

= WrestleMania IX =

WrestleMania IX was the ninth annual WrestleMania professional wrestling pay @-@ per @-@ view event produced by the World Wrestling Federation . The event took place at Caesars Palace in Paradise , Nevada on April 4 , 1993 , and was the first WrestleMania event held outdoors . The buildup to the pay @-@ per @-@ view consisted of 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 promotion .

WrestleMania IX was built around two main storylines . The first was the seemingly unstoppable Yokozuna challenging Bret Hart for the WWF World Heavyweight Championship in the main event , a right he earned by winning the 1993 Royal Rumble . The other major storyline was the return of Hulk Hogan , who had departed the WWF following WrestleMania VIII but returned to team with Brutus Beefcake against the WWF Tag Team Champions , Money Inc . (Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster) . Hogan and Beefcake lost the tag team match , but Hogan later faced Yokozuna for the title in an impromptu , unadvertised 22 @-@ second match after Yokozuna defeated Hart to win the championship . In addition , Shawn Michaels retained the Intercontinental Championship , though he lost his match against Tatanka .

Several reviewers have been critical of the event . The most frequent criticism has been related to the match between The Undertaker and Giant Gonzalez , Hulk Hogan 's title win , and the Roman togas worn by announcers . Both the pay @-@ per @-@ view buyrate and the attendance for the event dropped from the previous year 's WrestleMania .

= = Background = =

One of the staged feuds heading into the event was between Tatanka and Intercontinental Champion Shawn Michaels . Tatanka was in the midst of an undefeated streak and had wrestled Michaels twice in the months leading up to WrestleMania IX . Tatanka pinned Michaels in a singles match on the February 13 , 1993 episode of WWF Superstars of Wrestling and later teamed with The Nasty Boys in a six @-@ man match against Michaels and the Beverly Brothers ; Tatanka pinned Michaels to win this match as well . Michaels was also feuding with Sensational Sherri , who stood in Tatanka 's corner during the match . Sherri had been Michaels ' valet . When Marty Jannetty tried to hit Michaels with a mirror , however , Michaels pulled Sherri in front of him to protect himself . Sherri 's anger at getting hit over the head with a mirror caused her to turn on him at Royal Rumble 1993 .

The match between The Steiner Brothers (Rick and Scott) and The Headshrinkers (Samu and Fatu) had little background , although Afa , who managed The Headshrinkers , claimed that his team would " tear [the Steiners '] heads off " . Doink the Clown and Crush had been feuding since the January 2 , 1993 episode of WWF Superstars of Wrestling . After Crush 's match on that show , he confronted Doink , who had thrown a ball at a child in the audience . Crush grabbed Doink by the arm and warned him not to play any more pranks on children . Doink , wearing a cast on the arm that Crush had supposedly injured by grabbing , came to ringside during Crush 's match on the January 18 episode of WWF Monday Night Raw . He apologized to Crush and gave him a flower ; when Crush walked away , Doink removed a prosthetic arm from his cast and attacked Crush , who was later taken away in an ambulance due to kayfabe (storyline) injuries . For storyline purposes , Crush was said to be too injured to compete in the 1993 Royal Rumble match . Doink continued his pranks by squirting Crush with a water pistol and recording video messages to Crush , which showed two Doinks on the screen .

The feud between The Mega @-@ Maniacs (Brutus Beefcake and Hulk Hogan) and WWF Tag Team Champions Money Inc . (Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster) stemmed from a legitimate parasailing accident in 1990 that forced Beefcake to undergo reconstructive surgery to his face . He was unable to wrestle again until the February 15 , 1993 episode of Raw . He faced DiBiase in his return match , after which DiBiase and Schyster attacked him . DiBiase held Beefcake for Schyster to hit him in the face with a briefcase , but Jimmy Hart , who managed Money Inc . , repeatedly got

in the way before Schyster shoved him out of the ring . Schyster then hit Beefcake in the face with the briefcase . Hart later claimed that he felt the need to " step up and do the right thing " and that he " had a change of heart " , and his intervention led to him becoming a babyface , or crowd favorite . Shortly thereafter , Hulk Hogan made his return to the WWF and joined with Beefcake , and manager Jimmy Hart , to form The Mega @-@ Maniacs and challenge Money Inc. for the WWF Tag Team Championship .

Mr. Perfect 's rivalry with Bobby Heenan dated back to Survivor Series (1992) . Perfect and Ric Flair were managed by Heenan , but Perfect turned on Flair and Heenan by agreeing to face them as part of a tag team match at Survivor Series . Flair feuded briefly with Perfect but left the company to return to World Championship Wrestling . Lex Luger had joined Vince McMahon 's World Bodybuilding Federation , but he signed with McMahon 's WWF when the bodybuilding company failed . He made his debut at Royal Rumble 1993 , where he was unveiled as Heenan 's latest wrestler , Narcissus (although the ring name was changed to " The Narcissist " Lex Luger) .

