

= SummerSlam (1990) =

SummerSlam (1990) was the third annual SummerSlam professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view produced by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) . It took place on August 27 , 1990 , at The Spectrum in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania . The card featured ten televised matches , including two main events . The Ultimate Warrior successfully defended his WWF World Heavyweight Championship against Rick Rude in a steel cage match , and Hulk Hogan defeated Earthquake by countout .

The pay @-@ per @-@ view also included two other title matches . Mr. Perfect lost his WWF Intercontinental Championship to the Texas Tornado , who was a substitute for Brutus Beefcake , who had been injured in a real @-@ life accident . The Hart Foundation won the WWF Tag Team Championship from Demolition in a two out of three falls match . Each of the matches was built up through feuds scripted by the WWF 's writers , and the matches that took place at the event had pre @-@ determined outcomes that had been decided by the WWF .

= = Background = =

Paul Roma began feuding with The Rockers (Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty) during the July 21 , 1990 , episode of WWF Superstars . Roma was attacked after a match by Dino Bravo ; when The Rockers came to the ring for the following match , Roma accused them of attacking him . The argument turned physical , and Roma was backed up by Hercules . One week later , Roma and Hercules appeared on the Brother Love Show , an interview segment , and announced that they had formed a tag team known as Power and Glory . A match between the two teams was later scheduled for SummerSlam .

The feud between Mr. Perfect and Brutus Beefcake began at the 1990 Royal Rumble . Beefcake , whose gimmick included cutting his opponents ' hair , was wrestling The Genius , Perfect 's manager . When he began giving The Genius a haircut when Perfect interfered and caused a double disqualification . Perfect and Beefcake wrestled each other at WrestleMania VI , and Beefcake won the match . Perfect won the Intercontinental Championship on April 23 , 1990 in a tournament final . He had caused Beefcake to be eliminated from the tournament by interfering in his match . Beefcake and Perfect had a series of matches at house shows leading up to their planned SummerSlam match . Shortly before SummerSlam , Beefcake was injured while he was standing on a beach and a female friend 's knees hit him in the face while she was parasailing . Several bones in his face were legitimately broken , including his jaw and nose . As a result , the Texas Tornado replaced Beefcake in the SummerSlam match .

At the 1990 Royal Rumble , Sensational Sherri , Randy Savage 's valet , appeared on the Brother Love show . Brother Love discussed the definition of a " lady " , using Sherri as an example . He then discussed " peasants " , bringing out Sapphire , Dusty Rhodes 's valet , as an example . Sherri and Sapphire fought , which led to Savage and Rhodes fighting to defend their valets . Rhodes and Sapphire faced Savage and Sherri in a mixed tag team match at WrestleMania VI . Rhodes and Sapphire won the match with assistance from Miss Elizabeth , Savage 's former valet . For SummerSlam , individual matches were scheduled , with Sapphire facing Sherri and Savage wrestling Rhodes . Meanwhile , Sapphire had been receiving gifts from an anonymous benefactor .

Tito Santana and Rick Martel formed a tag team named Strike Force in 1987 . They won the WWF Tag Team Championship together before Martel abandoned Santana during a match against the Brain Busters at WrestleMania V. This led to a lengthy feud between the two , The team split up as a result and the former partners had a lengthy feud. and a blow off match was scheduled for SummerSlam . Martel was injured prior to the SummerSlam match , so the WWF created a storyline that he was unable to compete because he was participating in a modeling competition in Paris . He was replaced in the match with The Warlord , who had been competing against Santana on house shows since April .

Demolition and The Hart Foundation had faced each other two years earlier at SummerSlam 1988 , where Demolition had successfully defended the WWF Tag Team Championship . The Hart

Foundation duo of Jim Neidhart and Bret Hart later focused on singles wrestling but soon reunited as a team . They announced on the March 31 episode of WWF Superstars that they wanted to challenge for the WWF Tag Team Championship after the WrestleMania match between The Colossal Connection and Demolition . After Demolition won the match , The Hart Foundation faced The Rockers on the April 28 episode of Saturday Night 's Main Event . Demolition interfered , causing a double disqualification . On the July 14 episode of WWF Superstars , Demolition and The Hart Foundation brawled after The Hart Foundation claimed that Demolition having three members was evidence of cowardice . The following week , a match between the teams was announced for SummerSlam . The stipulations stated that it would be a two out of three falls match and that only two members of Demolition would be allowed at ringside .

The feud between Bad News Brown and Jake Roberts began when Roberts sent Brown a birthday present on the April 22 episode of Wrestling Challenge . Upon opening the package , Brown found a rubber snake ; it was revealed that Brown was afraid of snakes . On the May 5 episode of WWF Superstars , the two men agreed to a match ; Brown later claimed that his fear of snakes was cured , although he was quickly proven wrong . On the July 28 episode of WWF Superstars , it was announced that Brown and Roberts face each other at SummerSlam with the Big Boss Man as a special referee . Brown also announced that he would bring 200 pounds of Harlem sewer rats to counteract Roberts 's boa constrictor , Damien .

