WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

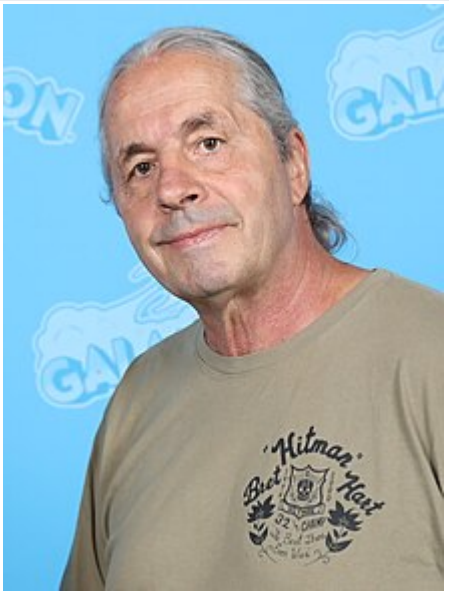
Bret Hart

Bret Sergeant Hart (born July 2, 1957) is a Canadian-American retired professional wrestler. A member of the Hart wrestling family and a second-generation wrestler, he has an amateur wrestling background, wrestling at Ernest Manning High School and Mount Royal College. A major international draw within professional wrestling, he has been credited with changing the perception of mainstream North-American professional wrestling in the early 1990s by bringing technical in-ring performance to the fore. Hart is widely regarded as one of the greatest professional wrestlers of all time; Sky Sports noted that his legacy is that of "one of, if not the greatest, to have ever graced the squared circle". For the majority of his career, Hart used the epithet "**the Hitman**".

Hart joined his father Stu Hart's promotion Stampede Wrestling in 1976 as a referee and made his in-ring debut in 1978. He gained championship success during the 1980s and 1990s in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF, now WWE), where he helmed The Hart Foundation stable. He left for World Championship Wrestling (WCW) following the controversial "Montreal Screwjob" in November 1997, where he remained until October 2000. Having been inactive from in-ring competition since January 2000, owing to a December 1999 concussion, Hart officially retired in October 2000, shortly after his departure from the company. He returned to sporadic in-ring competition from 2010 to 2011 with WWE, where he won his final championship, headlined the 2010 SummerSlam event, and served as the general manager of Raw. Throughout his career, Hart headlined WrestleMania IX, X, and XII, and participated in the main event of Starrcade 1997 and 1999 – as a special enforcer and referee in the former.[c] Hart was inducted into the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* Hall of Fame upon its inception in 1996, while still an active performer.

Hart has held championships in five decades from the 1970s to the 2010s, with a total of 32 held throughout his career, and 17 held between the WWF/WWE and WCW. Among other accolades, he is a five-time WWF Champion and a two-time WCW World Heavyweight Champion. Hart has most combined days as WWF Champion during the 1990s (654) and was the first WCW World Heavyweight Champion born outside the United States. He is the second WWF Triple Crown Champion and fifth (with Goldberg) WCW Triple Crown Champion, and the first man to win both the WWF and WCW Triple Crown Championships. Hart is also the

Bret Hart



Hart in 2023

Birth name	Bret Sergeant Hart[1][2]
Born	July 2, 1957 Calgary, Alberta, Canada[3]
Alma mater	Mount Royal University[4]
Spouse(s)	Julie Smadu (m. 1982; div. 2002) Cinzia Rota (m. 2004; div. 2007) Stephanie Washington (m. 2010)
Children	4
Family	Hart Harry Smith (maternal grandfather)[5]
Website	brethart.com (http://brethart.com)
Professional wrestling career	

1994 Royal Rumble match winner (with Lex Luger), and the only two-time King of the Ring, winning the 1991 tournament and the first King of the Ring pay-per-view in 1993. Stone Cold Steve Austin, with whom Hart headlined multiple pay-per-view events as part of an acclaimed rivalry from 1996 to 1997, inducted him into the WWE Hall of Fame class of 2006. In 2019, Hart became one of seven people to enter the WWE Hall of Fame twice, when he was inducted again as a member of The Hart Foundation, with brother-in-law Jim Neidhart.

Ring name(s)	**Bret 'The Hitman' Hart**[3] Buddy Hart[3]
Billed height	6 ft 0 in (183 cm)[6]
Billed weight	235 lb (107 kg)[6]
Billed from	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Trained by	Stu Hart[3][a] Katsuji Adachi[3] Kazuo Sakurada[9]
Debut	1976[10]
Retired	2011[11][b]

Outside of wrestling, Hart has appeared in numerous films and television shows such as *The Simpsons* as well as featuring in several documentaries, both about himself specifically and others about his family or the wrestling industry in general. Hart also helped found and lent his name to the major junior ice hockey team the Calgary Hitmen and has written two biographies along with a weekly column for the *Calgary Sun* for over a decade. After his retirement, Hart has spent much of his time on charitable efforts concerning stroke recovery and cancer awareness, due to his personal experiences with the two.

Early life

The eighth child of wrestling patriarch Stu Hart and his wife Helen, Bret Hart was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada into the Hart wrestling family. He is of Greek descent through his maternal grandmother and of Irish descent through his maternal grandfather.[13][14][15] His father was of Scottish, Irish and English ancestry.[16][17] Hart is a dual citizen of Canada and the United States since his mother Helen was born in New York.[18][19] Hart has stated that he considers himself to be North American and that he is equally proud of his U.S. and Canadian nationality.[20] His maternal grandfather was long-distance runner Harry Smith.

Hart grew up in a household with eleven siblings, seven brothers Smith, Bruce, Keith, Wayne, Dean, Ross and Owen, as well as four sisters, Ellie, Georgia, Alison and Diana. As a child he was the closest with his older brother Dean who was the nearest to him in age of all his older brothers, being three years his senior. Together they would often fight with Bret's two older sisters, Ellie, who was two years older, and Georgia, who was one year older.[21] Hart's family were non-denominational Christians, but he and all of his siblings were baptized by a local Catholic priest.[21]

Hart spent the vast majority of his childhood in the Hart family mansion which was owned by his father. During one period his father was housing a bear known as Terrible Ted chained under the building, the bear had had all of its teeth removed and Hart would sometimes as a very young child let the bear lick ice cream off his toes since he thought it was a good way to keep them clean.[22]

His introduction to professional wrestling came at an early age. As a child, he witnessed his father training future wrestlers like Superstar Billy Graham in the Dungeon, his household basement which served as a training room. Before school, Hart's father, also a wrestling promoter, had him hand out fliers to local wrestling shows. In the 1998 documentary *Hitman Hart: Wrestling with Shadows*, Hart reflected on his father's discipline, describing how Stu uttered morbid words while inflicting excruciating submission holds that left broken blood vessels in Bret's eyes. Hart claimed his father had an otherwise pleasant demeanour.[23]

Hart's first work in wrestling involved pulling out lucky numbers out of a metal box during intermission at the Stampede Wrestling shows when he was four years old. When he got slightly older, he would sell programs to the shows, something all Hart's seven brothers would do. He would often compete for customers with his little brother Ross since the fans would often want to buy from the youngest Hart child.[24]

Amateur wrestling

Like his father, Hart was an excellent amateur wrestler since an early age, having begun training as a nine-year-old.[25] At Ernest Manning High School, Hart became a standout student in the amateur wrestling division. Hart has stated that he joined the wrestling team "for the sole reason that my dad expected me to... no-one asked me to."[26] He won significant championships in tournaments throughout Alberta, including the 1974 city championships in Calgary. He scored a victory over competitor Bob Eklund – who would go on to become a Canadian Interuniversity Sport national champion, winning "Outstanding Wrestler of the Year 1980–1981"[27] – en route to the championship.[28] Hart describes the moment where he displayed the medal to his father, Stu, as a "powerful moment", and that the relationship with his father "took a different direction from that point on."[26] Hart considered the medals to be one of his most prized possessions.[1]

By 1977, Hart was collegiate champion at Mount Royal College, where he was studying filmmaking;[26][29] his coaches and other people around him felt that he had shown sufficient promise to compete at the following year's Commonwealth Games and encouraged him to begin training for the event. Hart, however, was beginning to find amateur wrestling unrewarding amid injuries and fluctuating weight.[26][30] Stu still believed his son capable of making it to the Olympic or Commonwealth Games if he put forth the effort.[31] Hart has expressed that he believed that even if he became an exceptionally successful sports wrestler it would not have led to a career afterwards which he was interested in, stating that he thought that he would end up as a wrestling coach or phys-ed teacher at a high-school if he pursued the Olympic route.[32] Hart felt that the only way to give up amateur wrestling without disappointing his father was to become a professional wrestler. His college grades became poorer as his interest in filmmaking waned; he dedicated himself to professional wrestling and began training with his father's Stampede Wrestling promotion.[26] Hart has spoken of how helpful his amateur background was in his professional wrestling career, and also of what a positive effect amateur wrestling has on junior high school and high school-aged boys in terms of building self-confidence.[33]

Professional wrestling career

Stampede Wrestling (1976–1984)

In 1976, Hart began working for his father's Stampede Wrestling promotion in Calgary. Hart first began helping the promotion by refereeing matches.[10] At a 1978 event in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, a wrestler was unable to perform his match, forcing Stu to ask his son to stand in as a replacement. Before long, he became a regular contender, eventually partnering with brother Keith to win the Stampede International Tag Team Championship four times.

Hart gained some of his most prominent experience with Japanese combatants and real-life trainers Mr. Hito and Mr. Sakurada. Hart also had high-impact matches against Tom Billington, who was better known by his in-ring name as the Dynamite Kid. In the midst of wrestling alongside his family, Hart made a point not to ride on the shoulders of his elders. Hart faithfully jobbed as requested of him, taking pride in the

believability of his performances. As he said himself, "No one could take a shit-kicking like Bret Hart".[26] Although he dreaded partaking in interviews and speaking in front of a crowd, Hart went on to win the promotion's top titles, including two British Commonwealth Mid-Heavyweight Championships, five International Tag Team Championships, and six North American Heavyweight Championships. Hart also wrestled Tiger Mask in New Japan Pro-Wrestling (NJPW), a promotion for whom he often wrestled during the early to mid-1980s. He remained one of Stampede's most successful performers until the promotion, along with several wrestlers, was acquired by the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) in August 1984.

World Wrestling Federation

The Hart Foundation (1984–1991)


Bret Hart (left) and Jim Neidhart (right), with Jimmy Hart in the back row, in 1986

Hart was asked to start out in the WWF as a singles wrestler with a cowboy gimmick but refused, stating that where he comes from "if you called yourself a cowboy, you'd better be one."[34] He made his televised WWF debut on August 29, 1984, in a tag team match where he teamed with the Dynamite Kid.[35] On September 11, in Poughkeepsie, New York, Hart defeated Aldo Marino in his televised debut singles match, which aired on the September 29 episode of *Superstars of Wrestling*. In 1985, after acquiring the nickname of "Hit Man",[6] he requested to join Jimmy Hart's heel stable, The Hart Foundation, which included brother-in-law Jim Neidhart. Bret began to increasingly team with Neidhart,[26] in order to build the promotion's tag team division. The "Hart Foundation" name then became exclusive to Bret, Neidhart and manager Jimmy Hart, due to the similar family names of both team members and their manager.[36] Bret's agile, technical style – which earned him the moniker "The Excellence of Execution" (coined by Gorilla Monsoon)[6][37] – created a contrast with his partner Neidhart's strength and brawling skills. During this time, Hart began wearing his signature[38] sunglasses, initially to conceal his nervousness during promos. Hart considers his microphone work to have been a weakness throughout his early career.[26][39]

In 1986, Hart began his first singles program with Ricky Steamboat, and in a singles match originally planned for WrestleMania 2,[40] he lost to Steamboat at the Boston Garden on March 8, 1986, which would be included on Hart's 2005 DVD as one of his all-time favourite matches.[26] At WrestleMania 2, Hart instead participated in a 20-man battle royal which was eventually won by André the Giant.[41] He lost to Steamboat again on the July 28, 1986 episode of *Prime Time Wrestling*.[42] Hart headlined his first televised WWF card when he beat Ray Rougeau, of The Fabulous Rougeau Brothers, in the main event of the November 3, 1986 episode of *Prime Time Wrestling*.[42]

The Hart Foundation won their first of two WWF Tag Team Championship on the February 7, 1987 episode of *Superstars of Wrestling* when they defeated The British Bulldogs. They then teamed with Danny Davis to face The British Bulldogs and Tito Santana at WrestleMania III. They won the match when Davis pinned Davey Boy Smith after hitting him with Jimmy Hart's megaphone.[43]

The Hart Foundation adopted the nickname, "The Pink and Black Attack", which Hart continued to use after the tag team's disbandment. This was in reference to the team's ring attire, as well as Hart's signature mirrored sunglasses, which he would routinely give away to a young audience member before matches, following his face turn in 1988.[38][44] As Hart's WWF career progressed, he increasingly described himself as "The best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be" (derived from the 1984 film *The Natural*), which he would later justify through three claims: he never injured an opponent through any fault of his own; through the entire course of his career, he missed only one show (as a result of flight difficulties); and that he only once refused to lose a match – his final WWF match with long-time adversary Shawn Michaels at the Survivor Series event in 1997, which culminated in the Montreal Screwjob.[45]



For his entrances, Hart often wore a leather jacket with shoulder tassels (epaulets), Mylar wrap-around (originally silver, later pink) sunglasses and bright pink attire[46]

The Hart Foundation lost the WWF Tag Team Championship titles to Strike Force on the October 27 episode of *Superstars of Wrestling*. Hart subsequently competed in his most high-profile singles contest to date on the November 28, 1987, episode of *Saturday Night's Main Event XIII*, when he faced "Macho Man" Randy Savage in a losing effort.[47] He began 1988 with a decisive victory over Paul Roma of The Young Stallions (who had scored an upset victory over The Hart Foundation the previous year)[48] on the January 11 episode of *Prime Time Wrestling*,[42] and, at the Royal Rumble in January 1988, was the first entrant in the inaugural Royal Rumble match. He lasted 25 minutes and 42 seconds before being eliminated by Don Muraco.

Entered into another battle royal at WrestleMania IV, Hart was again one of the final two combatants as he was enlisted by former frequent Stampede opponent Bad News Brown to eliminate Junkyard Dog before Brown turned on Hart, eliminating him to win the event. This turned Hart back into a fan favourite and triggered a feud between the two. Neidhart soon came to Hart's side in the feud, but manager Jimmy Hart discouraged the feud, leading to a fallout between the team and manager. This led to matches pitting Hart against Davis and also his first singles championship opportunity, in which he challenged The Honky Tonk Man for the WWF Intercontinental Heavyweight Championship in the main event of the July 18 episode of *Prime Time Wrestling*, with the match ending in a double countout.[42] As relations between the Harts and their former mentor further deteriorated, Jimmy Hart assisted tag team champions Demolition in a successful defence of their belts against the Harts at SummerSlam in August 1988, before enlisting old enemies The Fabulous Rougeau Brothers, who had recently turned heel, to resume their feud with the Harts.

At the Royal Rumble in January 1989, The Hart Foundation teamed with Jim Duggan to defeat the Rougeaus and Dino Bravo. They also defeated Greg Valentine and The Honky Tonk Man, who were also managed by Jimmy Hart, at WrestleMania V. At an event in Milan on April 8, 1989, broadcast live on Tele+2, André the Giant requested to work a singles match with Hart, who lost the match, which was later released on his 2013 DVD set, *The Dungeon Collection*, but considered André's praise and encouragement after the match to be of key importance in his singles career.[49] He wrestled his first pay-per-view singles match on October 10, losing to Dino Bravo in the first British WWF pay-per-view, which was held at the London Arena and broadcast on Sky Television[50] (Hart was in fact booked to win the match, but incurred a broken sternum, causing an unplanned countout loss).[26]

At SummerSlam in August 1989, The Hart Foundation lost a non-title match against then WWF Tag Team Champions The Brain Busters. In the first televised contest of a rivalry that would span Hart's WWF and WCW careers, he lost to Mr. Perfect on the November 6, 1989 episode of *Prime Time Wrestling*, when Perfect pulled Hart's tights during a roll-up.[51] In their first ever singles meeting, Shawn Michaels and Hart wrestled to a double countout on the February 11, 1990 episode of the *Wrestling Challenge*.[52]

After participating at the Royal Rumble in January 1990, The Hart Foundation defeated The Bolsheviks in 19 seconds at WrestleMania VI and began feuding with Demolition, who had just won the WWF Tag Team Championship against The Colossal Connection at WrestleMania VI. At SummerSlam in 1990, The Hart Foundation began their second, and final, WWF Tag Team Championship reign by defeating Demolition members Crush and Smash in a two out of three falls match with some help from Legion of Doom.[53][54] On October 30, the Hart Foundation lost the title to The Rockers (Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels), but a few days later, President Jack Tunney reversed the decision and the win was never acknowledged on television. The Hart Foundation's reign lasted until WrestleMania VII, where they lost to The Nasty Boys, after which the team split.[55]

Intercontinental Champion (1991–1992)

Hart won his first WWF Intercontinental Championship by defeating Mr. Perfect with the Sharpshooter at SummerSlam in 1991,[56][57] and subsequently won the 1991 King of the Ring tournament on September 7, 1991, at the Providence Civic Center in Providence, Rhode Island. Hart's first pay-per-view title defense occurred at This Tuesday in Texas, where he beat the undefeated Skinner.[58]

In January 1992, Hart was placed in a feud with Jacques Rougeau, who by now was wrestling as "The Mountie" and using the gimmick of a power-hungry, corrupt member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This feud, the first for Hart and Rougeau as singles competitors, came about when the Mountie's manager, Jimmy Hart, threw water on Hart, and The Mountie proceeded to shock Hart with a cattle prod. On January 17, 1992, Hart dropped the Intercontinental Championship to The Mountie. Following the loss, Roddy Piper defeated Mountie with a sleeper hold two days later at the 1992 Royal Rumble,[59] and Bret later pinned Piper for his second Intercontinental Championship at WrestleMania VIII later that year,[60][61] making him the first wrestler in the WWF – and one of few wrestlers ever – to pin Piper's shoulders to the mat.[26] At a *Wrestling Challenge* taping on July 21, 1992, Hart defeated Shawn Michaels, with the Intercontinental Championship belt suspended above the ring, in the WWF's first ever ladder match.[62] Hart dropped the Intercontinental Championship to his brother-in-law, Davey Boy Smith, in Hart's first WWF pay-per-view main event at SummerSlam in August 1992, held before over 80,000 fans at Wembley Stadium.[63] *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers voted it the "Match of the Year",[64] and WWE named the match as the greatest in the history of SummerSlam.[65] Upon induction into the WWE Hall of Fame class of 2006, Hart cited the contest as his favourite match of his career.[66]

WWF Champion (1992–1996)

Hart won the WWF Championship from Ric Flair at a *Superstars* taping at Saskatchewan Place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on October 12 of that year, in a match not originally broadcast on WWF television[67] – the match was instead made available on a series of Coliseum/WWE Home Video releases.[68] Hart dislocated one of the fingers on his left hand during the match and popped it back in himself so it would not affect the rest of the match.[26] He made successful title defenses against Kamala, The Berzerker and Papa Shango. He would headline his first pay-per-view as champion with a successful title defense against Shawn Michaels at the 1992 Survivor Series,[69] and defeated Razor Ramon at the

