

= Dolph Ziggler =

Nicholas Theodore " Nick " Nemeth (born July 27 , 1980) , best known by the ring name Dolph Ziggler , is an American professional wrestler , stand @-@ up comedian , and actor . He is signed to WWE on the SmackDown brand .

Nemeth signed a development contract with WWE in 2004 , and was sent to Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW) . He was brought up to the Raw brand in 2005 as Kerwin White 's sidekick . He was , however , sent back to OVW shortly afterwards , where he joined The Spirit Squad as Nicky . They debuted on Raw in January 2006 , and won the World Tag Team Championship once before returning to OVW that November . In September 2007 , Nemeth was assigned to Florida Championship Wrestling (FCW) , where he won the FCW Florida Tag Team Championship twice , with Brad Allen and later Gavin Spears .

Nemeth returned to the WWE main roster under his current ring name in September 2008 . Since then , Ziggler has held the World Heavyweight Championship twice , the Intercontinental Championship four times , the United States Championship once , and was the 2012 Money in the Bank winner . He has also been the sole survivor of two Survivor Series elimination matches at the 2012 and 2014 events .

= = Early life = =

Nemeth was born in Cleveland , Ohio . He has said that he has Hungarian ancestry . He attended St. Edward High School in Lakewood , Ohio , where he was an amateur wrestler , and holds the school record for most pins in a career with 82 . At St. Edward , he was teammates with Gray Maynard and Andy Hrovat . During his time at St. Edward , the wrestling team won the National Championships on two occasions .

Nemeth was a collegiate wrestler at Kent State University , eventually setting what was then the record for most career wins in the team 's history . His record was passed in 2006 ; as of 2010 , he stands second all @-@ time in career victories at Kent State . He had 121 career wins between 2000 and 2003 .

Nemeth won championships in three consecutive years . He was a three @-@ time All @-@ Mid @-@ American Conference champion , winning the 165 lb (75 kg) tournament in 2000 , 2002 , and 2003 ; as of 2010 , he is the last wrestler from Kent State University to have won three amateur wrestling championships .

= = Professional wrestling career = =

= = = World Wrestling Entertainment / WWE = = =

= = = = Ohio Valley Wrestling (2004 ? 2005) = = = =

Nemeth signed a contract with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) in 2004 . He was assigned to their developmental territory Ohio Valley Wrestling (OVW) , debuting as " Nick Nemeth " . He feuded with Paul Burchill and challenged unsuccessfully for the OVW Television Championship , losing a championship match against then @-@ champion Ken Doane on August 12 , 2005 .

Nemeth was called up to the Raw roster shortly afterwards , making his television debut on the September 19 , 2005 episode of Sunday Night Heat . He was made the enforcer and sidekick for Chavo Guerrero , Jr . , who was using a golfer in @-@ ring persona and going by the ring name of " Kerwin White " . As such , Nemeth became White 's caddy . His wrestling debut came on an episode of Sunday Night Heat , teaming up with White in a tag team match against Shelton Benjamin and Matt Striker . After the death of Eddie Guerrero , Chavo Guerrero dropped the " Kerwin White " character , and Nemeth no longer played the role of his caddy and tag partner . After a few months

of wrestling in dark matches and at house shows , he was sent back to OVW .

===== The Spirit Squad (2005 ? 2006) =====

Nemeth became a part of " The Spirit Squad " faction , a group of five wrestlers who used the in @-@ ring personas of male cheerleaders , and adopted the name Nicky in OVW during late 2005 . The Spirit Squad members trained with real cheerleaders and gymnasts to ensure their characters were believable . On January 23 , 2006 , they had their WWE television debut as a group , appearing on Raw and helping Jonathan Coachman win a Royal Rumble qualifying match against Jerry " The King " Lawler by performing cheers for Coachman and distracting Lawler . They later became a part of the ongoing scripted feud between WWE chairman Vince McMahon and Shawn Michaels . The heel McMahon brought in the Squad to attack Michaels on numerous occasions , including placing them in multiple handicap matches .

They also wrestled in the tag team division , and on April 3 , on Raw , won the World Tag Team Championship when Kenny and Mikey , with outside help from the other three Squad members , defeated Big Show and Kane . After winning the championship , all five members of the Spirit Squad were recognized as the champions , allowing any combination of them to defend the championship under the Freebird Rule .

In May , McMahon signed another Handicap match , with the Spirit Squad facing Michaels . The match never started , however ; instead the Spirit Squad attacked Michaels , and , as part of the storyline , shattered his knee with a steel chair . McMahon brought Triple H to the ring to attack Michaels with a sledgehammer ; however , after Triple H felt that the Squad had disrespected him , he attacked the group . This led to Triple H and Michaels reforming D @-@ Generation X (DX) and they began a feud with the Spirit Squad . DX played various sophomoric jokes on the Squad and the McMahons , as well as defeating the Spirit Squad in handicap tag team matches at Vengeance and a clean sweep in an elimination handicap match at Saturday Night 's Main Event .

