

WINNIPEG PRO

Wrestling

MAGAZINE

WPW

OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE 17



READY TO RUMBLE

IT'S TIME FOR THE MAIN EVENT

A THREAT TO JODY

ARE WE LOOKING AT A NEW CHAMP?

OVER THE TOP ROPE

15 MEN ENTER, ONLY ONE CAN WIN!

RUMBLE
IN THE
BURT

WINNIPEG PRO WRESTLING:
THE CANADIAN HERCULES
THE REAL DEAL
TYLER COLTON VS. JAMES ROTH
NO. HOLDS. BARRED.





READY TO RUMBLE

THE BIGGEST MATCH IN WPW HISTORY

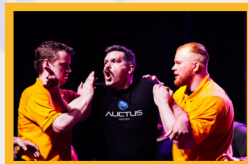


Written by Sid Carreiro | Photos by Dwayne Larson & Jenny Ramone

In March, James Roth did the impossible: he won four matches in two nights and won the inaugural WPW Voyageur Cup tournament. The Real Deal had racked up 15 straight wins heading in the WPW Championship match at FIGHT AT THE MUSEUM but this was his biggest challenge yet: The Canadian Hercules. Tyler Colton laid out Roth with half a dozen powerbombs but he just refused to quit, knowing that his friends and family were in the audience cheering him on. James Roth's wife, Nicole, has been ringside for some of his biggest matches. She was there for his big Voyageur Cup win, and she was there for his first WPW Championship match at FIGHT AT THE MUSEUM. Nicole has seen her husband in pain before, whether it's from professional wrestling or his career as a firefighter. However, after seeing her husband suffer through four powerbombs at the Manitoba Museum she couldn't take it anymore. She threw in the towel for James, ending the match. When Roth first entered the Manitoba Museum for his match, he handed his wife his towel, something he did before winning the Voyageur Cup. Mrs. Roth couldn't stand to see her beloved husband in so much pain, and knowing that another powerbomb could result in permanent injury, she threw in the towel requesting the referee to stop the match. Tyler Colton retained the WPW Championship and James Roth lived to fight another day.



WPW Champion Tyler Colton came back to the West End in May and began to run down James Roth, knowing he wasn't able to compete or get physical with Manitoba's Strongest Man. But James wasn't the only Roth in the building... Nicole ran down to the ring and tried to hold her husband back, but after hearing some horrible insults, Nicole turned to Colton and belted him with a slap heard around the city. Colton grabbed Nicole by the hair and fans worried it was all over for Mrs. Roth, but an injured James jumped into harm's way to protect his beloved. Suffering from bruised ribs, Roth was quickly overtaken by the Champion and driven down with a devastating final powerbomb. Doctors had warned WPW and Roth that one more powerbomb could lead to early retirement or serious injury. This assault by the Canadian Hercules left fans wondering if Roth would ever be able to return to the WPW ring.



Since returning in May 2023, Tyler Colton has been on a dominant streak rarely seen in professional wrestling. After taking out Roth in May, Colton basically took the summer off to focus on his endeavours as Strongman, featuring prominently in several of the top competitions in the country. At the same time, he was showing up to WPW events, reminding the fans of his vicious assault on Roth and claiming there are no WPW competitors that are on his level. The personal insults towards Roth and his family would continue all summer long, but during this time the Roths embarked on a massive camping trip that saw them go to half a dozen U.S. National Parks. Roth would check in with the WPW Office and Medical Team weekly, informing the team of discomfort, shortness of breath and difficulty walking. Until the week of ROPE BREAK in September, the future of Roth's wrestling career was uncertain.



We went into ROPE BREAK in September without a challenger for Colton's title at the Burt. Colton stood alone in the ring, waiting to hear who he will face in the main event of WPW's biggest event ever when we heard the dulcet tone of James Roth's voice. He told everyone about his once-in-a-lifetime trip he had been on, the time with his family, and the encouragement that they had given him to TAKE COLTON OUT! Roth ran out from the back, jumped onto Colton and had him up in the air. Colton struggled out and Roth laid out the challenge... RUMBLE IN THE BURT - NO HOLDS BARRED! Who will walk out the WPW Champion?

