

WWE gets RAW at Rose Quarter

WWE's Monday Night RAW visits Portland and is welcomed by countless fans as they arrive

By Robert Morrison
The Clackamas Print

World Wrestling Entertainment, WWE, is one of the biggest financial sound entertainment business there. Not only are they a top company but they also have been on the NYSE and have their own film company. Behind chairman Vince McMahon, they have become a force in sports entertainment. Their stars travel around the world on shows for their fans. These stars train a lifetime to meet the goal of becoming a top star in the business of pro wrestling.

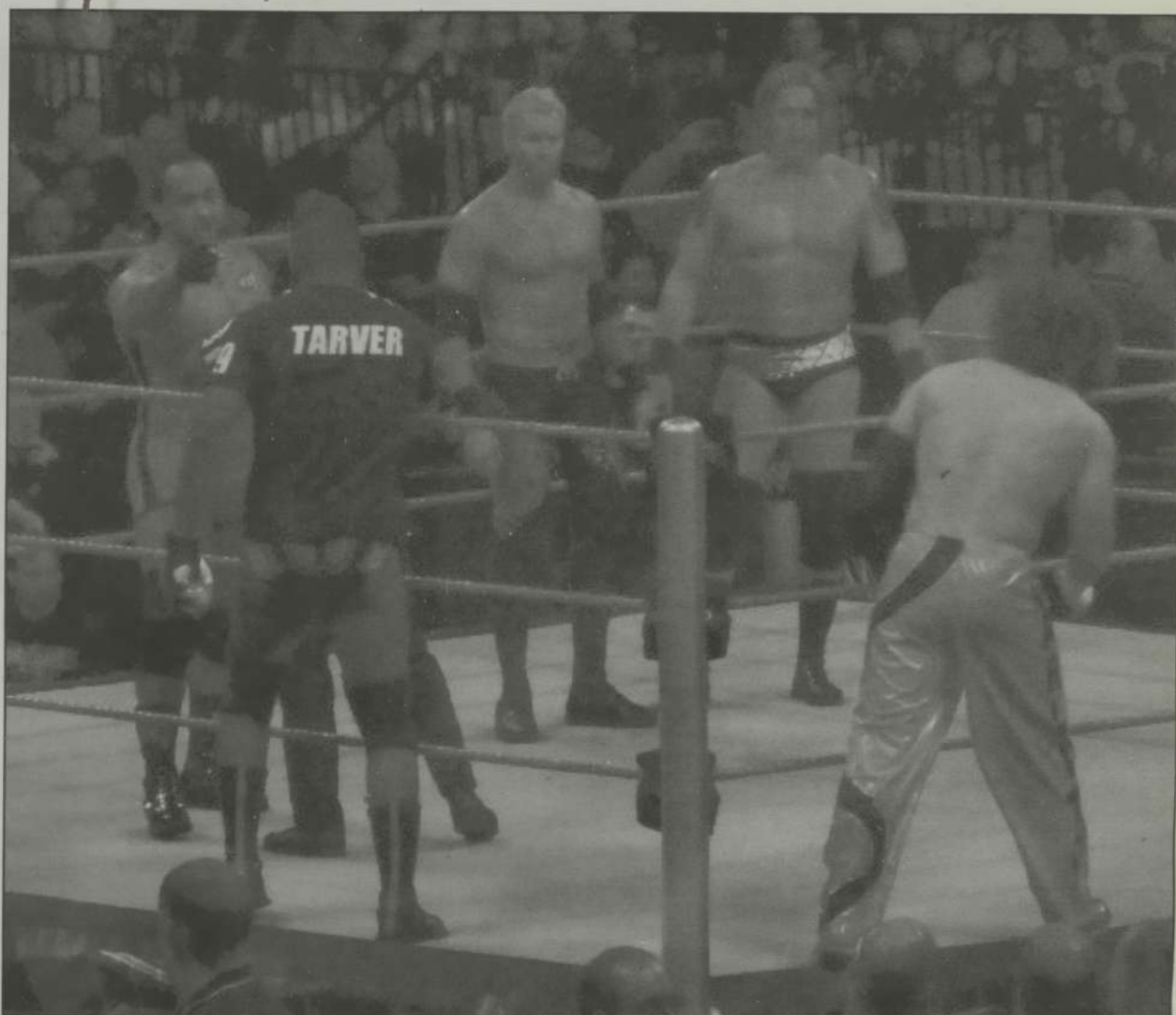
WWE's superstars flew in to Portland on multiple airplanes on Sunday, March 7 for their Monday Night RAW show. Fans that were able to get a scoop on when they would be arriving flooded the baggage area. Julie Anderson was one of the fans that saw RAW's guest host, Criss Angel. "He's the only one I want to have met almost every star but Criss Angel is the one I care about," Anderson said.

