

IWA

GAUNTLET

*2025 Edition*



# Letter from the Editor

I hope everyone enjoys this year's edition of the IWA Gauntlet Magazine. As always, a lot of work goes into tracking all of the relevant information that makes this publication possible, and then a little bit more goes into putting it all together. So, I truly hope you enjoy it!

This year's magazine features all of the usual items such as All-Time Rankings, Record Book updates, and the Annual Year-End Awards.

This year also saw the return of PBM Inductions as well as a long-awaited expansion to our Record Book (which we're continuing to work on expanding)!

Well, that's all for now. Again, I hope you enjoy this magazine. If any of the content looks incorrect, please let me know by emailing [tzwa.info@gmail.com](mailto:tzwa.info@gmail.com). As always, we're also looking for contributors to the PBM Hall of Fame website at <https://tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/iwa>, so if that's you, drop me a line and I'll gladly accept the help!

Many Thanks,

Tommy Zulu



# 2025

## GAUNTLET AWARDS

### MANAGER OF THE YEAR

TOMMY ZULU

### STABLE OF THE YEAR

SOS

### SINGLES MANAGER OF THE YEAR

DONALD HENRY

### STABLE MVP

TOMMY ZULU (EDGE)

### CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

TOMMY ZULU

*HOF SITE, COMMISSIONER, CONTESTS*

### MULTI-MAN MANAGER OF THE YEAR

TOMMY ZULU

### RISING STAR MANAGER

TOM FLESHER

### BEST COMMISSIONER

DAN HAYMAN

*(PDL, LWL)*

### BEST ALL-AROUND MANAGER

TOMMY ZULU

### MOST UNDERRATED MANAGER

ADAM KLEINOW

### BEST WRITER

ALEX GUTIERREZ

### BEST SMALL-ROSTER MANAGER

ADAM KLEINOW

### MOST RESPECTED MANAGER

JEFF MANNING

### BEST NON-CHARACTER FEUD

FRANK BELCHER

VS. TOMMY ZULU

### BEST STABLE LEADER

MICHAEL COOK (SOS)

### MOST POPULAR MANAGER

ROBERT RATLIFF

### BEST SERIES

ADAM KLEINOW

D. BRAD NORMAN

*(BOTB FINALS)*

### BIGGEST HEEL MANAGER

MARK DUCHAINE



# 2025

## GAUNTLET AWARDS

### BEST MALE WRESTLER

SHOTGUN JAMES CARNAGE

### BEST FEMALE WRESTLER

WILDFIRE BETTY RED

### MOST WELL-WRITTEN CHARACTER

LUTHOR ALEXANDER (ACW)

### BEST CHARACTER LEAGUE

BATTLE ROYAL LEAGUE (BRL)

### BEST LEAGUE PPV/EVENT

JOHNNY B. CUP (IWAR)

### BEST OVERALL LEAGUE

BATTLE ROYAL LEAGUE (BRL)

### BEST LEAGUE NETWORK

IWA RINGSIDE (IWAR)

### BEST COMMISSIONER'S SHOW

ASL SHOWTIME

### MOST COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

BATTLE ROYAL LEAGUE (BRL)

### BEST GLOBAL EVENT

BEST OF THE BEST TOURNAMENT

### MOST PRESTIGIOUS TITLE

IWAR WORLD TITLE

# PBM Hall of Fame

## Class of 2025

Congratulations to this year's inductees into the PBM Managers Hall of Fame:

**KOSTA EFSTATHIOU**

**JEFF MANNING**

**JOHN DURRANI**

**SCOTT OLSON**

This is a full list of members in the PBM Managers Hall of Fame. Their HOF bios can be found at [tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame](http://tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame)

### **PBM HOF MANAGERS**

1. AJ Honold
2. David Schinkus
3. Zach Mercier
4. Lewis Podlaszewski
5. Frank Marano
6. Harv Harrison
7. Brad Silberberg
8. Jim Adelsen
9. Eric Johnson
10. Ken Lee
11. Jerome Arroyo
12. Russ Borris
13. Derek Burgan
14. Gene Boyer
15. Steve Adkins
16. Dave White
17. Dan Delaney
18. Howie Sandberg
19. Garrett Guzman
20. Mike Dorsett
21. Tim Williams
22. Jason P. Miller
23. Michael Eaves
24. Anthony Dudick
25. Tony Pesante
26. Eugene Quintana
27. Jeff Annable
28. Tony Robinson
29. Kevin Hurley
30. Keith Maple
31. Tommy Zulu
32. Jason Sandberg
33. Rich Reilly
34. Michael Cook
35. Steve Bradshaw
36. Sly Smith
37. Kosta Efstathiou
38. Jeff Manning
39. John Durrani
40. Scott Olson

