

WWE World Heavyweight title
Corrections? Typos? Comments?
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Upon the WWF brand split in and draft on March 25, 2002, the company set up two distinct promotions under the WWF (soon to be WWE) banner: Raw and Smackdown. Both continued to recognize one WWE champion who was exempt from wrestling on just one brand. Each brand would alternate the monthly PPV (with the exception of the “major” PPV: Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, SummerSlam and Survivor Series), with the champion defending the title against the brand’s top contender.

In August 2002, Smackdown GM Stephanie McMahon signed champion Brock Lesnar to an exclusive contract, stating while the option of wrestling on both brands was the wrestlers. Thus, by signing the champion to an exclusive contract, Raw would be left without a champion.

Raw GM Eric Bischoff remedied the situation by claiming that the “Undisputed champion” was definitely disputed. He awarded Raw’s top wrestler, Triple H, the World Heavyweight title, represented by the classic “Big Gold” belt that symbolized the NWA World champion from 1986-91 and 1992-94 as well as the WCW World title 1994-2001.

The title was known as the "World Heavyweight title" (not WWE World title). Throughout the history of the WWE’s brand extension and draft era, the WWE and World Heavyweight champions would be drafted to the other brand.

In 2011, the brand extension era came to an end when Raw and Smackdown stars would regularly co-mingle on both shows. The two titles were unified in December 2013.





Date	Champion	City	Arena	Event
4/25/63	Buddy Rogers	Rio De Janeiro, BRAZIL		
<p>-Rogers defeats Antonino Rocca in a (fictitious) tournament final to become new WWF champion. The date is what WWE officially lists in their records.</p> <p>-Rogers also previously held the NWA World title, becoming the first man to hold the distinction of being both the NWA World title and WWF champion.</p> <p>-The northeast promoters, led by the likes of Vincent James McMahon and Toots Mondt, wanted to control the world title for themselves. They broke off as a member of the NWA to form the WWF. A few weeks later on TV, it was announced that Rogers won the tournament and recognized as the first champion.</p> <p>-real name: Herman Rohde</p> <p>-Rogers was a two-time world champion [1 NWA, 1 WWF]</p> <p>-title reign: 24 days</p>				
5/17/63	Bruno Sammartino	New York City, NY	Madison Square Garden (III)	live event
<p>-Sammartino defeated Rogers in under a minute, forcing Rogers to submit to his over-the-shoulder backbreaker.</p> <p>-The legend of the match was that Rogers suffered a heart attack before the match and could barely move.</p> <p>-real name: Bruno Sammartino</p> <p>-title reign: 2803 days</p>				
1/18/71	Ivan Koloff	New York City, NY	Madison Square Garden (IV)	live event
<p>-referee Dick Kroll</p> <p>-Koloff won after catching a charging Sammaritno in the corner with a kick to the chest, a body slam, then a knee drop off the top rope.</p> <p>-real name: Oreal Perras</p> <p>-title reign: 21 days</p>				
2/08/71	Pedro Morales	New York City, NY	Madison Square Garden	live event
<p>-referee: Terry Terranova</p> <p>-Morales won when Koloff attempted a belly-to-back suplex. Morales countered by kicking off the corner, sending both men down with their shoulders on the mat. Morales lifted his shoulder before the three count and won the match.</p> <p>-real name: Pedro Morales</p> <p>-title reign: 1027 days</p>				
12/01/73	Stan Stasiak	Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia Arena	live event
<p>-real name: George Stipich</p> <p>-title reign: 9 days</p>				

12/10/73 Bruno Sammartino [2] New York City, NY Madison Square Garden live event
-referee Dick Kroll
-title reign: 1236 days

4/30/77 Superstar Billy Graham Baltimore, MD Baltimore Civic Center live event
-During the match, Sammartino had Braham in a bear hug before letting him go in the corner. Sammartino wailed away at Graham in the corner. As the ref attempted to get Sammartino to back way, Graham grabbed the left leg of Sammartino for the trip and used both feet on the ropes to score the pin.
-real name: Wayne Coleman
-title reign: 296 days

2/20/78 Bob Backlund New York City, NY Madison Square Garden MSG Network
-referee: Jack Lotz
-During the match, Backlund had a bear hug on Graham, scoring a near pin. Backlund then applied an abdominal stretch. Graham hiptossed Backlund off. However, Backlund then hit a atomic knee drop for the pin, even though Graham's foot was under the rope.
-Arnold Skaaland managed Backlund.
-The WWWF (World Wide Wrestling Federation) became the WWF (World Wrestling Federation) in March 1979.
-On 11/30/79, Antonio Inoki apparently defeated Backlund in a match in Tokushima, JAPAN for the New Japan promotion. During a rematch on 12/06/79 in Tokushima, the match ended in a no contest when Tiger Jeet Singh interfered. When Backlund returned to America, he wrestled Bobby Duncum 12/17/79 at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Backlund was not introduced as champion, nor did he wear the title belt. He was awarded the belt after winning the match. None of this was officially recognized by the WWF.
-During a [10/19/81 title defense](#) against Greg Valentine at Madison Square Garden in New York City, Backlund apparently won the match to retain the title. The conclusion saw Valentine give Backlund an airplane spin which knocked down referee John Stanley. Backlund fell on top of Valentine and the referee counted three. However, the woozy referee raised Valentine's hand (both men wore black trunks and Valentine got up reacting as if he won). Ring announcer Howard Finkel announced that the New York State Athletic commission ruled that there was no winner of the match. The title would be held up pending an investigation. Backlund pinned Valentine on 11/23/81 in MSG rematch.
-The title being held up was only recognized in New York City, as Backlund continued to defend the title in other cities. The title controversy was also never mentioned on syndicated television shows.
-A new title belt (the big "green strap" belt) debuted around 1983. It contained side plates with the names of previous champions.
-real name: Bob Backlund
-title reign: 2135 days

12/26/83 Iron Sheik New York City, NY Madison Square Garden MSG Network
-referee: Dick Kroll
-On the 12/24/83 edition of *Championship Wrestling*, Sheik attacked Backlund during a Persian Club challenge. Sheik hit Backlund in the neck, weakening it.
-During the match, Backlund still felt the effects of a weakened neck. Backlund attempted a roll up with a bridge, but couldn't hold it because of his neck. Sheik applied the Camel Clutch on Backlund. Unable to escape, manager Arnold Skaaland threw in the towel, signaling the end of the match.
-"Ayatollah" Fred Blassie managed Sheik.
-real name: Khosrow Vaziri
-title reign: 28 days

1/23/84 Hulk Hogan New York City, NY Madison Square Garden MSG Network
-referee: Jack Lotz
-Hogan replaced an injured Bob Backlund, who was unable to wrestle in a rematch.
-Hogan won with the leg drop after fighting out of the camel clutch.
-In June 1984, a new championship belt debuted. A new belt debuted in 1986 and again on 2/05/88.
-real name: Terry Bollea
-title reign: 1474 days

2/05/88 Andre the Giant Indianapolis, IN Market Square Arena The Main Event- live

-referee: Dave Hebner

-In December 1987, Ted DiBiase made an offer to buy the title from Hogan. Hogan refused and DiBiase became more determined to gain the title. He purchased the contract of Andre the Giant from Bobby Heenan. The match was set for Hogan to defend against Andre on a special live edition of "The Main Event."

-Ted DiBiase and bodyguard Virgil accompanied Andre.

-During the match, Hogan hit Andre with a leg drop and a cover, but the referee was busy with his back turned, admonishing Virgil. While Hogan went over to the referee, Andre came from behind with two headbutts to the back of the head. Andre hooked Hogan's head and arm for a suplex. Andre made the cover and the referee made the three count despite the obvious fact that Hogan had his shoulder up.

-In a post-match interview in ring, Andre publicly surrendered the title to Ted DiBiase

-While Hogan remained in the ring, lamenting his loss, another referee, identical to the official referee Dave Hebner, showed up at ringside. One twin attacked the other, and Hogan picked him up and tossed him over the top rope onto DiBiase, Andre and Virgil.

-In a post-match interview, Hogan surmised that DiBiase paid someone to have plastic surgery to look like the referee, Dave Hebner.

-In a WWF Magazine article later that year, it admitted that the other referee was Dave's twin, Earl Hebner. However, no more became of it.

-During the evening, the new "winged-eagle" belt debuted.

-real name; Andre Roussimoff

-title reign: 0 days

2/13/88 VACANT

-On *Superstars of Wrestling*, WWF president Jack Tunney announces, that although there was controversy in the title change, the result stands. However, once Andre publicly surrendered the title, he was no longer champion. Ted DiBiase was not the champion either because he did not win the title in the ring. The title would be put up in a 14-man tournament at WrestleMania IV, with Hogan and Andre, as the last two champions, receiving first round byes and face each other in the second round.

3/27/88 Randy Savage Atlantic City, NJ Boardwalk Hall WrestleMania IV

-referee: Dave (or Earl Hebner)

-This was the final of a one-night, 14-man tournament. Savage faced Ted DiBiase in the final.

-Elizabeth accompanied Savage; Andre accompanied DiBiase.

-During the match, Andre constantly interfered, usually tripping Savage. Elizabeth went to the back and brought out Hogan. Later, DiBiase applied the "Million Dollar Dream" sleeper hold. Savage tried to fight to the ropes, but Andre took a swat at him. While the referee had his back turned to admonish Andre, Hogan slid in the ring and nailed DiBiase in the back with a chair. Savage got up, hit his flying elbow drop for the cover and pin.

-While Savage was celebrating, he hoisted Elizabeth up on his shoulder. Hogan put his hand on Elizabeth to make sure she was balanced. That move sparked Savage's ire a year later when he turned on Hogan.

-TOURNAMENT RESULTS: 1st round: Hogan BYE; Andre BYE; Ted DiBiase d. Jim Duggan; Don Muraco d. Dino Bravo; Greg Valentine d. Ricky Steamboat; Randy Savage d. Butch Reed; One Man Gang d. Bam Bam Bigelow by CO; Rick Rude TLD Jake Roberts; Quarterfinals: Andre DDQ Hogan; DiBiase d. Muraco; Savage d. Valentine; One Man Gang BYE; Semifinals: DiBiase BYE; Savage d. One Man Gang by DQ; FINAL: Savage d. DiBiase

-title reign: Randy Poffo

-title reign: 371 days

4/02/89 Hulk Hogan [2] Atlantic City, NJ Boardwalk Hall WrestleMania V

-referee: Dave (or Earl) Hebner

-During the live "Main Event," Savage turned on his partner Hogan during a match vs. the Twin Towers. Savage walked out on Hogan, then attacked him in the back room area. Savage then claimed that Hogan was jealous of Elizabeth.

-Elizabeth appeared in neutral corner, before being ejected by the referee.

-Toward the end of the match, Savage hit his top-rope elbow for a two-count. Hogan kicked out, then "hulked" up, finishing Savage off with the foot to the face/legdrop combo.

-title reign: 364 days

4/01/90 Ultimate Warrior Toronto, ON SkyDome WrestleMania VI

-referee: Dave (or Earl) Hebner

-The buildup to the match between the WWF champion Hulk Hogan and the WWF Intercontinental champion Ultimate Warrior began at the Royal Rumble. Both men faced off against each other in the match, with inconclusive results before more men entered the ring. The two men saved each other from attacks by Earthquake and Dino Bravo on different occasions. Each week, the two men laid challenges to each other. WWF President Jack Tunney made the match, then declared that both titles would be on the line.

-During the match, after a long back-and-forth contest, Warrior hit his gorilla press slam, but Hogan kicked out of the pin attempt and "Hulked up." Hogan then hit his foot to the face, but missed the leg drop. Warrior then hit his splash for the pin.

-During Warrior's title reign, he used different leather straps for the title belt, including light blue, white, lavender.

-real name: Jim Hellwig

-title reign: 293 days

1/19/91 Sergeant Slaughter Miami, FL Miami Arena Royal Rumble

-referee: Earl (or Dave) Hebner

-In the weeks leading up to the event, Randy Savage and his manager Sensational Queen Sherri had been demanding the winner face him as the number one contender. Slaughter said yes. During the evening of the Royal Rumble, despite Sherri's pleadings, he emphatically said no. This enraged Savage.

-During the match, Sherri came out to the ring with Savage's scepter in hand. Warrior was able to thwart the attack, gorilla pressing Sherri into Savage, who also came to ringside. While Warrior had his back turned, Slaughter hit him with a knee to the back, sending Warrior crashing into the ropes. The referee then backed away Slaughter. Taking advantage of the referee out of position, Savage hit Warrior over the head with the scepter. Slaughter dragged Warrior into the ring, on his back, hit an elbow to the chest and made the pin.

-the belt Slaughter won had the lavender strap. He then resumed using the black leather strap.

-real name: Robert Remus

-title reign: 64 days

3/24/91 Hulk Hogan [3] Los Angeles, CA L.A. Memorial Sports Arena WrestleMania VII

-referee: Dave (or Earl) Hebner

-Gen. Adnan accompanied Slaughter to the ring.

-During the match, Slaughter hit Hogan with a chair to the head, while the referee was distracted by Adnan. Hogan bled from the forehead. After applying the camel clutch, Hogan got up, but Slaughter regained the advantage. He attempted to pin Hogan while placing an Iraqi flag on top of him. Hogan hulked up, tearing the flag, and finishing Slaughter with foot to the face and legdrop for the pin.

-title reign: 248 days

11/27/91 Undertaker Detroit, MI Joe Louis Arena Survivor Series

-referee: Earl (or Dave) Hebner

-real name: Mark Callaway

-Paul Bearer accompanied Undertaker.

