

= Royal Rumble (1994) =

Royal Rumble (1994) was the seventh annual Royal Rumble professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) . It took place on January 22 , 1994 , at the Providence Civic Center in Providence , Rhode Island . The main event was the Royal Rumble match , a battle royal in which wrestlers enter the ring at regular intervals . Lex Luger and Bret Hart were named co @-@ winners after they simultaneously eliminated each other .

The undercard included a Casket match for the WWF Championship , in which Yokozuna successfully defended the title against The Undertaker . In addition , The Quebecers beat Bret and Owen Hart to retain the WWF Tag Team Championship and Razor Ramon successfully defended his Intercontinental Championship .

= = Background = =

The first televised match of the pay @-@ per @-@ view was supposed to be Ludvig Borga vs. Tatanka . The two were engaged in a feud that began prior to Survivor Series 1993 . Tatanka had been undefeated in the WWF since his debut in 1991 . Borga ended this streak on the October 30 , 1993 edition of WWF Superstars (taped on September 28 , 1993) , when he hit Tatanka with a steel chair while the referee was distracted . As a results of storyline injuries from this attack and the beating he suffered afterward at the hands of Borga and Yokozuna , Tatanka was forced to miss the main event match at Survivor Series . Although Tatanka defeated Borga by disqualification on the December 20 , 1993 edition of Monday Night Raw , the bitterness between the two remained .

Borga suffered a legit ankle injury , however , and was replaced by Bam Bam Bigelow . Although the substitution took place shortly before the event , Bigelow and Tatanka also had a heated rivalry . In 1993 , Bigelow had cut Tatanka 's dyed red hair as an insult to his Lumbee heritage . The two faced each other as part of a six @-@ man match at SummerSlam 1993 , but the feud continued even after Tatanka 's team emerged victorious .

At Survivor Series 1993 , Owen Hart was eliminated during a elimination match when he crashed into his brother Bret Hart , who was walking along the ring apron , causing Owen to lose his focus and be pinned by Michaels . After the match , Owen interrupted his brothers ? victory celebration to verbally attack Bret . He demanded a match with Bret to settle the dispute . Bret refused , and the brothers reunited over the Christmas holidays . They decided to focus their energy on taking the tag team title from the Quebecers . Their plan was temporarily put on hold when Marty Jannetty and the 1 @-@ 2 @-@ 3 Kid won the belts , but the Quebecers won a rematch the following week , guaranteeing that the Harts would get their title shot .

Razor Ramon and Irwin R. Schyster (I.R.S.) began feuding prior to SummerSlam 1993 because of an angle in which Money Inc . (Ted DiBiase and I.R.S.) teased Ramon about losing to the 1 @-@ 2 @-@ 3 Kid , a newcomer to the WWF . The rivalry heated up when I.R.S. stole Ramon 's gold chains while Shawn Michaels had Ramon distracted . Ramon and I.R.S. agreed to settle the feud at Royal Rumble 1994 with Ramon 's Intercontinental Championship on the line .

The rivalry between Yokozuna and The Undertaker began at Survivor Series 1993 . Yokozuna , who was pushed as an unstoppable monster , was unable to inflict any serious damage on The Undertaker when the two faced each other in an elimination match . Yokozuna slammed The Undertaker 's head into the steel steps leading up to the ring , but The Undertaker was unharmed . Later , Yokozuna used his finishing move , the Banzai Drop , on The Undertaker . When he tried to repeat the move , however , The Undertaker became the first wrestler to sit up after the move , surprising Yokozuna and his managers . The Undertaker was granted a title shot , but Jim Cornette , Yokozuna 's American spokesperson , included a clause in the contract that The Undertaker would not get a rematch if he lost . Paul Bearer , The Undertaker 's manager , included a clause stating that the confrontation would take place in a Casket match . In the following weeks , it was revealed that Yokozuna had a fear of caskets . The Undertaker used this knowledge to gain a psychological advantage going into the match . On one occasion , Paul Bearer brought the casket to the ring to intimidate Yokozuna . When Yokozuna approached the casket to face his fear , the Undertaker

popped out to scare Yokozuna .

Lex Luger wanted to participate in the Royal Rumble match , as the winner was scheduled to get a title shot for the WWF Championship at WrestleMania X. The contract he had signed for his title shot at SummerSlam 1993 , however , stated that he would not receive a rematch if he failed to win the title . A compromise was reached , allowing Luger to compete . Yokozuna 's manager , Mr. Fuji , was allowed to bring in two wrestlers , Genichiro Tenryu and The Great Kabuki to hurt Luger 's chances of winning .

= = Event = =

In a dark match before the broadcast , the Brooklyn Brawler defeated Jim Powers . The Brawler used a swinging neckbreaker to get the victory . As the pay per view broadcast began , Vince McMahon announced that Ted DiBiase would be his commentary partner for the evening .

