

Monday Night Raw – November 21, 2011: Uh...What Was That?

Monday Night Raw

Date: November 21, 2011

Location: Giant Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, Booker T

Guest Host: Jonah Hill

We're past Survivor Series and it's officially the road to Mania. The next PPV is TLC and I think that's 4 weeks away. Rock/Cena won, which means absolutely nothing but Rock did look awesome in the ring so I guess there's that. Also we have the title on Punk which should at least be more entertaining. There's a guest host here tonight I think. Let's get to it.

Theme song opens us up. It sounds like they're saying Woo Woo Woo during the transitional parts.

Punk opens the arena part of the show and he gets a nice pop. Good to see that he can get those when he's not with Cena. He talks about being in first grade and having his teacher asking him what they wanted to do. Various people said stuff like a police officer, fireman, etc. He of course wanted to be a professional wrestler, and here he is: the guy that won the WWE Title in Madison Square Garden last night.

He did this on his own terms and this is all he ever wanted to do. Now he wants to be the bringer of change. Punk sits down in the ring and talks about the ice cream bars. Now he wants to get rid of Johnny Ace, which draws out the skateboard man himself. Ace says nothing of note so let's get back to Punk talking. Punk talks about how greedy Vince is while Ace is the stereotypical middle man, like the guy from Office Space.

Punk criticizes the term WWE Universe. They're FANS. PREACH IT BROTHER MAN!!!! Next week it's Del Rio vs. Punk for the title.

Punk makes fun of him for that so it's Ziggler vs. Punk tonight. Punk: "That's not a good idea or innovative. That's stupid." The fans want to see Ziggler vs. Zack Ryder. Ryder is busy tonight vs. Del Rio. Punk starts walking up the ramp towards Ace and some day he's coming for Ace himself.

Last night after the PPV went off the air, the fans chanted for Ryder while Rock was in the ring. Think about that: the Rock is in the ring in MADISON SQUARE GARDEN and the fans want Zack Ryder. Rock said he was a fan. Sweet goodness man. PUSH THE GUY ALREADY!

Alberto Del Rio vs. Zack Ryder

Ryder breaks up the intro by Ricardo. I don't get the point of the booking here. Think about it: Del Rio is #1 contender and Ryder is over like free beer. Why do we need to have this match? One has to lose and Ryder needs to get a win here but Del Rio is already on a losing streak. Why not someone like Morrison here? Instead they've come up with the booking already and screw the fans and what they want. And they wonder why their numbers are falling through the floor. Ryder starts his comeback but is sent into the buckle and the armbreaks officially squashes him at 2:26. I hate this company at times. I do.

Sheamus vs. Jack Swagger

Jack tries amateur stuff but Sheamus easily powers him to the floor where Swagger is frustrated. From what I've been told, the Twitter thing flashed static and the words "It Begins" was in there instead. Interesting. Swagger takes over with the Vader Bomb and we go to the back for a double armbar. Sheamus starts his comeback but the shoulder off the top misses. Brogue Kick is countered into the ankle lock which is kicked off and the kick ends this at 4:35.

Rating: C. Not a terrible match but it was a nice win for old pasty. Swagger is the walking definition of jobber to the

stars at this point and that's a good role for him since they're not going to give the guy a new gimmick and the All American thing is done as done can be, so having guys beat him like this is fine.

Nash is up next.

Nash comes out and talks about MSG and how important it is here. He talks about the Curtain Call (look it up) and how HHH should have come back and it should have been them in the main event. But instead the Cerebral Assassin is gone at the hands of Nash. He says he's the survivor of the group.

Here's Cody, who says he's unbeatable and he's unrepentent. This brings out...oh give me a break it brings out Santino.

Santino Marella vs. Cody Rhodes

The Canadian avoids the Russian from the American but there's the Cross Rhodes for the pin at 1:03.

Post match Cody goes after Booker, yelling about various stuff. I've heard this was the feud for the next few weeks so here we are. Booker gets water thrown in his face and Cody walks out.

Ziggy is in the back and says he won two matches (he was eliminated but he was still on the winning team) and was the only one that did so. He's the new face of WWE and will prove it to Punk next.