# PBM Hall of Fame

## Class of 2025

Congratulations to this year's inductees into the PBM Wrestlers Hall of Fame:

**AWESOME SEAN MCA**

**ULTIMATE NINJA**

**HOLLYWOOD HAMILTON**

**TURBO TIGER**

This is a full list of members in the PBM Wrestlers Hall of Fame. Their HOF bios can be found at [tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame](http://tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame)

### PBM HOF WRESTLERS

1. Armas Archuleta
2. Jumping John Elway
3. Lucien Champion
4. Lethal Lex Bronson
5. Awesome Colossus
6. Marvelous Mark D'Angelis
7. Blaster Warrior
8. Mike White Lightning Moore
9. John the Butcher Berkowitz
10. Rick Challenger
11. Hitman Howie Sandberg
12. Extreme Icon Hannibal
13. Mr. Magnificent J. Montgomery
14. Johny Vendetta
15. Big Dredd Vedder
16. Frank "the Leatherman" Snow
17. Sheik Yerbutti
18. Avatarr the Collector
19. Hacksaw Bane Bradshaw
20. Kaos Knight
21. "Cap 'n' Redneck" Dickie Hamhock
22. Darian Tomb
23. Rock
24. Demolition Crew
25. "the Phoenix" Steve Christiansen
26. Sexy Boy Steven Paradise
27. Babyface Brad Monroe
28. Senor Lucha
29. Awesome Sean MCA
30. Ultimate Ninja
31. Hollywood Hamilton
32. Turbo Tiger

# PBM Hall of Fame

## Class of 2025

Congratulations to this year's inductees into the PBM Contributors Hall of Fame:

**ALEX GUTIERREZ**

**BRIAN MCCRONE**

**CODY SCHIBI**

This is a full list of members in the PBM Contributors Hall of Fame. Their HOF bios can be found at [tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame](http://tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame)

### PBM HOF CONTRIBUTORS

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Jack Bruening  | 9. Michael Cook    |
| 2. Matt Riley     | 10. Jamie Davis    |
| 3. Jaklin Muto    | 11. Jeff Annable   |
| 4. Tommy Zulu     | 12. Jeff Manning   |
| 5. Howie Sandberg | 13. Rich Farrell   |
| 6. Brandon Bailey | 14. Jeff Rice      |
| 7. Jen Bialecki   | 15. Alex Gutierrez |
| 8. Nathan Couch   | 16. Brian McCrone  |
|                   | 17. Cody Schibi    |

Congratulations to this year's inductees into the PBM Stables Hall of Fame:

**HOT BODIES, INC.  
(HB)**

**UNIFIED KNIGHTS OF AMERICA  
(UKA)**

This is a full list of members in the PBM Stables Hall of Fame. Their HOF bios can be found at [tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame](http://tzwainfo.wixsite.com/pbm-history-site/hall-of-fame)

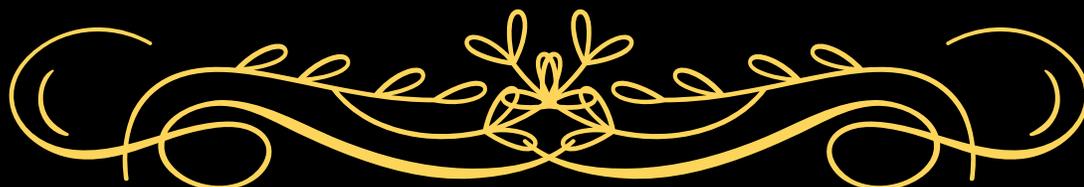
### PBM HOF STABLES

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| 1. ACE  | 5. IPF |
| 2. EDGE | 6. PRO |
| 3. DC   | 7. HB  |
| 4. RAGE | 8. UKA |

2025

# BEST OF THE BEST

HOSTED IN THE ASL



**WINNER:**

**ADAM KLEINOW**

Congratulations to the 2025 BOTB winner, Adam Kleinow from COT. Despite winning last year's tournament, Adam entered this year as an underdog again - but, once more rose to the challenge!

After surviving the first round mass elimination (new to the '25 tournament), he went on to defeat some real heavy hitters in the form of Mike Drake, Derek Tuttle, and eventually Brad Norman in the finals.

