

History of Survivor Series Count-Up – 2009 – The PG Powers Explode!

Survivor Series 2009

Date: November 22, 2009

Location; Verizon Center, Washington D.C.

Attendance: 12,500

Commentators: Jerry Lawler, Matt Striker, Michael Cole

Well here we are. After a month of build up, we're at the Survivor Series. Since most of you have been watching the buildup, I'll spare you the details of it. The card looks pretty good if nothing else. I'm not wild on the treatment the two triple threats are getting as they seem like the belts are being made silly which simply never works for me. I will say this though: the team matches have been booked and built very well.

That's the key to these shows I think as you can advance feuds, like Orton vs. Kofi without actually having them fight. That's invaluable as in today's market you have so many PPVs dominating the market that saving some of the matches is the best thing possible. Let's do it as I'm doing this one live so it's going to be a bit less wordy.

The opening video talks about the history of the show. I've been doing that for a month so whatever.

Team Miz vs. Team Morrison

Miz, Drew McIntyre, Sheamus, Ziggler, Swagger

Morrison, Matt Hardy, Evan Bourne, Shelton Benjamin, Finlay

NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! This is what the Series should be about: promoting the midcard. The most important thing about

the midcard here: it exists. For so many years there just hasn't been one as everyone is just sent to the main event or is a jobber. Here are ten guys that are firmly in the midcard. The heels are quite a team actually and there's at least four great theme songs in there. Sheamus is a very good monster heel.

I'd bet on Lawler trying to cause Sheamus his match. The description of Miz is perfect: you might like him but you just won't admit it. How true is that? Apparently Sheamus' day may come tonight. There's nothing like that great Lawler analysis. We start with Swagger and Bourne, which is a rather odd but interesting pairing. I guess that's the point here. Allegedly Miz was at the first Survivor Series. So is he like a poor man's Foley or something?

The stream isn't being very nice so this could be a bit spotty here. As for reasons as to why these guys are here, more or less most of these feuds aren't happening anymore but they were recently enough so I guess that counts for something. Ok the live idea didn't work as I couldn't find a good enough stream so this is being written very early Tuesday morning now. DAng it's weird writing one of these since I haven't done one in months now.

Seeing Sheamus after the ending of Raw is just a bit odd. Swagger is just made of awesome. I don't think I've ever seen a small package blocked before. Ziggler beats the heck out of Bourne which makes me wonder if he'll, meaning Ziggler, will ever get a push like so many people want him to. Evan Bourne is freaking scary in the air man. We get the first tag for the faces as Hardy comes in. Less than 20 seconds later he tags Bourne back in and the Shooting Star puts out Ziggler.

In about 10 seconds Bourne is out to a double arm DDT. Did Striker just say Finlay vs. McIntyre has been lighting up Friday nights? That's very stupid but I like Striker just for his references alone so there we are. Finlay and Sheamus stare

each other down and Sheamus just jumps up with a bicycle kick. I LOVE THAT! He was just like screw this standing around nonsense and kicked the tar out of him to pin him.

We're at 4-3 now if you were a bit confused. We keep hearing about Lawler and Sheamus and no one really cares as Jerry has come off like a jerk during this whole thing. Miz calls spots to Hardy which Striker uses the Billy Graham method of saying Miz is trash talking him to cover it up, which is a good idea if nothing else. Hardy is taking a beating here which is a tradition of Survivor Series. Even on the apron Morrison has such a great presence. You can't teach something like that.

Does Matt have a single move that doesn't work on the neck at all? Morrison got a POP. Something in me wants to see Swagger vs. Morrison in a long feud. That would just be awesome in my mind. Yeah I'm a Morrison mark now. The guy is just freaking awesome. The referee went down which apparently is a legit injury. Starship Pain, which is a sweet name if there ever has been one, ties us up. It's Miz, Sheamus and McIntyre vs. Shelton, Hardy and Morrison.

Miz and Morrison could main event a small PPV someday. Shelton is freaking insane in the ring. Now if only they could get him a personality. Miz pins Shelton with the Breakdown which takes less time to type than the regular name. That right there is what Miz needs more than anything else: pins over more established stars. He's viewed as a guy with limited credibility and the more wins he gets the faster that goes away and the faster he becomes a more complete wrestler.

Like it or not, he's the real deal and he's going to be around for awhile. I'm still undecided on McIntyre. He's not bad, but I don't see him as being as great as everyone says he is. If nothing else he uses a DDT so I can't complain. He gets us down to 3-1 and I'm marking for Morrison here, despite knowing the ending.

