

WWE United States title



The WWE United States title was resurrected in 2003 as a Smackdown-exclusive title after the brand split of 2003. It traces its lineage to the WCW U.S. title (and before that the NWA U.S. title) from 1975-01.

The [-] designation reflects on NWA/WCW & WWE U.S. titles won, with a note if the champion also held the WCW version of the title.

Date	Champion	City	Arena	Event
7/27/03	Eddie Guerrero [2]	Denver, CO	Pepsi Center	Vengeance

-referee: Mike Chioda

-On the 6/19/03 edition of Smackdown, GM Stephanie McMahon announces a tournament for the new U.S. title.

-Benoit had Guerrero in the Crippler Crossface, but Guerrero got to the ropes. As the referee pulled Benoit off, an upset Benoit got into his face. Guerrero pushed Benoit into the referee, knocking him down. Guerrero then retrieved the title belt and nailed Benoit in the head. Guerrero hit the frog splash, but only got a two count. The referee was still groggy when Guerrero got the belt again, but this time nailed the referee. He placed the belt on Benoit and played dead, hoping the referee would wake up and DQ Benoit. However, the referee didn't recover. Benoit did and nailed Guerrero with the belt and placed Guerrero back in the Crossface. Still, no referee. Benoit tried to revive the ref. Guerrero tried to hit him with the belt, but Benoit hit a German suplex. Benoit went to the top rope for a headbutt dive. Guerrero pulled Chioda in front of the headbutt. Rhyno came into the ring and gored his supposed friend Benoit. A surprised Guerrero then connected with another frog splash. This time the referee recovered to make the pin.

-Tournament results: Quarterfinals: Chris Benoit d. Rhyno (6/19/03 Smackdown; 6/17/03 San Antonio, TX); Matt Hardy d. Rikishi (6/26/03 Smackdown; 6/24/03 New York City, NY); Billy Gunn d. John Cena (7/03/03 Smackdown; 7/01/03 Rochester, NY); Eddie Guerrero d. Ultimo Dragon (7/10/03 Smackdown; 7/08/03 Toronto, ON); Semifinals: Benoit d. Hardy (7/17/03 Smackdown; 7/15/03 Columbus, OH); Guerrero d. Gunn (7/17/03 Smackdown; 7/15/03 Columbus, OH)

-Guerrero also was a one-time WCW U.S. champion.

-real name: Eddie Guerrero

-title reign: 84 days

10/19/03	Big Show	Baltimore, MD	1st Mariner Arena	No Mercy
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-referee: Nick Patrick

-The match came about when Big Show talked smack about the Guerrero family. Eddie retaliated by spraying Guerrero with sewage. On the 10/16/03 Smackdown, Show got his revenge by chokeslamming Guerrero on the top of one of his low rider.

-Around the seven-minute mark, Show kicked out of a Guerrero pin. Guerrero landed on the back of the referee. Show tried a legdrop on Guerrero, but hit the referee instead. With the ref down, Guerrero used brass knux to KO Show, but the giant kicked out at two. Guerrero then grabbed the title belt and nailed Show with the ref still groggy. Guerrero connected with another frog splash but for only a two. Guerrero charged at Show, who countered with a spinebuster for a two count. Show

then hit with a chokeslam, but Guerrero broke the pin with his foot on the rope. Show tried another chokeslam, but Guerrero kicked him low (the referee was still groggy) and executed a DDT. Show kicked out at two. As both men got up, Show chokeslammed Guerrero for the pin.

-real name: Paul Wight

-title reign: 147 days

3/14/04 John Cena New York City, NY Madison Square Garden [WrestleMania XX](#)

-referee: Jim Korderas

-Cena made the WrestleMania challenge to Big Show on the 2/19/04 edition of Smackdown.

-After making a late rally out of a Cobra Clutch, Cena hit an FU on Show, but only got a two count. Cena then grabbed his chain wanting to nail show, but the referee stopped him. Cena tossed away the chain. As the referee went to retrieve it, Cena grabbed a pair of brass knux and nailed Show. He hit the FU and got the three count.

-real name: John Cena

-title reign: 113 days (115 days TV time)

7/06/04 VACANT Winnipeg, MB Winnipeg Arena [Smackdown- 7/08/04](#)

-For weeks, Smackdown GM Kurt Angle was unhappy of the rebellious antics of John Cena.

-During a Cena title defense vs. Booker T, Angle (in a wheelchair) got up and hit Cena with his cane. Cena later took a bump onto the floor and accidentally bumped into Angle. Angle's body guard, Luther Reigns interfered in the match, causing a DQ. Angle then stripped Cena of the title for laying a hand on him.

-On the 7/22/04 edition of Smackdown, GM Angle announced his intentions to make Booker T the new U.S. champion by the end of the night. However, Mr. McMahon showed up in the last segment of the show and fired Angle as GM.

-The following week on Smackdown, Booker T and seven other wrestlers (including Cena) talked about why they should be the new champion. McMahon introduced Theodore Long as the new GM of Smackdown. Long said that the eight men would compete in an elimination match later in the evening to crown a new champion.

7/27/04 Booker T [2] Cincinnati, OH US Bank Arena [Smackdown- 7/29/04](#)

-referee: Brian Hebner

-This was an eight-man elimination match for the vacant U.S. title. Two men would be in the ring at a time, with the others on the apron. Eliminations occurred by pinfall or submission, DQ or CO.

-The competitors: Rob Van Dam vs. John Cena vs. Charlie Haas vs. Kenzo Suzuki vs. Billy Gunn vs. Rene Dupree vs. Luther Reigns vs. Booker T

-Gunn eliminated Haas after a Famoser; Reigns eliminated Dupree after a rolling neck breaker; Suzuki was disqualified after hitting Cena with the title belt on the outside (moments after Cena kissed Hiroko, Suzuki's interpreter); Cena pinned Gunn after an FU; Cena pinned Reigns after an FU; RVD hit a Five Star Frog Splash on Cena, then rolled out of the ring. Booker, who made a blind tag moments earlier, then made the cover to eliminate Cena. RVD then became victim of the scissors kick. Booker made the cover to win the match and title.

-Booker T was also a one-time WCW United States champion.

-real name: Booker Huffman

-title reign: 68 days (66 days TV time)

10/03/04 John Cena [2] East Rutherford, NJ Continental Airlines Arena [No Mercy](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-This was match 5 of a best of 5 series. Because it was a series, the title could change hands on a CO or DQ.