En route to back-to-back victories, Adam becomes the first 2-time tournament winner.

- 2025 - Adam Kleinow
- 2024 - Adam Kleinow
- 2023 - Tony Pesante
- 2022 - Brad Norman
- 2021 - Mitchell Johnson
- 2020 - Kyle Queen
- 2019 - Seth Brubaker
- 2018 - Keith Maple
- 2017 - Jeff Annable
- 2014 - Ben West
- 2013 - Kevin Hurley
- 2011 - Mike Dorsett

ADAM KLEINOW WON \$400 IN IWA CREDIT  
BRAD NORMAN WON \$75 IN IWA CREDIT

A TOTAL OF \$500 IN IWA CREDIT + 45 FREE MATCHES  
+ \$4,417,900 WAS AWARDED IN THIS TOURNAMENT



## 2025 IWA PLAYERS RANKINGS



### MC (STANDARD) RANKINGS

1. Tommy Zulu - 3405
2. Frank Belcher - 2690
3. Solomon Shaw - 2575
4. Derek Tuttle - 2475
5. Jake Duvall - 2355
6. Brad Norman - 2230
7. Caleb Crowdad - 2115
8. Steven Deane - 2110
9. Michael Drake - 1800
10. David Silliman - 1730
11. Justin Vickers - 1660
11. Donald Henry - 1650
13. Jeff Annable - 1600
14. Tom Flesher - 1500
15. Michael Cook - 1475
16. Rich Reilly - 1470
17. Mitchell Johnson - 1410
18. Jeff Manning - 1375
19. Adam Kleinow - 1315
20. Keith Maple - 1220
21. Mike Carver - 1190
22. Steven Shotliff - 1085
23. Mark Duchaine - 1080
24. Terrence Boyd - 1050
25. Glenn Della Pesca - 1015
26. Seth Brubaker - 980
27. Jake Joyce - 825
28. Michael Eaves - 795
29. Kevin Elrod - 675
30. Joshua Haight - 610
31. Darren Soanes - 590
32. Brian M. - 530
33. Robert Ratliff - 465
34. Dan Hayman - 435
35. Patrick Wallace - 350
36. R Squared - 335
37. Adam Maloy - 315
38. Wade Reinhard - 310
38. Jeremy Workman - 310
40. Kevin Daugherty - 260

### AI (ALT) RANKINGS

1. Tommy Zulu - 5375
2. Frank Belcher - 4410
3. Derek Tuttle - 4020
4. Solomon Shaw - 3835
5. Brad Norman - 3680
6. Jake Duvall - 3540
7. Caleb Crowdad - 3400
8. Steven Deane - 3365
9. Michael Drake - 2995
10. David Silliman - 2905

### SINGLES RANKINGS

1. Donald Henry - 1220
2. Solomon Shaw - 1055
3. Terrence Boyd - 1050
4. Tommy Zulu - 1030
5. Jake Duvall - 955
6. Frank Belcher - 865
7. Steven Deane - 830
8. Michael Cook - 795
9. Derek Tuttle - 645
10. Justin Vickers - 590

### MULTI-MAN RANKINGS

1. Tommy Zulu - 2375
2. Derek Tuttle - 1830
3. Frank Belcher - 1825
4. Brad Norman - 1685
5. Caleb Crowdad - 1680
6. Solomon Shaw - 1520
7. David Silliman - 1490
8. Jake Duvall - 1400
9. Tom Flesher - 1355
10. Rich Reilly - 1350

### MEN'S LEAGUE RANKINGS

1. Tommy Zulu - 3270
2. Solomon Shaw - 2575
3. Frank Belcher - 2500
4. Derek Tuttle - 2475
5. Jake Duvall - 2330
6. Brad Norman - 2160
7. Caleb Crowdad - 2115
8. Steven Deane - 2050
9. Michael Drake - 1745
10. David Silliman - 1665

### WOMEN'S LEAGUE RANKINGS

1. Frank Belcher - 190
2. Justin Vickers - 185
3. Tommy Zulu - 135
4. Patrick Wallace - 95
5. Jeff Manning - 80
5. Mitchell Johnson - 80
7. Brad Norman - 70
7. Dan Hayman - 70
9. David Silliman - 65
10. Steven Deane - 60

### MC STABLE RANKINGS

1. SOS - 8520
2. EDGE - 7245
3. CURE - 4205
4. COT - 3860
5. AOD - 1725
6. TBABIT - 1385
7. SWAN SONG - 1060
8. HERO - 910
9. IMT - 675
10. T6R - 530