-This match was billed as "The Gravest Challenge." During the match, Ric Flair came to ringside. Hogan then met Flair on the outside and nailed him. As Hogan came back to the ring to attempt to finish off Undertaker with the leg drop, Bearer grabbed Hogan's leg. As the referee was distracted by Bearer, Undertaker took control with a shot to the throat and got Hogan up in the tombstone piledriver. Flair then placed a steel chair on the mat. Undertaker then tombstoned Hogan on the chair and pinned him for the victory.

-In comments made after the event and aired on the weekend shows, WWF President Jack Tunney ordered a rematch because of the controversial finish to take place at a special pay per view six days later.

-real name: Mark Callaway

-title reign: 6 days

12/03/91 Hulk Hogan [4] San Antonio, TX Freeman Coliseum [This Tuesday in Texas](#)

-referee: Joey Marella

-Bearer accompanied Undertaker.

-For this match, WWF President Jack Tunney was at ringside to observe, in light of the controversy from Undertaker winning the title at Survivor Series. Ric Flair once again came to ringside. Tunney confronted him. Hogan spotted Flair, went to the outside and nailed him in the back with a chair. The impact sent Flair into Tunney, knocking him down. Flair

then held a chair in the corner, but Hogan reversed Undertaker into it. Then, Paul Bearer attempted to hit Hogan with the urn, but Hogan ducked and hit Undertaker. Hogan then got the urn, grabbed ashes from it and threw it in Undertaker's face. By this time, Flair helped revive Tunney to see the finish. Hogan then rolled up Undertaker for the pin as the referee's decision was final (the referee managed to find himself distracted for all the outside interference).

-title reign: 4 days

12/07/91 VACANT

[WWF Superstars- 12/07/91](#)

-During the episode of WWF Superstars, President Jack Tunney declares the WWF title vacant and will be put up in the Royal Rumble due to the controversial nature of the Undertaker-Hogan match at This Tuesday in Texas. Hogan and Undertaker would be allowed to draw between numbers 20 and 30.

1/19/92 Ric Flair

Albany, NY

Knickerbocker Arena

Royal Rumble

-referees: Earl Hebner; Joey Marella

-This was the 30-man Royal Rumble match. Flair drew number 3.

-The Rumble came down to Flair, Hogan and Sid Justice. Justice tossed out Hogan from behind. An upset Hogan grabbed Justice's arm while standing on the outside. Flair then came from behind and tossed Justice out to win the match.

-real name: Richard Fliehr

-Flair was a eight time world champion [7 NWA/WCW, 1 WWF]

-title reign: 77 days

4/05/92 Randy Savage [2]

Indianapolis, IN

Hoosier Dome

WrestleMania VIII

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Elizabeth accompanied Savage; Mr. Perfect seconded Flair.

-In the weeks leading up to the match, Flair provided pictures of he and Savage's wife Elizabeth in intimate settings, claiming "she was mine before she was yours."

-During the match, Flair bled from the forehead. He placed Savage in the figure four, but Savage eventually reversed it before Flair reached the ropes. Flair continued to work on the knee. Out of nowhere, Savage rolled up Flair, held the tights and got the pin.

-After the match, Flair planted a kiss on Elizabeth, who responded with a slap. Savage and Flair continued to brawl, with Flair getting the upper hand.

-title reign: 148 days (161 days TV time)

9/01/92 Ric Flair [2]

Hershey, PA

HersheyPark Arena

Prime Time Wrestling- 9/14/92

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Mr. Perfect accompanied Flair.

-A few days earlier at SummerSlam, Flair interfered in Savage's title defense against the Ultimate Warrior. That finish saw Savage jump off the top rope onto Flair was on the outside. Flair swatted him with a chair to the knee, causing a count out.

-During the match, Flair worked on the knee for most of the match. At one point, Savage tried to get at Perfect, who constantly interfered. With his back turned, Flair dropkicked him, sending Savage to the outside. While the referee had his back turned to keep Flair from going to the outside, Razor Ramon came to ringside and attacked Savage's knee. Flair threw Savage back in the ring and applied the Figure-4 leglock. Savage passed out allowing his shoulders to be pinned.

-Flair was a nine time world champion [7 NWA/WCW, 2 WWF]

-title reign: 41 days (26 days TV time)

10/12/92 Bret Hart

Saskatoon, SK

Saskatchewan Place

[Coliseum Video/highlights on TV](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Mr. Perfect accompanied Flair.

-Hart won the match clean with a superflex, followed by the "Sharpshooter" for the submission.

-real name: Bret Hart

-title reign: 174 days

4/04/93 Yokozuna

Las Vegas, NV

Caesar's Palace Arena

[WrestleMania IX](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Yokozuna earned the WWF title shot by winning the Royal Rumble. He became the first man to automatically earn the shot by winning the Rumble.
-Mr. Fuji accompanied Yokozuna.
-During the match, the turnbuckle pad got ripped off the corner. Yokozuna later tried to ram Hart's head into the buckle, but Hart reversed and rammed Yokozuna's head into the corner. Hart applied the "Sharpshooter." With the referee out of position, Mr. Fuji threw salt into Hart's eyes. Hart broke the hold and writhed on the ground in pain. Yokozuna made the cover.
-real name: Rodney Anoi'a
-title reign: 0 days

4/04/93 Hulk Hogan [5] Las Vegas, NV Caesar's Palace Arena [WrestleMania IX](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner
-Immediately after Yokozuna's title win, Hogan came to ringside to help his friend Hart. Fuji taunted Hogan to a match right there and agreed to put the title on the line. Hart motioned for Hogan to accept the challenge.
-Hogan went back into the ring. Yokozuna then grabbed Hogan and Fuji went to throw salt in his eyes. Hogan ducked and Yoko got the salt. Hogan nailed Fuji, then nailed Yokozuna with a clothesline. Hogan hit the legdrop and made the cover for the pin.
-Fuji filed an appeal with Jack Tunney, saying the match should not count. However, Tunney denied the appeal, saying that a legal challenge was made and accepted.
-title reign: 69 days

6/13/93 Yokozuna [2] Dayton, OH Nutter Center King of the Ring

-referee: Earl Hebner
-Mr. Fuji accompanied Yokozuna; Jimmy Hart accompanied Hogan.
-During the match, Hogan hit his legdrop but Yokozuna kicked out. Meanwhile, a photographer got up on the apron to take a photo. Jimmy Hart tried to grab the man by his leg and Hogan approached him from in the ring. Then, the camera seemingly exploded, sending a fireball to Hogan's eyes. Yokozuna then hit a chop to the throat then a legdrop for the cover and pin.

3/20/94 Bret Hart [2] New York City, NY Madison Square Garden [WrestleMania X](#)

-special referee: Rowdy Roddy Piper
-Both Bret Hart and Lex Luger tied for the Royal Rumble win. WWF President Jack Tunney determined both men would get a title shot at WrestleMania. A coin flip would be held to determine the first man to wrestle for the title. The other man would face "suitable competition" at WrestleMania X, either Crush for Lex Luger or Owen Hart for Bret Hart. On an episode of Raw, Luger won a coin flip to earn the first title shot.
-This was the second WWF title defense at WrestleMania X. Earlier, Owen Hart defeated Bret Hart and Yokozuna defeated Lex Luger by DQ.
-Mr. Fuji and Jim Cornette accompanied Yokozuna.
-During the match, Yokozuna attempted to squash Hart by jumping from the second rope butt first onto a prone Hart. However, Yokozuna lost his balance and fell backward. Hart recovered and made the cover for the pin. After the bout, a number of WWF superstars and celebrities came into the ring to celebrate with Hart. Owen Hart came as far as the aisle and stared at his brother, the man whom he defeated earlier in the evening.
-title reign: 280 days

11/23/94 Mr. Bob Backlund [2] San Antonio, TX Freeman Coliseum Survivor Series

-referee: Earl Hebner
-this was a submission match, in which the only way to lose was for the cornerman to throw in the towel.
-this was the continuation of a feud between Backlund and Hart. During the summer, Backlund asked for a match with Hart to fulfill his quest to regain the title. In a battle of the babyfaces that aired on WWF Superstars on 7/31/94, Hart won with a roll up. A despondent Backlund then attacked Hart and placed him in the cross-face chicken wing. Backlund continued to terrorize the WWF utilizing his chicken wing on wrestlers and non-wrestlers alike.
-Owen Hart accompanied Backlund; British Bulldog seconded Hart. Each man had a towel to throw in.
-During the match, Hart had Backlund in the Sharpshooter. Owen tried to interfere but was chased away by Bulldog. As the referee was distracted with Bulldog, Owen broke up the hold. When Bulldog chased Owen around the ring again, he tripped and hit his head against the corner steps, knocking himself out. In the meantime, Backlund was able to apply the chicken wing. Owen feigned concern that he injured his brother-in-law Bulldog, and brother Bret was in a painful

submission hold. He appealed to his parents, Stu & Helen Hart, sitting at ringside. After nearly 10 minutes in the chicken wing, Helen Hart grabbed the towel Stu was now holding, and threw it in to end the match. Owen then gloated that he cost his brother the title.

-title reign: 3 days

11/26/94 Diesel New York City, NY Madison Square Garden clip on TV

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Backlund's scheduled opponent, Bret Hart was out of action because of their encounter three days earlier. Diesel was also no longer "booked" on the card when he split with this tag team partner Shawn Michaels. Diesel was granted the title match.

-Diesel won in eight seconds when he kicked Backlund to double him over, then nailed the power bomb for the win.

-The Backlund vs. Hart match was originally scheduled as a pinfall only match: no DQ, no CO, no submission victories- only pins counted. Also, Randy Savage was originally scheduled to be the guest referee. A week before, Savage was removed from the card when he left WWF.

-When Diesel replaced Hart, the stipulations remained the same- pins only.

-real name: Kevin Nash

-title reign: 358 days

11/19/95 Bret Hart [3] Landover, MD USAir Arena [Survivor Series](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-This was a no DQ match.

-During the match, as Bret Hart was on the apron, Diesel gave him a knee. Hart then flew into the Spanish announce table. Diesel picked up Hart and threw him back into the ring. As Diesel attempted a jackknife power bomb to finish him, Hart went limp. Diesel momentarily paused and started to gingerly pick up Hart. Hart then rolled him up for the three-count. Diesel knew immediately he was hoodwinked and gave Hart a hard power bomb. He attacked three officials and power bombed Hart again before walking off.

-title reign: 133 days

3/31/96 Shawn Michaels Anaheim, CA Arrowhead Pond [WrestleMania XII](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Michaels earned the title shot by winning the Royal Rumble.

-This was a 60-minute iron man match. The man with the most falls at the end of one hour, would be the champion.

-Jose Lothario accompanied Shawn Michaels. Michaels entered the ring via zip line.

-After 60 minutes, neither man scored a pin. The finish saw Shawn Michaels attempt a dropkick from the top rope. Hart caught Michaels by the legs and applied the Sharpshooter. Michaels did not submit. With the match seemingly over, Hart started to walk back to the locker room. WWF President Gorilla Monsoon then made the ruling that there must be a winner and this match would go into overtime. In the overtime, Michaels caught Hart with a Superkick, but could was too weak to make the cover. Both men got up, but Michaels executed a second Superkick for the cover and win.

-real name: Michael Hickenbottom

-title reign: 231 days

11/17/96 Sycho Sid New York City, NY Madison Square Garden [Survivor Series](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Jose Lothario accompanied Shawn Michaels.

-The finish of the match saw Sid grab a handheld video camera. Lothario stepped on the apron to try and stop Sid. While he seemed poised to use it on Michaels, Sid turned around and nailed Lothario in the chest, knocking him down.

Michaels then hit Sid with a Superkick and instead of making the cover, went outside to check on the downed Lothario.

Sid grabbed Michaels and threw him back in the ring. He whipped Michaels into the corner. Michaels leaped on the second turnbuckle and tried a flying body block. Instead of hitting Sid, he nailed the referee, knocking him down.

Michaels returned outside to check on Lothario. Sid then nailed Michaels with the same camera. Threw him back in the ring and applied a power bomb. Sid made the cover for the win.

-real name: Sid Eudy

-title reign: 63 days

1/19/97 Shawn Michaels [2] San Antonio, TX Alamo Dome [Royal Rumble](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Jose Lothario accompanied Shawn Michaels.

-during the match, referee Earl Hebner got knocked down. Sid hit Michaels with a chokeslam. A second referee, Mike Chioda, came to the ring to make the count, but Michaels kicked out. Sid then struck Chioda, knocking him out. Sid started to go after Lothario. Michaels then grabbed a video camera and nailed Sid with it. He made a cover, as referee Hebner recovered to make a two count. Michaels then hit a Superkick for the three count.

-title reign: 25 days

2/13/97 VACANT

-Shawn Michaels voluntarily surrenders title during a live interview on "Thursday Raw Thursday," citing a grim diagnosis on his injured knee, fearing he would be out of action for a long time. The title would be put up in a Fatal Four Way match at IYH: Final Four PPV. That match was originally scheduled to determine a number-one contender for the title.

2/16/97 Bret Hart [4] Memphis, TN The Pyramid In Your House: Final Four

-referee: Earl Hebner (inside) and Mike Chioda (outside)

-This was a Final Four match involving Bret Hart, Steve Austin, Undertaker and Vader. Final Four Rules: 1) the match begins with all four superstars in the ring; 2) there are no countouts or disqualifications; 3) a superstar is eliminated when thrown over the top rope and both feet on the floor, or by submission or pinfall; 4) the last superstar standing will be declared the new WWF champion.

-Originally this match was to be for the number-one contender. The participants were chose based on an incident at the Royal Rumble. With five men remaining, Bret Hart apparently eliminated Steve Austin, however the referees missed it. Austin returned to the ring and eliminated Undertaker, Vader then Bret Hart (Hart eliminated Diesel). Because Undertaker, Vader and Hart were eliminated illegally, they were granted a shot at the title. It was also determined that Sycho Sid would earn a title rematch the following night on Raw.