At the same time as their feud with DX and their alignment with McMahon , the Squad also wrestled other teams in Raw 's tag division over their World Tag Team Championship , successfully defending the championship against the teams of Jim Duggan and Eugene , Charlie Haas and Viscera , and Snitsky and Val Venis . They then entered a lengthy feud with The Highlanders , whom they eventually defeated to retain the championship at the Unforgiven pay @-@ per @-@ view in September . The Squad as a whole later began a losing streak with separate members losing singles matches to Ric Flair on consecutive episodes of Raw , until Kenny managed to defeat him on the October 23 episode . It was then announced that Flair and a WWE legend , selected by interactive voting , would wrestle the team for the World Tag Team Championship at the Cyber Sunday pay @-@ per @-@ view in early November . The fans chose Roddy Piper , and he and Flair defeated Kenny and Mikey to win the championship .

The group disbanded on the November 27 episode of Raw , when they were defeated in a five @-@ on @-@ three handicap match by DX and Flair . In a backstage segment later that night , DX placed all members into a crate stamped " OVW , Louisville , Kentucky " , a reference to the developmental territory from which the Squad had come .

===== Return to OVW (2007) =====

Nemeth returned to OVW on January 17 , 2007 , at the television tapings , again using his Nick Nemeth ring name , along with Mike Mondo , formerly Mikey in the Spirit Squad , as the " Frat Pack " . The pair teamed with Mike Kruel in a match against Seth Skyfire , Shawn Spears , and Cody Runnels . The team disbanded in the early parts of 2007 . Nemeth then competed in several dark matches before the OVW television tapings , competing against several wrestlers including Chris Cage , Bradley Jay and Jake Hager , before he began teaming with Mondo again in August .

===== Florida Championship Wrestling (2007 ? 2008) =====

At the end of August , Nemeth and Mike Mondo were moved to the Florida Championship Wrestling (FCW) developmental territory and in his debut there , Nemeth gained the nickname " The Natural " and defeated Hade Vansen . In November 2007 , Nemeth gained Big Rob as his manager , but their alliance was short @-@ lived . At the start of 2008 , he tweaked his name to " Nic Nemeth " and began teaming with Brad Allen , with the pair gaining Taryn Terrell as their valet . Nemeth and Allen started a frat boy type ring character with Terrell as a sorority girl . On March 22 , Nemeth and Allen won the FCW Florida Tag Team Championship by defeating defending champions Eddie Colón and Eric Pérez , but lost the championship to Colón and Pérez on April 15 . Throughout April and May 2008 , Nemeth wrestled in several dark matches prior to Raw , losing to Kofi Kingston and Ron Killings on several occasions . Soon after , he returned to the name " Nic Nemeth " , and began teaming with Gavin Spears . The pair defeated Colón and Pérez to win the FCW Florida Tag Team Championship on August 16 , but lost it to Heath Miller and Joe Hennig less than a month later .

= = = Repackaging (2008 ? 2009) = = =

On September 15 , 2008 , Nemeth re @-@ debuted on Raw , introducing himself in a backstage segment under the name " Dolph Ziggler " . On October 10 , Nemeth was suspended for 30 days for a violation of WWE 's Wellness Program policy . He returned to Raw on November 17 in a backstage segment with Rey Mysterio and Shawn Michaels . In his first match on Raw under the Ziggler name , he lost to Batista on the December 1 episode . The following week he got his first victory as Ziggler , by countout , against R @-@ Truth . The next week on Raw , he picked up his first televised pinfall victory , when he defeated Charlie Haas . Ziggler competed in the 2009 Royal Rumble match , in which he was eliminated by Kane after 21 seconds .

On April 15 , 2009 , Ziggler was drafted to the SmackDown brand as part of the 2009 Supplemental Draft . He made his debut on the April 17 episode of SmackDown , defeating the United States Champion , Montel Vontavious Porter (MVP) in a non @-@ title match , and , as a result , the following week he demanded a match for the championship . On the May 1 episode of SmackDown , however , he failed to win the championship , after he was pinned by MVP . Ziggler then started a rivalry with The Great Khali , losing to him by disqualification after attacking Khali with a steel chair . As a result , Khali began coming out to the ring during and after Ziggler 's matches , in attempt to gain revenge and to stop Ziggler from cheating . Over the next few weeks , Ziggler defeated Khali by countout and disqualification after making it look like Khali had struck him with a steel chair . At The Bash pay @-@ per @-@ view , Ziggler defeated Khali by pinfall , after Kane interfered and attacked Khali .