Nikolai Volkoff began the year partnered with Boris Zhukov in a pro @-@ Soviet tag team known as The Bolsheviks . After Lithuania , Volkoff 's homeland , declared its independence from the Soviet Union on March 11 , 1990 , The Bolsheviks split up . Volkoff became pro @-@ Western and was presented with an American flag by Jim Duggan . They were then booked to face a Japanese team known as The Orient Express at SummerSlam .

As Hulk Hogan was being interviewed on The Brother Love Show during the May 26 episode of WWF Superstars , he was attacked by Earthquake . Earthquake hit Hogan with a chair and jumped on his stomach with an Earthquake splash . Hogan was taken from the stage on a stretcher . Hogan did not appear on WWF programming for almost two months , as the company teased his possible retirement . On the July 14 episode of WWF Superstars , Hogan announced that he was returning to action and would be facing Earthquake at SummerSlam . Hogan also stated that his friend Tugboat would be in his corner during the match . Earthquake and his ally Dino Bravo attacked Tugboat during a match on the August 18 episode of WWF Superstars . Tugboat was carried offstage on a stretcher after Earthquake performed two Earthquake splashes on him . Tugboat was rescued by the Big Bossman , but the injuries he sustained were said to be severe enough to prevent him from appearing at SummerSlam . Hogan later announced that the Big Bossman would be in his corner instead .

The Ultimate Warrior and Rick Rude had been feuding since the 1989 Royal Rumble . The competed against each other in a " posedown " to show off their muscles , after which Rude attacked the Warrior . They faced each other at WrestleMania V in a match for the Warrior 's Intercontinental Championship . Rude won the title , but the Warrior regained the title belt at SummerSlam 1989 . The Ultimate Warrior defeated Hulk Hogan for the WWF World Heavyweight Championship at WrestleMania VI ; he was forced to give up the Intercontinental Championship , and Rick Rude was named the top challenger for SummerSlam . It was later announced that the bout would be a steel cage match .

To build anticipation for the pay @-@ per @-@ view event , the WWF broadcast SummerSlam Fever on the USA Network . The show aired on August 19 and included several interviews as well as an appearance by Hulk Hogan and manager Jimmy Hart on the Brother Love show . It also featured nine matches that included wrestlers who would be competing at SummerSlam .

= = Event = =

Before the pay @-@ per @-@ view began , Shane Douglas defeated Buddy Rose in a dark match . Hercules attacked Shawn Michaels prior to the first televised bout , hitting him in the knee with a chain . Although his partner was unable to compete , Jannetty controlled the beginning of the match

, using hip tosses to throw Roma and Hercules . Power and Glory then attacked Jannetty while their manager , Slick , distracted the referee . Although Jannetty was able to mount a brief comeback , Roma and Hercules wore him down and got the victory after performing a PowerPlex ? a superplex from Hercules followed by a diving splash from Roma .

The Texas Tornado got an early advantage in his match with Mr. Perfect , controlling the bout with several power moves . Mr. Perfect recovered and used a neckbreaker and sleeper hold to wear down the Tornado . As Perfect was showing off for the crowd , the Tornado attacked him from behind . He wore Perfect down with a clawhold before hitting him with a discus punch to win the match and the Intercontinental Championship .

Sensational Sherri came to the ring for her match against Sapphire , but Sapphire did not come to the ring when she was announced . As a result , Sherri was awarded the victory by forfeit .

Tito Santana began his match with The Warlord by locking his opponent in a headlock and dropkicking him out of the ring . The Warlord took control of the match when he returned to the ring , using his strength to control the match . Slick , The Warlord 's manager , interfered , but Santana regained a brief advantage . The Warlord gained the victory by pinning Santana after performing a running powerslam .

In the two out of three falls tag team match , Crush and Smash represented Demolition against the team of Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart . Both teams relied on brawling tactics during the first fall , which was awarded to Demolition when they pinned Hart after performing the Demolition Decapitation . They continued to wear down Hart until Neidhart tagged back into the match . He and Hart took turns attacking Smash before performing the Hart Attack . Before they could pin him , however , Crush prevented the referee from making a pinfall count , which resulted in a disqualification . During the third fall , Demolition distracted the referee , enabling Ax , their third member , to come to hide at ringside . When Smash was knocked out of the ring , Ax took his place while Smash hid . Well rested , Ax used his power to control the match against Hart . Ax and Smash traded places again , but the Legion of Doom appeared and pulled Ax out from under the ring . With Smash distracted , Hart and Neidhart were able to tackle Crush and pin him to win the match and the WWF Tag Team Championship .

