

## **LEILANI KAI**

### **Inducted by Wendi Richter**

While former WWF Women's Champion Leilani Kai made history defending her title at the inaugural WrestleMania in 1985, her career is littered with firsts. Trained by the Fabulous Moolah, Kai's career led her to two stints as WWF Women's Tag Team Champion with Judy Martin, as the Glamour Girls. And it was teaming with Martin that Kai remembers as "the best time" in her career.

"That was my favorite thing in the whole world," said Kai, who dyed her hair platinum blonde for the duo. "It was a whole big change for us, and I didn't know if I could pull it off, you know, pulling off that character." The duo debuted in 1985 and worked together until the early 1990s, appearing in the WWF and Ladies Professional Wrestling Association. In WWF, the Glamour Girls were managed by "The Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart, appearing at both the first-ever Survivor Series and Royal Rumble.

That combination claimed the now-defunct WWF women's tag team championship on two occasions. Kai also can lay claim to an LPWA tag team championship reign, and three stints as NWA Mid-Atlantic women's champion. While teaming with Martin in LPWA, the Glamour Girls were managed by Queen Christopher Love.

Kai's career path also led her to World Championship Wrestling for a time, wrestling under the name Patty Stonegrinder.

While she has been retired from in-ring action for some time, Kai returned to the wrestling world two years ago in a managerial role with SHINE Wrestling. Kai said Lexie Fyfe, of SHINE, asked her to become part of the company.

"We go back a long way, and we trained together worked together on the road," Kai said, "and she just thought I would add some spark to it, you know, to come back and work as a manager with the Legendary of Malia Hosaka and Brandi Wine."

The former Women's champion also spends time helping up-and-coming women wrestlers expand beyond the United States, mostly through connections with female wrestling companies in Japan.

"I wanted to keep the girls pushing and doing different places and doing

different things and with this Book Pro Wrestling, it's helped a lot," Kai said.

One of her more recent assists was to Ocala, Fla., native Santana Garrett, who won the Wonder of Stardom Championship on her first tour in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Kai also offers advice when approached and at SHINE events. "I watch a lot of YouTube matches of girls that ask me to give them my opinion, I do that," Kai said. "There's just so many of them in the business now... I love to, and with SHINE, I try to give my opinion on things and the matches."

Kai said she is staying involved with the women as much as possible and also is working on teaching seminars. However, the bulk of her work outside of SHINE is with Steve Stasiak and his company, Book Pro Wrestlers.

— Kari Williams