1993 Royal Rumble.[70] He would also defend the title against contenders such as Papa Shango[71] and former champion Ric Flair[6] before losing the title to Yokozuna in his first WrestleMania main event at WrestleMania IX, after interference from Mr. Fuji. Fuji then challenged Hulk Hogan, who had come out to help Hart, to compete for the title; Hogan then won his fifth WWF Championship from Yokozuna.[72] In June, Hart won the first pay-per-view King of the Ring tournament, defeating Razor Ramon, Mr. Perfect, and Bam Bam Bigelow, thus becoming the only two-time King of the Ring.[73] According to Hart, he was scheduled to regain the WWF Championship from Hulk Hogan at SummerSlam, but Hogan chose to drop the title to Yokozuna instead at King of the Ring.[74] Hart instead entered a feud with Jerry "The King" Lawler, who interrupted Hart's coronation, claimed he was the only king, attacked Hart and began a barrage against Hart and his family. The two met at SummerSlam in 1993, to determine the "Undisputed King of the World Wrestling Federation".[75] Hart originally won the match by submission, via the Sharpshooter, but as he would not let go of the hold, the decision was reversed to a Lawler victory by disqualification.[76] Hart and his younger brother, Owen Hart, would also feud with Lawler during 1993 in the United States Wrestling Association (USWA), with Lawler notably defeating Owen for Owen's USWA Unified World Heavyweight Championship.[77] Hart's feud with Lawler was named "Feud of the Year" by *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*, and voted "Feud of the Year" by readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.[78]



Hart with his WWF Championship belt underneath his jacket

After months of dealing with Lawler, Hart received a WrestleMania IX rematch with WWF Champion Yokozuna on the November 20 episode of *WWF Superstars*. When Bret appeared to have the match won, with Yokozuna locked in the sharpshooter, Owen came to ringside to congratulate his brother. The referee began questioning Owen's motives, which allowed Fuji to assault Bret. Owen then involved himself in the match, resulting in a victory for Yokozuna via disqualification. On the non-televised but now-canon November 22 episode of *Monday Night Raw*, Hart again challenged Yokozuna for the WWF Championship, and again failed to regain the championship due to similar involvement from Owen. The brothers' disagreements set the wheels in motion for a family feud that would span the entirety of 1994.[79] At Survivor Series, the Harts (Bret, Owen, Bruce, and Keith) took on Shawn Michaels (a substitution for Lawler, who was facing legal troubles)[80] and his knights. The Harts won the match, with all of the brothers surviving except for Owen, the only Hart family member eliminated when he was rolled up by Michaels after inadvertently knocking Bret off the apron.[81] Bitter about his elimination, Owen blamed Bret for this and in the weeks ahead, blamed Bret for holding him back. Owen demanded a one-on-one match with Bret, which Bret refused to accept. In the storyline, Bret, along with his parents, worked over the Christmas holidays to reunite the family and to settle their rivalry. Bret was voted "WWF Superstar of the Year" 1993 by fans,[82] as well as the greatest wrestler of the year by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers.[83]

At the Royal Rumble in January, Bret and Owen took on The Quebecers (Jacques and Pierre) for the WWF Tag Team Championship. Referee Tim White stopped the match after he considered Bret unable to continue after he sustained a kayfabe knee injury during the match. After the match, Owen berated his brother for costing him a title opportunity and attacked the injured knee, setting the feud between the two.[84] Later on,



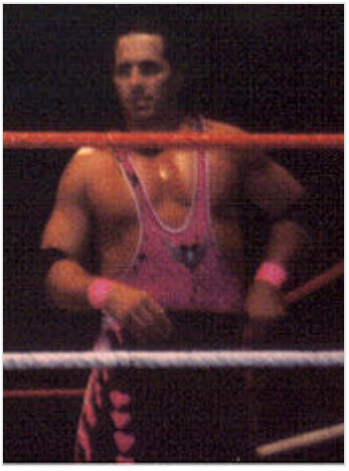
Bret's rivalry with his brother Owen won them *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*'s Feud of the Year award and featured a highly rated steel cage match at SummerSlam

Hart managed to participate and win the 1994 Royal Rumble match amid controversy. Hart and Lex Luger were the final two participants and the two were eliminated over the top rope at the same time. Therefore, both men were named co-winners of the 1994 Royal Rumble match and received title shots at WrestleMania X.[85] Luger won the chance to face Yokozuna first, with Hart having to wrestle his brother Owen, before receiving his title shot. Hart lost his match against Owen[86] but went on to defeat Yokozuna for his second WWF Championship.[87][88]

Hart continued to feud with his brother Owen while he also started feuding with Diesel. Hart's friend and former tag team partner Jim Neidhart returned to the WWF and reunited with Hart. At King of the Ring, Hart defended the WWF Championship against Diesel. When Hart was winning the match, Shawn Michaels interfered on Diesel's behalf; Diesel appeared close to victory after he delivered a Jackknife Powerbomb yet before he could pin Hart, Neidhart interfered, therefore Diesel won by disqualification, but Hart retained his title. Neidhart left when Diesel and Michaels attacked Hart following the match. Neidhart's motivation was made clear when he helped Owen win the tournament that night, so that he could receive a title shot against his brother.[89] At SummerSlam, Hart successfully retained the WWF Championship against Owen in a steel cage match.[90] This match received a five-star rating from Dave Meltzer of *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*, and the brothers' feud was voted "Feud of the Year" by readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.[78]

Hart eventually lost his WWF Championship at Survivor Series in a submission match against Bob Backlund where the manager of either competitor (Davey Boy Smith for Hart, Owen for Backlund) would have to "throw in the towel" for the wrestler they were representing. When Hart was in Backlund's crossface chickenwing and Davey Boy was kayfabe knocked out, Owen persuaded his mother Helen to throw in the towel for Hart, giving Backlund the championship victory.[91] Bret's feud with Backlund would continue into the following year. He was voted the greatest wrestler of 1994 by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers, winning the vote for the second straight year.[92]

Three days after Hart's title loss, Diesel defeated Backlund in eight seconds with a jackknife powerbomb to become the new WWF Champion. By 1995, Hart was focusing on projects outside the business, such as acting, and shifted to the number two face in the company, behind Diesel.[93] Hart challenged for Diesel's WWF Championship at the 1995 Royal Rumble, in a match that was continually marred by outside interference and ruled a draw. Both men embraced in a display of sportsmanship after the match. In a rematch from Survivor Series, Hart defeated Bob Backlund in an "I Quit" match at WrestleMania XI.[94] Hart was critical with the match against Backlund, claiming it was "probably my worst pay-per-view match I ever had".[95] Hart would be the focal point of the first event in the In Your House pay-per-view series, competing in two matches at In Your House 1. He defeated Hakushi in the very first match of the in Your House series. Hart's acclaimed feud with Jerry Lawler was reignited at the event when



Hart in 1995

Lawler defeated Hart due to Hakushi's (now Lawler's protégé) interference.[96] Hart beat Lawler in a "Kiss My Foot" match at King of the Ring, and defeated Lawler's kayfabe dentist, Isaac Yankem, by disqualification at SummerSlam 1995.[97] Their King of the Ring match ended with Hart shoving his foot into Lawler's mouth, then forcing Lawler to kiss his own foot.[98] Although Hart was victorious in their in-ring feud, Lawler remained strongly opposed to Hart as a commentator, and would routinely encourage Hart's opponents during matches; it would not be until Over the Limit, sixteen years later, that both men would finally bury the hatchet. After disposing of Lawler, Hart engaged in a three-month feud with Jean-Pierre Lafitte, who would be stealing the mirrored sunglasses from fans at ringside and his trademark leather jacket. At In Your House 3, Hart defeated Lafitte, to end the feud. Hart shifted his focus back to the WWF Championship, defeating Diesel in a no disqualification match at Survivor Series to commence his third reign.[99][100]

In a rematch from their SummerSlam 1992 encounter, Hart successfully defended his title against the now heel Davey Boy Smith at In Your House 5: Seasons Beatings. He lost to The Undertaker by disqualification at the 1996 Royal Rumble when Diesel interfered, ultimately retaining the WWF Championship, and defeated The Undertaker by disqualification in a rematch on the February 5 episode of *Raw*, again due to Diesel's interference.[101] Hart retained his title once again against Diesel in a steel cage match at In Your House 6, and defeated Hunter Hearst Helmsley, who was undefeated on *Raw*, on the March 4 episode of the show.[102] WWF Commissioner Rowdy Roddy Piper ruled that Hart would face Shawn Michaels, who had earned a WWF Championship match at WrestleMania XII by winning the Royal Rumble,[103] in a 60-minute Iron Man match at the event. The wrestler with the most decisions during the 60 minutes would win the match and the WWF Championship.

At WrestleMania, with less than a minute left on the clock and the score still 0–0, Michaels jumped from the middle rope; his legs were caught by Hart, and Hart locked in his Sharpshooter. However, Michaels did not submit in the last 30 seconds, so the match ended in a tie. WWF President Gorilla Monsoon ruled that the match would continue in sudden death overtime. Michaels hit a superkick to win the championship.[104] *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers voted it the "Match of the Year";[64] in 2004, WWE fans voted the match as the greatest in the history of WrestleMania.[105] After WrestleMania, Hart went on a European tour over the next two weeks, coming out victorious against Stone Cold Steve Austin and Hunter Hearst Helmsley. The tour ended on April 22, and after this he took his hiatus from television. His final televised appearance was an interview taped while on the European tour in which he described his passion for wrestling was diminished and stated that although there were offers from competing companies, he might be finished with wrestling He also wrestled that May in the Kuwait tour.[106]

That fall, Hart would indeed receive competing offers of employment from both WWF and World Championship Wrestling (WCW). WCW presented a 3-year, $9M contract offer to Hart,[107] while the World Wrestling Federation responded with an unprecedented 20-year contract. Finishing up his original WWF deal, Hart returned to action on a tour of South Africa on September 8, 1996, defeating Davey Boy Smith in Durban.[106] On October 21, Hart elected to re-sign with the World Wrestling Federation.[108] He was inducted into the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* Hall of Fame Class of 1996.

Feud with Stone Cold Steve Austin (1996–1997)

Over the summer, Stone Cold Steve Austin, who was fresh from winning the 1996 King of the Ring,[109] continually taunted Hart and challenged him to come back and have a match. After an eight-month hiatus from television, Hart returned and defeated Austin at Survivor Series in a match for the number one



Hart posing for the crowd with his arms open

contender spot to the WWF Championship.[110] Hart challenged champion Sycho Sid at the following month's In Your House 12: It's Time; Shawn Michaels, who was serving as a guest commentator at ringside, accidentally cost Hart the victory when he attempted to become involved in the match after being assaulted by Sid. The building tension between Hart and Michaels climaxed after the match when Hart assaulted Michaels. Hart's feud with Austin escalated at the Royal Rumble, when Hart tossed Austin out of the ring, only for Austin (unbeknownst to the referees) to climb back into the ring and win the Royal Rumble match, while the referees were distracted by Mankind.[111] Hart quit the WWF the next night on *Raw* in protest. In order to deal with this controversy, a Fatal Four-Way between Austin and the participants he eliminated after re-entering the ring (Vader, The Undertaker, and Hart) was set up for In Your House 13: Final Four, with the winner becoming the number one contender. After then-champion Shawn Michaels relinquished the belt, though, the match officially became for the WWF Championship. Hart defeated Austin, Vader, and The Undertaker in the Fatal Four-Way.[112][113] However, Austin made sure Hart's fourth reign was short-lived, costing him a title match against Sid the next night on *Raw*.[114] Hart challenged for Sid's WWF Championship in a steel cage match shortly before WrestleMania 13, which saw Austin actually attempt to help Hart win, in order to make their scheduled match at WrestleMania 13 a title match. Concurrently, The Undertaker, who had a scheduled title match with Sid at WrestleMania, attempted to help Sid win. Sid ultimately retained, leading to a pure grudge match for Hart and Austin.[115] Following his loss to Sid, Hart shoved "announcer" Vince McMahon to the ground when he attempted to conduct a post-match interview, and engaged in a worked shoot, expletive-laden rant against McMahon and WWF management. This incident has been cited as one which helped lay the foundations of the WWF's Attitude Era, as well as the starting point of McMahon's on-air character, the tyrannical WWF owner "Mr. McMahon".[116]

At WrestleMania 13, Hart and Austin had their rematch in a submission match that would later get a 5-star rating from Dave Meltzer. In the end, Hart locked the Sharpshooter on a bloody Austin, who refused to give up. In fact, Austin never quit, but passed out from the blood loss and pain. Ken Shamrock, the special guest referee, awarded Hart the match, after which he continued to assault Austin, thus turning heel for the first time since 1988.[117] It was named "Match of the Year" by *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* and voted "Match of the Year" by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers.[64] Later that night, Hart confronted Sycho Sid and The Undertaker prior to their match for the WWF Championship; Hart insulted Undertaker and told Shawn Michaels (who was a guest commentator for the match) not to interfere. Undertaker won the match, which ended with Hart hot shotting Sid on the ropes, therefore costing him the title.

Hart challenged Rocky Maivia for the Intercontinental Championship in the main event of the March 31 episode of *Raw*. Rocky Maivia won by disqualification when Hart refused to release a figure-four leglock applied around the ring post. He faced Austin again in the main event of In Your House 14: Revenge of the 'Taker, to determine who would challenge the WWF Champion Undertaker in a title match at the following month's In Your House 15: A Cold Day in Hell. Austin had Hart locked in his own finishing move, the Sharpshooter, in the middle of the ring when The British Bulldog interfered on Hart's behalf, resulting in disqualification and giving Austin the victory and title match. They met once again in a street fight on the April 21 episode of *Raw Is War*, in which Austin injured Hart's ankle with a steel chair. The match was ruled a no-contest and Austin afterward continued to beat Hart while on a stretcher in the back of an ambulance.

In the ensuing weeks, Hart denounced American fans, because of their negative reaction to him in the recent weeks in contrast to his continued popularity through the rest of the world and reunited with brother Owen and brothers-in-law Davey Boy Smith and Jim Neidhart. The family members formed a new Hart Foundation with Brian Pillman; this incarnation was an anti-American stable which was popular within Canada and Europe. As the leader of this stable, Hart routinely carried a Canadian flag to the ring and engaged in promos where he declared the superiority of his home nation; he became so despised by U.S. audiences that they would often throw debris during his ring entrances, interviews, and matches.[26] He was voted by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers as the "Most Hated Wrestler of the Year" in 1997.[118] At In Your House 16: Canadian Stampede, in Hart's home town of Calgary, the Hart Foundation defeated the team of Stone Cold Steve Austin, Ken Shamrock, Goldust, and The Legion of Doom, representing the United States, in a ten-man tag team match main event.[119] The Canada vs. U.S. rivalry escalated on the July 21 episode of *Raw Is War* in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Bret, Owen, and Davey Boy Smith, representing Canada and the Hart Foundation, defeated the team of Dude Love, Austin, and The Undertaker, representing the U.S., in a Flag match.[120] The Hart Foundation's feud with Austin was named "Feud of the Year" by *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* and voted "Feud of the Year" by readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.[78] Hart vowed that if he could not defeat The Undertaker for the WWF Championship at SummerSlam, he would never wrestle in the United States again. The Undertaker agreed to the match, and Hart won his fifth and last WWF Championship after spitting in guest referee Shawn Michaels' face; Michaels swung a steel chair in retaliation, which accidentally struck the Undertaker. Michaels, who, as part of another pre-match stipulation, would be banned from wrestling in the United States if he did not remain impartial as referee, had no option but to count the pinfall, giving his rival Hart the victory.[121][122]



In 1997, Hart became a tweener: generally cheered for by Canadian and international fans, and booed by American fans, while remaining largely consistent in character

After SummerSlam, Michaels was pushed as the top heel in the company and negative fan reactions towards Hart in the United States softened somewhat, as he declared, "I'm not so much anti-American as I am just very, very pro-Canadian".[26] In real life, Hart did not like the new Attitude Era, instead preferring traditional values. This was used as part of his character, as Hart would insult the U.S. fans because of the success of the Attitude Era.[123] Hart successfully defended his title against The Patriot, with whom Hart had become involved in a feud as part of the Canada vs. U.S. storyline, at Ground Zero: In Your House,[124] avenging a loss to him on the July 28 *Raw*.[120] The Canada vs. U.S. feud would conclude at Badd Blood: In Your House, where Hart and Davey Boy Smith, representing Canada and The Hart Foundation, defeated The Patriot and Vader, representing the U.S., in a Flag match.[125] Erstwhile, in a rematch from SummerSlam, The Undertaker challenged Hart for the WWF Championship at One Night Only; after reversing a Tombstone Piledriver attempt from Hart, The Undertaker dumped Hart on the apron when he would not let go of the ropes. As a result, Hart's neck was caught in the ropes, and The Undertaker was disqualified.[126] Hart later cited this as his favourite of all his matches with The Undertaker,[26] and his last great match in the WWF.[127]

In September 1997, Hart faced Terry Funk at Terry Funk's WrestleFest in what was billed as Funk's retirement match.[128]

During the Hart Foundation's feud with the Shawn Michaels-led D-Generation X (DX), DX framed the Hart Foundation in vandalizing the locker room of the African American stable, Nation of Domination with racist motifs. In retaliation, during a promo with DX, Hart called members Triple H (previously billed as "Hunter Hearst Helmsley") and Shawn Michaels "homos". Hart later apologized for his participation in the storyline and said that he had been pressured into it, saying, "I am not in any shape or form a racist. And I don't believe it is anything to kid around about. I also want to apologize for any remarks I made about gay people. It was a stupid mistake on my part".[127] Hart successfully defended his title against Nation of Domination leader, Faarooq, on the October 20 episode of *Raw*.[120] In his penultimate title defence, Hart wrestled Ken Shamrock to a no-contest on the October 27 episode of *Raw Is War*; while the referee was knocked out, Shamrock put Hart in an ankle lock; members of the Hart Foundation then attacked Shamrock until Shawn Michaels made the save for Shamrock and attacked Hart.[120]

The Montreal Screwjob and departure (1997)



Hart (along with Hulk Hogan) held the record for most WWF Championship reigns until The Rock's sixth reign in 2001

Around this time, Hart's on-air rivalry with Vince McMahon also escalated. A heated ringside altercation between the two led many fans to dislike McMahon, who at the time was being exposed as owner of the WWF more and more frequently on-air. Although Hart had signed a 20-year contract back in 1996, the WWF was in a rough financial position by late 1997 and could no longer afford to honour the contract. Although Hart was arguably the biggest wrestler in the world during the mid-1990s,[129] McMahon also felt that the value of his character was beginning to wane,[130] and he encouraged Hart to approach World Championship Wrestling (WCW) about a contract, hopefully one similar to their original offer. This was despite Hart's reluctance to leave the WWF and willingness to re-negotiate.[26][131] Hart subsequently signed a three-year contract with WCW. His final match with the WWF would be a title match against his real-life rival Shawn Michaels at Survivor Series in Montreal. Hart did not want to end his WWF career with a loss to Michaels in his home country particularly with the context of their nationality-fueled feud; and offered to lose, forfeit or otherwise give over the belt to Michaels in any other way that McMahon wanted. McMahon agreed to Hart's idea of forfeiting the championship the next night on *Raw Is War* or losing it a few weeks later.