-On the 8/05/04 edition of Smackdown, Cena defeated Rob Van Dam to be #1 contender for the U.S. title. GM Theodore Long said because Cena was previously stripped of the title, Booker T and Cena would engage in a best of 5 series for the title.

-Around the 9 minute mark, Booker T executed a Book End, but only got a two count. Booker considered bringing a chair in the ring, but put it down after threat of a DQ. He missed a scissors kick, which led to a two count for Cena. After a punch in a kick, Booker put Cena in a front facelock. Cena countered by ramming Booker into the corner then put him in the FU to score the pin.

-Match 1: Cena d. Booker T (8/15/04 Toronto, ON SummerSlam); Match 2: Booker T d. Cena (8/24/04 Fresno, CA; 8/26/04 Smackdown); Match 3: Booker T d. Cena (8/27/04 Sydney, AUSTRALIA); Match 4: Cena d. Booker T (9/14/04 Spokane, WA; 9/16/04 Smackdown)

-title reign: 2 days (4 days TV time)

10/05/04 Carlito Caribbean Cool Boston, MA FleetCenter [Smackdown- 10/07/04](#)

-referee: Brian Hebner

-Opening up Smackdown, Cena celebrates in front of the home crowd. He is interrupted by the debuting Carlito Caribbean Cool, who is making his live debut. He goads Cena until Cena challenges him to a title match. Carlito then DDT'd Cena and spit an apple in his face.

-Around the 12 minute mark, Cena attempted an FU. Carlito held on to the top rope and got on his feet on the apron. Cena punched him off. Carlito grabbed the title belt and returned to the ring, but Cena beat him to the punch. Cena grabbed the belt, but the referee eventually got it back. With the referee turned away, Carlito grabbed Cena's chain from the corner and hit him in the jaw to knock him out. Carlito then made the pin for the victory.

-real name: Carly Colon

-title reign: 42 days (real/TV time)

11/16/04 John Cena [3]

Dayton, OH

UD Arena

[Smackdown- 11/18/04](#)

-referee: Nick Patrick

-Jesus accompanied Carlito.

-On the 10/14/04 Smackdown, GM Theodore Long announced that Cena was injured after hours in a nightclub the week before in Boston, stabbed several times. It was also reported that Carlito and his new bodyguard, Jesus, were also at the club, but not fully implicated they were the culprits. When Cena came back, Long booked a title match. Carlito tried to weasel his way out by claiming a shoulder injury, but Long didn't care.

-Before the match started, Cena beat back an attack by Jesus. Cena then destroyed Carlito on the outside, hitting him with a chair on the injured shoulder (when the referee wasn't looking). Cena threw Carlito in the ring and the match officially began. Cena spit an apple in the face of Carlito then finished him off with an FU for the pin.

-After the match, Jesus attacked Cena, injuring his kidneys.

-Cena introduced a personalized "Spinner" belt on 12/12/04 at the Armageddon PPV in Duluth, GA.



-title reign: 105 days (real/TV time)

3/01/05 Orlando Jordan

Albany, NY

Pepsi Arena

[Smackdown- 3/03/05](#)

-referee: Brian Hebner

-At the start of Smackdown, Cena cut a promo on JBL, saying he would put his U.S. title on the line against JBL's Chief of Staff, Orlando Jordan. JBL threatened to remove Jordan from his cabinet if he did not win the title.

-At about the 10 minute mark, Cena hit an FU on Jordan. The Basham Brothers ran in to interfere, but Cena was able to fight them off (the referee did not call for a DQ, even though both Bashams entered the ring). While the referee put out one of the downed Bashams, Cena returned to Jordan. JBL, hiding on the other side of the ring, nailed Cena in the head with the title belt (behind the ref's back). Jordan then made the pin to claim the title.

-JBL also brought down the other U.S. title belt. The following week on Smackdown, JBL blew up the spinner belt and gave Jordan the "old" one.

-real name: Orlando Jordan

-title reign: 172 days (170 days TV time)

8/21/05 Chris Benoit [3]

Washington, DC

MCI Center

[SummerSlam](#)

-referee: Jim Korderas

-At the Great American Bash (7/24/05), Jordan cheated to defeat Benoit. On the 7/28/05 Smackdown, Benoit made Jordan tap to win a tag team match (Christian & Jordan vs. Benoit & Booker T). On the 8/18/05 Smackdown, Jordan's interference caused Benoit lose to Randy Orton.

-After a lockup and Jordan cheap shot after a break in the corner, Benoit German suplexed Jordan, then applied the Crippler Crossface to win the match in under 30 seconds.

-Benoit was also a two-time WCW U.S. champion, giving him 3 total U.S. reigns.

-real name: Chris Benoit

-title reign: 58 days (61 days TV time)

10/18/05 Booker T [3] Reno, NV Lawlor Events Center [Smackdown- 10/21/05](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-Sharmell (Booker T's wife) accompanied Booker.

-Booker earned a title shot by winning a Fatal Four Way a week before, defeating JBL, Rey Mysterio and Christian.

-Around the 9 minute mark, Benoit German suplexed Booker three times then connected with a top rope headbutt. Booker kicked out at 2. When both men returned to their feet, Booker high kicked Benoit down. Booker went to the top, but Benoit caught him with a superplex. Sharmell tried to slide a chair into the ring, but Benoit caught her. Booker took advantage of the distraction with punches and kicks that sent Benoit on the ropes. As the referee moved Booker off of Benoit, Sharmell low-blown Benoit. Booker hit the scissors kick and made the pin. It was unclear whether Booker realized his wife cheated to help him win.

-With his prior WCW reign, Booker has 3 total US title reigns.

-title reign: 35 days (real/TV time)

11/22/05 HELD-UP Sheffield, ENGLAND Hallam FM Arena [Smackdown- 11/25/05](#)

-Booker T defended the title against Benoit, which wound up in a double pin (two referees counted down the shoulders of a different competitor). GM Theodore Long made the decision to hold up the title and decide it in a Best of 7 series, harkening back to the Booker vs. Benoit 1998 Best of 7 series for the #1 contender for the WCW World TV title.