The first televised match was between Tatanka and Bam Bam Bigelow . Bigelow tried to attack Tatanka before the bell , but Tatanka moved . The two fought back and forth , and Bigelow gained momentum after Tatanka missed a crossbody from the top turnbuckle . Bigelow used his weight to keep the advantage , sitting on Tatanka and later using a bear hug to wear him down . After the two hit each other with simultaneous crossbodies , Tatanka began a war dance . Bigelow kicked Tatanka in the back of the head to regain the advantage but missed a moonsault attempt from the top rope , allowing Tatanka to perform a crossbody from the corner and get the victory .

This match was followed by the Tag Team Championship match . The match started slowly , but both teams soon began brawling in the ring . The Harts focused on Pierre , but Jacques was eventually able to tag in to rescue him . After Pierre regained the advantage , Owen tagged in and took control of the match . He applied the Sharpshooter to Jacques , but Pierre broke the hold . Bret tagged in but fell out of the ring and kayfabe hurt his knee when the Quebecers ' manager pulled on the ropes . The Quebecers focused on Bret 's knee until Bret regained the advantage and attempted to apply the Sharpshooter . He was not able to stand , however , so the referee stopped the match and awarded the victory to the Quebecers . After the match , Owen yelled at Bret for not tagging out of the match . He then turned on Bret by kicking his injured leg and leaving him lying in the ring .

Next came the match between Irwin R. Schyster and Razor Ramon for the Intercontinental Championship , for which Jim Ross and Gorilla Monsoon took over the commentary roles . The match began with a brawl between the two , and Ramon got the early advantage . Schyster eventually threw Ramon over the top rope and attacked him on the floor . I.R.S. kept control of the match for quite a while , applying a reverse chinlock while using the ring ropes for additional leverage . After Ramon escaped the hold , he was able to perform a fallaway slam on Schyster . He then used an Irish Whip to throw Schyster into the corner , but the match turned around with a ref bump when referee Joey Marella was in the way and was kayfabe knocked unconscious . Shawn Michaels ran to the ring with his fake Intercontinental belt and hit Ramon with it , and Schyster helped revive Marella to count the pinfall . I.R.S. appeared to win the title , but referee Earl Hebner came to the ring and explained the situation to Marella . When Michaels ' belt was discovered in the ring , the match was restarted . Ramon simply grabbed Schyster , who was standing on the second turnbuckle celebrating , and performed the Razor 's Edge for the victory .

The next match was the Casket match ; the first wrestler to get his opponent in the casket and close the lid would win the match and the WWF championship . Yokozuna had great difficulty inflicting any serious damage on The Undertaker , but it was soon revealed that Mr. Fuji had arranged for several wrestlers to get involved on Yokozuna 's behalf . Crush , The Great Kabuki , Genichiro Tenryu and Bam Bam Bigelow interfered , but The Undertaker was able to fight back until Mr. Fuji stole The Undertaker 's urn from Paul Bearer . Yokozuna opened the urn , and smoke poured out . Meanwhile , Adam Bomb , Jeff Jarrett , The Headshrinkers (Samu and Fatu) and Diesel then came to the ring to help Yokozuna . Eventually , Yokozuna and his allies were able to shut The Undertaker in the casket to end the match . They locked the casket and pushed it down the aisle until smoke started coming out of the casket . The Undertaker appeared on the video screen at the end of the aisle , vowing to return . The casket was shown exploding on the screen ,

although the casket in the arena did not explode . After the explosion was shown , a person resembling The Undertaker was seen rising up to the ceiling of the Civic Center . This role is rumored to have been played by Marty Jannetty .

Before the Royal Rumble match began , commentator Vince McMahon announced that WWF President Jack Tunney had shortened the interval between entrances from the traditional two minutes to 90 seconds due to time constraints . Kamala was supposed to compete in the match , but he was replaced by Virgil . Ludvig Borga could not compete due to his ankle injury and was replaced by Kwang , a newcomer to the WWF . In addition , the 1 @-@ 2 @-@ 3 Kid was replaced by Sparky Plugg , who was also making his debut . Bastion Booger was scheduled to be the twenty @-@ fifth participant , but he did not appear for unknown reasons ; Vince McMahon stated that he did not appear because he did not " feel good " .

As the Royal Rumble match began , it was revealed that Scott Steiner was the first participant and his former rival Samu had drawn the number two position . Early in the match , Diesel tied a WWF record by throwing out seven consecutive wrestlers . He was ultimately eliminated by a group of wrestlers , while his partner Shawn Michaels kept aloof . Although Diesel wrestled as a heel at the time , his performance earned him applause from the crowd .