Although Hart stated to McMahon he would not take the WWF Championship with him to WCW television and despite insistence from then-WCW President Eric Bischoff[26] that Hart would join WCW with a "clean slate", McMahon was still concerned and paranoid; this led to him breaking his word in what eventually came to be known as the Montreal Screwjob. Even though Hart did not submit to the Sharpshooter, referee Earl Hebner called for the bell as if he had, on McMahon's orders. This resulted in Hart "losing" the WWF Championship to Michaels.[132] The night ended with an irate Hart spitting in McMahon's face, destroying television equipment, and punching McMahon backstage in front of Gerald Brisco, Pat Patterson, and McMahon's son Shane. Hart also confronted Michaels backstage about the match finish. Many behind-the-scenes events leading up to the Montreal Screwjob were filmed for the documentary *Hitman Hart: Wrestling with Shadows*, released in 1998. WWE has described the Montreal Screwjob as "arguably the most controversial, most jarring moment in the annals of sports entertainment".[133]

Hart's likeness would continue to be featured in WWF media into 1998, including the title video of *Raw* (brawling in a ring within a warehouse),[134], action figure for Slammers Series 1[135] and the *WWF War Zone* video game.[136]

World Championship Wrestling

United States Heavyweight Champion (1997–1999)

Hart's three-year contract with World Championship Wrestling (WCW) included a salary of $2.5 million per year (a $1 million annual increase from his WWF contract), as well as a light schedule and a measure of creative control over his television character.[137] A day after the WWF's Survivor Series pay-per-view, Eric Bischoff, while with the New World Order (nWo), announced that Hart was going to be coming to WCW and joining the nWo. Hart made his debut on *Nitro* on December 15, 1997.[138] He was also heavily involved in that month's Starrcade pay-per-view. Due to a 60-day no-compete clause from the WWF, he served as the special guest referee for the match between Bischoff and Larry Zbyszko; during the Sting versus Hollywood Hogan main event for the WCW World Heavyweight Championship, he stepped in toward the conclusion of the match as impromptu referee, declaring Sting the winner and new champion by submission, establishing Hart as a face in the process.[139][140] In January, his no-compete clause expired, and his first feud in WCW was against Ric Flair, as both wrestlers considered themselves the greatest professional wrestlers of all time. Hart defeated Flair at Souled Out in his first WCW match.[141] After this, Hart elected to defend the honour of WCW against the nWo, defeating members Brian Adams in his debut *Nitro* match on March 2, and Curt Hennig at Uncensored.[142] In April 1998, Hart interfered in a *Nitro* main event between Hollywood Hogan and Randy Savage, helping Hogan recapture the WCW World Heavyweight Championship, turning heel in the process. He became an associate of the nWo, but did not officially join the group.



Hart held the WCW United States Heavyweight Championship four times from 1998 to 1999 (a record within WCW), and he was seen to raise its prestige, as many WCW events were headlined by a match for that title during the time period in which Hart was associated with it[143]

Hart competed in his second *Nitro* match on June 22, defeating Chris Benoit with assistance from nWo members: Hart had attempted to recruit his long-time friend into the nWo, but the offer was rejected.[144] At Bash at the Beach, Hart competed in his first championship match in WCW when he faced Booker T for the WCW World Television Championship. He was disqualified after hitting Booker with a steel chair.[145] He headlined his first *Nitro* card on July 20, defeating Diamond Dallas Page for the vacant United States Heavyweight Championship, with assistance from nWo member, The Giant.[146] On the August 10 episode of *Nitro*, Hart lost his title to Lex Luger.[147] He regained it from Luger the next night on *Thunder*.[148] In the main event of Fall Brawl, Hart was defeated in a WarGames match for the No. 1 contender spot to the WCW World Heavyweight Championship.[149]

Hart subsequently asked the fans for forgiveness, pretending to turn his back on Hogan and the nWo. A match between Hart and Hogan was booked for the September 28 episode of *Nitro*. During the match, Hart sustained a knee injury, with the bout ending in a no-contest; Sting came to Hart's aid and initiated a match with Hogan. Hart turned on Sting, delivering a DDT, and this bout was also ruled a no-contest. Sting, a member of the rival nWo

Wolfpac, was assaulted after the match; this betrayal began an intense feud between Hart and Sting. On the October 12 episode of *Nitro*, Sting and The Warrior beat Hart and Hogan by disqualification. Hart's feud with Sting ended at Halloween Havoc with Hart controversially defending the United States Heavyweight Championship and (kayfabe) injuring Sting. On the October 26 episode of *Nitro*, Hart lost the title to Diamond Dallas Page.[150] The two headlined the following month's World War 3 pay-per-view in a title match which Hart lost.[151] Hart regained the title from Page on the November 30 episode of *Nitro* in a No Disqualification match with help from The Giant.[152]

On the February 8, 1999 episode of *Nitro*, Hart lost the United States Heavyweight Championship to family friend Roddy Piper.[153] On the March 29 episode of *Nitro* held at Toronto's Air Canada Centre, Hart appeared in street clothes and derided WCW World Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair, as well as Hogan, for avoiding a match with him. Finally, he called out "franchise player" Goldberg, claiming he could beat him in five minutes and verbally coercing Goldberg into giving him the spear. Hart was wearing a metal breastplate under his Toronto Maple Leafs jersey, which resulted in Goldberg being knocked out. Hart then counted his own pinfall over Goldberg's unconscious body and announced over the mic: "Hey Bischoff, and the WCW, I quit!" In reality, he had sustained a groin injury at the hands of Dean Malenko in November and needed time off for surgery.[154]

On May 23, 1999, the night before Hart was scheduled to make an appearance on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* to hype his imminent WCW return, his brother Owen Hart died in an accident during a WWF pay-per-view. Hart took a further four months off from WCW to be with his family.

Hart returned to wrestling on the September 13, 1999 episode of *Nitro* in a tag team match with Hulk Hogan against Sting and Lex Luger, reestablishing himself as a face in the process. On the October 4 *Nitro*, Hart defeated Chris Benoit in a special "Owen Hart Tribute Match" at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Missouri, where Owen had died that previous May. Hart challenged for Sting's WCW World Heavyweight Championship on the October 18 episode of *Nitro*, but lost the match when he was attacked by Luger.[155] Due to controversy over a series of WCW World Heavyweight Championship matches between Sting, Hogan, and Goldberg at Halloween Havoc, the title was declared vacant. A tournament then took place over several episodes of *Nitro*. Hart's first round match came against Goldberg the night after Halloween Havoc, with the bout being a tournament match for a berth in the next round, as well as being a match for the United States Heavyweight Championship that Goldberg had won the night before. Thanks to outside interference by Sid Vicious and The Outsiders, Hart defeated Goldberg and won the U.S. Heavyweight Championship for the fourth time.[156][157] On the November 8 episode of *Nitro*, Hart lost the title to Scott Hall in a ladder match that also involved Sid Vicious and Goldberg.[158]

World Heavyweight Champion and injury (1999–2000)

Hart won the WCW World Heavyweight Championship tournament by defeating Perry Saturn,[158] Billy Kidman,[159] Sting, and Chris Benoit at Mayhem. On December 7, Hart and Goldberg won the WCW World Tag Team Championship from Creative Control, making Hart a double champion. Hart and Goldberg lost the tag team titles to The Outsiders on the December 13 episode of *Nitro*.[160] At Starrcade, Hart defended his WCW World Heavyweight Championship against Goldberg. During the match, Hart was struck with a thrust kick to the head, resulting in a severe concussion. Hart later speculated that he may have suffered up to three additional concussions within matches over the course of that day along with the days immediately following Starrcade, having been unaware of the severity of his injuries.[161] For example, Hart placed Goldberg on the post in a figure four leglock which ended with Hart hitting his head

on the concrete floor when Goldberg failed to receive the move correctly.[162] The sum total of those injuries left Hart with post-concussion syndrome and ultimately forced his retirement from professional wrestling. Hart later claimed that Goldberg "had a tendency to injure everyone he worked with."[163] As part of his DVD documentary, Hart expressed regret that "someone as good-hearted as Bill Goldberg" was responsible for hurting him.[26] Referee Roddy Piper rang the bell when Hart held Goldberg in the Sharpshooter, although Goldberg did not submit. Piper simply walked away, leaving both Goldberg and Hart bewildered.[164]

Out of respect for Goldberg, Hart vacated the WCW World Heavyweight Championship on the December 20 episode of *Nitro* and suggested that he, without the championship advantage, face Goldberg that night to determine the true champion. During the match, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash came to the ring looking to attack Goldberg with baseball bats. Hart convinced them to stop, then hit Goldberg with one of the bats, turning heel once again. The three continued to beat down Goldberg and were eventually joined by Jeff Jarrett.[165] Hart regained the championship, even though it was Roddy Piper who was covering Goldberg (to try and protect him) when the three count was made. The nWo was reformed (now billed as "nWo 2000").[166][167] Hart wrestled Terry Funk to a no contest in a non-title, hardcore rules match on the January 6 episode of *Thunder*. In his final match in WCW, he defended the WCW World Heavyweight Championship against Nash on the January 10 episode of *Nitro*, which also ended in a no contest. Hart vacated the title in late January 2000 when he was forced to withdraw from the main event of WCW's Souled Out due to his injuries. Hart continued to make appearances on WCW television, generally cutting promos. On the May 3 episode of *Thunder*, Hart made a run in during an over the top rope battle royal where he hit Hogan with a chair. His final WCW appearance occurred on the September 6, 2000 episode of *Thunder*, in a promo where he confronted Goldberg on the injury he sustained nine months prior. WCW terminated Hart's contract via FedEx letter on October 20, 2000, due to his ongoing incapacity, and he announced his retirement from professional wrestling 6 days later on October 26, 2000.[11]

Hart and several critics considered his storylines during his tenure to be lacklustre.[26][168] Former WCW wrestler Chris Jericho attributed this to backstage politics and creative mayhem.[123] Hart cited his "steel plate" segment with Goldberg and his tribute match to Owen, against Chris Benoit, as his two worthwhile moments with the company. He said he was "proud" to have been WCW World Heavyweight Champion for a short time prior to his injury.[26]

Independent wrestling appearances (2001–2009)

In 2001, Hart became the on-screen commissioner of World Wrestling All-Stars (WWA), a role that ended prematurely due to a 2002 stroke, which temporarily required him to use a wheelchair.[169] In his first major appearance since recovering, Hart travelled to Auckland, New Zealand to appear at another WWA event in May 2003.[170]

In 2007, Hart signed autographs at "The Legends of Wrestling" show at the Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida.[171] On the weekend of July 11, 2009, he made an appearance at One Pro Wrestling in Doncaster, England, where he held a Q&A, and then entered the ring to address the fans at the show. On

September 27, 2009, Hart appeared in New York City's Manhattan Center to sign autographs during a Ring of Honor event. He spoke to the crowd, reminiscing about some of his more memorable matches in New York.[172]

Return to WWE

WWE Hall of Fame (2004–2007)

In 2004, Bret Hart appeared in a WWE game for the first time since 1998's *WWF WarZone* in the GameCube game *WWE Day of Reckoning* followed by *WWE SmackDown! vs. Raw* on PlayStation 2. In mid-2005, Hart worked with the renamed World Wrestling Entertainment for the first time since 1997, contributing hours of interview footage and selecting matches for his WWE Home Video release, *Bret "Hit Man" Hart: The Best There Is, the Best There Was, the Best There Ever Will Be*. He returned to WWE programming as a guest on the November 16 episode of web series, *Byte This*.[39]

On April 1, 2006, Hart was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame class of 2006 by Stone Cold Steve Austin. He did not appear alongside his fellow inductees at WrestleMania 22 the following night. On June 11, 2007, Hart made his first appearance on *Raw* since October 27, 1997 when he appeared in a pre-taped interview voicing his opinions on Vince McMahon as part of "Mr. McMahon Appreciation Night."

Feud with Vince McMahon and Raw General Manager (2009–2010)


Hart confronts Michaels on January 4, 2010

Hart re-signed with WWE in late 2009. On December 28, after weeks of speculation surrounding Hart and his presence in World Wrestling Entertainment, Chairman Vince McMahon announced that Hart would be special guest host on the January 4 *Raw*.[173] Hart thanked the fans for their continued support, jokingly teased announcer Jerry Lawler about their long-running 1990s feud, and confronted Shawn Michaels and McMahon regarding the Montreal Screwjob at Survivor Series in 1997. Hart and Michaels were able to agree on a truce, shaking hands and hugging. While many cast doubts on the sincerity of their reconciliation, both men have confirmed that it was indeed genuine and not part of storyline.[174][175] It also appeared that he had buried the hatchet with McMahon later in the night, until McMahon subsequently kicked Bret in the crotch (this was in fact part of a storyline, as Hart and McMahon had been on speaking terms since 2005).[174]

During different encounters the following month, Hart and McMahon reproduced events similar to those that occurred in the Montreal Screwjob: McMahon spitting in Hart's face (as Hart did to McMahon), and Hart destroying parts of the technical equipment that goes into producing *Raw* (as he did to the Survivor Series equipment).[176] On the February 15 *Raw*, Hart made a farewell from WWE, but as he left to go inside his limousine, another vehicle reversed into the door of his limo and injured his left leg. On the March 1 *Raw*, McMahon challenged Hart to a match at WrestleMania XXVI; Hart accepted.[177] The match was later changed to a No Holds Barred match as Hart revealed (with help from "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, the special guest host that night) the staging of his injury. Hart, along with his family, inducted his father Stu Hart into the WWE Hall of Fame class of 2010, a controversial decision that aggravated Hart and McMahon's rivalry in 2010. At WrestleMania, McMahon attempted to buy Hart's family into turning against him; however, they turned against McMahon instead and helped Hart defeat McMahon.[178]

Hart stood with The Hart Dynasty (David Hart Smith and Tyson Kidd), a stable stemmed from the Hart family, throughout their feud with ShoMiz (Big Show and The Miz); they ultimately won the WWE Tag Team Championship on April 26. When The Miz lost a match that guaranteed a WWE United States Championship match to a Hart family member, he chose Bret; with the help of the Dynasty, Hart defeated The Miz to win his fifth United States Championship on May 17 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.[179] On the May 24 episode of *Raw*, Hart was named the new general manager of Raw. His first orders included vacating his United States Championship, which R-Truth won, and setting up qualifying matches for Fatal 4-Way, which the injured Batista took exception to and quit.[180] The next week, Hart declared a Viewer's Choice episode of *Raw*.[181] He was attacked by NXT rookies after firing Wade Barrett and declining to offer them contracts on the June 14 episode of *Raw*.[182] A week later, McMahon fired Hart as general manager for failing to control the rookies.[183]


Hart with WWE in 2010

Hart returned five weeks later, where it was announced by John Cena that he, The Great Khali, R-Truth, Edge, Chris Jericho, John Morrison and Hart would face the NXT rookies, now known as The Nexus, at SummerSlam.[184] The following week, Hart teamed with Cena to wrestle SummerSlam teammates Edge and Chris Jericho to a no contest.[185] In the SummerSlam main event, he was disqualified for using a steel chair on Skip Sheffield, however, his team still ultimately won the match.[186] On the August 16, episode of *Raw*, Hart introduced the new tag team title belts to the champions, The Hart Dynasty. Later on in the night during The Nexus vs. *Raw* challenge, Hart was scheduled to face Justin Gabriel, but was unable to compete after the Anonymous Raw General Manager, citing his disdain for Hart, removed him from the match and replaced him with Randy Orton.[187] On September 25, WWE hosted a tribute event to Hart in Madison Square Garden, where he and the Hart Dynasty defeated Nexus members Heath Slater, Justin Gabriel and Michael Tarver in a six-man tag team match, when Gabriel submitted to Hart's Sharpshooter.[188] In November 2010, Hart's WWE contract had expired.[189][190]

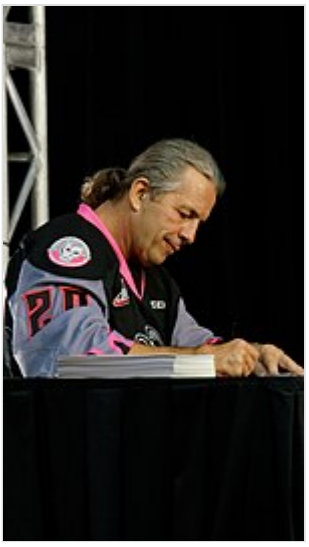
Sporadic appearances (2011–2022)

At Over the Limit, Hart came to the support of his long-running 1990s rival, Jerry Lawler, forcing Michael Cole to kiss Lawler's foot. The following night on *Raw*, Hart refereed the main event, which saw John Cena and Rey Mysterio defeat R-Truth and CM Punk with Hart's assistance. On the August 23, 2011 tapings of *SmackDown* (aired August 26), Hart served as guest general manager. On September 12 tapings of *Raw* in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Hart teamed with John Cena in a match against Alberto Del Rio and Ricardo Rodriguez, which he won after putting Rodriguez into a sharpshooter. This was Hart's final match.

Hart has made infrequent appearances in minor roles, appearing on the April 25, 2011 episode of *Tough Enough*.[191] At *Raw 1000* and on the May 4, 2012 episode of *Raw* he served as guest ring announcer; he interviewed John Cena on September 10, 2012, during which CM Punk interrupted and got into a confrontation with Hart. He participated in backstage segments at the 2013 Royal Rumble and WrestleMania 31. On the post-show of *Raw* on May 27, 2013, Hart was honoured by the city of Calgary and the WWE with a "Bret Hart Appreciation Night", a celebration of the work he had done in his career. Also present in the ring for this celebration were Pat Patterson, Chris Jericho, Shawn Michaels and Vince McMahon, who each paid their own tributes to Hart. He has also served as an expert on panels, including

the March 25, 2013 episode of *Raw* and at the NXT Arrival pre-show. Hart was in the corner of his niece Natalya on the March 27, 2014 episode of *NXT*,[192] at the second NXT TakeOver event[193] and at the 2016 Payback event. The match ended when the referee, Charles Robinson, called for the bell as Charlotte had Natalya locked in the Sharpshooter. After the match both Natalya and Hart placed Charlotte and her father, Ric Flair, respectively in the Sharpshooter.[194]

On April 6, 2019, Hart became a two-time WWE Hall of Famer when he was inducted as a member of The Hart Foundation alongside Jim Neidhart. During Hart's speech, an audience member named Zach Madson charged into the ring and tackled Hart and his niece Natalya to the ground, but they were quickly saved by multiple wrestlers and security, and after several minutes, Hart continued his speech. WWE later released a statement saying that the attacker was sent to the local authorities.[195][196][197]



Bret hart signing autographs in 2014

In August 2019, Hart appeared at WWE SummerSlam pay-per-view backstage wishing Seth Rollins good luck in his match against Brock Lesnar for the Universal Championship.[198]

In September 2022, Hart appeared at ringside for WWE's first UK stadium show in 30 years, WWE Clash at the Castle.[199]

All Elite Wrestling (2019)

On May 25, 2019, Hart made a surprise special appearance at All Elite Wrestling's (AEW) inaugural pay-per-view, Double or Nothing, to unveil the AEW World Championship.[200]

In July 2023, it was revealed that Hart offered his services to AEW as an agent, but was turned down.[201]

Impact Wrestling (2020)

On October 24, 2020, Hart was among those who appeared at Impact Wrestling's 2020 Bound for Glory via video message to congratulate Ken Shamrock for his induction into the Impact Hall of Fame.[202]

Professional wrestling style and persona

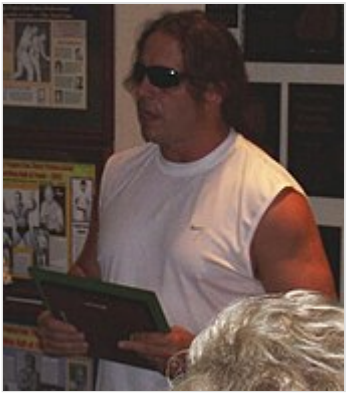
Hart is nicknamed "The Hitman", and often dubbed "The Best There Is, the Best There Was, and the Best There Ever Will Be". Hart usually wrestled in a pink attire and, during his time as The Hart Foundation, the tag team was nicknamed "The Pink and Black Attack", a nickname Hart used for himself during his singles career.[203][204]

Hart used the Sharpshooter as his finishing maneuver.[205] In his biography, Hart said he learned the hold from Konnan and Pat Patterson named it.[206] Due to Hart's success, the Sharpshooter is usually used by Canadian wrestlers.[207] Before ending his matches, Hart usually employed a sequence of five moves:

inverted atomic drop, Russian leg sweep, backbreaker, elbow drop from the second rope, and Sharpshooter, being known as the "Five Moves of Doom".[208] During his time in the original Hart Foundation, he and Jim Neidhart performed the Hart Attack as their finishing manoeuver.[209]

