

Impact – April 14, 2011 – Best show in a LONG time

Impact

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Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

Episode Title: Hogan's Law

It's the final show before Lockdown and most of the card is set. Tonight is likely going to be just the final push to the show which is standard operating procedure. We'll also likely see Hogan and Immortal trying to go after Anderson for him double crossing them last week and also more development in the three way feud for the world title. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the three way feud stuff from last week, including Anderson being the referee for the non-title main event. The most important thing though is Anderson screwing over Hogan and Immortal and Hogan being furious.

Here's Immortal in full force to open the show. Gunner has the TV Title in his teeth. Hogan says there's nothing but top level talent here but he wants to get rid of the strength of rotten garbage. He calls out Anderson and here he comes. Wow Anderson looks really skinny here for some reason. Hogan says that he's tired of Anderson doing things the hard way and he's going to make an example out of him.

Anderson goes off on Immortal, talking about how they're all just riding their coattails and no one respects Hogan. Especially Bischoff who made his entire career off of Hogan. Wow that's cutting a bit close. Anderson sets to say his line and Hogan I think slaps him down and the beating is on. With Immortal holding him in place, Hogan gets in Anderson's face and says he's going to take Anderson out tonight, because he's

“the baddest mamma jamma in this place.” Anderson spits in Ray’s face and gets drilled by the Bully.

Velvet yells at Winter and wants to know what Winter has done to her. Winter says that Angelina can make her own decisions. Velvet says she’s going to call Angelina out herself and if it’s not accepted she’ll come drag Angelina out there herself.

Back with Immortal celebrating but Bischoff is a bit upset. He just got a call from the Network and they want a best of 3 series between Immortal and Fournune with the winner getting an advantage in the Lethal Lockdown match on Sunday. Hogan says Bischoff was supposed to take care of the Network and gets on him about it.

Jesse Neal vs. Douglas Williams vs. Crimson vs. Orlando Jordan

Winner gets...a win I guess. All of the partners are at ringside and Moore gets after Steiner. Orlando looks to be in a purple dress for lack of a better term. Neal vs. Williams to start but the British dude tags in Jordan quickly. Side slam gets two and it’s off to Crimson vs. Neal. T-Bone suplex gets two but Neal hits his spear on Crimson. Moore keeps making fun of Steiner and distracting Neal. Moore finally pushes him and the fight is on. Steiner goes out to help him so we’re down to a three way.

Crimson goes off to help but here’s Abyss to jump Crimson. Magnus and Young fight on the floor as Abyss rips up the railing. Chokeslam onto the guardrail leaves Crimson laying as the match is down to Jordan vs. Williams for all intents and purposes. Jordan grinds on Williams and gets a clothesline for two. Young and Magnus come in which goes nowhere as Jordan hits something like Cross Rhodes (called the Gender Bender) to end it at 3:35.

Rating: D. Considering the fact that about seventy five percent of this match was spent on the stuff outside and what you saw in the ring was nothing special at all, what are you supposed to say here? Weak match to build to a match that really shouldn't be in a cage. It's always a problem with Lockdown but rarely a big one. Weak match though.

Bully Ray comes in to tell RVD that Hogan is going to make him an offer where the grass is greener and there are fewer seeds. I don't get weed jokes but I guess that makes sense.

Matt Hardy vs. Kazarian

This is match #1 in the aforementioned best of three series. Team Immortal is here with Matt. The series is for the initial advantage in Lethal Lockdown. Fournune comes out with Kaz but Hebner sends them away and does the same to Immortal. Flair freaks out and wants to fight Hebner. Kaz grabs some rollups to start but only gets two on both. Kaz charges but is sent to the apron where Matt kicks the rope for a low blow on the way back in.

Neckbreaker gets two as they're moving rather quickly out there. I guess Matt is moving due to the lack of dreads out there. Matt focuses on the neck of Kaz, hitting the slingshot into the middle rope for two. Later we get Storm vs. Abyss and Roode vs. Flair. Cravate works on the neck even more but the Twist of Hate is reversed into a backslide for two. Side Effect doesn't work and Kaz grabs a pinning combination for another two.

