

Smackdown – January 28, 2011 – Call the Corre(nor). Yes I stole that name.

Smackdown

Date: January 28, 2011

Location: US Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Ohio

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews, Matt Striker

It's the final show before we hit the Rumble so I think I know what we're going to be talking about. Tonight's main event is Rated RK0 facing Miz/Ziggler. Also I'd bet one a lot more from the Corre as on Monday the main focus was on Nexus so therefore the same thing needs to be done here. Ok so it's not that bad but it does happen a good bit. Anyway, let's get to it.

Oh and before I forget, I won't be here next week for NXT or Smackdown. I'll be back the following week for at least Smackdown and maybe NXT but I'm not sure. Have fun without me.

The opening is about Corre and their interaction with Teddy. A lot of this is about how Corre might have been the guys that did it. There's a clock theme to it which doesn't seem accurate by comparison to what I remember from last week, as in the timing is off from when it actually happened. We also see Gabriel beating Edge.

No theme song again. Instead we get to hear Vickie's voice to open the show properly. Teddy can't be here tonight so she's in charge. She gets cut off by Orton's music and the pop is still solid. I love these times where people go back and forth from show to show. Vickie cuts the music off with an EXCUSE ME. I guess she didn't like what the voices had to

say.

Randy says he doesn't know Vickie very well, "so you'll have to excuse me", for what he's going to do to her boyfriend later tonight. That was clever. Miz will have to excuse Orton for taking the WWE Championship from him as well. He puts his arm around Vickie and says by the way, nice hair. This is oddly funny for some reason. There is no excuse for Vickie though. Orton's delivery here was some of his best in awhile and I was liking it.

Here comes Dolph to stand up for Vickie. Well at least he's not standing up for WWE. Dolph demands respect for himself and Vickie because after Sunday he'll be World Champion. Orton says around here you have to earn it, and there's an RKO for Dolph. This is going to sound odd, but I think the blue on Smackdown agrees with Randy. His skin is so orange that the red on Raw makes him look weird. As odd as it sounds I'm being serious when I say that.

Laycool vs. Kaitlyn/Kelly Kelly

Striker sings Laycool's song which is rather disturbing. The non-Flawless ones jump Laycool during their entrance and the beating is on in the aisle. Is this Kaitlyn's non-NXT debut? She starts with Michelle and is clearly green. Layla distracts Kaitlyn though and Michelle kicks Kaitlyn's head off to end this at 43 seconds. AWESOME kick and if that hadn't ended it there was no way I would have believed it. The replay makes it look even better as that kick was spot on.

Drew McIntyre vs. JTG

Kelly hangs out at ringside for this one. Cole wants to know how she can criticize Drew for being aggressive when she

jumped Laycool pre-match. That's a totally fair question but we get no answer of course. That face pop for Drew is still slowly growing but it's growing nonetheless. They start off kind of staring at each other until JTG goes after him, sending him to the floor.

Drew suddenly realizes he's fighting a jobber and starts mauling him. Back into the ring and it's all Drew who hits three neckbreakers in a row for two. Since that didn't work he switches to hammering away in the corner with clotheslines. Drew even channels his inner John Cena and throws a decent dropkick for one. JTG gets some jobber offense in until Drew runs him over.

After some more pounding we hit the ground for more pounding. He adds in that modified crossface chickenwing that Sheamus has also been using recently. Must be a UK thing. Another neckbreaker attempt is countered into a backslide for two. JTG gets a bit of momentum going and tries another backslide. Drew casually rolls through it and grabs the Futureshock to end it at 4:35. That was a nice counter to end it.

Rating: C+. Just an extended squash here but they let Drew show off a bit. JTG is fine in this jobber role he has. Every generation has had its share of jobbers but I guess this one has their own theme music. They put on a fairly decent match here all things considered though and it worked fine.

Drew plays nice this week and leaves just as Kelly gets in the ring, apparently not seeing her or looking up as he leaves since the big screen shows her in the ring. She looks at him and seems uncertain.

We recap Cody vs. Rey last week where Cody got his nose broken. The point of this is that Cody exposed the knee brace that hit him in the face and caused his injury.