-Paul Bearer accompanied Vader.

-Hart eliminated Austin first, with a fireman's carry over the top rope. Meanwhile, Austin returned and continued to try to attack Hart, while the other referees and officials attempted to send him to the back. Later in the match, Vader (who suffered a busted open left eye) was on the middle rope, preparing to splash down on Undertaker. Undertaker stood up and gave Vader a low blow that knocked him over the top rope onto the floor. While Austin remained, and stood on the ring apron trying at Hart, Undertaker went at Austin. With his back turned, Hart tossed Undertaker over the top rope to win the match.

-title reign: one day

2/17/97 Sycho Sid [2] Nashville, TN Nashville Arena Monday Night Raw-live

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Hart attempted to wrestle Sid twice that night, at the top of each hour of Raw. Both times, Steve Austin interfered before the match could begin, and the match was delayed. It finally took place at the end of the show.

-During the match, Hart had Sid tied up on the Sharpshooter. With the referee out of position to see if Sid would submit, Austin returned to the ring and hit Hart in the head with a chair. Sid escaped the hold and executed a power bomb onto Hart for the cover and win.

-title reign: 34 days

3/23/97 Undertaker [2] Rosemont, IL Rosemont Horizon WrestleMania 13

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Prior to the bout, Bret Hart came to the ring, deriding Sid as champion, saying he deserved to be champ. Sid paid in kind with a power bomb. Undertaker also donned gray boots and gloves for the first time since 1994.

-Bret Hart returned to interfere on multiple occasions. Finally, Hart grabbed Sid's head and snapped it on the top rope. Sid staggered into Undertaker who gave him a tombstone piledriver for the win.

-title reign: 132 days

8/03/97 Bret Hart [5] East Rutherford, NJ Continental Airlines Arena SummerSlam

-special referee: Shawn Michaels

-Hart vowed never to wrestle on American soil if he failed to win the title. Shawn Michaels announced he would referee the match and if he showed bias against Hart, he would not be able to wrestle in the United States either. Hart and Michaels had a simmering feud going on.

-During the match, with Michaels knocked to the outside, Hart used the chair on Undertaker. When Michaels returned to the ring, Hart tried a cover, but Undertaker kicked out. Michaels discovered the chair in the ring and questioned Hart about it. Hart responded by spitting in his face. Michaels then wound up the chair in an attempt to strike Hart. Hart ducked and Michaels nailed Undertaker. Hart made the cover, with Michaels reluctantly counting to three.

-title reign: 98 days

11/09/97 Shawn Michaels [3] Montreal, QB Molson Centre Survivor Series

-referee: Earl Hebner

-This was the infamous "Montreal Screwjob." Champion Bret Hart had agreed to leave the WWF, but on his own terms. One of those terms was not dropping the title to Shawn Michaels, especially in Canada. WWF CEO Vince McMahon, in a conspiracy with Michaels, referee Hebner among others, would double-cross Hart and have the title switch that night. The match started off with a wild brawl, that eventually carried itself to the ring. At one point, Michaels put Hart in his own hold, the Sharpshooter. Hebner immediately called for the bell, signaling a submission. That was clearly not the case. Michaels hightailed it out of there. Hart went ballistic, destroying ringside equipment, spitting at McMahon, and allegedly attacking McMahon backstage.

-title reign: 140 days

3/29/98 Steve Austin Boston, MA FleetCentre WrestleMania XIV

-referee: Mike Chioda (inside); special referee: Mike Tyson (outside)

-In the weeks prior to the bout, Tyson joined up with Michaels, Triple H and Chyna into Degeneration X.

-During the match, Tyson never enforced any infractions by Michaels (such as using the ropes for leverage), despite it happening right in front of Tyson's eyes. The finish saw the referee get knocked out when he got caught in the corner and smashed by Michaels and Austin. The two continued to wrestle for a few more minutes. Michaels prepared to Superkick Michaels, but Austin ducked it. Michaels sent Austin into the ropes and tried to kick him on the rebound. Austin blocked it, spun Michaels around and hit him with the Stone Cold Stunner. Tyson jumped into the ring and counted three. Tyson showed it was a double-cross against D-X when he accepted an Austin 3:16 shirt. When Michaels recovered, he lunged at Tyson hit knocked him out with one punch.

-This was Michaels' last match in four-plus years because of a severe back injury.

-Austin real name: Steve Williams

-title reign: 91 days

6/28/98 Kane Pittsburgh, PA Civic Arena King of the Ring

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Paul Bearer accompanied Kane.

-This was a first blood match. Also, Kane vowed to light himself on fire if he lost. Kane earned the right to a title shot on the 6/01/98 Raw by defeating The Undertaker in a #1 contender match.

-the match saw the cage from the previous match's Hell in a Cell (Undertaker vs. Mankind) partially lowered. During the match, referee Hebner was knocked out of the ring. Kane's partner Mankind attempted to interfere with a chair, but to no avail. Undertaker then came to the ring with a chair. He appeared to attempting to hit Mankind, but instead hit Austin, knocking a chair that Austin was holding into his own head. This caused Austin to bleed from his head. Undertaker then threw the referee back in the ring and revived him by pouring gasoline on him. Hebner saw Austin's blood and called for the bell.

-The following night on Raw, Undertaker admitted he hit Austin on purpose, because he could not bear to see his brother light himself on fire.

-Kane real name: Glen Jacobs

-title reign: one day

6/29/98 Steve Austin [2] Cleveland, OH Gund Arena Monday Night Raw- live

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Paul Bearer accompanied Kane.

-During the match, Undertaker came to ringside to observe. Earlier in the evening, WWF CEO Mr. McMahon explicitly told Undertaker not to interfere or else. Kane had Austin in a tombstone piledriver position. Austin wriggled out, and attempted a Stone Cold Stunner. Kane pushed off. As Austin rebounded off the ropes, Kane missed a clothesline, while Austin connected with the Stunner, and made the pin. Afterward, Undertaker came to the ring to stare Austin down, but Stone Cold hit a Stunner on him as well.

-title reign: 90 days

9/27/98 HELD-UP Hamilton, ON Copps Coliseum Breakdown In Your House

-referee: Earl Hebner

-At Breakdown PPV, Austin defended the title against Kane and Undertaker in a triple threat match. Mr. McMahon added a stipulation that neither Kane nor the Undertaker could pin each other. Undertaker and Kane pin Austin simultaneously after a double chokeslam. Before a winner can be announced, Mr. McMahon takes the title belt and walks away.

-Before McMahon could declare a new champion the next night on Raw, Austin broke up the ceremony and attacked McMahon. Angered that he was assaulted by Austin even though he made a deal with Undertaker and Kane to protect him, McMahon refused to name a champion. Instead, he ordered Undertaker and Kane to face each other at the next PPV, with Austin as special referee. If Austin did not declare a winner, he would be fired.

10/18/98 VACANT Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena Judgment Day

-Special referee: Steve Austin

-This match featured Kane vs. Undertaker with the winner declared new champion, with Steve Austin as referee. Paul Bearer returned after a weeks long absence. He turned on Kane, providing a chair for Undertaker to wallop Kane with. Austin refused to count, and hit Undertaker with a Stone Cold Stunner and chair shot. Austin then pounded the mat for a three count, and declared himself the winner.

-The following night on Raw, Mr. McMahon announced that the title would be decided at a 16-man tournament at the Survivor Series.

11/15/98 The Rock St. Louis, MO Kiel Center Survivor Series

-The Rock defeated Mankind in the final of a one night, 14-man tournament.

-final match referee: Earl Hebner

-The match was a culmination of a weeks-long swerve by Mr. McMahon. For weeks, McMahon attempted to punish Austin, The Rock and his own son, Shane McMahon. He did whatever he could to stack the deck against them. At the same time, he seemed to be grooming Mankind to win the tournament. It started when referee Shane McMahon screwed Austin, allowing blatant outside interference to allow Mankind to pin him.

-During the final, The Rock placed Mankind in the sharpshooter. Even though it was clear Mankind would not submit, Mr. McMahon (at ringside) immediately called for the bell to ring. The McMahons then celebrated with the Rock.

-results: 1st round: Mankind d. Dwayne Gill [mystery opponent]; Al Snow d. Jeff Jarrett; Steve Austin d. Big Boss Man by DQ; X-Pac DCO Stephen Regal; Ken Shamrock d. Goldust; Rock d. Boss Man; [Undetaker and Kane had byes]; quarterfinal: Undertaker d. Kane; Mankind d. Snow; Rock d. Shamrock; semifinal: Mankind d. Ausitn; Rock d.

Undetaker; FINAL: Rock d. Mankind

-The Rock real name: Dwayne Johnson

-title reign: 44 days (50 days TV time)

12/29/98 Mankind Worcester, MA Worcester Centrum Raw- 1/04/99

-referee: Earl Hebner

-This was a no DQ match. Earlier in the evening, a frustrated Mankind placed Shane McMahon in a shoulder hold on the mat, threatening to break it unless Mr. McMahon gave him a title shot with no DQ (which was granted).

-The Corporation (Mr. McMahon & Shane McMahon & Big Boss Man & Test & Ken Shamrock & Kane) accompanied Rock; Degeneration X (Triple H & Chyna & X-Pac & Road Dog & Billy Gunn) came out with Mankind.

-During the match, Mankind applied the mandible claw to Rock. This led Shamrock to come in and hit Makind with a chair. A brawl between the Corporation and D-X. While that was going on, Steve Austin came to the ring, hit Rock with a chair. Mankind made the cover for the win.

-On Nitro on the night this aired (1/04/99), announcer Tony Schiavone infamously gave away the result, saying sarcastically "that would put asses in the seats."

-real name: Mick Foley

-title reign: 26 days (20 days TV time)

1/24/99 The Rock [2] Anaheim, CA Arrowhead Pond Royal Rumble

-referee: Earl Hebner

-This was an "I Quit" match.

-During a very brutal match, Rock was able to handcuff Mankind's hands behind his back. He then nailed him with repeated chair shots to the back of the head. Face down, Mankind apparently said "I quit" to end the match. It was later

revealed that the voice heard was a recording of Mankind from a pre-match interview (in which he said he would force Rock to say "I quit.")

-title reign: 2 days (7 days TV time)

1/26/99 Mankind [2] Tucson, AZ Tucson Conv. Center Halftime Heat- 1/31/99

-referee: Earl Hebner

-this was an "Empty Arena" match. It was taped and aired later in a special segment that aired on the USA Network as the Super Bowl started it's halftime (but only in the Eastern and Central time zones). When the match started, it pre-empted the already airing Sunday Night Heat.

-During the match, it ended up in a loading dock. Mankind put Rock down with the Mandible claw. He then used a fork lift to pin Rock down for the pin.

-title reign: 20 days (15 days TV time)

2/15/99 The Rock [3] Birmingham, AL Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Raw-live

-referee: Earl Hebner

-During the match, Mankind and The Rock were battling on the ladder. Paul Wight came out and chokeslammed Mankind off the ladder, allowing Rock to grab the title and win.

-title reign: 41 days

3/28/99 Steve Austin [3] Philadelphia, PA Corestates Center WrestleMania XV

-assigned referee: Mankind; Tim White, Mike Chioda; Earl Hebner

-This match was no DQ and The Corporation was banned from ringside.

-Mankind was the scheduled referee, having defeated "Big Show" Paul Wight earlier in the evening for the right to referee the main event. In that match, Mankind was hurt and unable to start the match. The other referees were hurt and replaced during the match. Mankind finally came out to finish the match.

-After Mankind returned to the ring, Austin and Rock continued to battle. Austin rolled out of the way of a People's Elbow, and reversed a Rock Bottom into a Stone Cold Stunner for the pin.

-The following night (3/29/99) on Raw, Austin "relinquished" the belt to Mr. McMahon, with the ultimatum to bring back his Smoking Skull belt by the end of the evening. The belt was returned, but given to The Rock. Instead of handing it back to Austin, the Corporation beat down Austin, and Rock kept the belt. Austin eventually regained control of the belt at the next PPV (Backlash) after defeating Rock.

-title reign: 56 days

5/23/99 The Undertaker [3] Kansas City, MO Kemper Arena Over the Edge

-special referees: Shane McMahon, Pat Patterson, Gerald Brisco and Mr. McMahon

-The match had a special stipulation that the title could change hands on a DQ.

-Paul Bearer accompanied Undertaker

-Originally, the match was scheduled to have two special referees: Shane McMahon and Vince McMahon. The father-son were feuding over control of the WWF. Shane broke away from his father by merging the Corporation and the Ministry of Darkness.

-On the pre-PPV WWF Sunday Night Heat, the Corporate Ministry injured Vince McMahon's ankle, forcing him to go to the hospital. His associate, Pat Patterson, suited up to referee, but was chokeslammed before the match by Undertaker. The match also see Shane and replacement referee Gerald Brisco go down. Vince McMahon then re-emerged to assume refereeing duties.

-During the match, after Vince returned, he and Shane argued in the corner. Austin then turned Vince around to question his latest count. Shane then shoved McMahon into Austin, who fell down. Undertaker rolled on top, and Shane made a lightning quick three-count for the pin.

-Undertaker used the regular WWF title belt.

-title reign: 36 days

6/28/99 Steve Austin [4] Charlotte, NC Charlotte Coliseum Raw- live

-referee: Earl Hebner

-The previous night at the King of the Ring PPV, Austin lost a ladder match for 100% control of the WWF versus Shane & Mr. McMahon. Austin was the CEO at the time. To start the 6/28/99 Raw, Shane McMahon fired Austin as CEO.

Austin, then announced, that he knew he was going to be screwed in the match, so while still CEO, he booked himself in

a title match for Raw. An added stipulation stated that if any members of the Corporate Ministry interfered, Undertaker would automatically be disqualified and the title would go to Austin.

