

## The Royal Rumble

Leah Owen, Year 8

They were the most feared tag team in the world. They were the most loved tag team in the world. They were the first and *only* New Zealand tag team to make it to the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) in America... They were Butch Miller and Luke Williams, also known as the Bushwhackers!

Butch Miller and Luke Williams had been best mates for as long as they could remember. Bob had wrestled in over sixty countries, every state in the USA, every province in Canada, every territory in Australia, and on every continent. Luke had worked throughout North America, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, South America and Mexico.

It was 1990; and this title was to be the biggest fight of the year. The New Zealand flag flew alongside the American flag. The American tag team, the Nasty Boys were the Bushwhackers toughest opponents. Both teams were competing for the WWF Royal Rumble Title. The winning team would receive \$100,000 prize money. But his was to be Butch and Luke's final match together.

The Bushwhackers and the Nasty Boys arrived at the stadium. The stadium lights dimmed, the crowd fell silent. The lights were fixed on the ring while the host of the event made his way up into the ring.

"Welcome to the biggest event this year. The Royal Rumble," came the voice over the microphone. The crowd went wild! The time had come to welcome the competitors into the arena.

"Nasty Boys! Nasty Boys!" came the chanting from the crowd.

The Nasty Boys came running into the arena. The crowd went berserk. It was like they were 8,500 crazy monkeys who had just been fed for the first time.

However, the biggest welcome was yet to come. The crowd roared as the Bushwhackers, the underdogs of the match, the team all the way from little New Zealand, entered the arena. They made their way to the ring to their distinctive music and walking their unique walk. The Nasty Boys weren't expecting this reaction.

"5 4 3 2 1." The ref blew the whistle and the match began.

Butch started, while Luke waited attentively outside the ring for the tag. Butch started strong, knocked down the team member from the Nasty Boys in less than ten minutes. But Butch was getting tired so he tagged Luke in, and the Nasty Boys did the same.

The other member from Nasty Boys was just as strong if not stronger than the member before. But the adrenaline that was running through Luke at that moment was indescribable. Luke was on fire. Everything that Luke did was perfect. Luke wrestled and wrestled until the bell went for the end of Round 1.

It had been an intense first round of the match; the Bushwhackers had come out strong and proven to the Nasty Boys that they had not come all the way from New Zealand to lose. The Nasty Boys had worked hard to fight back near the end of the first round but had it been enough?

The atmosphere in the arena was electrifying as the bell went for the start of Round 2.

The Nasty Boys had had a big talking to from their coach and from where I was sitting in the crowd, he didn't look too happy with the boys.

The second round got off to a fiery start. The Nasty Boys were hammering the Bushwhackers. Poor Luke had been whacked in the head by a powerful punch and knocked to the ground. Luke somehow managed to find enough strength to stretch out his arm to tag Butch, who was wild about teaching this guy a lesson for putting his partner on the ground.

Butch came out roaring. Butch fought and fought until... he timed his punch perfectly, smacking his fist straight into his opponent's ribs. His opponent fell hard.

*He's not moving. He's out cold.*

The other Nasty Boy calls for a time out. He wants to consult their manager. The manager beckons the organiser over. Meanwhile, the crowd are out of their seats and the chant of 'Bushwhackers, Bushwhackers' is circulating around the stadium.

"I'm truly sorry everyone," the announcer says. "But the Nasty Boys have pulled out of the championship competition. They feel they cannot go on. The Bushwhackers have tested them tonight and proved extremely tough. Bushwhackers, I'm glad to announce that you are the 1990 Royal Rumble Tag Team Champions!"