= = = Championship reigns (2009 ? 2011) = = =

Ziggler then entered an on @-@ screen relationship with WWE Diva Maria and she became his valet . He simultaneously started a scripted rivalry with Intercontinental Champion Rey Mysterio , who defeated Ziggler at the Night of Champions and SummerSlam pay @-@ per @-@ views to retain the championship . In September , Mysterio lost the Intercontinental Championship to John Morrison , and Ziggler entered a feud with Morrison , losing to him at the Hell in a Cell pay @-@ per @-@ view . On the episode of SmackDown , following Hell in a Cell , Ziggler ended his on @-@ screen relationship with Maria after she cost him a match against Morrison . On the February 26 , 2010 episode of SmackDown , Ziggler defeated John Morrison and R @-@ Truth in a triple threat qualifying match to compete in the Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania XXVI , but was ultimately unsuccessful .

In June 2010 he began a romantic storyline with Vickie Guerrero , who began accompanying him to the ring . On the July 9 episode of SmackDown , Ziggler defeated Chavo Guerrero and Montel Vontavious Porter in a triple threat match to qualify for the SmackDown Money in the Bank ladder match at the Money in the Bank pay @-@ per @-@ view , where he once again failed to win the match . On July 28 at the tapings of the August 6 episode of SmackDown Ziggler defeated Kofi Kingston to win the WWE Intercontinental Championship for the first time . In his first title defense at

SummerSlam , he retained the championship against Kingston when the match ended in a no contest due to interference from The Nexus . Ziggler was able to make a successful title defense against Kingston at the Night of Champions pay @-@ per @-@ view , and against Kaval at Survivor Series .

In November 2010 , Ziggler was announced as a Pro for the fourth season of NXT , with Jacob Novak as his Rookie . At TLC : Tables , Ladders and Chairs , Ziggler successfully retained the Intercontinental Championship in a three @-@ way ladder match against Kingston and Jack Swagger . On the January 4 , 2011 episode of NXT , Ziggler won a battle royal to earn the right to choose a new rookie , and chose Byron Saxton . His original rookie , Novak , was the first rookie eliminated later that night .

At the SmackDown tapings on January 4 , Ziggler lost the Intercontinental Championship to Kingston after a five @-@ month reign at 160 days . That same night , Ziggler won a four @-@ way match against Cody Rhodes , Drew McIntyre , and The Big Show to become the number one contender to the World Heavyweight Championship . Ziggler received his match for the championship at the Royal Rumble pay @-@ per @-@ view against Edge , but was unsuccessful . On February 4 , Ziggler 's girlfriend Vickie Guerrero , who was the acting General Manager of SmackDown , announced that she had banned the spear ? Edge 's finishing move ? and if Edge used it during the rematch between the two , Ziggler would be automatically awarded the championship . In the interim , Ziggler 's second rookie , Byron Saxton , was also voted off of NXT . On the February 11 episode of SmackDown , Ziggler received a rematch for the championship , only to lose after being speared . On the February 14 episode of Raw , Guerrero announced that Edge had lost the championship due to using the spear and that Ziggler would be crowned the new champion . On SmackDown on February 18 , Guerrero fired Edge , claiming that he had attacked SmackDown General Manager Theodore Long several weeks prior , and awarded Ziggler the championship during a coronation ceremony later that night . Long returned during the ceremony however , and Guerrero revealed Ziggler as the attacker after being accused of orchestrating the attack by Long . Long rehired Edge and gave him his rematch , in which Edge regained the championship . Ziggler 's first World Championship reign lasted only 11 minutes and 23 seconds . After the match , Long fired Ziggler in storyline .

= = = United States Champion (2011 ? 2012) = = =

On the March 7 episode of Raw , Ziggler was introduced as the newest member of the Raw roster , and defeated John Morrison in a singles match . Ziggler was accompanied by Guerrero , who had also been fired from SmackDown , but she was forced to earn her spot on the Raw roster . Ziggler , along with Guerrero , and LayCool then feuded with Morrison , Trish Stratus and Jersey Shore guest star Snooki , culminating in a mixed tag team match at WrestleMania XXVII which Ziggler and his team lost . On the April 18 episode of Raw , Vickie introduced the " new and improved " Dolph Ziggler . Ziggler came out with his hair cut short and brown and went on to defeat Evan Bourne in a singles match . He had re @-@ bleached his hair by the May 23 episode of Raw .

Ziggler beat United States Champion Kofi Kingston in a non @-@ title match on the May 30 episode of Raw , leading to a championship match at WWE Capitol Punishment which Ziggler won to earn his first United States Championship . The next night on Raw , Kingston invoked his rematch clause in a two out of three falls match and won via disqualification , allowing Ziggler to retain . After Jack Swagger suggested to Guerrero that she should manage him in addition to Ziggler , a jealous Ziggler teased tension with Swagger . This , coupled with Ziggler 's concurrent feud with Alex Riley , led to Ziggler to defend and retain his United States Championship in a fatal four @-@ way match against Swagger , Riley , and John Morrison at Night of Champions . On the September 19 episode of Raw , Ziggler lost a non @-@ title match to Zack Ryder when guest star Hugh Jackman helped Ryder by punching Ziggler in the face . Although Ziggler later claimed to have a broken jaw due to Jackman 's punch , it was reported that the supposed injury was fake . Later that night , Guerrero officially began managing Swagger , and Swagger began interfering in Ziggler 's matches to help him win . Ziggler and Swagger unsuccessfully challenged Air Boom for the WWE Tag Team

Championship at Hell in a Cell and at Vengeance , where Ziggler also successfully defended the United States Championship against Ryder . He went on to successfully defend the championship against Morrison at Survivor Series . At TLC : Tables , Ladders and Chairs , Ziggler lost the United States Championship to Ryder .