## ALL-TIME IWA RANKINGS



### AI RANKINGS

1. Frank Belcher - 47,635
2. Michael Drake - 31,525
3. Tommy Zulu - 27,040
4. Keith Maple - 23,500
5. Rich Reilly - 23,025
6. Jeff Annable - 22,495
7. Brad Norman - 21,985
8. Michael Cook - 20,320
9. Michael Eaves - 19,480
10. Steven Shotliff - 19,005
11. Donald Henry - 18,845
12. Mark Duchaine - 18,725
13. Jeff Manning - 18,580
14. Derek Tuttle - 18,505
15. Solomon Shaw - 17,470
16. Matt Yunick - 16,575
17. Tony Pesante - 16,390
18. Garrett Guzman - 14,650
19. Caleb Crowdad - 14,520
20. Steven Deane - 14,250
21. Anthony Dudick - 13,980
22. Mitchell Johnson - 13,960
23. Joshua Haight - 13,565
24. Mike Carver - 13,165
25. Sly Smith - 12,920
26. Robbie Pawelek - 12,755
27. Mike Dorsett - 12,505
28. Seth Brubaker - 11,035
29. Jake Duvall - 10,340
30. Jason P. Miller - 10,310
31. Eugene Quintana - 10,290
32. Randall Angel - 9,040
33. Jeff Chambers - 9,010
34. Howie Sandberg - 8,915
35. John Durrani - 8,620
36. Kevin Elrod - 7,990
37. John Gabriel - 7,560
38. Michael Giuliano - 6,715
39. Gerald Robinson - 6,690
40. Anthony Fazio - 6,145
41. Jerry Anderson - 6,045
42. Timothy Clark - 6,010
43. Dave White - 5,955
44. Adam Sullivan - 5,730
45. David Silliman - 5,720
46. Tony Robinson - 5,675
47. Erik Davis - 5,645
48. Wade Reinhard - 5,510
49. Mike Latsko - 5,320
50. Adam Kleinow - 5,260

### BLENDED RANKINGS

1. Frank Belcher - 29,340
2. Michael Drake - 19,670
3. Tommy Zulu - 17,990
4. Keith Maple - 16,410
5. Michael Eaves - 16,085
6. Jeff Annable - 15,235
7. Rich Reilly - 14,950
8. Donald Henry - 14,595
9. Tony Pesante - 14,325
10. Mark Duchaine - 13,735

### SINGLES RANKINGS

1. Michael Eaves - 13,335
2. Frank Belcher - 11,775
3. Michael Drake - 11,610
4. Tony Pesante - 11,605
5. Donald Henry - 10,600
6. Garrett Guzman - 8,120
7. Anthony Dudick - 7,680
8. Keith Maple - 7,460
9. Matt Yunick - 7,390
10. Solomon Shaw - 7,100

### MULTI-MAN RANKINGS

1. Frank Belcher - 35,860
2. Tommy Zulu - 20,150
3. Michael Drake - 19,915
4. Rich Reilly - 17,115
5. Jeff Annable - 16,555
6. Keith Maple - 16,040
7. Brad Norman - 15,240
8. Michael Cook - 15,020
9. Derek Tuttle - 13,555
10. Steven Shotliff - 13,390

**EXPANDED RANKINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE  
PBM HOF WEBSITE @  
[TZWAINFO.WIXSITE.COM/PBM-HISTORY-SITE](http://TZWAINFO.WIXSITE.COM/PBM-HISTORY-SITE)**



### **2020 DECADE RANKINGS**

1. Tommy Zulu
2. Frank Belcher
3. Brad Norman
4. Michael Drake
5. Derek Tuttle
6. Steven Deane
7. Jeff Annable
8. Jeff Manning
9. Rich Reilly
10. Donald Henry
11. Solomon Shaw
12. Michael Cook
13. Steven Shottliff
14. Seth Brubaker
15. Keith Maple
16. Mark Duchaine
17. Mitchell Johnson
18. Michael Eaves
19. Jake Duvall
20. Terrence Boyd
21. Mike Carver
22. Caleb Crowdad
23. Adam Kleinow
24. David Silliman
25. Tony Pesante
26. Sly Smith
27. Darren Soanes
28. Tom Flesher
29. Wade Reinhard
30. Eric Marchand
31. Jake Joyce
32. Timothy Clark
33. Kevin Elrod
34. Robbie Pawelek
35. Mike Latsko
36. Justin Vickers
37. Joshua Haight
38. Robert Ratliff
39. Robert Lawson
40. Kyle Devlin