-Paul Bearer accompanied Undertaker to the ring.

-During the match, Austin apparently had the pin after a stunner. However, Paul Bearer pulled the referee out of the ring to break up the count. Austin then went outside to beat on Bearer. Back in the ring, Undertaker grabbed a hold of Austin and whipped him into the ropes. Austin blocked a double thrust to the throat. He then hit a Stone Cold Stunner for the pin. After the match, Undertaker attacked Austin, busting him open in the forehead with a title belt shot to the head.

-Austin recovered the Smoking Skull WWF title belt on the July 18, 1999 edition of Raw.

-title reign: 54 days

8/22/99 Mankind [3] Minneapolis, MN Target Center SummerSlam

-special referee: Gov. Jesse Ventura

-this was a Triple Threat match, Austin (champion) vs. Mankind vs. Triple H.

-the match was originally scheduled to be Austin vs. Triple H, who won a #1 contender match over The Rock at Full Loaded PPV. In the preceding two Raws, Chyna won the #1 contender spot in a triple threat match vs. Triple H and Undertaker. The next week, Chyna held onto that slot with a win over Triple H (thanks to help from Mankind). Mankind then won the spot from Chyna. Triple H and Mankind then met for the #1 contender match and wound up with a double-pin, meaning both men got the title shot.

-During the match, Triple H nailed Austin with the Pedigree. Mankind nailed Triple H with a punch to knock him off Austin. Mankind then executed the double-arm DDT and made the cover for the win.

-title reign: one day

8/23/99 Triple H Ames, IA Hilton Coliseum Raw- live

-referee: Shane McMahon; Earl Hebner

-Chyna accompanied Triple H

-During the match, initial referee Shane McMahon was taken out by Mankind and his Mr. Socko. Earl Hebner then came into to continue the match. The action spilled to the outside. Chyna distracted Hebner. McMahon recovered on the outside to hit Mankind with a chair. Triple H then clocked Mankind with a hard chair shot and gave another chair shot to The Rock, who was providing commentary. McMahon pulled Hebner out of the ring and resumed refereeing duties. Triple H executed a Pedigree and made the cover for the pin.

-Mankind appeared in this match with the regular WWF title belt.

-Triple H= Paul Levesque

-title reign: 22 days (24 days TV time)

9/14/99 Vince McMahon Las Vegas, NV Thomas & Mack Center Smackdown- 9/16/99

-special referee: Shane McMahon

-Triple H had the option of choosing his opponent for the night, with Shane McMahon as special referee. He declined to face any of the top completion, and instead chose Vince McMahon. Triple H on the previous Raw had verbally berated Linda McMahon, drawing out Vince. McMahon had vowed to not interfere in WWF business, honoring a stipulation from July. Triple H continued to verbally goad McMahon into a match, until McMahon finally snapped and attacked Triple H, starting the match.

-Chyna accompanied Triple H

-During the match, Triple H was destroying McMahon. Shane McMahon, Gerald Brisco and Pat Patterson all attempted to interfere, but were beaten up by Triple H and Chyna. Even Linda McMahon got in the ring, but was held by Chyna as Triple H beat on McMahon more. Then, Steve Austin came out, beat on Triple H, and gave Stunners to both Chyna and Triple H. Austin then put Vince on top of Triple H. He then dragged Shane and held his arm to make the three count.

-title reign: six days

9/20/99 VACANT Houston, TX Compaq Center Raw- live

-McMahon relinquishes the title in an interview, citing his prior contract where he would no longer be able to participate in WWF business. He announces that the title would be decided in a Six-Pack Challenge.

9/26/99 Triple H [2] Charlotte, NC Charlotte Coliseum Unforgiven

-referee: Jim Korderas; special enforcer: Steve Austin

this was a Six-Pack Challenge for the vacant title: Triple H vs. Big Show vs. Mankind vs. British Bulldog vs. Rock vs. Kane. The first man to make a pin would win the match. Undertaker was originally scheduled in the match, but replaced by Bulldog.

-For two weeks, the regular referees were on strike because of dangerous working conditions. Referee Jim Korderas crossed the picket line to continue to work.

-During the match, the regular referees came out and grabbed Korderas and dragged him to the back, in retribution for crossing the picket line. This left Austin to assume referee duties. Bulldog nailed The Rock with a chair, allowing for Triple H to hit a pedigree then pin The Rock.

-title reign: 49 days

11/14/99 Big Show Detroit, MI Joe Louis Arena Survivor Series

-referee: Earl Hebner; Shane McMahon; Vince McMahon

-this was a Triple Threat match, Triple H vs. The Rock vs. Big Show.

-Show was a last minute replacement for Steve Austin, who was run over by a car and unable to compete. Vince McMahon was originally scheduled to be the referee, but accompanied Austin to the hospital instead.

-During the match, referee Hebner was knocked down. Shane McMahon rushed to the ring in a referee shirt, but was later knocked down as well. D-Generation X (Road Dogg, Billy Gunn and X-Pac) hit the ring to attack both Show and Rock. This brought out Vince McMahon, who just returned from the hospital. With Road Dogg and X-Pac engaging Rock outside the ring and Gunn with Show inside the ring. Show was able to fend Gunn off. McMahon grabbed the title belt, tried to hit Triple H, but missed the first time. He then connected on his second attempt. Show chokeslammed Triple H and Vince McMahon made the three count for the win.

-real name: Paul Wight

-title reign: 50 days

1/03/00 Triple H [3] Miami, FL America Airlines Arena Raw- live

-referee: Mike Chioda

-Degeneration X: Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley & X-Pac & New Age Outlaws: Road Dogg & Billy Gunn came out with Triple H

-During the match, the referee was distracted by X-Pac approaching the ring. Show had his hand around Triple H's throat, but H used a low blow, then a pedigree to score the pin.

-title reign: 117 days

4/30/00 The Rock [4] Washington, DC MCI Center Backlash

-At WrestleMania 2000, Mr. McMahon turned on The Rock and sided with his so-in-law, Triple H. For the next few weeks, McMahon and Triple H did their best to deter The Rock. A biased Shane McMahon would referee the match. Linda McMahon, in attempts to even the odds, announced that Steve Austin would be in Rock's corner.

-special referee: Shane McMahon; Pat Patterson; Jerry Brisco; Earl Hebner

-Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley and Mr. McMahon accompanied Triple H; however, Austin did not show up to be in the Rock's corner at the start of the match.

-During the match, The Rock took out Shane McMahon when he gave both him and Triple H a Rock Bottom through a table at the same time. Triple H regained the advantage in the ring, and Pat Patterson and Jerry Brisco came out to serve as referees. When Rock still kicked out, Patters, Brisco, Triple H and Mr. McMahon all teamed up to beat on the Rock. Finally, Austin came to the ring and attacked everyone with a steel chair. He knocked out Triple H with a chair shot, and then left. Linda McMahon then escorted referee Earl Hebner to the ring. Rock finished off Triple H with a People's Elbow, with Hebner making the count for the win.

-title reign: 21 days

5/21/00 Triple H [4] Louisville, KY Freedom Hall Judgment Day

-this was a 60-man Iron Man match, with Shawn Michaels as special referee.

-Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, Shane McMahon and Mr. McMahon accompanied Triple H to the ring.

-Rock scored the first pinfall after a Rock Bottom at the 49 minute mark. Triple H tied it up with a Pedigree with 34 minutes remaining. Triple H went up 2-1 with a small package at the 33 minute mark. With a piledriver, at the 27 minute mark, Triple H lead 3-1. The Rock scored a pin after a DDT at the 19 minute mark, to make it 3-2. Michaels disqualified Triple H for using a chair at the 16 minute mark to tie it at 3. Triple H immediately scored a pin, with his feet on the ropes for leverage, at the 15 minute mark to make it 4-3. Triple H then put Rock out with a sleeper for the decision at the 12 minute mark to take a 5-3 lead. The Rock took the next fall by countout at the three minute mark, after giving Triple

H a pedigree and rolling back in the ring himself before the 10-count. The Rock came back at the one minute mark with a pin after the Rock Bottom to tie it at 5. In the final minute, the Michaels got knocked down after colliding with The Rock. Members of Degeneration X (X-Pac, Road Dogg) as well as Stephanie and Shane McMahon came to attack Rock. The Undertaker appeared, riding on his motorcycle, to clean house. He attacked everyone. In the final second of the match, he chokeslammed Triple H. Michaels witnessed this just as time expired for a disqualification, to give the decision, a 6-5 victory and the title to Triple H.

-title reign: 35 days

6/25/00 The Rock [5] Boston, MA FleetCenter King of the Ring

-This was a six-man tag, Triple H & Shane McMahon & Mr. McMahon vs. Rock & Undertaker & Kane, with the stipulation being that anyone who pinned someone on Triple H's team would become champion.

-referee: Earl Hebner

-During the match, the team of Rock & Undertaker & Kane would often break up another's pin in order for them to make the pin and win the title. The finish saw Kane give Triple H a tombstone. Undertaker broke up the pin and hit Kane with a chair to the head. Undertaker then chokeslammed Shane off the top rope onto a table to take both of them out of action. With Rock prone in the ring, Mr. McMahon attempted a People's Elbow. Rock popped up, gave McMahon a Rock Bottom and pinned him to win the title.

-title reign: 119 days

10/22/00 Kurt Angle Albany, NY Pepsi Arena [No Mercy](#)

-Kurt Angle won the right to a title shot by defeating Triple H in a Number-One contender's match. In that match, Triple H attempted to protect his wife from a stalking Chris Benoit. As a result, Benoit hit Triple H with a chair to the head. Angle then scored the pin. In the ensuing weeks, Triple H asked his wife not to accompany him to the ring. A miffed Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley then accepted Angle's offer to accompany him to the ring as his business partner.

-this was a no disqualification match (a last minute stipulation)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley accompanied Angle to the ring.

-During the match, The Rock was about to finish off Angle with a People's Elbow. McMahon-Helmsley got in his face and the Rock gave her a Rock Bottom. Angle stopped Rock from finishing her off with a People's Elbow. This brought out an angry Triple H who attacked both Angle and The Rock. When Angle made a cover, Rock kicked out at two. Later in the match, Rikishi (trying to win favor with fellow Samoan The Rock) came to ringside and attacked Angle. A few minutes later, Rikishi stepped into the ring and attempted to squash Angle in the corner. Angle pulled Rock in front of him and took the brunt of the blow. Rikishi then attempted a spin kick. Angle ducked and the Rock caught it. Angle then gave Rikishi an Olympic Slam, followed with one for Rock. Angle made the cover for the pin.

-real name: Kurt Angle

-title reign: 126 days

2/25/01 The Rock [6] Las Vegas, NV Thomas & Mack Center [No Way Out](#)

-referee: Mike Chioda; Earl Hebner

-During the match, both Angle and Rock were down. Big Show came out, chokeslammed the referee and attacked both Rock and Angle before leaving. Earl Hebner came out to resume the match as referee. Later on, Angle took off the turnbuckle pad exposing steel. Angle reversed a Rock Bottom and rammed Rock's head into the exposed steel. He then executed an Olympic Slam, but Rock kicked out. Angle went for a running kick to Rock's ankle, but Rock sidestepped Angle, and led him into the exposed corner. Rock hit a Rock Bottom and apparently had the three count, but Henber seemed to not make the third count, even though Angle did not raise his shoulder. Rock then hit another Rock Bottom for the cover and win.

-title reign: 35 days

4/01/01 Steve Austin [5] Houston, TX Reliant Astrodome [WrestleMania X-Seven](#)

-Austin earned the title shot by winning the Royal Rumble.

-This match was no DQ, a last minute added stipulation.

-referee: Earl Hebner

-Around 25 minutes into the match, Mr. McMahon came to ringside. Later, Rock hit the People's Elbow on Austin. McMahon came into the ring and pulled Rock off of Austin behind the referee's back. Rock chased McMahon around the ring. When the chase came back into the ring, Austin cut off Rock with a Rock Bottom, but Rock kicked out. Austin went for a Stone Cold Stunner, but Rock pushed Austin off and Austin ran into the referee, knocking him out of the ring.

Austin hit a low blow and called for McMahon to come into the ring with a chair. Austin held up Rock, and McMahon nailed him with the chair. Austin made the cover as McMahon shoved the referee back in the ring. Rock kicked out at two. Austin went for another chair shot, but Rock countered with a Rock Bottom. Rock then went after McMahon, but Austin cut him off again with a Stunner. Once again, Rock kicked out at two. McMahon handed Austin the chair again. Austin walloped Rock in the head, but Rock kicked out. Austin then nailed Rock several times with the chair and scored the pin. Austin shook McMahon's hand after the match.

-The match saw Austin turn heel, by aligning himself with the hated McMahon, proving he would do anything for the title.

-A week before WrestleMania, WWF bought the assets of WCW. Three months later, the invasion angle started, with stars of WCW and ECW combining to take over the WWF. Austin cemented his heel turn by turning his back on the WWF and joining with the alliance.

-title reign: 174 days

9/23/01 Kurt Angle [2] Pittsburgh, PA Mellon Arena [Backlash](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-During the match, Austin weakened Angle's already injured neck with a piledriver. Angle still kicked out. Austin tried to finish him off with a Stone Cold Stunner. However, Angle caught Austin's foot when Stone Cold tried to kick him in the gut. Angle turned it into an ankle lock and Austin submitted.

-After the match, members of Angle's family celebrated in the ring hoisting him up on their shoulders. Other WWF superstars then followed to congratulate Angle.

-title reign: 15 days

10/08/01 Steve Austin [6] Indianapolis, IN Conseco Fieldhouse [Monday Night Raw- live](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

-WWF commissioner William Regal ordered no alliance member allowed at ringside. When Debra (Austin's wife) tried to sit at ringside at the start of the match, Regal ordered her out. Regal decided he would sit at ringside instead.