The Undertaker 's feud with Giant Gonzalez was an offshoot of The Undertaker 's feud with manager Harvey Wippleman . The Undertaker defeated Kamala , who was managed by Wippleman , at SummerSlam 1992 . A rematch was held at Survivor Series 1992 , and The Undertaker beat Kamala in a coffin match . Wippleman vowed revenge , and he introduced Gonzalez at Royal Rumble 1993 and instructed him to attack The Undertaker . The Undertaker was eliminated from the Royal Rumble match as a result of the interference , and a match was scheduled between The Undertaker and Giant Gonzalez for WrestleMania IX .

Beginning with his debut with the company in 1992 , Yokozuna was pushed by the WWF as an unstoppable monster heel . Weighing over 500 pounds , he used the Banzai Drop , a move in which he jumped from the second rope and sat on his opponent 's chest , to defeat several of the WWF 's biggest stars . In a notable match on the February 6 , 1993 episode of WWF Superstars of Wrestling , Yokozuna attacked " Hacksaw " Jim Duggan and performed the Banzai Drop four times . Due to the kayfabe injuries from the attack , Duggan was unable to wrestle for over two months . Yokozuna earned a title shot against WWF World Heavyweight Champion Bret Hart by winning the 1993 Royal Rumble match . During the contract signing , Yokozuna attacked Hart and performed the Banzai Drop on him .

= = Event = =

Before the televised broadcast began , Tito Santana defeated Papa Shango in a dark match . In the first match of the pay @-@ per @-@ view event , WWF Intercontinental Champion Shawn Michaels was accompanied to the ring by a new valet , Luna Vachon . Sensational Sherri followed Tatanka to the ring to prevent Vachon from getting involved in the match . During the match , Vachon approached Tatanka twice outside the ring , but Sherri was able to intervene and stop Vachon from interfering . Tatanka spent much of the match trying to injure Michaels with an armbar hold . Michaels gained the advantage and almost pinned Tatanka with a victory roll , but Tatanka escaped the pin attempt and performed a war dance to channel his energy . Michaels threw Tatanka out of the ring and tried to jump at him to attack , but Tatanka moved . Michaels was unable to return to the ring within ten seconds ; he pulled the referee out of the ring . Tatanka was awarded the victory by countout but did not win the championship because titles can only change hands as a result of pinfall or submission . Vachon attacked Sherri after the match , and Tatanka had to help Sherri make it back to the dressing rooms .

In the next match , the Steiner Brothers (Rick and Scott) faced The Headshrinkers (Samu and Fatu) . The advantage switched back and forth several times , as the Steiners threw The Headshrinkers with several suplex variations and used their aerial abilities to attack their opponents from the ring ropes . The Headshrinkers relied mainly on using their power to wear down the Steiners . At one point , Fatu picked Rick Steiner up on his shoulders so that Samu could attack Rick from the top rope . Rick caught Samu instead and performed a bodyslam on Samu from Fatu 's shoulders . The match ended when Scott Steiner performed a Frankensteiner to pin Samu and win the match .

Crush attacked Doink the Clown outside the ring prior to the next match . After getting Doink inside the ring , Crush used his strength advantage to overpower Doink . Doink gained the advantage but missed two attacks from the top rope . Crush used more power moves to wear down Doink , and Doink tried to crawl under the ring . Crush forced Doink back into the ring and performed the Cranium Crunch , a head vice submission hold , on Doink . Doink pulled himself to the ropes and broke the hold . Doink hit the referee and knocked him unconscious ; as a result of this staged ref bump , a second Doink the Clown (portrayed by Steve Keirn) was able to interfere . He hit Crush with a prosthetic arm , which enabled the first Doink to win by pinfall when the referee regained consciousness .

Razor Ramon faced Bob Backlund next . Ramon used his power to dominate the majority of the match , but Backlund used hip tosses to attempt a comeback . Ramon won the match in under four minutes by pinning Backlund with a small package .