1/10/06 Booker T [4] Philadelphia, PA Wachovia Center [Smackdown- 1/13/06](#)

-referee: Nick Patrick

-Randy Orton substituted for Booker in this match. Booker T & Sharmell accompanied Orton. If Orton won, Booker T would be champion.

-This was the final of a Best of 7 series for the vacant U.S. title. Booker received an injury after match 4, but was allowed to have Randy Orton substitute for him in the next three matches.

-Early in the match, Booker T and Sharmell were ejected from ringside. Later, Benoit tried to apply the Sharpshooter. Orton kicked Benoit off, sending him crashing into the referee. Orton nailed Benoit with a neckbreaker. Orlando Jordan came down, but Orton nailed him off the apron. Orton tried an RKO, but Benoit countered with a Crippler Crossface. Booker & Sharmell came back down. Booker got in the ring and tried to hit Benoit with his crutch, but Benoit ducked and tossed Booker out of the ring. Orton tried another RKO, and Benoit once again countered with a Crippler Crossface. Benoit briefly broke the hold to revive the referee and went back to the hold. The referee was still down, allowing Booker to come in the ring and nail Benoit with the title belt. Orton made the cover to win the title for Booker.

-Series results: Match 1: Booker d. Benoit (11/27/05 Detroit, MI; Survivor Series); Match 2: Booker d. Benoit (11/29/05 Cincinnati, OH; live Smackdown); Match 3: Booker d. Benoit (12/06/05 Columbia, SC; 12/09/05 Smackdown); Match 4: Benoit d. Booker (12/18/05 Providence, RI; Armageddon PPV); Match 5: Benoit d. Randy Orton [sub for injured Booker] by DQ (12/27/05 Uncasville, CT; 12/30/05 Smackdown); Match 6: Benoit d. Randy Orton [sub for injured Booker] by DQ (1/03/06 Wilkes-Barre, PA; 1/06/06 Smackdown)

-With Booker's prior WCW title, he is now a 4-time total U.S. champ.

-title reign: 40 days (37 days TV time)

2/19/06 Chris Benoit [4] Baltimore, MD 1st Mariner Arena [No Way Out](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-Sharmell accompanied Booker T

-Even after "winning" the title, Booker was still on the shelf with a groin injury. Finlay substituted for Booker in a title defense vs. Benoit on the 2/03/06 Smackdown, losing by DQ. Benoit won a #1 contender 4-way (vs. JBL, Matt Hardy and Orlando Jordan) on the 2/10/06 Smackdown.

-Before the match, Booker T tried to forfeit away the title, but Benoit wouldn't allow it. Booker then sneak attacked Benoit at the start of the match. Late in the match, Sharmell distracted Benoit, allowing Booker to hit a scissors kick for a two-count. With both men back up, Benoit reversed an Irish whip into the corner. Booker tried a rolling cradle. Benoit rolled through, about to apply the Sharpshooter. Sharmell tried to distract Benoit again. Benoit hit the ropes, knocking Sharmell to the floor. Booker tried a spin kick, but Benoit ducked. Benoit applied the Sharpshooter then switched to the Crippler Crossface to force the submission.

-After the match, a parade of wrestlers in the back congratulated Benoit. He finished by giving a pep talk to Rey Mysterio, with Chavo Guerrero and Vickie Guerrero looking on.

-Benoit was also a two-time WCW U.S. champion, giving him 4 total U.S. reigns.

-title reign: 42 days

4/02/06 John "Bradshaw" Layfield Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena [WrestleMania 22](#)

-referee: Nick Patrick

-Jillian Hall accompanied JBL.

-On the 2/24/06 Smackdown, Benoit injured JBL's hand. On the 3/10/06 show, JBL vowed revenge, saying he would take Benoit's US title.

-Around the 8 minute mark, Benoit hit the Three Amigos (three straight German suplexes). He then landed the diving headbutt. JBL kicked out at 2. A few moves later, Benoit locked in the Crippler Crossface, but JBL reversed it, pinning Benoit by holding the rope.

-real name: John Layfield

-title reign: 51 days (54 days TV time)

5/23/06 Bobby Lashley Bakersfield, CA Rabobank Arena [Smackdown- 5/26/06](#)

-referee: Jim Korderas

-JBL began the show, whining about losing to World Heavyweight champion Rey Mysterio at Judgment Day. Mysterio came out and challenged JBL to defend his title. He brought out Bobby Lashley to challenge JBL.

-About a minute into the match, JBL went for the Clothesline from Hell. Lashley ducked and countered with a spear. he then pinned JBL for the title.

-real name: Bobby Lashley

-title reign: 49 days (real/TV time)

7/11/06 Finlay Minneapolis, MN Target Center [Smackdown- 7/14/06](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-Finlay, along with William Regal, were part of King Booker's court. They constantly ran interference for Booker, especially in his matches vs. Lashley. Five months earlier, Finlay's interference helped JBL defeat Lashley at No Way Out PPV.

-Around the five minute mark, a frustrated Lashley brought his sheleighleigh in the ring. Lashley cut Finlay off and tossed the weapon out of the ring. A few minutes later, a frustrated Lashley brought a chair into the ring. The referee took away the chair. With the distraction, Finlay's little friend emerged from under the ring and handed him a second sheleighleigh. Finlay nailed Lashley to make the pin.

-real name: Dave Finlay

-title reign: 49 days (real/TV time)

8/29/06 Mr. Kennedy Reading, PA Sovereign Center [Smackdown- 9/01/06](#)

-referee: Nick Patrick

-This was a triple threat match: Finlay [ch] vs. Bobby Lashley vs. Kennedy

- Earlier on the show, Kennedy requested a U.S. title shot from GM Theodore Long.. Long granted him a shot, with a twist. As Finlay and Kennedy were about to square off, Long came out and added Lashley to the match. Finlay vs. Lashley was a continuation of the Lashley vs. King's Court feud.

-Late in the match, Lashley speared Kennedy, who rolled out of the ring. A few moves later, Finlay attempted to use a sheleighleigh, but Lashley ducked and countered with a spear. Lashley picked Finlay up for a running power slam. As Lashley made the cover, Kennedy came back in the ring and rolled Lashley up using the tights for the pin.