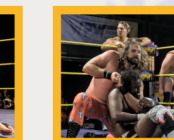
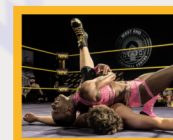
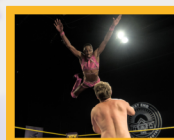


MYRRH, FRANKINCENSE AND TAG TEAM GOLD

ALL SCOTT RIPLEY III NEEDED TO DO WAS BELIEVE... AND DONATE!

Written by Sid Carreiro | Photos by Dwayne Larson & Jenny Ramone

When Scott Ripley the Third first debuted in WPW, no one took him seriously. He was continuously clowned on and beaten by almost every member of the roster. That was until "The Jacked Jesus" Tommy Lee Curtis came knocking. He noticed the potential within Ripley III, and the generational wealth. You see, Ripley III is one of the richest boys in Winnipeg, rubbing shoulders with the likes of the Aspers, Richardsons and more of the city's most affluent. After cutting a donation cheque, Ripley III and The Jacked Jesus teamed up and set their sights on the WPW Tag Team Titles. After losing a tables match at the Museum, there seems to have been some behind the scenes deals that were cut to get Bentley to drop Peppers. The Prosperity Gospel would use that betrayal and pick the Tag Titles, aligning themselves with Bryce Bentley in the process. Peppers would find himself some backup in the form of Mo Jabari and Devon Monroe, who also had history with Tommy Lee Curtis. Monroe and Jabari proved themselves to be a dynamic duo after picking up the win in a six-man tag at ROPE BREAK. With that win, the match was set. The Prosperity Gospel vs. Devon Monroe and Mo Jabari for the WPW Tag Team Championship at RUMBLE IN THE BURT!





A NEW CHAMPION WILL BE CROWNED!

LAWLESS AND KATCH SQUARE OFF TO BECOME THE 4TH WPW WOMEN'S CHAMP



Written by John Gigio | Photos by Jenny Ramone

Ava Lawless and Allie Katch have been the backbone of WPW's Women's division since its inception. After Allie answered Jody Threat's open challenge at OH BEHAVE in 2022 the WPW Board of Directors knew it had to have a prize for this new division. In September at DON'T TELL MOM, Allie and Jody squared off to become the first WPW Women's Champion. Jody was victorious and would go onto hold the title for over 500 days, and Allie would pick up wins over Heather Reckless, Tara Zep and even Ava Lawless in a triple threat match. Outside of WPW, Allie is widely regarded as one of the best "unsigned" women wrestlers and is a former GCW Tag Team Champion. She's never hidden her desire to win the WPW Women's Championship but has never been granted the opportunity, until now.



Ava Lawless first debuted in 2023 with a win over Blair Onyx, followed up with wins over Beaa Moss and Taryn From Accounting. This quick succession of victories granted her a shot at the Women's title at FIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, but she would come up short. It seems like something may have changed in Lawless after this loss, as her next match showed that she wasn't afraid to hit a little harder and bend the rules, a far cry from the clean competitor we had seen previously. Ava and Tara Zep would face off at ROPE BREAK for a shot at the Women's title at the Burt, and Ava would use some "short cuts" to secure the victory over the fan favourite. Now Allie Katch and Ava Lawless will go head-to-head for the first time ever, with the opportunity to become the 4th WPW Women's Champion on the line.

Who will walk out with the gold?



SUMMER'S OVER, BUT THE HEAT IS ON

AFTER A BITTER BETRAYAL, SAMMY PEPPERS WILL FINALLY GET HIS HANDS ON BRYCE BENTLEY

Written by Francis Benderski | Photos by Dwayne Larson

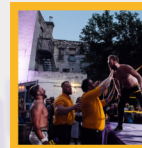


This isn't the summer that WPW fans thought it would be when we left the Manitoba Museum in late April. Red Hot Summer were on top of the highly competitive tag team division and showed no signs of cooling down. That was until Bryce Bentley did the unthinkable and kicked Sammy Peppers in the jaw in May. Since then it's been the summer from hell for Peppers, getting assaulted by Bentley and his new friends The Prosperity Gospel in July and August.