On the December 26 episode of Raw , Ziggler defeated WWE Champion CM Punk in a gauntlet match for a championship opportunity following interference from John Laurinaitis . The following Raw , Ziggler defeated Punk by countout after Laurinaitis interfered again ; as a result , Ziggler did not win the championship . At the 2012 Royal Rumble pay @-@ per @-@ view , Ziggler failed to capture the WWE Championship from CM Punk . At the Elimination Chamber , Ziggler failed again to capture the WWE Championship after being eliminated second by Chris Jericho . Nemeth noted to Arda Ocal in an interview for The Score Television Network that the Elimination Chamber left him with multiple minor injuries and it is a match he least looks forward to working .

On the February 27 Raw , Ziggler and Swagger unsuccessfully challenged Primo & Epico for the WWE Tag Team Championship in a Triple Threat tag team match , also involving Kofi Kingston and R @-@ Truth . On the March 19 Raw , Ziggler and Swagger were announced as the newest members of Team Johnny for the 12 man tag team match at WrestleMania XXVIII . On the April 2 Raw , Ziggler and Swagger unsuccessfully challenged Santino Marella for the United States Championship in a triple threat match . After the match , Ziggler began a feud with Brodus Clay , who headbutted Ziggler after he and Swagger tried to attack Marella . On the following episode of Raw , Ziggler and Swagger were defeated by Clay and Marella in a tag team match . In the following weeks , Ziggler and Swagger lost to Clay and Hornswoggle in singles and tag matches . At Extreme Rules , Ziggler was again defeated by Clay . In May , Ziggler and Swagger unsuccessfully challenged Kofi Kingston and R @-@ Truth for WWE Tag Team Championship , first at Over the Limit and second on the May 28 episode of Raw , resulting in Ziggler showing signs of wanting to break away from Guerrero and Swagger .

On the June 11 episode of Raw , Ziggler pinned The Great Khali , Swagger and Christian in a fatal four way elimination match to become the number one contender to the World Heavyweight Championship , but at No Way Out , Ziggler lost the title match to champion Sheamus . On the following Raw , Guerrero , finally tired of the bickering between Ziggler and Swagger , arranged for a match between them ; Ziggler won the match and Guerrero 's affections . Ziggler received another shot at the World title on the June 29 SmackDown , but was again defeated by Sheamus in a triple threat match , also involving Alberto Del Rio .

=== World Heavyweight Champion (2012 ? 2013) ===

On the July 3 SmackDown , Ziggler defeated Alex Riley to qualify for a spot in the World Heavyweight Championship Money in the Bank ladder match . On July 13 , Ziggler , Zack Ryder and Justin Roberts were involved in a car accident in San Diego while driving from Comic @-@ Con ; none of them suffered severe injuries . Two days later at the Money in the Bank pay @-@ per @-@ view , Ziggler won the Money in The Bank ladder match to guarantee him the opportunity to challenge for the World Heavyweight Championship at a time of his choosing within the next year . Later that night , Ziggler attempted to cash in the briefcase on Sheamus after Alberto Del Rio attacked him after their match , but Del Rio stopped Ziggler from cashing in . On the following episode of SmackDown , Ziggler again attempted to cash in the briefcase on Sheamus following a tag team match with Alberto Del Rio , but was laid out by Rey Mysterio and Sheamus before he could do so . During this time , Ziggler began a feud with Chris Jericho after claiming he had lost his touch , which resulted in Jericho attacking him on two occasions , and defeating him in a singles match at SummerSlam . The night after SummerSlam , Ziggler defeated Jericho in a rematch ; as a result Ziggler retained his Money in the Bank contract and Jericho 's WWE contract was terminated . Following this , Ziggler began feuding with Randy Orton on SmackDown four days later , after Orton RKOd him when trying to cash his Money in the Bank contract on a vulnerable Sheamus . The following week on SmackDown , Ziggler faced Orton in a match that was won by Orton . Three days later on Raw , Ziggler defeated Orton in a rematch , pinning him while holding his tights . Ziggler

faced Orton again at Night of Champions where he lost again , ending the feud . On November 18 at Survivor Series , Ziggler captained the traditional 5 @-@ on @-@ 5 elimination tag team match opposite Mick Foley . Ziggler won the match by last pinning Orton , making him the sole survivor of the match .