Morrison of course gets his head handed to him as we get even more Rockers comparisons, which doesn't work as both guys have potential to be somewhat big deals. Eventually the Razor's Edge from Sheamus puts out Morrison, giving us three sole survivors as WWE makes my head shake more and more.

Rating: B. This was easily the best choice for the opener. The midcard gets a very solid push here which is what these matches can do better than anything else. The ending was very good also as it would have been unrealistic for Morrison to fight off all three at once. He should have gone down here and having it 3-1 keeps him credible. This was a solid match as the heels winning is just fine. This was very good and an excellent opener.

The black push continues as Christian is the only white guy on his team. Only this comes to mind:

The segment is funny if nothing else. Kofi without the accent has upped his credibility about 1000%. I still don't buy everything that is said about Christian. I think that's his biggest issue: his name. Christian. It just does nothing for me at all. I'd say that's the main problem.

We recap Rey vs. Batista, which has to be the best heel turn in a good while. The angle sucks badly as they weren't really best friends or anything or even close so the whole thing didn't work. Anyway, let's get to this as the package goes on way too long.

Rey Mysterio vs. Batista

This match has a no harm clause meaning that if Batista hurts him he can't be sued, which more or less gives away the result. As I said in the LD, only WWE would have Batista's first major heel match in his hometown where he's going to get a massive pop. Ok, I'm sick of any and all references to Eddie. He passed away four years ago. Yes it was tragic. Yes he's missed. STOP FREAKING MAKING ANGLES ABOUT HIM!!!

If you want to remember him fondly, stop using him as a prop. That's absurd. Ok, so usually I write the reviews as the match goes, but based on what I read in the LD, this was a minute long squash. I have no idea where the whole part about not being able to respect Rey again came from. The way you guys were talking about it, Rey got less offense in than he did against Khali when he was world champion. This was perfectly fine.

In wrestling, you have to have a high level of suspension of disbelief. Rey as a credible main event guy is something that certainly falls under that category. There's no reason to believe that he should have a chance against someone of Batista's size. The thing is in this match, he got a TON of offense in. More or less Batista had to get his hands on Rey one time and the rest would be history. Rey got out of a ton of stuff and had Batista in trouble.

I seriously do not get where the squash thing is coming from. Batista is supposed to be an animal and he mauled Rey after he hit the first big move. Was Rey supposed to kick out of the Batista Bomb? He got a beatdown after a big power move. This was perfectly fine and there was nothing wrong with it. Rey has been beaten up before by people like Chavo Guerrero of all people and he came back fine from it. He'll come back, likely at TLC and cost Batista the title. What was wrong here?

Rating: C+. The match itself was fine. It was short but it did its job very well. Honestly, what do you want from this match? It did everything it was supposed to do which mainly was getting Rey off of TV for awhile. It did that and allowed Batista to get a big boost as a monster heel. What more do you want here?

We jump to the back with Team Orton who might as well be called team losers here given the endings to the first two matches.

Promo for the Raw that aired last night which was quite good.

Team Orton vs. Team Kingston

Orton, Rhodes, DiBiase, Regal, Punk

Kingston, Christian, R-Truth, MVP, Mark Henry

The feuds are about as basic as you could think of here but that works fine here. We're starting out with Henry vs. Orton. Please, make it quick. Henry is named the Chef of Hell's Kitchen by Striker. I don't get it. Striker goes on to point out that Orton is a Royal Rumble winner which could play into strategy here. Cole points out he's a six time world champion as well. Ok, the Rumble thing makes a little sense I guess as both matches are about survival.

The world champion thing tells me one thing: titles change hands too often. No one mentions that Orton has been the sole survivor three times because that clearly has no effect on anything at all. Either way, an RKO takes Henry out in about a minute so at least he didn't fill up the screen for too long. On paper this more or less should be Christian and Kofi again Punk and Orton.

Everyone else on those teams are more or less jobbers or midcard guys that aren't going to do anything here. Thank goodness they didn't call that move where Punk jumped and did a front flip over MVP a belly to belly suplex. At least they got that right. My boy hits a GTS to put Truth out, but does a very smart thing before doing it: he pulls Truth to his corner before going for the cover.

It's little things like that which can make a wrestler be a step ahead of everyone else. It's smart from a kayfabe perspective which so few people do yet. They're really talking Kofi up here which is the best thing they could do. After a Killswitch misses, a pretty nice spinning sunset flip from the middle rope puts out DiBiase to make it 4-3.

