burton

For some reason after Vince and Jesse introduce the show, Tony and Alfred take over on commentary. After Sapphire "dances" to get on my nerves, Dusty pounds away to take over. Hayes talks about all the time that Dusty must spend in the gym. That's British humor right? Big elbow ends this quick.

Gene talks about how awesome the Rumble was and we see part of Beefcake vs. Genius. Oh this is the post match beating from Perfect.

Perfect says Beefcake's ribs know not to mess with Perfect.

Beefcake says that was overboard.

### Rick Martel vs. Reno Riggins

Martel dropkicks him down and is much more aggressive than I'm used to seeing him. A backbreaker sets up the Boston Crab, which Martel says is for Beefcake.

### Jim Duggan vs. Mike Davis

Duggan hits a lot of clotheslines as the announcers talk about about grammar. Davis pulls Duggan to the floor and that doesn't go well for him. Back in and a slam sets up the Three Point Clothesline.

### Jake Roberts vs. Ted DiBiase

Jake stole the belt but never beat DiBiase for it. Ted jumps him immediately and ties him in the ropes for a beating. Jake comes back with a hip toss and tries the DDT but Ted bails. Slick is at ringside with DiBiase for some unknown reason. Jake rams him into the corner and escapes a piledriver with a backdrop. Another DDT attempt is countered as is the third try. DiBiase bails to the floor and whispers something to Slick, who leaves. They brawl to the floor and Bossman pops up to hit Jake with the nightstick for the DQ.

**Rating:** C-. Not much here but they only had about three minutes to work with, making it understandable that it could only be so good. This would result in a big face turn for Bossman, which was necessary because he was wrestling a style that was going to get cheered eventually. It also set up Wrestlemania.

Actually the face turn is right now. Bossman handcuffs Jake to the ropes and steals Jake's bag which has the snake and presumably the belt in it. They go to the Brother Love Show where DiBiase says he bought and paid for the belt. DiBiase brags about getting the belt back, but slips up and says he bought the services of Bossman via Slick.

Bossman doesn't like that at all because he's not for hire. He was going out to retrieve stolen property, not be a hired gun. DiBiase says give him the belt but Bossman says no one tells him what to do. Ted says Bossman is scared, so Bossman gets in his face and pulls the belt out of the bag. If DiBiase wants it, he can earn it back. So Bossman is aiding in a theft now. He walks back to the ring and uncuffs Jake before handing him the belt.

### Canadian Earthquake vs. Mike Justice

Is he related to Sid? That's the same as the regular Earthquake but at first he was Canadian Earthquake for some reason. Quake knocks him all over the place and drops an elbow before hitting the Earthquake for the pin.

Another Earthquake hits post match and Davis is taken out on a stretcher.

Hogan says he has to know if his power is greater than the Warrior's. He wants to tie Warrior up and clean his face. You do that Hulk. He issues a challenge to Warrior and swears by the #1 Hulkamaniac "up there", that if he loses to someone who, and I'm quoting here, "races his Harley next to the devil himself and drinks the sweat from the devil's armpit", he'll striker Warrior down. Your childhood hero ladies and gentlemen.

Warrior accepts...I think.

### Powers of Pain vs. Chris Walker/Butch Stanley

Barbarian starts with Stanley and it's off to Warlord to pick the meat of whatever Barbarian left. Barbarian comes back in and kicks Walker's head off and what you could call a top rope Hart Attack ends the massacre.

Piper is ready for his cage match with Rude in a week.

Savage rants about Dusty.

The Powers of Pain are ready for Demolition.

Demolition is ready for the Powers of Pain.

**Overall Rating:** C+. The wrestling wasn't great, but we got a big face turn and the beginning of the Ultimate Challenge, so this show has to be worth something. It was nice to see something other than the same guys from 86 all over again too. The squashes get old quickly, but these were fast enough to keep it from being boring.

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# Superstars of Wrestling – October 4, 1986: Weakest Show Yet

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: October 4, 1986

Location: Baltimore Arena, Baltimore, Maryland

Attendance: 7000

Commentators: Bruno Sammartino, Jesse Ventura, Vince McMahon

Back with the last episode of this series that I have at the moment, although that's likely to change. With Superstars there isn't much you can predict as far as matches, but I would expect something more from Piper vs. Adonis which is the top angle on the show at the moment. There's also supposed to be an interview with Hogan which should be good. Let's get to it.



Intro and whatnot.

