

= Royal Rumble (1993) =

Royal Rumble (1993) was the sixth annual Royal Rumble professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) . It took place on January 24 , 1993 at the ARCO Arena in Sacramento , California . The main event was a Royal Rumble match , a battle royal in which two wrestlers started the match in the ring ; every two minutes , another wrestler joined . In total , thirty wrestlers competed to eliminate their competitors by throwing them over the top rope of the wrestling ring onto the arena floor . Yokozuna won the match and was awarded an opportunity to wrestle for the WWF World Heavyweight Championship at WrestleMania IX . Bret Hart also retained his WWF World Heavyweight Championship against Razor Ramon , and Shawn Michaels successfully defended his WWF Intercontinental Championship against Marty Jannetty .

= = Background = =

Royal Rumble 1993 consisted of six matches : four singles matches , one tag team match , and the Royal Rumble match . The buildup to the pay @-@ per @-@ view consisted of feuds scripted by the WWF 's writers . Some of the rivalries dated back several years , while others were created specifically to create excitement about the Royal Rumble .

The primary feud leading up to Royal Rumble 1993 was between WWF Champion Bret Hart and challenger Razor Ramon (a replacement for The Ultimate Warrior , who had left the previous November) . Ramon formed an alliance in late 1992 with Ric Flair , who Hart defeated to win the title belt . During an interview in which Hart was talking about the upcoming match , Ramon and Flair came to the ring and attacked Hart . Ramon later escalated the feud by attacking Owen Hart , Bret 's brother .

Another major feud featured at the event was between Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty , who had teamed for several years as The Rockers . The team split up in December 1991 , however , when Michaels attacked Jannetty during an episode of Brutus Beefcake 's interview segment , " The Barber Shop " . Michaels became a singles wrestler and won the WWF Intercontinental Championship on October 27 , 1992 from Davey Boy Smith . On the October 31 , 1992 episode of WWF Superstars of Wrestling , Jannetty returned to the WWF after a lengthy absence and confronted Michaels . He attempted to hit Michaels with a mirror , but Michaels pulled his valet , Sensational Sherri in front of him . Sherri was hit with the mirror , which caused friction between her and Michaels . Michaels and Jannetty were scheduled to face each other for the Intercontinental Championship at Royal Rumble 1993 . Leading up to the match , Sherri announced that she would be in the corner of one of the men , but she refused to say which one .

In an undercard match , The Steiner Brothers (Rick and Scott) , who made their WWF debut in late 1992 , were scheduled to face the Beverly Brothers (Beau and Blake) . There was little buildup for the match , but the Steiners and Beverlys had a rivalry over which was the best team of brothers in the WWF (although the Beverly Brothers are not related in real life) .

Several feuds also formed the background for the Royal Rumble match . Virgil had served as Ted DiBiase 's servant and bodyguard for several years . DiBiase treated Virgil poorly , which eventually led Virgil to turn against his employer . At Royal Rumble 1991 , he attacked DiBiase after a match by hitting him with the Million Dollar Championship , a title that DiBiase had awarded himself . Virgil defeated DiBiase for the belt at SummerSlam 1991 , although DiBiase later regained the title . The Undertaker was feuding with manager Harvey Wippleman . He had a series of matches against Kamala in 1992 that included a bout at SummerSlam . The rivalry culminated in a coffin match at Survivor Series 1992 . The Undertaker won the match , but Wippleman vowed revenge . Tito Santana and Rick Martel had formed a tag team known as Strike Force in 1987 , and they held the World Tag Team Championship together for five months . Martel walked away during a match against the Brain Busters at WrestleMania V , leaving Santana to face both opponents alone . The team split up as a result and the former partners had a lengthy feud .

Mr. Perfect served as " executive consultant " to Ric Flair in 1992 , but the relationship broke down

toward the end of the year . The partnership split up when Perfect teamed with Randy Savage to face Flair and Razor Ramon at Survivor Series 1992 . Flair legitimately requested a release from his contract , as he felt he would be more successful if he returned to World Championship Wrestling (WCW) . WWF owner Vince McMahon agreed and set up a feud between Flair and Perfect to create a storyline for Flair 's departure from the company . Many wrestlers were scheduled to compete at the 1993 Royal Rumble but were either replaced or had left the company before the event . Those who were scheduled to compete were Doink the Clown , Crush , Hacksaw Jim Duggan , The Mountie , and Kamala .