-During the match, the referee got knocked out when Angle shoved Angle into him trying to escape a hold. Austin proceeded to grab the WWF title belt in order to hit Angle. Regal got into the ring and grabbed the belt away from Austin. Regal then turned around and nailed Angle with the belt. Regal tossed Hebner back into the ring, but Angle kicked out. Austin then finished Angle off with the Stone Cold Stunner and the pin.

-At Survivor Series 2001, the event would be winner take all between WWF vs. The Alliance. All Alliance members would lose their job. Austin's alliance team lost their match. The only wrestlers guaranteed to keep their jobs were title holders.

-The next night, WWF chairman Vince McMahon was about to strip Austin of the title and hand it to Kurt Angle, as a thanks to his loyalty. Ric Flair appeared, announcing he now owned 50% of the WWF. He stopped McMahon's efforts and proposed a title unification night. The World and WWF titles would be unified as the Undisputed Heavyweight title at Vengeance. Each champion would defend their title, and the winners would meet that same night.

-title reign: 62 days

12/09/01 Chris Jericho San Diego, CA San Diego Sports Arena [Vengeance](#)

-WWF champion Austin defeated Kurt Angle earlier in the night. Jericho defeated World champion The Rock to win that title and wrestled Austin immediately afterward.

-Referee: Earl Hebner; Nick Patrick

-The match began with Austin beating an already tired Jericho. Then, both Kurt Angle (attacking Austin) and The Rock (attacking Jericho) interfered. Both men recovered to have their match. Later on, referee Hebner got wiped out by Jericho inadvertently. Mr. McMahon led referee Nick Patrick to the ring. However, Ric Flair came out, pulled Patrick out and hit him. McMahon slugged Flair, then Austin slugged McMahon. With no referee, Austin had Jericho in his own "Walls of Jericho." Then Booker T., who was not employed at the time by the WWF, came out of the crowd and hit Austin in the back of the head with the title belt. McMahon threw Hebner back in the ring and he made the three count.

-Jericho, thus, became the Undisputed Heavyweight champion.

-real name: Chris Irvine

-this was Jericho's third world title [2 WCW, 1 WWF Undisputed]

-title reigns: 98 days

3/17/02 Triple H [5] Toronto, ON SkyDome [WrestleManiaX8](#)

-referee: Earl Hebner

- Triple H earned the title shot by winning the Royal Rumble. That marked Triple H's return to wrestling following a near eight-month layoff with a torn quadriceps.
- Stephanie McMahon accompanied Jericho to the ring. The band Motorhead performed live for Triple H's entrance.
- Triple H won the match after countering a Jericho body block attempt from the second rope with a kick to the midsection, followed by a Pedigree to cover and win the match. Earlier in the match, Triple H took out McMahon with a Pedigree.
- The night after WrestleMania, WWF CEO Linda McMahon announced that the WWF would split into two distinct brands under the WWF umbrella: Raw and Smackdown. A draft would be held the following week to set both brands' rosters. Only the WWF champion and WWF Women's champion would be allowed to appear for both brands.
- On the April 1, 2002 edition of Raw, owner Ric Flair presented Triple H with a new championship belt, a singular belt replacing the two separate title belts used.
- title reign: 35 days

4/21/02 Hulk Hogan [6] Kansas City, MO Kemper Arena [Backlash](#)

- Smackdown owner Mr. McMahon booked this match, declaring Hogan the number-one contender.
- referee: Earl Hebner
- During the match, Triple H had Hogan covered after a Pedigree. Undertaker came out and punched the referee to stop the count and hit Triple H with a chair. Undertaker then pulled Hogan on top of Triple H. Hogan got up and tossed Undertaker out of the ring. Hogan hit the legdrop and made the cover for the win. After the match, Triple H shook Hogan's hand.
- On May 6, 2002, the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) officially became World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).
- title reign: 28 days

5/19/02 Undertaker [4] Nashville, TN Gaylord Entertainment Center [Judgment Day](#)

- referee: Earl Hebner
- Undertaker won the right for the title by defeating Steve Austin in a number-one contender match at Backlash.
- During the match, WWF Smackdown owner Mr. McMahon came to ringside. Undertaker attempted to hit Hogan with a chair. He shoved down the referee, but Hogan countered by kicking the chair into Undertaker's face. Hogan then brought McMahon into the ring and beat him up. As the referee rolled McMahon out of the ring, Undertaker whacked Hogan in the back of the head with the chair. He followed up with a chokeslam and made the pin for the victory. After the match, Undertaker attacked Hogan more with a chair.
- title reign: 63 days

7/21/02 The Rock [7] Detroit, MI Joe Louis Arena [Vengeance](#)

- this was a Triple Threat match: champion Undertaker vs. The Rock vs. Kurt Angle.
- Mr. McMahon originally booked the match as Undertaker vs. Rock so Undertaker could get revenge. At King of the Ring, Rock interfered in the Undertaker's title defense vs. Triple H (even though Undertaker still won). During the 7/04/02 edition of Smackdown, Undertaker defended his title against Kurt Angle. The match ended in a controversial draw when Undertaker had Angle pinned, but tapped to Angle's triangle choke (legs around the neck) at the same time). As a result and as McMahon said "in the interest of fairness," Angle was added to the match.
- referee: Earl Hebner
- The conclusion of the match found Angle deliver his Angle Slam to Undertaker. Before he could make a cover, The Rock hit a Rock Bottom on Angle and made the cover for the pin, despite Undertaker's last ditch attempt to break it up.
- This was Rock's ninth world title [7 WWE, 2 WCW]
- title reign: 35 days

8/25/02 Brock Lesnar Uniondale, NY Nassau VM Coliseum [Summer Slam](#)

- referee: Mike Chioda
- Lesnar earned the title shot by winning the King of the Ring tournament in June.
- Paul Heyman accompanied Lesnar.
- During the match, Rock tried to put away Lesnar with a People's Elbow. Lesnar popped up and clothelined Rock. Lesnar attempted an F5, but Rock countered by getting to his feet. He tried a Rock Bottom but Lesnar was able to punch Rock off of him. Rock tried again, but Lesnar reversed it into an F5 and scored the pin.
- On the August 26, 2002 edition of Raw, Smackdown GM Stephanie McMahon announces that she has signed Lesnar exclusively to Smackdown. Although the proviso was that the champion could appear on both programs, that was at the champions option.

-In response, on the September 2, 2002 edition of Raw, GM Eric Bischoff introduces a new title, the World Heavyweight title, awarding it to Triple H. Thus, Lesnar's Undisputed title reverts back to becoming the WWE title.

-real name: Brock Lesnar

-title reign: 84 days

11/17/02 Big Show [2] New York City, NY Madison Square Garden [Survivor Series](#)

-referee: Mike Chioda; Mike Sparks

-Paul Heyman accompanied Lesnar.

-Lesnar came into the match with taped up ribs, the result of Show tossing Lesnar off the stage and braking his ribs.

Lesnar was also having problems with his agent Paul Heyman.

-During the match, Lesnar inadvertently shoulderblocked referee Chioda out of the ring. After Lesnar hit a F-5 on Show, second referee Mike Sparks came out to count the pin. But, Paul Heyman, Lesnar's agent, turned on Lesnar by pulling Sparks out of the ring and hitting him. Lesnar then chased Heyman around the ring. When Lesnar re-entered, Show hit him in the ribs with a chair, following with a chokeslam on the chair. Chioda recovered to count the pin.

-title reign: 28 days

12/15/02 Kurt Angle [3] Sunrise, FL National Car Rental Center [Armageddon](#)

-Paul Heyman accompanied Big Show.

-referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Angle had Big Show in the ankle lock. Show kicked out, sending Angle into the referee, knocking him down. Heyman threw a chair into the ring for Show, but Angle beat him to it. Angle whacked Show with the chair, knocking him down. Angle re-applied the ankle lock and Show tapped, but the referee was still down. Then, A-Train came into the ring and attacked Angle. That allowed Show to chokeslam Angle. Then, Brock Lesnar came into the ring, gave Show an F5 and left, chasing after Paul Heyman. Angle made the cover, as the referee recovered to count three.

-title reign: 105 days

3/30/03 Brock Lesnar [2] Seattle, WA Safeco Field [WrestleMania XIX](#)

-referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Lesnar connected with an F5, but Angle kicked out. Lesnar tried again, but Angle reversed it into an ankle lock. Lesnar got to the ropes. Lesnar tired another F5, which Angle turned into a cradle for a two-count. Lesnar hit another F5. Instead of making a cover, Lesnar attempted a shooting star press off the top rope. Lesnar did not hit the move completely, landing on the back of his head. Angle made the cover for a two. Angle was able to hit a third F5, this time scoring the pin.

-title reign: 118 days

7/27/03 Kurt Angle [4] Denver, CO Pepsi Center [Vengeance](#)

-This was a triple threat match: Lesnar (champion) vs. Kurt Angle vs. Big Show with no DQ.

-referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Big Show attempted a chokeslam on Lesnar, but Lesnar kicked him low to knock him down. Lesnar then whipped Angle into the corner. As Lesnar charged in, Angle got out of the way. Angle then grabbed Lesnar's ankle in an ankle lock submission hold. He let go when Big Show charged at him. Angle delivered an Angle Slam to Show. He then delivered one to Lesnar and made the cover for the win.

-title reign: 51 days (53 days TV time)

9/16/03 Brock Lesnar [3] Raleigh, NC RBC Center [Smackdown 9/18/03](#)

-This was a 60-minute Iron Man match.

-referee: Brian Hebner

-Angle won the first fall by DQ when Angle used a chair to the head at the 51 minute mark. Lesnar tied it up at the 49 minute mark with a pin following an F5. Lesnar made Angle submit to take a 2-1 lead with an ankle lock at the 47 minute mark. Lesnar went up 3-1 with a countout decision in the 40 mark after delivering an F5 on the floor. Angle pinned Lesnar following an Angle Slam at the 34 minute mark to make it 3-2. Lesnar picked up a pin at the 29 minute mark after nailing Angle with the title belt to the head when the referee was knocked down to make it 4-2. Lesnar gained a pinfall after a superplex (around the 16 minute mark, during a commercial break), to make it 5-2. Angle took a pin following a belly-to-belly superplex at the 9 minute mark to make it 5-3. Angle made Lesnar tap out to the ankle lock at the 4 minute mark to make it 5-4. Angle applied an ankle lock with 17 seconds remaining, but Lesnar held off to win the match, 5-4.

-title reign: 152 days (150 days TV time)

2/15/04 **Eddie Guerrero** **Daly City, CA** **Cow Palace** [No Way Out](#)

-referee: Brian Hebner

-Guerrero earned the title by winning a Royal Rumble match on Smackdown, last eliminating Kurt Angle.

-During the match, Guerrero missed a frog splash. Lesnar followed it up with a F5, but in the process knocked down the referee. Lesnar went to grab the title belt, but Godlberg came in and speared Lesnar. Guerrero recovered and made a pin attempt as the referee recovered as well, but just for a two count. With the referee still groggy, Guerrero grabbed the belt and tried to use it on Lesnar, but Lesnar ducked and kicked Guerrero. He then attempted a F5, but Guerrero reversed it into a DDT onto the title belt. Guerrero then threw the belt out of the ring and hit a frog splash. The referee recovered again in time to count the pin.

-Guerrero celebrated by jumping into the stands and celebrating with his mother and brother Mando, who were in attendance.

-real name: Eddie Guerrero

-title reign: 132 days

6/27/04 **John Bradshaw Layfield** **Norfolk, VA** **Scope Coliseum** [Great American Bash](#)

-this was a bullrope match, where the winner would have to touch all four corners in succession, with no CO, no time limit or no DQ (unless one competitor intentionally removes himself from the bullrope).

-This was a rematch from Judgment Day, where JBL won via disqualification. Smackdown GM Kurt Angle allowed JBL to name the stipulation. He chose a bullrope match.

-JBL came to ringside in a chauffeur-driven limo.

-referee: Nick Patrick

-During the match, with both men having three corners touched, JBL was in position to touch the fourth corner. Guerrero held on, and made a dive for the corner over JBL to apparently win the match. After having his hand raised, Smackdown GM Kurt Angle came out and wanted to look at the video replay. The replay showed that JBL's shoulder actually touched the fourth corner first, thus, he was declared the winner of the match and new champion.

-real name: John Layfield

-title reign: 280 days

4/03/05 **John Cena** **Los Angeles, CA** **Staples Center** **WrestleMania 21**

-Cena earned the title shot by winning an 8-man tournament, defeating Kurt Angle in the final at No Way Out.

-JBL came to ringside in a chauffeur-driven limo with a police escort. Orlando Jordan also was in the limo, but left for the locker room before the match.

-referee: Nick Patrick

-During the match, JBL attempted a Clothesline from Hell. Cena ducked and hoisted JBL up in a FU. He then made the cover for the win.

-on the April 14, 2005 edition of *Smackdown*, Cena introduced a new title belt, the WWE spinner.

-On the June 13, 2005 edition of Raw, champion Cena was drafted to Raw. He remained champion. On the same night, World champion Batista was drafted from Raw to Smackdown.

-real name: John Cena

-title reign: 280 days

1/08/06 **Edge** **Albany, NY** **Pepsi Arena** **New Year's Revolution**

-referee: Mike Chioda

-Cena just finished successfully defending his title in the Elimination Chamber against Kane, Shawn Michaels, Kurt Angle, Carlito and Chris Masters. Mr. McMahon came to ringside and announced the night was not over. Edge would be cashing in his Money in the Bank privilege for a title shot, earned at WrestleMania 21.

-Lita accompanied Edge.

-During the match, Edge took advantage of a bloody and exhausted John Cena. Edge dominated, but Cena was still able to kick out, including a spear. Edge hit another spear, and Cena was not able to kick out.

