

A close-up photograph of a thick, circular brass ring. The ring has a weathered, golden-brown finish with some darker, possibly etched or worn, areas. The interior of the ring is a solid black oval. Centered within this black oval is the text "BRASS RING ROUNDUP" in a white, serif, all-caps font. The text is slightly arched to follow the curve of the ring's interior.

BRASS RING ROUNDUP

June 1st, 2018

[We fade into a black screen with the AWA logo splashed across a starry field. A barrage of lasers flash in from all sides of the screen, etching along the borders of the letters, illuminating the plain white text into glowing and glittering gold. A deep voiceover begins. The words "American Wrestling Alliance" come up one by one at the bottom of the screen.]

"The recognized symbol of excellence in professional wrestling."

[Back to black for a moment...

...and then as we hear the opening notes of a highly edited version of "Countin' Up" by Rico Nasty for just a bit before we fade up on a studio setup - almost like a news desk with four people set up along a long desk, stacks of papers in front of them

and a large TV monitor hanging behind them. The welcoming graphic says we're watching the "Brass Ring Roundup on Hulu."

The camera cuts to the host of the show, the AWA's lead Play By Play man - Salvatore Albano - dressed in a navy blue polo with the Brass Ring logo stitched on the pocket. He is all smiles behind the desk as he speaks.]

SA: My ears are still ringing from the excitement that went down in Dodger Stadium last weekend, fans, but with the AWA, there is never a moment to take it all in because while we saw the end of one legendary career last weekend, we are just days away from seeing sixteen potentially-incredible AWA careers kick off in the Brass Ring Tournament!

[Cut to a graphic showing the full fields on both the men's and women's side of the bracket.]

SA: These sixteen competitors have already started to make waves - we saw AKANE in action last weekend in the Rumble... we saw the full field in Reseda - but this weekend on Showtime in Boyle Heights in the mystical temple of lucha libre, we're going to see some of them make a BIG SPLASH! That's right, it'll be our first Brass Ring Tournament matches this weekend... and here to help me run down the entire first round AND announce exactly when we'll be seeing these matches go down, please join me in welcoming...

[The camera cuts to the managerial mind behind the Westerly Dynasty in a bright red jacket and jet black blouse.]

SA: ...the leader of the Westerly Dynasty, Veronica Westerly! Veronica, you had a busy weekend in Los Angeles so thank you for joining us.

[Westerly sneers at Albano, giving a nod.]

VW: I think we showed this weekend that the Westerly Dynasty is ALWAYS open to expansion... so being able to get up close views on these sixteen competitors is a gift... just like it's a gift to you and all our fans to hear what I think about them.

[Albano nods with a grin.]

SA: Never one to speak lightly. Speaking of speaking lightly, how about our next panel member... an all-time AWA fan favorite and one of the company's ambassadors... the co-host of Showtime on ESPN... it's Sweet Daddy Williams!

[Cut to Williams in a green Combat Corner t-shirt and a white bandana with the AWA logo splashed all over it.]

SDW: Sweet Daddy's in the house and I ain't lookin' for nothin' but a good time talkin' about all this young talent lookin' to break through comin' to Showtime this weekend, baby!

SA: And the final member of our panel this week... and I'm so happy to see you here with us... recently returned to the AWA and one of the AWA Originals when it comes to women's wrestling... Melissa Cannon, welcome to the Brass Ring Roundup!

[Cut to Cannon who is all smiles in a green jacket and white top, nodding.]

MC: Thanks, Big Sal. Like Veronica down there, I'm never one to turn down a chance to scout the future of this business... and since I'm pretty familiar with a lot of the talent in this tournament, it's my pleasure to be here to talk 'em up to the world.

[We cut to the wide shot.]

SA: Sixteen of the best future superstars in the world... now, remember... the Brass Ring Tournament is going to be running all summer long during the Showtime Summer Tour which kicked off two weeks ago in Reseda. Let's talk about the layout of this tournament. We've announced the first round matches... but not a bracket. Because after the first round, the powers that be will shuffle up and deal a brand new set of matches for the Semifinals. Speaking of the Semifinals...

[We cut to a graphic revealing that the first two Semifinal matches will take place on July 21st and the second two on August 4th.]

SA: ...take a look here. Earlier today, the AWA made it official that we'll see two Semifinals in Blue Cross Park in Winnipeg on July 21st... and two Semifinals on August 4th at the Mall of America in Minnesota on August 4th. Of course, we know the Finals is going down on September 1st - the final Showtime On Tour of the summer - One More For The Road from the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York. And that means we've got eight first round matches to get through between this weekend and July 21st... which means we're going to get two matches this weekend, two in Portland at the IIWF Coliseum, two on June 30th in Seattle, and finally, two at the Globe Theatre in Regina before it all gets shaken up.