### Randy Barber vs. Koko B. Ware

An inset promo from Koko tells us that his bird is named Frankie. Jesse wants a jump off between Koko and Brunzell. Koko throws him around for awhile and hits some dropkicks and a neckbreaker before the Ghostbuster (brainbuster) gets the pin.

Video of Hillbilly Jim singing a song I believe at the reception for Uncle Elmer's wedding.

### Sika vs. Mario Mancini

I've heard of Mancini I think. Sika chops him down and chokes to start and we get a chinlock in a squash match. I don't recall seeing that before. They go to the floor for a bit and back inside the Samoan Drop finishes this.

Tito is ready for his match with Race tonight in Boston. Why does Race wear that overcoat when it's hot out?

### Ron Shaw vs. Honky Tonk Man

This is Honky's TV debut. Vince actually calls him Wayne Ferris. Honky is in suspenders still here. Mr. Fuji doesn't wank Honky's greasy hands on his tuxedo. Honky works on the arm to start but Shaw gets in a thumb to the eye. Honky rams him into the buckle but Shaw comes back. He beats on Honky for a bit until Honky slams him down and the middle rope fist (which isn't like his cousin AT ALL right?) gets the pin. Honky was light years better as a heel.

Savage says he'll go to a different galaxy tonight and says the gimmick is No DQ. Holy cocaine promo Batman.

### Paul Orndorff vs. Dan Haskins

The stolen music continues. Orndorff says the music is his now

and not Hogan's anymore. Paul gives him a clean break to start but the second time he hits him in the ribs. Out to the floor for a slam as Heenan praises things on. Clothesline, piledriver, see ya.

We see Piper, in his trunks for some reason, in the back yelling while on a crutch and holding a ball bat. He goes psycho and DESTROYS the Flower Shop with the bat, falling over from swinging so far.

### Dan McGuire vs. Randy Savage

Billy Graham wants the Intercontinental Championship Belt "of the entire universe". Savage sends him to the floor and rams him into the barricade with an ax handle off the top. Slam and elbow finish this quick.

Jesse talks to Hogan who is wearing a Harley-Davidson bandana. Hulk doesn't think much of Orndorff and doesn't think he's a real American. There's a birther joke in there somewhere.

### Moondogs vs. Killer Bees

Blair and Rex start us off and Vince calls a clothesline a necktie for some reason. Both Moondogs get slammed and it's off to Spot vs. Brunzell. Brunzell gets in trouble for a good ten seconds before hitting his dropkick and an enziguri and tagging Blair back in. Blair cleans house and Rex hits Spot so Blair can pin him. The Moondogs argue post match.

The Machines say everything they've been saying for the last few weeks.

**Overall Rating:** D+. This was pretty boring here with nothing interesting on the whole show. The Piper scene was cool, if nothing else because of his swearing, but as a whole this was one of the weaker shows I can remember in a long time. The problem is nothing really happened until January so this was kind of a weak time. Bad show for the most part.

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# **Superstars Of Wrestling – September 13, 1986: With Savage, The Bulldogs, Shane Douglas And Mick Foley**

## **Superstars of Wrestling**

Date: September 13, 1986

Location: Providence Civic Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bruno Sammartino

From what I can tell, this is the second ever episode of this show. Hopefully I can find the debut eventually but for now this is what you get. I have a few more from this era which I'll do in a row here. This is during the Hogan vs. Orndorff feud which will probably be talked about a lot on here. I'm not sure about what else you'll see here but let's get to it.

Intro and preview as usual. Well, as usual as you can get for the second show.

## **Paul Orndorff vs. Sivi Afi**

Orndorff is more or less the top heel in the company and in a pretty brilliant heel move, he comes out to Real American. Why has no one ever used that in a feud since? Stealing someone's music could be seen as a pretty big heel move. Could it be that 90% of the songs today are completely interchangeable? He

even holds his hand to his ear. Jesse had said that the REAL Orndorff would come out eventually and that's what's going on here.

An inset interview from Orndorff has him laughing about the idea of being sorry for what he did to Hulk. We get some clips of Paul beating Hulk down during the feeling out process. Short and sweet, but they hardly ever happen anymore. Orndorff cheats to start but Afi rams the head into the buckle. And never mind as a knee to the face puts him right back down. Afi makes a comeback and goes up but his cross body misses. Clothesline sets up the piledriver for the pin. Short and about what you would expect.

We see Harley Race's coronation as King.

### Sika vs. Don Driggers

Sika is returning to the company here and has King Curtis as a manager. Curtis goes for the wild ones I guess. We get the inset of Curtis yelling about how great Sika is. Sika rakes his eyes over the face of Driggers then cranks on the neck a bit. Samoan Drop completes the squash.