Criss Angel, a illusionist, was not able to be found. Leaving many to speculate that he got around his fans somehow. Over the 15 hours that the stars were arriving, many fans had this chance to get cards signed or have their babies signed.

Among the female wrestlers, or divas, to arrive were Nikki and Brie Bella. The Bella Twins are what they are called to in the WWE. They were surrounded by a few fans who were excited enough to catch them running through the fans that had arrived early. Many fans wanted interviews, the stars were more than happy to participate replying with "yes" and "of course you may."

Like the Bellas, there were those who wouldn't take pictures with their divas. Among these was a Diva by the name of Maryse. When approached for a picture by a fan, she looked back at him and said, "I don't take pictures" in a French accent.

The majority of the wrestlers were on their way to Portland from a non-televised event so many were exhausted from the trip. Some came from different locations other than the house



Julie Sanchez CNO

WWE wrestlers get ready for a tag team match as RAW begins Monday, March 8. Fans sit at ringside to watch the night's festivities at the Rose Quarter arena.

show. The Miz said, "I just arrived from Australia and it was a long flight."

Other exhausted stars such as Mark Henry were feeling ill or took off as soon as arriving, like Shawn Michaels did. He was kind enough to give his fans a wave with cell phone in hand as his town car pulled away.

Monday Night RAW took place March 8 from the Rose Quarter. The crowd was as big as it could get. Hundreds of people crowded the Rose Quarter for the show. There were cheers and boos and even a sign taken away. Some vulgar comments were made from a group of fans in a corner part of the better seats but soon died down. The show lasted two hours and had a non-televised match at the

conclusion of the evening. The crowd was involved throughout the show as wrestlers high fived fans and were even thrown into the area where they sit. Criss Angel made his first appearance since arriving in Portland during the show. He did a number of tricks to amaze the crowd. He also came out to announce the wrestlers for the final match.

The technical and camera crews showed no known errors as the show went along without a hitch. During the non-televised match there was a mistake with a wrestlers music played when they were already in the match wrestling. The wrestler played it as if it was meant to happen and used it to play the crowd.

The WWE was in Portland for the

third time in five years after being told to stay away because of a drug testing argument. This being the last of the two brands that have come. Smackdown being the other brand for the WWE and the other event being the PPV, No Mercy. The WWE took a lot of time to show the fans here that they are as wanted as any others. Most the wrestlers, even when exhausted, showed poise and kindness to make room for a couple autographs.

The WWE weekend had fans standing on their feet applauding. People can argue whether wrestling is fake or not but one thing is true, wrestlers are athletes, have the fame, and all the expectations that come with it as many kids and even adults look up to them.

Cougars come to play as the start of the season begins

By Steven Weldon
Associate Sports Editor

Break in your glove and shake off that winter rust, baseball season is just around the corner. After months of practice the Cougars look to aim high this season. After a fifth place finish at the 2009 Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championships that ended with a rough loss to rival Mt. Hood, the Cougars appear poised to make a splash this season.

With a host of returning sophomores including All-NWAACC relief pitcher Taylor Hill, top hitter and first team all-Southern Region outfielder David Greenstein and defensive mastermind and second team all-Southern Region second baseman Johnny Wade, the Cougars return strong players.

Hill went 3-2 with six saves, a 1.70 ERA, and 36 strikeouts in 16 appearances last season, while on the offensive side Greenstein hit for a .372 average and 30 RBIs. Wade hit for a .331 average.

Head coach Robin Robinson said, "We've

been working really hard. [We] feel really good about the club."

Robinson highlighted the pitching and defense as the most improved aspect of his Cougars. Last season, the pitching staff was top-ten in NWAACC statistical categories of wins, saves, ERA and strikeouts. The Cougars flamethrowers tossed a NWAACC-best 342 strikeouts.

In their first games of the season the Cougars played in The Dalles on March 6, the Cougars defeated Linn-Benton, 8-1 and Spokane, 9-3. However, the next day would not fare so well for the promising squad. Spokane and Linn-Benton figured the Cougars out and they subsequently dropped both games, 6-8 to Spokane, and 5-6 to Linn-Benton. They were hard fought losses but the Cougars keep their heads held high as they look to continue the season.

While it was a rocky start, the Cougars look to bounce back when they face the Linfield University Junior Varsity team at home on Saturday, March 13 at noon. Look for the Cougars to fight strong to make the playoffs and win a championship for Clackamas Community College.



Steven Riley Clackamas Print

These Sterett takes batting practice to prepare for what is to be a hard fought season for the Cougars baseball team.