

## = 2005 TNA Super X Cup Tournament =

The 2005 TNA Super X Cup Tournament was a professional wrestling single @-@ elimination X Cup Tournament produced by the Total Nonstop Action Wrestling ( TNA ) promotion . It was the second @-@ ever Super X Cup tournament and the last held as of 2016 . The competition began on July 19 , 2005 and concluded on August 14 , 2005 at TNA 's Sacrifice pay @-@ per @-@ view ( PPV ) event . Then @-@ TNA X Division Champion Christopher Daniels called the contest the " Christopher Daniels Invitational " .

The tournament featured eight TNA wrestlers : A.J. Styles , Alex Shelley , Chris Sabin , Michael Shane , Petey Williams , Samoa Joe , Shocker , and Sonjay Dutt . The event was preceded by a four @-@ way qualification match at TNA 's No Surrender PPV event on July 17 , 2005 in which Dutt defeated Elix Skipper , Mikey Batts and Shark Boy . Samoa Joe and A.J. Styles passed through the quarterfinals and the semifinals to make it to the tournament final at Sacrifice . Joe defeated Styles at the event , thus winning the Super X Cup trophy and becoming number one contender to the TNA X Division Championship . Despite losing to Joe , Styles was added to the title match Joe received for winning the competition due to storyline reasons . TNA held a Three Way match for the TNA X Division Championship between Daniels , Joe , and Styles at the Unbreakable PPV event on September 11 , 2005 , which Styles won to become the new TNA X Division Champion .

Canadian Online Explorer columnist Corey David Lacroix reviewed Sacrifice , giving the Super X Cup final a rating of 8 out of 10 . Lacroix said the final " could have been a certified Match of the Year contender if someone in the back had not decided to make Daniels interfere in this contest . " He went on to say the match " was a thing of beauty that got stained . " Wade Keller of the Pro Wrestling Torch gave the Super X Cup final four out of five stars . Keller wrote that it was a " four @-@ star match that was begging to be given an extra ten minutes to be a match of the year candidate . "

## = = Background = =

TNA editor Bill Banks announced the tournament in July 2005 in his " Bank Shot " column , adding that the final would be held at TNA 's Sacrifice PPV event on August 14 , 2005 . The 2005 tournament was the second Super X Cup held . The first was the 2003 TNA Super X Cup Tournament , won by Chris Sabin in September 2003 . Winners of Super X Cup tournaments receive trophies and a future TNA X Division Championship match .

TNA announced the final list of eight participants in July 2005 : A.J. Styles , Alex Shelley , Sabin , Michael Shane , Petey Williams , Samoa Joe , Shocker , and Sonjay Dutt . Dutt defeated Elix Skipper , Mikey Batts , and Shark Boy in a Four Way Super X Cup qualification match on July 27 , 2005 at TNA 's No Surrender PPV event on July 17 , 2005 to enter the tournament .

## = = Tournament = =

The 2005 TNA Super X Cup Tournament featured seven matches involving numerous wrestlers from pre @-@ existing scripted feuds and storylines . Wrestlers portrayed villains , heroes and less distinguishable characters in scripted events that built tension and culminated in wrestling matches .

The tournament consisted of three rounds : the quarterfinals , semifinals , and finals . The quarterfinals and the semifinals took place on TNA 's television program TNA Impact ! , while the finals were held at Sacrifice . The quarterfinals were taped on July 19 and aired on the July 22 and July 29 episodes of Impact ! . The semifinals were also taped on July 19 before airing on August 5 and August 10 episodes of Impact ! Then @-@ TNA X Division Champion Christopher Daniels provided commentary for each encounter . Daniels nicknamed the competition the " Christopher Daniels Invitational " .

### Quarterfinals

In the first of two quarterfinal matches aired on July 22 , Samoa Joe fought Sonjay Dutt in a match

lasting 9 minutes and 32 seconds . Joe won after forcing Dutt to submit with his signature Coquina Clutch submission hold . The second bout pitted A.J. Styles against Michael Shane . Before the match began , Shane announced he was changing his stage name to Matt Bentley . Styles won after America 's Most Wanted ( Chris Harris and James Storm ) interfered . Harris distracted the referee , allowing Storm to kick Bentley in the face .