Ziggler then began feuding with John Cena after he sided with Vickie Guerrero to help defame Cena and AJ Lee by alleging they had a romantic relationship . On December 16 at TLC : Tables , Ladders and Chairs , Ziggler retained his Money in the Bank briefcase in a ladder match after AJ interfered and turned on Cena . The following night on Raw , while trying to diffuse an argument between Vickie and AJ , AJ unexpectedly kissed Ziggler , leaving him confused . Ziggler then attempted to cash in his Money in the Bank briefcase on Big Show after Show was assaulted by Sheamus , but he was attacked by Cena before the match could start . Later , Ziggler teamed with AJ to face Cena and Vickie Guerrero , however , the match ended in a disqualification after the debuting Big E Langston attacked Cena , also starting an on @-@ screen relationship between Dolph and AJ . Ziggler ended 2012 having wrestled the second most TV / PPV matches that year with 90 ; however , he had the most TV / PPV losses with 57 . Ziggler ended his feud with Cena after losing to him on the January 7 , 2013 , episode of Raw , in a singles match and in steel cage match the following week , despite outside interference from AJ and Langston in both matches . On the January 21 episode of Raw , Ziggler won a Beat the Clock Challenge to earn the right to choose what number he can enter in the Royal Rumble match , first or second . Six days later at the Royal Rumble , Ziggler entered at number one and lasted nearly fifty minutes before being eliminated by Sheamus . During the match , Ziggler resumed his feud with the returning Chris Jericho , who Ziggler managed to eliminate . The following night on Raw , Ziggler and Jericho were placed in a " Strange Bedfellows " match against WWE Tag Team Champions Team Hell No (Daniel Bryan and Kane) . The match ended with Ziggler being chokeslammed and pinned by Kane after Jericho framed him for pushing Kane . On the February 18 episode of Raw , Ziggler was defeated by World Heavyweight Champion Alberto Del Rio via submission in a non @-@ title match . Afterwards , Langston attacked Del Rio and then Ziggler made a failed attempt to cash in his Money in the Bank briefcase after Del Rio 's ring announcer Ricardo Rodriguez ran off with it . After defeating WWE Tag Team Champions Daniel Bryan and Kane in singles matches due interference from Langston , Ziggler and Langston were given a shot at their titles . The title match took place on April 7 at WrestleMania 29 , where Ziggler and Langston unsuccessfully challenged Bryan and Kane for the WWE Tag Team Championship .

The following night on Raw , Ziggler cashed in his Money in the Bank contract on an injured Alberto Del Rio to win his second World Heavyweight Championship . After gaining the World Heavyweight Championship , Ziggler began feuding with Del Rio and Jack Swagger over the title . Ziggler was originally booked to face Del Rio and Swagger in a three @-@ way ladder match at Extreme Rules , however , Ziggler suffered a legitimate concussion at a SmackDown taping , thus removing their match from the pay @-@ per @-@ view and resulting in Ziggler being absent from television for a month . On June 16 at Payback , Ziggler faced Del Rio in his first title defense of the World Heavyweight Championship and during the match , a double turn took place ; Ziggler turned face by displaying a never @-@ say @-@ die attitude while Del Rio turned heel by repeatedly and ruthlessly targeting his head to take advantage of his concussion , win the match , and end Ziggler 's reign at 69 days . On July 14 at Money in the Bank , AJ cost Ziggler his title rematch against Alberto Del Rio , after she prematurely snuck into the ring and hit Del Rio with her own title , prompting a disqualification . On the following Raw , Ziggler ended his relationship with AJ due to her actions the previous night . AJ exacted revenge by costing Ziggler a non @-@ title match against Del Rio , then she attacked Ziggler and unleashed Langston on him .

On the July 29 , 2013 episode of Raw , Ziggler defeated Big Langston via disqualification after AJ Lee attacked Ziggler . In a rematch on the following week , Ziggler was defeated by Langston after a distraction by AJ and Kaitlyn . This led to a mixed tag team match at SummerSlam , where Ziggler and Kaitlyn defeated Big E and AJ .

=== Intercontinental Champion (2013 ? 2015) ===

Ziggler started to become wildly popular with the fans . Following the conclusion of SummerSlam , he and other Superstars were being interviewed and spoke out against Triple H when Triple H cost Daniel Bryan the championship . This led to him , alongside other superstars who spoke out against Triple H to feud against Triple H 's newly formed Authority . Ziggler was later unsuccessful in capturing the United States Championship , when he lost to Dean Ambrose , at Night of Champions and on the October 16 episode of Main Event . Ziggler also failed to win the Intercontinental Championship from Curtis Axel on the November 11 episode of Raw . In December , Ziggler lost two number one contender matches for the Intercontinental Championship , first to Damien Sandow and later to Fandango . On the January 9 , 2014 episode of Superstars , Ziggler sustained another concussion during his match with Ryback .