-real name: Adam Copeland

-title reign: 21 days

1/29/06 **John Cena [2]** **Miami, FL** **America Airlines Arena** **Royal Rumble**

-referee: Mickie Henson

-Lita accompanied Edge.

-During the match, Cena had Edge pinned following a five-knuckle shuffle. Lita got on the apron, distracting the referee. Cena then got in Lita's face. Edge came charging in, but Cena got out of the way, causing Edge to collide with Lita.

Cena then hit an FU, followed by an STFU, forcing Edge to submit in the middle of the ring.

-title reign: 132 days

6/11/06 Rob Van Dam New York City, NY Hammerstein Ballroom ECW One Night Stand

-referee: Jon Finegan; Nick Patrick; Paul Heyman

-Van Dam won the Money in the Bank match at WrestleMania 22, earning the right to a title shot. On the May 22, 2006 episode of Raw, Van Dam announced he would be cashing in at the inaugural ECW One Night Stand PPV. The event was the catalyst event for the revived ECW brand. RVD promised to change the title to the ECW World Heavyweight title.

-This match was under extreme rules (no DQ, no CO, anything goes).

-During the match, Cena had Van Dam in a STFU, but Van Dam got to the ropes. Referee Finegan physically pulled Cena off of RVD. Cena responded by clotheslining the referee, taking him out of the match. Referee Nick Patrick from the Smackdown match came down to officiate the match. After Cena gave RVD an FU over the ropes and out of the ring, a man with a veil mask came in and speared Cena into a table set up in the corner. That man then slugged referee Patrick knocking him out. The man pulled off his veil to reveal that he was Edge. RVD came back into the ring and connected on a Five-Star Frog Splash. RVD attempted to revive Patrick to no avail. Then, former ECW promoter Paul Heyman came to the ring and made the count as RVD covered for the victory.

-On the 6/13/06 ECW on Sci-Fi Network debut, Paul Heyman awarded Van Dam the ECW World Heavyweight title to go along with the WWE title.

-title reign: 22 days

7/03/06 Edge [2] Philadelphia, PA Wachovia Center Raw- live

-referee: Mike Chioda

-This was a triple threat match: Rob Van Dam [ch.] vs. Edge vs. John Cena with no DQ or no CO.

-Lita accompanied Edge.

-Van Dam also held the ECW World title, but only the WWE title was on the line.

-During the match, Cena gave Edge an FU over the ropes onto the outside, He then gave one to Lita in the ring. RVD attacked Cena in the ring, but missed a Five-Star Frog Splash. Cena gave him an FU. Before he could make the cover, Edge came back in and hit Cena with the title belt, knocking him out. Edge covered RVD for the pin.

-At SummerSlam, Edge defeated Cena in a Last Man Standing match. The next night, on the 8/21/2006 episode of Raw, Edge introduced the "Rated R" spinner belt. It had Edge's "Rated R" logo spinner in place of the WWE spinner logo.

-title reign: 76 days

9/17/06 John Cena [3] Toronto, ON Air Canada Center Unforgiven

-referee: Mike Chioda (inside) and Jack Doan (outside)

-This was a TLC (Tables, Ladders and Chairs) match, where all three objects were legal. The belt was suspended above the ring. The winner would be the first to retrieve the belt.

-The match was set up on the 8/28/2006 episode of Raw. Cena agreed to leave for Smackdown, but Edge was allowed to pick the stipulation and location of their rematch. Edge chose TLC, a match which he was undefeated, in his hometown of Toronto.

-During the match, Edge was poised to grab the belt on top of the ladder. Cena then shoulder blocked the ladder, even though Lita hit him in the back with a chair. Edge fell through tables set up on the outside of the ring. As Cena climbed the ladder, Edge recovered and climbed up the other side of the ladder. As the two fought on top of the ladder, Cena was able to give Edge an FU off the top off the ladder through two tables stacked on top of each other in the ring. Cena then unhooked the belt to win the title.

-Cena returned to using the regular WWE "spinner" belt.

-title reign: 15 days

10/02/07 VACANT [ECW on Sci-Fi](#)

-On a live episode of *ECW on Sci-Fi*, WWE Chairman Mr. McMahon announces that the title is vacant because of an injury suffered by Cena the previous night. Cena injured his pectoral muscle and required immediate surgery in a match vs. Mr. Kennedy. Cena's scheduled opponent at the 10/07/07 No Mercy PPV, Randy Orton, then attacked Cena

immediately after the match. Because Cena's expected recovery time would be six months to a year, McMahon stripped Cena of the title. McMahon announced that there would be a WWE championship match at the No Mercy PPV.

10/07/07 Randy Orton Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena [No Mercy](#)

-To begin the No Mercy PPV, WWE Chairman Mr. McMahon along with Raw GM William Regal made an announcement from the ring. McMahon awarded the title to Randy Orton. Triple H came out and issued a challenge to Orton, which was eventually accepted.

-McMahon presented Orton with a new belt, similar to the "spinner" belt, but with the spinning component removed.

-With his prior World Heavyweight championship, Orton became a two-time world champion.

-real name: Randy Orton

-title reign: 0 days

10/07/07 Triple H [6] Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena [No Mercy](#)

-referee: Marty Elias

-During the match, Orton missed a charge at Triple H into the corner. Triple H then rolled Orton up for the three count.

-Triple H also had his regularly scheduled match vs. Umaga at No Mercy, now for the WWE title. Triple H successfully defended the title, winning the match.

-McMahon declared that he would deliver the scheduled Last Man Standing match, originally promoted as Cena vs. Orton. McMahon ordered Triple H to take the injured Cena's place.

-with his five prior World Heavyweight championships, Triple H becomes an 11-time world champion.

-title reign: 0 days

10/07/07 Randy Orton [2] Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena [No Mercy](#)

-This was a Last Man Standing match. There rules were no DQ, no CO and the only way to win was to incapacitate an opponent where he would not be able to answer a ten count.

-Referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Triple H attempted to finish off Orton with a Pedigree on a table. Orton struck first with an RKO. Orton retreated to the ring and Triple H could not get back to his feet, giving the match to Orton.

-This was Orton's third world title [2 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 203 days

4/27/08 Triple H [7] Baltimore, MD 1st Mariner Arena [Backlash](#)

-This was a Fatal-Four Way elimination match with no DQ and no CO: Randy Orton [ch.] vs. Triple H vs. John Bradshaw Layfield vs. John Cena

-the match was set up in the Raw episodes following WrestleMania. JBL thought he earned a title shot after winning a Belfast Brawl vs. Finlay at WrestleMania. Triple H felt he deserve a rematch from WrestleMania. Raw GM William Regal booked a handicap match: Triple H vs. Orton & JBL, that if Triple H won, he would earn his way into the title match at Backlash. Triple H succeeded. John Cena made the same complaint and Regal offered the same stipulation. Cena defeated JBL & Orton in a handicap match to make it a four-way.

-referee: Mike Chioda(inside); Jack Doan (outside)

-In the match, Orton was knocked to the outside. Cena delivered an FU to JBL. Triple H tried to take advantage of Cena, but Cena backdropped him out of the ring. Cena then applied the STFU to JBL for the submission. Immediately afterward, Orton kicked Cena in the head and pinned him. Later, Orton tried to finish Triple H with a punt. Triple H dodge out of the way, kicked Orton in the gut and attempted a Pedigree. Orton attempted a counter into a RKO, but Triple H blocked it, with another kick to the gut and successfully connected with a Pedigree. He made the cover for the victory.

-On June 23, 2008, Triple H was drafted to Smackdown. The result was the WWE title was now exclusive to the Smackdown brand. The following week, Raw brand wrestler CM Punk won the World Heavyweight title bringing it to Raw.

-the title belt changed slightly, with the "Raw" side panel being replaced

-This was Triple H's 12th world title [7 WWE, 5 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 210 days

11/23/08 Edge [3] Boston, MA TD Banknorth Garden [Survivor Series](#)

-This was a scheduled triple threat match Triple H [ch.] vs. Vladimir Kozlov vs. Jeff Hardy

-It was originally scheduled as Triple H vs. Kozlov. Hardy had been lobbying for another title match. Smackdown GM Vickie Guerrero felt Hardy was not extreme enough. Hardy then found an extreme streak. Guerrero offered Hardy a non-

title match vs. Triple H. If Hardy won, he would join the match in as part of a triple threat. Hardy did win to get into the match.

-It was announced that the previous night, Jeff Hardy was mysteriously injured in a stairwell at a hotel. It was unknown if he would make the match. Right before the match, it was announced Jeff Hardy would not be able to wrestle.

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-Toward the end of the match, Triple H seemed to be in control. He nailed Kozlov with a Pedigree, but remained groggy himself unable to make a cover. Vickie Guerrero then appeared, saying this would be a triple threat match. She then introduced the returning Edge. After hitting the ring, Edge nailed Triple H with a Pedigree. As he made the cover, Jeff Hardy came into the ring and attacked Edge. Hardy grabbed a chair and tried to hit Edge, but edge ducked and Hardy nailed Triple H. Hardy then nailed Kozlov with the chair. Edge speared Hardy, then made the cover on Triple H for the win.

-This was Edge's sixth world championship [3 WWE, 3 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 21 days

12/14/08 Jeff Hardy Buffalo, NY HSBC Arena Armageddon

-This was a triple threat match: Edge [ch.] vs. Triple H vs. Jeff Hardy with no CO or DQ

-referee: Chad Patton

-During the match, Triple H had Edge in a cover, but Vladimir Kozlov came to the ring to pull Triple H off of him. Matt Hardy came out to fight Kozlov. Jeff Hardy then climbed the top rope, but Kozlov broke free and knocked Hardy to the floor. Kozlov and Matt Hardy fought to the back. Meanwhile, Edge hit a spear on Triple H and made the cover, but Triple H kicked out. Edge then grabbed two chairs, setting up a "conchairto." As Edge reared back, Jeff Hardy reemerged, grabbed the chair and whacked Edge in the head. Hardy then attempted another top-rope move, but Triple H knocked him down. Triple H hit the Pedigree on Edge. While making the cover, Hardy hit a swanton bomb out of nowhere to knock Triple H out. Hardy covered Edge for the win.

-real name: Jeff Hardy

-title reign: 42 days

1/25/09 Edge [4] Detroit, MI Joe Louis Arena Royal Rumble

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-Edge was accompanied by Vickie Guerrero and Chavo Guerrero.

-This was a no DQ match. Jeff Hardy was in control, about to score the pin, when Vickie Guerrero interfered. This brought out Jeff's brother Matt Hardy. Matt came with a chair, and handed another chair to Jeff. Then, Matt shocked everyone by turning on his brother, hitting him in the head, allowing Edge to score the pin.

-This was Edge's seventh world championship [4 WWE, 3 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 21 days

2/15/09 Triple H [8] Seattle, WA KeyArena No Way Out

-This was a six man Elimination Chamber match. The match started with two men, with each subsequent opponent released from his pod in five minute intervals. A man could be eliminated at any time via pin or submission in the ring. The last man left would win the match and claim the title.

-referee: Charles Robinson (inside), Mike Chioda (outside)

-The participants (in order of entry): Jeff Hardy, Edge [ch.], Vladimir Kozlov, Big Show, Triple H, The Undertaker

-Hardy eliminated Edge within the first five minutes, when he reversed a spear attempt into a inside cradle for the pin.

After the remaining four men entered the ring, Undertaker pinned Kozlov following a Last Ride. Later, Undertaker superplexed Big Show from the top rope. Triple H delivered a Pedigree. Then, Hardy executed a Swanton dive from the top of one of the pods. Triple H then made the cover to in and eliminate Big Show. Undertaker eliminated Hardy following a tombstone pldriver. The finish saw Triple H and Undertaker going back and forth. Undertaker nailed Triple H with a tombstone, only to have Triple H stick his foot on the rope to break the count. Undertaker kicked out after a Pedigree. Undertaker attempted a Last Ride, but Triple H slipped out the back. He then hit a Pedigree for the pin.

-This was Triple H's 13th world title [8 WWE, 5 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 69 days

4/26/09 Randy Orton [3] Providence, RI Dunkin' Donuts Center Backlash

-In the preceding months, Randy Orton wreaked havoc on the McMahon family. He "punted" Mr. McMahon, Shane McMahon and Stephanie McMahon. He also DDTd Stephanie and kissed her.

-Mr. McMahon vowed revenge, bringing back Batista to aid in revenge.

-A match was set up at Backlash: Orton and Legacy: Ted DiBiase & Cody Rhodes vs. Triple H [ch.] & Shane McMahon & Batista. If anyone on Triple H's team lost in any manner (pin, submission, DQ, CO), then Orton would be declared the champion.

-referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Orton and Triple H were the legal men in the ring, while the other four were battling on the outside. Batista was about to level DiBiase on the outside with a chair. In an effort to prevent a DQ, Triple H grabbed the chair out of his teammate's hand. The distraction allowed Orton to hit an RKO. Triple H kicked out. Orton then punted Triple H's head and pinned him for the title.

-Orton faced Batista at the 5/17/09 Judgment Day PPV, losing by disqualification. Raw GM Vickie Guerrero ordered a rematch in a steel cage at the Extreme Rules PPV on the 6/18/09 Raw.

-This was Orton's fourth world title [3 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 42 days

6/07/09 Batista New Orleans, LA New Orleans Arena Extreme Rules

-This was a steel cage match. The only way to win was by pin, submission or escaping the cage with both feet on the floor.

-Referee: Mike Chioda (inside) and Marty Elias (outside)

-During the match, Orton attempted an RKO. Batista blocked it by sending Orton into the ropes. On the rebound, Batista kicked Orton to double him over and hit the Batista Bomb for the pin.

