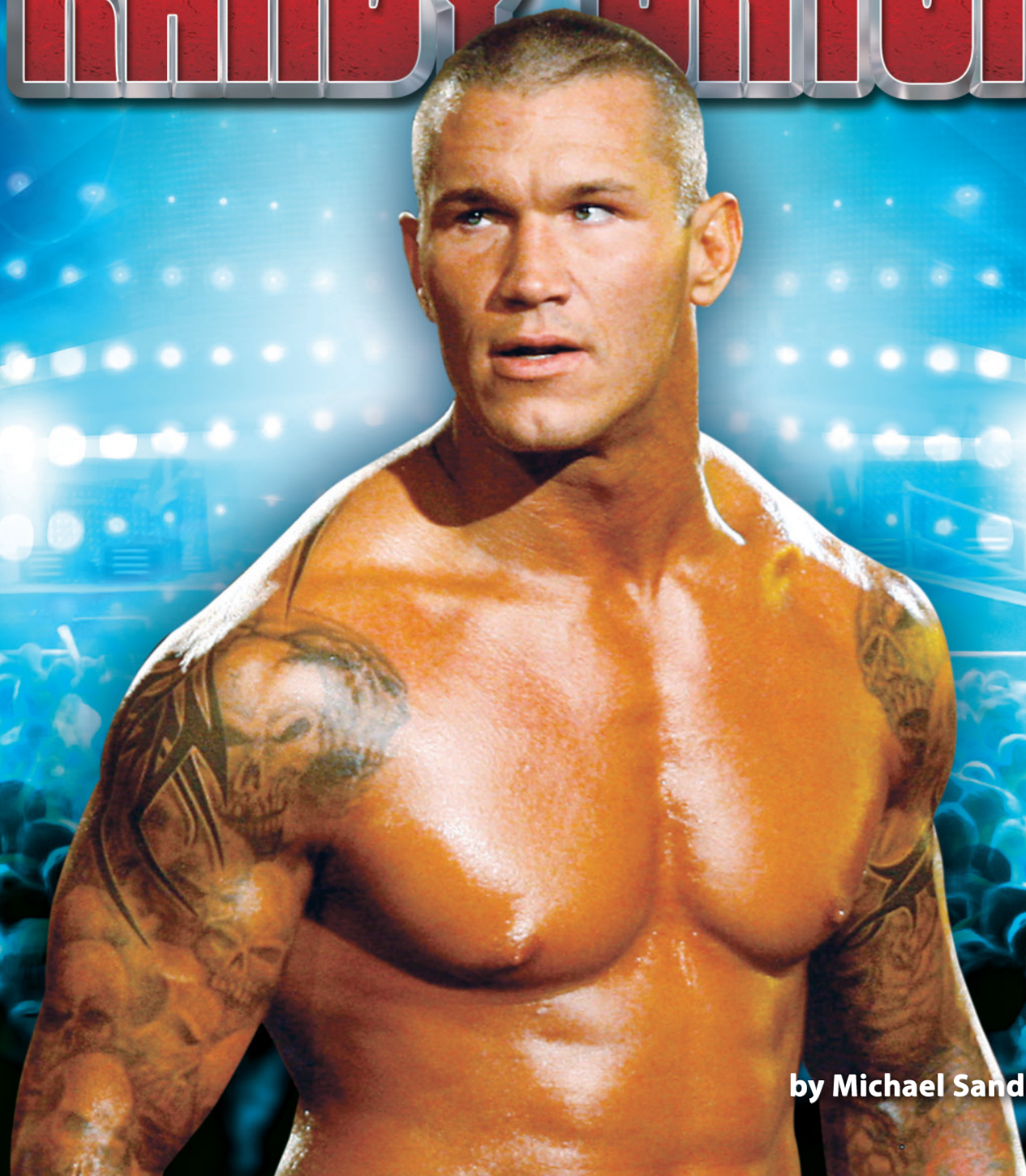




RANDY ORTON

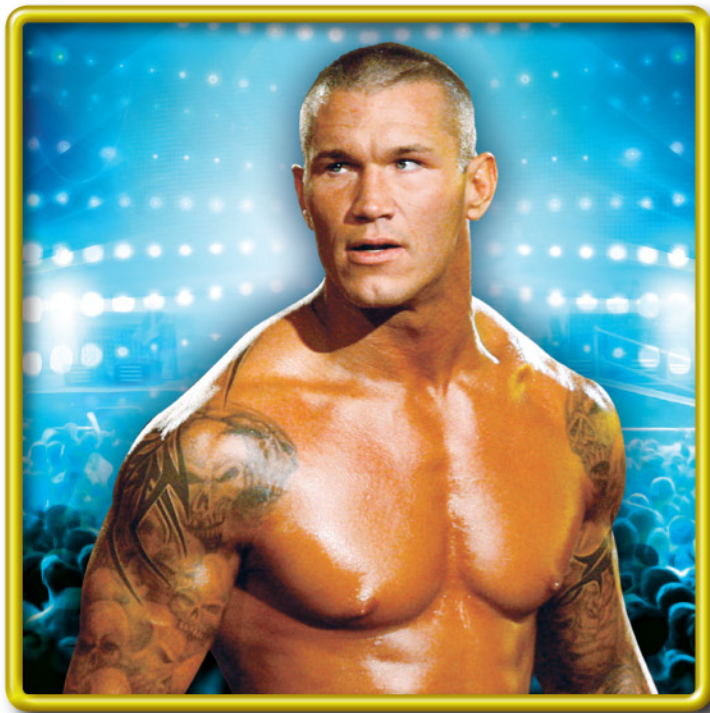


by Michael Sandler

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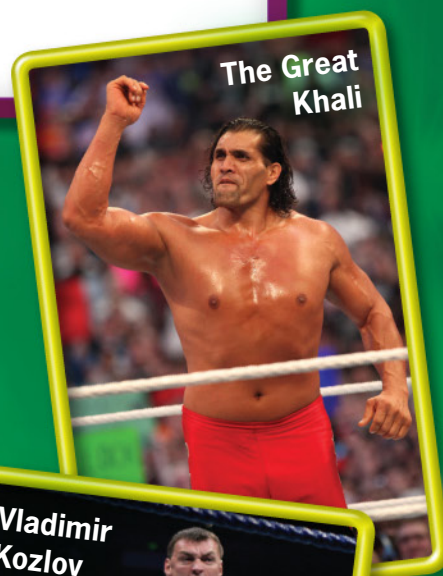
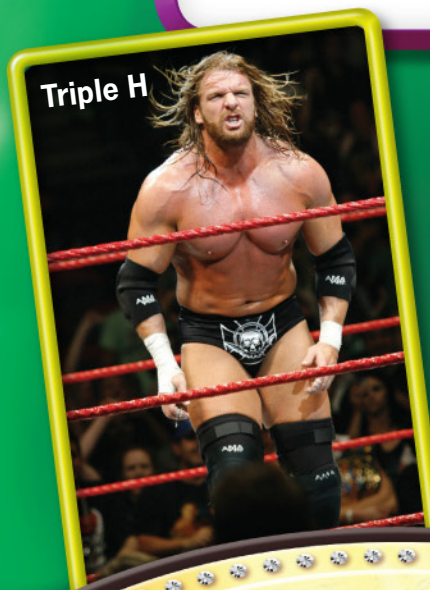
Ready to Rumble

Despite winning just about every **WWE title**, Randy Orton had never survived a Royal Rumble. Now he was about to wrestle in the 2009 match. Would things turn out differently for him this time?

Randy Orton



As the 2009 Royal Rumble began, WWE superstars, one by one, leaped into the ring at 90-second **intervals**. Rey Mysterio, the tiny former **World Heavyweight Champion**, was first. Then came John Morrison, Carlito, MVP, The Great Khali, Vladimir Kozlov, and Triple H. Soon it was Randy's turn. Slipping through the ropes, the 6 feet 5 (1.96 m), 235-pound (107-kg) wrestler launched himself at Triple H and began pounding him on the head. Suddenly, three other wrestlers began hammering Randy. Winning this rumble wasn't going to be easy!