Side Effect gets two and there's another one. Matt goes up but misses a moonsault to give Kaz a breather. Forearm by Kazarian and here's the comeback. Hogan is going to force Anderson to run the Immortal gauntlet. Springboard legdrop gets two for Kaz and Fade to Black (called Kryptonite Crunch by Taz) is reversed. Missile dropkick gets two as Matt gets

his foot on the rope. They go to the corner and Matt shoves Hebner into the ropes, allowing him to grab Kaz in a double underhook bodyscissors hold for the pass out/submission. Hard to tell but the hold is called the Ice Pick and it ends this at 5:16.

Rating: B-. I liked this actually. They were moving out there and we got a lot of near falls and close finishes. I'm really not sure what the point is in having the X Champion lose clean like that and get in next to no offense other than a quick flurry but he's a Hardy so I guess he has to be made to look strong. Pretty decent match here.

Madison is upset about something and Tara says just get it over with.

Back with Madison and Tara in the ring. Madison says she hasn't been able to sleep for a week over what happened last week. She would have done something different: she would have backed up and run her over again. Tara doesn't like this that much. Then Madison would have slapped Tara for questioning here. Tara is getting too comfortable in her role so Madison reminds her that she works for Madison. If Tara doesn't chill, she's going to be back selling lip gloss.

Tara has something to say but Mickie comes out instead. She's in a sling and has a separated shoulder. TNA needs to really stop having Titantron videos playing during promos as they're really distracting. Mickie goes nuts and says she's going to put Madison through more pain on Sunday than Mickie went through. Sunday she's going to take Madison out and get back at her for the last six months. Very solid and intense promos here.

Jeff Jarrett/D'Angelo Dinero/Hernandez vs. Matt Morgan/Samoa Joe/Kurt Angle

Always a good sign to throw feuds into one match. It's the best possible way to get a bunch of them built at once and works almost every time. That wasn't sarcasm if it sounded like it. Jarrett and Angle start us off here which is rather surprising. Jarrett runs and tags in Hernandez maybe 10 seconds in. We take a break after about 15 seconds.

Back with Morgan throwing the rapid fire elbows to Pope's head in the corner. Morgan loads up the Carbon Footprint but Pope takes the leg out and Morgan is in trouble. Off to Hernandez who hammers away but a discus clothesline sends Morgan down and brings in Kurt. Kurt is taken down by a simple boot to the ribs and Hernandez goes up top. You don't go up top against Kurt and Angle gets the running belly to belly to send Hernandez down.

Off to Joe and Jarrett as Joe cleans house. Quick powerslam gets two for Joe but Pope breaks up a cross armbreaker. Muscle Buster to Pope is blocked twice as Jarrett breaks it up. Jeff throw Joe to the floor but runs into Kurt. They run off to the back as Hernandez gets a slingshot shoulder block to take Joe down. Border Toss is reversed into the Clutch but Pope comes off the top with an elbow to break it up. Morgan back in as the tagging is completely abandoned. Anarquia throws Hernandez some brass knuckles but Morgan takes him down. Pope gets them and knocks Joe out cold for the pin at 9:20 total.

Rating: C-. Kind of a mess here but it got to the ending which is the right idea. Also keeping Angle and Jeff from having any actual contact is always a good thing. Not a terrible match but nothing all that great. At least they built up the three matches the right way and it worked well enough.

The heels leave Morgan and Joe laying.

The Jarretts try to leave but Karen says she forgot her purse. Jeff says screw it but she runs after it anyway, only

to run into Kurt. Jeff leaves without her and Kurt says what a great pick for a husband and leaves her there.

Here are Hogan and Bischoff. Hulk calls RVD to the ring and lays it on thick, talking about how this is the new RVD who is all aggressive. Hogan saw what happened last week where RVD pinned the TNA Champion, which was awesome. Here's Sting to say that what Hogan said was a lie. Sting talks about how RVD needs to earn it and he won't do that in Immortal. If he beats Sting cleanly cool, but if it's not clean it's over Sting's dead body. RVD leaves.

Bischoff talks to Sting now and says that Hogan has been working Sting for his entire career and that Checkmate is in Sting's future. Sting disagrees, saying Checkmate is his. He drills Bischoff in the ribs and hits the Death Drop on him. Hogan is scared to death as he's in a back braces still. Sting says it'll be on his time, not Hogan's.

Abyss vs. James Storm

Abyss has new music. Storm goes right at him, spitting beer in the face and we hit the floor early. Apparently on Sunday the Angle/Jarrett match is now 2/3 falls. First is pin, second is submission and third is escape only. That match just got even more awesome. Back in the ring and Abyss gets a big boot to take him down.