-This was Batista's fifth world title [1 WWE, 4 World Heavyweight]

-real name: Dave Bautista

-Title reign: 2 days

6/09/09 VACANT

-On the 6/08/09 Raw, Batista suffered a torn left bicep injury after being attacked by Orton & The Legacy: Cody Rhodes & Ted DiBiase. On WWE.com on 6/09/09 and also the 6/12/09 Smackdown, it was announced that the title was vacant because of the injury and would be decided at Raw in a Fatal 4-Way.

6/15/09 Randy Orton [4] Charlotte, NC Time Warner Cable Arena Raw "Free for All"

-This was a Fatal 4-Way for the vacant WWE title: Orton vs. Triple H vs. Big Show vs. John Cena. The first man to score the fall would win the match and the title.

-Referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Triple H hit a Pedigree on Big Show. However, Cena executed an Attitude Adjustment to knock Triple H out of the ring. Cena then hit an Attitude Adjustment on Show. But, Show kicked out. Orton broke up the pin, and sent Cena shoulder first into the post. Orton then hit an RKO on Show to score the pin.

-Later that night, Triple H won a battle royal to become #1 contender. Orton and Triple H met on the 6/22/09 Raw in a Last Man Standing match, which ended in a draw. A rematch would take place at The Bash PPV in a two-of-three falls "Three Stages of Hell" match, which Orton prevailed.

-This was Orton's fifth world title [4 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 90 days

9/13/09 John Cena [4] Montreal, QC Bell Centre Breaking Point

-Referee: Mike Chioda

-This was an I Quit match. Additionally, if anyone tried to interfere on Orton's behalf, Orton would automatically lose the title.

-Orton defended the title at the 7/26/09 Night of Champions PPV. He defeated Triple H and John Cena in a triple threat match. Cena and Triple H earned the title shot by reaching a final of a tournament to determine the top contender. The Legacy interfered in that final match without a winner. It was declared both men would get the title shot.

-Orton defended the title at the 8/23/09 SummerSlam. John Cena won a Beat the Clock challenge to earn the title shot. Orton prevailed to retain the title.

-Because of the controversial finish, which saw outside interference from a debuting Brett DiBiase, Mr. McMahon granted Cena one more title shot at the Breaking Point PPV.

-During the match, Cena handcuffed himself to Orton. Later on, Orton was able to RKO Cena despite being cuffed together. Orton was dragging Cena toward the corner, so Orton could get a hold of the key. However, Cena was able to apply a modified STFU, using Orton's cuffed hand, in essence to choke himself out. Orton quit, giving Cena the match.

-Cena became a six-time world champion [4 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-Title reign: 21 days

10/04/09 Randy Orton [5] Newark, NJ Prudential Center Hell in a Cell

-This was a Hell in a Cell match

-Referee: Mike Chioda

-On the 9/14/09 Raw, guest host Trish Stratus granted Orton a rematch at Hell in a Cell.

-During the match, Orton tied Cena's arms in the ropes. He applied a choke hold from behind. Orton eventually let go. Cena became untied and fell face first onto the mat. Orton then punt kicked Cena's head and made the pin.

-This was Orton's sixth world title [5 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-Title reign: 21 days

10/25/09 John Cena [5] Pittsburgh, PA Mellon Arena Bragging Rights

-This was a 1 hour anything goes Iron Man match. No DQ, no CO, falls count anywhere. It was considered the final confrontation between the two. If Cena lost, he would leave Raw.

-Referee: Mike Chioda

-During the match, Cena scored the first fall when Orton immediately tapped to the STFU at the 56-minute mark (Orton 0-1 Cena); Orton hit an RKO out of nowhere for the pin at the 51-minute mark (1-1); both men pinned each other after a simultaneous Attitude Adjustment/RKO at the 43-minute mark (2-2); Cena hit an Attitude Adjustment from the top rope for the pin at the 40-minute mark (2-3); Orton scored a pin after interference from Legacy (Ted DiBiase & Cody Rhodes), pinning Cena after DiBiase delivered a Dream Street (3-3) at the 39-minute mark; Orton made the pin on the entrance stage after sending Cena into the light bulbs in the set design at the 34-minute mark (4-3); Cena scored a surprise pin after a roll up at the 27-minute mark (4-4); Orton pinned Cena on the floor after a DDT onto the floor with Cena's legs draped over the apron at the 24-minute mark (5-4); Cena pinned Orton on the floor following an Attitude Adjustment through the announce table at the 9-minute mark (5-5); at the two-minute mark, Orton apparently had a pin after an RKO, but the referee was knocked down. Charles Robinson came to count the pin, but Cena kicked out. Orton attempted the punt kick, but Cena got out of the way, leg tripped Orton and locked in the STFU. He scored the submission with five seconds left (Chioda had recovered in time to count the submission), to win the match (5-6).

-Cena became a seven-time world champion [5 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-Title reign: 49 days

12/13/09 Sheamus San Antonio, TX AT&T Center TLC

-This was a tables match (winner had to put his opponent through a table).

-Sheamus earned the shot by winning a "Breakthrough Battle Royal" on the 11/23/09 Raw.

-Referee: Chad Patton

-During the match, Sheamus injured Cena's back. Cena fought through it, and attempted to superplex Sheamus onto a table in the ring. Sheamus blocked the superplex, pushing Cena backwards through the table for the win.

-Sheamus real name: Stephen Farrelly

-title reign: 70 days

2/21/10 John Cena [6] St. Louis, MO Scottrade Center Elimination Chamber

-This was a six-man Elimination Chamber match.

- referee: Scott Armstrong (inside); Charles Robinson and Mike Chioda (outside)

- The participants (in order of entry): Sheamus [ch.], Kofi Kingston, Triple H, Randy Orton, Ted DiBiase, John Cena

-After all six men entered, Ted DiBiase turned on his Legacy partner Randy Orton. After Cody Rhodes threw a pipe in the ring, DiBiase used it to hit Orton in the head with it while he was up in Cena's Attitude Adjustment. DiBiase then pinned Orton. Kingston eliminated DiBiase, pinning him following Trouble in Paradise. Sheamus pinned Kingston after his Holy Cross. Triple H pinned Sheamus following a low blow and a Pedigree. Cena won the match when he forced Triple H to submit to an STFU.

-Cena became an eight-time world champion [6 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 0 days

2/21/10 Batista [2] St. Louis, MO Scottrade Center Elimination Chamber

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-immediately after winning the title in the Elimination Chamber, Mr. McMahon ordered Cena to defend the title at that moment against Batista. Batista made quick work of the worn down Cena, winning clean with the Batista Bomb.

-This was Batista's sixth world title [2 WWE, 4 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 35 days

3/28/10 John Cena[7] Glendale, AZ Univ. of Phoenix Stadium WrestleMania XXVI

-referee: Mike Chioda

-Cena won clean, reversing a Batista Bomb attempt, and rolling through to a STF, forcing Batista to submit.

-Cena became a nine-time world champion [7 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 84 days

6/20/10 Sheamus [2] Uniondale, NY Nassau VM Coliseum Fatal 4 Way

-referee: Jack Doan

-This was a Fatal 4 Way match- a one fall, four man competition between champion John Cena, Sheamus, Edge and Randy Orton. The match was interrupted by an attack by the NXT rookies, who went after Cena, beating him down.

Edge tried to help, as the rookies turned their attention toward him. In the meanwhile, Sheamus snuck the pin on Cena to win the title.

-title reign: 91 days

9/19/10 Randy Orton [6] Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena Night of Champions

-referee: Charles Robinson

-This was a Six Pack Challenge elimination match: Sheamus [ch.] vs. John Cena vs. Edge vs. Chris Jericho vs. Wade Barrett vs. Randy Orton. Each challenger qualified through various matches on Raw.

-Referee: Charles Robinson

-During the match, Orton pinned Jericho following an RKO. Later, Cena pinned Edge after an Attitude Adjustment.

Members of Nexus then arrived to aid Barrett. Their distraction allowed for Barrett to heat the Wasteland on Cena and pin him. As Barrett focused on Orton, Cena returned with a steel chair. Orton and Cena cleared ringside of Nexus. Orton then hit an RKO on Barrett for the pin. Sheamus jumped into the ring and Brouge Kicked Orton for a near fall. Orton reversed a Holy Cross into an RKO for the win.

-This was Orton's seventh world title [6 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 64 days

11/22/10 The Miz Orlando, FL Amway Arena Monday Night Raw- live

-referee: Mike Chioda

-real name: Mike Mizanin

-The Miz cashed in his Money in the Bank title match, defeating a weary Orton. Just prior, Orton defended the title against Wade Barrett and suffered a pre-match attack by the rest of Nexus, injuring his knee. Miz reversed an RKO attempt into a Skull Crushing Finale for the win and title.

-Miz was accompanied by Alex Riley.

-real name: Mike Mizanin

-title reign: 159 days

5/01/11 John Cena [8] Tampa, FL St. Pete Times Forum Extreme Rules

-This was a triple threat steel cage match between The Miz [ch.] vs. John Cena vs. John Morrison.

-Referee: Mike Chioda (inside) and John Cone (outside)

-On the 4/11/11 Raw, a five man guantlet match would determine the number-one contender. Cena and R-Truth were the last two remaining. The Miz's interference caused a double DQ. However, the anonymous GM ruled that both Cena and R-Truth would receive the title match.

-On the 4/18/11 Raw, John Morrison challenged R-Truth for his spot in the title match. Morrison won the match and the title match opportunity. After the match, Truth attacked mOrrison, bitter over his loss.

-During the match, Morrison was about to escape the cage door to win. R-Truth came out and kicked Morrison's head into the stairs and shoved him back in. Truth followed Morrison in the ring and continued to attack him. Later, Miz attempted a Skull Crushing Finale from the ropes on Cena. Cena reversed it to an Attitude Adjustment into the ring and scored the pin.

-Cena became a 10-time world champion [8 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 77 days

7/17/11 CM Punk Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena Money in the Bank

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-the storyline going into the match was that Punk's contract would expire at the end of the night, and he vowed to leave the WWE, and take the title with him. For weeks, Punk verbally excoriated the WWE and Mr. McMahon, and refused to re-sign. McMahon granted Punk the title match, in hoping that he would re-sign. McMahon also warned Cena that if he lost, Cena would be fired. -

-During the match, McMahon and his Vice President, John Laurinaitis, appeared at ringside. When Cena applied his STFU, McMahon attempted to order the bell to ring to end the match. However, Cena prevented Laurinaitis from doing so. When Cena stepped back in the ring, Punk hit the Go To Sleep for the win. A livid McMahon attempted to have Alberto Del Rio, who earlier in the night won the Money in the Bank, to come out and cash in his match. Del Rio made the attack, but Punk countered. Del Rio never officially cashed in his title match though.

-This was Punk's fourth world title [1 WWE, 3 World Heavyweight]

-real name: Phil Brooks

-title reign: 28 days

7/18/11 VACANT

-Mr. McMahon opens the 7/18/11 Raw by announcing the a new WWE champion would be crowned that night, since Punk walked out on the WWE. An eight-man, one-night tournament would determine a new champion.

-TOURNAMENT RESULTS: Quarterfinal: The Miz d. Alex Riley; R-Truth d. Jack Swagger; Kofi Kingston d. Alberto Del Rio; Rey Mysterio d. Dolph Ziggler; Semifinals: Miz d. Kingston; Mysterio d. Truth;

-Before the final took place, McMahon said he was postponing the match so he could have enough TV time to officially fire Cena. Triple H came to the ring, and informed McMahon that the WWE board had a vote of no confidence in McMahon and he was relieved of his duties. Triple H also announced that Cena would not be fired. The show ended before the championship match could take place.

7/25/11 Rey Mysterio Hampton, VA Hampton Coliseum Raw- live

-Referee: Chad Patton

-This was the final match of the tournament that started the prior week, Mysterio vs. The Miz.

-During the match, Miz attempted a charge at an upside-down Mysterio in the corner. Mysterio got out of the way and Miz banged his knee on the turnbuckle pad. Mysterio hit a flying leg scissors, 619 and flying body press combination for the win and title.

-Alberto Del Rio once again intimated he would cash in his Money in the Bank title shot, but stopped short of just doing so.

-Later in the night, new WWE COO Triple H announces that John Cena would receive a title rematch that night.

-This was Mysterio's third world title [1 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 0 days

7/25/11 John Cena [9] Hampton, VA Hampton Coliseum Raw- live

-referee: Charles Robinson

-During the match, Mysterio ran the ropes for a 619 attempt on Cena. However, Cena intercepted Mysterio and hit an Attitude Adjustment and made the pin for the win.

-After the match, CM Punk returned, with his own WWE title belt, still claiming to be champion. The following week on Raw, Triple H acknowledged that both men are considered champion and announced Cena vs. Punk for the title at SummerSlam, with Triple H serving as special referee.

-Cena became a 11-time world champion [9 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 20 days

8/14/11 CM Punk [-] Los Angeles, CA Staples Center SummerSlam

-Special referee: Triple H

-During the match, Cena missed a top rope leg drop. Punk hit his GTS, only for Cena to kick out. Punk hit a top rope elbow drop, but Cena again kicked out. Cena attempted a roll up, but Punk kicked out. Cena fought back briefly, but Punk hit another GTS. He made the cover and Triple H counted three, even though Cena got his foot on the rope.

-Because Punk was considered champion headed into the match, this is a continuation of his reign that began July 17, 2011.

-title reign: not applicable (see prior title reign)

8/14/11 Alberto Del Rio Los Angeles, CA Staples Center SummerSlam

-referee: Chad Patton

-After Punk's victory, Kevin Nash made a surprise return, clotheslining and jackknife power bombing Punk. Alberto Del Rio swooped in to finally cash in his Money in the Bank title opportunity. Del Rio kicked Punk in the back of the head and made the cover for the victory.