-real name: Ken Anderson

-title reign: 42 days (real/TV time)

10/10/06 Chris Benoit [5] Jacksonville, FL Jacksonville VM Arena [Smackdown- 10/13/06](#)

-referee: Jim Korderas

-For weeks, Kennedy wanted to leave Smackdown and go to Raw. Kennedy just defeated Undertaker by DQ 10/08/06 at No Mercy . Kennedy said that he agreed to put his title on the line against a man he never defeated on Smackdown, and if he wins he gets to go to Raw. Chris Benoit was the surprise opponent, returning to action after a five month sabattical.

-Around the 15 minute mark, with Kennedy in control, The Undertaker's music started to play, then he came out. Benoit took advantage of a distracted Kennedy with three German suplexes, then finished him off with the Crippler Crossface, forcing Kennedy to tap.

-Benoit was also a two-time WCW U.S. champion, giving him 5 total U.S. reigns.

-title reign: 222 days (219 days TV time)

5/20/07 Montel Vontavious Porter St. Louis, MO Scottrade Center [Judgment Day](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-this was a 2 of 3 falls match

-The rivalry began at No Way Out in February, when Benoit & The Hardy Boys defeated MVP & MNM. On the 3/09/07 Smackdown, MVP challenged Benoit to a title match at WrestleMania. Over the next few weeks to prove himself, MVP took on champions of other countries (El Gran Latte of Honduras, Cedrick Von Hausen of Liechtenstein, Viko Vatamongo of Ethiopia). Benoit defeated MVP at the 4/01/07 WrestleMania. MVP did score a non-title win on the 4/13/07 edition of Smackdown. The two met again on the 4/27/07 Smackdown in an impromptu match, where MVP took an intentional countout loss. Benoit won the title rematch at the 4/29/07 Backlash. On the 5/04/07 Smackdown, GM Theodore Long agreed to give MVP one more title match if he defeated Kane that night. MVP pinned Kane to earn the match (with help from William Regal & Dave Taylor). On the 5/18/07 Smackdown, Benoit defeated Finlay by DQ in a non-title match. MVP & Finlay attacked Benoit's knee after the match. Also on the show, the match at Judgment Day was made 2 of 3 falls.

-MVP took the first fall around the 8 minute mark, reversing a Benoit electric chair into a Playmaker (leg behind Benoit's head, arm bar and rolling through). In the second fall, MVP worked mostly on the knee. Around the 14 minute mark, MVP broke out of a Crippler Crossface, targeting Benoit's weakened knee with a series of elbows. MVP rolled through and managed a two count on Benoit out of a small package. Benoit got up and grabbed MVP's legs. MVP kicked off, sending Benoit to the ropes. Benoit's knee gave out as he stumbled down. MVP used his legs to torque Benoit's hurt knee, then small packaged him for the three count.

-real name: Hassan Hamin Assad (or Alvin Burke Jr.)

-title reign: 343 days

4/27/08 Matt Hardy Baltimore, MD 1st Mariner Arena [Backlash](#)

-referee: Mickie Henson

-This feud stemmed from the summer of 2007. At one point, MVP and Hardy competed in a number of non-wrestling competitions (arm wrestling, hoops shooting, chess, beer drinking to name a few). The two then made an unlikely pair, coming together to win the WWE tag team title from Deuce 'n Domino. After they lost the titles on the 11/19/07 Smackdown, MVP attacked Hardy, injuring his knee, putting him out of action for 5 months. At WrestleMania, Hardy returned to attack MVP, costing him a chance to win the Money in the Bank ladder match.

-Around the 10 minute mark, MVP kicked Hardy in the head, sending him out of the ring. Hardy just beat the 10 count to return. MVP continued with kicks to the head. With Hardy slumped in the corner, MVP went for a running kick. Hardy dodged out of the way and caught an unbalanced MVP with a Twist of Fate to score the pin.

-real name: Matt Hardy

-title reign: 84 days

7/20/08 Shelton Benjamin Uniondale, NY Nassau VM Coliseum [Great American Bash](#)

-referee: Jim Korderas

-On the 7/11/08 Smackdown, Benjamin defeated Hardy in a on-title match.

-Around the 8 minute mark, both men were trading moves and near falls. Hardy executed a Side Effect for only a two count. Hardy attempted a Twist of Fate, but Benjamin shoved him off into the corner, followed by a forearm to the kidneys.

Benjamin placed Hardy on the top rope facing outward. Hardy elbowed Benjamin off back onto the mat then followed up with a moonsault. But Benjamin put a knee up to stun Hardy. With both men back on their feet, Benjamin hit a Paydirt (form of a leaping DDT) to secure the pin.

-real name: Shelton Benjamin

-title reign: 240 days (243 days TV time)

3/17/09 Montel Vontavious Porter [2] Corpus Christi, TX America Bank Center [Smackdown- 3/20/09](#)

-referee: Jack Doan

-The rivalry started at the 2/06/09 Smackdown, when Benjamin and MVP got into it after they were eliminated from a Battle Royal. The next week on Smackdown, Benjamin attacked MVP to cause a DQ victory over Chavo Guerrero. MVP & R-Truth defeated Benjamin & Guerrero in a tag match on the 2/20/09 Smackdown. On the 2/27/09 show, MVP attacked Benjamin after he lost a non-title match to Guerrero. on the 3/13/09 episode, Guerrero & Benjamin defeated MVP & R-Truth.

-The title match took place on the 500th episode of Smackdown.

-Around the four minute mark, MVP scored back-to-back near falls, with a backslide and roll up. Benjamin came back with a knee to the back and an exploder suplex for a two-count. Benjamin was waiting for MVP to get to his feet. He made a charge but MVP sidestepped him and sent him neck first on the top rope. MVP then nailed the Playmaker and the pin.

-On the 4/13/09 edition of Raw, the Raw brand selected in a random basis MVP with the top overall pick in the WWE Draft.

-title reign: 76 days (73 days TV time)

6/01/09 Kofi Kingston Birmingham, AL BJCC Arena [Raw- live](#)

-referee: Jack Doan

-Kingston won a #1 contenders triple threat match on the 5/25/09 Raw, defeating Matt Hardy and William Regal.

-At the seven minute mark, both men were down after a hard battle. Kingston attempted a dropkick but missed. MVP applied the Playmaker, but Kingston squirmed out. He went for the Trouble in Paradise kick, but MVP ducked. MVP took Kingston up for a suplex, but he slipped out the back and leaped on MVP's shoulders for a forward roll pinning combination. MVP stacked Kingston up for a one-count, before Kingston reversed it to pin MVP.