In the back Cody is interviewed and won't turn to face the camera. Cody has it on good authority that Rey didn't even

want to win that match. He has a broken nose and will need extensive reconstructive surgery and is out of the Rumble. Cody says that it's what you do that defines you and he's going to keep swinging. He sounds like he's almost crying. A kid told him he wasn't dashing anymore, and the kid is right. He can't talk anymore. This gave me flashes of the Elephant Man, which will make perfect sense if you've seen the movie.

Some overly happy interviewer talks to Edge. Edge says he doesn't want to talk about the tag match but rather Corre. He even remembers all of their names, including DJ Gabriel. I never thought I'd hear that name again. The only thing he's going to say about the tag match is he's going to spear Zigler.

Del Rio says hi to Tarver who is suddenly one of the more interesting mysteries. Why is he always standing around?

Here's Alberto who has promised a Rumble exhibition. Even though he has very little chance to win the Rumble, they're making me kind of believe it's possible, which means they're doing the right thing. Apparently he has 39 fighters from all over the world ready for an exhibition. Every 30 seconds another will come out, meaning this should take about 20 minutes.

The first guy is Seth Allen who according to Striker is a former Western States Heritage Champion. This is like a challenge mode on SvR or something. And he's gone. Next up is Mike Stevens, a former Brass Knuckles Champion. They're speeding up the clock here. He can't get him out in thirty seconds so here's Kane as a penalty. Alberto gets the corner enziguri but charges into a chokeslam position.

Kofi comes out as I guess the clock thing is still going on. Why did Kofi bring the belt with him? Either way he dumps both guys out and stands tall. The villains surround Kofi so Rey comes down to even the odds. You know, because it's not

like he would want a guy the caliber of the Intercontinental Champion to get beaten down two days before the Rumble or anything like that right? You know come to think of it, scratch that. As annoying as Rey can be, it's nice to see a pure face once in awhile instead of someone that is a face when it suits them. Anyway, Vickie comes out to make the obvious tag match.

Kofi Kingston/Rey Mysterio vs. Alberto Del Rio/Kane

Well you knew there would be a tag match somewhere since it's Smackdown. Back from a break and there's the bell. Kane and Kofi start us off which could be an interesting midcard feud. The power takes over and it's off to Alberto. Off to Rey now as Kofi has taken over. Nice double teaming allows Kofi to get in a jumping elbow before he leaves. Rey looks different for some reason.

We start talking about Cody and Striker has sympathy for him. Josh of course is the voice of reason. Oh joy: it's Rey vs. Kane. 619 is teased but Kane hits the floor instead. Back off to Kofi as Alberto gets in Kane's face. The good guys get a baseball slide to send Alberto into Kane and then a dive and seated senton put Alberto and Kane down respectively.

Kofi sets for the cross body back in the ring but Alberto shoves him off. They double team Kofi even though I'm pretty sure Striker said Rey was the legal man. Kane drops a leg for two. Kofi tries to fight him off but runs into a side slam to take him down. Alberto is back in and they work on the back for awhile. Kane back in as the heels are tagging very fast.

Kane catches the foot of Kofi who has to now hop over to his corner. In something that felt anti-climactic in a weird way, Kingston is able to get the tag and here comes Rey with a seated senton off the top to Kane. That only gets two though so we reset a bit. Rey tries a springboard move but Kane

kicks him in the face and to the floor. He also kicked us into a break.

Back with Alberto hitting a back elbow to Rey for two. Now we hit the chinlock and Rey is in trouble. Sunset flip by Del Rio is countered into that kick that Rey has been using recently to put both guys down. Del Rio doesn't tag but beats on Rey come more. Kane back in as they're tagging so often I don't even notice it anymore. Granted that could mean I'm getting sucked into the match which is possible as this has been good.

Kane gets Rey up in a powerslam position but Rey is able to spin out into a DDT to send both guys down again. Tag on both sides and Kofi comes in with the springboard cross body. Del Rio gets a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker for two out of nowhere. He goes to tag but there's no Kane due to a kick from Kofi a second earlier. Top rope cross body gets two as Kane saves.

Del Rio gets in Kane's face, yelling at him in Spanish. The amusing thing is that Kane, being born in Spain, might have a better grasp of the language than Del Rio. Alberto shoves Kane, who responds in my favorite way: KICKING HIM IN THE FACE! Sorry that has to be caps. There's something so awesome to me about kicking a guy in the face to end an argument. That could solve so many real world problems. Anyway the 619 sets up the Trouble in Paradise to end this long match at 12:23 shown of 15:53.

