

Monday Night Raw: February 7, 2011 – Weakest Raw in Awhile

Monday Night Raw

Date: February 7, 2011

Location: Bradley Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

We continue on the Road to Wrestlemania in what I'd assume will be a plot advancing show which is ok. The Chamber is in less than two weeks so there isn't much to say as far as adding new stuff goes. Bear in mind that I've seen part of this show last night but am reviewing it on Tuesday/Wednesday, so if there are some odd things said it's because I know what's coming. Sorry about that. Let's get to it.

Nickelback opens us up.

Here's Vince, and according to Cole it's the first time we've seen him in almost a year. Where do I begin?

1. He wrestled at Wrestlemania on March 28, 2010. We'll call that 11 months when it's really more like 10 and a half.
2. He was there for Nexus. Nexus began on June 1 and attacked Vince on June 22. We'll go very conservative again and call that June 7. That means we have eight months.
3. He was on the November 1 episode of Raw, which may be a stretch as he was in a coma/dream sequence. Still though, he was there. That would be three months

In other words, at minimum it was three months and at most it was eight months. That means it's closer to half a year than a year, but who cares about things like time right?

Vince starts talking about Wrestlemania and how after the

Super Bowl is over, it's time for Wrestlemania. Apparently next week we're going to meet the host of Wrestlemania who has set a record or a streak of some sort. I'm kind of intrigued but it better not be Justin Bieber.

Anyway as Vince is about to leave, here's Randy Orton. We get a clip of him punting Harris last week and running from Nexus and their beatdown. Orton wants to talk about Punk and how after last week they're not even. Before Orton gets going though here's Punk. Punk sits down on the stage and says that of course it isn't over. He asks if Orton wants to know why he cost "Randall" the title at the Rumble.

Punk shows a clip from Unforgiven 2008 with Punk as World Heavyweight Champion and Orton getting in his face and calling Punk a fluke. Legacy jumped him and Orton punted him in the head, which made Punk have to forfeit the title due to an injury. Yes, THIS IS CONTINUITY! They did something back then and now we're going to get revenge as a result of it. That is huge as something is happening and there's a reason for it. That doesn't happen anymore, which is a huge thing.

Punk says that he's been patient but now wants his revenge. As long as they're on the same show, Orton will never be world champion again. He isn't waiting for Elimination Chamber but is going to eliminate Orton right now. Instead of running like someone intelligent, Orton stands in the ring and gets beaten down.

After a little bit Punk starts talking and Orton breaks free for a bit but is eventually tied in the ropes. Cena chant starts up but Orton is all alone. Punk yells at him a lot but Orton gets a headbutt and kick in. The kick hits Punk in the face and breaks his nose legit. There's blood coming out of it and it's swollen badly. If it's not broken it's bruised badly. The Nexus puts Orton on Punk's shoulders for the GTS to end the segment.

Mason Ryan vs. R-Truth

This was set up by an E-Mail during the break. Apparently all members of Nexus will face people in the Chamber, finishing with Punk vs. Cena in the main event. This is Ryan's in ring debut in WWE. Truth's song is freaking catchy to say the least. And now we get the important part of the night. "GREEN BAY WISCONSIN! WHAT'S UP???" Cole: Truth we're in Milwaukee! This would become the running joke for the night.

The fans totally turn on Truth, booing the heck out of him and chanting MILWAUKEE. Truth is clearly shaken here, messing up his sunset flip out of the corner as well as the spinning forearm. It's understandable as he hasn't been a heel in years. Truth may have hurt his knee on the missed forearm. Ryan slams him into the ropes three times and then locks on a Brock Lock (Ryan bends Truth's leg around Ryan's head) for the submission at 2:23.

Post match Ryan gets a chair but the referee grabs it away. With another Milwaukee chant going, the hold goes on again and the decision is reversed. This would be stupid based on the fact that Vickie said a referee's decision can't be reversed but whatever.

The Did You Know says more people attended live events last year than the Super Bowl, Stanley Cup Finals, NBA Finals and X Games combined. You mean having like 400 shows a year was enough to pass all those others? REALLY???

