

Smackdown – August 26, 2011 – Kind Of A Tuesday Preview Show

Smackdown

Date: August 26, 2011

Location: Scotiabank Saddledome, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews, Booker T

We're still in Canada and we're into the Henry as #1 contender era. The main event tonight is him vs. Sheamus in a Summerslam rematch that hopefully is as good as last time. I'm really hoping they don't end Sheamus' momentum already but maybe they won't. Since we're in Canada there's also a little surprise in store. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Henry being dominant last week in the battle royal and getting the shot at Orton.

Do you know your enemy? Mine is 4000 miles separating you from someone you want to be with more than anything.

Remember that surprise I mentioned? Bret Hart is here to open the show. Bret says he's not here tonight so HHH has named him Guest GM for the night. See, THIS is what legends should be doing. Flair would be perfect for something like this. Have a show in Charlotte? Have Flair pop in and be a guest host or a guest referee or something. Bret mentions that Tuesday will be a special live Super Smackdown which is a double branded show.

Bret says he's looking forward to the main event which will be Henry vs. Orton for the title. That brings out Christian who says he blames his loss at Summerslam on Bret's friend Edge. Due to Edge doing what he did, Christian couldn't concentrate and he lost the title. Bret says Christian is getting really whiny, becoming an embarrassment to himself, the world title,

the WWE Universe and to Canada. OH NO HE DIDN'T! Christian needs to start at the bottom and work his way back up.

Christian says that guys like Bret and Edge are the real embarrassments because they can't let it go. He thinks maybe they're jealous because he's the only relevant Canadian. Christian pulls out a document saying he gets a title rematch next week on Smackdown. Bret says he does, but it needs to be a special kind of match. The more famous Canadian makes it a steel cage match and Christian isn't happy.

That brings out Mark Henry and Christian heads to the floor. Henry says he's tired of this disrespect after 15 years in the company and he earned his title match last week. If he doesn't get it, someone is going to be hurt. He wants the winner of the cage match and as much as he respects Bret, he can't be held responsible for what happens if he doesn't get the shot. Since three people taking 15 minutes to talk hasn't been enough, here's Sheamus!

The great white (which is what Cole called him earlier so don't jump on me) talks about his uncle's farm and a big black bull there. The bull kept destroying everything in sight so one day his uncle castrated said bull. Sheamus charges and the fight is on! Henry gets knocked to the floor and the staredown finally takes us to a break.

Christian vs. Daniel Bryan

This was set up during the break. As Bryan is coming to the ring we get a quick video package on him. Cole thinks Bryan is planning something and won't cash in at Mania but rather like everyone else has. It's a basic match to start as Bryan tries his strikes and Christian tries his usual stuff.

There's the big dive (the announcers don't react to it until the replay because they're talking about how the champion always gets a rematch after losing. Not exactly but who cares about history in this company?) and Bryan hooks a surfboard.

Christian escapes the hold though and takes over as we take a break. Back with a chinlock on and the fans are behind Christian as is expected.

Bryan gets a shot in and the missile dropkick out of nowhere for two. So far the count of Booker calling him "D. Bryan, one of my Fave Five" is at three. The pendulum kick is blocked in the corner and Bryan rips off some kicks and a knee to the chest for two. Christian does his stand on the guy's back while they're in the 619 position and the uppercut for two.

Spear is countered by a kick but Bryan slips on his moonsault and Christian tries the sunset flip out of the corner. Bryan rolls through and hits the spin kick (with Christian looking stupid for sitting there for two). Top rope rana is countered and Christian (called the Professor by Booker) hooks a tornado DDT for two. Killswitch is countered into a LeBell Lock attempt but the Canadian makes the rope. Out of almost nowhere the Killswitch ends this at 8:08 shown of 11:38.

Rating: B. Another good and long TV match from Smackdown as is their custom. I've heard some people saying Bryan is being buried or depushed, but since he's won the case the worst loss he's had is to Wade Barret who is hardly a nobody. He's got (arguably) a better resume than Bryan in WWE at this point and it was a good match. Bryan has had consistently good matches against top level competition and I can't get why people would think he's been depushed.

Aksana says watch Super Smackdown.

Wade Barrett vs. ???

It's a jobber but his name is never given. Barrett grabs the mic and says he's done a lot and this is an insult because this is beneath him as a man and asking him to face a man such as this is an insult. Barrett walks off and there's no match.

Raw ReBound eats up some time. It's about Cena vs. Punk.

Sin Cara vs. Heath Slater

I'm not sure which Cara this is but he's got some solid abs. It's now the one man Southern rock band and his music sounds like that a bit as well. Del Rio vs. Sin Cara on Tuesday. Slater goes right after Cara to open things up and the fans aren't thrilled. We hear about Slater's background in listening to southern rock. I know the writers are lacking for characters a bit but a guy that listens to music is the best they've got? Anyway as the announcers argue a bit Cara hits the big cross body to the floor and the slingshot swanton and the Lionsault end this at 1:42. What the heck was that?

On a side note, from what I understand this match was taped twice because the first time was so horrible it had to be redone because it couldn't air.

We get a recap of Orton being confronted by Legacy and the RK0 to DiBiase before he could get much out at all.