The event also featured the WWF debut of Lex Luger . Luger had previously wrestled in WCW , where he held the WCW World Heavyweight Championship . He had left the wrestling industry to join Vince McMahon 's World Bodybuilding Federation (WBF) . After the WBF failed , Luger signed with McMahon 's WWF .

= = Event = =

Five matches with pre @-@ determined results were shown on the pay @-@ per @-@ view telecast . In addition , Doink the Clown defeated Jim Powers by submission in an untelevised dark match before the event . In the first match shown as part of the broadcast , the Steiner Brothers (Rick and Scott) faced the Beverly Brothers (Beau and Blake) . Scott gained the early advantage over Beau , both men quickly tagged in their partners . Rick performed a body slam on Blake and then tagged Scott back in , who threw Blake with a belly to belly suplex . The Beverlys regained the advantage and took turns attacking Scott 's back . Blake performed a Boston crab hold to put more pressure on Scott 's back and attempt to force him to submit . Scott escaped the hold and threw Blake to the mat by performing a Tiger driver . The Steiners capitalized on their advantage by keeping Blake in the ring and unable to tag his partner . Scott won the match for his team by pinning Blake after executing a Frankensteiner .

In the next match , Sensational Sherri stood at ringside as Shawn Michaels defended his Intercontinental Championship against Marty Jannetty . She did not reveal her allegiance to either man . Jannetty gained the early advantage , knocking Michaels out of the ring and diving onto him through the ropes . He then attacked Michaels by jumping off the top rope , but Michaels countering this move by hitting him on the way down . Michaels hit Jannetty 's shoulder against the ring post and focused on wearing down the shoulder once both men had re @-@ entered the ring . Michaels missed an attack from the top rope , which allowed Jannetty to punch him repeatedly . Michaels recovered and threw Jannetty out of the ring , but Jannetty then suplexed Michaels over the rope and onto the arena floor . Sherri turned on Michaels by slapping him in the face , and Jannetty threw Michaels back into the ring with a belly @-@ to @-@ back suplex . Jannetty performed a powerslam and a DDT on Michaels . Michaels attempted to punch Jannetty but knocked the referee unconscious instead . Sherri came into the ring and tried to hit Michaels with her shoe . Michaels moved out of the way , and Sherri hit Jannetty instead . When the referee recovered , Michaels performed a superkick on Jannetty and pinned him to retain the championship .

The third televised match featured the Big Boss Man facing Bam Bam Bigelow . Bigelow attacked Boss Man before the match and controlled the match 's beginning by using power moves to wear Boss Man down . Boss Man performed two clotheslines on Bigelow to gain the advantage . Bigelow responded by throwing Boss Man with a belly to back suplex , and then threw him out of the ring . He wore Boss Man down with a bear hug . Boss Man briefly regained the advantage by suplexing Bigelow but eventually tried to run at Bigelow to crush him in the corner of the ring . As Boss Man approached , Bigelow kicked him in the face and followed this up by performing a diving headbutt from the top rope to win the match by pinfall .

The next match was for the WWF Championship , as Bret Hart defended the title against Razor Ramon . Ramon got the early advantage by punching Hart repeatedly but accidentally hit his knee against a turnbuckle while running at Hart . Hart applied a figure @-@ four leglock to apply pressure to Ramon 's knee . Ramon escaped the hold and threw Hart against a ring post ; he capitalized on this advantage by attacking Hart 's back . Ramon threw Hart with a fallaway slam and applied a bear

hug . Hart escaped the hold by biting Ramon . He threw Ramon out of the ring and performed several of his signature moves , including a Russian legsweep and an elbow drop from the second rope . Hart applied the Sharpshooter , his signature hold , but Ramon grabbed the ropes , which forced the referee to instruct Hart to break the hold . Hart threw Ramon with a belly @-@ to @-@ back suplex , but Ramon responded by attempting to perform the Razor 's Edge , his signature move . Hart reversed this into an unsuccessful pin attempt . With both men exhausted , Hart applied the Sharpshooter and won the match by forcing Ramon to submit .