### **2010 DECADE RANKINGS**

1. Frank Belcher
2. Matt Yunick
3. Michael Drake
4. Garrett Guzman
5. Michael Cook
6. Keith Maple
7. Rich Reilly
8. Tony Pesante
9. Donald Henry
10. Robbie Blood
11. Michael Eaves
12. Jeff Chambers
13. Anthony Dudick
14. Caleb Crowdad
15. Mark Duchaine
16. Steven Shottliff
17. Mike Dorsett
18. Randall Angel
19. Jeff Annable
20. Joshua Haight
21. Solomon Shaw
22. Eugene Quintana
23. Mitchell Johnson
24. Jerry Anderson
25. John Gabriel
26. Erik Davis
27. Adam Sullivan
28. Anthony Fazio
29. Michael Giuliano
30. Mike Carver
31. Brad Norman
32. Gerald Robinson
33. Derek Tuttle
34. Sly Smith
35. Jake Duvall
36. Kevin Elrod
37. Ben West
38. Ali Saputra
39. Seth Brubaker
40. Rich Schwarzenburg

### **1990 - 2010 RANKINGS**

1. Jason P. Miller
2. Howie Sandberg
3. Dave White
4. John Durrani
5. Tony Robinson
6. Anthony Dudick
7. Mike Dorsett
8. Michael Eaves
9. Gregg Boyle
10. Sly Smith
11. Jason Sandberg
12. Keith Maple
13. Jeff Manning
14. Jonathan Akers
15. Kevin DiFranco
16. Eugene Quintana
17. Sam Houston
18. Joshua Haight
19. Scott Bernes
20. WP Mills
21. Darrell Brewer
22. CJ Frank
23. Tim Williams
24. Chris Spellman
25. Tommy Zulu
26. Mark Duchaine
27. Bob Dippy
28. Mike Moore
29. Eric Lindsay
30. Mark Jordan
31. Chad LaBombard
32. Eric Johnson
33. AJ Honold
34. Zach Gargus
35. Alan Handley
36. Frank Snow
37. Anthony Rodriguez
38. Steven Shottliff
39. Tony Pesante
40. Dan Delaney



## 2025 RECORD-BREAKERS



### TOMMY ZULU BREAKS A POINTS RECORD

IN 2025, TOMMY ZULU ACCUMULATED A TOTAL OF 5,375 POINTS ON THE AI SCALE BREAKING THE PREVIOUS RECORD SET BY RICH REILLY IN 2021. EN ROUTE TO HIS LANDMARK SEASON, ZULU ALSO BROKE THE SINGLE SEASON MULTI-MAN RECORD ON ALL FOUR POINTS SCALES.

### SOS ALSO SETS A NEW POINTS RECORD

NO STABLE IN THE GAME WAS ABLE TO KEEP PACE THIS YEAR WITH THE SOCIETY OF SALVATION AS THEY ROUTED THE COMPETITION WITH A RECORD-SETTING YEAR IN WHICH THEY GARNERED 11,045 POINTS ON THE AI SCALE - DEMOLISHING THE PREVIOUS RECORD SET BY VIRUS IN 2022!

### TOMMY ZULU CONCLUDES HIS WORLD TAG STREAK

TOMMY ZULU WON THE LAST OF HIS RECORD-BREAKING WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE STREAK IN SPRING 2025 WITH HIS 20TH CONSECUTIVE TITLE.

ZULU ALSO CONTINUED HIS WORLD SIX-MAN STREAK BY CLAIMING 87 CONSECUTIVE WINS IN THAT CATEGORY, ACCOUNTING FOR 5 FULL YEARS IN A ROW WITH THOSE TITLES TO HIS NAME.

**MORE RECORDS CAN BE FOUND ON THE PBM HISTORY WEBSITE. IN 2025, WE ARE COMMITTED TO BUILDING OUT AN EVEN MORE EXTENSIVE RECORD BOOK, SO IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE MISSING INFORMATION - LET US KNOW!**

### CALEB CRAWDAD WINS US TAG GOLD

AS OF THE LAST REPORT IN 2025, CALEB CRAWDAD HELD A STREAK OF 11 STRAIGHT US TAG TEAM TITLES WON - SMASHING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 8 IN A ROW HELD BY BOTH MICHAEL COOK & TOMMY ZULU.