Mo Jabari had Peppers' back in August, but the numbers were too much for the both of them. Bentley hit yet another pedigree on Peppers and left him laying in the middle of the ring. Peppers and Jabari brought back up at ROPE BREAK and even the odds, but Bentley still managed to slip away. After that massive six-man tag Sammy laid out the challenge, one-on-one at the Burt!

Fans never thought they'd see the day, but now they can't wait until it's here. At RUMBLE IN THE BURT, Sammy Peppers will finally get his hands on Bryce Bentley!



WALKING THREATS

JOSH ALEXANDER AND JODY THREAT ARE A WPW DREAM TEAM

Written by Elizabeth Mancini | Photos by Dwayne Larson

Jody Threat and Josh Alexander have had incredible success in professional wrestling, with Jody capturing the TNA Knockouts Tag Team Championship and Josh being the longest reigning TNA Champion of all time. But before all that, they both made their debuts at WPW SHERB TIMES A CHARM in 2019. Since then, both athletes have appeared on WPW events several times, with Jody winning the WPW Women's Championship and Josh defending the TNA Tag titles and World title in a WPW ring. Most fans won't know that Josh is actually a trainer and a mentor to Jody, which makes their upcoming tag match even more special... but winning is what matters!

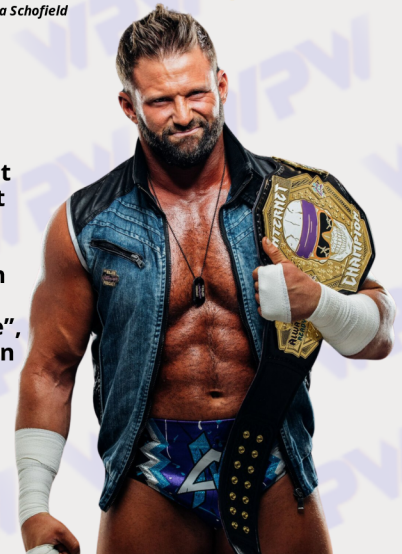


"THE COMPLETE" CARDONA COMES TO TOWN

CARDONA MAKES HIS WPW DEBUT AFTER A LENGTHY INJURY

Written by Barbara Schofield

WPW fans were excited to see "The Indy God" Matt Cardona make his long awaited debut at FIGHT AT THE MUSEUM. Just weeks before the event, Cardona suffered a freak accident in a match that left him out of action for the entire summer. But Cardona didn't just sit at home and wait to be cleared; he knew he needed to get back in action as soon as possible and focused completely on his recovery. Now "The Complete", Matt Cardona is ready to prove again that he is Alwaysz Ready. He'll have quite the test in front of him for his WPW debut, in the form of Jody Threat and Josh Alexander. Good thing Cardona is bringing his Lil Broski Jimmy Lloyd!





CAN SCHINK PUT ASIDE HIS PAST WITH SANCHEZ AND TAKE OUT KORBA?



Written by Bruno Schofield | Photos by Dwayne Larson

WPW General Manager James Korba, American Sympathizer Danny Duggan and 'Bad Boy' Anderson Tyson Moore have spent most of 2024 terrorizing WPW's top stars and fan favourites, in an effort to destroy WPW from the inside out. This terrible trio has made life a living hell for 'Sweet' Bobby Schink, AJ Sanchez and the legendary Vinko, but not even the wisdom and guidance of the Ukrainian Sex Machine can get Schink to trust Sanchez after all he's done.

For nearly a year, AJ Sanchez made Bobby Schink's life a living hell. Sanchez interfered in Schink's matches, hit him with the title belt and delivered an unfathomable number of low blows. In the end, Schink would reign victorious and win the WPW Championship, leaving Sanchez behind, but clearly not forgetting the abuse that he was put through on his journey for gold.



