

International wrestling talent coming to ESW

World-traveled wrestlers to be featured with top local wrestlers in Niagara Falls

Empire State Wrestling returns to Niagara Falls for its first event of 2022 with "Spring Breakdown" on Saturday, March 5, at the Frontier Fire Hall, 2176 Liberty Drive, Niagara Falls. This will be the second consecutive event held at Frontier by ESW.

"Spring Breakdown" will include many independent wrestling stars from across the Northeast who possess extensive experience wrestling overseas. They will be featured on the card alongside the best wrestlers based in Western New York.

Included will be:
 ✓ A battle between former close friends when ESW heavyweight champion "The Aesthetic Crippler" Kevin Blackwood defends the title versus "The Remix" Kevin Bennett.

✓ Former Ring of Honor Television Champion "The Last Real Man" Silas Young returns to

ESW to face "Blue Thunder" Jay Freddie.

✓ Former Impact Wrestling X-Division Champion Jake Crist will debut against North Tonawanda's Vinnie Moon.

✓ All-Japan Pro Wrestling tag team The Saito Brothers will make their ESW debut.

✓ 2021 Ilio DiPaolo Cup winner "Invincible" Vince Valor will be in action against the returning longtime Erie-based independent wrestling star "Big League" John McChesney.

✓ A tag team match featuring "The Big Bang" Jerk Cockins and "Courageous" Christina Marie against "Tasty Boy" Keenan Moore and the debuting "Number One Angel" Notorious Mimi.

✓ Other top independent wrestling stars returning to ESW include the New England-based J.T. Dunn, former Ring of Honor star LSG, one half of the ESW Tag Team Champions Gregory Iron and deathmatch wrestling

upstart Atticus Cogar.

✓ Among the locally based wrestlers that will be in action include current and longest reigning ESW Interstate Champion Frankie Feathers, former ESW Tag Team Champion James Sayga and many others.

Stay tuned to ESW's social media outlets for further match announcements.

First-row tickets are sold out. Second-row tickets are available for \$25. General admission tickets are available for \$20. Tickets can be purchased at www.ESW-tix.com. Doors open at 5 p.m. with a bell-time set for 6 p.m.

As Western New York's premier independent professional wrestling promotion, ESW has hosted many of pro wrestling's top up-and-comers and biggest legends over the years:

• Current World Wrestling Entertainment stars Kevin Owens, MVP, Jinder Mahal, Cedric Alexander, Tommaso Ciampa,

Damian Priest, Candice LeRae, Joaquin Wilde, Robert Stone, Joe Gacy, Josh Briggs and Nash Carter all wrestled in ESW's ring.

• Many current All-Elite Wrestling stars also wrestled for ESW including Matt Hardy, Billy Gunn, Dustin Rhodes, MJF, Adam Cole, Orange Cassidy, Eddie Kingston, Ruby Soho, Colt Cabana, Lucha Bros, Best Friends, The Butcher and The Blade, Daniel Garcia, Brian Pillman Jr., Allie, Matt Sydal, Ethan Page, Evil Uno, Private Party, Shawn Spears, Bear Country, Bobby Fish, Brody King, Tony Nese and Mark Sterling.

• Pro wrestling legends Kevin Nash, Brutus Beefcake, Sgt. Slaughter, X-Pac, The Honky Tonk Man, Jim Duggan, Koko B. Ware, Bushwacker Luke, Demolition, D-Von Dudley, Raven, The Sandman and several others appeared at previous ESW events.

Founded in 2002, ESW is run

by Brett Stymus. Over half of ESW's performers reside in the Western New York area. ESW runs regular shows throughout the year that draw up to 400 fans, and an annual "super show" that boasts crowds of up to 1,000 people.