Back from a break Punk congratulates Ryan on hurting Truth. Later tonight it's McGillicutty vs. Morrison and Otunga vs. Sheamus.

Eve Torres/Tamina/Gail Kim vs. Bella Twins/Melina

The Bellas and Eve look great here. Even Gail looks kind of good. Natalya is on commentary for this and has a shot at Eve next week. Gail tries to fight both Bellas which fails pretty badly. Off to Melina now as this isn't anything special at all. Here's Eve as Natalya and Cole get into an argument. Standing moonsault gets two on Melina. Everything breaks down and a spinning neckbreaker (Moss Covered Three Handled Family Credenza for you technical people out there) ends Melina at 2:22. This was pretty worthless.

2-21-11 promo, this time with the Johnny Cash song Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down.

We talk about Aaron Rodgers having the title belt on his shoulder during the celebration. Allegedly Ric Flair gave him that but I'm not sure how much I buy that at all.

Video about the Chamber match.

John Morrison vs. Michael McGillicutty

McGillicutty takes him down early to start us off. To say the crowd is dead for the early parts here is an understatement to say the least. McGillicutty goes after the arm and tries to slam Morrison's hand into the post by crushing it with the steps. The dropkick to the steps misses though and here comes John. Flash Kick sets up the Starship Pain to end it at 2:30. Great looking moonsault there.

As Morrison is leaving, Punk is waiting on him with some kind of spray that goes into Morrison's eyes. Punk also kicks him in the head. Medics check him as we go to a break.

After a break here's Miz in wrestling gear. He says that last week he was pulling for Lawler and asks him to get in the ring. Miz says it wasn't because he thought Lawler would be the easiest targets because they're all easy wins for the

Miz. Lawler used to be a loudmouth and everyone would listen to Jerry. Miz says he patterned his career after Lawler and is a modern day Jerry Lawler. I'd say Roddy Piper but that's just me.

Now it's him on talk shows and now it's him that people want to watch. He's also WWE Champion which Lawler has ever been. Jerry says they're not mirror images because he's an original. Miz shows us a clip from last week where Jerry punched DiBiase which looked great. Miz says that was a sucker punch so Lawler says Miz is a sucker and sucks too. Wow that was bad.

Lawler says he's never competed at Wrestlemania or been WWE Champion. He says no one knows what it means to do either of those things. Lawler is going to win the title and go to Wrestlemania. Miz goes for his catchphrase but Lawler cuts him off by saying awful and there's your chant. The fight is on and Lawler puts Riley down. Cue DiBiase for the save and Bryan for the second save. The GM makes the obvious match.

Daniel Bryan/Jerry Lawler vs. Ted DiBiase/The Miz

Riley is on commentary with Cole here. Bryan vs. DiBiase to start. Who would have believed say two years ago that on Raw we would be seeing the number one contender Jerry Lawler teaming with Bryan Danielson facing Ted DiBiase and the WWE Champion the Miz? Think about that for a minute. Miz sends King to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Miz holding a chinlock on Lawler but there's a quick tag to Bryan. If I hadn't been looking at the monitor I wouldn't have known it as the reaction more or less didn't exist. Running clothesline in the corner to Bryan gets two for Miz. Off to Lawler (small pop) and DiBiase who is in trouble early. DDT gets two for Lawler. Everything breaks down as Miz is taken out by Bryan. The middle rope punch ends

DiBiase at 9:05. Lawler wins again.

Rating: C-. See, here's the thing with Lawler: he doesn't look terrible. Yes he's over sixty years old, but at the same time he looked decent. He's in great shape considering his age and can get by with the same basic moves he has for years. It's the Rocky story and it's going to end in him losing at the PPV which is fine. There's nothing wrong with this story despite what various internet "geniuses" would have you think.

Sheamus vs. David Otunga

Holy squash Batman! As Sheamus is on the way to the ring Josh interrupts him and asks his opinion on Mark Henry's comments. Sheamus hasn't heard them but apparently Henry says that Sheamus should be out of the Chamber and Henry should be in. Sheamus says Henry hasn't done anything in 14 years and should only be in if it's a cake eating contest.