Randy Savage is ready for his No DQ title defense in whatever city it is against George Steele. It's in Boston and he doesn't like Tunney putting him in there, because it's a disgrace.

### Islanders vs. Moondogs

I think the Islanders are faces here. Yep they certainly are. Here's it's Tonga Kid (Tama) and King Tonga (Haku) vs. Spot and Rex. Rex and Haku start and not much happens so here's a double tag. Honky Tonk Man has an inset interview about Paul Orndorff for some reason. Honky talking about Hulk Hogan as his good friend is bizarre. The Moondogs take over on Tonga Kid but heel miscommunication allows for a tag to Haku. He rams the Moondogs together and a superkick sets up a top rope

splash by Tama for the pin.

Heenan and Race are ready for Piper and Santana respectively. And cut, so sayeth the director.

### Randy Savage vs. Troy Martin

Martin would be the real name of a brand new kid named Shane Douglas. His training partner is in the main event. Savage takes him to the mat and rides him around with ease. Pedro Morales thinks Savage is a bad champion. Martin gets a small package for two, so Savage throws him to the floor and drops the double ax on him. Troy gets thrown into the crowd for a bit and then goes back in for an ax handle and the elbow for the pin.

Time for the return of Piper's Pit, which is back after being replaced by the Flower Shop for a few weeks. The guest is Ken Resnick, the backstage interview. Before he can talk though, Adonis comes in and says Piper's time is over. Adonis is now and in two weeks, it's Flower Shop vs. Piper's Pit in a debate.

### The Machines vs. Rick Hunter/JJ Jackson/Al Navarro

The Machines are a long story but it's Ax, Blackjack Lanza and Andre under masks and pretending to be Japanese. I think Lanza starts with whichever jobber you want to pick. Ax comes in for some pounding before Andre is in, punches whichever jobber that is and it's over. It lasted like a minute and a half.

### Jack Foley/Les Thornton vs. British Bulldogs

This would be the main event I mentioned earlier, and that would be none other than Mick Foley as one of the jobbers. He looks like he weighs about 200 pounds here but the face is almost the same. The Bulldogs are tag champions. Thornton and Smith get us going with Les trying a test of strength for some reason, resulting in a nice sequence of them going back and

forth for control.

Jimmy Hart talks for awhile and it's off to Foley and Kid. Dynamite beats the tar out of him with suplexes and a headbutt. Off to Davey for the powerslam and suplex. Foley even gets in a little offense, but when he back elbows Davey, it's Foley that goes down. That's a new one. Kid comes back in and hits a clothesline with so much force that Foley said he couldn't eat solid food for a week. Smith hits a belly to back off the middle rope for the pin. Foley is dead.

**Rating:** C-. For a squash, this was pretty hard hitting and brutal. I can't remember where I read it but I seem to recall hearing about Foley accidentally disrespecting the Bulldogs and them taking it out on him in the ring for it. Based on the match I'd buy that because he took a BEATING. Cool to see for history's sake though.

The Machines say they're going to enjoy teaming with Piper Machine. George Steele pops in and is looking forward to a No DQ match with Savage.

The usual stuff ends the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. I liked this show better than last week's, partially because of better star power this week. Seeing Savage and the Bulldogs in there is a rare treat and it's cool to see the more famous guys getting in there as total rookies. I don't have the third episode so I'll have to skip the 9/20 episode, which is cool because the Pit vs. Flower Shop debate is on the 9/27 edition.

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# Superstars of Wrestling – It's The Debut Episode And...That's About It!

## Superstars of Wrestling

Date: September 6, 1986

Location; Providence Civic Center, Providence, Rhode Island

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bruno Sammartino

So I was going to do the September 13 episode when I found out that it was the second episode of the series. This would be during Hogan vs. Orndorff in what was an absolutely huge feud and indirectly led into Hogan vs. Andre the following year. I'd expect a lot of squash matches here which is what Superstars was known for as it replaced Championship Wrestling. Let's get to it.

We open with an opening. There's a good idea.

The announcers run down the people on the card tonight.

## Ricky Steamboat/Sivi Afi vs. Roger Kirby/Terry Gibbs

The heels try to jump Steamboat and Afi but are quickly atomic dropped to the floor. Steamboat starts with Gibbs but it's quickly off to Kirby. Now it's quickly back to Ricky. Gibbs manages an elbow to take Afi down and the heels pound on Afi in the corner. A headbutt from Kirby puts him down but gets rolled up for two to stop the momentum. There's the hot tag to Steamboat and house is cleaned. He suplexes Kirby down and Afi hits a top rope splash for the pin. Short but not half bad.

