

WRESTLING'S
TOUGH GUYS

TRIPLE H

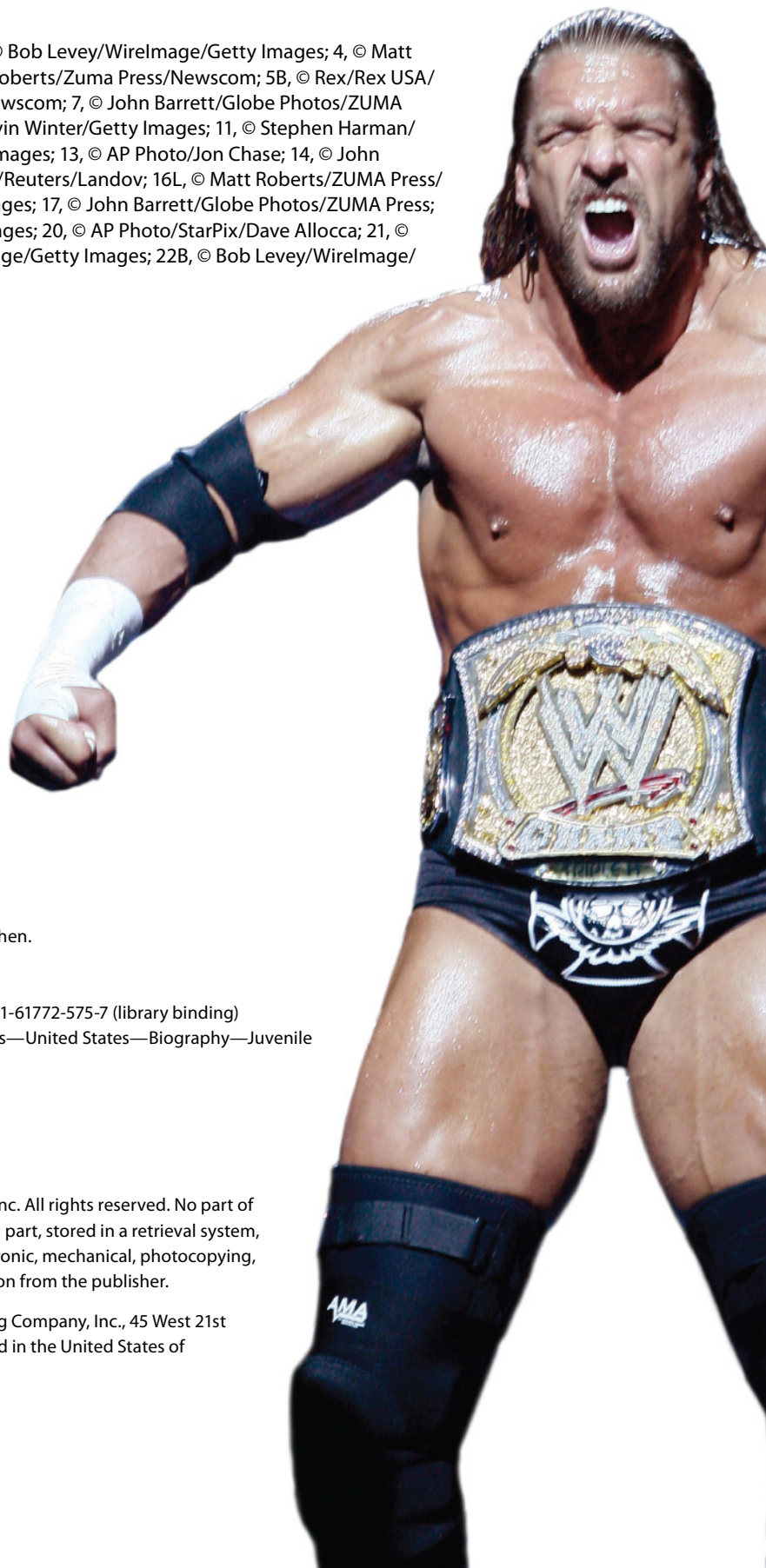


by Michael Sandler

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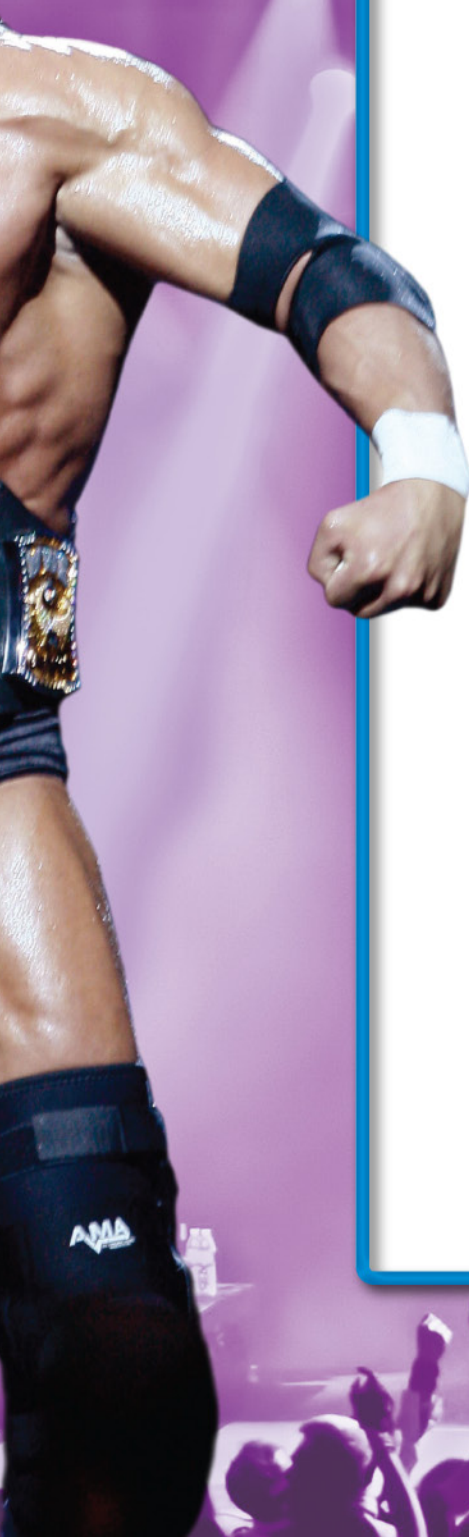
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Contents

Showdown with the Punk	4
Still the Boss	6
A Roadside Sign.....	8
Building the Body.....	10
Learning to Wrestle	12
The Big Time.....	14
The Toughest Champion	16
Better Than Ever	18
The Love of Wrestling	20
The Triple H File.....	22
Glossary	23
Bibliography	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24
Index	24



Showdown with the Punk

On September 18, 2011, Triple H walked toward the ring and his opponent, CM Punk. The two **rivals** glared at each other. This match was going to be ugly!

Before he got into the ring, Triple H turned to salute the crowd. That's when CM Punk snuck up from behind and slammed Triple H's head with a **forearm** smash. The match hadn't even begun, but already the two men were battling.

Triple H

Triple H wasn't just a wrestler. He was also one of the **WWE's top executives**. More than just a win was at stake for him. If he lost to CM Punk, Triple H had promised to give up his job.



When the bell rang to signal the start of the match, the two wrestlers were outside the ring, hurling each other across the announcers' tables. The referee was helpless in this **no disqualification match**. The rules meant nothing!