[Cut back to Albano.]

SA: But which ones will we see which nights? We're just about to get the answer to that question... but before we do, let's go over to Sweet Lou who has a little bit of Breaking News for us! Lou?

[We cut to a shot of Lou in a backstage hallway somewhere.]

SLB: That's right, Big Sal! Big news for Brass Ring fans because not only will we be seeing the competitors in their matches... but we're also being told that the sixteen members of the tournament will be eligible to compete as members of the AWA roster for the duration of the tournament! You heard me right... even if they've been eliminated from the tournament, they're still eligible to compete on ANY AWA show until the tournament ends at the end of summer. It's a summer of opportunity for the sixteen competitors in this tournament!

[Blackwell holds up a finger.]

SLB: And one more piece of Breaking News as we've also just learned that in addition to winning a contract to become a full-time member of the AWA locker room, the winners of this tournament will receive yet another prize - a shot at an AWA championship. Now, the championship in question is still to be determined but it's gotta be a blast of pressure on these competitors as they realize that they're fighting for a job... AND their first shot at AWA championship gold! Back to you, Sal!

[We cut back to the studio where a grinning Sal nods.]

SA: Thanks, Lou! Huge news all around... and for our sixteen competitors watching tonight, they definitely are feeling the pressure now - right, Melissa?

[Cannon nods.]

MC: The pressure is on. Look, I've spent the last year plus exiled from this company. I know how badly I wanted to come back... and I can't even begin to count the number of women from all across this business that I've spoken to over the past year that all wanted to know the same thing - "how do I get a foot in the door?" This. Right here. This is how you do it. The Brass Ring Tournament has

sixteen incredible competitors looking to get their spot... and once they get that spot, they suddenly find themselves on the edge of glory? Incredible.

SA: Alright... so... I'm being told we're going to work backwards on this one. We're heading back to Regina - the scene of last year's Battle of Saskatchewan, a huge two night event featuring one of the AWA's signature showcases - the Stampede Cup. But this year isn't about the Cup... this year's about the Brass Ring! And let's find out exactly which two matches will be on display in the Globe Theatre on July 7th!

[A graphic comes up showing all eight first round matches, scrambling them up and swinging them around a giant Brass Ring on the screen until one appears in the middle...

"Diamond" Lily Driscoll versus Felicia Love]

SA: And there we go! "Diamond" Lily Driscoll taking on Felicia Love in the final women's match for the first round of the Brass Ring... which means they get to sit back and watch all the other competitors go before them. Sweet Daddy, let's go over to you... advantage or disadvantage to go last?

[Williams strokes his chin.]

SDW: I gotta think it's a disadvantage, Big Sal. If it's me, I want out there right away. I want to shake the butterflies in the belly... I want to brush off the nerves and get right out there and see what I can do. It's the start of the June now and we're talking about a first round match on July 21st! That's a lonnnnnnnng time to sit and wait for your turn to shine.

SA: Veronica, your thoughts?

[Cut to Veronica Westerly.]

VW: My thoughts are that... shockingly, I think Williams is right. It's a long time... it's too long. And with the news that these competitors can be scheduled like anyone else on the roster, if I'm either of these women, I'm knocking on President Zharkov's door as soon as possible to get myself in the ring to stay sharp.

SA: Melissa, you said you know a lot of these competitors... what can you tell us about these two women?

[Cannon nods.]

MC: I can tell you that Felicia Love may be small but she can't be taken lightly. She's a very talented competitor... and yeah, bad luck does seem to follow her opponents like a shadow. We've heard rumors of Lily Driscoll talking to people about what she wants to do WHEN she's a member of the AWA locker room... not IF but WHEN... and I like the confidence. But if she looks past Felicia Love, she might find a little of that bad luck showing her the door.

SA: Veronica, you talk about expansion - can you see either of these women as a future member of the Westerly Dynasty?

[Westerly smirks.]

VW: I'm not sure I want to answer that question, Albano... but I'll say that Driscoll's family history is intriguing. I think there are a whole lot of people who know her family well. We all know Rob Driscoll's history in this company. Can his sister repeat his lightning quick charge to the top of the company? We'll see... we'll see.

SA: Alright, AWA fans... Felicia Love versus Lily Driscoll announced as the final women's First Round match in this year's Brass Ring Tournament... now let's find out the men's!