In the following match , Money Inc . (Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster) defended their WWF Tag Team Championship against The Mega @-@ Maniacs (Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake) . Beefcake wore a protective titanium facemask because of his injured face , and Hulk Hogan came to the ring with a black eye , which led the announcers to speculate about the cause . Money Inc. gained the early advantage , but DiBiase soon injured himself by hitting Beefcake 's mask . Hogan and Beefcake brawled with their enemies and controlled the match until Money Inc. was counted out . Referee Earl Hebner announced , however , that he would strip them of their title if they did not return to the ring and continue the match . DiBiase returned to the ring and rendered Hogan unconscious with the Million Dollar Dream chokehold . Beefcake attacked DiBiase by applying a sleeper hold and then turned his attention to Schyster , but DiBiase hit him in the back with Schyster 's briefcase . Money Inc. attacked Beefcake and removed his facemask , but Beefcake fought back and applied a sleeper hold to Schyster . The referee was accidentally knocked unconscious , and Hogan recovered and attacked both members of Money Inc. with Beefcake 's facemask . He tried to make the cover for a pinfall , but the referee still unconscious . Manager Jimmy Hart turned his jacket inside @-@ out to reveal a striped referee jacket ; he made the three @-@ count and declared The Mega @-@ Maniacs the winners of the match . Referee Danny Davis came to the ring and disqualified Hogan for using the facemask as a weapon . Money Inc. won the match and retained their championship , but The Mega @-@ Maniacs threw them out of the ring and opened Schyster 's briefcase to reveal stacks of cash . They celebrated in the ring and threw the money into the crowd .

Lex Luger was accompanied to the ring by four women with revealing outfits as he prepared to face Mr. Perfect . The match began with technical wrestling , and Perfect tried to injure Luger 's knee while Luger worked on Perfect 's back . Perfect took control of the match with a powerslam and tried to pin Luger after performing a dropkick from the top rope . Luger 's foot was on the ropes , however , so the referee halted the three @-@ count and continued the match . Luger gained momentum and pinned Perfect ; Perfect 's feet were on the rope , but the referee did not see them . Luger continued to attack Perfect after the match and hit him with his forearm , which contains a steel plate as the result of a legitimate motorcycle accident . When Perfect got up , he chased Luger but was attacked by Shawn Michaels backstage .

In the next match , The Undertaker faced Giant Gonzalez . Both men tried to use their size and power to control the match . Gonzalez used a reverse chinlock to wear The Undertaker down and attacked him outside the ring . The Undertaker regained control of the match and knocked Gonzalez onto his knees . Harvey Wippleman threw Gonzalez a rag soaked with chloroform , which Gonzalez used to knock The Undertaker unconscious . The referee disqualified Gonzalez for using a foreign object and awarded the match to The Undertaker . After the match , The Undertaker recovered and attacked Giant Gonzalez .

In the main event and final scheduled match on the card , Bret Hart defended the WWF World Heavyweight Championship against Yokozuna . Hart tried to use his technical wrestling abilities against Yokozuna , while Yokozuna relied on his size advantage in the match . Hart gained control at the beginning , but Yokozuna came back with a clothesline , leg drop , and nerve hold . Hart regained the advantage when Yokozuna missed a running splash . Yokozuna applied another nerve

hold but missed a running splash again . He recovered and carried Hart to the middle of the ring , but Hart removed the protective padding on the turnbuckle in the corner of the ring . He threw Yokozuna 's head into the turnbuckle and applied the Sharpshooter , his signature submission hold that stretches the opponent 's legs and back . Mr. Fuji , Yokozuna 's manager , threw salt in Hart 's eyes , which enabled Yokozuna to pin Hart and win the WWF World Heavyweight Championship .

After the match , Hulk Hogan came to ring to check on Hart 's condition . Hogan had stated during an interview earlier in the broadcast that he wanted to face the winner of the match , and Fuji challenged Hogan to face Yokozuna immediately in an impromptu bout . Hogan agreed and entered the ring . Fuji tried to throw salt in Hogan 's eyes , but he missed and the salt hit Yokozuna . Hogan performed a leg drop and pinned Yokozuna to win the title in 22 seconds .

= = Aftermath = =

A feud began between Shawn Michaels and Mr. Perfect after WrestleMania IX as a result of Michaels attacking Perfect . They faced each other at SummerSlam 1993 , and Michaels won by countout after his new bodyguard , Diesel attacked Perfect . Perfect then feuded with Diesel until leaving the WWF .

Money Inc. lost the WWF Tag Team Championship to the Steiner Brothers on June 14 , 1993 . Money Inc. won the belts back in a rematch on June 16 , but the Steiners won them again three days later . Money Inc. received several rematches but were unable to regain the title ; they soon focused on singles wrestling , and DiBiase retired shortly thereafter .

The Undertaker continued to feud with Harvey Wippleman . On the June 12 , 1993 episode of WWF Superstars of Wrestling , Wippleman , Giant Gonzalez , and Mr. Hughes attacked The Undertaker , and his manager Paul Bearer , and stole the urn that was said to be the source of his power . The Undertaker and Giant Gonzalez faced each other one final time at SummerSlam 1993 in a Rest in Peace match , in which neither wrestler could be disqualified . The Undertaker won the match to end the feud . After the match , a frustrated Gonzalez chokeslammed Wippleman to the delight of the fans and turned face in the process .