-After the match, MVP handed the belt to Kingston.

-title reign: 126 days

10/05/09 The Miz Wilkes-Barre, PA Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza [Raw- live](#)

-referee: Chad Patton

-For the past few months, Kingston retained his title, defeating The Miz and others in multi-person matches. Kingston defeated The Miz, one-on-one at the 9/13/09 Breaking Point . The next night on Raw, Miz stole the title belt in a tag match (Swagger & Miz d. Kingston & Primo). The next week, Miz made disparaging remarks about Kingston's background, Kingston attacked Miz and took back the title belt. Kingston defended the title later that night against Jack Swagger, winning by CO. Swagger, however, walked off stealing the belt. On the 9/28/09 Raw, Kingston stole the belt back.

-For this Raw, guest GM Ben Roethlisberger declared that if The Miz lost, he would have to publicly proclaim "I am the Miz, and I am awful" (a humiliating turn on The Miz's "I am awesome" catch phrase).

-Around the six minute mark, both men were trading punches. Kingston used an arsenal of a flying forearm (after reversing a Miz Irish whip), a second flying forearm and dropkick. Kingston went for a high cross body, but Miz rused the momentum to roll through for a two-count. Kingston blocked a Miz clothesline and turned into an SOS for a near fall. Kingston charged at Miz in the corner, but Miz ducked and Kingston went into the corner. He stumbled into a Skull Crushing Finale for the pin.

-On the 2/08/10 Raw, Miz & Big Show won the Unified WWE tag team title, defeating D-Generation X and Straight Edge Society in a triple threat elimination match.

-real name: Mike Mizanain

-title reign: 224 days

5/17/10 Bret Hart [5] Toronto, ON Air Canada Centre [Raw-live](#)

-referee: John Cone

-This was a no DQ, no CO match

-On the 4/12/10 Raw, Miz was bragging how ShowMiz was the greatest tag team in history. This brought out Bret Hart as a surprise, who rebutted Miz's claims. Hart said that the Hart Dynasty could beat ShowMiz. Miz agreed to put the tag title on the line at Extreme Rules, but if they win, Hart would have to declare ShowMiz the greatest of all time. Hart Dynasty won that non-title match. The next night on Raw (4/26/10), Hart Dynasty with Bret Hart in their corner, won the tag title over ShowMiz. Big Show turned on Miz after the match, fed up with his antics.

-On the 5/10/10 Raw, Tyson Kidd (1/2 of the Hart Dynasty) defeated Miz in a on-title match. The stipulation was if Kidd won, Miz would have to defend the title the next week. After losing, Miz said he gets to decide which Hart family member to wrestle. He chose Hart.

-At the start of the 5/17/10 Raw, Bret Hart appeared saying he rejected Miz's challenge, since he doesn't want to be remembered as awrestler haning on too long. Chris Jericho, Miz's new partner for the past few weeks, goaded Hart to take the match and make it no DQ, no CO.

-At the start of the match, Miz called out Vladimir Kozlov & William Regal to neutralize the Hart Dynasty. Those two teams brawled to the back. Jericho & Miz then were in the ring with Hart and Natalya. David Hart Smith returned and took out Jericho. With the ring now just Miz vs. Jericho, Miz knocked down Hart and started to apply the Sharpshooter. Tyson Kid returned and springboard dropkicked him. The Hart Dynasty used a Hart Attack to take out The Miz. Hart then applied the Sharpshooter to force Miz to submit.

-With Hart's four WCW U.S. title reigns, he is a five-time U.S. champion total.

-title reign: 7 days

5/24/10 VACANT

-Bret Hart vacates the title upon being named general manager of Raw on 5/24/10. R-Truth and The Miz would meet to determine a new champion.

5/24/10 R-Truth Toledo, OH Huntington Center [Raw-live](#)

-referee: Chad Patton

-The finish saw Miz block a scissors kick. The Miz attempted a clothesline with Truth bounded off the ropes. Truth dodged out of the way and came back with a Lie Detector (spinning flying forearm) for the pin.

-real name: Ron Killings

-title reign: 21 days

6/14/10 The Miz [2] Charlotte, NC Time Warner Cable Arena [Raw-live](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-This was a fatal four-way.

-The prior week on the 6/07/10 Raw, it was viewer's choice night. The fans picked John Morrison as R-Truth's partner to face The Miz and his chosen partner, Zack Ryder. Miz & Ryder emerged victorious.

-Around the four minute mark with R-Truth and Morrison battling by the ropes, The Miz made a charge. Miz and Morrison simultaneously backdropped Miz to the floor. Morrison rammed R-Truth's head in the corner. He attempted a jumping back elbow off the ropes, but Truth dodged out of the way. He then lifted Morrison up in a suplex position, dropping his midsection on his shoulder. R-Truth covered, but Ryder broke up the pin. R-Truth punched Ryder who fell into the corner. R-Truth missed a charge and Ryder executed a Roughryder (a jumping leg clothesline). Morrison broke up the count by kicking Ryder in the head sending him out of the ring. Morrison went up and landed a Starship Pain (split-legged moonsault). As Morrison made the cover, Miz came out of nowhere, tossed Morrison out and made the cover himself to score the pin.

-title reign: 97 days

9/19/10 Daniel Bryan Rosemont, IL Allstate Arena [Night of Champions](#)

-referee: Jack Doan

-NXT season 2 rookie Alex Riley accompanied The Miz.

-On season one of NXT (starting in February 2010), Miz served as Bryan's pro (mentor). It was a rocky relationship with neither man liking nor respecting another. When NXT took over Raw in a defiant act in June 2010, Bryan choked ring announcer Justin Roberts with his own tie. Despite capturing the pint of a violent takeover, Bryan's acts were too violent, and he was dismissed from the WWE (not part of the storyline). Bryan was re-hired with his first appearance on 8/15/10 at SummerSlam, a surprise replacement for The Miz on Team WWE (vs. Team Nexus). Bryan and Miz resumed their feud, interfering with each other's matches and attacking each other when they could. Bryan making a formal challenge on the US title on the 9/06/10 Raw. The following week, Bryan defeated Alex Riley, substituting for Miz who weaseled out of the match.

