

Smackdown – April 22, 2011 – Pip Pip, Cheerio and All That Silly Sort of Smackdown

Smackdown

Date: April 22, 2011

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews, Booker T

Tonight Alberto Del Rio is going to have a going away party for Edge who apparently will be in attendance tonight. Things are all leading to the Draft on Monday where things are going to get turned upside down as they typically do. This should be fun as Smackdown was pretty good last week. They've changed their style to more of a squash heavy show which works in a different way than the style they had used before. Let's get to it.

We open with the 3 Doors Down video from Raw which works for me as they're my favorite band. This is a clipped down version, as in like 45 seconds long.

We also get a recap of the ending of the battle royal last week with Christian winning the spot in the match against Del Rio.

Do you know your enemy? Mine at the moment is people that can't understand what "no lettuce" means.

The world title belt is hanging above the ring.

Big Show and Kane vs. Corre for the tag titles later as well as Kofi vs. Barrett for the IC Title. Didn't he get a rematch already?

Cole gets a big introduction as Sir Michael Cole. Wouldn't he

be subservient to King Booker?

Cody Rhodes comes out with a paper bag. There are also people in suits with a shopping cart. Cody says his mask is for protection but Rey's is for hiding his fears and hatred for the fans. He talks about how the fans are all wearing masks as we're getting philosophical here. He has a remedy though at his own expense. In the shopping cart are paper bags with faces cut out of them. Not quite the cars that Oprah gives away but a nice gift I guess. Cody has a bag saved for Rey.

Cody Rhodes vs. Rey Mysterio

Rey gets a kick in early and we head to the floor. Rey gets a seated senton off the apron as we take a break. Back with Cody knocking Rey off the top and taking over. Cody tries a powerbomb which is reversed for two. Big old clothesline gets two for Rhodes as Cody is being all psycho. Dropkick looks to set up the 619 but Cody reverses with a backdrop to the apron. They fight on said apron with Cody sending Rey into the post as we take ANOTHER break. We've had two breaks with three minutes of actual wrestling to watch.

Back with Cody hammering away as Booker and Cole get into it again. Rey does the Bret Hart chest into the buckle bump so Cody can ram the mask into the head of Rey. Booker thinks Cody has amnesia. What in the world is Booker on anyway? Rey fights Cody off of the top and gets some high flying stuff including a cross body for two. The swinging kick to a seated Cody misses as he rolls Rey up for two.

Top rope...something...jumps into a dropkick by Cody for two. It might have been a cross body but it wasn't actually cross. Cody sets for Cross Rhodes but Rey fights out of it. Another powerbomb is attempted but Rey counters again, this time into a rana for the pin at 7:10 shown of 14:10.

Rating: C+. Well what we saw of it was good. This will likely be setting up the tiebreaker match at Extreme Rules which I really hope Cody wins. He has the potential to be a decent main event jobbing heel and I hope they let him do that rather than having him job to Rey like so many others have done in the past.

Cody keeps beating on Rey post match and they go into the crowd for a bit. They get bored out there I guess as they head back to ringside. Cody sends Rey into the steps and they fight on the barricade. Rey sends him into the crowd again and takes over. Rey LAUNCHES Cody over the railing to send him back towards the ring. Cody looked like a mannequin flying through the air. Cody takes over again and hits Cross Rhodes on the floor. He puts a paper bag over Rey's head and leaves him laying.

Gabriel and Barrett are in the back and Gabriel says it wasn't personal when he eliminated him. Barrett says it was personal and Slater says they both would have sold their mother down the river to get ahead. Jackson comes up and says calm down because he's the leader. Barrett glares at him so Jackson says he's just kidding. Barrett and the tag champions still aren't happy.

We recap Laycool's therapy from last week. They had more therapy earlier today and McCool says Layla wouldn't be here without her. They argue even more and yell at the therapist. McCool says maybe they should split because Layla might not be flawless. Michelle apologizes and they hug to a nice pop. And never mind as McCool grabs her by the hair and throws her onto the couch. I'll let that image sink in for a few moments before I point out it was to hurt Layla. She cries as McCool leaves.

Cole is in the ring and we see a clip of the knighting and feet kissing thing from Raw. He brings out Swagger for the following squash.

Jack Swagger vs. Trent Barreta

Total squash as Swagger beats him up with ease, hitting the Vader Bomb. An enziguri hits and Trent tries a springboard, only to get caught in a powerbomb. Angle lock ends clean at 1:13.

Big Show was at the Kids Choice Awards.

Tag Titles: Heath Slater/Justin Gabriel vs. Big Show/Kane

Slater vs. Kane to start as we're talking about John Kennedy for some reason. Cole says Booker is jealous because he's not a King anymore. Maybe he's an 8 or 9 but not a King. Show comes in for some pounding and it's back off to Kane. Slater gets a shot to the knee and immediately tags out. Gabriel comes in and before he takes two steps takes a right hand from Kane to take him down. That looked great!