Video on Billy Graham training, set to Bad to the Bone by

George Thorogood and the Destroyers. Graham, with a freaking tarantula crawling over his face, says he's coming for Studd and Bundy.

#### Hart Foundation vs. Koko B. Ware/Paul Roma

This is Koko's debut. It's also Ventura's first appearance since Wrestlemania too. Neidhart and Koko start things off and Koko armdrags him down. Off to Roma who doesn't have as much luck because he isn't that good. Bret, who is that good, comes in and pounds him down with ease. Ventura praises him and we get an inset promo from Koko who has nothing to say. While he's talking the Hart Attack pins Roma. Vince calls it bad officiating but it seemed fine to me.

Koko saves Roma from a beating post match.

MSG house show ad. The Machines, including Hulk Machine, are ready for Heenan and his boys. Hogan trying to sound Japanese is borderline offensive and I'm not even Japanese.

Honky Tonk Man is coming and he wants to beat up Paul Orndorff. He was a face when he debuted until the fans were actually asked if they would give him a vote of confidence. In other words, the fans decided if he was a face or a heel. Now there's something different.

#### Ron Shaw/Pete Doherty vs. Hillbilly Jim/Cousin Luke

Luke isn't that good but he furthered the hillbilly gimmick for Jim. Jim and Shaw start us off and the Hillbilly throws him around for a bit before it's off to Luke. Luke doesn't do that well so Jim comes in and mauls them both, finishing Doherty with the bearhug. Total squash.

Meadowlands house show ad. Heenan isn't worried about Steamboat because he has Mr. Wonderful ready. Orndorff knows what a monkey wrench is, and just like Steamboat's martial arts, that won't mean a thing.



## Kamala vs. Tommy Sharpe

This is Kamala's return apparently. Kamala's manager King Curtis tells us about how great Kamala is. Sharpe gets in more offense than you would expect here, but at the end of the day he's a jobber and Kamala is a returning monster. The big splash ends this in about two minutes.

Time for the Flower Shop with Adrian Adonis which replaced Piper's Pit and set up a great angle between the hosts. Piper is the guest and he's still on a cane due to the knee injury he suffered earlier in the knee. He says he's not here tonight to fight (despite implying Adonis is female) but he does have a letter. They're the ratings for the segments on WWF TV, and apparently the Flower Shop is killing them. He gives Jimmy Hart another letter which says that the Flower Shop will be canceled next week so that Piper's Pit can return. Adrian freaks and it's on next week.

## Rougeau Brothers vs. Mike Fever/Bob Bradley

Bradley was in the last show I reviewed and it was the only time I had ever heard of him. I love little things like that. The Rougeaus aren't fabulous yet but they take Bradley apart to get things going. We listen to some French commentary for no apparent reason. Total dominance again with Ray getting the pin after the Cannonball that the Quebecers would use as their finisher years later.

We get a clip from a previous Flower Shop where Heenan tries to prove that one of the Machines is Andre the Giant but they keep switching places to confuse him.

## Big John Studd/King Kong Bundy vs. Corporal Kirschner/SD Jones

The Corporal and Studd start us off with the Corporal hitting and moving. He pounds on Studd and goes for a slam but Bundy breaks it up. Bundy comes in and uses fat man offense but it's back to Studd quickly. Jones comes in and it's Wrestlemania

all over again. The Avalanche gets the quick pin. Literal squash. Even Vince says this match wasn't that good.

Another MSG ad. Harley Race says that Tito Santana is in way over his head.

Vince tells us what's coming next week and we're out.

**Overall Rating:** D+. For a debut episode this was pretty forgettable, but back then it wouldn't have been seen as all that bad. The idea here was to pump up the house shows so on that front, it did pretty well. It's hard to criticize these shows because they're not meant to be some masterpiece and a show that's going to get you to watch next week like Raw is today. It wasn't that bad and at 45 minutes, how can I really complain?

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## **Superstars of Wrestling – January 8, 1988 – DiBiase's Latest Purchase**

### **Superstars of Wrestling**

Date: January 8, 1988

Location: Sun Dome, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura, Bruno Sammartino

Now a lot of you may have read some of my Superstars reviews from a few years ago, but in case you haven't, here's the

basic idea: this is the A show of WWF at the time. Everything happened here and it was all that mattered. I have almost every show from January 88 – June of 88 and I'll probably get a lot more so we'll go through the first Rumble (which meant nothing), me being born, Hogan losing the title, Wrestlemania IV, and that's about it since there were no PPVs between Mania and the debut of a new show called Summerslam. Let's get to it.

