

## = Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament =

The Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament was a professional wrestling tag team single @-@ elimination tournament held by the Total Nonstop Action Wrestling ( TNA ) promotion in 2005 . It was held to honor the TNA wrestler Chris Candido , who died in April 2005 as a result of an injury he sustained at TNA 's Lockdown pay @-@ per @-@ view ( PPV ) event . It is the only edition held as of 2016 despite it being announced as an annual event . The competition began on August 16 , 2005 and concluded on August 16 , 2005 at the tapings of TNA 's television program TNA Impact ! . It was broadcast from the August 19 to September 9 episodes of Impact ! . It was known by various names : 2005 Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament , The Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament , and The Chris Candido Cup Tournament .

The concept of the tournament was to have eight teams consisting of one veteran wrestler and one rookie wrestler competing against each other to gain entry into a Four Way Elimination Tag Team match for the NWA World Tag Team Championship at TNA 's Unbreakable PPV event on September 11 . The tournament featured sixteen TNA wrestlers : Abyss , Shark Boy , Alex Shelley , Sean Waltman , B.G. James , Cassidy Reilly , Chris Sabin , Shocker , Kip James , Petey Williams , Konnan , Lance Hoyt , Mikey Batts , Simon Diamond , Ron Killings , and Sonjay Dutt .

The tournament was well @-@ received overall . James Caldwell of the Pro Wrestling Torch wrote in his review of the matches that they were " solid " and " effective in telling the story . " Caldwell approved of the teaming of Shelley and Waltman , feeling that they were a " natural fit . "

## = = Background = =

Chris Candido was an American professional wrestler who worked for TNA starting in 2005 . At TNA 's Lockdown PPV event on April 24 , 2005 , Candido teamed with Lance Hoyt to face Apolo and Sonny Siaki in a Six Sides of Steel Cage match . During the encounter , Candido suffered an injury which was later diagnosed as a dislocated ankle , broken tibia , and a broken fibula which required surgery . Candido had an operation on April 25 to have a plate , screws , and pins placed in his ankle to fix the problem with him being sidelined from competing for two to three months in order to heal . However , Candido hoped to be fully recovered in six to eight weeks . On April 28 , Candido was rushed to the hospital after he collapsed , where he died a short time later . The cause of death was released by Candido 's brother Johnny as a blood clot due to the surgery a few days prior .

TNA released a public statement on April 29 , regrading the subject . TNA paid tribute to Candido on the April 29 episode of TNA 's television program TNA Impact ! as well as at TNA 's Hard Justice PPV event on May 15 . The April 29 episode of Impact ! opened and ended with a memorial to Candido . At Hard Justice , a ten @-@ bell salute was held while a photo of Candido , a pair of boots , and one @-@ half of the NWA World Tag Team Championship positioned on a steel chair sat in the center of the ring . A portion of the Lockdown DVD sale profits were donated by TNA to the Chris Candido Memorial Fund . TNA originally planned to remove Candido 's match from the DVD , but were given the blessing of his family to include it on the publication . A tribute to Candido was included on the DVD by TNA .

The tournament was announced in August 2005 by TNA editor Bill Banks . He revealed the official name for the competition , the " 2005 Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament " , and that TNA were planning on it being an annual contest . Banks also announced the format of the tournament involved veteran wrestlers teaming with young wrestlers in order to compete . The idea behind the contest was explained on the August 19 episode of Impact ! prior to the opening bout of the tournament . The tournament was set up in a way to mimic Candido 's role at the time of his death . Prior to his death , the veteran Candido was managing the young tag team of The Naturals ( Andy Douglas and Chase Stevens ) . Candido managed the team to winning the NWA World Tag Team Championship from America 's Most Wanted ( Chris Harris and James Storm ; AMW ) on the April 29 episode of Impact ! , which had been taped on April 25 prior to his death .

In the tournament , eight tag teams were determined at random , with one veteran wrestler being placed with a younger wrestler from the company . The competition was also referred to as the "

Chris Candido Memorial Cup Tournament " . The teams chosen at random were Abyss ( veteran ) and Shark Boy ( young ) , Alex Shelley ( young ) and Sean Waltman ( veteran ) , B.G. James ( veteran ) and Cassidy Reilly ( young ) , Chris Sabin ( young ) and Shocker ( veteran ) , Kip James ( veteran ) and Petey Williams ( young ) , Konnan ( veteran ) and Lance Hoyt ( young ) , Mikey Batts ( young ) and Simon Diamond ( veteran ) , and last of all Ron Killings ( veteran ) and Sonjay Dutt ( young ) . On the August 26 episode of Impact ! , NWA Championship Committee member Larry Zbyszko announced that a Four Way Elimination Tag Team match for the NWA World Tag Team Championship was planned for TNA 's Unbreakable PPV event on September 11 , in which The Naturals would defend against AMW , Team Canada ( A @-@ 1 and Eric Young ) , and the winners of the Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament .

= = Tournament = =

The Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament featured seven matches involving different wrestlers from pre @-@ existing scripted feuds and storylines . Wrestlers portrayed villains , heroes , or less distinguishable characters in the scripted events that built tension and culminated in a wrestling match .

The tournament consisted of three rounds : the quarterfinals , semifinals , and finals . All three rounds were broadcast on Impact ! . All three rounds were taped on August 16 and aired on the August 19 , August 26 , September 2 , and September 9 episodes of Impact ! .