He returned at Royal Rumble , competing in the Royal Rumble match , but was eliminated by Roman Reigns . The following night on Raw , Ziggler defeated The Miz in a Battle of Cleveland match where Dolph was acknowledged as being from Cleveland and was billed from there ahead of the match . Ziggler later earned a shot at Big E 's Intercontinental Championship , but was unsuccessful in capturing the title . On April 6 at WrestleMania XXX , Ziggler competed in the 31 @-@ man Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal , but was eliminated by Alberto Del Rio . On June 29 at Money in the Bank , Ziggler competed in the Money in the Bank ladder match for a WWE World Heavyweight Championship contract , but the match was won by Seth Rollins .

Ziggler later competed in a Battle Royal for the vacant Intercontinental Championship on July 20 at Battleground , however , he was abruptly eliminated from behind by The Miz . After Ziggler defeated Miz in a non @-@ title match the following night on Raw , he received a rematch at SummerSlam , where he defeated Miz to win the championship for a second time . The following night on Raw , Ziggler successfully retained his title against Miz , after he was counted out . At Night of Champions , Ziggler dropped the title to Miz , only for Ziggler to win it back the following night on Raw . Ziggler then retained the championship against Cesaro on September 26 episode of SmackDown , in a triple threat match against Cesaro and Miz the following week on Raw and at Hell in a Cell against Cesaro in a 2 @-@ out @-@ of @-@ 3 falls match . On the October 28 , 2014 episode of Raw , Ziggler and John Cena shook hands together backstage , which The Authority interpreted as a deal to plot against them . As a result , Ziggler was put in a match against Kane , which Ziggler won . Ziggler then announced that he would be part of Team Cena at Survivor Series . On the November 10 episode of Raw , Ziggler was brutally attacked by the returning Luke Harper . The following week , Harper was awarded a title match against Ziggler , which Harper won with assistance from The Authority , ending Ziggler 's reign at 56 days .

The 2014 Survivor Series event saw Ziggler emerging as the sole survivor for a second time . Ziggler contributed to Rusev being counted out , then after all his team @-@ mates were eliminated , he pinned Kane and Luke Harper . Triple H twice prevented Ziggler from pinning final opponent Seth Rollins , but the debuting Sting provided an assist to help Ziggler win the match , thus ousting the Authority from power . At TLC on December 14 , Ziggler defeated Harper in a ladder match to capture his fourth Intercontinental Championship . On the December 16 episode of SmackDown , Ziggler finally defeated Seth Rollins in a singles match after failing numerous times previously . Three days later , Rolling Stone named Ziggler as the 2014 WWE Wrestler of the Year . On the first Raw of 2015 (dated Jan. 5) , the recently reinstated Authority forced Ziggler to defend his Intercontinental Championship against Bad News Barrett and he initially won . After Barrett then attacked and injured Ziggler 's shoulder , Kane declared the match as a 2 @-@ out @-@ of @-@ 3 falls match , Barrett proceeded to defeat Ziggler for the title after Kane distracted him . Later that night , Ziggler alongside Ryback and Erick Rowan received a storyline firing by the Authority .

On the January 19 episode of Raw , Sting provided another assist , as John Cena won Ziggler , Ryback and Rowan 's jobs back . Ziggler returned to television on the next SmackDown and qualified for the Royal Rumble match by beating Barrett in a non @-@ title match . In the 2015 Royal Rumble match , Ziggler entered as the last entrant , scored two eliminations but was quickly eliminated by Big Show and Kane . At Fastlane , Ziggler competed together with Rowan and Ryback in a six @-@ man tag team match against Rollins , Big Show and Kane , which they lost . On the

March 5 episode of SmackDown , Ziggler was announced as a participant in the 7 @-@ man ladder match for the Intercontinental Championship at WrestleMania 31 , which was won by Daniel Bryan .

After losing an Intercontinental Championship match against Daniel Bryan on the Raw following WrestleMania 31 , Ziggler was attacked and Brogue kicked by the returning Sheamus . Claiming that " the era of underdogs (like Ziggler) is over " , Sheamus and Ziggler started a feud , with Sheamus challenging Ziggler in a Kiss Me Arse match at Extreme Rules , which Ziggler won . However , Sheamus refused to follow the stipulation , and instead made Ziggler kiss his arse . Ziggler lost the rematch against Sheamus at Payback . Ziggler participated in the Elimination Chamber for the vacated Intercontinental Championship ; other participants were winner Ryback , King Barrett , R @-@ Truth , Sheamus , who eliminated Ziggler , and Mark Henry , at Elimination Chamber . At Money In The Bank , Ziggler competed in the Money in the Bank ladder match , which was won by Sheamus . On July 4 , at The Beast in the East live event in Japan , Ziggler and John Cena defeated King Barrett and Kane in the main event .