-Around the 11 minute mark, Miz threw Bryan out of the ring. Riley tried to charge at Bryan, but he ducked out of the way with Riley banging into the ringpost. Bryan climbed back to the ring apron, shoulder rammed Miz to counter a charge. When Bryan climbed through the ropes, Miz small packaged him for a near fall. A frustrated Miz began punching and kicking Miz. The referee pulled Miz off of him, threatening a DQ. When Miz returned to the prone Bryan, he got caught in a Labell Lock (crossface/arm bar submission) and tapped out.

-real name: Bryan Danielson

-title reign: 176 days

3/14/11 King Sheamus St. Louis, MO Scottrade Center [Raw-live](#)

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-In the weeks leading up to the title match, King Sheamus endured a losing streak, a curse if you will. After losing to Mark Henry on the 2/21/11 Raw, Sheamus had a brief backstage confrontation with Bryan backstage. In a non-title match on the 3/04/11 Raw, Bryan defeated Sheamus by countout. A frustrated Sheamus then challenged Bryan to a match again for next week. Sheamus vowed to quit if he didn't win the title.

-Around the eight minute mark, Sheamus kicked out after a series of hard kicks, including one to threatened. Bryan climbed the top rope. Sheamus got to his feet and Brogue Kicked Bryan on the way down to knock him out. Sheamus then made the cover for the pin.

-real name: Stephen Farrelly. Starting with the 4/04/11 Raw, he resumed being called just Sheamus.

-title reign: 48 days

5/01/11 Kofi Kingston [2] Tampa, FL St. Pete Times Forum [Extreme Rules](#)

-referee: John Cone

-this was a tables match.

-On the 4/25/11 Raw (the night of the WWE draft), Kingston (of Smackdown) pinned Sheamus (of Raw) in a non-title match. In the online supplemental draft the following day (held on WWE.com), Sheamus was sent to Smackdown, with Kingston headed to Raw. On the 4/29/11 Smackdown, Sheamus attacked Kingston in the ring.

-Prior to their match at Extreme Rules, Smackdown GM Theodore Long made this a tables match.

-Around the 8minute mark, Sheamus set up Kingston to put him through a table from the top rope, but Kingston was able to fight it off. Sheamus then attempted to suplex Kingston onto the floor through a table. Kingston counted with a Trouble in Paradise kick. As Sheamus used the table to brace himself to get on his feet, Kingston came off the top to the floor with a legdrop, sending Sheamus through the table to win the match.

-By winning the title, Kingston brought it back to the Raw brand.

-real name: Kofi Sarkodie-Mensah

-title reign: 49 days

6/19/11 Dolph Ziggler Washington, DC Verizon Center [Capital Punishment](#)

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-Vickie Guerrero (Ziggler's girlfriend) accompanied Ziggler.

-On the 5/30/11 Raw, Ziggler defeated Kingston in a non-title match. On the 6/13/11 Raw, Guerrero lobbied guest GM Steve Austin to book Ziggler in a title match at Capital Punishment. Austin agreed, but added that if Ziggler lost, he has to drop Guerrero as a manager.

-The finish saw Ziggler go for a Zig Zag, but Kingston held on to the ropes to block. With the referee's back turned while he was tending to a downed Ziggler, Guerrero raked Kingston's eyes. Ziggler then locked on the sleeper hold. The referee stopped the match and awarded the match to Ziggler.

-The brand extension of separating Raw and Smackdown ended on 8/29/11, thus the title would be able to be defended on both shows.

-real name: Nick Nemeth

-title reign: 182 days

12/18/11 Zack Ryder Baltimore, MD 1st Mariner Arena TLC

-referee: John Cone

-Vickie Guerrero (Ziggler's girlfriend) accompanied Ziggler.

-Ryder defeated Ziggler in a non-title match on the 9/19/11 Raw. Ziggler pinned him in subsequent rematches at the 9/26/11 Raw and the 10/23/11 Vengeance . On the 11/25/11 Smackdown, Ryder & Sheamus defeated Ziggler & Jack Swagger, with Ryder getting the pin on Ziggler. In the meantime, Ryder was petitioning for another U.S. title shot. On the 12/05/11 Raw, interim GM John Laurinaitis booked a Social Experiment match, John Cena vs. Ryder. If Cena won, he received a WWE title match at the TLC . If Ryder won, he would get his U.S. title match. Cena won the match. Cena tried to demand a title match for his friend Ryder to Laurinaitis. The GM agreed to give Ryder another match, if Cena was willing to forego his title chance. Cena agreed. Ryder defeated World Heavyweight champion Mark Henry in a no DQ, no CO match later that night, thanks to the help of Cena.

-Around the seven minute mark, the referee ejected Guerrero from ringside when she was caught putting Ziggler's foot on the rope during a near fall. A minute later, Ziggler got a near fall following a Famoser. After being tossed off on a sleeper attempt, Ziggler followed with a dropkick for a two count. Ziggler went to the top but Ryder caught him and countered with a super hurricanrana for a two. Ziggler countered a Rough Ryder but dodging out of the way and sending Ryder into the corner. He rolled him up for a two count. Ziggler charged into Ryder in the corner, but Ryder got his knees up. Ryder then executed the Rough Ryder on a dazed Ziggler to make the pin.

-real name: Matthew Cardona

-title reign: 29 days

1/16/12 Jack Swagger Anaheim, CA Honda Center [Raw- live](#)

-referee: Chad Patton

-Eve Torres accompanied Ryder; Vickie Guerrero accompanied Swagger

-Ryder had been feuding with Swagger for months as part of the Ryder vs. Ziggler rivalry. Swagger and Ziggler were often paired up with each other. On the 1/02/12 Raw, Swagger confronted Ryder backstage and made a challenge. On the 1/09/12 Raw, Kane attacked Ryder parking lot. Ryder came into this match with taped ribs.

-In a quick match, Swagger dominated the injured Ryder, pinning him after a third gut wrench power bomb.

-real name: Jake Hager

-title reign: 49 days

3/05/12 Santino Marella Boston, MA TD Garden [Raw- live](#)

-referee: Scott Armstrong

-Vickie Guerrero and Dolph Ziggler accompanied Marella.

-This was part of the Team Johnny (Laurinaits) vs. Team Teddy (Long) feud. Long, normally the Smackdown GM and Laurinaits, normally the Raw GM, switched places for the week in order to be evaluated by the board of directors. Long was responsible for booking the match.