Randy Orton vs. Ted DiBiase

Rhodes talks about being a miracle worker and that he's resurrecting the title, which I hope is true. Basic stuff on the mat to start until Randy takes over. Shoulder block gets two for DiBiase. It's more or less a standoff and I think they'll have a decent amount of time to work with here. Orton gets going and stomps away to continue the slow pace of this match. DiBiase gets the following clothesline for two and a pop from the crowd. That Bizarro Land tag is pretty true.

Ted's dropkick is countered into a slingshot and Orton unleashes his clotheslines. A move that I refuse to call a Thesz Press hits but Cody breaks up the elevated DDT. Randy tries an RK0 on the floor on Cody but DiBiase hits a baseball slide to save and we take a break. Back with Orton getting taken down by a dropkick for two. Ted goes up but Orton fires off right hands and gets a superplex for two.

Orton initiates his finishing sequences and might be bleeding from his head a bit. Powerslam sets up the backbreaker but Ted counters the latter into a rollup for two. They're trying to play up the idea that Ted knows Randy so well that he can counter everything. Dream Street is countered into a European Uppercut and there's the elevated DDT. RK0 attempt is countered into a Dream Street attempt which is reversed. Ted tries another following clothesline but walks into the RK0 for the pin at 8:40 shown of 12:10.

Rating: C-. Not a horrible match but I wasn't feeling it. These two didn't click and after three months of Christian vs. Orton, it's kind of hard to get into these two having such an uninteresting match. It wasn't bad I guess but Orton needs the right guy to bring him out of his boring area and DiBiase isn't that guy.

Post match Cody takes out Ted with Cross Rhodes. Ted gets a bagging.

Kelly Kelly vs. Tamina

A quick inset promo by Natalya says Kelly is a real Barbie doll but she doesn't play with dolls. Do these more often WWE. They're a great way to give the characters TV time and let them say a little something. Booker has dubbed Tamina the Warrior Princess. Kelly does her usual stuff and spansks Tamina a bit. Tamina knocks Kelly down on a headscissors attempt and we talk about Tamina's basketball career. Cole: "Tamina once had 69 rebounds in a game." Booker: "That's like Wilt Chamberlain scoring 100 points but from a female perspective." Yeah I've got nothing. Stink Face and a bad K2 end this at 2:45.

Jinder Mahal blames Khali for losing the battle royal last week and says Khali has been reeducated to only serve Mahal. Tonight, the target is Ezekiel Jackson.

Great Khali vs. Ezekiel Jackson

Khali shoves him around to start so Jackson charges straight at him. That makes sense for him as it's worked against everyone else and why shouldn't he use it again here? We get the backstory again about Khali and Mahal. Off to the nerve hold which doesn't last long. Jackson starts firing off his clotheslines in the corner but Khali gets the big boot up. Here's the vice grip but since Khali is a heel his submission hold is useless and Jackson breaks it as well as makes a rope. Mahal tries to cheat and gets dropped, allowing Jackson to get the torture rack for the tap out at 2:55. Ok that was impressive.

Orton says he isn't worried about Christian and then it's on to Henry.

Video on Henry being all dominant and evil, which I think we've now seen some form of about 193 times if my math is correct. The difference here: it's a lot longer.

Sheamus vs. Mark Henry

This is a rematch from Summerslam which they've played up about as much as humanly possible tonight. Booker says he'd be upset if he had been here 15 years like Henry had and got disrespected. It really has been 15 years. It seems like at least 16 or so. This is what you would expect from these two: a power brawl. Sheamus takes over to start and then Henry uses his power to take him back down.

Henry steps on his chest but Sheamus fires off some right hands. That goes nowhere as Henry headbutts him back down. What would a power match be without the heel throwing on a bear hug? They keep up the idea of Sheamus trying to get some shots in but Henry is too strong. Henry sets for a gorilla press but Sheamus counters into a pretty nice DDT.

He fires off the axe handles and then the forearms while Henry is in the ropes. A flying shoulder block gets two off the top. Henry rolls to the floor and the fun starts. Henry pulls him

to the floor and then sends him literally flying into the barricade. Henry loads up the announce table but Sheamus counters the Slam and gets a big old Brogue Kick to send Henry over the table. Sheamus slides in to beat the count at 7:33.

Rating: C. This was really all they could do here and it's the right move. They're even now and Sheamus has a reason to want another crack at Henry because neither has the definitive win yet. This was exactly what you would expect in the form of a brawl and that's what it should have been. There's no need to have these guys try to be something they're not and this match was watchable because of it.

Henry goes nuts after the match and manages to ram Sheamus into the apron. Sheamus fights back and rams Henry into the post but he tries to throw the steps at Henry at the post and misses. A World's Strongest Slam onto the steps ends the show.

Overall Rating: B. Well with two long matches and the usual nothing bad from Smackdown you can't call it a bad show. This was more of a placeholder show as the Super Smackdown was the focus, as it should be. Bret was a nice surprise but I would have liked to see him more than in just the opening segment. The Tuesday show was set up well and that's the important thing right here. Good show but it was missing something that I couldn't quite put my finger on.