The third and fourth quarterfinal bouts aired on July 29 . Alex Shelley fought Shocker in the first match of the episode , winning with a pinning combination at 5 minutes and 28 seconds . Petey Williams faced Chris Sabin in the second match . A @-@ 1 interfered during the encounter by distracting the referee and tossing Williams a hockey stick , which Williams used to hit Sabin across the stomach . He then performed his signature Canadian Destroyer maneuver , forcing Sabin 's head into the mat and winning the match at 11 minutes and 45 seconds .

#### Semifinals

Joe , Shelley , Styles , and Williams advanced to the semifinals . The first match took place on the August 5 episode of Impact ! between Joe and Shelley . Joe slammed Shelley back @-@ first into the mat with his signature Muscle Buster maneuver and then choked him unconscious with the Coquina Clutch at 9 minutes and 4 seconds to win and advance to the finals . In the second semifinal match on August 10 , Styles defeated Williams with a small package pin at 9 minutes and 19 seconds .

#### Finals

The tournament final between A.J. Styles and Samoa Joe took place on August 14 at Sacrifice . As Styles laid against the ring ropes at the beginning of the match , Joe ran across the ring and kicked him in the face , causing him to fly out of the ring and crash down on the floor . Joe followed by diving through the ring ropes and smashing Styles in the face with his forearm as Styles reached his feet . Joe later held Styles in an STF submission hold , which he was forced to release when Styles touched the bottom rope . Styles then gained the advantage with a dropkick and front @-@ flip splash from the ring ropes . He held Joe on his shoulders before twisting him off into a powerbomb , or what he calls a Rack Bomb . During the move , referee Andrew Thomas was kicked in the face and knocked unconscious , allowing Daniels to interfere in the contest . Daniels attacked Styles and attempted to hit Joe with the X Division Title belt before Styles threw Daniels from the ring . Joe followed by lifting Styles up and performing his Muscle Buster maneuver , then placing Styles in his Coquina Clutch submission hold . Styles submitted to the move as the referee came to , giving the victory to Joe . The final bout lasted 15 minutes and 15 seconds .

Joe 's win gave him the Super X Cup trophy and made him the number @-@ one contender for the TNA X Division Championship . He earned a title match against Daniels at TNA 's Unbreakable PPV event on September 11 .

#### Tournament bracket

= = Reception = =

James Caldwell of Pro Wrestling Torch called the Samoa Joe versus Sonjay Dutt encounter in the quarterfinals " another phenomenal match involving Samoa Joe , " and wrote that it was " another reason to build the X Division ? and the promotion ? around Joe . " Caldwell also praised the A.J. Styles versus Matt Bentley bout in the quarterfinals , calling it a " solid , methodical match that told a story in the ring . " Canadian Online Explorer journalist Chris Sokol said the Styles versus Bentley contest was a " great match . " Caldwell said of the July 29 quarterfinal between Alex Shelley and Shocker that " with Shelley winning the match using Shocker 's traditional roll up pinning combination , Shelley looked strong coming out of the match for outsmarting his opponent . " He went on to say if the bout had lasted longer it " could have allowed the match to tell a more complete story , but the match was good for delivering the intended purpose . " Sokol said in a column about the show that it was an " excellent match " . On the quarterfinal between Sabin and Williams , Caldwell said the two men " put together a solid finish that was ruined by yet another round of outside interference by Team Canada " . Sokol called it " another excellent match . "

Reviews of the semifinal matches on August 5 and 10 were also generally positive . Caldwell said

the Joe versus Shelley contest was " another outstanding Samoa Joe match . " Sokol said the Styles versus Williams bout was a " back and forth match " , and Caldwell said it was " a solid match " that was " nothing spectacular or particularly breathtaking , but it didn 't need to be because the crowd was into the match simply because of who was in the ring . " He went on to say that the wrestlers " didn 't need to pull of a four star match with amazing spots to wow the crowd because they had the audience captivated from the get @-@ go . "

