

## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 FROM THE DESK OF ...**  
BY STU SAKS
- 6 BEFORE THE BELL**  
BY MIKE BESSLER
- 10 RINGSIDE**  
WITH HARRY BURKETT
- 14 QUICK COUNT**  
BY AL CASTLE
- 16 STRAIGHT SHOOTER**  
BY AL CASTLE
- 18 WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW**  
BY HARRY BURKETT
- 60 THE BUSINESS PAGE**  
BY HARRY BURKETT
- 64 INDEPENDENT ROUNDUP**  
BY MIKE BESSLER
- 66 INTERNATIONAL REPORT**  
BY DAN MURPHY
- 68 ARENA REPORTS**
- 78 BETWEEN FALLS**
- 80 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
- 82 DRAWING BLOOD**  
BY JASON CONLAN

## STAY CONNECTED!

### REACHING YOU ...

**Pro Wrestling Illustrated—August 2017 (PWI Poll):** Digital edition on sale May 4; print edition on sale May 30

**Website:** [www.pwi-online.com](http://www.pwi-online.com)

**The PWI Podcast:** [pwi.podbean.com](http://pwi.podbean.com); iTunes Store

**Back Issues:** Every *PWI* cover since 1979 can be viewed at our website. Back issue availability is noted

### REACHING US ...

**General e-mail:** [pwi@kappapublishing.com](mailto:pwi@kappapublishing.com)

**Letters to the editor:** [prowrestlingillustrated@yahoo.com](mailto:prowrestlingillustrated@yahoo.com)

**Editorial mail:** P.O. Box 96, Fort Washington, PA 19034

**Arena Reports e-mail:** [pwiresults@yahoo.com](mailto:pwiresults@yahoo.com)

**Podcast e-mail:** [pwiipodcast@outlook.com](mailto:pwiipodcast@outlook.com)

**Independent news e-mail:** [officialpwi@gmail.com](mailto:officialpwi@gmail.com)

**Subscription Inquiries:** Kappa Publishing Group Inc., P.O. Box 433120, Palm Coast, FL 32143-3120

**Subscription phone:** 386-246-0114

**Subscription e-mail:** [custsrvc@kappapublishing.com](mailto:custsrvc@kappapublishing.com)

### REACHING EACH OTHER ...

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pages/PWI/127711697289232?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/PWI/127711697289232?fref=ts)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/officialpwi](http://twitter.com/officialpwi)

## FEATURES

- 20 HOTSEAT: CODY RHODES**  
Within six months of doing the unthinkable—voluntarily leaving WWE—the freest of free agents worked for ROH, PWG, Impact Wrestling, and EVOLVE. He made five separate trips to the U.K. and wrestled in New Japan's Wrestle Kingdom at the Tokyo Dome. He even had a major TV role on *Arrow*. Any regrets about quitting WWE? Not that he would admit to in this exclusive Q&A
- 28 “REMEMBER, REMEMBER, THE 15TH OF JANUARY”: A DAY OF HONOR FOR TYLER BATE**  
An ancestor may have failed in a plot to assassinate the king 400 years ago, but 19-year-old Tyler Bate prevailed in a tournament field of 16 to capture the WWE U.K. title
- 32 A REAL FISH STORY**  
Bobby Fish had a whopper of a story to tell *PWI*, letting on that as recently as four years ago, he was on the verge of quitting his pursuit of a full-time wrestling gig for a job at Target. Ring of Honor came a callin' just in the nick of time!
- 36 STAR'S WAR: LUCHADORA SEXY STAR REVEALS WHY SHE'S COMPELLED TO WRESTLE MEN**  
We'll tell you right here: Sexy Star puts her body on the line against men nearly twice her size because a certain unnamed member of the male gender once left her with a deep psychological scar. This may be a job for Dr. Sidney M. Basil!
- 40 WRESTLEMANIA: THE ALL-TIME SLEEPERS, FLOPS, & MAGICAL MOMENTS**  
With 32 years of history to draw from, it wasn't easy to narrow the list to 10 in each category. Relive these 'Mania Moments with us and offer your feedback
- 45 PWI'S ANNUAL REPORT CARDS: HOW DID 100 STARS FARE IN 2016?**  
Sasha Banks and Charlotte Flair have been battling for the one and only Raw Women's title for the better part of a year. Fortunately, there was more than one A+ to go around. Perhaps that's why they didn't come to blows during the cover shoot!
- COVER PHOTO:**  
©2017 WWE, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
- COVER DESIGN:**  
JULIA TRAN