Rating: B+. Probably a bit high but I got into this. It's a long formula match and that's usually the best kind of tag match. I always get a kick out of throwing two heels and two faces together and seeing what happens. They shifted momentum a lot here and it worked rather well I thought. Fun match.

We get a clip from Raw of Edge vs. Miz which set up the tag match later.

Big Show comes out and seems to be in a good mood. He talks

about how when you're 7'0, 440lbs and a former WWE Champion, sometimes people want to use you to make a statement. Naturally he's talking about the Corre and we get a clip of them beating him down. That did two things: made him angry and reminded him of what it's going to be like in the Rumble. As he talks about never having won a Rumble, here they come.

The shirts aren't working for me as they look like they're in beauty pageants. Show asks if this is how it's going to be, always 4-1. He challenges any of them one on one but seems to want Jackson the most. Slater comes in from behind and we have a bell and a referee!

Heath Slater vs. Big Show

Cole: "This shows you how much heart this kid Slater had."
Josh: "Or that he's an idiot." I love listening to those two. Slater goes for the knee but Show chops him down from his knee. Striker points out that all four members of Corre are from different continents. There's a Captain Planet joke in there somewhere. Chokeslam ends it in about 1:15. Nothing to see here.

Show goes after the other members but Jackson takes him down with a single clothesline. The beatdown is on but the Smackdown locker room (read as JTG, Masters, Santino, Kozlov and Bryan. In other words, a jobber, a jobber to the stars, the tag champions that are more commonly associated with Raw, and a Raw champion.) comes out to clear the ring.

All About the Numbers and a rundown of the card eat up five minutes.

Rated RKO vs. The Miz/Dolph Ziggler

Miz is out first and wants to talk about...The Truman Doctrine? Yeah, he talks about a foreign policy doctrine from the late 40s. What does this have to do with anything? Nothing according to Miz. It doesn't matter at all. It also doesn't matter what Randy Orton does; the Miz is leaving the Rumble with the WWE Championship. Another decent Miz promo.

Orton vs. Ziggler to start us off. Basic back and forth until Orton takes over with a clothesline. He pauses to chase Miz though and Ziggler gets the advantage. Off to Edge who puts his head down and takes an X-Factor for two. Over to Miz who gets an assist from Riley to take over. Randy gets in a quick shot though and gets into RKO position! He stares down Miz...and we take a break?

Apparently there were technical difficulties and that wasn't a scheduled break. That explains a lot. Either way, Ziggler pulled Randy out before it could hit. Back with Miz holding a chinlock on Orton. Randy tries to fight back but Miz gets a nice combination (has Orton in a reverse DDT position and drops his back down like a reverse Facecrusher before hitting a neckbreaker. Kind of like a modified Reality Check).

Corner clothesline is attempted but Orton lands one of his own. Off to Edge and Ziggler as we're getting close to the ending it seems. Edge sets for the spear on Ziggler but Riley interferes so he has to settle for the Edge-0-Matic for two. Zig Zag is blocked and there's the spear for the clean pin at 7:50 shown of 11:20.

Rating: C. Basic main event tag match here but I was surprised as to how it ended. It's not bad but I couldn't get into this one. The ending really didn't work for me as it takes away a lot of the drama for Sunday, like can Edge pin Dolph? Well yeah apparently he can. Granted I don't think many people are buying the show to see that match so I can pretty easily forgive them there. That being said, not a great match at all but still decent enough.

Post match Vickie bans the spear and says that if he uses it on Sunday, Ziggler is champion. This earns Dolph three straight spears to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Much better show this week. They covered a lot more stuff here and it worked better than the previous one. This built up the title match and the Rumble at the same time which is good. There was no point to just doing the Rumble as we got that on Raw so they focused on both world titles here. Couple that with some decent wrestling and it's definitely a good show.

Results

Laycool b. Kaitlyn/Kelly Kelly – Big Boot to Kaitlyn

Drew McIntyre b. JTG – Futureshock

Kofi Kingston/Rey Mysterio b. Alberto Del Rio/Kane – Trouble in Paradise to Del Rio

Big Show b. Heath Slater – Chokeslam

Rated RK0 b. Dolph Ziggler/The Miz – Spear to Ziggler