



# The Tragedy of Owen Hart's Unrealized Second Act

With the Dark Side of The Ring finale, the tragic accident that claimed Owen Hart's life robbed him of more than just a wrestling career.



Murjani Rawls

47 min  





Remember VHS tapes? (I'm assuming half of you reading this are looking at that with a blank stare or an eye roll) One of the wrestling tapes that I played over and over again was Wrestlemania X. That night, Bret Hart had two matches - one against his then younger brother, Owen Hart, and the other



The season finale of Vice's Dark Side of The Ring brought back some memories of that Sunday Night. I remember seeing the confusion after Owen Hart's tragic accident occurred. I also remember Jim Ross announcing that Owen Hart had passed away and being puzzled that the show was still going. When you're that young, the consequences of death does not hit you right away. Especially when it comes to the sport of wrestling.

There's the old saying of 'the show must go on.' Perhaps, that shouldn't have happened here. Martha Hart, widow of Owen Hart expressed her displeasure with that choice. Can you blame her? Owen Hart had given so much to the WWF. 250 days a year. 10-day stints at a time away from his family. He chose to stay after the Montreal Screwjob and his brother Bret left for WCW. Listen, I understand the initial shock. The chance of this type of tragedy happening at a wrestling event is slim. That's why it's important to take every precaution possible. Maybe Owen would have wanted to show to go on. With wrestling, there will always be another show and more money to be made. At that point, wrestling matches are inconsequential. These are people.

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Given the circumstances shown in the episode with the harness and different crew - I can't help but feel some anger to a corporation that decided to cut corners on a man that never did that to them. In



AEW to reinvent himself. What if, indeed. So young still.

Ahh, but that would be selfish. If the Dark Side of The Ring episode has shown us anything, it's that Owen Hart was a family man first. Wrestling was only apart of the man, but the man embodied something bigger. As I think back to earlier in the year when Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna was tragically taken in a helicopter accident. Bryant. the ferocious competitor was just beginning to see the beauty of life after basketball. I also see the strength of both Vanessa Bryant and Martha Hart and their children - carrying on their legacies. Rightfully reminding us that there is more to the men than just being athletes.

For Martha, Oje, and Athena, they were the goal. I'm sure the championship belts felt great. Owen never got to see his second act. He will never get to see the ultimate prize he wanted the most. It was the life that he wanted.

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