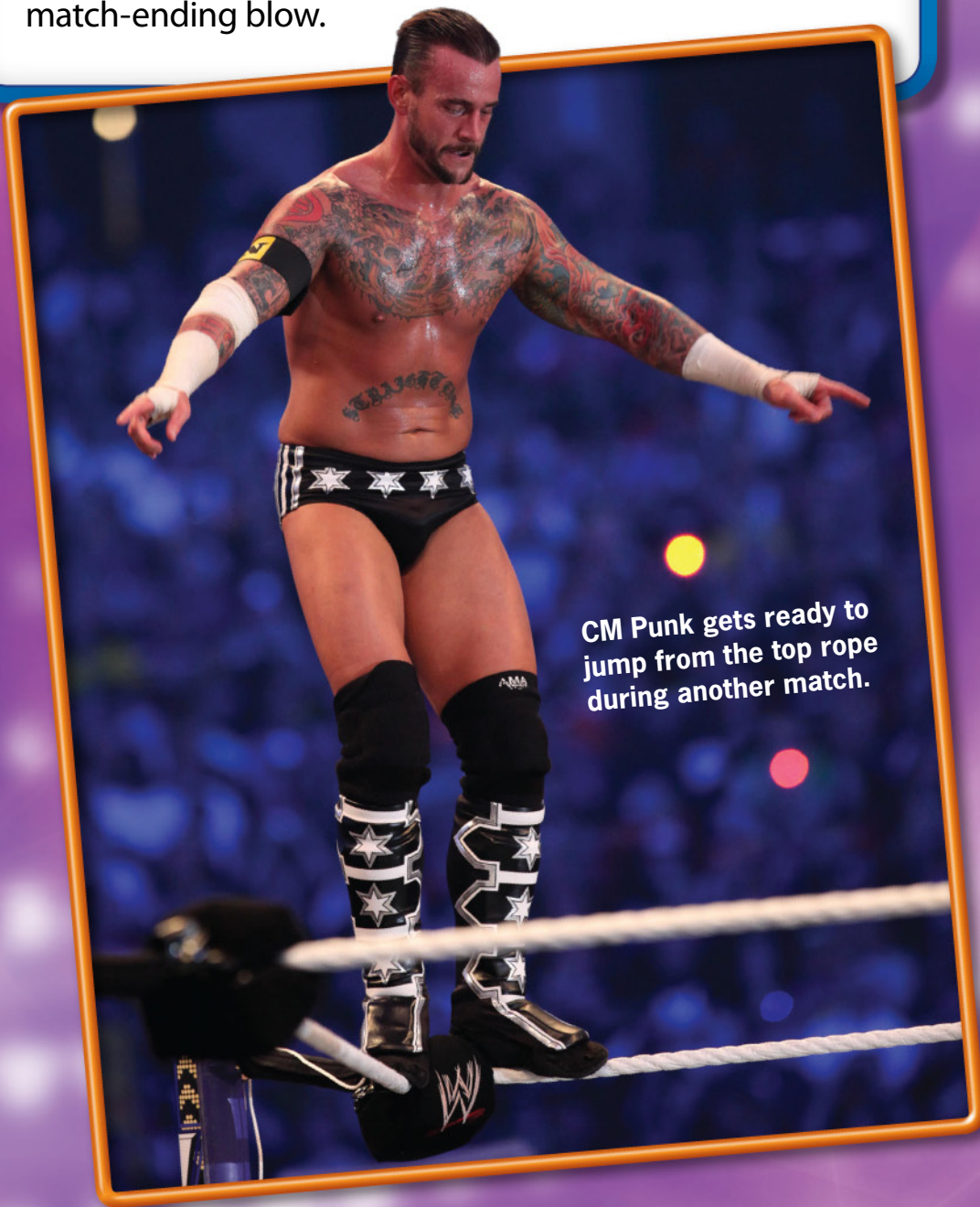
CM Punk in action with Randy Orton



CM Punk

Still the Boss

As the battle raged on, the action occurred both inside and outside the ring. At one point, CM Punk kicked Triple H into a set of metal steps. Then he climbed to the top rope of the ring and leaped at Triple H, hoping to deliver a match-ending blow.

