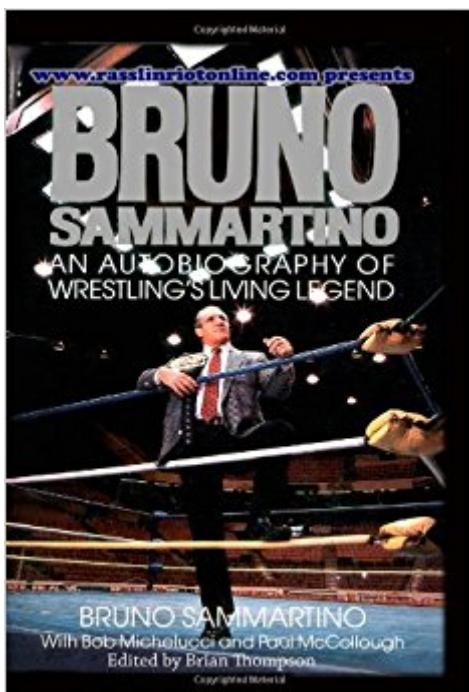


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Bruno Sammartino: An Autobiography Of Wrestling's Living Legend



Synopsis

Former wrestling great Bruno Sammartino held the World Wrestling Federation Championship for more than 12 years throughout his two title reigns from 1963 thru 1971 and 1973 thru 1977. Bruno headlined New York's Madison Square Garden 211 times and sold out MSG an astounding 187 times during his career! Through all these years this astounding record has never been broken by any other sports or entertainment figure. Bruno was born on October 6, 1935 in a small Italian town named Pizzoferrato. Bruno and his family survived the horrors of World War II and then immigrated to the United States. Upon arriving in America, Bruno was 14-years-old and weighed a mere 90 pounds. With sheer will and determination Bruno overcame many obstacles throughout his personal and professional life to become one of the most popular and respected wrestlers of all time, earning him the title of wrestling's "Living Legend."

Book Information

Paperback: 274 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (November 29, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1440476985

ISBN-13: 978-1440476983

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #807,498 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #184 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Wrestling #28552 in Books > Sports & Outdoors

Customer Reviews

A must read for any pro wrestling fan who wants to learn more about the old school days, when famous athletes of the day were also heroes of their people, the first and second generation immigrants who came to this country and revered athletes like Sammartino, and boxers Rocky Marciano & Primo Carnera. The story weaves in Sammartino's difficult childhood in Italy during World War II, and his family's perilous survival, his beginnings as a pro wrestler where he would wrestle for just a few dollars, to his disputes with Vince McMahon, Sr., his relationship with Vince McMahon, Jr., to his eventual superstardom at the WWF, where he would sell out Madison Square Garden time after time, to his retirement & issues with his son, who also tried to become a pro

wrestler. For years, Sammartino refused to be inducted into the WWE's Hall of Fame because he disapproved of the direction the show had taken during the attitude years & disputes with the McMahons. It would be nice if a new edition could be issued, covering Sammartino's induction into the WWE's Hall of Fame, which came about after Triple H became a powerhouse in the office at the WWE and convinced Sammartino & treated his induction with the dignity Bruno would have wanted. No one deserved it more.

A Reviewer here complained that Bruno did not "tell all". But what is there to tell? Matches were scripted, from the moves themselves to the soap opera storyline. He says that Blassie's book tells all - but ironically, Blassie describes how "real matches" were most definitely part of the mix. Moving on, this is a happy read - most especially to the "baby boomer" who may have wondered if The Champ was doing well, in his retirement. It's a good story and is particularly interesting when Sammartino speaks of his son, almost stubbornly seeking a full wrestling career. The book is loaded with photos, personal and professional. Takes me way back to Sr. Vince McMahon and Saturday TV matches. (Were they four hours?). I'm always thinking back to a match sometime in 1964, at the Teaneck Armory, in Teaneck, New Jersey. Sammartino versus Monsoon. I can still see - and I still can't believe it - Bruno lifting over his head, the 357 pound man from Manchuria who ended up outside the ring and on his back. And just like a book on Monsoon I recently bought, there is no "time line" or handy lists...of anything. If a reader out there knows that date in 1964, I'd be obliged!

When you look at wrestlers (male or female) today, it looks completely staged. Then I read how the sport of wrestling was fought years ago, it gives you a whole new outlook on the sport. I thought wrestling was always a circus act. Thats not so. When you read Bruno Sammartino's autobiography it very interesting to learn that wrestlers truly earned their world titles as a result of their hard earned talent. I can not watch today's actors in the ring.

Great read about a legend, by a legend, that refused to fake it. I loved all aspects of the story, in and out of the ring...

I just finished reading Bruno's autobiography earlier this afternoon...few things in life ever live up to the anticipation, however this book was definitely an exception...what a pleasure it was to read about the man I have looked up to since I was 12 years old...A large part of my enjoyment was derived from the nostalgia that I felt throughout the book...as an example, when Bruno spoke about

his twin sons being born, I had a flashback of him doing an interview with Ray Morgan on Capitol Wrestling a week or two later...if memory serves me correctly, he was attacked during this interview by the sinister Toru Tanaka...As fate would have it, wrestling came to Long Island (at the old Island Gardens in West Hempstead) a few months later, and the main event was Bruno vs. Tanaka...My Dad was a casual fan, but I convinced him that we needed to go to see Bruno exact revenge...that was my first ever wrestling show and needless to say I have been hooked for life...I think what I liked most about the book was the way it was written...I've read many many autobiographies of athletes since I was old enough to read...most times, what I read didn't quite match up with who I was reading about...in this case, it was almost like I could hear Bruno reading the book to me...if that makes any sense...I guess what I am trying to say is that the grace, class and humility I've heard from Bruno all my life was reflected in this book. Although no one will ever mistake me for Bruno, I am very proud of the things we have in common....the same initials, Italian heritage, love of weightlifting, and the fact that we both have 3 sons . I will definitely read this book again...it brought back so many great memories of my childhood...the book could have been 1,000 pages long and I would have read it with the same enjoyment on the 1000th page as I did on the 1st.

Grew up watching this guy do his thing. Still watch wrestling when I can and this will fill some of the mysteries in about one of the games heros.

Great gift for Wrestling Lovers. Bruno Sammartino is one of the most heralded and respected Heavyweight Wrestling champs of all-time. Hardcore wrestling fans will love to read this book and newer (and younger) fans should be introduced to one of the all-time greats who wrestled in supremacy through the 60's and 70's (one of the longest running WWF champs of all-time)

Thank - you!

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