Otunga comes out but here's Henry instead. The brawl is on with Otunga only trying to get in once and getting drilled. A pair of World's Strongest Slams ends Sheamus as I guess there's no match. Otunga stands over the fallen Sheamus but here's....Alberto? Well he had to be here at some point I suppose.

Alberto Del Rio vs. Santino Marella

This should be short but likely won't be. After a break and before Santino's entrance, Alberto says it was his destiny and all that jazz. Santino throws Alberto over the top in a funny bit. Was there ever a bell? If there was I didn't hear it. Santino chant is the loudest of the night so far which I'm not sure how to take. There's the bell. Kozlov isn't here due to the beating he got from Corre the other night.

Santino sends him over the top again and talks some trash. Back in and Alberto of course takes over as he's supposed to. He sends Santino into the post and the arm work is on. Running enziguri in the corner misses but the Cobra misses. Del Rio gets a Codebreaker to the arm and seconds later the Armbreaker ends it at about 2:59. Just an extended squash with some minor comedy thrown in so no rating.

We recap the Nexus taking out the Chamber competitors so far tonight.

Here are Vickie and Dolph for no apparent reason other than we're talking about Smackdown. She says exactly what you would expect her to say until Cena's music cuts her off. He references Christina Aguilera butchering the national anthem at the Super Bowl. He also apologizes for R-Truth, saying that Truth celebrated a bit too much because we're in Milwaukee.

Cole morphs into the anti-Cena fan, saying it's the same stuff every time. Cena starts talking about the last time they were in a ring and Cena kissed Vickie. Vickie and Dolph threaten to leave if the fans boo and Cena says you heard them, prompting huge heat. He starts up a GO PACK GO chant, which is a local favorite and is enough to get them to go.

Cena talks about what Nexus has been up to tonight and gets another jab at Truth. "They beat Truth up so badly that he forgot what city he's in." The flaw in Nexus' plan though is that Cena is still here. He starts using the phrase Elimination Chamber instead of PPV. There's something awesome about people saying what they're planning and seeing the Mania sign over their shoulders. That's always cool to see.

Another 2-21-11 ad, the same as before.

John Cena vs. CM Punk

Cena keeps looking at the entrance during Punk's entrance. Nice little touch there. Punk hammers him into the corner to start as he controls early. All Punk so far. A charge in the corner misses though as this crowd is pathetic. Cena can't get momentum going though as he has to keep looking for Nexus. Out to the floor with Punk landing a clothesline from the apron to keep control.

Back in the ring and it's the knee and clothesline out of the corner to put Cena down. The crowd is DEAD. Punk says Cena can't see him. GTS is countered. You can see some stuffing in Punk's nose. Cena pounds him down in the corner and the referee says he'll disqualify Cena if he keeps that up. Cena shrugs and drills Punk low for the DQ at about 5:00.

Rating: C-. This wasn't very good, but they had a nice little thing going with Cena constantly being afraid. Also the low blow was smart as he knew as soon as the match was over the troops would be on their way so he took out the leader. There's thinking there which gives this some points. However, the match was boring and just a bridge to the ending, which isn't good.

Post match Nexus of course comes out with Ryan guarding Punk. McGillicutty and Otunga corner Cena but Lawler hands Cena a chair and house is cleaned. Cena stands tall to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. I really wasn't that impressed here. The matches flew by and not much was going on at all. They more or less burned this show off instead of going for something new for the Chamber. That's fine, but the problem is that it gets a bit boring. There was nothing going on here for the most part though other than Punk trying to take out his opponents. It's not horrible, but I didn't get excited once throughout the show, which isn't a good thing. Pretty weak show but not awful at all.

Results

R-Truth b. Mason Ryan via DQ when Ryan wouldn't let go of his hold and the initial decision was reversed

Eve Torres/Tamina/Gail Kim b. Bella Twins/Melina – Spinning neckbreaker to Melina

John Morrison b. Michael McGillicutty – Starship Pain

Daniel Bryan/Jerry Lawler b. The Miz/Ted DiBiase – Second Rope Punch to DiBiase

Alberto Del Rio b. Santino Marella – Cross Armbreaker

CM Punk b. John Cena via DQ when Cena hit Punk low