-About a minute in the match, Laurinaits and his legal advisor David Otunga came to ringside. That brought down Long, distracting the referee. Ziggler took advantage, taking cheap shots at Marella. Kofi Kingston came out to counteract Ziggler, while Eve Torres came out to handle Vickie Guerrero. Swagger locked on the ankle lock but Marella reversed, sending Swagger into the corner. Marella then rolled him out for the pin.

-real name: Anthony Carelli

-title reign: 166 days

8/19/12 Antonio Cesaro Los Angeles, CA Staples Center [SummerSlam pre-show](#)

-referee: John Cone

-Aksana accompanied Cesaro

-Cesaro pinned Marella in a non-title match on the 7/27/12 Smackdown. After a victory over Zack Ryder on the 8/15/12 Smackdown, Cesaro attacked Marella, who was providing commentary.

-Around the five minute mark, Cesaro went for the Neutralizer (version of a piledriver), but Marella backdropped out of it. Marella went for the Cobra (a sock on his hand used later for a face poke), but Aksana got on the apron and distracted the Cobra. Cesaro headbutted Marella to double-him over then applied the Neutralizer again for the pin.

-real name: Claudio Castagnoli

-title reign: 239 days

4/15/13 Kofi Kingston [3] Greenville, SC Bi-Lo Center [Raw- live](#)

-referee: Charles Robinson

-Kingston defeated Cesaro in a non-title match on the 4/12/13 Smackdown.

-Around the 9 minute mark, Cesaro missed a charge into the corner. Kingston attempted a springboard hurricanrana, but Cesaro caught him and went for a power bomb. Kingston reversed it into a sunset flip for a two count. Cesaro got up and missed a stomp. Kingston rolled up Cesaro again for a two. Cesaro reversed it for a two count of his own. With both men on their feet, Kingston connected with the Trouble in Paradise kick for the pin.

-title reign: 34 days

5/19/13 Dean Ambrose St. Louis, MO Scottrade Center [Extreme Rules](#)

-referee: Marc Harris

-Fellow Shield members Seth Rollins & Roman Reigns escorted Ambrose down the stands, but returned before the match.

-On the 5/06/13 Raw, The Shield defeated Kingston & The Usos when Ambrose pinned Kingston. At the 5/10/13 Smackdown, Kingston ran in on Ambrose during his match vs. Daniel Bryan. The title match at Extreme Rules was made official on the 5/13/13 Raw. Kingston made the save again for the Usos in their 5/17/13 Smackdown match against Rollins & Reigns.

-Around the six minute mark, Kingston caught Ambrose, who was out on the apron, with a Trouble in Paradise kick. It sent Ambrose down on the floor. Kingston rolled Ambrose back in the ring and made the cover, but Ambrose used a rope break. Ambrose rolled Kingston up for a two. While still on the mat, Kingston nailed Ambrose with a kick to the head. But Kingston missed a Trouble in Paradise, with his legs hitting the ropes. Ambrose then used a bulldog/DDT combo for the pin.

-real name: Jonathan Good

-title reign: 351 days

5/05/14 Sheamus [2] Albany, NY Times Union Center [Raw- live](#)

-This was a 20-man battle royal in which Ambrose was forced to defend the title.

-referees: Rod Zapata, Chad Patton, Darrick Moore

-The match was booked as punishment against Ambrose by The Authority. The night before, The Shield (Ambrose & Seth Rollins & Roman Reigns) defeated Evolution (Triple H & Batista & Randy Orton).

-Rollins & Reigns accompanied Ambrose

-About 15 minutes in the match, Ambrose eliminated Swagger, leaving him and Sheamus as the final two. Ambrose then walked right into a Brogue Kick. Sheamus then tossed Ambrose over the top to win the title.

-order of elimination: Xavier Woods (by Big Show), Zack Ryder (by Mark Henry), R-Truth (by Henry), Titus O'Neal (by Big Show), Sin Cara (by Big Show), Damien Sandow (by Heath Slater), Slater (unknown), Big Show (by Sheamus, Goldust, Cody Rhodes, Ryback, Kofi Kingston, Dolph Ziggler, Fandango, Curtis Axel, Dean Ambrose), Mark Henry (by Sheamus, Goldust, Cody Rhodes, Ryback, Kofi Kingston, Dolph Ziggler, Fandango, Curtis Axel, Dean Ambrose, Santino Marella), Fandango (by Ambrose), Kingston (by Ambrose), Goldust (by Ryback), Rhodes (by Ryback & Axel), Ziggler (by Marella), Marella (by Axel), Axel (by Ambrose), Ryback (by Ambrose), Swagger (by Ambrose), Ambrose (by Seamus)

-title reign: 182 days

11/03/14 Rusev **Buffalo, NY** **First Niagara Center** [Raw- Backstage Pass](#)

-referee: Ryan Tran

-Lana accompanied Rusev

-the match aired as a WWE Network exclusive after the regular Raw broadcasting concluding on USA Network.

-Earlier in the evening, Sheamus lost to Tyson Kidd by CO in a non-title match. Rusev defeated Zack Ryder. Sheamus then answered a prior challenge that Rusev made for a title shot.

-Around the 10 minute mark, both men were slowing down after beating on each other. Sheamus made a running charge with his Brogue Kick, but Rusev moved out of the way. Rusev then kicked Sheamus twice in the back of the head and applied the Accolade (Camel Clutch). The referee stopped the match after Sheamus passed out.

-real name: Miroslav Barnyashev

-title reign: 145 days

3/29/15 John Cena [4] **Santa Clara, CA** **Levi's Stadium** **WrestleMania 31**

-referee: Chad Patton

-Rusev met Cena at Fastlane. He won by submission after taking out Cena with a low blow behind the referee's back. Rusev bad mouthed Cena and America, while Cena defended his country in challenging Rusev to a rematch. Rusev refused. Cena finally had enough and attacked Cena and applied the STF. He only released it when Lana granted Cena the rematch. The two men continued to have run-ins in the lead up to their match.

-Around the 10 minute mark, Rusev flew across the ring to hit Cena with a flying headbutt (an unusual move in Rusev's arsenal). Rusev attempted to apply the Accolade, but Cena fought out. Cena then springboarded off the ropes for a flying stunner that got him a two count. Rusev reversed an Attitude Adjustment attempt. A few moves later, Rusev locked in the Accolade. Cena broke the hold by powering up and backing Rusev into the corner. Rusev attempted a charge, but Cena countered with a drop toe hold into the STF. Cena let go to reapply the hold in the center of the ring. Lana attempted to distract Cena from the apron. Rusev rushed Cena who dodged out of the way. Rusev crashed into Lana and right into an Attitude Adjustment for the pin.