### DONALD HENRY TIES EAVES FOR MOST DIAMOND FED TITLES WON

EVEN THOUGH MICHAEL EAVES WON HIS 27TH DIAMOND FED TITLE THIS YEAR TO EXTEND HIS RECORD, DON HENRY MANAGED TO BRING THE TITLE HOME AN ASTOUNDING FOUR-TIMES TO TIE THAT RECORD BEFORE THE YEAR ENDED.

### TOMMY ZULU & STEVE DEANE ARE BOTH ELITE AS WELL

LAST YEAR, MATT RILEY WON HIS 7TH ELITE TITLE TO BECOME THE INDIVIDUAL RECORD-HOLDER FOR THAT CHAMPIONSHIP. ZULU & DEANE EACH WON ANOTHER TITLE THIS YEAR AS WELL TO JOIN HIM AT THE TOP WITH 7 EACH.

# Stable Review

Given the sad state of affairs that the IWA stable scene has found itself in for a little more than a decade, 2025 was another success in that it was the second consecutive year in which the top average stable rosters were less than 1000. Although we weren't able to repeat the feat of '24 when the top 3 stables were less than 50 wrestlers apart on average, this year SOS + EDGE were less than 100 apart - which is still a far cry better than some of the more recent years.

Despite the roster parity at the top, EDGE was unsuccessful in defending its crown. SOS seemingly became a juggernaut overnight and stormed the castle. They took a lead beginning with Cycle #1 and never turned back as they not only won its second points title (the other occasion being in 2019), but this group also set a new single season points record in doing so.

The Society of Salvation (SOS) entered the year with the same roster it ended '24 with, but this year seemed to be clicking for them on all fronts. Backed by the steady and consistent leadership of both Mike Cook & Jeff Manning, the crew also received the benefit of career-best performances from the likes of Solomon Shaw, Derek Tuttle, and Jake Duvall - all of whom finished inside of the top-5 manager rankings (Duvall, despite "retiring" in the Fall). Not to mention Don Henry winning the singles title and Justin Vickers having his breakout year, which included almost winning the Ladies rankings.

It truly was the perfect mix of everything going right for SOS and nobody had a shot at them as a result. Now they head into 2026 with their entire roster largely still in tact with the exception of Duvall's retirement and Matt Riley's departure to rekindle DOD. So, it begs the question whether a repeat performance is inevitable?

Conventional wisdom would answer yes, but those paying close attention might realize that the work for the top spot this year may prove to be the most difficult that it's been since 2012. For the first time in more than a decade, the IWA appears poised to produce a legitimate Top-5 stable scene (and possibly then some).

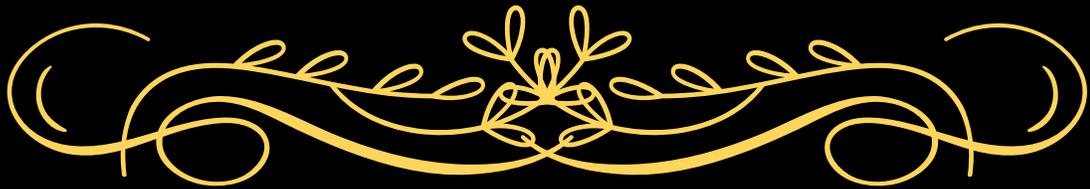
The emergence of the Arrogant Empire garnered a lot of attention around the game heading into the new year and created a disturbance in the status quo by siphoning talent away from both CURE and EDGE. Shortly after, CURE folded and from its remaining roster rebirthed the second winningest stable of all-time, VIRUS. In the second-half of '25, Caleb Crawdad also made his full-time return and joined COT to make them a legitimate threat as well, helping to round out the best Top-5 we've seen in a long, long time. As to this shakeup the return of a John Davis-led BURN and Brad Norman departing from EDGE to join the TBABIT managers to create the new stable, STUN, and also the aforementioned reformation of DOD, and we suddenly have legitimate stables outside of the Top-5 as well.

A vibrant stable scene has always translated into a more entertaining IWA and that's exactly what we're seeing as we head into 2026.

2025

# MBITAG TEAM INVITATIONAL

HOSTED IN THE ASL



## WINNER: KEITH MAPLE

The IWA Tag Team Invitational (aptly renamed after “Mastermind” Ben Iannarelli) returned for the first time in 15-years, featuring 15 of the best tag team managers in the game today.