Storm pops up and hammers away, finally taking him down with a forearm. Top rope cross body gets two and Storm counters a chokeslam into a Codebreaker and a Backstabber for two. Chokeslam gets two and Abyss is surprised. Shock Treatment and the Last Call both miss and the Black Hole Slam gets the pin clean at 3:50. Immortal wins the man advantage.

Rating: C+. Nice little big man vs. little man here and it was a pretty surprising ending as you don't have the predicted ending of having it go to the third fall. Power vs. speed is always fun to see and it worked pretty well here. The ending

was a bit odd though as Storm seemed like he kicked out just in time. Either way, fun little match.

Back with Bischoff talking to the Network and him being all upset about it. He demands to know who is working with the Network and the Network apparently says in time. Bischoff demands to know now and gets hung up on.

Here's Velvet to call out Angelina. She gets Winter's music instead and Angelina is here in that trance still. Velvet shoves/hits her to get her attention but gets speared down. Angelina gets a chair and DDTs Velvet on it. No emotion at all from Love here. Winter beckons Angelina back and they leave together.

We run down the Lockdown card.

Mr. Anderson vs. Immortal

This is a gauntlet match. First up is Murphy who gets a quick clothesline and a slam. The slam puts Anderson's leg into the rope and it might be injured. DDT to the leg and Anderson is in trouble. And never mind as the Mic Check sends Murphy out quickly. Rob Terry is in second and Anderson grabs a small package and rollup for two each. Terry goes after the knee some more and uses basic power. Mic Check as a reversal ends him also.

In third is the TV Champion in I believe his first match since winning the title. There's not a lot to say here as you know Anderson is about to take this one with a quick win also. Gunner works on the knee in the corner and Anderson is stuck. Fourth is going to be Bully Ray and he'll be last. Anderson gets a boot in the corner and some strikes to set up a spinning neckbreaker for two. Yep there it is as he sends Gunner into the corner and the Mic Check makes Anderson 3-0.

Finally it's Bully Ray who hammers away and drops some elbows before hammering on the knee even more. The fans chant you can't wrestle at Ray. There's a WWE joke in there somewhere. Anderson gets yelled at a lot and knocked down again. The back splash from the middle rope of course doesn't work as Anderson fires in some shots. He manages to get Ray up in a fireman's carry despite having a bad knee. Well of course he can.

They slug it out and Anderson takes over. Big boot puts him right back down though and Ray throws him to the floor. Then he drills the referee and takes the fight to the floor. Ray takes him up the ramp and sets for a powerbomb like he did to AJ a few weeks back. As he sets for it Hogan comes out dancing a bit and walks to do it instead. There goes the back brace and he sets for a powerbomb. Here's Sting with the bat though for the save. Abyss pops up and Sting drills him with the bat. Ray gets the same treatment and Hogan backs off. We'll say the match ended when Ray hit the referee so the match ran 9:30.

Rating: D+. Just a standard gauntlet match here with Anderson destroying everyone not named Ray, including the TV Champion, in short order with no real effort at all. The ending was I guess to further Sting and Hogan which it did for the most part, but the ending made the match worse, which is bad since it wasn't a terrible match to begin with.

Fourtune talks about how this ends Sunday. Storm yells about Abyss.

RVD doesn't say anything.

Anderson says nothing has changed with him and Sting. He wants more mountains to climb and rants about the title.

Sting says he'll keep the title on Sunday.

Hogan says Immortal is going to break Sting in half and if he

wants a war, he's got one.

Overall Rating: B. This was a very good go home show as everything was talked about I think. We got some decent matches in there also and all in all the show worked. There were some bad parts but at the same time everything worked. However, this all comes down to Sunday as the PPV has to work right. It depends on how that show goes to see if this works overall.

Results

Orlando Jordan b. Douglas Williams, Jesse Neal and Crimson – Gender Bender to Williams

Matt Hardy b. Kazarian – Ice Pick

Hernandez/Jeff Jarrett/D'Angelo Dinero b. Kurt Angle/Samoa Joe/Matt Morgan – Dinero pinned Joe after a punch with brass knuckles

Abyss b. James Storm – Black Hole Slam

Mr. Anderson vs. Immortal went to a no contest