#### Quarterfinals

The first two matches of the quarterfinals took place on the August 19 episode of Impact ! . The team of Chris Sabin and Shocker were pitted against the team of Mikey Batts and Simon Diamond in the first . Sabin and Shocker won the bout after Sabin slammed Batts back @-@ first into the mat with his signature Cradle Shock maneuver and followed with the pin at 7 minutes and 1 second . In the second , the team of B.G. James and Cassidy Reilly fought the team of Ron Killings and Sonjay Dutt . Dutt won the match at 4 minutes and 14 seconds for his team after a 450 ° aerial splash onto Reilly and the pin .

The last two were held on the August 26 episode of Impact ! . The team of Alex Shelley and Sean Waltman faced Abyss and Shark Boy in a bout lasting 4 minutes and 10 seconds . Shelley pinned Shark Boy after slamming him face @-@ first into the mat with his signature Shellshock maneuver . The second encounter was between the team of Lance Hoyt and Konnan and the team of Kip James and Petey Williams . The team of Hoyt and Konnan won the bout after Hoyt pinned Kip following a boot to the face at 6 minutes and 49 seconds .

#### Semifinals

The semifinals were held on the September 2 episode of Impact ! . Shelley and Waltman defeated the team of Hoyt and Konnan in the first semifinal match at 4 minutes and 22 seconds . During the match , Hoyt hit Waltman with a boot to the face and went for the pin , but the referee was distracted by Kip James who came down to ringside . Hoyt went to get the referee , giving Waltman the ability to hit him in the groin and follow @-@ up by slamming him face @-@ first into the mat with his signature X @-@ Factor maneuver .

In the second semifinal match , Sabin and Shocker defeated Dutt and Killings at 7 minutes and 49 seconds . During the contest , Sabin accidentally hit his teammate Shocker in the face . This led to some confusion in the match , allowing Killings to get a near @-@ fall on Sabin . This was later resolved , with Sabin getting the pin on Dutt via la magistral .

#### Finals

The final round occurred on the September 9 episode of Impact ! , with Sabin and Shocker versus Shelley and Waltman . This contest lasted 7 minutes and 20 seconds . Sabin and Shelley started off the match , with Shelley dominating Sabin with mat submission holds . The wrestling left the ring as Waltman performed a somersault splash to the ringside area onto Shocker and Sabin . Later , Sabin ascended to the top @-@ rope to perform a dropkick onto Shelley , to only have Shelley dodge out of the way , resulting in Sabin hitting his partner Shocker instead . After checking on Shocker , Sabin turned around and was met with a kick to the jaw from Shelley . Sabin left the ring after this due to a

legitimate injury . With Shocker left and the referee attending to other matters , Waltman hit Shocker in the groin and followed by performing his X @-@ Factor maneuver to gain the pinfall victory and to win the tournament .

With Shelley and Waltman 's victory , they became the first winners of the expected annual tournament . They also gained entry into the Four Way Elimination Tag Team match for the NWA World Tag Team Championship scheduled for Unbreakable .

Tournament bracket

= = Reception = =

James Caldwell of the Pro Wrestling Torch felt that Chris Sabin and Shocker versus Simon Diamond and Mikey Batts was " solid wrestling " and a " nice opening match " for the tournament . When it came to the second match of the tournament , B.G. James and Cassidy Reilly versus Ron Killings and Sonjay Dutt , Caldwell felt that James and Killings " undermined the spirit of the Candido tournament " by dancing mid @-@ way through their encounter . Caldwell commented on the pairing of Alex Shelley and Sean Waltman for the tournament , saying they were a " natural fit working together " and expressing hope that they would be a permanent fixture after the tournament concluded . Regarding the semifinal matches , Caldwell thought Sabin and Shocker versus Dutt and Killings was a " solid match with a nice mini @-@ storyline involving Sabin and Shocker having a miscommunication before settling their differences to win the match . " As for the finals , Caldwell stated that Shelley and Waltman versus Sabin and Shocker was a " standard tag match " but it was " effective in telling the story of Waltman and Shelley doing whatever it takes to win while Shocker and Sabin continued to have differences that finally caused Shocker to go off . " Caldwell concluded by saying that " Waltman and Shelley have impressed as a legit tag team since their first round match in the tournament , " going on to say that he hoped for a Waltman and Shelley victory at Unbreakable to " give the tag division a fresh team to build around . "

= = Aftermath = =

Chris Sabin 's jaw was broken in the final round match . Sabin needed serious medical assistance afterwards backstage due to excessive bleeding from the mouth . Sabin had to cancel an August 19 Pro Wrestling Guerrilla ( PWG ) appearance as a result . Shelley was also injured while taking part in the tournament . He suffered a legitimate back injury , but ended up appearing at the PWG show that Sabin was forced to miss . There , he aggravated the injury further , forcing him to miss two Ring of Honor shows for which he was scheduled .

At Unbreakable , The Naturals ( Andy Douglas and Chase Stevens ) defeated the teams of Alex Shelley and Johnny Candido , America 's Most Wanted ( Chris Harris and James Storm ) , and Team Canada ( A @-@ 1 and Eric Young ) to remain champions in a Four Way Elimination Tag Team match . Johnny was a replacement for Waltman who missed the event due to undisclosed reasons . Shelley began the bout alone , until Johnny , who was in attendance along with several of Candido 's family members , jumped the railing to join Shelley as his tag team partner by taking a tag from Shelley . A bit later , Douglas kicked Candido in the crotch and pinned him with a roll @-@ up pin , thus eliminating Shelley and Candido from the contest .

Waltman was not used again by TNA until their Final Resolution PPV event on January 15 , 2006 . There , Waltman defeated Raven in a Raven 's Rules match , forcing Raven to leave TNA in the storyline . Waltman was not used by the company due to management being angered by his failure to participate at Unbreakable . Despite him not showing up to the event , Waltman was in Orlando and dressed to compete , but did not arrive at the arena in time .