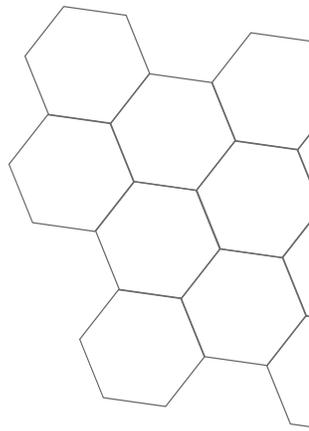
En route to winning the tournament, Keith Maple not only survived the initial elimination round; he finished at the top of the field. He then went on to sweep Jeff Annable in the semi-finals and then swept Brad Norman in the finals.

Keith etched his name in history with a near-flawless performance to win the tournament!

2025 - Keith Maple  
2010 - Jonathan Akers  
2009 - Bob Dippy  
2008 - Rob Bream  
2007 - Bob Dippy

KEITH MAPLE WON \$53 IN IWA CREDIT  
BRAD NORMAN WON \$15 IN IWA CREDIT

A TOTAL OF \$75 IN IWA CREDIT AND 40 FREE  
MATCHES WERE AWARDED IN THIS TOURNAMENT



2025

# SURVEY RESULTS

## **IWA players ranked these in their order of priority:**

1. Characters/Trash Talk
2. Commish Reports
3. Wrestler Records
4. IWA Report/Points Race
5. IWA Contests

## **When asked if they read character-based Commish Reports, IWA players said:**

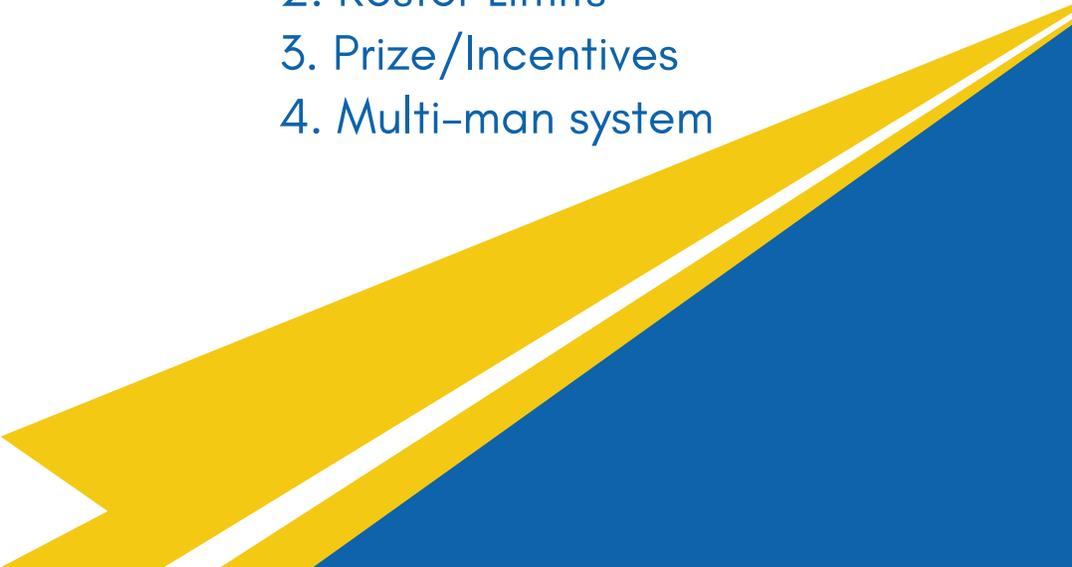
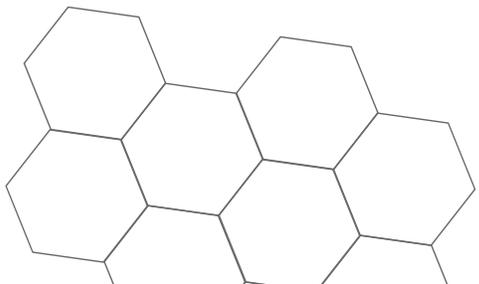
Yes - 83%

No - 17%

## **IWA players ranked these in order of their favorite IWA contests:**

1. ImagiMania
2. StableCade
3. IWA State Titles
4. IWA Specialty Titles

## **What are the top changes players are asking for?**

1. Online submission tools
  2. Roster Limits
  3. Prize/Incentives
  4. Multi-man system
- 
- 

# 10-Bell Salute

## For Rob Ratliff & Bobby Lawrence

It grieves me to say that the IWA community lost two more of its cherished members recently. In the December 2025 IWA Report, it was announced that "Catfish" Rob Ratliff passed away. He was a dear friend of Timothy Clark, who just passed the year prior. In that same Report, we learned also that former player and beloved friend to the game, Robert Lawrence, also passed.