-real name: Jose Alberto Rodriguez

-title reign: 35 days

9/18/11 John Cena [10] Buffalo, NY First Niagara Center Night of Champions

-referee: Charles Robinson

-Ricardo Rodriguez accompanied Del Rio.

-During the match, Cena powered out of cross-arm breaker, and hit the Attitude Adjustment. He thwarted off an interference attempt by Rodriguez. Cena applied the STF for the submission victory.

-Cena became a 12-time world champion [10 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 14 days

10/02/11 Alberto Del Rio [2] New Orleans, LA New Orleans Arena Hell in a Cell

-This was a triple threat Hell in a Cell match, Cena [ch.] vs. Alberto Del Rio vs. CM Punk

-referee: Mike Chioda (inside) and Chad Patton (outside)

-Ricardo Rodriguez accompanied Del Rio.

-During the match, Rodriguez knocked out the outside referee Chad Patton and unlocked the door. He went into the cell with a pipe, but Cena stopped him, and went after Rodriguez. It was a trap, as Del Rio gained control of the key and locked Cena out after hitting him with the pipe. Del Rio used a pipe continually hit Punk. The finish saw Punk try a GTS, but Del Rio used the pipe, eventually pinning him. After the match, The Miz and R-Truth snuck into the cell, attacking Del Rio, Cena, Punk, referees and camera men, before the rest of the locker room, police and WWE officials, led by Triple H could break in.

-title reign: 49 days

11/20/11 CM Punk [2] New York City, NY Madison Square Garden Survivor Series

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-Ricardo Rodriguez accompanied Del Rio.

-During the match, Rodriguez was up on the apron, but Punk kicked him in the face. Del Rio attempted a roll up for a two. Both men arose, with Punk kicking Del Rio in the head for a two count. Punk then locked in the Anaconda Vice for the submission.

-Paul Heyman joined Punk in September 2012 as his agent.

-This was Punk's fifth world title [2 WWE, 3 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 434 days

1/27/13 The Rock [8] Phoenix, AZ U.S. Airways Arena Royal Rumble

-Referee: Mike Chioda

-Paul Heyman accompanied his client, CM Punk.

-Rock made his challenge for the title nearly six months in advance at the 7/23/12 Raw 1000 show.

-WWE Chairman Mr. McMahon declared that if The Shield interfered, Punk would be stripped of the title. The trio of the Shield had been interfering on Punk's behalf in a handful of matches, starting at Survivor Series.

-During the match, the lights went out, with announcer Michael Cole reporting that The Shield attacked The Rock. When the lights came back on, Rock was laid out on a table on the outside. Punk rolled Rock back in the ring and made the pin. McMahon came out and was about to strip Punk of the title. However, Rock convinced McMahon to re-start the match instead. After the restart, Rock reversed a GTS attempt into a spinebuster. Rock then hit the People's Elbow for the pin.

-On the 2/18/13 Raw, The Rock revealed a new design for the WWE championship belt. It had a giant WWE logo on its faceplate.

-The Rock became a 10-time world champion (8 WWE, 2 WCW)

-title reign: 70 days

4/07/13 John Cena [11] East Rutherford, NJ MetLife Stadium WrestleMania 29

-referee: Chad Patton

-During the match, after numerous attempts to apply their finishing holds, kick outs and counters, Cena countered a Rock Bottom and hit the Attitude Adjustment for the pin.

-Cena became a 13-time world champion [11 WWE, 2 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 133 days

8/18/13 Daniel Bryan Los Angeles, CA Staples Center SummerSlam

-Special referee: Triple H

-During the match, Cena hit a spinebuster, even though he was attempting an Attitude Adjustment. Bryan got to his feet first, and attempted a flying body press. Cena caught him, and hoisted him up into an AA. Bran reversed it into a rolling cradle for a two count. Bryan then connected with a kick to the head. Then, Bryan won clean with a running knee to Cena's head.

-this was Bryan's second world title [1 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-real name: Bryan Danielson

-title reign: 0 days

8/18/13 Randy Orton [7] Los Angeles, CA Staples Center SummerSlam

- referee: Triple H

-At the conclusion of Bryan's victory for the WWE title, Randy Orton came to ringside, indicating he would cash in on his Money in the Bank title match opportunity. Orton seemed to change his mind and started to walk away. Then, Triple H, still in the ring as the referee, attacked Bryan. Triple H hit a Pedigree on Bryan. Orton then cashed in the Money in the Bank, covering a knocked out Bryan for the title.

-This was Orton's 10th world title [7 WWE, 3 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 28 days

9/15/13 Daniel Bryan [2] Detroit, MI Joe Louis Arena Night of Champions PPV

-referee: Scott Armstrong; John Cone

-During the match, referee Armstrong got knocked out of the ring when Bryan kicked Orton, with Orton colliding with Armstrong. John Cone come out as a replacement. Later, Armstrong recovered and resumed refereeing duties. Orton tried an RKO which Bryan reversed into a backslide attempt. Orton slithered out. Bryan followed up with the kick to the head, then a running knee. Armstrong counted three, although at a faster pace than normal.

-this was Bryan's third world title [2 WWE, 1 World Heavyweight]

-title reign: 1 day

9/16/13 VACANT

-The following night on Raw, WWE COO Triple H accused Daniel Bryan of being in conspiracy with the referee for a fast count. Triple H ruled the WWE Championship was now in "abeyance" and there was no WWE champion. Furthermore, he ruled that Orton and Bryan would meet at the 10/06/13 Battleground PPV in Buffalo to determine a new champion.

-During the 10/06/13 match, Bryan had Orton in his Yes Lock submission. Big Show came to the ring and pulled out referee John Cone. He then punched Bryan in the head knocking him out. During all this, Big Show appeared conflicted about his actions. Meanwhile, WWE official Brad Maddox called out referee Scott Armstrong to the ring, as Orton covered Bryan. Show then pulled out Armstrong and punched him out. Show stepped in the ring with Orton and knocked him out with the punch. The PPV ended without a winner.

-On the 10/07/13 Raw, WWE GM Brad Maddox orders an Orton vs. Bryan rematch in a Hell in a Cell match. The fans would select a Hall of Famer as special referee. The fans, via vote on the WWE app, chose Shawn Michaels over Mr. Bob Backlund and Booker T.

10/27/13 Randy Orton [8] Miami, FL America Airlines Arena Hell in a Cell

-This was a Hell in a Cell match

-special referee: Shawn Michaels (inside); Mike Chioda (outside)

-In the lead up to the match, Michaels defended Bryan to Triple H and the rest of the WWE officials that Bryan deserves a fair chance. Orton worried that Michaels would be biased against him, but Triple H assured Michaels would do what was right.

-During the match, WWE COO Triple H came out, continuing to argue with Michaels. A distracted Michaels missed in attempts by Orton. Bryan collided with Orton, which in turn collided with Michaels, knocking him down. While Triple H tried open the cage, Bryan hit the running knee on Orton, but Michaels was still too groggy to count. Triple H finally entered the ring, shoving Bryan out of the ring so Triple H could check on Michaels. Bryan responded with a running knee to Triple H. Michaels finally recovered and superkicked Bryan. Orton made the cover, as Michaels reluctantly counted three.

-PPV title defenses: defeated Big Show at the 11/24/13 Survivor Series PPV;
-On the 11/25/13 Raw, WWE COO Triple H announced that Orton would face World champion John Cena a title unification match, for the newly named WWE World title. The event would take place at the 12/15/13 TLC PPV in a TLC match.
-This was Orton's 11th world title [8 WWE, 3 World Heavyweight]
-title reign: 161 days

12/15/13 UNIFIED TITLE Houston, TX Toyota Center [TLC](#)

-This was a TLC match to unify the WWE title (Orton) with the World title (Cena). It was announced earlier in the evening, the new title would be called the WWE World title.
-referee: Chad Patton (inside); Ryan Tran (outside)
-During the match, Orton handcuffed Cena to the bottom rope. As Orton scaled the ladder, Cena unscrewed the turnbuckle, freeing the bottom ring rope. However, Cena was still attached, but had enough slack to scale the ladder and knock Orton down. Orton recovered, grabbed the rope, and tossed Cena off and on to a table in the corner. Orton ascended the ladder, and unclipped the hanger that held both title belts to become WWE World champion. The lineage and history would now run through the WWE title.
-This was Orton's 12th world title [8 WWE, 4 World Heavyweight]
-The new champion carried both title belts.
-editor's note: the number of title reigns for all future champions will reflect the total number of prior WWE and World Heavyweight titles won.

4/06/14 Daniel Bryan [4] New Orleans, LA Mercedes Benz Superdome WrestleMania XXX

-referee: Mike Chioda
-This was a triple threat match: Randy Orton [ch.] vs. Batista vs. Daniel Bryan
-Batista earned his slot by winning the 2014 Royal Rumble; Bryan earned his title shot by defeating Triple H earlier in the evening in which the winner would be the third participant in the triple threat.
-During the match, with Bryan knocked out on the outside, Orton was about to punt kick Batista. Bryan came out of nowhere to deliver a running knee to Orton. Batista threw Bryan out of the ring, only to garner a two-count on Orton. He then followed up with a Batista Bomb on Orton. Before he could cover Orton, Bryan came back with a running knee to Batista. Bryan then locked on the Yes Lock, forcing Batista to submit.
-title reign: 64 days

6/09/14 VACANT

-On the 6/09/14 Raw, Dr. Joseph Maroon updated the status an injury to Daniel Bryan. The doctor said that Bryan would be unable to return to the ring soon because of a neck injury. Because he would be unable to defend the title, The Authority: Triple H & Stephanie McMahon stripped Bryan of the title.
-McMahon announced the title would be determined in a Money in the Bank ladder match at the Money in the Bank PPV.

6/29/14 John Cena [15] Boston, MA TD Garden Money in the Bank

-This was a eight-man Money in the Bank ladder match to determine a new champion. The participants: Alberto Del Rio, Randy Orton, Kane, Bray Wyatt, Sheamus, John Cena, Roman Reigns and Cesaro (w/Paul Heyman)
-Referee: Mike Chioda and Charles Robinson
-During the match, with the ring cleared, Sheamus seemed to be clear to retrieve the title belts. Cesaro pulled him down and gave him the Neutralizer (cradle face-first piledriver). As Cesar climbed the ladder, Randy Orton pulled him down and gave him an RKO. As Orton tried to climb the ladder, Reigns came in and knocked Orton down. Kane came in and chokeslammed Reigns off the ladder. Cena pulled Kane down and gave him an Attitude Adjustment. As Orton tried to climb up, Cena also pulled him down with an AA. Cena then climbed up to retrieve the title belts and win the match.
-title reign: 49 days

8/17/14 Brock Lesnar [4] Los Angeles, CA Staples Center SummerSlam PPV

-referee: Charles Robinson
-Paul Heyman accompanied Lesnar.
-Lesnar dominated a majority of the match. In one of his brief flurries, Cena locked on the STF. But, Lesnar rolled out, then hit the F5 for the clean pin.
-title reign: 224 days

Kick, but Reigns kicked out. After attempting another Brouge Kick, Regins countered with a spear and made the pin to win the title.

-title reign: 41 days

1/24/16 Triple H [14] Orlando, FL Amway Center Royal Rumble

-This was the Royal Rumble match.

-WWE chairman Vince McMahon, as part of the long-running Authority's feud with Roman Reigns, forced Reigns to put up his title in the 30-man Royal Rumble.

-Triple H, also the WWE COO, entered as #30. The finish saw him eliminate Roman Reigns, then Dean Ambrose to win the match and title.

-Triple H's 14 title reigns reflect 8 WWF/WWE championships and 5 World Heavyweight championships.

-title reign: 70 days

4/03/16 Roman Reigns [3] Arlington, TX AT&T Stadium WrestleMania

-referee: Chad Patton

-Stephanie McMahon accompanied Triple H

-Reigns won with a spear after ducking a sledgehammer shot by Triple H

-title reign: 77 days

6/19/16 Seth Rollins [2] Las Vegas, NV T-Mobile Arena Money in the Bank

-referee: Mike Chioda

-This was a battle of former Shield teammates. This was Rollins first major match back from the November 2015 injury that forced him to vacate the title. Rollins made a surprise return at the Fastlane event and attacked Reigns after a successful title defense.

-The match was relatively even. Around the 23 minute mark, Rollins dodged out of a spear attempt on the outside and Reigns crashed into the barricade. Rollins rolled Reigns back in for a Pedigree attempt. With the referee's back turned to talk to the ringside doctor, Reigns rammed Rollins in to the referee's back. Reigns then hit a spear, but the referee was slow to cover and Rollins kicked out at two. Reigns attempted another spear, but Rollins reversed it into a Pedigree in mid-air. However, Reigns kicked out at two. Rollins applied another Pedigree and garnered the pin to become champion.

-title reign: One minute, 59 seconds (1:59 from the bell ring to finish each match)

6/19/16 Dean Ambrose Las Vegas, NV T-Mobile Arena Money in the Bank

-referee: Mike Chioda

-Earlier in the evening, Ambrose won the Money in the Bank ladder match. After Reigns won, Ambrose cashed his title shot in.

-After Rollins won the title, Dean Ambrose's music played. With Rollins facing the stage, Ambrose came from behind and nailed Rollins in the head with the Money in the Bank briefcase. Ambrose officially cashed it in.

-As soon as the match started, Ambrose nailed Rollins with the Dirty Deeds (double-arm DDT) and scored the pin to win the title.

-real name: Jonathan Good

-title reign: 84 days

9/11/16 A.J. Styles Richmond, VA Richmond Coliseum Backlash

-referee: Mike Chioda

-In the match, the referee was knocked down by Ambrose when Styles reversed a Dirty Deeds DDT attempt by pushing him forward. With the referee down, Styles kicked Ambrose low and hit the Styles Clash for the pin.

-real name: Allen Jones