Before the final match , Bobby Heenan , a manager and commentator , unveiled his newest wrestler , " The Narcissist " Lex Luger . Heenan pointed out Luger 's muscles and announced that Luger would carry on Heenan 's rivalry with Mr. Perfect .

The main event of the broadcast , the Royal Rumble match , came next . For the first time , a stipulation was added that the winner of the match would receive a match for the WWF Championship at that year 's WrestleMania (a provision that has remained since) . The match began with two former WWF Champions , as Ric Flair and Bob Backlund entered the ring first . Every two minutes , one of the remaining twenty @-@ eight contestants entered the match according to the number they drew prior to the event . Papa Shango was the third wrestler to enter but was thrown over the top rope and onto the arena floor by Ric Flair , causing Shango to be eliminated . Virgil entered sixth and immediately attacked Ted DiBiase because of their long @-@ standing grudge . When Mr. Perfect entered in the number ten spot , he and Flair fought each other until Perfect eliminated Flair by performing a clothesline to knock Flair onto the floor . Virgil was eliminated by The Berzerker , while Perfect was thrown out of the ring by Jerry Lawler , Koko B. Ware , and Ted DiBiase .

The Undertaker was the fifteenth wrestler to enter ; he eliminated four men before Harvey Wippleman appeared , accompanying a large man (who was later revealed to be Giant González , billed at eight feet tall) . González attacked The Undertaker and threw him out of the ring ; as a result , The Undertaker was eliminated from the match . Several referees tried to get González to return to the locker room ; he eventually left , and Paul Bearer , The Undertaker 's manager , came to the ring . He helped The Undertaker revive , and The Undertaker returned to the locker room to find González . Several minutes later , Typhoon entered the match , followed shortly by his tag team partner in The Natural Disasters , Earthquake . Earthquake immediately targeted Typhoon and eliminated him from the match . Earthquake tried to console his partner , who ignored him and left ringside . Later , Tito Santana and Rick Martel were in the ring at the same time ; they fought each other immediately as a result of their five @-@ year @-@ old feud . Yokozuna , weighing over 500 pounds (227 kilograms) , entered in the number twenty @-@ seven spot ; at one point , almost every wrestler worked together in an attempt to eliminate him , but they were unable to lift him .

Former WWF Champion Randy Savage was the last wrestler to enter the match . The wrestlers fought and several men were eliminated in quick succession , leaving Backlund , Martel , Yokozuna , and Savage . Backlund eliminated Martel but was then eliminated by Yokozuna . Backlund was in the ring for one hour , one minute , and ten seconds , which set a new record for time spent in a Royal Rumble match . Savage gained the advantage over Yokozuna ; he knocked him down and performed a diving elbow drop from the top rope . He tried to pin Yokozuna , although pinfalls are not counted during a Royal Rumble . Yokozuna pushed Savage off of him so hard that Savage flew over the top rope and onto the arena floor . As a result , Yokozuna was named the winner of the 1993 Royal Rumble match . During the match , he eliminated seven wrestlers , which broke the previous record for most eliminations in a Royal Rumble match .

= = Aftermath = =

At WrestleMania IX , Yokozuna defeated Bret Hart to win the WWF Championship . His title reign only lasted several minutes , however , as he dropped the belt to Hulk Hogan in an impromptu match . Yokozuna regained the title but dropped it to Hart the following year .

Shawn Michaels continued his feud with Sensational Sherri at WrestleMania IX . Sherri accompanied Tatanka , and Michaels countered this by introducing Luna Vachon , his new valet .

After the match , Vachon attacked Sherri . The feud also continued between Michaels and Jannetty , as Jannetty defeated Michaels for the Intercontinental Championship on May 17 , 1993 . Michaels regained the belt in a rematch the following month to end the feud .

Razor Ramon continued to wrestle in high @-@ profile matches but achieved little success until changing his persona to a face after losing to the underdog 1 @-@ 2 @-@ 3 Kid in May 1993 . As a fan favorite , Ramon won his first of four Intercontinental Championships in September 1993 .