Kofi comes in to a solid pop. If you haven't seen it, take a look at the MSG fight between Kofi and Orton. It made Kofi's career. Rhodes is called the Triforce of the Blue Eyed Bandit. I'm not sure if I like that or not. After a blind tag MVP hits what is actually a Mafia Kick on Regal for the pin to tie us up at 3. Striker is just on a higher level than Cole and King behind the mic.

There's such a flow to him out there and he sounds completely comfortable. Ballin might be the most absurd move in wrestling since the People's Elbow. IT'S A FREAKING ELBOW DROP!!! Thankfully Rhodes hits Cross Roads to put him out. That's a major step for Legacy as having their own individual finishers sets them up for an eventual singles push. Think about all of the great teams that have split and all of them had singles moves to end matches with.

A Killswitch puts out Rhodes, and amazingly enough we're down to a two on two match with the four biggest stars in this thing. Who would have seen that coming? From out of almost nowhere, Christian hits a Killswitch on Orton but Punk makes a save. Orton is up in about 15 seconds and Christian walks into an RKO to make it 2-1 with Punk and Orton against Kofi.

Punk gets him up for the GTS but because he kicks him feet he gets out. That's all anyone has to do to get out of a move like that. The magical feet kicking knows no bounds. Orton hasn't been in at all since it's been one on one. Orton has an awesome silhouette. He just looks awesome standing there. If nothing else we're getting a good Kofi vs. Punk match. I love what they've been doing with Kofi.

Instead of the way they built up Hardy who kept getting closer and closer but didn't actually win, they're having Kofi just rise up and start beating everyone he faces. I like that as it's a different style to the push and it's working very well. He catches Punk in a rollup and gets him. Orton walks in and almost immediately the Trouble In Paradise ends this. Kofi's

skyrocket push continues.

Rating: B+. Again, this was a very well done match. They knew what they were doing and it showed. They got rid of the six guys that meant nothing and got it down to what mattered. This match was designed to make Kofi look great again and they did just that. He pinned two men that within the last two months had been world champions completely clean. That's a huge boost to Kofi and puts even more heat on Kofi vs. Orton. I loved this and it came off very well.

Don't try this at home.

Smackdown World Title: Undertaker vs. Big Show vs. Chris Jericho

I'm really not big at all on the idea of having more or less the same match on both brands for the title, especially triple threats. Granted I don't like triple threats anyway as it's all about a gimmick that's been done so many freaking times that it has lost any and all kinds of credibility it once may have had but again that's neither here nor there.

Not to mention everything in this match turns into yet another formula match, which is one guy goes down and we have a one on one match, then repeat that with a different order of people. Naturally I could have written double this in the time Taker's entrance takes. Yeah he's still coming. I had a nice bowl of soup during his entrance.

It ticked me off that I was out of soup and had to get dressed and go to the store and get some soup and then come home and make it but at least I didn't miss any of the match since Taker was 90% done with his entrance when I got back. Naturally, the match goes the formula direction for the majority of it. I'm not sold at all on splitting Show and Jericho already. They more or less are the tag division at this point, but granted last night on Raw they were announced to be fighting DX at TLC for the belts.

Again, I don't like this as it's two guys that won't be together in 3 months because THEY ARE NOT A TAG TEAM. They're singles guys with nothing else to do so let's just throw them together again. They're just kind of going through the motions here with near falls being broken up by the third guy every time.

That's fine as it builds some drama, but at the same time it really doesn't do much at all. It's repetitive, which is never a good thing in a match. It's not a bad match, but it's not that interesting at all. Finally Jericho takes a shot to the head and Show goes into Hell's Gate for the tap. Not wild on the ending but whatever.

Rating: C+. This was your run of the mill triple threat. Granted that might be because Show was in it and he just can't do anything most of the time. What the heck happened to him? In WCW he was the MAN. Anyway, this wasn't bad, but dang it went as by the book as you could ask for. I don't think anyone believed Taker was dropping the belt here, but geez could they have been any less boring about it?

Josh Matthews, who should be thankful for having a job given that he's completely worthless, is with the survivors of Team Miz who say they're all great.