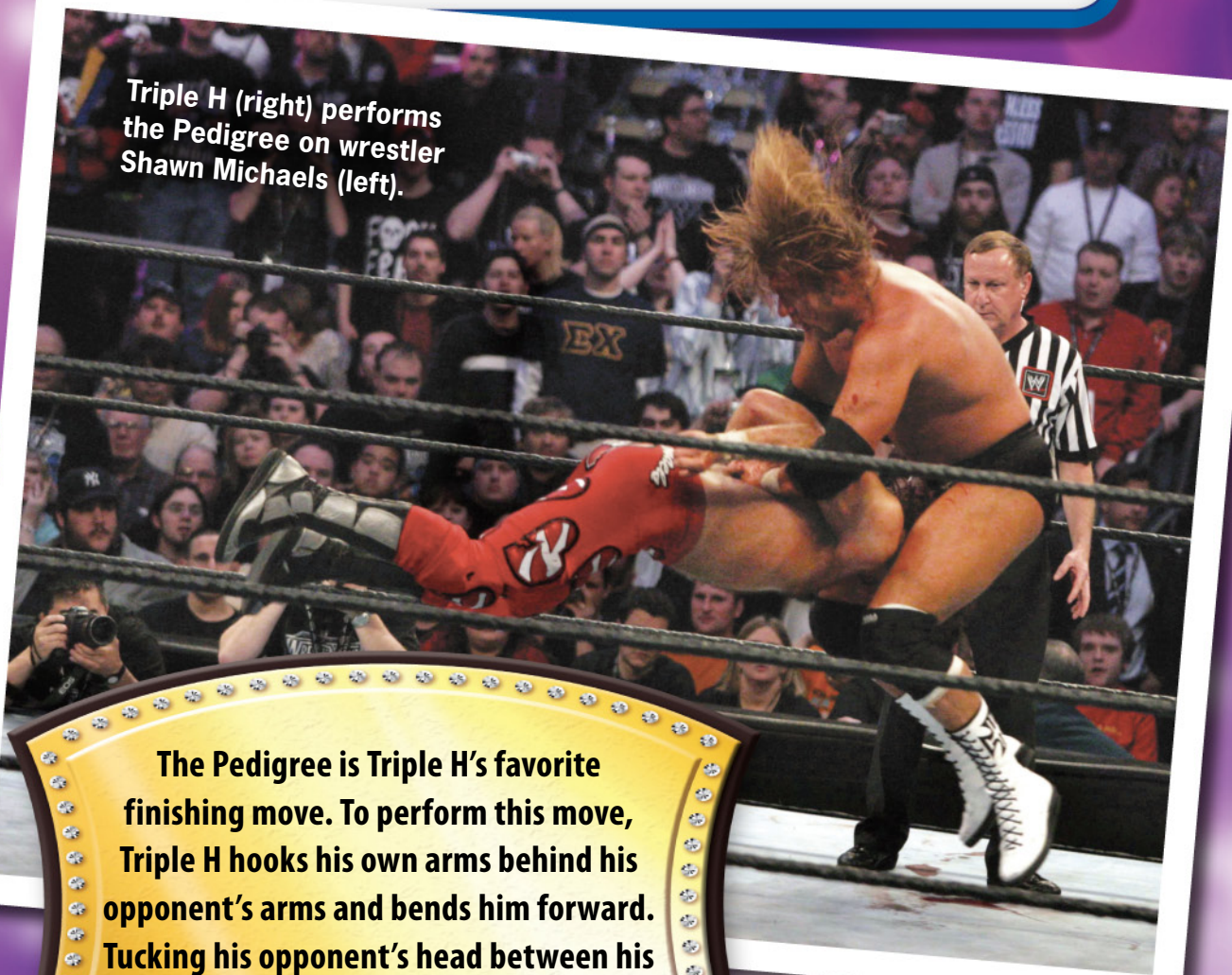


CM Punk gets ready to jump from the top rope during another match.

Triple H was ready, however. As CM Punk jumped from the rope, Triple H kicked him hard. Then he smashed CM Punk to the mat with his **signature move**—the Pedigree.

CM Punk squirmed away, however, avoiding the **pin**. A few minutes later, Triple H delivered a match-ending Pedigree. He had defeated CM Punk, and by winning, he got to keep his job.

Triple H (right) performs the Pedigree on wrestler Shawn Michaels (left).



The Pedigree is Triple H's favorite finishing move. To perform this move, Triple H hooks his own arms behind his opponent's arms and bends him forward. Tucking his opponent's head between his own legs, Triple H jumps, slamming his opponent's face into the mat.

A Roadside Sign

While growing up in New Hampshire, Paul Michael Levesque had no idea he would one day become Triple H. In fact, it took a lucky car ride to start him on the path to wrestling stardom. One afternoon, the skinny 14-year-old was riding with a friend. They saw a sign advertising a new local gym called Muscles in Motion. The gym offered free passes, good for a week of training.



Paul Michael Levesque was born on July 27, 1969, and grew up in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Let's try it, they thought. Once inside the gym, Paul was immediately blown away. He heard barbells clinking. He saw powerful **bodybuilders** lifting huge weights. He thought it was the coolest place he'd ever been. He knew right away he wanted to join.



Bodybuilders often spend years lifting heavier and heavier weights to develop their bodies.

As a teen, Paul delivered newspapers. He used the money he earned to pay for his gym membership.

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