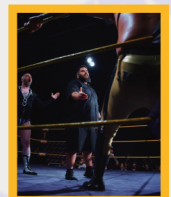
After Sweet Bobby lost the WPW Championship at last year's RUMBLE IN THE BURT, he was determined to get the title back. Bobby got his rematch at COLD OUT in a triple threat match. Bobby had nearly secured victory, he hit his top rope leg drop and jumped on Tyler Colton for the pinfall. Referee Alfonso Galliano was laid out, so WPW General Manager James Korba slid into the ring to count the 3, but after laying down the 1 and 2, GM Korba flipped off Schink and refused to finish. Schink rose to his feet to question Korba but was blindsided by WPW Champion Tyler Colton and was defeated. After the match, Schink had Korba by his collar when we saw the return of Anderson Tyson Moore! ATM hit Schink with several vicious chair shots and joined hands with GM Korba in some horrible alliance.

Schink and ATM would go on to battle for months, including brawling throughout the restaurant and arcade area of the Rec Room and after Bobby's Voyageur Cup Semi Finals loss. ATM vs. Schink was signed for FIGHT AT THE MUSEUM; Schink was dying to get his hands on Korba and the fans were dying to see it. After one of the most intense matches in WPW history, Schink was again blindsided by Korba and ATM. Former rival AJ Sanchez would run to Schink's aid, chase off the duo with a steel chair and offered his hand as a sign of friendship and respect. Schink walked out without accepting the handshake from Sanchez, clearly not forgetting about their year-long feud for the WPW Championship.



At THE YOUNG & THE WRESTLERS, AJ Sanchez and ATM went one-on-one for the first time in WPW. Sanchez picked up the win, but was attacked again by WPW GM Korba, ATM and a mysterious hooded figure. That hooded figure turned out to be WWE's Danny Duggan, officially making three of the most despicable men in wrestling united together. Sanchez was left laying in the middle of the ring, with no help from Schink, who was seen in the backstage area watching the attack on TV.

July's I KNOW WHO YOU PINNED LAST SUMMER saw GM Korba and his goons interrupt Bobby's post-match celebration and bar him from the venue. Korba gave Duggan a chance to explain his return and how their sick partnership came together. GM Korba, Danny Duggan and ATM are out to destroy WPW, one fan favourite at a time. Just like that, out came local wrestling legend and Ukrainian Sex Machine, Vinko! Vinko has reminded Korba that he has over 30 years experience in Winnipeg wrestling and has seen his share of greasy promoters, but Korba and Duggan are the worst. He would go on to say that if Sanchez and Schink can get on the same page that they can end this "Redheads Reign of Terror". Korba and his Krew didn't take this kindly and laid into Vinko in a way we've never seen in WPW. Vinko suffered severe blood loss and needed to get over a dozen stitches.



At ROPE BREAK, GM Korba had his team take on the debuting Bee Sharps, defeating B Brian Singh and Matt Honey handedly and challenging Schink and Sanchez to a tag match at the Burt. Later in the night, Schink picked up a win and was jumped by Korba and his goons. Vinko would hit the stage and bring out a returning AJ Sanchez, who would clean house and even the odds. Sanchez again extended his hand, just like at the Manitoba Museum, while the sold out crowd chanted for Schink to accept it. Again, Schink walked out and rebuffed Sanchez's attempt at a united front against this tyrannical trio. The match is set, these two teams will meet at the Burt, but can Schink and Sanchez put their differences aside and get on the same page to take out Korba and his Krew?

FROM THE WALKER TO THE BURT

The Burton Cummings Theatre Has Been a Hotspot For Wrestling For Over 100 Years

Written by Bruno Schofield

WALKER
CANADA'S FINEST THEATRE

TONIGHT AT 8.30
World's Wrestling Championship

EUGENE TREMBLAY
Versus
MILLER
WALKER

Catch-as-Catch-Can, Best Two in Three Falls.
High Class Boxing and Wrestling Performances.

Prices: \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50, \$1.00 and 50c.



Otto Suter

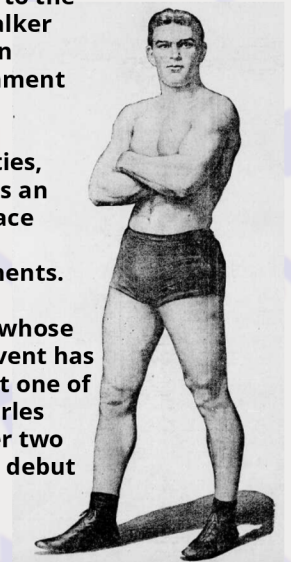
Professional Wrestling has a rich history in Manitoba, with some events dating back to the birth of the province in 1870. One of the original venues for these events was the Walker Theatre, now named the Burton Cummings Theatre. Opening in late 1906, the Burton Cummings Theatre is a National Historic Site and considered the premiere entertainment venue in the Province.