= = = = The Love Quadrangle (2015 ? 2016) = = = =

Ziggler became involved in an on ? screen love affair with Lana , the former manager of Rusev , when she kissed him at Raw on May 25 , with Lana serving as Ziggler 's valet during his matches . During this time , Ziggler started incorporating elements of 80 's glam rock fashion into his entrance and ring attire ; typical of 80 's bands like Motley Crue and Poison . In June , after Ziggler and Lana confirmed their storyline relationship , Summer Rae allied with Rusev to even the odds . After an attack by Rusev , Ziggler suffered a bruised trachea in storyline , which was to give him some time off to film a new WWE Studios movie , titled 6 : 42 . Ziggler returned on the August 17 episode of Raw , aiding Lana during a confrontation against Rusev and Summer Rae . This altercation prompted a match between Ziggler and Rusev , six days later , at SummerSlam , which ended in a double count ? out due to interference from Lana and Rae . In a rematch , on September 20 , at Night of Champions Ziggler emerged victorious . On October 11 , when TMZ reported the real ? life engagement of Rusev and Lana , this officially ended their feud . The following night on Raw , Ziggler unsuccessfully challenged John Cena for the WWE United States Championship .

On the October 22 episode of SmackDown , Ziggler started a feud with the debuting Tyler Breeze , who aligned with Summer Rae and attacked Ziggler . Ziggler entered a tournament for the vacant WWE World Heavyweight Championship , defeating The Miz in the first round match before being eliminated by Dean Ambrose . Ziggler and Breeze continued their feud , which culminated in a match between the two at Survivor Series , which Ziggler lost . The next night on RAW Ziggler teamed with Dean Ambrose to defeat the team of Tyler Breeze and Kevin Owens . On the November 30 episode of RAW Ziggler defeated Breeze in a singles match to end the feud . Breeze and Summer Rae would later split up in December 2015 to put the love quadrangle to rest once and for all .

On the December 18 episode of SmackDown Ziggler defeated Kevin Owens via a countout victory . Kevin Owens interrupted Ziggler at the 2015 Slammy Awards when Dolph was presenting award , the two ended up getting into a brawl and a match was later made for that evening with Owens picking up the victory . The two would later trade victories into the new year . Ziggler defeated Bo Dallas on the New Year 's Eve SmackDown special .

= = = = Various feuds (2016 ? present) = = = =

Ziggler entered the 2016 Royal Rumble as the 28th entrant , lasting 7 minutes , but was eliminated by the eventual winner , Triple H. The next night on Raw , Dolph Ziggler faced Kevin Owens in a losing effort , but defeated him the following two weeks in a row . On the February 15 Raw , Ziggler was involved in a Fatal 5 @-@ Way Match for the Intercontinental Championship , where Kevin Owens regained the title after pinning Tyler Breeze . At Fastlane , Ziggler challenged Owens to a match for the Intercontinental Championship , which he lost . In the following weeks , Ziggler began to re @-@ ignite his feud with The Authority , and on the March 14 episode of Raw , confronted

Triple H and Stephanie McMahon . This resulted in Ziggler being granted a match against Triple H where if he won , he could pick his match at WrestleMania (excluding the WWE World Heavyweight Title match) ; however , Ziggler lost . At WrestleMania 32 , Ziggler would compete against Kevin Owens , Sami Zayn , The Miz , Stardust , Sin Cara and Zack Ryder in a ladder match for the Intercontinental Championship , which was won by Ryder .

Following Wrestlemania 32 , on the April 4 , 2016 edition of Raw , Ziggler went to a double countout with Baron Corbin , leading to Corbin hitting an ' End of Days ' outside of the ring to Ziggler , igniting a feud in the process . At the Payback pre @-@ show , Ziggler faced Baron Corbin in a winning effort . The two then had a No Disqualification match at Extreme Rules where Corbin won after hitting a low blow on Ziggler .

Following Extreme Rules , on the May 23 edition of Raw , Ziggler had a confrontation backstage with Corbin with Ziggler challenging him to a technical wrestling match the next week . Later , Ziggler would lose to Dean Ambrose in a Money in the Bank qualifying match . On the May 30 Raw , Ziggler intentionally disqualified himself when he kicked Corbin in the groin immediately after the match began . This led to a rubber match at Money In The Bank , which Corbin won , ending their feud . On July 19 , at the 2016 WWE Draft , Ziggler was drafted to SmackDown .

= = Other media = =

Nemeth appeared on the November 3 , 2009 , episode of Deal or No Deal with Maria Kanellis and Eve Torres . He then appeared on Lopez Tonight on August 9 , 2010 . Nemeth appears in a 2011 episode of Silent Library alongside Chris Masters , Trent Baretta , JTG , Caylen Croft , and Curt Hawkins . Nemeth made regular appearances on fellow WWE wrestler Zack Ryder 's YouTube web series , Z ! True Long Island Story , via his own segment named ' Ask Z Heel ' . The series ended on January 11 , 2013 .