Legacy

BBC and *Entertainment Tonight* writers noted that Hart is "widely regarded" as one of the greatest professional wrestlers of all time.[210][211]



Hart accepts his induction into the George Tragos/Lou Thesz Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame, July 15, 2006

Sky Sports described his legacy as "one of, if not the greatest, to have ever graced the squared circle".[212]

Veteran industry journalist Dave Meltzer called Hart "one of the best ever,"[213] and further praised his ring psychology as the best in WWE history (alongside that of Ricky Steamboat, and "maybe Jake Roberts").[214] Jon Robinson of IGN called him "one of the greatest (if not the single best) pure wrestler to ever walk that aisle".[215]

Veteran wrestlers including CM Punk,[216] Booker T and Michael Hayes have named Hart "the greatest of all time",[217] with Hayes noting that he is considered by many as the best Canadian performer ever, if not the single greatest overall.[218]

Veteran announcer Gene Okerlund dubbed Hart "the greatest ever",[218] and stressed that he should appear in anyone's list of the all-time top 10 wrestlers.[26] Viscera commented: "He was the best [WWF] Champion of all time. I mean, as far as international rapport, it's like he's a god."[219] Olympic wrestling gold medalist and six-time WWE world champion Kurt Angle studied tapes of Hart in order to learn the art of pro wrestling;[220] he and Stone Cold Steve Austin have ranked Hart as the best in-ring performer ever (Austin tying Hart with Shawn Michaels).[221][222] Similarly, former opponent Harley Race described Hart as being "as good as they got".[223] WWE chairman Vince McMahon described Hart as having "unparalleled" technical wrestling and storytelling skills, and retrospectively characterized the late 1990s Hart as a performer "who you know is going to give you the best match of the night every time he goes out there".[26] Asked where he would rank Hart among the pantheon of wrestling greats, longtime announcer Jim Ross stated, "Right at the top. Bret was one of the all time best."[224]

IGN ranked him as the fifth greatest wrestler ever.[225]

Sports Illustrated ranked him as the sixteenth greatest wrestler ever.[226]

Asked for his favourite opponent, Ted DiBiase said: "In my own era, without a doubt, Bret Hart."[227] Although DiBiase later acknowledged that Hart failed to become as big of a star as Hulk Hogan.[228] The Undertaker named Hart as his toughest opponent, adding: "Some of my favourite matches are with him... I think my matches with Bret were some of the best".[229] Recalling their WWF Championship bout from July 1994, Sean Waltman affirmed: "[Hart] gave me the best singles match of my career, and one of the best matches that's ever been on *Monday Night Raw*."[230] Curt Hennig stated: "Out of all the matches I had, probably the best match I ever had would be with Bret [at SummerSlam 1991]... I have a good thing with Bret forever."[231] Shawn Michaels, who did not get along with Hart on a personal level, conceded that Hart was an "unbelievable" performer (an opinion shared by WWE executive and former opponent Triple

H),[232] calling him a "sheer joy" to work with and saying that the pair's match at WrestleMania XII was one of, if not his favourite WrestleMania bout.[233] Roddy Piper described Hart as "one great man", and "one of the few guys who has a 'total package'".[26] Lance Storm remarked: "[Hart's] matches always seemed more important than the individuals involved in them, and that's what made him great. Bret managed to dominate this sport... by wrestling, which is no easy task, and is to his credit". On Hart's influence, Storm said: "I've always tried to pattern my ring style or work ethic, at least, after that of 'The Hitman'".[234]

Along with Storm, Roman Reigns and Sami Zayn point to Hart as their top wrestling inspiration;[235][236] Seth Rollins and Jinder Mahal called him an idol,[237][238] and Jon Moxley cited him as an influence.[239] Edge listed his three idols within the business as "Bret, Shawn and Hulk".[240] Chris Jericho named Bret as his hero (along with Owen Hart), and said he aspired to be "half of" what Bret was.[241] Chris Benoit remarked: "I always emulated him... I spent so many years looking up to, idolizing [Hart]; he was somewhat of a role model to me". Benoit added that his matches against Hart were "up on a pedestal".[26] Koji Nakagawa modelled his character and entire career on Bret Hart by adopting Hart's pink and black attire, an entrance theme identical to Hart's theme song, while also adopting his moveset.[242] Ryback recalled a WWF event from his childhood, saying: "I remember it was Bret Hart against Diesel inside a steel cage in the main event, and I just knew I wanted to be a WWE wrestler... Bret [Hart], I love".[243] Drew McIntyre named Hart his favourite wrestler,[244] while Wade Barrett named Hart along with The British Bulldog, The Ultimate Warrior and The Undertaker;[245] he called Hart vs. Bulldog, at SummerSlam 1992, his all-time favorite match.[246] Scott Dawson said that Hart's work at King of the Ring in 1993 made him want to become a professional wrestler.[247] Upon joining All Elite Wrestling for his hotly anticipated return to professional wrestling after seven years, CM Punk wore a Bret Hart T-shirt in one of his first televised appearances,[248] and his first match, against Darby Allin, included several sequences that mirrored a 1994 Hart match against Sean Waltman.[249]

Pro Wrestling Illustrated (PWI) readers voted Hart the greatest wrestler of 1993 and 1994 in the "PWI 500",[83] as well as the "Most Inspirational Wrestler of the Year" 1994.[250] He was voted "WWF Superstar of the Year" 1993 by fans.[82] PWI ranked him No. 4 of the top 500 singles wrestlers of the "PWI Years" in 2003, after Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and André the Giant.[251] WWE has also credited Hart as the top "Submission Specialist" in professional wrestling history, and for popularizing the Sharpshooter, named by the organization as the most devastating submission hold in professional wrestling history.[252] Hart's rise to singles success was seen to revolutionize the business; IGN wrote: "After Bret beat Ric Flair for the WWE Championship in 1992, it changed the entire industry, re-setting the WWF back to the days of technical wizardry and reshaping all our notions of what a great wrestling match should actually look and feel like".[253] According to prominent industry historian Dave Meltzer, Hart was "a major draw in the United States and probably more so in Europe".[254] Fellow journalists Bob Ryder and Dave Scherer described him as "an incredible international draw, attracting standing room only crowds in every corner of the globe."[255] Fin Martin of *Power Slam* also spoke to Hart's drawing power, placing him number 7 in "The 10 Best U.S.-Style All-Rounders", a list that considered drawing ability, along with workrate and promo skills.[256] *Vice*'s Corey Erdman wrote, "1997 was one of the hottest periods in the history of professional wrestling... Hart was the [WWF's] biggest star, arguably its biggest live gate draw globally."[257] Recalling WCW's acquisition of Hart that year, WWE owner Vince McMahon argued that his chief competitor "could have really built the entire franchise... around this extraordinary star." McMahon felt that WCW misused Hart, which was "fortunate" for the WWF.[26]

On the February 16, 2006 episode of *Raw*, it was announced that Hart would be an inductee into the WWE Hall of Fame class of 2006.[258] Hart had also been approached by Vince McMahon for a potential match between the two at WrestleMania 22 but declined the offer.[259] On April 1, 2006, Hart was inducted by "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. He thanked every wrestler he worked with (even thanking Vince McMahon) and said he's "in a good place in life."[260] Veteran industry personality and former WWE executive Paul Heyman referred to Hart's oeuvre as "a body of work so spectacular that it is beyond comprehension how brilliant a career he enjoyed".[261]

On July 15, 2006, Hart was inducted into the George Tragos/Lou Thesz Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame, at the International Wrestling Institute and Museum in Newton, Iowa. The induction took place in an immensely crowded and humid display room showcasing one of Hart's ring entrance jackets. The honour is only awarded to those with both a professional and amateur wrestling background, making Hart one of the youngest inductees. During his acceptance, Hart compared this induction to his place in the WWE Hall of Fame, saying "This is a much bigger honour for me."[262] In June 2008, Hart returned to the George Tragos/Lou Thesz Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame ceremony, this time to induct his father Stu Hart.[263] In 2021, Hart would be inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame by Chris Jericho and the Rock.[264]

Other media

Writing

Hart wrote a weekly column for the *Calgary Sun* from June 1991 until October 2004.[265]

Hart used his poetry skills to win over Gord Kirke to act as his legal counsel.[266]

On October 16, 2007, Hart's autobiography titled *Hitman: My Real Life in the Cartoon World of Wrestling*, was released in Canada by Random House Canada, and released in fall 2008 in the United States by Grand Central Publishing, with a U.S. book signing tour. Hart began writing the book in July 1999 with Marcy Engelstein, his longtime close friend and business associate. They did not complete the book until eight years later in September 2007 due to Hart having his stroke in 2002, among numerous other tragedies that occurred during the writing. Hart's chronicle is based on an audio diary that he kept for all of his years on the road in professional wrestling.[267]

Hart also provided the forewords to Roddy Piper's autobiography, *In the Pit with Piper*,[268][269] Harley Race's autobiography *King of the Ring*[270] and Dave Meltzer's book *Tributes II: Remembering More of the Worlds Greatest Wrestlers*.[271]

Acting

In 1994, Hart played a prison inmate in Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*; however, the scene he appeared in was cut from the final film. It re-appears in the director's cut. From 1994 to 1995 Hart appeared in *Lonesome Dove: The Series* television show playing "Luther Root". He has made numerous televised appearances since, including a guest spot on *The Simpsons* in 1997 (as himself, in "The Old Man and the Lisa") and episodes of the *Honey I Shrunk The Kids TV series* (along with his brother Owen), *The Adventures of Sinbad*, *Big Sound*, and *The Immortal*. Hart provides the voice of pro wrestler character "The Hooded Fang" in *Jacob Two-Two*.

Hart also guest starred on the sketch comedy series *MADtv* in 1997 where he acted as enforcer at a fan's house, appearing with his WWF Championship belt. Hart later appeared again on *MADtv* in 1999 and 2000 in an angle with actor Will Sasso in which the two feuded on the set of *MADtv* and in World Championship Wrestling; this culminated in a grudge match on *WCW Monday Nitro*, where Hart decisively defeated Sasso.

Hart donned his "Hit Man" singlet, along with additional costume, and executed wrestling maneuvers on villain characters, as part of his performance as the Genie in a 2004 stage production of *Aladdin*.[272] He reprised the role in 2006.

Wrestling-related

Hart was the subject of the 1998 documentary, *Hitman Hart: Wrestling with Shadows*, which chronicled many of the events in Hart's personal and professional life from September 1996 to November 1997, including the Montreal Screwjob and its immediate aftermath.

A clip of Hart applying the sharpshooter to Benoit at WCW Mayhem in 1999 is featured in the opening credits of *Malcolm in the Middle*.

In mid-2005, WWE announced the release of a three-disc DVD originally named *Screwed: The Bret Hart Story*, with the title a reference to the Montreal Screwjob. Hart filmed over seven hours of interview footage for the DVD, which was renamed *Bret "Hit Man" Hart: The Best There Is, The Best There Was, The Best There Ever Will Be*. The collection was released on November 15, 2005.

Hart appeared on many talk shows (including *Larry King Live*, *Nancy Grace*, *Hannity & Colmes*, *On the Record w/ Greta Van Susteren*) discussing the Chris Benoit double murder and suicide. Hart was a longtime friend of Benoit.

On April 6, 2010, WWE released *Hart & Soul: The Hart Family Anthology*, which is a 3 DVD set featuring a documentary on the Hart wrestling family as well as 12 matches. It is unique in that it also features previously unseen home movies from the Harts as well as interviews from family members.

In 2010, The Fight Network produced a documentary titled *Bret Hart – Survival of the Hitman* produced by John Pollock, Jorge Barbosa and Wai Ting chronicling the rise of Hart, his split with WWE in 1997 and his road back to the company in January 2010. The documentary features interviews with Hart, members of the Hart family, Hart's former business manager Carl De Marco, former sports agent Gord Kirke, and producer of *Wrestling with Shadows* Paul Jay.

A DVD entitled *Shawn Michaels vs Bret Hart: WWE's Greatest Rivalries* was released in November 2011. The subject of the DVD was their on-screen rivalry and real-life conflicts, with a particular focus on the Montreal Screwjob.

In 2016, Hart starred in the documentary film *Nine Legends*.[273] Early that year, Hart launched a podcast named *The Sharpshooter Show*.[274]

Music

In 2021, Bret Hart appeared on a song with rapper Magneto Dayo titled "Limitless".

Video games

Hart has appeared in numerous video games. They include:

WWE Video games		
Year	**Title**	**Notes**
1992	*WWF European Rampage Tour*	Video game debut Cover athlete
	WWF WrestleMania: Steel Cage Challenge	Cover athlete
1993	*WWF Royal Rumble*	Cover athlete
	WWF King of the Ring	
	WWF Rage in the Cage	
1994	*WWF Raw*	Cover athlete
1995	*WWF WrestleMania: The Arcade Game*	Cover athlete
1996	*WWF In Your House*	Cover athlete
1998	*WWF War Zone*	
2004	*WWE Day of Reckoning*	
	WWE SmackDown! vs. Raw	
2005	*WWE WrestleMania 21*	
	WWE Day of Reckoning 2	
	WWE SmackDown! vs. Raw 2006	
2006	*WWE SmackDown vs. Raw 2007*	
2007	*WWE SmackDown vs. Raw 2008*	
2009	*WWE Legends of WrestleMania*	
2010	*WWE SmackDown vs. Raw 2011*	DLC character For PS3 & Xbox 360
2011	*WWE All Stars*	
2012	*WWE '13*	
2013	*WWE 2K14*	
2014	*WWE SuperCard*	
2015	*WWE Immortals*	
	WWE 2K16	
2016	*WWE 2K17*	
2017	*WWE Champions*	
	WWE Tap Mania	
	WWE 2K18	
	WWE Mayhem	
2018	*WWE 2K19*	
2019	*WWE 2K20*	
2020	*WWE 2K Battlegrounds*	
2022	*WWE 2K22*	

WCW Video games		
Year	**Title**	**Notes**
1998	*WCW Nitro*	Video game debut Bret was featured in the Nintendo 64 version of the game, but was not in the PlayStation version
	WCW/nWo Revenge	
1999	*WCW/nWo Thunder*	
	WCW Mayhem	
2000	*WCW Backstage Assault*	

Legends of Wrestling Video games		
Year	**Title**	**Notes**
2001	*Legends of Wrestling*	Cover athlete
2002	*Legends of Wrestling II*	Cover athlete
2004	*Showdown: Legends of Wrestling*	

Personal life

Hart lent his nickname to the Calgary Hitmen of the Western Hockey League; he was a founder and part-owner.[275] He is the commissioner of Sharpshooter Funding, a business loan company.

On August 23, 2018, Hart was honoured with a traditional Niitsitapi naming ceremony and named 'Courageous Chief' by Siksika Elder Miiksika'am (Clarence Wolfleg). The ceremony was done as recognition for his and his father Stu Hart's cultural relationship building contributions, such as promoting interest of the sport of amateur wrestling among indigenous youth throughout Western Canada.[276]

Family

Hart married Julie Smadu (born March 25, 1960) on July 8, 1982. They have four children:[277] Jade Michelle Hart (born March 31, 1983); Dallas Jeffery Hart (born August 11, 1984); Alexandra Sabina Hart (born May 17, 1988), nicknamed "Beans"; and Blade Colton Hart (born June 5, 1990).[278] The four hearts located on the right thigh of his tights symbolize his children, as do the four dots following his signature.[279] Julie's sister Michelle was married to Tom Billington from 1982 to 1991.[280][281] Bret and Julie separated in May 1998,[282] and after several brief reunions over the next 4 years,[283] eventually divorced on June 24, 2002, just hours before Hart had his stroke.[284] Hart married an Italian woman named Cinzia Rota on September 15, 2004, but they divorced in 2007 after failing to agree on where they should live.[285] He married Stephanie Washington, an African-American woman several decades his junior, in 2010;[286] although at first his children were wary of their new stepmother, they have since embraced her as they realized that despite their differences in age, the love between her and their father is deep and genuine.[287] Through his daughters Jade and Alexandra, Hart has a granddaughter, Kyra Beans (born June 2010) and two grandsons, Grayson Knight Cassidy (born June 20, 2015) and Bo (born April 2016).[288] In 2019, Hart's son Dallas had a daughter, Vylet Louise Hart.[289]

His seven brothers were either wrestlers or involved backstage with the wrestling business; his four sisters all married professional wrestlers. Two of his brothers-in-law, Davey Boy Smith and Jim Neidhart, had successful careers in the business. His youngest brother, Owen Hart, had become a decorated wrestler in his own right before his death in 1999, caused by an accident at the WWF pay-per-view Over the Edge. Hart's niece Natalya is a professional wrestler.