Winnipeg was a boom town in the early 1900s and attracted some of the top celebrities, musical acts and athletes; and the world of wrestling was no different. Wrestling was an important cultural institution for Winnipeg's booming immigrant communities; a place where Polish, Icelandic, Turkish, Scottish and many other newcomers could find commonality and entertainment, cheering for their heroes and heckling their opponents.

In 1914, over 1600 fans packed the Walker to see Charles Cutler take on Jack Taylor, whose moniker at the time was that of the "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man". This event has gone down as one of the largest crowds for a wrestling event in the 1910s. This is just one of the massive events that drew hundreds of Winnipeggers to the theatre. In 1911, Charles Gustofson squared off with Otto Suter and was eventually ended by the referee after two hours, the second match in the evening ended at 3 a.m. When Frank Gotch made his debut in 1911, he was the most expensive athlete ever brought to the city.

The namesake of the Walker Theatre, C.P. Walker, was even a wrestling promoter in his day, bringing in the top stars from all over the world. Before opening the theatre in 1906, he had already promoted several wrestling events at the Winnipeg Theatre. Wrestling had been part of the lifeblood of Winnipeg since the city was incorporated, and the Burton Cummings Theatre plays an important part in its history.

Even in the early 1900s wrestlers used their larger-than-life charisma and physiques to impress massive crowds. Wrestling often saw more attendees than any other event and was held in several large scale venues all over the city.



Frank Gotch

The Walker CANADA'S FINEST THEATRE
Phone Garry 3520

Thursday, March 9
AT 8:30 P.M.

Frank Gotch
Wrestling Champion of the World, and
George Eberg
Champion of Austria, Switzerland and France.

Attractive Boxing and Wrestling Preliminary Bouts.
Finish Match, Catch-as-Catch-Can, Best Two Falls in Three

Seats ready Monday at 10 a.m. at Walker Theatre. Orchestra \$2.00 and \$1.50; Balcony Circle, \$1.50; Balcony, \$1.00; Gallery, 75c; Stage Seats, 50c.

The Walker CANADA'S FINEST THEATRE

Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 8-9
CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLING

TUESDAY NIGHT
ARTIE EDMUNDS
Of Toronto, "The Pocket Hercules,"
Champion Featherweight of America,
and
ERNIE SUNDBERG
Of Winnipeg, Featherweight Champion
of Western Canada.
FOR AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
DICK SHEPPERD
Of Minnesota, Claimant of Welter-
weight Title, and
CHAS. GUSTAFSON
Of Winnipeg, Middleweight Cham-
pion of Canada.
Several Preliminary Boxing and
Wrestling Bouts will be staged.
Reserved seats \$1.50 and 75c; Gal-
lery 50c; Stage Seats \$1.50.
Seats now selling for both evenings.

Throughout the years the Walker was home to wrestling pioneers like Stanislaus and Wladek Zbyszko, Dr. Roller, Pat Connelly and Frank Gotch.

At WPW RUMBLE IN THE BURT, fans will see new legends step into the ring and onto the stage just like these pioneers did over a hundred years ago!

For more about the history of wrestling in Winnipeg, check out "Thrashing Seasons" by C. Nathan Hatton. We thank him for his research for this article on the history of wrestling at the Burt.



Jack Taylor



Wladek Zbyszko



Eugene Tremblay

REVENGE FOR RETRIBUTION

FORMER WWE STABLEMATES COLLIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Written by Barbara Schofield

Donovan Dijak and Mustafa Ali spent years in WWE, working themselves to the bone each day to break through and be seen by the powers-that-be as the stars they are. In August 2020, the frustration would boil over and we would see the debut of the faction RETRIBUTION. With Ali as their leader, Retribution's goal was to dismantle WWE. For several months they appeared on WWE television and ran roughshod over some of the industry's top stars. In the end, Dijak would turn on Ali with a devastating chokeslam, but these two would never meet in the ring one-on-one. Until now!