On February 1 , 2012 , Nemeth debuted WWEFanNation 's WWE Download and was the host of the YouTube series . The official WWE Download playlist on YouTube described the series as " Dolph Ziggler 's sarcastic wit vs. your videos " and each episode consisted of Ziggler reviewing both viral and WWE videos . A new episode of WWE Download was uploaded every Monday until the show ended on January 28 , 2013 , after 53 episodes but returned for one time only on September 30 , 2014 . In August 2013 , Nemeth was cast by Max Landis to appear in the 2015 film Me Him Her .

Ziggler has appeared in seven video games . He made his video game debut in WWE Smackdown vs Raw 2010 and appears in WWE Smackdown vs Raw 2011 , WWE ' 12 , WWE ' 13 , WWE 2K14 , WWE 2K15 , and WWE 2K16 .

= = = Filmography = = =

= = Personal life = =

Nemeth has been a fan of professional wrestling since he was five years old , when he attended a wrestling event at the Richfield Coliseum and decided to become a professional wrestler at age 12 . His younger brother , Ryan , is also a professional wrestler who previously worked with WWE and wrestled in NXT under the ring name Briley Pierce . He and Ryan also have a younger brother named Donald (nicknamed " Donny ") , who is a suspect in a 2016 murder .

Nemeth dated comedian Amy Schumer .

Nemeth is a graduate of Kent State University , where he majored in political science with a pre @-@ law minor . Prior to his WWE tryout , he was living in Phoenix , Arizona , and had been accepted to the law school at Arizona State University , where he was due to start his first semester .

Nemeth is good friends with his former Spirit Squad teammates , particularly Michael Brendli , with whom he lived in Florida until 2008 . Since then , he has returned to residing in Phoenix .

Nemeth is fluent in American Sign Language .

He revealed on Colt Cabana 's Art of Wrestling Podcast that he chose the name " Dolph " because that was his great @-@ grandfather 's name , and his friend suggested the surname " Ziggler " .

= = In wrestling = =

Finishing moves

Blonde Ambition (Leaping reverse STO) ? FCW

Sleeper hold , sometimes with bodyscissors ? 2010 ? 2012 ; used as a signature move thereafter

Superkick with theatrics ; often used as a signature move

Zig Zag (Jumping reverse bulldog)

Signature moves

Dropkick , sometimes from the top rope

Famouser (Leg drop bulldog)

Headlock , sometimes while performing a headstand

Heart Stopper (Jumping elbow drop with theatrics , sometimes preceded by multiple elbow drops)

Jumping DDT

Multiple neckbreaker variations

Snap

Standing

Swinging

Scoop powerslam , sometimes inverted

Shoulder jawbreaker

Sitout facebuster , sometimes from the top rope

Stinger splash , sometimes followed by multiple punches to a cornered opponent , or a swinging neckbreaker

Managers

Taryn Terrell

Big Rob

Maria

Vickie Guerrero

Kaitlyn

AJ Lee

Big E Langston

Lana

Wrestlers managed

Kerwin White

Nicknames

" The Natural "

" The Showoff "

" Perfection "

" The # Heel "

" Mr. Money in the Bank "

Entrance themes

" Never Thought My Life Could Be This Good " by Jim Johnston (September 19 , 2005 ? November 2005 ; used while teaming with Kerwin White)

" I Am Perfection " performed by Cage 9 and composed by Jim Johnston (June 26 , 2009 ? July 18 , 2011)

" I Am Perfection (V2) " performed by Downstait and composed by Jim Johnston (July 25 , 2011 ? November 20 , 2011)

" Here to Show the World " performed by Downstait and composed by Jim Johnston (November 21 , 2011 ? present)

= = Championships and accomplishments = =

Florida Championship Wrestling

FCW Florida Tag Team Championship (2 times) ? with Brad Allen (1) and Gavin Spears (1)

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

PWI ranked him 9 of the top 500 singles wrestlers in the PWI 500 in 2013

Rolling Stone

Worst Storyline (2015) With Lana vs. Rusev / Summer Rae

WWE Wrestler of the Year (2014)

World Wrestling Entertainment / WWE

World Heavyweight Championship (2 times)

WWE Intercontinental Championship (4 times)

WWE United States Championship (1 time)

World Tag Team Championship (1 time) 1 ? with The Spirit Squad

Money in the Bank (2012 ? World Heavyweight Championship contract)

Slammy Awards (2 times)

Best Twitter Handle or Social Champion (2014) ? @ HEELZiggler

Match of the Year (2014) ? Team Cena vs. Team Authority at Survivor Series

22nd Triple Crown Champion

Wrestling Observer Newsletter

Most Improved (2011)

Most Underrated (2011)

1 Ziggler , as Nicky , defended the championship with either Kenny , Johnny , Mitch or Mikey under the Freebird Rule .