



What is known about the WBCN Rock n Roll Rumble? I'm writing a wiki on the band Dub7, who were runners up in 1984.

The WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble is a long-running annual battle of the bands competition held in Greater Boston, established in 1979 by the influential radio station WBCN as a showcase for the region's best emerging rock acts. Recognized as the longest-running event of its kind in the US, the Rumble began at the renowned Rathskeller ("the Rat") in Kenmore Square and quickly became a vital platform for local musicians, with winning and finalist bands often gaining significant visibility and career momentum through radio airplay, media attention, and live gigs organized and promoted by WBCN. ^[1] ^[2] ^[3] ^[4] ^[5]

Format and Significance

- The Rumble historically featured preliminary rounds, semifinals, and a grand final, with judges drawn from local radio, press, and music industry figures. ^[2] ^[3]
- Finalists received frequent airplay, invitations to WBCN-promoted concerts, and attention from major record labels scouting new talent. ^[6]
- Notable alumni include bands like The Dresden Dolls, 'Til Tuesday, and The Del Fuegos, illustrating its role in highlighting influential New England acts. ^[1] ^[2]

1984 Rumble and Dub7

- In 1984, Dub7—formerly known as 007—reached the finals and finished as runners-up to The Schemers. ^[3] ^[7] ^[8] ^[6]
- The 1984 event was held at the venue "Spit" in Boston and included a broad roster of Boston area acts; Dub7's evolution at this time saw them incorporating more dub and experimental elements into their sound, differentiating them from other bands on the bill. ^[9] ^[6]
- Dub7's single "Gavel Groove" b/w "Federales" was picked up by WBCN and received extensive citywide radio play, amplified by on-air promotion and integration into the station's concert events. ^[7] ^[6]
- Although enjoying major label attention and heightened exposure, Dub7 did not secure a record deal, with A&R executives citing their style as "not quite ready for prime time". ^[6]
- The Rumble appearance marked a peak in Dub7's mainstream outreach, but also coincided with a transition to a more artistic, less easily-defined phase, and their presence faded from regular WBCN airplay by late 1984. ^[7] ^[6]

Legacy

- Participation and finalist status in the WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble became a career milestone for many bands, often cited in bios and histories for the cachet and exposure provided.^[8] ^[3]
- For Dub7, the 1984 Rumble represented their high-water mark in public recognition, despite not winning; they were consistently acknowledged as one of the scene's most creative and dynamic live acts in Boston during the early-to-mid 1980s.^[8] ^[6] ^[7]

Notable Mentions

- The Rumble continues today under the stewardship of Boston Emissions, evolving since WBCN left the airwaves in 2009, but its legacy—especially the classic “Rumble at the Rat” era—is one of shaping the city's rock culture and supporting innovative local bands like Dub7.^[4] ^[10] ^[1]

This provides a comprehensive context for your wiki entry on Dub7's place in Boston's music history and the 1984 WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble.



1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_'n'_Roll_Rumble
2. <https://rock929rocks.com/listicle/11-great-moments-in-rock-roll-rumble-history/>
3. <https://www.oocities.org/uridfm/r/rumble.htm>
4. <https://rockandrollrumble.com/about/>
5. https://blog.mikeandsophia.com/2009/03/httpwww-mikeandsophia-com200903boston-band-crush-archived-article_4017-html/
6. <https://007-boston-dub7.com>
7. <https://007-boston-dub7.com/007-Dub7-timeline/>
8. https://www.last.fm/music/007/_/Anna+Vissi+-+PSIHEDELIA
9. <https://www.setlist.fm/festivals/wbcn-rock-n-roll-rumble-2bd6c02e.html>
10. <https://www.mmone.org/rock-n-roll-rumble/>
11. <https://rockandrollrumble.com>
12. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuykaokqJlg>
13. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56UzxfORAHo>
14. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_Execs
15. <https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2014/07/29/wbcn-oral-history/>
16. https://www.mjwilsonphotography.com/uploads/wbcn_rumble_low.pdf
17. <https://www.motherlode.tv/bostonrock/index.html>