Vince brags about Tampa for some reason and we get the opening sequence.

We're going to get clips from SNME where Andre interfered in Hogan vs. Bundy.

### Islanders vs. Jerry Grey/Lanny Poffo

Heenan has a dog leash with him which has no dog on it, which is a jab at the British Bulldogs. Poffo reads a poem before the match. Tama and Poffo start. The Bulldogs say they still can't find Matilda. All they care about is if she's ok. They want Tunney to do something about her missing. We can't see half of the ring due to the window they're in. Tama is back in and working on Grey. He dropkicks Grey down and Haku kicks Grey's head off for the pin. Total squash. Expect to hear that a lot in these reviews.

Tunney says he's going to take action because no one knows where Matilda is. Heenan warns him to stay calm. Tunney says until we know where Matilda is, the Islanders are suspended.

### Willington Wilkins vs. Jake Roberts

Jake should kill him for such a horrible name. Vince and Jesse talk about the Islanders as Jake mauls Willington. Short clothesline and DDT end this quickl.

Time for the house show ads. This is for the MSG Show on January 25. Hogan/Bigelow vs. Virgil/DiBiase is the main

event. Duggan comes in and says that he's ready for Harley Race and the 2x4 will be there with him.

### Dino Bravo vs. Scott Casey

Bravo is very strong and that's about it. He's also Canadian. Frenchy Martin in an inset says he speaks a lot of languages. Bravo runs over Casey and clotheslines him down. Casey gets a few moves in but Bravo hits his side suplex. Instead of pinning him with that, a belly to back suplex ends it. That was odd.

There's a Boston Garden show later tonight and the main event is Rude vs. Hogan. Rude doesn't care about the fans and says it's about fighting and he'll beat Hogan up for the title. He's going to do a striptease around Hulk's body. Hey if that's what you're into man. That match is on one of Hulk's DVDs and Best of the WWF Volume 20. One of the dates is wrong also because that show was on the 9th and this was labeled as the 8th. It might be a syndication thing though.

### Sam Houston vs. Terry Gibbs

Houston is Jake Robert's real life half brother and likes to dance. Headlock takes Gibbs down. Gibbs was supposed to be a big deal (ok that's a stretch but a deal of some sort) but he was never anything more than a jobber. Danny Davis says he's waiting on Sam Houston. This was probably the high point of Davis' singles career. He had more luck as a tag team guy. Gibbs comes back with a neckbreaker and a hard whip into the corner. A HHH knee takes Sam down but Gibbs gets slammed off the top and the bulldog (Sam's finisher) ends it. This was more competitive than most Superstars matches but still too short to grade.

We get clips from SNME where Andre came in after a Hogan title defense and choked Hogan down again.

DiBiase and Virgil are in the arena and Ted says this isn't

over yet. He wants the WWF Title and he gets what he wants. DiBiase brings out the man that is going to bring him the WWF Title: Andre the Giant. Heenan is with him and DiBiase buys Andre's contract for what I believe would be later revealed for \$1 million. Now the interesting thing is that later on, Heenan bought Andre back for \$100,000. See why he's called the Brain? Heenan avoids a few years of beatings from Hulk and scores a \$900,000 profit.

### Sivi Afi vs. Butch Reed

JIVE SOUL BRO BABY!!! The announcers talk about Muraco saving Billy Graham from Reed and the One Man Gang. Out to the floor and Afi goes into the railing. Reed goes up and kills him with the flying tackle for the pin.

### Demolition vs. Jim Evans/Mike Richards

This is heel Demolition with Fuji in their corner. Richards gets destroyed to start as Jesse recommends that Evans run. They take turns ramming Richards' head into boots. A quick neck crank sets up a double Stun Gun and the Decapitator ends this quick. More squashing.

DiBiase talks about Andre and how he'll get the title soon. As for Jake Roberts tonight, he's cunning like Ted but DiBiase isn't worried about him.

**Overall Rating:** D+. With these shows, you can never really go based on the wrestling because nothing is competitive but that was just the way things were back then. This was fine for the most part and we got a huge moment with Andre and DiBiase hooking up. This was huge because DiBiase was really just a guy talking before this but now he had a guy that can beat Hogan. This was huge.

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