Fellow pro wrestler Roddy Piper claimed in his autobiography to be a cousin of Hart.[290] Hart has also stated that Piper was the only wrestler to visit him in the hospital after his stroke.[291]

Health problems

On June 24, 2002, Hart had a stroke after hitting his head in a bicycle accident. *The Calgary Herald* reported that Hart hit a pothole, flew over the handlebars of the bike, and landed on the back of his head. Hart developed total paralysis on his left side, which required months of physical therapy. Hart has since recovered much of his mobility and is in good health, although he has had other lasting effects common to stroke survivors (such as emotional imbalance). Hart wrote in detail about his stroke in his autobiography, *Hitman: My Real Life In The Cartoon World of Wrestling*.[215] Hart later became a spokesperson for March of Dimes Canada's Stroke Recovery Canada program.[292] While recovering from his stroke Hart would train three days a week at B.J's Gym in Calgary, which was owned by his brother-in-law B. J. Annis.[293]

On February 1, 2016, Hart announced through a Facebook post that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer.[294] Jim Ross claimed on March 2, 2016, that Hart had beaten the disease following successful surgery and that it appeared not to have spread to other areas of his body.[295] Hart responded to Jim Ross' comments through Facebook saying that although the surgery was a success and that he and his doctors were optimistic, he would continue to be monitored every three months by doctors until he can actually be cancer free.[296]

Personal issues with Ric Flair

In October 1993, Hart gave a radio interview in which he said Ric Flair "sucks", and described his workplace, WCW, as "minor league".[297] In his autobiography, Flair accused Hart of exploiting the death of his brother, Owen Hart, and the controversy surrounding the Montreal Screwjob.[298] Flair also claimed in his autobiography that, despite Hart's popularity in Canada, he was not a formidable money-making draw in the United States, a claim which Hart dismissed as "plain ridiculous" in a column written for the *Calgary Sun*.[45] Hart claimed that he drew greater revenue than Flair, citing his headlining performances on consistently sold-out tours throughout his WWF career, while Flair wrestled to allegedly near-empty arenas. He also criticized Flair on what he perceived as insults to fellow wrestlers Mick Foley and Randy Savage. Hart did acknowledge a decline in the WWF's popularity during the mid-1990s, but he, and others, felt that this was largely attributed to the WWF's well-publicised sex and steroid scandals, as well as WCW's acquisition of former top WWF stars.[45][299][300] Hart also took aim at Flair in his autobiography, criticizing his in-ring talents and what Hart perceived as Flair's unsubtle blading.[301]

Flair and Hart have since reconciled and are now friends.[302]

Claims Shawn Michaels and Triple H bullied The Rock

On an episode on his "Confessions with the Hitman" podcast, Hart revealed that in 1996–97, Dwayne Johnson, at that time a rookie in WWE, was a "marked guy" and that both Shawn Michaels and Triple H bullied him and did everything in their power to make The Rock leave the company. He claimed both superstars were jealous of him which is why they used to "work him" for the smallest of reasons; "He (Triple H) was always out to get The Rock. Shawn was out to get him and they just worked on him, and worked on him, and worked on him, and I left. [The Rock] was still in the doghouse with those guys. They wanted him [out] as bad as they wanted me out."[303]

External videos

Dwayne Johnson & Emily Blunt Interview: Jungle Cruise (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM1NkCkLvp4), Screen Rant Plus (remarks about Hart start at 3:51)

In 2021, Johnson himself acknowledged and praised Hart for his attitude, professionalism, as being a great person and for being exceptionally kind to him when he was a rookie in WWE during an interview with Joseph Deckelmeier of The Illuminerdi, and once he noticed that Deckelmeier was wearing a Hart shirt, he stated to Emily Blunt while promoting their new film, *Jungle Cruise*: "The t-shirt he's wearing is a guy who didn't have to be, but was so good to me when I was a rookie professional wrestler, and his name is Bret 'The Hitman' Hart. He comes from a very famous wrestling family, but at that time, he was world champion, and there were a lot of guys in that world at that time in '96 that didn't necessarily embrace me, just when I was a rookie coming in, because everyone is hungry for their spots, and he'll tell you, there's a lot of sharks in the water. But that guy, Bret, and he was world champion, to show me how it's done...I think [he did it] because he knew that our families (Anoaʻi and Hart) knew each other and knew that I came from a lineage of pro wrestling and that I had a real love and respect for wrestling, and he was just a great guy, and I always like to give him props where I can."[304]

Championships and accomplishments

Amateur wrestling

- **City of Calgary**
  - City championships, Calgary (1974)[26][28]
- **Collegiate wrestling**
  - Mount Royal Collegiate Champion (1977)[26][29]
- **National Wrestling Hall of Fame**
  - Class of 2006[305]

Professional wrestling

- **Cauliflower Alley Club**
  - Iron Mike Award (2008)[306]
- **Canadian Pro-Wrestling Hall of Fame**
  - Class of 2021 – individually[307]
  - Class of 2022 – as a member of the Hart Foundation[308]



Hart is a five-time WWF Champion, becoming the second man after Hulk Hogan to accomplish this feat

- **Canadian Wrestling Hall of Fame**
  - Individually[309]
  - With the Hart family[310]
- **George Tragos/Lou Thesz Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame**
  - Class of 2006[311]
- **International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame**
  - Class of 2023[312]
- **Prairie Wrestling Alliance**
  - Prairie Wrestling Alliance Hall of Fame (Class of 2010)[313]
- **Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum**
  - Class of 2008[314]
- ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated***
  - Comeback of the Year (1997)[315]
  - Feud of the Year (1993) vs. Jerry Lawler[78]
  - Feud of the Year (1994) vs. Owen Hart[78]
  - Match of the Year (1992) vs. British Bulldog at SummerSlam[64]
  - Match of the Year (1996) vs. Shawn Michaels in an Iron Man match at WrestleMania XII[64]
  - Match of the Year (1997) vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin in a submission match at WrestleMania 13[64]
  - Most Hated Wrestler of the Year (1997)[118]
  - Most Inspirational Wrestler of the Year (1994)[250]
  - Stanley Weston Award (2003)[316]
  - Ranked No. 1 of the top 500 singles wrestlers in the *PWI 500* in 1993 and 1994[83]
  - Ranked No. 4 of the top 500 singles wrestlers of the *PWI Years* in 2003
  - Ranked No. 37 of the top 100 tag teams of the *PWI Years* with Jim Neidhart in 2003
- **Quebec Wrestling Hall of Fame**
  - Class of 2017[317]
- **Stampede Wrestling**
  - Stampede International Tag Team Championship (5 times) – with Keith Hart (4) and Leo Burke (1)[318]
  - Stampede British Commonwealth Mid-Heavyweight Championship (3 times)[319]
  - Stampede North American Heavyweight Championship (6 times)[320]
  - Stampede Wrestling Hall of Fame[321]
- **World Championship Wrestling**
  - WCW World Heavyweight Championship (2 times)[322]
  - WCW United States Heavyweight Championship (4 times)[157]
  - WCW World Tag Team Championship (1 time) – with Goldberg[323]
  - Fifth Triple Crown Champion[73][324][d]
- **Universal Wrestling Promotions**

- UWP Caribbean Tag Team Championship (1 time) – with Smith Hart[325]

- **World Wrestling Federation/Entertainment/WWE**
  - WWF Championship (5 times)[326]
  - WWE United States Championship (1 time)[157]
  - WWF Intercontinental Championship (2 times)[327]
  - WWF Tag Team Championship (2 times) – with Jim Neidhart[55]
  - King of the Ring (1991, 1993)
  - Royal Rumble (1994) – with Lex Luger[73][e]
  - Middle East Cup (1996)[328]
  - WWE Hall of Fame (2 times)
    - Class of 2006 – individually
    - Class of 2019 – as a member of The Hart Foundation[329]
  - WWF Superstar of the Year (1993)[82]
  - Second Triple Crown Champion
  - Slammy Award (5 times)
    - Best New Generation Spot (1994) – "Go Get 'em, Champ!" commercial[330]
    - Best Music Video (1996)[330]
    - Match of the Year (1997) – vs. Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania XII[330]
    - Put a Fork in Him, He's Done (1996) – The Sharpshooter[330]
    - Which WWF World Heavyweight Champion, past or present, in attendance, is Hall of Fame bound? (1996)[330]

- ***Wrestling Observer Newsletter***
  - Best Pro Wrestling Book (2007) *Hitman*
  - Best Pro Wrestling DVD (2006) *Bret "Hit Man" Hart: The Best There Is, the Best There Was, the Best There Ever Will Be*
  - Best Pro Wrestling DVD (2011) *Greatest Rivalries: Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart*
  - Feud of the Year (1993) vs. Jerry Lawler
  - Match of the Year (1997) vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin in a Submission match at WrestleMania 13
  - Feud of the Year (1997) with Owen Hart, Jim Neidhart, British Bulldog, and Brian Pillman vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin
  - Wrestling Observer Newsletter Hall of Fame (Class of 1996)

Other

- Hart was ranked the 39th greatest Canadian in 2004 in a poll by CBC which received more than 1.2 million votes.[331][332][333]
- Canada's Walk of Fame (2021)[334]

Luchas de Apuestas record

Winner (wager)	Loser (wager)	Location	Event	Date	Notes
Bret Hart (hair)	The Spoiler (mask)	Toronto, Ontario	WWF Toronto	January 13, 1985	[335]

See also

Family

- Matt Hart
- Mike Hart
- Bruce Hart Jr.
- Torrin Hart

General

- Professional wrestling in Canada
- Sport in Calgary

Other

- Hart Legacy Wrestling
- The Hitman (nickname)
- *Stu Hart: Lord of the Ring*
- *Pain and Passion*
- *Hart Still Beating*

Notes

a. Stu mainly trained Bret in amateur wrestling.[7][8]

b. Hart announced his retirement in October 2000, but would later participate in 11 matches from 2010 to 2011 which involved minimal physical risk.

c. Hart had been a special guest referee for the match before the main event, Larry Zbyszko vs. Eric Bischoff, but returned to restart the main event after he deemed Hulk Hogan's victory over Sting illegitimate. He then acted as a referee for the rest of the main event.[12]

d. Hart and Goldberg both became Triple Crown Champions upon winning the WCW World Tag Team Championship.

e. Hart and Lex Luger are recognized as co-winners after both simultaneously eliminated each other.

References

1. *Historical Dictionary of Wrestling*. Scarecrow Press, inc. 2014. p. 129. ISBN 978-0-8108-7926-3.
2. Hart, Diana; McLellan, Kirstie (2001). *Under the Mat: Inside Wrestling's Greatest Family*. Fenn. p. 22. ISBN 1-55168-256-7.
3. "Bret Hart profile" (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/profiles/b/bret-hart.html). Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved July 30, 2008.
4. "Bret 'Hitman' Hart honoured with MRU degree — 40 years after he dropped out" (http://calgarysun.com/sports/other-sports/bret-hitman-hart-comes-full-circle-with-honorary-mru-degree). *Calgary Sun*. May 31, 2018.
5. "Exhibiting our pride" (https://web.archive.org/web/20151222164753/http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingBretHart/hart_00jan23.html). *Slam! Sports*. Canadian Online Explorer. January 23, 2000. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingBretHart/hart_00jan23.html) on December 22, 2015.
6. "WWE Hall of Fame: Bret Hart" (https://www.wwe.com/superstars/brethart). WWE. Retrieved September 15, 2015.
7. (Hart 2007)
8. "Exclusive interview: Bret Hart separates fact from fiction on who really trained in Stu Hart's Dungeon" (http://www.wwe.com/inside/bret-hart-interview-stu-hart-dungeon).
9. (Hart 2007, p. 37)
10. (Hart 2007, pp. 35–41)

11. "Bret Hart retires" (https://web.archive.org/web/20170722203532/http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingBretHart/00oct27_retire-can.html). Slam Canoe. October 27, 2000. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingBretHart/00oct27_retire-can.html) on July 22, 2017.
12. Reynolds, R. D.; Alvarez, Bryan (October 2014). *Death of WCW, The: 10th Anniversary Edition of the Bestselling Classic – Revised and Expanded* (https://books.google.com/books?id=G4aFAwAAQBAJ&q=sting+hogan+bret&pg=PT140). ECW Press. ISBN 9781770906426.
13. (Hart 2007, p. 8)
14. Hart, Diana; McLellan, Kirstie (2001). *Under the Mat: Inside Wrestling's Greatest Family*. Fenn. p. 16. ISBN 1-55168-256-7.
15. (McCoy 2007, p. 30)
16. *Slamthology: Collected Wrestling Writings 1991–2004*. jnlister. 2005. p. 252. ISBN 1-4116-5329-7.
17. (McCoy 2007, p. 16)
18. Martha Hart; Eric Francis (2004). *Broken Harts: The Life and Death of Owen Hart*. Rowman & Littlefield. p. 84. ISBN 978-1-59077-036-8.
19. "An open letter to Shawn Michaels" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160305011939/http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingBretHart9799/hitman_may17.html). Slam Wrestling. May 17, 1997. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingBretHart9799/hitman_may17.html) on March 5, 2016.
20. (Hart 2007, p. 412)
21. (Hart 2007, p. 11)
22. Hart, Bret (April 17, 2004). "Positive heroes key for kids" (https://archive.today/20180115160521/http://www.canoe.ca/Slam/Wrestling/Hitman/2004/04/17/426674.html). *Slam! Wrestling*. Canadian Online Explorer. Archived from the original on January 15, 2018. Retrieved March 5, 2016.
23. (Hart 2007, p. 4)
24. (Hart 2007, p. 15)
25. (McCoy 2007, p. 147)
26. *Bret "Hit Man" Hart: The Best There Is, The Best There Was, The Best There Ever Will Be* (aka "*The Bret Hart Story*"), WWE Home Video (2005)
27. "Championship History" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110706204255/http://www.sportuniversitaire.ca/e/championships/wrestling/2008/past.cfm). Archived from the original (http://www.sportuniversitaire.ca/e/championships/wrestling/2008/past.cfm) on July 6, 2011. Retrieved August 7, 2010.. Canadian Interuniversity Sport. Wayback Machine. Retrieved July 6, 2011.
28. (Hart 2007, p. 32)
29. (Hart 2007, p. 36)
30. (Hart 2007, p. 33)
31. (Hart 2007, p. 38)
32. (Hart 2007, p. 37)
33. Hart, Bret (January 27, 2001). "Special Memories" (https://archive.today/20130120202935/http://slam.canoe.ca/SlamWrestlingBretHart/010127-sun.html). Archived from the original on January 20, 2013. Retrieved August 7, 2010 – via Canoe.com.
34. (Hart 2007, p. 170)
35. "WWF @ Brantford, Ontario – August 29, 1984" (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/84.htm). The History of WWE. Retrieved February 21, 2011.

36. "Hart Foundation Profile" (https://web.archive.org/web/20091230114444/http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/profiles/h/hart-foundation-original.html). Online World of Wrestling. Archived from the original (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/profiles/h/hart-foundation-original.html) on December 30, 2009. Retrieved October 29, 2008.
37. *WWE Byte This* interview (2005)
38. Zeigler, Zack (August 21, 2007). "Hats off to Trevor Murdoch" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/archive/08202007/articles/trevorshat). WWE. Retrieved April 16, 2011.
39. "Interview Highlights: Byte This – Bret Hart has high praises for Kurt, Curt, and Eric" (http://pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/WWE_News_3/article_15404.shtml). pwtorch.com.
40. (Hart 2007, p. 191)
41. "WrestleMania 2 Official Results" (https://web.archive.org/web/20071210055536/http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/history/wm2/results/). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/history/wm2/results) on December 10, 2007. Retrieved October 29, 2008.
42. "*WWF Prime Time Wrestling* results" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110104003624/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/wwf/wwfprimetime.htm). *Wrestling Information Archive*. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/wwf/wwfprimetime.htm) on January 4, 2011. Retrieved September 3, 2012.
43. "History of the World Tag Team Championship – Hart Foundation(1)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051129090811/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/worldtagteam/30445413212221). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/worldtagteam/30445413212221) on November 29, 2005. Retrieved December 20, 2007.
44. Adkins, Greg. "*Raw* results, December 28, 2009" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100109114326/http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/archive/12282009/). *WWE*. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/archive/12282009/) on January 9, 2010. Retrieved February 1, 2010.
45. Hart, Bret. "Bret "Hitman" Hart Responds to Ric Flair's Book" (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/columns/news/brethartonflair.html). Calgary Sun. "When I boast about being the best there is, it is because of three reasons..."
46. "The 50 Greatest Wrestling Costumes of All TimeBret Hart/The Hart Foundation" (http://www.complex.com/style/2011/08/the-50-greatest-wrestling-costumes-of-all-time/49). *Complex Networks*.
47. *The Best of Saturday Night's Main Event*. WWE Home Video. 2009.
48. Graham Cawthon. "WWF Show Results 1987" (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/87.htm). Retrieved April 7, 2007. "Roma & Jim Powers defeated WWF Tag Team Champions Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart (w/ Jimmy Hart) via disqualification when the champions illegally double-teamed the challengers"
49. (Hart 2007, pp. 232–233)
50. WWF UK PPV (London Arena) (http://thetvdb.com/?tab=episode&seriesid=70353&seasonid=117&id=3946&lid=7). TheTVDB.com. Retrieved June 18, 2011.
51. *Prime Time Wrestling*. USA Network. November 6, 1989.
52. "Bret Hart" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100208224617/http://www.wwe.com/subscriptions/wweclassics/hof/brethart/). *WWE Classics*. WWE. Archived from the original (http://www2.wwe.com/subscriptions/wweclassics/hof/brethart/) on February 8, 2010.
53. "SummerSlam 1990 official results" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080908212016/http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/history/1990/results/). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/history/1990/results/) on September 8, 2008. Retrieved October 29, 2008.

54. "History of the World Tag Team Championship – Hart Foundation(2)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051127182005/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/worldtagteam/304454132161). WWE. December 30, 2007. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/worldtagteam/304454132161) on November 27, 2005.
55. "World Tag Team Championship" (https://www.wwe.com/titlehistory/world-tag-team-championship). *WWE*.
56. "SummerSlam 1991 official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/1991/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
57. "History of the Intercontinental Championship(1)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20070423141755/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/intercontinental/322440). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/intercontinental/322440) on April 23, 2007. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
58. "WWF This Tuesday in Texas results/info" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wwf/miscppvs1990s.html#tuesday). Pro Wrestling History. Retrieved October 18, 2009.
59. "Official 1992 Royal Rumble results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/royalrumble/history/19881152/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
60. "WrestleMania VIII official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/8/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
61. "History of the Intercontinental Championship – Bret Hart(2)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051125065535/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/intercontinental/322452). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/intercontinental/322452) on November 25, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
62. "WWF @ Portland, ME – Civic Center" (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/92.htm). The History of WWE. July 21, 1992. Retrieved May 30, 2011.
63. "SummerSlam 1992 results" (https://web.archive.org/web/20060523084527/http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/history/1992/results). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/history/1992/results) on May 23, 2006. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
64. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Award Winners Match of the Year" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110707054315/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwimoty.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwimoty.htm) on July 7, 2011. Retrieved March 26, 2009.
65. Dee, Louie (September 1, 2007). "Brother, can you spare some gold?" (http://www.wwe.com/inside/listthis/greatestsslammoments/greatestsslammoments1). WWE. Retrieved August 1, 2008.
66. Bret Hart's induction speech. WWE Hall of Fame. 2006. "That was my favourite match that I ever had, and I'm happy to tell you that".
67. "History of the WWE Championship: Bret Hart(1)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051231061522/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454135). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454135) on December 31, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
68. WWF @ Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – Saskatchewan Center – October 12, 1992 (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/92.htm). The History of WWE. Retrieved May 30, 2011.
69. "Survivor Series 1992 main event" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/survivorseries/history/1992/mainevent). WWE.
70. "Royal Rumble 1993 official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/royalrumble/history/19881161/results). WWE.
71. "Saturday Night's Main Event XXXI official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/snme/history/1985to1992/nov081992). WWE.

72. "WrestleMania 9 results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/9/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
73. "Bret Hart's title history at WWE.com" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090728053910/http://www.wwe.com/superstars/halloffame/inductees/brethart/brethartitlehistory). Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/superstars/halloffame/inductees/brethart/brethartitlehistory) on July 28, 2009.
74. "Off The Record". *Off the Record*. 2003. TSN.
75. *SummerSlam 1993* (VHS). Coliseum Video. 1993.
76. "SummerSlam 1993 official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/1993/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
77. "Online World of Wrestling" (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/profiles/j/jerry-lawler.html). Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved January 15, 2011.
78. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Award Winners Feud of the Year" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110707054311/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwifoty.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwifoty.htm) on July 7, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
79. *WWF Superstars*. USA Network. November 20, 1993.
80. "SLAM Bio: Jerry Lawler" (https://archive.today/20120714192415/http://slam.canoe.ca/Slam/Wrestling/Bios/lawler.html). SLAM! Sports. February 5, 2005. Archived from the original on July 14, 2012. Retrieved October 8, 2007.
81. "Survivor Series 1993 official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/survivorseries/history/1993/results). WWE.
82. "WWF Monday Night Raw". *WWF Television*. November 29, 1993. USA Network.
83. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Top 500 – 1993" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110919163155/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwi50093.htm). Wrestling Information. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwi50093.htm) on September 19, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
84. "Royal Rumble 1994 results" (http://www.pwwew.net/ppv/wwf/january/1994.htm). pwwew.com.
85. "Royal Rumble 1994 main event" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/royalrumble/history/19881142 1/mainevent). WWE.
86. "Most Rugged Roads To WrestleMania (1994)" (http://www.wwe.com/inside/listthis/ruggedroadstomania/roadstomania7). WWE. Retrieved October 12, 2007.
87. "WrestleMania X results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/10/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
88. "History of the WWE Championship: Bret Hart(2)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080105083457/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454127). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454127) on January 5, 2008. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
89. "King of the Ring 1994 results" (http://www.pwwew.net/ppv/wwf/june/1994.htm). pwwew.net.
90. "SummerSlam 1994 results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/1994/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
91. "History of the WWE Championship – Bob Backlund(2)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20050717025736/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454125). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454125) on July 17, 2005.

92. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Top 500 – 1994" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110522005445/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwi50094.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwi50094.htm) on May 22, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
93. *Greatest Rivalries: Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart*. WWE Home Video. 2011.
94. "WrestleMania XI results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/11/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
95. "411Mania" (https://411mania.com/wrestling/bret-hart-steve-austin-talk-wrestlemania-13-match/).
96. Criscuolo, Scott; Rozzero, Justin (May 22, 2007). Graham Cawthon (ed.). "In Your House #1" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100529000540/http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/IYH1review.htm). The History of WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/IYH1review.htm) on May 29, 2010. Retrieved February 3, 2016.
97. "SummerSlam 1995 Results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/1995/results). WWE. Retrieved February 3, 2016.
98. King of the Ring 1995 (https://web.archive.org/web/20110524211708/http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/wweppv/kingofthering95/). Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved May 17, 2011.
99. "Survivor Series 1995 main event" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/survivorseries/history/1995/mainevent). WWE.
100. "History of the WWE Championship – Bret Hart(3)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20050717022714/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454121). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454121) on July 17, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
101. *Raw* results: February 5, 1996. (https://web.archive.org/web/20080607173217/http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/raw/_1996/). Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
102. *Raw* results: March 4, 1996. (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/raw/_1996/) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20110106083518/http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/raw/_1996/) January 6, 2011, at the Wayback Machine. Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
103. "1996 Royal Rumble match" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/royalrumble/history/198811412/mainevent). WWE.
104. "WrestleMania XII main event" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/12/mainevent). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
105. WWE Spike TV (March 9, 2004). "WrestleMania's 10 Greatest matches". *WWF Television*.
106. "The History of WWE : 1996" (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/96.htm). *Thehistoryofwwe.com*. Retrieved March 1, 2022.
107. "Pro Wrestling FAQ" (http://www.wrestleview.com/faq/?article=brethart). *Wrestleview.com*.
108. *Hitman Hart: Wrestling With Shadows* (1998)
109. "King of the Ring 1996" (http://www.pwwew.net/ppv/wwf/june/1996.htm). pwwew.net.
110. "Survivor Series 1996 official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/survivorseries/history/1996/results). WWE.
111. "1997 Royal Rumble results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/royalrumble/history/1988114111/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
112. "In Your House XIII" (http://www.pwwew.net/ppv/wwf/february/1997.htm). pwwew.net.

113. "History of the WWE Championship – Bret Hart(4)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20050719012851/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454113). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/304454113) on July 19, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
114. "WWF Raw: February 17, 1997" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080601030026/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1997%2Fraw021797). The Other Arena. February 17, 1997. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1997/raw021797) on June 1, 2008.
115. "WWF Raw: March 17, 1997" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080601030031/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1997%2Fraw031797). The Other Arena. March 17, 1997. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1997/raw031797) on June 1, 2008.
116. *McMahon* (DVD). WWE. 2006.
117. "WrestleMania 13 official results" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/13/results). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
118. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Award Winners Most Hated Wrestler of the Year" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110707054322/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwimhoty.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwimhoty.htm) on July 7, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
119. "WWF in Your House 16: "Canadian Stampede" " (https://web.archive.org/web/20120229161059/http://www.hoffco-inc.com/wwe/ppv/ppv/iyh16.html). *CompleteWWE.com*. Archived from the original (http://www.hoffco-inc.com/wwe/ppv/ppv/iyh16.html) on February 29, 2012. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
120. *Raw* results, 1997 (https://web.archive.org/web/20080607173222/http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/raw/_1997/). Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
121. "SummerSlam 1997 main event" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/summerslam/1997/maineventt). WWE. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
122. "History of the WWE Championship: Bret Hart(5)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051129204514/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/30445417). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wwechampionship/30445417) on November 29, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
123. *Monday Night War S01 E06: The Hart of War*. WWE.
124. "WWF Ground Zero: In Your House info/results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wwf/miscppvs1990s.html#17). Pro Wrestling History. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
125. WWF Badd Blood Results (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wwf/badd.html). prowrestlinghistory.com. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
126. "One Night Only" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wwf/wwfuk.html#onenight). Pro Wrestling History. Retrieved February 9, 2011.
127. "SLAM! Wrestling: The Bret Hart Interview" (https://archive.today/20121205235437/http://slam.canoe.ca/SlamWrestlingBretHart/hart_bret_interview.html). SLAM! Sports. Archived from the original on December 5, 2012.
128. Brown, Sydney (September 23, 2002). "411 Video Review: Terry Funk's WrestleFest (1997)" (https://411mania.com/wrestling/411-video-review-terry-funks-wrestlefest-1997/). *411Mania.com*. Retrieved October 24, 2020.
129. Vermillion, James. "Their Dark Days: How can you be so Hart-less?" (https://web.archive.org/web/20091015044627/http://www.wwe.com/inside/news/theirdarkdays/). *WWE*. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/news/theirdarkdays/) on October 15, 2009. Retrieved December 7, 2009.

130. *Off The Record* with Vince McMahon, TSN, 2–24–98: "...his value was beginning to wane..." (archived"video at tsn.ca" (https://web.archive.org/web/20091102140143/http://watch.tsn.ca/off-the-record/best-of-otr-vince-mcmahon---02-24-98/). Archived from the original (http://watch.tsn.ca/off-the-record/best-of-otr-vince-mcmahon---02-24-98/) on November 2, 2009. Retrieved January 16, 2010.)
131. Jay 1998, Hitman Hart: Wrestling with Shadows
132. "Survivor Series 1997 main event (Montreal Screwjob)" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/survivorseries/history/1997/mainevent). WWE.
133. Tello, Craig (November 8, 2007). "The Hit Man: Ten years later – Part One" (http://www.wwe.com/inside/news/harttenyearslaterpt1). WWE. Retrieved December 11, 2010.
134. "Title video". *WWF Raw*. Episode 241. January 5, 1998. 1 minutes in. USA Network. USA Networks, Inc.
135. "Bret Hart - WWF (Jakks Pacific)" (https://www.figurerealm.com/actionfigure?action=actionfigure&id=18770&figure=brethart).
136. "Bret Hart: Wrestling Games" (https://www.cagematch.net/?id=2&nr=565&page=19). Cagematch.net. Retrieved May 12, 2018.
137. *Off The Record*. TSN. December 3, 1997.
138. "WCW Nitro: December 15, 1997" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013554/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1997%2Fnitro121597). The Other Arena. December 15, 1997. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1997/nitro121597) on July 1, 2008.
139. Reynolds, R. D.; Alvarez, Bryan (October 1, 2014). *Death of WCW, The: 10th Anniversary Edition of the Bestselling Classic – Revised and Expanded* (https://books.google.com/books?id=G4aFAwAAQBAJ&q=sting+hogan+bret&pg=PT140) (in Arabic). ECW Press. ISBN 9781770906426.
140. "Starrcade 1997 results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wcw/starrcad.html#97). Pro Wrestling History.
141. "Souled Out 1998 results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wcw/nwoppv.html#98). Pro Wrestling History.
142. "Uncensored 1998 results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wcw/uncensor.html#98). Pro Wrestling History.
143. The 50 Greatest Stars in WCW History: Bret Hart (http://www.wwe.com/classics/wcw/50-greatest-wcw-stars/page-11). WWE. Retrieved May 24, 2012.
144. *Nitro* results: June 22, 1998 (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/nitro/1998.html). OWOW. Retrieved March 27, 2011.
145. "Bash at the Beach 1998 results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wcw/beach.html#98). Pro Wrestling History.
146. "History of the United States Championship – Bret Hart(1)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20050810020106/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/30445411114). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/30445411114) on August 10, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
147. "Monday Nitro – August 10, 1998" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013614/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1998%2Fnitro081098). The Other Arena. August 10, 1998. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1998/nitro081098) on July 1, 2008.
148. "History of the United States Championship – Bret Hart(2)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20050730021616/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/30445411123). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/30445411123) on July 30, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.

149. "Online World of Wrestling" (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/wcwppv/fallbrawl98.html). Online World of Wrestling. September 13, 1998. Retrieved February 21, 2011.
150. "Monday Nitro – October 26, 1998" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013619/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1998%2Fnitro102698). The Other Arena. October 26, 1998. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1998/nitro102698) on July 1, 2008.
151. "World War 3 1998 results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wcw/ww3.html#98). Pro Wrestling History.
152. "History of the United States Championship: Bret Hart(3)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051202093017/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/30445411312). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/30445411312) on December 2, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
153. "Monday Nitro – February 8, 1999" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013635/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999%2Fnitro020899). The Other Arena. February 8, 1999. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999/nitro020899) on July 1, 2008.
154. (Hart 2007, pp. 478–479)
155. *Nitro* results: October 18, 1999. (http://www.onlineworldofwrestling.com/results/nitro/1999.html). Online World of Wrestling. Retrieved February 23, 2011.
156. "History of the United States Championship – Bret Hart(4)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20051213033852/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/304454112211). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/unitedstates/304454112211) on December 13, 2005. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
157. "WWE United States Championship history" (http://www.wwe.com/classics/titlehistory/unitedstates). WWE. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
158. "Monday Nitro – November 8, 1999" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013650/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999%2Fnitro110899). The Other Arena. November 8, 1999. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999/nitro110899) on July 1, 2008.
159. "Monday Nitro – November 15, 1999" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013655/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999%2Fnitro111599). The Other Arena. November 15, 1999. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999/nitro111599) on July 1, 2008.
160. "Monday Nitro – December 13, 1999" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013700/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999%2Fnitro121399). The Other Arena. December 13, 1999. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999/nitro121399) on July 1, 2008.
161. "Starrcade 1999 results" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wcw/starrcad.html#99). Pro Wrestling History.
162. "WCW Starrcade Sunday, December 19, 1999" (http://www.ddtdigest.com/updates/1999123p.htm). DDTDigest. December 19, 1999.
163. "Story about Goldberg & Jericho" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080122071313/http://www.brethart.com/bio/columns/story-about-goldberg-jericho). brethart.com. May 9, 2003. Archived from the original (http://www.brethart.com/bio/columns/story-about-goldberg-jericho) on January 22, 2008.
164. Powell, John (December 20, 1999). "Goldberg screwed at Starrcade" (https://archive.today/20120722084502/http://slam.canoe.ca/SlamWrestlingPPV/dec20_starrcade.html). SLAM! Sports. Archived from the original on July 22, 2012. Retrieved June 14, 2008.
165. "WCW Monday Nitro 1999" (http://www.thehistoryofwwe.com/nitro99.htm). The History of WWE. Retrieved January 15, 2011.

166. "Monday Nitro – December 20, 1999" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080701013753/http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999%2Fnitro122099). The Other Arena. December 20, 1999. Archived from the original (http://www.otherarena.com/htm/cgi-bin/history.cgi?1999/nitro122099) on July 1, 2008.
167. "History of the WCW Championship: Bret Hart(2)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20071229010502/http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wcwchampionship/30445411039). WWE. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/inside/titlehistory/wcwchampionship/30445411039) on December 29, 2007. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
168. Bischoff, Eric: *Controversy Creates Cash*, WWE Books, 2006 (p.265)
169. Gray, Richard. Bret Hart Says He's Careful About What He Does, Says Vince Is Focused As Ever & Wants To Remain King, More (http://www.wrestlingnewsworld.com/wwe-news/bret-hart-vince.php) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20111105132425/http://www.wrestlingnewsworld.com/wwe-news/bret-hart-vince.php) November 5, 2011, at the Wayback Machine. *Wrestling News World*. February 10, 2010. Retrieved May 25, 2011.
170. "The Day of (WWA: The) Reckoning" (http://www.nzpwi.co.nz/2016/05/the-day-of-wwa-the-reckoning/). NZPWI. May 26, 2016. Retrieved September 12, 2018.
171. "Bret Hart returns to Pro Wrestling" (https://web.archive.org/web/20071012223835/http://tampabay.devilrays.mlb.com/news/press_releases/press_release.jsp?ymd=20070509&content_id=1954651&vkey=pr_tb&fext=.jsp&c_id=tb). Archived from the original (http://tampabay.devilrays.mlb.com/news/press_releases/press_release.jsp?ymd=20070509&content_id=1954651&vkey=pr_tb&fext=.jsp&c_id=tb) on October 12, 2007.
172. Curran, Brad (May 11, 2009). "Bret Hart Interview: Why ROH And Not TNA?" (http://insidepulse.com/2009/05/11/bret-hart-interview-why-roh-and-not-tna/). Insidepulse.com. Retrieved March 12, 2016.
173. Tello, Craig (December 28, 2009). "TV Shows > Raw > Special Guest Stars > Pink and black is back" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/special/allspecialguesthosts/brethartreturns). WWE. Retrieved January 15, 2011.
174. McCoy, Heath. "Back in the Ring: Hart seeks closure in comeback" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100408032740/http://www.calgaryherald.com/sports/Back%2BRing/2425695/story.html). *Calgary Sun*. Archived from the original (https://calgaryherald.com/sports/Back+Ring/2425695/story.html) on April 8, 2010. Retrieved January 11, 2010.
175. Eck, Kevin. "Q&A with Shawn Michaels" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100330074622/http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/sports/wrestling/blog/2010/03/qa_with_shawn_michaels_1.html). *The Baltimore Sun*. Archived from the original (http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/sports/wrestling/blog/2010/03/qa_with_shawn_michaels_1.html) on March 30, 2010. Retrieved April 4, 2010.
176. Caldwell, James (February 8, 2010). "Caldwell's WWE RAW Report 2/8: Complete coverage of Unified tag title match, WWE champ vs. ECW champ, Hart-McMahon" (http://pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/TV_Reports_9/article_38858.shtml). Pro Wrestling Torch. Retrieved February 11, 2010.
177. Adkins, Greg (March 1, 2010). "A long, strange trip to WrestleMania" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/archive/03012010/). WWE. Retrieved February 21, 2011.
178. "Bret Hart def. Mr. McMahon in a No Holds Barred Match" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wrestlemania/26/matches/13662452). WWE. March 28, 2010. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
179. Adkins, Greg (May 17, 2010). "Without limits" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/archive/05172010/). Retrieved February 21, 2011.
180. Martin, Adam (May 24, 2010). "Raw Results – May 24, 2010" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100528081824/http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1274757307). *WrestleView*. Archived from the original (http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1274757307) on May 28, 2010. Retrieved June 22, 2010.

181. Martin, Adam (May 31, 2010). "Raw Results – May 31, 2010" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100602190224/http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1275362557). *WrestleView*. Archived from the original (http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1275362557) on June 2, 2010. Retrieved June 22, 2010.
182. Stephens, David (June 14, 2010). "Raw Results – June 14, 2010" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100617191322/http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1276572395). *WrestleView*. Archived from the original (http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1276572395) on June 17, 2010. Retrieved June 22, 2010.
183. Keller, Wade (June 21, 2010). "WWE Raw results 6/21: Keller's report on the fallout from the Fatal 4-Way PPV event, Jericho puts his career on the line" (http://pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/wwerawreport/article_42106.shtml). *Pro Wrestling Torch*. Retrieved June 22, 2010.
184. Stephens, David (July 19, 2010). "Raw Results – July 19, 2010" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100723132939/http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1279596135). *WrestleView*. Archived from the original (http://wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1279596135) on July 23, 2010. Retrieved July 21, 2010.
185. Plummer, Dale (August 10, 2010). "RAW: Team WWE makes a stand" (https://archive.today/20120717223623/http://slam.canoe.ca/Slam/Wrestling/2010/08/10/14974251.html). *Slam! Sports*. Canadian Online Explorer. Archived from the original on July 17, 2012. Retrieved December 23, 2012.
186. Plummer, Dale; Tylwalk, Nick (August 15, 2010). "Rumored return helps Team WWE fend off Nexus at SummerSlam" (https://archive.today/20120630095657/http://slam.canoe.ca/Slam/Wrestling/PPVReports/2010/08/15/15031141.html). *Slam! Sports*. Canoe.ca. Archived from the original on June 30, 2012. Retrieved August 16, 2010.
187. Stephens, David (August 16, 2010). "Raw Results – August 16, 2010" (https://web.archive.org/web/20100819043444/http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1282015348). *WrestleView*. Archived from the original (http://www.wrestleview.com/viewnews.php?id=1282015348) on August 19, 2010. Retrieved August 18, 2010.
188. Omansky, Mike (September 26, 2010). "9/25 WWE results in New York City at MSG: Bret Hart tribute night, Nexus vs. Harts – Raw announcer special referee, Street Fight main event" (http://pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/Arena_Reports_10/article_44049.shtml). *Pro Wrestling Torch*. Retrieved September 26, 2010.
189. Middleton, Mark Bret Hart's WWE Status, Survivor Series DVD News, More (https://web.archive.org/web/20101129000520/http://www.prowrestling.com/article/news/17014) ProWrestling.com. November 26, 2010.
190. Update On Bret Hart's WWE Contract Status & Future (https://web.archive.org/web/20101129023210/http://www.ifight365.com/2010/11/update-on-bret-harts-wwe-contract-status-future/). iFight365.com. November 25, 2010.
191. "Tonight On WWE Tough Enough – Bret Hart Visits The Contestants" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110430001052/http://www.wrestlingnewsworld.com/wwe-news/tonight-on-wwe-tough-enough-bret-hart-visits-the-contestants.php). Archived from the original (http://www.wrestlingnewsworld.com/wwe-news/tonight-on-wwe-tough-enough-bret-hart-visits-the-contestants.php) on April 30, 2011. Retrieved April 27, 2011.
192. "PWTorch.com – JAMES'S WWE NXT REPORT 3/27: Neville defends NXT Title vs. Dallas, Bret Hart cameo, Yoshi, Xavier, Charlotte, more" (https://www.pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/wwenxtreport/article_77299.shtml). *Pwtorch.com*. Retrieved June 11, 2018.
193. "PWTorch.com – JAMES'S WWE NXT TAKEOVER REPORT 5/29: Complete "virtual-time" coverage of live special on WWE Network" (https://www.pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/wwenxtreport/article_78704.shtml). *Pwtorch.com*.
194. "Sharpshooters galore as Harts battle Flairs" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/wwepayback/2016/charlotte-natalya-results).