Face Divas vs. Heel Divas

McCool, Jillian, Beth Phoenix, Alicia Fox, Layla
Mickie James, Gail Kim, Kelly, Eve, Melina

How sad is it that I have no clue what show most of these girls are on? So Melina is champion yet Mickie is the captain. I hate these matches as all of four people care and it's a T&A match. Yeah the girls look good, but that's all there is to it. The matches are the same every year and next to nothing ever changes. Why are these girls feuding? No reason, other than some are faces and some are heels.

I am bored out of my mind with this match. Why am I supposed to care about any of these women? Kelly eliminates Layla to absolutely no reaction. McCool apparently disrespects AJ Styles by using his finishing move, despite AJ being known for all his other stuff more than that. That was so overblown it was ridiculous. Eve is just worthless in the ring and it's pitiful. The thing is, she looks good in shorts and a tight top so she's told she can wrestle.

She puts out Jillian as still no one really cares. Beth puts Eve out in a few seconds to get us down to 3-3. Kelly goes out despite her face never hitting the mat. Mickie and Beth botch a crucifix but it gets three anyway. We have Mickie and Melina vs. Alicia and McCool.

Alicia goes out due to a high level of suck so we're down to 2-1 as McCool tries so hard to get people to care about her or accept her as anything but the vagina Taker gets off in. That's an image I didn't want. Finally after far too long of a match Melina beats McCool to end this mess.

Rating: D. This was, as usual, a waste of time. The wrestling is ok, but geez what is it going to take to get it through the heads of the writers that NO ONE CARES??? Seriously, when was the last time you saw the crowd into a Divas match for a reason other than what the girls looked like? The division is a joke and always will be a joke because there are no characters, there are no stories, and the champions are flavors of the month, except for a few here and there.

Mickie, the most talented one, is criticized for not being a stick but having some meat on her which makes her more realistic. That's evil apparently, and again shows everything that's wrong with the women in wrestling. Scratch that. Everything wrong with the division is better.

We recap Batista vs. Rey, despite the match already happening. It sets up Batista saying he's not sorry.

Raw World Title: Shawn Michaels vs. HHH vs. John Cena

DX has gotten some heat for coming out together, and I can understand that. It makes it look like they don't care about being champion, which is the point of the stupid match and being a wrestler in the first place but whatever. In a great moment, Shawn kicks HHH a few seconds into the match. I love that. He just made up for coming out with HHH as he says screw this guy, I want the title. That's awesome.

This however creates a good thing and a bad thing, as we have the usual greatness that is Cena vs. Shawn, but it also sends us straight into another formula of a match, which is the last thing we need here after what we had earlier. Anyway we hit the floor after some good stuff, and as Cena is going to FU Shawn through a table, HHH is back for the save. He makes up for earlier and hits a spinebuster through the table with Shawn.

And yep, it's formula time as it's HHH vs. Cena in the ring while Shawn recovers. And after more good stuff there, we get the DX somewhat decent combustion. It of course ends with Cena and the STF, but Shawn gets a crossface instead. This is another ok match that is just pure formula stuff. It's just take two guys, have them fight for three minutes then replace one guy.

Shawn kicks both guys, but HHH falls on Cena while Shawn falls outside for no apparent reason. We do get the always fun let's go Cena, Cena sucks chants. I love those. FU to HHH as we're in pure finishers/counters only. The problem with having double main events like these is that it keeps one from being the real main event.

It makes this match seem like less of something because we did it just 25 minutes ago. Just to further emphasize my point of only finishers at the end, Shawn kicks HHH for the third time and Cena hits an FU on Shawn to slam him into HHH for the pin.

Rating: C+. This was your run of the mill triple threat. This wasn't bad, but dang it went as by the book as you could ask for. I don't think anyone believed Cena was dropping the belt here, but geez could they have been any less boring about it? In case that looks familiar to you, it's because it's word for word the same as I put about the Smackdown title match but with Cena instead of Taker and the Big Show part edited out.

That's because more or less it was the same thing but with different people in it. That's the problem with these matches and booking like this: it's repetitive, which makes it very boring, at least to me. The wrestling was fine given who you had in there, but MAN was it predictable.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a good show and that's primarily because of one thing: the booking MADE SENSE. There is not one thing here where you have to scratch your head and wonder what they heck they were thinking. Everything went as it should have and it worked out well. Feuds were advanced, the right guys went over, no big names lost credibility, and some feuds were ended. What more could you ask for?

The one thing that you could ask for was a more creative way to have the title matches. I hate matches where it's just the same thing that it's always been but with different people which is what the world title matches were here. It's a good show, but it won't blow you away by any means.

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