Dijak vs Ali at RUMBLE IN THE BURT - FIRST TIME EVER!



A TALE OF TWO WRESTLERS

TWO POLAR OPPOSITES, ONE COMMON GOAL: WIN.

Written by Sid Carreiro | Photos by Dwayne Larson

On paper, Chad Daniels and Josh Holliday are very similar: young, talented and full of potential. The difference comes with their attitude and ego. Josh Holliday loves to have fun, play with the crowd and doesn't need to break the rules to win matches. On the other hand, Chad Daniels is one of the most talented wrestlers in Canada and isn't afraid to tell you. Daniels regularly resorts to bending and breaking the rules to gain advantages and victories, including a win over Cheeks in July. Both of these men are inching their way up the WPW ladder and both have entered the RUMBLE IN THE BURT match to win a shot the WPW Championship, but Cheeks will enter first and Chad will enter last. Will this massive advantage help Daniels? Or will the heart of Cheeks drive him to victory?



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THE RUMBLE IN THE BURT GET TO KNOW THE ENTRANTS!

Written by Sid Carreiro

15 men will take part in THE RUMBLE IN THE BURT October 24 at the Burton Cummings Theatre, an over-the-top-ropo elimination match. Every 90 seconds, another competitor will enter until there is only one man left standing. That man will get a WPW Championship opportunity at January's annual COLD OUT at the West End Cultural Centre.

Let's take a look at some of the Rumble competitors!

Josh "Cheeks" Holliday has had his best year yet, going all the way to the semi finals of the Voyager Cup and winning the annual Green Home Insulation Scramble Match at the Manitoba Museum. Unfortunately for Cheeks, he wasn't able to pick up the win at ROPE BREAK and will have to enter the Rumble match first. On the other hand, the winner of that match, Chad Daniels, will get to enter last. Daniels will go into this grueling match with a huge advantage and is riding the momentum of an incredible 2024.

Trent Seven is a former WWE Superstar and is currently tearing it up in TNA. The proponent of "British Strong Style" is a former WWE NXT Tag Team Champion and is looking to add more gold to his mantle. Fellow countryman and AEW Star Tommy Billington is back after his appearance at AEW's ALL IN. The Dynamite Kid scored a victory over his friend and last year's Rumble winner Mo Jabari at WPW I KNOW WHO YOU PINNED LAST SUMMER, giving him a ton of momentum going into this match.

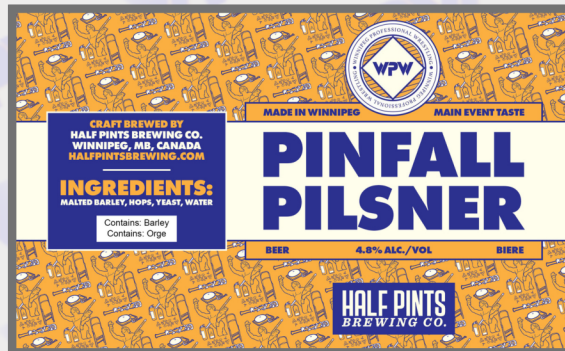
Charlie Hubley, the self appointed "Greatest Man on Earth" is no stranger to multi-man matches in WPW, having competed in a triple threat and a scramble.

Ronnie Attitude blamed WPW officials for his losing streak and took out his frustrations on Referee Merv Unger Jr. last month, leaving him with minor injuries. Merv will be officiating the match, but has assured WPW Directors that he will not get involved.

Nick Nelson, Kevin Cannon and Shaun Moore are coming into this match with a lot to prove. All three are winless in WPW despite having incredible resumes and potential. A win in the Rumble match would propel them to the top of the card.

Jackson Conway makes his long awaited WPW debut. Much has been touted about Conway and his never-say-die attitude. Dalton Rogue also makes his WPW debut. A standout from Alberta, Rogue has gone toe-to-toe with some of wrestling's best and is looking to make an impact in WPW.

You may have heard Angus on 92.1 CITI's airwaves every Thursday and Friday night, but after the encouragement of local legend Joe Aiello he is making his WPW debut. Can Angus shock the city and make Joe proud?



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