[The graphic comes up again, spinning and scrambling until...

Danny King versus Adrian Kirk]

SA: Ohohohoooo... you talk about a slugfest, folks.

[Williams lets loose a whoop.]

SDW: I can't wait to see this one, Big Sal! A former GFC Heavyweight Champion against one of the meanest, nastiest, hardest hitters in the locker room. They gonna throw bombs, they gonna twist limbs, they gonna put a hurtin' on each other... and don't be surprised if one of 'em ends up knocked out colder than ice, baby!

MC: One hundred percent. Danny King's been looking to make the transition to professional wrestling for quite a while now... and this is his big shot. But he's not the only one looking for a big shot. Adrian Kirk, the Crusherweight - he's been hanging out in Combat Corner Wrestling, trying to impress the right people for a long time. He was once one of the hottest prospects in all of Europe... and now he's getting his chance to break through.

[Albano turns to the third member on the panel.]

SA: Veronica, I know international scouting is in your family's blood... what can you tell us about Adrian Kirk's chances against Danny King?

[Westerly throws up her hands.]

VW: I think it's a crapshoot, Albano. No one knows what to expect of Danny King. We know what to expect of Danny King inside the Hexagon but inside the squared circle is a different beast. A whole lot of people have tried to make that transition from the cage to the ring and fell short of being able to survive our world. Will Danny King be any different or will the King's reign never get off the ground? Because if he's not the best pro wrestler he can be that night in Regina, Adrian Kirk will make him pay and it won't be pretty.

[Albano grins.]

SA: Two matches to look forward to... but before we get to Regina, we'll be headed to Historic Washington Hall in Seattle - the host city of Memorial Day Mayhem back in 2016 - on June 30th. Let's start with the men!

[Up comes the spinning graphic, showing off that Brass Ring until...

Elijah Wilde versus Will Robinson.]

SA: Oh! Big match for Seattle!

MC: You talk about an international incident - these are two of the most respected wrestlers in the world right now. They've got stellar in-ring reputations in Japan... in the UK... even in Mexico. Both of them have been on lists of the best wrestlers in all of Japan and... the Internet exploded when this match was announced and someone in Seattle has been touched by an angel, girl... to get a match like this on the books.

SA: Sweet Daddy, tell me something good.

[Williams chuckles.]

SDW: This could be a showstopper. The high impact brutal style of Wilde. The athleticism, the high flying, the striking of Robinson. Styles make fights, Big Sal... and the styles in this one could make for one of the best fights of the whole tournament.

[Albano turns to Westerly.]

VW: Before you even ask, Albano... I won't tell you if I'm looking to add either of these men to my managerial hold. But I WILL tell you that a man like Elijah Wilde brings a lot to the table both IN and OUT of the ring. The fire in the belly. The outspoken, brash personality. The unpredictability. He's a man who creates excitement whenever he appears wherever he goes... and yes, that's the type of man who might draw my interest down the road.

SA: One to look forward to for sure... and I'm sure the ticket sellers in Seattle just had their phones go crazy for that one. But let's find out which of the three remaining women's matches will go down in Historic Washington Hall on June 30th!

[The graphic returns, spinning and scrambling until...

Big Boss Shinza vs Jo Jo Washington

And Sweet Daddy Williams can be heard giggling.]

SA: Sweet Daddy, you enjoy this matchup, don't you?

[Cut to a grinning Williams who is thisclose to a belly laugh.]

SDW: I do, I do... we just talked about styles making fights... and you won't find more of a styles clash in this whole first round than these two ladies right here. You get the martial arts, the hard hitting style of Big Boss Shinza against the belly-shakin', booty-quakin' bad girl from the Motor City. She's a woman of the people, baby, and I can't wait to see what she brings to the people against the Big Boss.

SA: Veronica, tell us a little of what you know of Big Boss Shinza.

[Westerly smirks.]

VW: I know that she's been red hot on the joshi independent scene for a few years now... constantly landing in some of the best matches all over Japan. She's a striker with submission skills and some devastating slams and suplexes. She's got a judo background that you'll see flashes of at times.

SA: Melissa, anything to add?

MC: I've never stepped into the ring with her, Sal, but I've been on shows with her and what impressed me the most about her is her intensity and her toughness. Shinza is someone you'll see go full speed ahead in a fight... no holds barred... just right at her opponent. And don't forget that she's done her fair share of matches in some of Japan's deathmatch promotions so she can fight too.

SA: And her opponent?

[Cannon grins.]