All cards are subject to change. Connect with ESW on the following platforms:

- ✓ Website: <http://eswwrestling.com/>
- ✓ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ESWwrestling/>
- ✓ Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eswwrestling/>
- ✓ Twitter: <https://twitter.com/eswwrestling>
- ✓ YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EmpireStateWrestling>
- ✓ Pivotshare: <https://eswwrestling.pivotshare.com>
- ✓ Independent Wrestling.TV: <https://independentwrestling.tv/promotion/empire-state>

IN THE NEWS

Luke Baecker named chair of 39th annual Taste of Buffalo presented by Tops

The Taste of Buffalo presented by Tops announced Luke Baecker, CPA, CGMA, a fund administrator at Roofers Local No. 74 / 203 Benefit Funds, has been elected chair of the festival's board of directors. He will lead planning efforts for the 39th annual event, which takes place on July 9-10 along Delaware Avenue and Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo.

Baecker joined the board in 2010 as assistant treasurer and went on to serve as treasurer for eight years. He is a graduate of the University at Buffalo, where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He resides in Lancaster with his wife, Andrea, and their two daughters.

"I love food and being involved in Buffalo's premiere summertime food event," Baecker said. "The restaurant community continues to be impacted by the pandemic, and my hope for the 2022 Taste of Buffalo is to introduce people to new restaurants and support these local businesses that everyone loves."

In addition to Baecker, the following individuals were named officers for the 2022 term: first vice chair: Elizabeth Mamot, Aventura LLC; second vice chair: Tom Mahoney, SAHD; secretary: Matthew Reis, Tallinger Associates, FCSI; treasurer: Rozana Ayanbadejo, Catholic Health; and past chair: Amber Hartman, National Veterinary Associates.

Scholarships to Local Foodservice & Hospitality Students

The Taste of Buffalo presented by Tops is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program to support Western New York high school seniors aspiring to careers in the foodservice and hospitality industries. This year's program will award four recipients with a \$500 scholarship to be applied toward non-tuition expenses,

such as room, board, books and fees. At least one scholarship will be awarded to a student in the City of Buffalo.

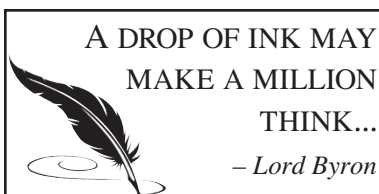
"Every great chef starts out as a student. We hope to encourage the next generation of talented restaurant and hospitality professionals through the Taste of Buffalo scholarship program," Baecker said. "As a not-for-profit organization, giving back to the community is important to us, and this is one of the most impactful ways we can do that each year."

To be eligible for any of the above scholarships, students must be residents of Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, Genesee, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus or Allegany counties, and have enrolled in a two- or four-year college in a foodservice or hospitality degree program.

For additional scholarship criteria and to download an application, visit tasteofbuffalo.com/scholarships.

The application deadline is Wednesday, April 20. All applications will be reviewed by the Taste's scholarship committee. Recipients will be notified no later than May 5.

The Taste of Buffalo presented by Tops is the nation's largest two-day food festival. The 39th annual event will take place July 9-10 along Delaware Avenue and Niagara Square in downtown Buffalo. The Taste is a not-for-profit organization with more than 1,000 volunteers helping to put on the annual event. Approximately \$543,000 has been raised at the festival for local charities, including scholarships awarded annually to local high school seniors pursuing a culinary or hospitality-related degree. For more information, visit tasteofbuffalo.com, or find TOB @tasteofbuffalo on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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NIAGARA PIONEER Soccer League

HOUSE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

BOYS 3-14 GIRLS 3-17



Season May 2nd to June 28th
Mondays & Thursdays 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
FORT NIAGARA
BUMBLEBEES START MAY 9TH
7:00 PM to 7:30 PM

MAIL IN REGISTRATION
TO P.O. BOX 203 YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174

ALL AGE GROUPS \$50 Prior to April 1st
 \$65 After April 1st

WALK-UP REGISTRATION
YOUNGSTOWN RED BRICK SCHOOL
SAT. FEBRUARY 26: 10AM-NOON
SAT. MARCH 26: 10AM-NOON

In an effort to have all players registered to a team to start the season, PLEASE register early to help the forming of equally balanced teams. Registration forms can be found at www.niagarapioneer.com or at Stuart Sports & the Youngstown Red Brick School.

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www.niagarapioneer.com

