



Pro Wrestling Kids' Style: The Most Amazing Untold Story in Professional Wrestling History, Second Edition

By Shawn Crossen

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Pro Wrestling Kids' Style: The Most Amazing Untold Story in Professional Wrestling History, Second Edition By Shawn Crossen

In 1984, a new wrestling league was created on a cable television channel in Minnesota. "The Kids Pro Wrestling Show" started out as fun and games, but was soon seen in the living rooms of thousands across the country via cable television, and the National Wrestling Federation (NWF) was born.

For five years, the NWF was managed and promoted by a young and talented kid named Shawn Crossen, otherwise known as "Crusher Crossen" in the ring. In 1984, Shawn was just 14 years old, but by 1986, he was promoting live wrestling venues at local armory halls in front of hundreds of paid spectators and nationwide cable audiences.

But going from bed mattresses in a basement to live public cards in a professional wrestling ring did not come easy. The evolution took years to accomplish with many obstacles along the way. From cable tv suspensions to insurance problems, there were always a host of problems to deal with. Yet somehow, Shawn managed to make it all work. And all the while, the NWF had positive community support with several newspaper articles written about it—this long before the existence of the backyard-type youth wrestling leagues now so commonly seen today.

But unlike the backyard style wrestling leagues of today's time, the NWF was a much different venture. Similar to the major leagues of professional wrestling, the NWF came across very professional looking and organized. This in turn would explain the reasons why the league had such great success.

NWF Wrestling was a popular attraction to kids and adults alike and seemed like it would last forever. So what ever happened to this incredible league? Now, for the first time in nearly 20 years, Shawn "Crusher" Crossen has come forth with this remarkable story that tells the entire sequence of events, from the birth of it's creation, to the final bell. Whether you're a fan of wrestling or not, you will find yourself marveled at the abilities of this very talented 14-year-old and the league he created.

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Pro Wrestling Kids' Style: The Most Amazing Untold Story in Professional Wrestling History, Second Edition By Shawn Crossen Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2819604 in Books
- Brand: Brand: NWF Books
- Published on: 2005-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .88" h x 6.28" w x 9.22" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 147 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

This was more than just a bunch of kids getting inside the ring, there was an educational aspect as well. -- *Howard Balzer - ESPN Radio*

You have to admire the ingenuity of the young kid who was sending out tapes to countless cable companies... -- *Mike Johnson - Pro Wrestling Insider*

About the Author

Born in Coon Rapids, Minn., Shawn Crossen began his professional career a little earlier than most – he was 14. Not one to let a little thing like age stop him, Crossen formed a kid's pro wrestling league and televised their matches on cable television. The idea began when Crossen took classes from his local cable access channel on how to produce, edit, and shoot a TV show. The rest, as they say, is history.

In 1984, Crossen founded the National Wrestling Federation (NWF) in his basement with a few friends. They used mattresses as a ring and came up with their own names: titles like "Crusher Crossen," "Jackknife Jacob," and "Killer Kampa." Crossen orchestrated the matches, taped and edited the videos, and set the whole thing to music. He then sent the tapes to local cable networks, and amazingly enough, the tapes raised some interest. Eventually, "The Kid's Pro Wrestling Show" was broadcast weekly on local cable networks throughout Minnesota. Crossen and his friends were even featured in the local newspaper and on a local nightly news television broadcast.

Local coverage may have satisfied some, but Crossen was no ordinary 14-year-old. The "The Kid's Pro Wrestling Show" story lines became more complex, and the shows were complete with announcers and post-match interviews. Soon, the show was being broadcast nationally in places like Dallas, Miami, and Los Angeles.

Crossen and his friends even held live wrestling matches for the public to attend. They sold tickets for the events, secured sponsors, created flyers and programs, and organized concessions. Then, they wrestled for hundreds of NWF fans in a sold-out arena. The kids pro wrestlers used the profits from the NWF's live wrestling matches to make improvements to their weekly television show. They upgraded their wrestling ring and moved matches to the local junior high school for the tapings.

For five years, "The Kid's Pro Wrestling Show" appeared in homes across the country. Crossen was the driving force behind the show's success and made the NWF a popular attraction for children and adults alike. Now, 20 years later, Crossen is sharing his story with the world. *Pro Wrestling Kids' Style* delves into the complicated world of kid's pro wrestling and tells the remarkable story of how he was able to achieve so much at such a young age.

"We were pioneers," says Crossen. "We maintained positive community support and managed to run our very own professional wrestling league in a time when such a thing was simply unheard of. It's really an incredible story of what a kid's dream can become."

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