



AWA coming to Speedrome in 2006

Founded by wrestler/promoter Verne Gagne and associate Wally Karbo, Minneapolis Boxing & Wrestling Club, Inc. originally held membership in the National Wrestling Alliance until dispute recognition of the NWA World heavyweight championship.

In 1960, the group dropped out of the NWA and formed its own brand name (and "sanctioning body"), the American Wrestling Association. Promoter Paul Bowser from the late 1920's to the early 50's, and briefly in the 50's by Chicago promoters Ray Fabiani and Leonard Schwartz had originally used the AWA as a brand name.

Gagne existed as the top regional promoter in the Midwest until the mid-1980's, when, like every other promoter in the industry, he was faced by the realities of cable television and promoter expansion. In 1985, the AWA debuted on ESPN.

The 1990's saw a whole new AWA. Re-named AWA Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. under former Director of Talent and Events, Dale Gagne, along with the last known AWA Light heavyweight Champion, "The Illustrious" Jonnie Stewart and King Kong Bundy were the next new AWA World Champion's. Shortly after, "The Underwear Model" Eric Priest became the youngest AWA World Champion of all time.

Wrestling legends who have competed at some point during their career in the AWA include Hulk Hogan, Jesse Ventura, Nick Bockwinkel, Harley Race, Curt Hennig, Road Warrior Animal, Road Warrior Hawk, Fritz Von Erich, Pat Patterson, Shawn Michaels, Jerry Lawler, Larry Zbyszko, Rick Martel, Stan Hansen, and Sgt. Slaughter to name just a few.

Speedrome will welcome wrestling Legends [The Honky Tonk Man](#), [Hacksaw Jim Duggan](#), Kimchee & Kamala and [AWA Champion Steve Morino](#).

AWA returns to Indianapolis at the Blossom Chevrolet Indianapolis Speedrome for a unique racing & wrestling program.

Stay tuned to www.speedrome.com for details.