Canadian Online Explorer columnist Corey David Lacroix reviewed Sacrifice , giving the Super X Cup Final an 8 out of 10 rating . Lacroix wrote that the Super X Cup Final " could have been a certified Match of the Year contender if someone in the back had not decided to make Daniels interfere in this contest . " He went on to say the match " was a thing of beauty that got stained . " Wade Keller of the Pro Wrestling Torch gave the Super X Cup Final four stars out of five , calling it a " four star match that was begging to be given an extra ten minutes to be a match of the year candidate . "

= = Aftermath = =

A.J. Styles suffered a tendon injury during his title bout with Samoa Joe at Sacrifice . TNA management kept him out of the following Impact ! tapings , hoping to keep him rested and not risk any further injury despite expectations that he would not be sidelined long . Styles , however , canceled an appearance in the Ring of Honor promotion on August 20 . He came back for a promotion on August 27 at their Dragon 's Gate Invasion event , losing a match to CIMA .

After winning the 2005 TNA Super X Cup tournament , Samoa Joe was set to face Christopher Daniels for the TNA X Division Championship at Unbreakable . On the August 19 episode of Impact ! , however , Styles assaulted Daniels in an act of revenge for Daniels ' interference at Sacrifice . Daniels demanded Styles be suspended for this action . NWA Championship Committee member Larry Zbyszko denied the request , and instead added Styles to the planned encounter at Unbreakable , thus making it a Three Way match for the TNA X Division Championship . TNA promoted the match as an X Division " Dream Bout " pitting the top competitors in the division against each other for the championship . Styles won the match and the title by pinning Daniels . Wrestling journalist Dave Meltzer bestowed a rare 5 Star match rating to the bout between A.J. Styles , Christopher Daniels and Samoa Joe .

The three @-@ way match began an extended storyline involving its participants . At TNA 's Bound for Glory PPV event on October 23 , Styles defeated Daniels in a 30 @-@ minute Iron Man match to retain the TNA X Division Championship . TNA then held a Four @-@ on @-@ Four Elimination X match at the Genesis PPV event on November 13 . In that match , the team of Alex Shelley , Daniels , Joe , and Roderick Strong defeated the team of Austin Aries , Chris Sabin , Matt Bentley , and Sonjay Dutt . After the contest , Joe assaulted Daniels , performing his signature Muscle Buster maneuver on him twice , the second time on a steel chair . Daniels suffered an injury in the storyline in the attack , sidelining him until December 11 's TNA Turning Point PPV event . At that event , Daniels saved Styles from an assault by Joe following Joe 's victory over Styles to win the TNA X Division Championship . Daniels then challenged Joe for the championship at TNA 's Final Resolution PPV event on January 15 , 2006 , but Joe retained the title . At TNA 's Against All Odds PPV event on February 12 , 2006 , Daniels , Joe , and Styles competed in another three @-@ way match for the TNA X Division Championship ; Joe gained the pinfall to retain the title . The three competed again in a three @-@ way Ultimate X match for the championship at TNA 's Destination X PPV event on March 12 , 2006 . Daniels won , becoming the new TNA X Division Champion . The rivalry ended on the April 13 , 2006 episode of Impact ! when Joe defeated Daniels to win back the championship .

Due to the popularity of the rivalry between the three in 2005 and 2006 , TNA held another three @-@ way match at TNA 's Turning Point PPV event on November 15 , 2009 , this time for the TNA World Heavyweight Championship . Then @-@ champion Styles retained his title , beating Daniels and Joe . Styles went on to successfully defend the title against Daniels at the following TNA PPV event , Final Resolution , on December 20 , 2009 .

Most of the wrestlers involved in the 2005 TNA Super X Cup Tournament , excluding Bentley , Styles , and Joe , went on to compete in the Chris Candido Memorial Tag Team Tournament . In that contest , eight tag teams were drawn at random , and veteran wrestlers were matched with younger wrestlers . Shelley partnered with Sean Waltman , Sabin and Shocker were placed together , Dutt was placed with Ron Killings , and Kip James and Petey Williams teamed up in the tournament . Sabin and Shocker ended faced Shelley and Waltman in the tournament final on the September 9 , 2005 episode of Impact ! . Shelley and Waltman won to win the Chris Candido Cup .