Below is a small tribute posted in the December 2025 IWA Report:

### **JOHNNY B SAYS**

I have four important announcements this cycle, and first up is the tragic, shocking news that beloved manager **Robert J. Ratliff** has passed away.

"Catfish Rob" did very well on the competitive side of the game, winning everything from regional titles via the battle royal to the IWA World Championship, but I would argue that his greatest accomplishment was the indelible legacy he leaves behind. He truly personified what this game can be at its very best: fun, friendly competition and cooperation. Rob was known for his continual positive attitude in the face of numerous severe challenges to his health, as well as his genuine elation at other players' success. He was always willing to support and participate in other players' angles rather than trying to impose his own wishes upon them, and his reputation for coming to the aid of commissioners in need was legendary. Rob brought immense joy to his fellow managers through his delightful characters, their often outrageous storylines, and especially his incomparable artwork.

His qualifying wrestlers have been posthumously inducted into our Hall of Fame, and we bumped up the necessary stats for a few that were extremely close to eligibility. Some of his many, many friends volunteered to collectively donate enough imaginary funds from their own grapples to allow two more of his iconic creations to enter the hallowed Hall, along with a longtime tag-team partner managed by the recently departed and also dearly missed **Timothy L. Clark**. In addition, they will be holding various events and renaming titles in Rob's honor, as they did for Tim.

Tim and Rob were good friends whose careers were cut far too short, but IWA podcast episodes featuring the extremely entertaining duo are still available at <https://www.youtube.com/@timothyclark9100/videos>. They also made frequent appearances on IWA Flip's InterFed Radio channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIUquDr8zOJdb-lut4RNXUg/videos>. I've personally listened to every single show, and highly recommend them all.

Thank you for all the wonderful memories, Catfish. There will never be another player like you.

One final note pertaining to Rob is that I would like to thank all of you for making his time in the game so enjoyable. Your friendship and camaraderie meant so much to him that his family saw fit to mention the IWA in his obituary. As much as we all treasured his companionship, the feeling was completely mutual. Thank you for all you did to help him enjoy an occasional escape from his physical suffering.

The IWA community is also mourning the loss of former manager **Robert Lawrence**, who remained friends with players long after his retirement from the imaginary ring. He won his last major title in the July 2006 cycle, claiming the Steel Federation belt with KOI: The Pickle (DIL). If that made you smile, then you have an inkling of just how much he brightened the lives of every player lucky enough to know him.

Thanks for all the competition, Bobby, and thanks for all the laughter. You made your mark in our history books, and that's something cancer can never take away. Rest in peace, old friend.

### **HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES -- engraved plaque**

Robert J. Ratliff of Virginia

**HOP: BA Fox (BBL) 1,432-467-106, \*58, \$4,368,500**  
**DOD: Chief Moose Crossfox (RTL) 716-233-49, \*50, \$2,121,400**  
**DOD: Double R Rob Ratliff (BRL) 1,201-409-67, \*65, \$2,831,100**  
**DOD: "The Fastball" Louie Ratcliff (BBL) 1,092-190-39, \*51, \$1,955,000**  
**DOD: Jane "The Vixen" Red (UCW) 1,470-455-118, \*64, \$5,772,500**  
**DOD: Mad Max Red Wolf (BRL) 481-192-59, \*37, \$5,000,000**  
**DOD: Muskrat Joe (LWL) 1,095-355-57, \*40, \$2,858,200**  
**DOD: Queen Vixen Red (BBW) 862-286-57, \*50, \$2,284,800**  
**DOD: Ricky "The Fox" Steamboat (UCW) 746-359-62, \*50, \$1,975,700**  
**DOD: Squeakums the Clown (BRL) 338-214-35, \*38, \$5,000,000**  
**DOD: Sunny Rose (GAL) 1,000-191-14, \*40, \$1,785,000**  
**DOD: Tessa the Fox Red (UCW) 610-295-33, \*50, \$1,427,700**  
**DOD: Trapper Jessie Blu (BBW) 427-227-49, \*50, \$1,102,400**  
**DOD: Violent Victoria Red (UCW) 663-425-73, \*53, \$1,790,500**