Several ongoing feuds came into play during the match . Crush and his former friend , Randy Savage fought each other until Crush eliminated Savage . Bam Bam Bigelow and Doink the Clown also faced each other during the match . Doink had annoyed Bigelow with a series of pranks in late 1993 , and the feud was supposed to be settled at Survivor Series 1993 , but the team of " Doinks " that Bigelow fought was just The Bushwhackers and Men on a Mission dressed up as clowns . When they met in the Royal Rumble , Bigelow quickly eliminated Doink . The Royal Rumble match also saw an old feud rekindled . Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty , former tag team partners as The Rockers , traded a series of punches when Jannetty entered the match and Michaels ultimately eliminated Jannetty from the match .

The match ended when Lex Luger and Bret Hart simultaneously eliminated each other . Two referees argued about who had landed first while several inconclusive camera angles were broadcast . Eventually , WWF President Jack Tunney came to the ring and had Finkel announce that both men would be considered winners . The situation regarding the title shot at WrestleMania X , which was to be given to the winner , remained unresolved until the following week on Monday Night Raw .

= = Aftermath = =

Ludvig Borga did not return to the WWF after his ankle healed , so there was no closure to his feud with Tatanka . The feud between Tatanka and Bam Bam Bigelow was also soon forgotten . In the summer of 1994 , both wrestlers joined Ted DiBiase 's Million Dollar Corporation . The two eventually formed a tag team and unsuccessfully challenged for the WWF Tag Team Championship .

The feud between Razor Ramon and I.R.S. ended shortly after the Royal Rumble . On the January 31 , 1994 edition of Monday Night Raw , the 1 @-@ 2 @-@ 3 Kid stole Ramon 's chains back from I.R.S. , bringing the feud to an end . Shawn Michaels ? attack on Razor Ramon increased the hostility between the two . The debate over the true holder of the Intercontinental Championship was settled at WrestleMania X in a ladder match with both belts suspended above the ring . This ended the feud between Michaels and Ramon , although Ramon continued to feud with Michaels ? friend Diesel .

Owen Hart demanded a match against Bret Hart , which Bret repeatedly refused . This situation was complicated because of Bret co @-@ winning the Royal Rumble . Jack Tunney decided that both Bret Hart and Lex Luger would get title shots at WrestleMania X , but that they would each wrestle two matches at the event . Lex Luger won a coin toss televised on Monday Night Raw and won the chance to face Yokozuna first . If he had lost the toss , he would have wrestled Crush before facing Yokozuna . Under the rules set forth by Tunney , Bret was required to wrestle Owen in the opening match at WrestleMania . Owen won the match , but Bret came out of WrestleMania with

the WWF Championship after Yokozuna dropped the title to him . This led to an extended feud between the two that saw Jim Neidhart return to the WWF to side with Owen and Davey Boy Smith to make a comeback to take Bret 's side .

Several of the events during the Royal Rumble match led to feuds and pay @-@ per @-@ view matches later in 1994 . Diesel 's performance in the Royal Rumble match led to him becoming an up and comer in the WWF pecking order and he became the Intercontinental Champion shortly after WrestleMania X with assistance from Shawn Michaels . The duo later won the WWF Tag Team Championship the night before SummerSlam in August . At SummerSlam , however , Michaels cost Diesel the Intercontinental Championship by inadvertently kicking him when Razor Ramon ducked out of the way . Finally , at Survivor Series in November , the still @-@ simmering tension between the two friends boiled over when Michaels hit Diesel with another kick intended for Razor during their Survivor Series elimination match . Diesel became irate and chased after Michaels , who escaped in a car and declared their friendship and team over .

Meanwhile , Crush and Randy Savage faced each other in a Falls Count Anywhere match at WrestleMania X to settle their feud , and Doink and his midget sidekick Dink faced Bigelow and his kayfabe girlfriend Luna Vachon in a mixed tag match .

The Undertaker did not appear in the WWF for several months after his loss to Yokozuna . In reality , he was given time off to allow a back injury to heal . During his absence , the WWF promoted his return by showing video clips of people who claimed to have seen The Undertaker . Ted DiBiase claimed to have brought The Undertaker back to the WWF , but Paul Bearer informed him that DiBiase 's Undertaker was an impostor . Paul Bearer claimed to have located the true Undertaker , which led to a match at SummerSlam 1994 between DiBiase 's Undertaker (portrayed by Brian Lee) and Paul Bearer 's original Undertaker . After defeating the false Undertaker , Bearer 's Undertaker got revenge against Yokozuna by winning a Casket match at Survivor Series 1994 . To help prevent outside interference , Chuck Norris was brought in as a guest referee .

= = Results = =

= = = Royal Rumble entrances and eliminations = = =

A new entrant came out approximately every 90 seconds .