During the following match , a covered cage sat at ringside , supposedly containing 200 pounds of Harlem sewer rats , although the contents of the cage were not revealed . Bad News Brown controlled most of the early stages of his match against Jake Roberts . Roberts attempted to perform the DDT twice , including once when Brown was arguing with special referee Big Bossman , but Brown blocked the move both times . Outside the ring , Brown hit Roberts with a chair while the Big Bossman was not looking . Roberts gained the advantage by punching Brown repeatedly but was kicked to the outside after Brown reversed a DDT attempt into a back bodydrop . Brown hit Roberts with a chair again but was disqualified when the Bossman saw him . Brown tried to gain revenge after the match by attacking Roberts 's boa constrictor , Damien , but the Bossman attacked Brown to save the snake .

Sgt. Slaughter was a guest on The Brother Love Show . He presented Brother Love the " Greatest American Award " and claimed that the United States had become soft and weak . He also declared war on Nikolai Volkoff . Prior to the next match , Duggan and Volkoff sang " God Bless America " . They were attacked by The Orient Express (Akio Sato and Pat Tanaka) , and all four men fought in the ring . Sato and Tanaka attacked Volkoff while preventing him from tagging Duggan into the match ; Mr. Fuji , the manager of The Orient Express , also hit Volkoff with his cane . When Tanaka missed a big splash , Volkoff tagged in Duggan , who performed several clothelines on Tanaka and Sato . Volkoff and Duggan then Irish whipped their opponents into each other ; Duggan clotheslined Tanaka from a three @-@ point stance and pinned him to win the match .

As the match between Dusty Rhodes and Randy Savage was about to begin , Ted DiBiase appeared and announced that he had purchased Sapphire . Rhodes walked down the aisle toward DiBiase and Sapphire but was attacked from behind by Savage . Savage controlled most of the match , and Sherri interfered to help him while the referee was distracted . Rhodes made a brief comeback , but Savage was able to pin him after hitting him with Sherri 's purse , which was said to be loaded with a heavy object . After the match , Rhodes chased after DiBiase and Sapphire but

was unable to catch up to their departing limousine .

Control went back and forth at the beginning of the match between Hulk Hogan and Earthquake . When Earthquake rolled out of the ring , both wrestlers ' corner @-@ men got involved , as Hogan and the Big Boss Man fought against Earthquake and Dino Bravo . Bravo and Earthquake powerslammed Hogan while the referee was distracted , which allowed Earthquake to lock Hogan in a Boston crab hold . After being powerslammed outside of the ring by Earthquake , Hogan tried to lift his opponent but was unsuccessful . Earthquake powerslammed Hogan and performed two Earthquake splashes but was unable to get the pinfall . Hogan recovered and bodyslammed Earthquake . He performed a legdrop on Earthquake before Earthquake 's manager , Jimmy Hart interfered . Hogan threw him out of the ring and then bodyslammed Earthquake onto a table at ringside . Hogan got back into the ring and won the match via countout . Earthquake attacked Hogan after the match , but the Big Boss Man saved Hogan by hitting Earthquake with a chair .

The Ultimate Warrior gained the early advantage in his steel cage match with Rick Rude . After the Warrior missed a splash attempt , Rude attempted to win the match by escaping the cage . The Warrior stopped him , and both wrestlers unsuccessfully attempted to perform their finishing moves . Rude was then able to perform a Rude Awakening neckbreaker but chose to continue attacking the Warrior rather than escape the cage . Rude performed a shoulderblock and tried to leave through the cage door . The Warrior held him back while Bobby Heenan , Rude 's manager , tried to pull Rude out . The Warrior pulled both Rude and Heenan into the cage . He punched Heenan and then threw him out of the cage with an atomic drop . Warrior then knocked Rude down three times with clotheslines and threw him onto the ring floor with a gorilla press drop . Warrior climbed over the cage and dropped to the arena floor to win the match and retain the WWF World Heavyweight Championship .

= = Aftermath = =

The Rockers continued to feud with Power and Glory , and the teams faced each other during an elimination match at the 1990 Survivor Series . Power and Glory 's team won the match , during which Roma eliminated Michaels after performing a PowerPlex with Hercules .

The Texas Tornado held the Intercontinental Championship for almost three months before dropping it back to Perfect on November 19 . The match was aired on the December 15 edition of WWF Superstars . The two men were also on opposite sides for an elimination match at Survivor Series . Perfect eliminated the Tornado with a PerfectPlex , but the Tornado 's team won the match . Brutus Beefcake did not wrestle again until 1993 .