-During his title reign, Cena held an open challenge, allowing all comers to challenge for the title.

-title reign: 147 days

8/23/15 Seth Rollins **Brooklyn, NY** **Barclays Center** [SummerSlam](#)

-This was a title vs. title match, winner take all: Rollins' WWE World Heavyweight title vs. Cena's United States title

-referee: Chad Patton

-On the 7/20/15 Raw, Cena challenged WWE World champion Seth Rollins, comparing the honor of defending their respective championships. The following week, The Authority booked a Rollins vs. Cena match but for Cena's U.S. title, which he successfully retained. However, Cena suffered a broken nose. On the 8/03/15 Raw, Rollins challenges Cena to a title vs. title match at SummerSlam. Cena officially answered the challenge on the 8/11/15 edition of Tough Enough. The two had a contract signing for the 8/17/15 Raw.

-The finish saw Rollins miss a flip dive from the top, landing on both knees. Cena hoisted Rollins up for Attitude Adjustment. Rollins held on to the top rope. The momentum sent Rollins crashing into the referee, sending him outside the ring. Cena hit the AA, but there was no referee to count. Rollins hit Cena in his broken nose, incapacitating him. SummerSlam guest host John Stewart came to the ring with a chair. Stewart had had problems with Rollins in the past on his "Daily Show." Stewart teased hitting Rollins, but nailed Cena in the gut. Rollins then applied the Pedigree to Cena, landing on the chair to make the pin. Later, Stewart said he prevented Cena from winning because he did not want Cena to win his 16th world championship, tying him with Stewart's hero, Ric Flair.

-real name: Colby Lopez

-title reign: 28 days

9/20/15 John Cena [5] **Houston, TX** **Toyota Center** [Night of Champions](#)

-referee: Chad Patton

-The night after SummerSlam, The Authority rewarded Rollins by meeting his demand of a statue. At the unveiling, instead of a statue underneath the cover, it was Sting. Tired of the cowardice he had in defending the championship, Sting challenged Rollins for the WWE World Heavyweight title. Triple H granted that match for Night of Champions.

-On the 8/31/15 Raw, Cena made a challenge under his rematch clause. Stephanie McMahon of the Authority granted the title shot. Thus, Rollins would have to defend both titles in separate matches at Night of Champions.

-Around the 15 minute mark, Rollins power bombed Cena into a corner for a two-count. With both men slow to get up, Rollins attempted a Pedigree but Cena countered with a backdrop. Rollins missed a clothesline as Cena bounded off the ropes. Cena attempted a cross body block, but Rollins caught him, rolled through and picked him up for an AA attempt of his own. Cena slipped out the back and inverted-suplexed Rollins. Cena went to the top and landed a flying leg drop to the back of Rollins' head. He followed with the AA for the pin.

-title reign: 35 days

10/25/15 Alberto Del Rio Los Angeles, CA Staples Center [Hell in a Cell](#)

-referee: Chad Patton

-Cena once again held an open challenge. At Hell in a Cell, Zeb Colter answered the challenge for Alberto Del Rio. This was Del Rio's first match in the WWE since leaving a year ago. It was also surprising to see Del Rio and Colter together, given their seemingly polar opposite world views.

-Around the seven minute mark, Del Rio reversed an AA attempt into a Backstabber. Del Rio followed with a kick to the head for the pin.

-Shortly after the victory, Del Rio and Colter went their separate ways.

-real name: Jose Rodriguez

-title reign: 77 days

1/11/16 Kalisto New Orleans, LA Smoothie King Center Raw- live

-referee: Mike Chioda

-Kalisto scored a non-title pin on the 1/07/16 Smackdown.

-Late in the match, Kalisto attempted a "Salida del Sol" (flying inverted DDT), but Del Rio blocked it by throwing Kalisto's body on the top rope. He then tied Kalisto upside down in the corner. Del Rio missed a double stomp from the top. Kalisto freed himself and countered with a flying head scissors ending with Del Rio slamming his head to the mat, good for a two count. Kalisto attempted another "Salida del Sol" but couldn't take Del Rio off his feet. Del Rio countered with a kick to the midsection and attempted a belly-to-back suplex. Kalisto countered with a reverse roll-up for the pin.

-real name: Emanuel Rodriguez

-title reign: 1 day (3 days TV time)

1/12/16 Alberto Del Rio [2] Lafayette, LA Cajundome Smackdown- 1/14/16

-referee: Darrick Moore

-King Barrett accompanied Del Rio.

-Late in the match, King Barrett joined Del Rio at ringside. Del Rio had Kalisto tied to the "tree of woe." But Kalisto countered with a head scissors takedown while Del Rio was on the top rope. In a dizzying series of moves, Kalisto landed a springboard seated senton splash but missed a corkscrew dive. Del Rio kicked a downed Kalisto on the side of his head for only a two count. Del Rio draped Kalisto over the center of the second rope but missed a splash sending him all the way to the outside. Kalisto tried to follow up with dive of his own. Barrett pulled Del Rio out of the way and Kalisto crashed on the outside, hurting his already weakened left arm. Back in the ring, Del Rio slapped on a cross arm breaker for the submission victory.

-title reign: 12 days (10 days TV time)

1/24/16 Kalisto [2] Orlando, FL Amway Center Royal Rumble

-referee: Rod Zapata

-Del Rio had Kalisto tied in the "tree of woe" but Kalisto dodged out of the way of the double stomp. He countered with a "Salida del Sol" for a two count when Del Rio reached the bottom rope. Del Rio then countered a springboard dive by raising his knees. Del Rio made the cover but only got a two. He then kicked Kalisto hard in the head. Del Rio then removed a top turnbuckle pad, exposing the steel. Del Rio threw Kalisto into the turnbuckle, but Kalisto blocked it. Kalisto turned it around, sending Del Rio into the exposed turnbuckle. He followed with a "Salida del Sol" for the pin.

5/22/16 Rusev [2] Newark, NJ Prudential Center Extreme Rules

-referee: John Cone

-DETAILS TO COME
-title reign: 119 days