Kane goes up but Jackson shoves him off to set up the Ricky Morton stint. Slater grabs a chinlock and tags out again to Justin. Gabriel at least makes it more than a few seconds before getting drilled this time that's an upgrade for him. Kane pops him with another hard sounding shot and tries the side slam. Gabriel reverses into a spinning DDT for two. Slater comes off the top and Kane pops him as well. He's been sharp with those punches in this.

Hot tag to Show who cleans house. Slater gets sent to the floor onto Jackson and Kane hits that uppercut on Jackson as well. He must have been following his brother with only big right hands or uppercuts. Anyway Slater runs into Big Show and we remember who is who here, meaning the chokeslam gives us new champion at 4:04. Kane and Big Show were never once in anything resembling jeopardy here.

Rating: D+. Pretty boring match here but Kane's uppercuts, while basic, were cool looking as they made every member of the Corre go flying. Also they didn't make things ridiculous by having the two small guys fight against the monsters which would have been a good bit realistic. Not much here but the right ending and it gives the English fans something special to remember.

The Corre argues in the back with Jackson blaming Slater for getting pinned and Slater shoving Gabriel and walking away.

Drew McIntyre vs. Chris Masters

When is the last time Masters won a match that wasn't on Superstars? Masters shoves him into the corner to start and sends Drew to the apron. Masterlock out there doesn't work so Chris blasts him to the apron. Back in and Drew wakes up a bit as he hammers away for two. Futureshock is reversed into a small package for two. Sky High gets two for Masters as he makes a nice comeback. Middle rope shoulder gets two and he goes for the Masterlock again. Drew walks up the corner and slams back onto Masters to reverse. Futureshock ends this at 3:35. Nice pop for McIntyre.

Rating: C. Better match here with Masters looking competitive again but eventually he has to beat someone. He really needs a move that is a pinning move like a powerbomb or something as most heels simply aren't going to give up to end a match. That Sky High of his could work. If he gets some pins with it then it makes him a far better threat to anyone else he fights, which he really isn't at the moment.

Raw ReBund is the R-Truth heel turn from Raw. The video they have is the one from NXT which is much better than the actual turn itself. Eats up about 4:30.

We recap the Rhodes/Mysterio match and post match stuff from

earlier. The match at the PPV will be falls count anywhere. That fits with the crowd thing earlier I guess.

Intercontinental Title: Kofi Kingston vs. Wade Barrett

Jackson is with Barrett. Kofi hammers away to start as Booker says Kofi worries about the fans too much. Barrett gets a boot in to take over. Kofi sends him to the floor and hits a BIG cross body to the floor as we take a break. Back with Barrett holding a bow and arrow hold on Kingston. During the break Barrett sent Kofi into the steps to take over.

Back to the floor again as Barrett might have a bad wrist or hand. Jackson accidentally takes Barrett out and we head back in. Barrett yells at Jackson and sends him to the back. Small package gets two for Kofi and it's comeback (was he ever in trouble) time. Boom Drop hits and Kofi sets for Trouble in Paradise. Wade catches him in a fireman's carry and puts Kofi on top. Kofi tries a victory roll/rollup off the ropes but Barrett kneels down and grabs the ropes for the pin at 4:24 shown of 7:54. Well that was short.

Rating: C-. Kofi's big spots were nice but he needs to go to Raw. There is nothing left for him to do on Smackdown and it's very clear. He hasn't had any direction in forever and he needs a change of scenery. This was a pretty weak match overall but the time is to blame for that. Even though the whole thing was almost 8 minutes, just seeing about four and a half didn't work. Not a fan of this one but it was ok from a technical standpoint.

Time for Alberto's party for Edge. Clay and Rodriguez are there with him of course. There are presents apparently and they're under sheets. Alberto pulls the first sheet off and it's a grandfather clock. Gift number two: adult diapers. Make you own jokes there. The third gift is her.

Cue LITA of all people...and it's a fat chick. Yeah I think we all saw that coming. Del Rio says she never looked better. Edge can go on a romantic stroll with her because he has this: a walker. Time for the final gift which is a motorized scooter driven by Ricardo. He does the Edge pose for the pyro to go off. Oh and it comes complete with a handicap parking pass.

Cue Edge, looking a bit more like himself in jeans and a t-shirt with sunglasses. Edge RSVPed on Facebook (that was on the graphic every time they showed it tonight) and this party sucks. After some bad insults, Del Rio sends Brodus after Edge. Christian pops up from nowhere with a ladder to drill Brodus and Del Rio as Alberto charges. Christian sets the ladder up in the middle of the ring and pulls down the title to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Considering this was one of the England show, this worked pretty well I though. They let it be a regular show instead of a boring one like they tend to have on the British episodes. Things are kind of on hold until the Draft which is a problem as we have the PPV right around the corner. Cody was good tonight and the PPV is a good place to blow that feud off at. Solid show overall and it worked rather well. Good stuff.

Results

Rey Mysterio b. Cody Rhodes – Hurricanrana

Jack Swagger b. Trent Barreta – Ankle Lock

Big Show/Kane b. Heath Slater/Justin Gabriel – Chokeslam to Slater

Drew McIntyre b. Chris Masters – Futureshock

Wade Barrett b. Kofi Kingston – Rollup