Bret Hart later claimed that during a conversation with Vince McMahon , he was told that Hulk Hogan refused to drop the WWF World Heavyweight Championship to him . However , Hulk Hogan stated that , during a conversation with Vince McMahon , a deal was made for Hogan to drop the belt to the top heel at the time , Yokozuna , at the following King of The Ring . All three men eventually wound up in a meeting , where McMahon outlined the plan to have Hogan drop the belt to Yokozuna and denied telling Bret that Hogan refused to drop the championship to him .

After regaining the title , Yokozuna challenged any American athlete to bodyslam him on the deck of the USS Intrepid on July 4 , 1993 . After many challengers failed , Lex Luger arrived by helicopter and bodyslammed Yokozuna . Luger became a fan favorite and changed his gimmick to an American patriot . He faced Yokozuna for the WWF World Heavyweight Championship at SummerSlam 1993 ; he won the match by countout but did not win the title . Lex Luger and Bret Hart each earned a title match against Yokozuna the following year at WrestleMania X. Luger was disqualified in his match , but Hart won the championship later that night .

= = Production = =

This was the first WrestleMania held entirely outdoors , a concept the company did not use again until WrestleMania XXIV in 2008 . Because WrestleMania IX was held in Caesars Palace , the WWF promoted the event as the " World 's Largest Toga Party " . The arena was made to look like a Roman coliseum , and the event featured guards , trumpeters , and several live animals . The company built on this theme by having the commentators , including debuting announcer Jim Ross , wear togas . Ring announcer Howard Finkel was also renamed " Finkus Maximus " for the day . Randy Savage came to the broadcast booth accompanied by women throwing flower petals and feeding him grapes while he rode on a couch carried by guards . Bobby Heenan made his entrance wearing a toga and riding a camel backwards .

Hulk Hogan 's visibly damaged eye was explained in the storyline as the result of Ted DiBiase hiring a group of men to attack Hogan before the match . In reality , the cause of injury has been open to debate . One theory is that Randy Savage punched Hogan because he believed that his ex @-@ wife Elizabeth Hulette had an affair with Hogan while Savage and Hulette were married (the couple divorced in September 1992) . WWF officials claimed that the injury was the result of a Jet Ski accident .

A match was scheduled between Bam Bam Bigelow and Kamala , but it was canceled due to time constraints before the event began .

= = = Reception = = =

The event was attended by 16 @,@ 891 fans , who paid a total of \$ 1 @,@ 100 @,@ 000 in admission fees . This represents less than one @-@ third of the number of fans at WrestleMania VIII , which had an attendance of 62 @,@ 167 . The pay @-@ per @-@ view drew a 2 @.@ 3 buyrate , which was lower than the previous year 's 2 @.@ 8 buyrate . It was higher , however , than the buyrates for any of the following four WrestleManias .

WrestleMania IX has received criticism for what some reviewers have perceived as a poorly booked event . Writing for SLAM ! Wrestling , John Powell states that , aside from the Intercontinental and Tag Team Championship matches and the scantily @-@ clad women that accompanied Lex Luger to the ring , the rest of the broadcast was poor . He is also critical of some of the outfits worn for the event , notably Jim Ross 's toga and Giant Gonzalez 's spray @-@ painted suit . Reviewing the event for Online Onslaught , Adam Gutschmidt claims that several of the matches flowed poorly and had ill @-@ conceived conclusions . He also claims that the match between Giant Gonzalez and The Undertaker was a " dud " and that Hulk Hogan 's ego made the conclusion the " worst WrestleMania ending ever " . RD Reynolds , owner of the website WrestleCrap , has inducted the event into the site 's list of " the very worst in pro wrestling " . He cites Giant Gonzalez , Papa Shango , Luger 's " narcissist " gimmick , and Jim Ross wearing a toga as his reasons for including the event in the list .

WWE places two events from WrestleMania IX in its top 50 WrestleMania moments : Bobby Heenan 's entrance on the camel , which the company calls " one of the most hilarious moments in WWE history " , and Hulk Hogan 's title victory . Matt Anoa 'i , who wrestled for WWE as Rosey , and is the cousin of Samu and Fatu , has identified The Headshrinkers performing a double splash on Scott Steiner at this event as his favorite moment at WrestleMania .

WrestleMania IX was released on VHS by Coliseum Video . It was then released as part of the WWF 's WrestleMania : The Collection (1985 ? 1997) box set in 1997 . The video was re @-@ released six years later in March 1999 . That month , it was also released as part of the WWF 's WrestleMania : The Legacy box set . It was also released on DVD for WWE 's History of WrestleMania I @-@ IX box set on September 14 , 2004 .

In the United Kingdom , the event was released on VHS on July 5 , 1993 . Packaged together with WrestleMania X , it was released on DVD for the WWE Tagged Classics series on May 8 , 2006 .

= = Results = =