MC: While I was in Japan desperate for AWA news, I heard all about Jo Jo Washington from my friends back in the States. She's pure charisma and energy.

She gets the crowd going, gets the crowd behind her. She's an... unconventional... wrestler. Very similar to our good pal Sweet Daddy here... or even someone like former AWA superstar City Jack. She'll have the crowd behind her wherever she goes... but she's going to need the steak AND the sizzle to beat Shinza in my opinion.

SA: Halfway home in our announcement of when and where you can see these great Brass Ring superstars in action... which brings us to June 16th in the old IIWF Coliseum in Portland, Oregon! Showtime: Ring Wars is going down that night... and we're down to our Final Four first round matches. Which match on the women's side of the bracket will be on display that night? Let's find out!

[Cue the spinning and swirling Brass Ring graphic. Round and round it goes and when it stops...

Riley Bennett versus Isabella Liriano.]

SA: The Rip City gets a big one with the jewel of the legendary Lirianos taking on the blue collar brawler herself, Riley Bennett!

MC: Sal, you talk about two women with strong fanbases colliding, the Internet is going to be all over this one.

SA: Isabella Liriano, of course, is the grandniece of the legendary Jose Liriano - one of the top stars of the 70s and 80s in the Northeastern United States. She's been down in Combat Corner Wrestling since early last year and she's looking to bring her athleticism, her fiery personality, and her legendary legacy with her to make a grab for that Brass Ring. But she'll have her work cut out for her. Ess-Dee-Dub, tell me something about Riley Bennett.

[Williams nods.]

SDW: The big ol' gal out of Harlan, Kentucky... you called her a blue collar brawler, Big Sal, and that's one hundred percent right. The Coal Miner's Daughter if you will has fought up from nothin' but the dirt under her feet to make it this far. She's fought on the indies in every crazy kinda fight you can think of. She's been down in CCW for a spell too... and she wakes up every day fightin' to make a better life for her baby girls at home than the life she grew up with.

VW: It seems like both of these women are going into this tournament with a strong motivation to succeed... but it remains to be seen if either of them have the killer instinct they'd need to get the job done.

MC: I think you're wrong there. I think they BOTH have the drive to get to the top... no matter what it takes to get there.

VW: We'll see, Ms. Cannon.

[Westerly and Cannon lock eyes for an uncomfortable moment before Albano clears his throat.]

SA: Alright, moving on... let's see who lands in Portland on the men's side of the bracket.

[The graphic comes up, twirling and swirling until...

Rodrick Storm versus Gabriel Cordova.]

SA: Oho! A little bit of an upset there I'm guessing for Mr. Cordova who has made quite a name for himself on the independent scene here in Southern California over

the years. I'm sure he would've loved a little hometown advantage heading into the showdown with the athletic bruiser who has torn the scene apart in Japan over the past few years. Veronica, let's hear some of that international knowledge shine through when it comes to the man they call the Iron Kraken.

[Westerly smirks.]

VW: Well, I have to admit that I've had my eye on Mr. Storm for quite some time now. Six foot nine, 285 pounds... but he can fly like a cruiserweight. He's got the family lineage... he's as tough as they come - you don't survive five years working in Japan, earning your way from those brutal deathmatch promotions all the way to Total Japan Pro Wrestling if you're not tough - this guy is what you'd consider a blue chip prospect who has the whole world in front of him.

[Cannon chips in.]

MC: I've gotta agree, Sal. Rodrick Storm is a guy who made headlines every day working in Japan... and he's a guy that the AWA front office has tried to bring stateside for a while now. And now that he's here, anyone who gets in the ring with him is headed for a rough night at the office.

SA: Even Gabriel Cordova?

SDW: It's not as cut and dry as they say, Big Sal. Yes, Storm is big and bad and he knows it... but Gabriel Cordova ain't a walk in the park neither. This kid is quick, he's agile, he can flat out go with the pedal to the metal and then some. And most of all, he's hungry. He's been toilin' away in CCW since the last Brass Ring tournament, tryin' to break on through to the other side of the AWA locker room but hasn't had the chance... yet. He knows this is his chance... he knows this is his moment... and if he can't get it done now, he may not get it done ever. This is a man who has everything to lose right now and he's gonna come out guns blazin' in Portland in a way that city ain't seen in a long, long time, baby.

SA: Well... with those matches announced, that makes our final two we'll be seeing this weekend in Southern California easy as pie. Let's take a look at the men's side of the bracket...

[The graphic swirls and spins to reveal...

Armani Avery versus Bodhi Li.]

SA: We talked earlier about styles making fights - how about this one coming up this weekend?