Dusty Rhodes continued to feud with Randy Savage after SummerSlam . During their match on the October 22 episode of Prime Time Wrestling , Ted DiBiase interfered and attacked Rhodes 's son , Dustin . DiBiase and Dusty Rhodes faced each other as part of an elimination match at Survivor Series 1990 ; DiBiase won the match for his team . The continued rivalry led to a tag team match at the 1991 Royal Rumble that pitted Dusty and Dustin Rhodes against DiBiase and his bodyguard , Virgil . DiBiase and Virgil won the match and then began feuding with each other . Sapphire left the WWF soon after SummerSlam , and Savage stopped feuding with Rhodes in favor of challenging the Ultimate Warrior for the WWF World Heavyweight Championship .

After Martel returned from his injury , he was placed in a storyline in which he blinded Jake Roberts by spraying him in the face with cologne on the Brother Love Show . Martel and Santana faced each other on the November 11 episode of Wrestling Challenge , and Roberts interfered . Unable to see clearly , he accidentally attacked Santana but vowed revenge against Martel . Bad News Brown left the WWF after SummerSlam , citing broken promises as his reason .

The Hart Foundation held the WWF Tag Team Championship for almost seven months before dropping the title belts to The Nasty Boys on March 24 , 1991 . Demolition feuded with the Legion of Doom , including several six @-@ man matches in which the Ultimate Warrior sided with the Legion of Doom . They also faced each other at Survivor Series 1990 as part of an elimination match . During the match , Smash , Crush , and both members of the Legion of Doom were disqualified for fighting outside the ring . Demolition was disbanded altogether shortly thereafter , although Smash

and Crush continued to wrestle under different gimmicks .

Nikolai Volkoff competed at Survivor Series 1990 in a match that pitted him and his partners against Sgt. Slaughter , Boris Zhukov , and The Orient Express . He was eliminated by Slaughter , who was later disqualified when his manager , General Adnan hit Tito Santana with an Iraqi flag . Slaughter and Volkoff also faced each other on many house shows throughout the second half of 1990 . Slaughter won the majority of these contests before setting his sights on the WWF World Heavyweight Championship .

At the 1990 Survivor Series , Hogan and Tugboat were members of the Hulkamaniacs team in a match against the Natural Disasters team , which included Earthquake and Bravo . Hogan eliminated Bravo , and Tugboat and Earthquake were both counted out while fighting each other . The Hulkamaniacs won the match , with Hogan as the only wrestler remaining at the end . During the 1991 Royal Rumble match , Hogan eliminated his friend Tugboat . Hogan and Earthquake were the final two wrestlers at the end ; Hogan eliminated Earthquake to win the match . Tugboat later turned heel and changed his name to Typhoon ; he and Earthquake formed a tag team known as The Natural Disasters .

Rude left the WWF in late 1990 due to a dispute with the company about money . As a result , Bobby Heenan took his place in matches that had already been booked against the Big Boss Man . The Ultimate Warrior held the WWF World Heavyweight Championship until dropping it to Sgt. Slaughter at the 1991 Royal Rumble .

= = Reception = =

Writing for Online Onslaught , Adam Gutschmidt felt that the event had some humorous moments but did not offer a solid card of wrestling . He enjoyed the match between The Hart Foundation and Demolition , but he rated the Bad News Brown vs. Jake Roberts and Orient Express vs. Jim Duggan and Nikolai Volkoff matches as duds . He gave the Randy Savage vs. Dusty Rhodes match negative one star . Julian Radbourn of Bleacher Report enjoyed the event , particularly the tag team title match . He felt that the Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude match was not as good as their previous encounter , but he stated that the event was " well worth viewing " . The columnists reviewed the event for 411mania . Stuart Carapola felt that the match for the WWF Tag Team Championship was the highlight ; he enjoyed the show at the time but saw nothing particularly special looking back at the event . Arnold Furious felt that the storyline for the tag team title match was too complicated and that the main event match was " really poor " . He thought that the show had too many matches , some of which served little purpose , and that the show is not worth recommending . Sydney Brown felt that the match for the Intercontinental Championship was " nothing " but that the tag team title match was good ; Brown felt that both main events were the best of any SummerSlam to that point and gave the event a B @-@ minus .

The attendance for the event was 19 @, @ 304 , which was the lowest attendance of the first seven SummerSlams . The WWF collected \$ 338 @, @ 452 from ticket revenue . The pay @-@ per @-@ view buyrate was 3 @. @ 8 , which was down from the previous year 's 4 @. @ 8 but higher than the following year 's 2 @. @ 7 buyrate .

SummerSlam 1990 was released on VHS by Coliseum Video on September 27 , 1990 , in the United States . The VHS edition was released in the United Kingdom on April 6 , 1992 . It was first released on DVD as part of Silver Vision 's WWE Tagged Classics series on August 1 , 2005 . The event is also included as part of WWE 's SummerSlam Anthology boxed DVD set . The anthology was released on August 5 , 2008 in North America and was released on October 6 , 2008 in the United Kingdom .

= = Results = =