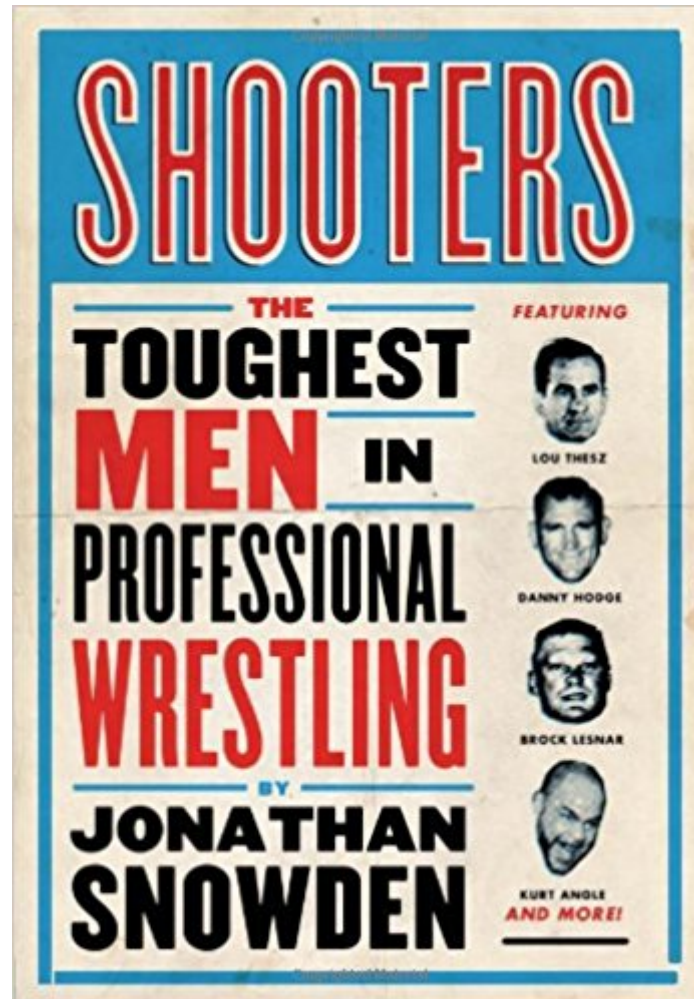


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# Shooters: The Toughest Men In Professional Wrestling



## Synopsis

Shooters recounts the stories of athletes like Brock Lesnar and Gene LeBell, men who have lived their lives on the border between work and shoots, between the routines of the professional wrestling circuit and the legitimate confrontations that made their reputations. From catch wrestling masters Strangler Lewis and Billy Robinson to pro-wrestling icons like Frank Gotch and Lou Thesz, from Olympic heroes Danny Hodge and Kurt Angle to the Japanese wrestler who trained the famous Gracie family and gave birth to the global phenomenon of MMA, Shooters takes you from the shadowy carnival tent and the dingy training hall to the bright lights of the squared circle and the Las Vegas glitz of the Octagon. This volume takes fans of pro wrestling and MMA from Billy Riley's legendary Wigan Snake Pit to the rigorous UWF Dojo in Tokyo, and draws on meticulous research and original interviews with today's tough guys.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Johnathon Snowden, has written an excellent book for students of wrestling history, with the best and toughest, as a common thread through the story. From Farmer Burns, through Frank Gotch, George Hackenschmidt, Ed Lewis, Lou Thesz, right up to the era of Kurt Angle and Brock Lesnar, some wrestlers have been talented enough to control their own destinies, in what is often a sordid industry. The pioneers realized early on that legit matches were bad for business; control of outcomes and performers was essential to ensure growth and profits. To guarantee that everyone "got with the program," and to protect the business and its secrets, promoters used the toughest, and most talented grapplers as policemen. Men like Nebraska based John "Tigerman," Pesek (a

ferocious competitor who wrestled into the 1960's) filled that role for Lewis and his cronies in a 1922 match with Martin Plestina. At one point, after being on the receiving end of Peseck's brutal tactics, Plestina was heard to shout "God, please don't kill me!" The book covers the career of Thesz, and Vern Gagne who were both good enough to control when, and to whom they lost. The reader is given insight into the lives and methods of men like Karl Gotch, and British born Billy Robinson. Gotch after never really connecting in American rings, moved to Japan where his abilities as a wrestler, and trainer, led the Japanese to dub him "the god of wrestling." Robinson after a very successful wrestling career, has become a seminal influence in MMA, and a resurgence of catch wrestling. Snowden also covers the careers of Angle, and Lesnar, in some detail. Angle's winning an Olympic Gold Medal, while wrestling with a broken neck is as inspiring as his descent into addiction to pain pills is sad, and tragic.

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