195. "Video of what happened after WWE Network pulled the feed when Bret Hart was accosted" (https://www.pwinsider.com/article/125514/video-of-what-happened-after-wwe-network-pulled-the-feed-when-bret-hart-was-accosted.html?p=1). *PWInsider*.
196. "NEW VIDEO SHOWS ENTIRE BRET HART ATTACK, AFTERMATH" (https://www.pwinsider.com/article/125515/new-video-shows-entire-bret-hart-attack-aftermath.html?p=1). *PWInsider*.
197. "WWE STATEMENT ON BRET HART INCIDENT AT WWE HALL OF FAME" (https://www.pwinsider.com/article/125516/wwe-statement-on-bret-hart-incident-at-wwe-hall-of-fame.html?p=1). *PWInsider*.
198. "Vince McMahon Reportedly Ribbed Bret Hart at SummerSlam 2019" (https://wwfoldschool.com/vince-mcmahon-reportedly-ribbed-bret-hart-at-summerslam-2019/). August 14, 2019.
199. "Bret Hart and Other Stars Appear at WWE Clash at The Castle, UFC Title Belt On Display" (https://wrestlingheadlines.com/bret-hart-and-other-stars-appear-at-wwe-clash-at-the-castle-ufc-title-belt-on-display/). *wrestlingheadlines.com*. September 3, 2022. Retrieved October 12, 2022.
200. Powell, Jason (May 25, 2019). "AEW Double Or Nothing results: Powell's live review of Kenny Omega vs. Chris Jericho, The Young Bucks vs. Pentagon Jr. and Fenix for the AAA Tag Titles, Cody vs. Dustin Rhodes, Britt Baker vs. Nyla Rose vs. Kylie Rae" (https://prowrestling.net/site/2019/05/25/aew-double-or-nothing-results-powells-live-review-of-kenny-omega-vs-chris-jericho-the-young-bucks-vs-pentagon-jr-and-fenix-for-the-aaa-tag-titles-cody-vs-dustin-rhodes-britt-baker-vs-nyla-r/). *Pro Wrestling Dot Net*. Retrieved May 25, 2019.
201. Roy, Bishal (July 24, 2023). "Bret Hart Says AEW Declined His Offer To Work As An Agent" (https://www.sescoops.com/aew/bret-hart-says-aew-declined-his-offer-to-work-as-an-agent). *SE Scoops*. Retrieved February 19, 2024.
202. Powell, Jason (October 24, 2020). "Powell's Impact Wrestling Bound For Glory Hit List: Eric Young vs. Rich Swann for the Impact World Championship, Deonna Purrazzo vs. Su Yung for the Knockouts Title, Motor City Machine Guns vs. The Good Brothers vs. The North vs. Ace Austin and Madman Fulton for the Impact Tag Titles, EC3 vs. Moose" (https://prowrestling.net/site/2020/10/25/powells-impact-wrestling-bound-for-glory-hit-list-eric-young-vs-rich-swann-for-the-impact-world-championship-deonna-purrazzo-vs-su-yung-for-the-knockouts-title-motor-city-machine-guns-vs-the-g/). *Pro Wrestling Dot Net*. Retrieved April 13, 2021.
203. "PWTorch.com – COLLECTIBLES COLUMN: The Five Coolest Wrestling Figures Decked Out in Pink" (https://www.pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/The_Specialists_34/article_73934.shtml). *Pwtorch.com*.
204. "Bret "The Hitman" Hart necesitando otra cirugía" (https://superluchas.com/bret-hitman-hart-necesitando-otra-cirugia/). March 28, 2014.
205. "The 25 best wrestling finishers ever, from the Stone Cold Stunner to the Mandible Claw" (https://www.foxsports.com/wwe/gallery/wwe-best-finishers-stone-cold-stunner-tombstone-piledriver-sweet-chin-music-ranking-080116).
206. "Cuando Konnan le enseñó a Bret Hart a aplicar el Sharpshooter" (https://superluchas.com/cuando-konnan-le-enseno-a-bret-hart-a-aplicar-el-sharpshooter/). May 4, 2016.
207. "Masa Saito passes away after long battle with Parkinson's disease" (https://www.f4wonline.com/japan/masa-saito-passes-away-after-long-battle-parkinsons-disease-261771). July 16, 2018.
208. "Grantland Dictionary: Pro Wrestling Edition" (http://grantland.com/features/grantland-dictionary-pro-wrestling-edition/). August 13, 2014.
209. "Wrestling world pays tribute to Jim 'The Anvil' Neidhart" (http://www.skysports.com/wwe/news/14203/11472237/wrestling-world-pays-tribute-to-jim-the-anvil-neidhart).
210. Birks, Brett (November 24, 2008). "Bret Hart in Birmingham" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/birmingham/content/articles/2008/11/24/bret_hart_feature.shtml). BBC. Retrieved March 4, 2017.

211. Kile, Meredith B (February 1, 2016). "Pro Wrestling Legend Bret Hart Reveals He Has Prostate Cancer in Emotional Message" (http://www.etonline.com/news/181377_pro_wrestling_legend_bret_hart_reveals_he_has_prostate_cancer_emotional_message/). *Entertainment Tonight*. Retrieved September 7, 2016.
212. "WWE Legends: Bret Hart" (http://www.skysports.com/more-sports/news/13043/3981683/wwe-legends). Sky Sports. September 5, 2008. Retrieved March 3, 2017.
213. "Twitter account of @davemeltzerWON" (https://twitter.com/davemeltzerWON/status/694201990541242369). *twitter*.
214. "Twitter account of @davemeltzerWON" (https://twitter.com/davemeltzerWON/status/829366418265169920). *twitter*.
215. Robinson, Jon (November 17, 2005). "Bret Hart: The Hitman Returns" (https://web.archive.org/web/20070804073424/http://uk.sports.ign.com/articles/667/667878p1.html). IGN. Archived from the original (http://uk.sports.ign.com/articles/667/667878p1.html) on August 4, 2007.
216. Simmons, Bill (July 27, 2011). "CM Punk". *The B.S. Report*. 25 minutes in. ESPN. "I'm not comparing myself to Bret Hart who's light years ahead of me, he's the greatest of all time."
217. Pitts, Lan (July 2, 2016). "Bret 'The Hitman' Hart Turns 59 today" (http://comicbook.com/wwe/2016/07/02/happy-birthday-bret-the-hitman-hart-turns-59-today/). *ComicBook.com*. Retrieved March 4, 2016.
218. "Canadian Effect". *Legends of Wrestling*. Season 1. Episode 27. April 1, 2011. 29 (Hayes) & 58 (Okerlund) minutes in. Classics on Demand. WWE.
219. *Nelson Frazier Shoot Interview* (DVD). Pro Wrestling Diary. 2009.
220. "Orlando Quinones Interviews Kurt Angle Part 2" (https://ghostarchive.org/varchive/youtube/20211029/xr1TgdxhJ_k). Archived from the original (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr1TgdxhJ_k) on October 29, 2021 – via YouTube.
221. "Kurt Angle" (http://thestatement.podbean.com/e/the-statement-show-with-guest-kurt-angle/). *The Statement Show*. January 4, 2017. 2 minutes in. Podbean. Retrieved February 2, 2017. "Bret was my favourite... an incredible wrestler. When he got in that ring, he did it better than anybody else."
222. "Shawn Michaels". *The Steve Austin Show*. Episode 283. December 21, 2015. 16 minutes in. PodcastOne. "When I name my best of all time, you [Shawn Michaels] and him [Bret Hart] are always neck and neck. I just thought the world of his work."
223. "SLAM! Wrestling Harley Race Chat" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150927235617/http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingHarleyRace/race_chat-can.html). Slam Wrestling. March 13, 2001. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestlingHarleyRace/race_chat-can.html) on September 27, 2015. Retrieved February 2, 2016.
224. Ross, Jim (May 13, 2015). "J.R.'s Answer" (https://web.archive.org/web/20190805185940/https://www.jrsbarbq.com/jrs-qa/wrestling/hey-jr-always-keep-good-work-i-was-wondering-where-you-would-rank-bret-hart-your-al). *J.R.'s Place*. Archived from the original (https://www.jrsbarbq.com/jrs-qa/wrestling/hey-jr-always-keep-good-work-i-was-wondering-where-you-would-rank-bret-hart-your-al) on August 5, 2019. Retrieved August 5, 2019.
225. *Top 50 Wrestlers of All Time – IGN* (https://www.ign.com/articles/2012/11/02/top-50-wrestlers-of-all-time), November 2, 2012, retrieved June 5, 2021
226. Winkie, Luke. "A definitive ranking of the 101 greatest wrestlers" (https://www.si.com/extra-mustard/2016/07/26/wwe-wcw-ecw-100-best-wrestlers-all-time). *Sports Illustrated*. Retrieved June 5, 2021.
227. Jon Robinson (October 24, 2003). "Ted DiBiase: Million Dollar Smackdown – PlayStation 2 Feature at IGN" (http://uk.ign.com/articles/2003/10/24/ted-dibiase-million-dollar-smackdown?page=3). Uk.sports.ign.com. Retrieved November 19, 2011.

228. "Ted DiBiase on Why Bret Hart Couldn't Follow Hulk Hogan" (https://itrwrestling.com/news/ted-dibiase-bret-hart-follow-hulk-hogan/). June 8, 2022.
229. The Undertaker interview (Part 2). *The Score*. April 10, 2003.
230. "WWE Hall of Fame (2019) (D-Generation X)". WWE Hall of Fame. April 6, 2019. 193 minutes in. WWE Network.
231. *Pro Wrestling Radio* (November 22, 2000). Curt Hennig. *In your career, what are some of your more memorable matches that stand out to you?* "I'll definitely have to say Bret Hart ... Hart is probably the standout ... Out of all the matches I had, probably the best match I ever had would be with Bret ... I have a good thing with Bret forever." Video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfrGRdgMY0A) on YouTube
232. "Triple H". *Stone Cold Podcast*. February 2, 2015. 48 minutes in. WWE Network.
233. "Off The Record". *Off the Record*. 2003. 20 minutes in. TSN. Shawn Michaels discussing his matches at WrestleMania. *The hour with Bret, is that number one?* "If it's not number one it's one and a half for sure"... "I loved wrestling him, I really did. You could go out there and just have a wrestling match with him – it was a sheer joy to be in the ring with him." *You used to watch him backstage and think, 'that guy is unbelievable', didn't you?* "I did, yeah. I used to think: 'I'd like to be out there with him'."
234. "StormWrestling.com – Commentary" (http://www.stormwrestling.com/111207.html). *Stormwrestling.com*. Retrieved June 11, 2018.
235. "WWE's Roman Reigns' real story is better than his fake one" (https://sports.yahoo.com/news/wwe-s-roman-reigns-ready-to-prove-his-critics-wrong-at-wrestlemania-31-210550571.html). Retrieved June 12, 2018.
236. "COMPLETE WWE PAYBACK COVERAGE: STYLES VS. REIGNS, WOMEN'S TITLE MATCH, A NEW MEMBER OF THE COMMENTARY TEAM, A SCARY MOMENT & MORE" (https://www.pwinsider.com/article/101698/live-ongoing-wwe-payback-ppv-coverage-united-states-title-match.html?p=1). *PWInsider*. Retrieved June 12, 2018.
237. "Seth Rollins" (http://podcastone.com/pg/jsp/program/episode.jsp?programID=593&pid=1654477). *Talk is Jericho*. Episode 253. June 2, 2016. 11–12 minutes in. PodcastOne. Retrieved June 4, 2016. "I have all the respect in the world for this guy... I idolized [Hart]."
238. Selvaraj, Jonathan (October 16, 2017). "Face off: Champion Jinder Mahal fighting to be 'greatest ever' " (http://www.espn.co.uk/wwe/story/_/id/21031373/champion-jinder-mahal-fighting-greatest-ever). ESPN. Retrieved August 8, 2018.
239. "CANOE – SLAM! Sports: Ng – Jon Moxley finds mean streets redemption in wrestling" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160611114357/http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/2010/05/10/pf-13893011.html). Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/2010/05/10/pf-13893011.html) on June 11, 2016.
240. "Edge". *Off the Record with Michael Landsberg*. May 28, 2003. TSN.
241. "PWTorch.com – CALDWELL'S WWE RAW RESULTS 5/27 (Post-Show): Complete "virtual-time" coverage of Bret Hart Appreciation Night – HBK, McMahon, Jericho, Patterson, more take part in post-show" (https://www.pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/wwerawreport/article_70882.shtml). *Pwtorch.com*.
242. "Koji Nakagawa's Bio" (http://fmwwrestling.us/Nakagawa.html). FMW Wrestling. Retrieved January 22, 2018.
243. "WWE star Ryback talks about his road to WrestleMania 29 in the Meadowlands" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160304113257/http://www.northjersey.com/arts-and-entertainment/wwe-star-ryback-talks-about-his-road-to-wrestlemania-29-in-the-meadowlands-1.613924). Archived from the original (http://www.northjersey.com/arts-and-entertainment/wwe-star-ryback-talks-about-his-road-to-wrestlemania-29-in-the-meadowlands-1.613924) on March 4, 2016. Retrieved December 30, 2015.

244. "Drew McIntyre on Broken Dreams theme, favorite wrestler growing up" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjWdLvdHuVA&t=2m16s). WWE on FOX. February 5, 2020. Retrieved February 8, 2020.
245. "Exclusive Interview: WWE superstar 'Bad News' Barrett speaks about the Nexus, John Cena, WWE 2K15, Attitude Era and more" (http://www.dnaindia.com/sport/interview-exclusive-interview-wwe-superstar-bad-news-barrett-speaks-about-the-nexus-john-cena-wwe-2k15-attitude-era-and-more-2019904). September 19, 2014.
246. Wade Barrett interview. 103.1 The Buzz. March 2011. "Number one will always be the "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith. He was my biggest inspiration...That's [Smith vs. Hart at SummerSlam 1992] actually my favourite match that I've ever seen in my life."
247. [1] (https://twitter.com/ScottDawsonWWE/status/1139355628504276993)
248. "CM Punk Pays Homage to Bret Hart During AEW Rampage" (https://www.ringsidenews.com/2021/09/04/cm-punk-pays-homage-to-bret-hart-during-aew-rampage/). Retrieved January 3, 2022.
249. "Did you catch which classic WWF Raw match CM Punk & Darby Allin were paying tribute to at All Out?" (https://www.cagesideseats.com/aew/2021/9/6/22659778/cm-punk-darby-allin-aew-all-out-tribute-bret-hart-wwf-raw-123-kid). Retrieved January 3, 2022.
250. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Award Winners Inspirational Wrestler of the Year" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110522012404/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwiinsp.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwiinsp.htm) on May 22, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
251. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated's Top 500 Wrestlers of the PWI Years" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110707054220/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwi500yr.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwi500yr.htm) on July 7, 2011. Retrieved March 22, 2009.
252. "The Top 25 Most Devastating Submission Maneuvers" (http://www.wwe.com/inside/top25/top25submissions/). WWE. Retrieved August 6, 2010.
253. "Top 50 Wrestlers of All Time" (http://www.ign.com/articles/2012/11/02/top-50-wrestlers-of-all-time?page=5). ign.com. November 2, 2012. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20121105210028/http://www.ign.com/articles/2012/11/02/top-50-wrestlers-of-all-time?page=5) from the original on November 5, 2012. Retrieved December 7, 2014.
254. Meltzer, Dave. *Wrestling Observer*. November 17, 1997. "The Montreal Incident" (https://web.archive.org/web/20060406153712/http://www.brethart.com/facts.asp). Archived from the original (http://www.brethart.com/facts.asp) on April 6, 2006. Retrieved January 23, 2007.
255. Ryder, Bob; Scherer, Dave. *WCW: The Ultimate Guide*. DK Books. 2000. (p.104-105)
256. Martin, Fin. The 10 Best U.S.-Style All-Rounders; 7. Bret Hart. *Power Slam*. Issue 226/July 2013. p.26. "A wrestler who can work, draw money and talk is a U.S.-style all-rounder by the definition of this article."
257. Erdman, Corey (November 10, 2017). "How The 'Montreal Screwjob' Changed The Wrestling Industry Forever" (https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/pa3xxm/how-the-montreal-screwjob-changed-the-wrestling-industry-forever). *Vice*. Retrieved January 21, 2020.
258. "McMahons 2, Michaels 0" (http://www.wwe.com/shows/raw/archive/03062006/). WWE. March 6, 2006. Retrieved January 16, 2008. "Stone Cold will induct Bret "Hit Man" Hart"
259. "McMahon-Hart" (http://www.wrestlingepicenter.com/articles/139448686.shtml). Retrieved November 28, 2007.
260. Oliver, Greg (April 2, 2006). "Hall of Fame inductions sincere and entertaining" (https://archive.today/20120717145917/http://slam.canoe.ca/Slam/Wrestling/Wrestlemania22/2006/04/02/pf-1515997.html). *Slam! Wrestling*. Canadian Online Explorer. Archived from the original on July 17, 2012. Retrieved September 1, 2009.

261. "Paul Heyman on Shane Douglas and the birth of Extreme" (https://www.wwe.com/node/26143772/page-4). *WWE*.
262. Droste, Ryan. "Complete report from Hall of Fame ceremonies July 15 in IA" (http://www.wrestleview.com/news2006/1153114227.shtml). WrestleView.
263. Eck, Kevin. "Ring Posts: Transcript of Bret Hart's Hall of Fame speech" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080707013356/http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/sports/wrestling/blog/2008/07/transcript_of_bret_harts_hall_of_fame_speech.html). Baltimore Sun. Archived from the original (http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/sports/wrestling/blog/2008/07/transcript_of_bret_harts_hall_of_fame_speech.html) on July 7, 2008.
264. "Bret Hart Inducted To the Canada Walk of Fame, Hart On Making History With The Induction" (https://www.wrestlinginc.com/news/2021/10/bret-hart-inducted-to-the-canada-walk-of-fame-hart-on-making-history-with-the-induction/). *Wrestling Inc*. October 7, 2021. Retrieved October 7, 2021.
265. None (April 21, 2015). "Bret Hart Calgary Sun Columns" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150919155029/http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/Bios/hart-bret-columns.html). *Slam! Wrestling*. Canadian Online Explorer. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/Bios/hart-bret-columns.html) on September 19, 2015. Retrieved January 30, 2016.
266. Livesey, Bruce (January 25, 2006). "The champs' champion" (https://www.canadianlawyermag.com/article/the-champs-champion-8/). *Canadian Lawyer Magazine*. Retrieved May 2, 2019.
267. "Bret "The Hitman" Hart sounds off on wrestling's bad rap" (https://www.avclub.com/article/bret-the-hitman-hart-sounds-off-on-wrestlings-bad--33020). avclub.com. September 19, 2009.
268. Roddy Piper (2002). *In the Pit with Piper: Roddy Gets Rowdy* (https://archive.org/details/inpitwithpiper00pipe/page/10). Berkley Books. p. 10 (https://archive.org/details/inpitwithpiper00pipe/page/10). ISBN 0-425-18721-7.
269. Art Crews; Judy Burleigh-Crews (2014). *We Made 'em Look Good*. Xlibris. p. 218. ISBN 978-1493182374.
270. Harley Race, Gerry Tritz (2013). *King of the Ring: The Harley Race Story*. Sports Publishing. p. 8. ISBN 978-1613212110.
271. Meltzer, Dave (2004). *Tributes II: Remembering More of the Worlds Greatest Wrestlers* (https://archive.org/details/tributesii00dave). Sports Publishing LLC. ISBN 1582618178.
272. "Bret Hart's stroke and his battle to survive". The Sports Network. December 6, 2004.
273. Werner, Barry (January 30, 2016). "Mike Tyson, Bill Goldberg and Bret Hart are among the legends in 'Nine Legends.' " (http://www.foxsports.com/wwe/story/mike-tyson-bill-goldberg-bret-hart-lita-ron-van-dam-013016). *foxsports.com*. Retrieved January 30, 2016.
274. Lelinwalla, Mark (May 4, 2016). "Bret Hart Has Been Firing Off Harsh Opinions About WWE On His 'Sharpshooter' Podcast" (http://www.techtimes.com/articles/152110/20160421/bret-hart-firing-harsh-opinions-wwe-sharpshooter-podcast.htm). *Tech Times*. Retrieved April 21, 2016.
275. "The Calgary Hitmen Hockey Team Has Come a Long Way in a Short Time" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080513063206/http://www.calgary-for-newcomers.com/CalgaryHitmenHockey.html). Calgary for Newcomers.com. May 7, 1999. Archived from the original (http://www.calgary-for-newcomers.com/CalgaryHitmenHockey.html) on May 13, 2008. Retrieved January 15, 2011.
276. The Canadian Press (August 23, 2018). " 'It tops Hitman:' Wrestler Bret Hart gets Blackfoot name at Calgary ceremony" (https://calgaryherald.com/pmn/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/bret-courageous-chief-hart-gets-blackfoot-name-at-calgary-ceremony/wcm/04c4d632-54fc-4527-90c6-480d45259fd7). Calgary Herald. Retrieved August 23, 2018.
277. (Hart 2007, p. 224,255)