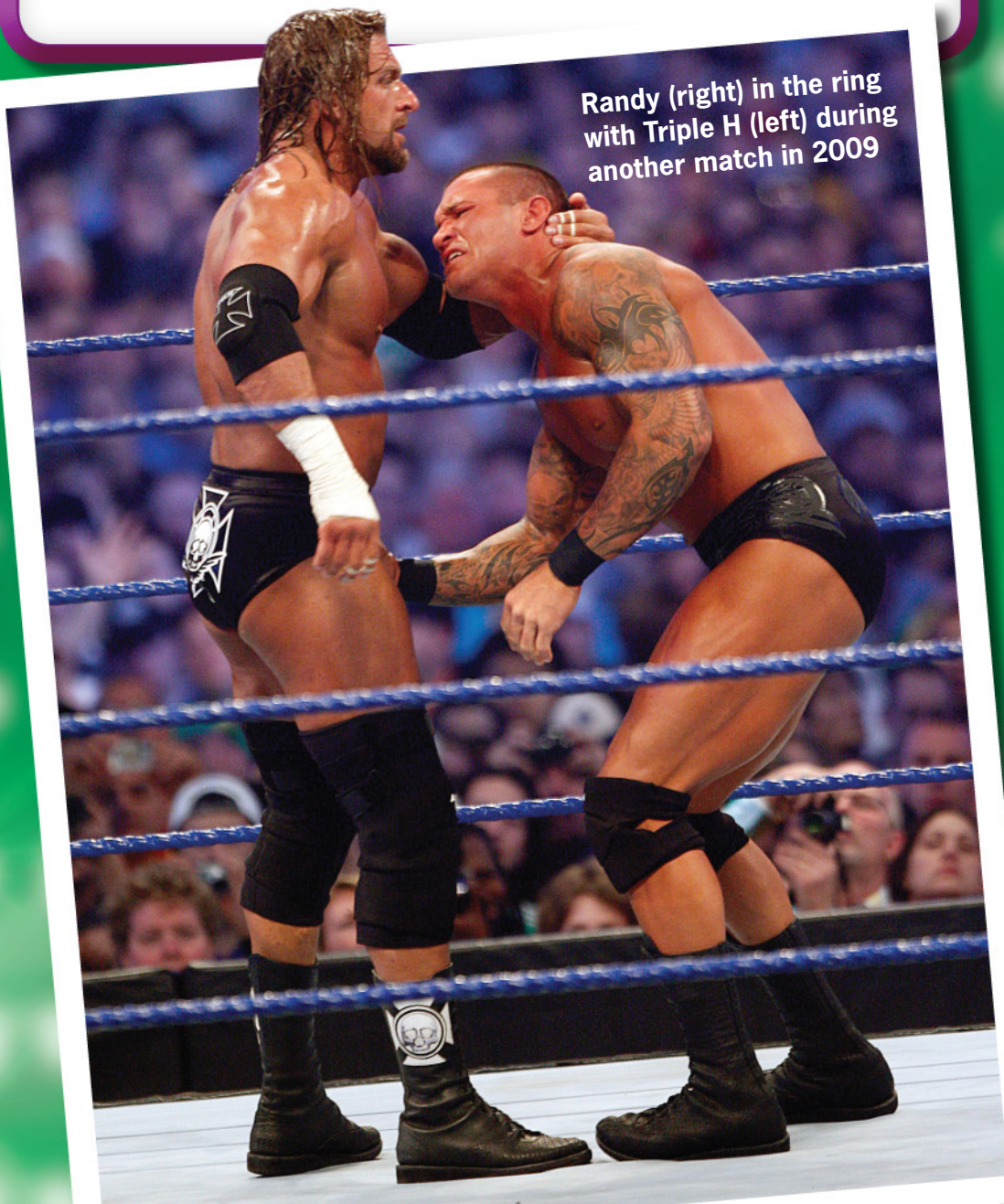


The WWE's Royal Rumble is a once-a-year match that features 30 wrestlers in one ring. The wrestlers, entering one at a time, try to **eliminate** their **competitors** by throwing one another over the ropes. The last wrestler remaining in the ring is the winner.

