## The Matches That Made and Destroyed Legitimate American Professional Wrestling

Professional wrestling is a strange and wonderful thing. It's a form of entertainment that can be both incredibly exciting and incredibly ridiculous. It's a sport that's both real and fake. It's a business that's both cutthroat and family-friendly.

And it's all built on the backs of the wrestlers who put their bodies and souls on the line every night.

The matches that these wrestlers compete in can be both career-defining and career-ending. They can create legends and they can destroy reputations. They can make and break companies.



# Gotch vs. Hackenschmidt: The Matches That Made and Destroyed Legitimate American Professional Wrestling

by Ken Zimmerman Jr.

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In this article, we'll take a look at some of the most important matches in the history of American professional wrestling. These are the matches that helped shape the industry into what it is today.

### The Match That Made Hulk Hogan

Hulk Hogan is one of the most iconic professional wrestlers of all time. He's a 12-time world champion and he's headlined countless major events. But there's one match that stands above all the rest: his victory over Andre the Giant at WrestleMania III.

This match was a watershed moment for professional wrestling. It was the first time that a wrestler had ever defeated Andre the Giant, who was considered to be unbeatable. It was also the first time that a professional wrestling match had ever been held in front of a crowd of over 90,000 people.

Hogan's victory over Andre the Giant made him the biggest star in professional wrestling. It also helped to legitimize the industry in the eyes of the mainstream public.

### The Match That Destroyed WCW

WCW was once the biggest professional wrestling company in the world. But in the late 1990s, the company began to decline. One of the biggest reasons for this decline was the "Montreal Screwjob."

The Montreal Screwjob was a controversial match between Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels at Survivor Series 1997. Hart was supposed to win the match, but Michaels won instead. This led to Hart leaving WCW and joining the WWF.

The Montreal Screwjob destroyed WCW's credibility with fans. It also led to a number of other wrestlers leaving the company. WCW was never able to recover from this blow, and it eventually went out of business in 2001.

#### The Match That Saved the WWE

The WWF was also struggling in the late 1990s. The company was losing money and its ratings were declining. But in 1998, the WWF signed Stone Cold Steve Austin.

Austin was a charismatic and popular wrestler, and he quickly became the face of the WWF. He helped to lead the company to a new era of prosperity, which became known as the "Attitude Era."

Austin's most famous match was his victory over D-Generation X at WrestleMania XIV. This match was a huge success, and it helped to save the WWF from financial ruin.

#### The Match That Created AEW

AEW is a new professional wrestling company that was founded in 2019. The company is owned by Tony Khan, the son of billionaire Shahid Khan.

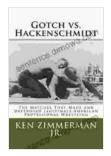
AEW's first major event was Double or Nothing, which was held in May 2019. The main event of this event was a match between Kenny Omega and Chris Jericho.

Omega won the match, and he became the first AEW World Champion. This match helped to establish AEW as a major player in the professional wrestling industry.

### The Future of Professional Wrestling

The future of professional wrestling is uncertain. The industry is constantly changing, and it's hard to say what the next big thing will be. But one thing

is for sure: the matches that are made and destroyed will continue to shape the industry for years to come.

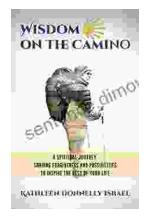


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