The day after Royal Rumble , Flair faced Perfect in a loser leaves town match , in which the loser would be forced to leave the WWF forever . Because Flair had an agreement with McMahon to lose to Mr. Perfect before leaving the promotion , Perfect won the match and Flair did not appear in the WWF again until 2001 . With Flair gone from the promotion , Luger continued Heenan 's feud and defeated Mr. Perfect at WrestleMania IX .

The Beverly Brothers were unable to win the World Tag Team Championship , but the Steiners won the belts on two occasions in 1993 . They feuded with Money Inc . (DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster) , who had held the belts since the previous October , before winning their first championship on June 14 .

Earthquake and Typhoon stopped teaming after their confrontation during the Royal Rumble match . No feud ever materialized , however , as Earthquake was released by the WWF and left to compete in Japan . The rivalry between Virgil and DiBiase was not mentioned again until the following year , when Virgil had a brief feud with Nikolai Volkoff , who was managed by DiBiase . DiBiase was reunited with Virgil , who had been renamed Vincent , when both men were members of WCW 's New World Order in 1996 .

Luger 's status as a heel (villain) was short @-@ lived . Yokozuna issued a challenge for any American athlete to try to bodyslam him on the deck of the USS Intrepid on Independence Day that year . Several athletes made the attempt , but nobody was able to lift Yokozuna until Luger arrived in a helicopter and bodyslammed Yokozuna . Luger received a push and was given a match for Yokozuna 's WWF Championship at SummerSlam 1993 , but he was unable to win the belt .

The Undertaker 's feud with Harvey Wippleman escalated in the following months and was featured at two more pay @-@ per @-@ view events in 1993 . The Undertaker faced Giant González at WrestleMania IX ; González was disqualified after attacking The Undertaker with a chloroform @-@ soaked rag provided by Wippleman . Wippleman and González recruited Mr. Hughes , and the three men attacked The Undertaker and Paul Bearer . They stole The Undertaker 's urn , which was said to be the source of his power . The feud culminated in a Rest in Peace match at SummerSlam 1993 , which The Undertaker won to end the feud .

= = = Reception = = =

Writing for Online Onslaught , columnist Adam Gutschmidt stated that the first half of the event is worth watching . He enjoyed the tag team match and the bout between Jannetty and Michaels . He also found the WWF Championship match surprisingly good . He did not , however , feel that the match between Big Boss Man and Bam Bam Bigelow was interesting . He also disliked the Royal Rumble match because too many tag team wrestlers were included , there were few exciting moments , and Giant González did not help the match . Scott Keith reviewed the event for 411mania . He found the opening match between the Steiners and Beverlys to be boring . He enjoyed much of the match between Jannetty and Michaels but found the ending disappointing . He rated the match between Boss Man and Bigelow as a " dud " but enjoyed the WWF Championship bout . He called the Royal Rumble match one of the worst in history , as he found much of the match boring and did not enjoy the debut of González . Overall , he rated the event as " mildly recommended " .

The event drew 16 @,@ 000 spectators , who paid \$ 187 @,@ 000 in admission fees . This was down from the previous year 's 17 @,@ 000 fans but higher than the attendance for any of the following three Royal Rumble events . The pay @-@ per @-@ view buyrate of 1 @.@ 25 was also lower than that of Royal Rumble 1992 , which had a 1 @.@ 8 buyrate . It was higher than the buyrates for all of the Royal Rumble events from 1994 to 1998 , however .

Royal Rumble 1993 was released on VHS by Coliseum Video on February 11 , 1993 in North

America . It was released on DVD in North America as part of WWE 's Complete Royal Rumble Anthology on November 27 , 2007 . In the United Kingdom , it was released on VHS in 1993 . On June 6 , 2005 , it was packaged together with Royal Rumble 1994 as part of WWE 's Tagged Classics line for its United Kingdom DVD release . This was followed by the Complete Royal Rumble Anthology DVD set , which was released on October 15 , 2007 .

= = Results = =

^ Sensational Sherri was in a neutral corner in the third match .

= = = Royal Rumble entrances and eliminations = = =

A new entrant came out approximately every two minutes .

^ Giant González was not an entrant in the Rumble . This was his WWF debut .

Bob Backlund broke the longevity record by lasting 1 : 01 : 10 , previous records held by Ric Flair at 1 : 00 : 02 .