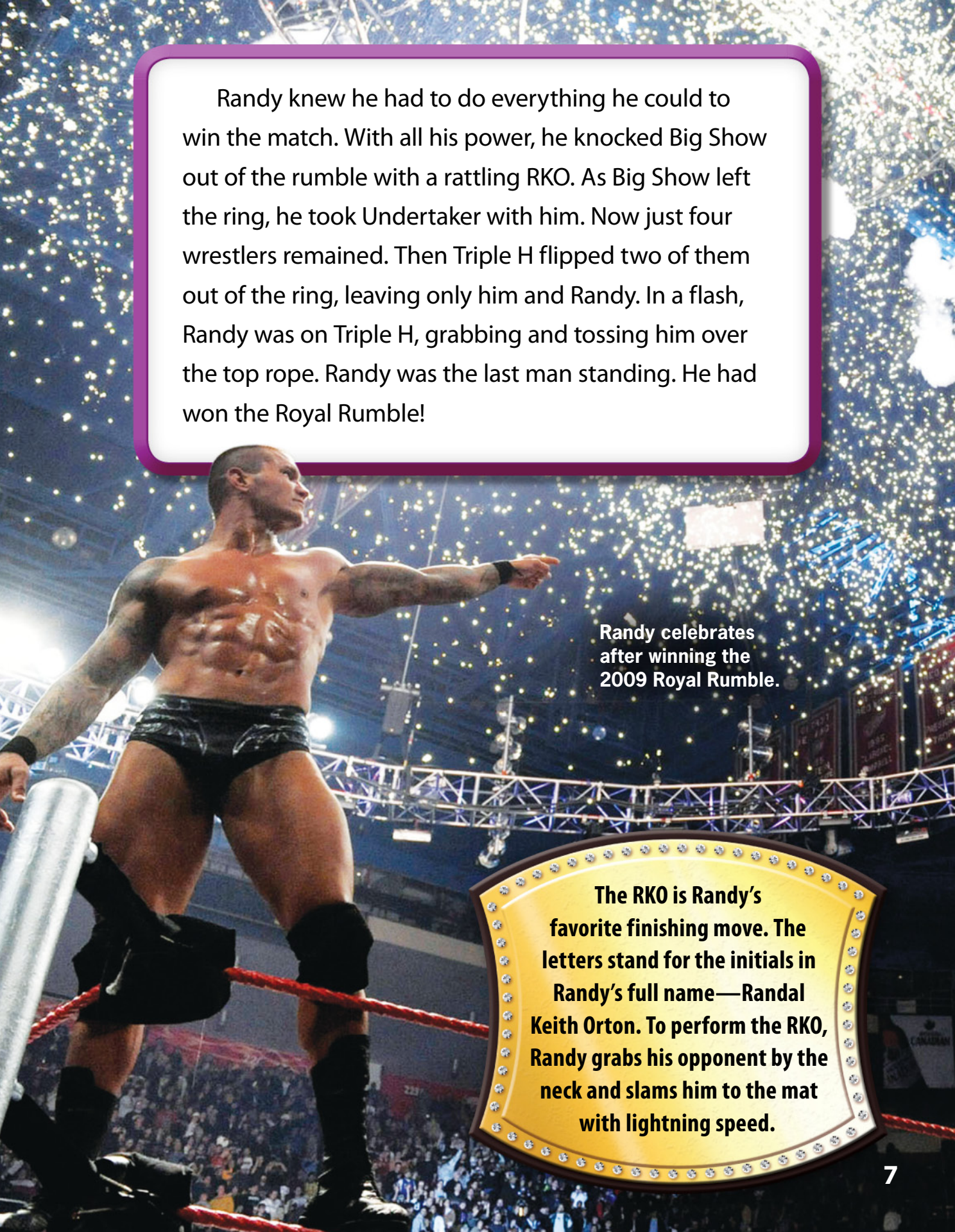
These are some of the wrestlers that Randy faced during the 2009 Royal Rumble.

Last Man Standing

As the mad battle continued, more wrestlers piled into the ring. Bodies flew everywhere. One by one, wrestlers were eliminated. Soon there were just six left—Randy, Triple H, Big Show, Undertaker, Cody Rhodes, and Ted DiBiase.



Randy (right) in the ring with Triple H (left) during another match in 2009

A full-page photograph of Randy Orton in a wrestling ring, celebrating his victory. He is shirtless, wearing black trunks and black knee pads, with his arms outstretched. The background is a large arena filled with spectators and bright lights.

Randy knew he had to do everything he could to win the match. With all his power, he knocked Big Show out of the rumble with a rattling RKO. As Big Show left the ring, he took Undertaker with him. Now just four wrestlers remained. Then Triple H flipped two of them out of the ring, leaving only him and Randy. In a flash, Randy was on Triple H, grabbing and tossing him over the top rope. Randy was the last man standing. He had won the Royal Rumble!

Randy celebrates after winning the 2009 Royal Rumble.

The RKO is Randy's favorite finishing move. The letters stand for the initials in Randy's full name—Randal Keith Orton. To perform the RKO, Randy grabs his opponent by the neck and slams him to the mat with lightning speed.

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RANDY ORTON

Despite winning just about every WWE title, Randy Orton had never survived a Royal Rumble. Now he was about to wrestle in the 2009 match. Would things turn out differently for him this time? Get into the ring with this wrestling superstar as you follow an amazing career that includes six WWE Championships.

JOHN CENA

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