278. (Hart 2007, p. 255)
279. (Hart 2007, p. 254)
280. Hart 2007, p. 169.
281. "UNofficial Homepgae of the Dynamite Kid – Tom Billington" (https://web.archive.org/web/20130107011357/http://testside.users.whitehat.dk/Articles_chat.htm). Archived from the original (http://testside.users.whitehat.dk/Articles_chat.htm) on January 7, 2013.
282. (Hart 2007, p. 470)
283. (Hart 2007, pp. 472–473)
284. (Hart 2007, pp. 532–533)
285. (Hart 2007, p. 547)
286. Amato, Laura (February 2016). "Bret Hart Cancer Announcement: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know" (https://heavy.com/sports/2016/02/bret-hart-cancer-prostate-instagram-twitter-wife-wwe-kids-family-raw/). *heavy.com*. Retrieved June 13, 2021.
287. "WWE Legends, Season 1 Episode 8: "Bret 'Hitman' Hart" " (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14410310/?ref_=ttep_ep8). *IMDb*. June 6, 2021. Retrieved December 11, 2021.
288. Andrews, Kenai (January 13, 2012). "MMA Crossfire Friday File – Jade Hart wrestles with the art of the kimono" (https://archive.today/20120708080740/http://blogs.canada.com/2012/01/13/mma-crossfire-friday-file-jade-hart-wrestles-with-the-art-of-the-kimono/). *Canada.com*. Postmedia News. Archived from the original (http://blogs.canada.com/2012/01/13/mma-crossfire-friday-file-jade-hart-wrestles-with-the-art-of-the-kimono/) on July 8, 2012. Retrieved January 19, 2012.
289. "Bret on Instagram: "I was blessed with four children, and now four grandchildren. My granddaughter Vylet Louise Hart 💜" " (https://ghostarchive.org/iarchive/instagram/brethitmanhart/1893747246248475917). Archived from the original (https://www.instagram.com/p/BpH8RZDA70N/) on December 23, 2021.
290. Roddy Piper (2002). *In the Pit with Piper: Roddy Gets Rowdy* (https://archive.org/details/inpitwithpiper00pipe/page/231). Berkley Books. p. 231 (https://archive.org/details/inpitwithpiper00pipe/page/231). ISBN 0-425-18721-7.
291. (Hart 2007, p. 541)
292. "The Bret Hart Story" (https://web.archive.org/web/20081113112359/http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/national_programs/national_programs/src/The%2BBret%2BHart%2BStory.htm). March of Dimes Canada. Archived from the original (http://www.marchofdimes.ca/dimes/national_programs/national_programs/src/The+Bret+Hart+Story.htm) on November 13, 2008.
293. (McCoy 2007, p. 292)
294. "Bret Hart reveals he has prostate cancer, makes statement" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160202014959/http://www.f4wonline.com/other-wrestling/bret-hart-reveals-he-has-prostate-cancer-makes-statement-206751). *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*. February 1, 2016. Archived from the original (http://www.f4wonline.com/other-wrestling/bret-hart-reveals-he-has-prostate-cancer-makes-statement-206751) on February 2, 2016. Retrieved February 1, 2016.
295. "WWE's Bret 'the Hitman' Hart beats prostate cancer after having surgery" (https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/35714206/wwes-bret-the-hitman-hart-beats-prostate-cancer-after-having-surgery). *BBC Newsbeat*. March 3, 2016. Retrieved March 4, 2016.
296. "Bret 'The Hitman' Hart, pro wrestler, hopeful about cancer recovery" (http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/bret-hart-hitman-prostate-cancer-recovery-1.3480166). *CBC.ca*. March 7, 2016.
297. Oliver, Sean (director) (2014). *Timeline: History of WCW – 93 – Told by Vader* (DVD). Kayfabe Commentaries. "1993 – October – Bret Hart buries Ric Flair and WCW – Bret Hart was on Toronto all-sports radio station 'The FAN' and buried WCW and Ric Flair during an interview, saying WCW is 'minor league' and Flair 'sucks'."

298. Mike Mooneyham (July 4, 2004). "Flair Pulls No Punches in Book" (https://web.archive.org/web/20070927224923/http://www.mikemooneyham.com/pages/viewfull.cfm?ObjectID=887C21B7-3048-52EA-1E34C39B8C6042BE). Archived from the original (http://www.mikemooneyham.com/pages/viewfull.cfm?ObjectID=887C21B7-3048-52EA-1E34C39B8C6042BE) on September 27, 2007. Retrieved May 14, 2007.
299. "Wwf Aims Low, Shoots High Wrestling Comes to the Garden on a Roll" (http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/wwf-aims-shoots-high-wrestling-garden-roll-article-1.803878). *New York Daily News*. December 27, 1998. Retrieved July 18, 2013.
300. "World Wrestling Federation Entertainment, Inc. – Company History" (http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/World-Wrestling-Federation-Entertainment-Inc-Company-History.html). Fundinguniverse.com. Retrieved February 21, 2011.
301. (Hart 2007, pp. 286, 303)
302. Flair, Ric; Bret Hart, *WOOOOO! Nation with Ric Flair*, "Episode 3: Bret "The Hitman" Hart", CBS Local Media, May 19, 2015
303. Chiari, Mike (August 13, 2020). "Bret Hart Says Triple H, Shawn Michaels Were 'Out to Get' The Rock in 1990s" (https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2904404-bret-hart-says-triple-h-shawn-michaels-were-out-to-get-the-rock-in-1990s). *Bleacher Report*. Retrieved August 3, 2022.
304. "The Rock: Bret Hart Was Kind To Me When I Was A Rookie, He's 'A Great Guy' " (https://www.mandatory.com/wrestlezone/news/1247230-the-rock-bret-hart-jungle-cruise). mandatory.com. August 2, 2021.
305. "Inductee: Bret Hart" (https://archive.today/20180130200341/https://nwhof.org/blog/dg-inductees/bret-hart/). National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Archived from the original (https://nwhof.org/blog/dg-inductees/bret-hart/) on January 30, 2018. Retrieved May 27, 2017.
306. "List of CAC Award Winners" (https://archive.today/20140413080042/http://www.caulifloweralleyclub.org/list-of-cac-award-winners/). Archived from the original (http://www.caulifloweralleyclub.org/list-of-cac-award-winners/) on April 13, 2014. Retrieved February 2, 2018.
307. "2021 Class" (https://cpwhof.cwnonline.ca/2021-class/). *Canadian Pro-Wrestling Hall of Fame*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20230127164705/http://cpwhof.cwnonline.ca/2021-class/) from the original on January 27, 2023. Retrieved November 29, 2023.
308. "2022 Class" (https://cpwhof.cwnonline.ca/2022-class/). *Canadian Pro-Wrestling Hall of Fame*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20230601212617/http://cpwhof.cwnonline.ca/2022-class/) from the original on June 1, 2023. Retrieved November 29, 2023.
309. Oliver, Greg (April 3, 2016). "SLAM! Wrestling Canadian Hall of Fame: The Hart Family" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150822132939/http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestling/harts.html). *Slam! Wrestling*. Canadian Online Explorer. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/SlamWrestling/harts.html) on August 22, 2015.
310. "Canadian Wrestling Hall of Fame" (https://web.archive.org/web/20150429003907/http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/hallofame.html). *Slam! Wrestling*. Canadian Online Explorer. April 3, 2016. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/hallofame.html) on April 29, 2015.
311. "Hall of Fame Inductions Report: Bret Hart, Larrry Hennig, Mike DiBiase, Dory Funk Sr., Bop Roop" (https://pwtorch.com/artman2/publish/Other_News_4/article_17375.shtml). *PWTorch*. July 6, 2006. Retrieved August 27, 2018.
312. Oliver, Greg (March 16, 2023). "IPWHF Class of 2023 both 'Great' and 'Gorgeous' " (https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2023/03/16/ipwhf-class-of-2023-both-great-and-gorgeous/). *Slam Wrestling*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20230507112606/https://slamwrestling.net/index.php/2023/03/16/ipwhf-class-of-2023-both-great-and-gorgeous/) from the original on May 7, 2023. Retrieved December 5, 2023.

313. Clevette, Jason (June 16, 2010). "Booker T enjoying life away from the spotlight" (https://archive.today/20180116095112/http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/2010/06/15/14402076.html). *SLAM! Wrestling*. Canoe.com. Archived from the original (http://slam.canoe.com/Slam/Wrestling/2010/06/15/14402076.html) on January 16, 2018. Retrieved January 16, 2018.
314. "Hall of Famers" (https://web.archive.org/web/20161026163526/http://0362dc8.netsolhost.com/halloffamers/inductees.asp). 0362dc8.netsolhost.com. Archived from the original (http://0362dc8.netsolhost.com/halloffamers/inductees.asp) on October 26, 2016. Retrieved February 7, 2016.
315. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Award Winners Comeback of the Year" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110515112638/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwicome.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwicome.htm) on May 15, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
316. "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Award Winners Editor's Award" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110103211804/http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwiedit.htm). Wrestling Information Archive. Archived from the original (http://www.100megsfree4.com/wiawrestling/pages/pwi/pwiedit.htm) on January 3, 2011. Retrieved June 30, 2008.
317. Johnson, Mike (December 6, 2017). "Bret Hart, Kevin Owens inducted into Quebec Wrestling Hall of Fame" (http://www.pwinsiderxtra.com/ViewArticle.php?id=33999&p=1). *Pro Wrestling Insider*. Retrieved December 7, 2017.
318. "Stampede International Tag Team Championship history" (https://web.archive.org/web/20080505025114/http://www.wrestling-titles.com/canada/ab/calg-t.html). Wrestling=titles.com. Archived from the original (http://www.wrestling-titles.com/canada/ab/calg-t.html) on May 5, 2008.
319. "Stampede British Commonwealth Mid-Heavyweight Championship history" (http://www.wrestling-titles.com/canada/ab/calg-mh.html). Wrestling-titles.com.
320. "Stampede Wrestling North American Heavyweight Championship history" (http://www.wrestling-titles.com/canada/ab/calg-h.html). Wrestling-titles.com.
321. "Stampede Wrestling Hall of Fame (1948–1990)" (http://www.wrestling-titles.com/canada/ab/hof.html). Puroresu Dojo. 2003.
322. "WCW World Heavyweight Championship title history" (http://www.wwe.com/classics/titlehistory/wcwchampionship). WWE. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
323. "WCW World Tag Team Championship history" (http://www.wrestling-titles.com/wcw/wcw-t.html). Wrestling-titles.com.
324. "Triple Crown Club" (https://web.archive.org/web/20091104080930/http://www.wwe.com/magazine/magazinefeatures/featureoftheweek20090423a/). WWE. October 18, 2010. Archived from the original (http://www.wwe.com/magazine/magazinefeatures/featureoftheweek20090423a/) on November 4, 2009. Retrieved February 21, 2011.
325. "WWC Caribbean Tag Team Championship history" (http://www.wrestling-titles.com/us/pr/wwc/carib-t.html). Wrestling-titles.com.
326. "WWE Championship history" (http://www.wwe.com/classics/titlehistory/wwechampionship). WWE. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
327. "WWE Intercontinental Championship history" (http://www.wwe.com/classics/titlehistory/intercontinental). WWE. Retrieved December 30, 2007.
328. "Middle East Cup Tournament" (http://www.prowrestlinghistory.com/supercards/usa/wwf/middleeast.html#middle). ProWrestlingHistory. Retrieved November 30, 2014.
329. "The Hart Foundation to join WWE Hall of Fame" (https://www.wwe.com/shows/wwe-hall-of-fame/wwe-hall-of-fame-2019/article/hart-foundation-wwe-hall-of-fame-inductees-2019).
330. "And the winner is" (http://www.wwe.com/inside/news/andthewinneris). WWE. February 23, 2008. Retrieved February 21, 2011.

331. Wall, Karen L. (2012). *Game Plan: A Social History of Sports in Alberta*. University of Alberta Press. p. 276 pp. ISBN 978-0888645944.
332. Sornberger, Joe (2011). *Dreams and Due Diligence: Till & McCulloch's Stem Cell Discovery and Legacy*. University of Toronto Press. p. ? pp. ISBN 978-1442644854.
333. MacGregor, Roy (2008). *Canadians: A Portrait Of A Country And Its People*. Penguin Canada. p. ? pp. ISBN 978-0143053088.
334. "Bret Hart Discusses The Honor That To Him Is Bigger Than The Wwe Hall Of Fame" (https://www.pwinsider.com/article/153850/bret-hart-discusses-the-honor-that-to-him-is-bigger-than-the-wwe-hall-of-fame.html?p=1). PWInsider. December 17, 2021. Retrieved February 26, 2022.
335. "WWF Toronto" (http://wrestlingdata.com/index.php?befehl=shows&show=16836). *Wrestlingdata.com*.

Sources

Print

- Hart, Bret (2007). *Hitman: My Real Life in the Cartoon World of Wrestling* (https://books.google.com/books?id=9w_ufNyxo3YC&q=Bret%20%22Hitman%22%20Hart%3A&pg=PP1). Random House Canada (Canada), Grand Central Publishing (US). 592pp. ISBN 9780307355676. ISBN 978-0-307-35567-6 (Canada) ISBN 978-0-446-53972-2 (US)
- Hart, Martha & Francis, Eric (2004). *Broken Harts: The Life and Death of Owen Hart* (https://books.google.com/books?id=SNNtABahlEYC&q=owen+hart). Rowman & Littlefield (Canada), M. Evans and Company, Inc (US). 288pp. ISBN 978-1-59077-036-8.
- Hart, Bruce (2011). *Straight from the Hart* (https://books.google.com/books?id=jHKf2e9lin4C&q=hart+foundation&pg=PT249). ECW Press. pp. 272pp. ISBN 978-1-55022-939-4.
- McCoy, Heath (2007). *Pain and Passion: The History of Stampede Wrestling* (https://books.google.com/books?id=i_dGLIfvGJkC&q=pain+and+passion+the+history+of+stampede+wrestling). ECW Press. pp. 336pp. ISBN 978-1550227871.
- Hart, Diana & McLellan, Kirstie (2001). *Under the Mat: Inside Wrestling's Greatest Family* (https://books.google.com/books?id=L1bLPQAACAAJ&q=Diana+Hart+family). Fenn Pub. pp. 200pp. ISBN 978-1550227871.
- Erb, Marsha (2002). *Stu Hart: Lord of the Ring* (https://books.google.com/books?id=o5GfzUbazgwC&q=stu+hart+lord+of+the+ring). ECW Press. pp. 250pp. ISBN 978-1550225082.
- Grasso, John (2014). *Historical Dictionary of Wrestling* (https://books.google.com/books?id=KUsJAwAAQBAJ&q=Historical+Dictionary+of+Wrestling&pg=PR7). Scarecrow Press, inc. p. 444. ISBN 978-0-8108-7926-3.
- Lister, John (2005). *Slamthology: Collected Wrestling Writings* (https://books.google.com/books?id=80DO1mB_69gC&q=Slamthology:+Collected+Wrestling+Writings). jnlister. p. 276. ISBN 1-4116-5329-7.

Film

- Paul Jay (Director); Bret Hart; Owen Hart; Vince McMahon (1998). *Hitman Hart: Wrestling with Shadows* (Documentary film). Canada; U.S.A: High Road Productions Inc; National Film Board of Canada. ASIN B001NG9GZ0 (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B001NG9GZ0).
- Bret Hart (Subject); Stone Austin; Roddy Piper; Chris Benoit (2005). *Bret "Hit Man" Hart: The Best There Is, the Best There Was, the Best There Ever Will Be* (Documentary film). U.S.A; Canada: WWE.

Further reading

Biographies

- Davies, Ross (2001). *Bret Hart*. Rosen Publishing Group. ISBN 0-8239-3494-2.
- Billington, Tom; Coleman, Alison (2001). *Pure Dynamite: The Price you Pay for Wrestling Stardom*. Winding Stair Press. ISBN 1-55366-084-6.
- McCoy, Heath. *Pain and Passion: The History of Stampede Wrestling*. Toronto: CanWest Books, 2005. ISBN 0-9736719-8-X
- Hart, Julie (2013). *Hart Strings*. Tightrope Books. ISBN 978-1926639635.
- Rally, Carter (2011). *The Hitman's Legacy: A Fan's Guide to the Rise of Bret Hart Through the WWE and WCW, and the Heartbreak Faced in and Out of the Ring*. Webster's. ISBN 978-1270792185.
- Mudge, Jacqueline (1999). *Bret Hart: The Story of the Wrestler They Call "the Hitman"*. Turtleback Books. ISBN 9780613210454.
- Payan, Michael (2002). *In the Ring with Bret Hart*. PowerKids Press. ISBN 9780823960477.
- James Dixon; Lee Maughan; Arnold Furious (2013). *Superstar Series: The Hart Foundation*. Bob Dahlstrom (Illustrator). HistoryOfWrestling. ISBN 9781291538410.
- R Ricciuti, Edward (1994). *Face to face with Bret "Hit Man" Hart*. Topdog Publications. ISBN 978-1567110753.
- Martin, Marlow J (2016). *Bret Hart: "The best there is, the best there was, and the best there ever will be"*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing. ISBN 978-1523811182.

Documentaries

- John Pollock (Writer); Bret Hart; Ross Hart; Keith Hart; Bruce Hart (2010). *Bret Hart: Survival of the Hitman* (Documentary film). Canada; U.S.A: Fight Network.
- Jim Ross (Interviewer); Bret Hart; Shawn Michaels (2011). *Shawn Michaels vs Bret Hart: WWE's Greatest Rivalries* (Documentary film). U.S.A; Canada: WWE.
- Bret Hart (Subject) (2013). *Bret Hitman Hart – The Dungeon Collection* (Documentary film). U.S.A; Canada: WWE.

Radio

- Anna Maria Tremonti (Host); Bret Hart (2007). *Wrestler Bret Hart's childhood memories* (http://www.cbc.ca/archives/entry/wrestler-bret-harts-childhood-memories) (Radio). Canada: CBC.
- Bret Hart (2014). *Bret 'The Hitman' Hart opens up on Ottawa Morning* (http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2471776590) (Radio). Canada: CBC.

Videos

- Bret Hart (2016). *Bret Hart's Calgary: Famed pro wrestler tours most memorable places in his home town* (http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/bret-hart-calgary-video-tour-calgary-crossroads-1.3435286) (Video). Canada: CBC.

- Bret Hart (2015). *Bret Hart discusses returning to Ottawa* (http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/bret-hart-discusses-returning-to-ottawa-1.2699848) (Video). Canada: CBC.

Interviews

- Bret Hart (2010). "From The Archives: Interview with Bret 'Hitman' Hart" (https://web.archive.org/web/20190325164012/http://www.chinlock.com/2013/11/from-the-archives-interview-with-bret-hitman-hart/) (Interview). Interviewed by Jan Murphy. Archived from the original (http://www.chinlock.com/2013/11/from-the-archives-interview-with-bret-hitman-hart/) on March 25, 2019. Retrieved May 1, 2016 – via Chinlock.com.

Articles

- Konuwa, Alfred (February 1, 2016), "Bret Hart Criticizes His Legendary Match Against British Bulldog In New Documentary" (https://www.forbes.com/sites/alfredkonuwa/2016/02/01/bret-hart-criticizes-his-legendary-match-against-british-bulldog-in-new-documentary/#10d953264598), *Forbes*
- Warmington, Joe (January 10, 2001), "Hitman's son has confidence in his dad" (https://archive.today/20190108093115/http://www.canoe.ca/SlamWrestlingBretHart/01jan10_blade.html), *Toronto Sun*, archived from the original on January 8, 2019

External links

- Official website (http://www.brethart.com/)
- Bret Hart (https://www.wwe.com/superstars/brethart) on WWE.com
- Bret Hart's profile at Cagematch.net (https://www.cagematch.net/?id=2&nr=565) , Wrestlingdata.com (https://www.wrestlingdata.com/index.php?befehl=bios&wrestler=25) , Internet Wrestling Database (http://www.profightdb.com/wrestlers/bret-hart-52.html)
- Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame Profile (https://web.archive.org/web/20160618221317/http://0362dc8.netsolhost.com/halloffamers/bios/hart_bret.asp)

, archive of news stories concerning Hart from Canoe.com

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bret_Hart&oldid=1213155063"