MC: It's a huge one! When you compare the uber athleticism of Armani Avery and the rugged striking of Bodhi Li... these are two of the favorites to win the whole thing online and one way or another, one of them will be out after this weekend.

SA: Now, it's important to remember with what was announced earlier... even if you're out after this weekend, you've still got until the end of the summer to impress the powers that be. You're still a member of this roster... of this locker room... until the end of the summer and while it's the winner of the tournament who is GUARANTEED a contract and a title shot... I wouldn't be surprised to see some of these others claw their way onto the roster as well.

SDW: Absolutely, baby... never give up, never back down, keep on fightin'.

SA: Or as one of our corporate colleagues might say - just keep swimmin'.

[Albano turns to Westerly.]

SA: Veronica, talk to me about Bodhi Li.

VW: The big man from Shipwreck Bay, New Zealand... six foot two, 310 pounds... yeah, he's another one I've been aware of for some time. He's got the martial arts background... he's been in toughman fights all over the world... he brings a physical presence... an intimidating aura everywhere he goes... and while Armani Avery is no slouch in the ring either, Bodhi Li is going to be a tough mountain to conquer.

SDW: I agree. After seeing Li in the Combat Corner for the past couple of years, he's ready to grab that Brass Ring... but if anyone can stop him, it's Armani Avery, baby. My fellow citizen of Hotlanta... strong, quick, explosive... well-spoken... former NCAA All-American with the Georgia Bulldogs... former NFL draft pick... trained for the ring in part by former World Champion Tommy Fierro... this kid's the goods, baby... and he's got everything it takes to win this whole thing.

SA: We've got one more match to talk about before we get on out of here and if you've been keeping score at home, you know exactly what it is but for those who don't...

[The graphic spins around one final time to reveal...

AKANE versus Catalina Lopez.]

SA: Right down the road from Hollywood and this is a true David versus Goliath tale you might see on the silver screen, folks.

MC: AKANE is one of the smallest women in the tournament taking on Lopez who is the biggest... but don't count AKANE short. If you haven't seen what she's capable of from her time in Japan, just watch what she did in that Battle Royal to earn her spot in the Rumble. Watch the fearlessness in her in the Rumble itself. If Lopez thinks she's going to bully and intimidate her way to victory, she's sadly mistaken.

SDW: We talked about hometown advantage earlier though... and Lopez has got it now. She's born and bred right here in Southern California and you better believe the crowd will be solidly behind her in the Temple this weekend. That might be enough to overcome AKANE and put her through into the second round.

[Westerly shakes her head.]

VW: It might but... things are also not always as they seem.

[Westerly raises an eyebrow ominously.]

SA: Care to elaborate?

[A smirk.]

VW: Not at all. I'm just believe there is more to AKANE than meets the eye... and I think Lopez' size might not be enough to send her to the second round.

SA: Well, we'll all find out this weekend in The Temple. Fans, it's going to be an exciting tournament of action all summer long... and we can't wait for you to be a part of it. The 2018 Brass Ring Tournament begins this weekend on Showtime and you do not want to miss it!

[Cut to a shot of Big Sal.]

SA: I want to thank my panel here for joining us and we'll be back in two weeks' time to run down the results from this weekend and preview the matches ahead!

That's it for this edition of the Brass Ring Roundup... and we'll see you this weekend when the Brass Ring Tournament gets underway!

[Fade to black.]

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6/2 - Showtime On Tour: The Temple - Boyle Heights, California

ROUND ONE: AKANE vs Catalina Lopez

ROUND ONE: Armani Avery vs Bodhi Li

6/16 - Showtime On Tour: Ring Wars - IIWF Coliseum - Portland, Oregon

ROUND ONE: Riley Bennett vs Isabella Liriano

ROUND ONE: Rodrick Storm vs Gabriel Cordova

6/30 - Showtime On Tour - Historic Washington Hall - Seattle, Washington

ROUND ONE: Jo Jo Washington vs Big Boss Shinza

ROUND ONE: Elijah Wilde vs Will Robinson

7/7 - Showtime On Tour - Globe Theatre - Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

ROUND ONE: "Diamond" Lily Driscoll vs Felicia Love

ROUND ONE: Danny King vs Adrian Kirk

7/21 - Showtime On Tour - Blue Cross Park - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

SEMIFINALS 1 and 2

8/4 - Showtime On Tour - Mall of America - Bloomington, Minnesota

SEMIFINALS 3 and 4

9/1 - Showtime On Tour: One More For The Road - Hammerstein Ballroom, New York

BRASS RING FINALS