Dolph Ziggler vs. CM Punk

They head to the mat to start and there isn't much to say so far. Ziggler beats him down for a good while and this is getting a solid amount of time given how slow they're going. Punk tries a sleeper but Dolph takes over again. Booker calls him the Zig Zag man to get on my nerves. Ziggler keeps the advantage as we go to a break.

Back with Ziggy still in control but Punk fights back. Into the GTS attempt but it's countered into the sleeper. Again it's the Zig Zag Man line from Booker to get on my nerves again. That doesn't work since Punk is a face and here's comeback #2. He sets for the Macho elbow but Ziggy grows a brain and MOVES OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE PUNK JUMPS. Why is that so complex?

Dolph kicks his freaking head off with a slick dropkick and they go up. Punk knocks him down and there's the elbow. It only gets two because it's a middle of the match move. There needs to be more pins off non-finishers. GTS is countered into another throwing kind of move for a close two. Zig Zag is countered into the GTS for the pin at 16:30.

Rating: C+. Not bad here but I didn't get into it like I did with Cena and Ziggler or Orton and Ziggler. Punk gets a good win here but he's right: this wasn't interesting or innovative, but it's all we're getting tonight because this could be interesting and not involve Rock, and since we want Punk to not have much to work with, we're stuck with this. Decent match though.

Here's Show to talk about Henry. Henry is coming back, Show still wants to fight him, same old same Show.

The Divas do the same stuff but it's about WWE 12 this time. Next.

Kane return promo. The mask is included for no apparent reason.

Wade Barrett vs. Kofi Kingston

Barrett says the next thing in his sights is the world title. Barrett beats him down for awhile but as he loads up Wasteland, here's Orton for the distraction. Wade freaks and drops Kofi. He manages to bail before the Trouble in Paradise as we go to a break. Back with Kofi in a chinlock as Randy is

sitting at ringside. I like how they're actually setting up Orton as a natural progression of a story instead of just rushing it.

Boss Man Slam (BIG one too) puts Kofi down down for two. Barrett pounds him down and hooks his bow and arrow hold. This is a pretty uninteresting match. Oh and I forgot to mention: Lawler has a bad voice due to last night so he can barely talk. Out to the floor and Kofi hits a huge dive to take over. Boom Drop hits but a corner splash misses. Kofi loads up the springboard cross body but Wade kicks the rope and Wasteland ends this clean at 11:34.

Rating: C+. Better match than I expected here and it's awesome to see Barrett getting such a strong push. Also having Orton set up as Barrett's next feud is a good thing and hopefully we see Barrett get the pin at the PPV, which is a feud win that he needs. Good stuff here but Kofi having a chance would have helped. Not their fault though.

Barrett announces himself as the winner to rub it in on Orton, who teases an attack but declines.

Here's Cena for the ending segment. The people boo as you would expect. He talks about how a lot has changed in the last 24 hours (Ryder Twitter plug), including us having proof that he and Rock can team up. The fans chant Fruity Pebbles after they get a mention here. Also last night Rock proved that he's still got it, which means Mania will be exactly what it should be.

This brings out Awesome Truth with Miz talking about how the fans didn't want to see Cena last night. Truth says Cena is in his own world and Mania will be awful for him. Cena cuts them off and says we learned that Rock still has it and that no one cares about Awesome Truth at all. Cena tries to put some tension between Awesome Truth and neither of them are too happy with it.

Cena leaves and says they should be booing themselves. They get in each others' faces and argue, resulting in a shove by Miz and a punch by Truth. Miz begs off and says let's go get Cena, then jumps Truth as they head up the ramp. A Finale on the ramp (head didn't hit) ends the show.

Overall Rating: C. I wasn't feeling this show for the most part. The wrestling wasn't bad but other than the main stuff, the rest was just there. It felt far more like a commercial for WWE 12 but that's just a one night thing I believe since it comes out tomorrow. It wasn't a bad show, but I have no idea what's coming next and I don't really see myself caring, which is a bad thing.

Results

Alberto Del Rio b. Zack Ryder – Cross Armbreaker

Sheamus b. Jack Swagger – Brogue Kick

Cody Rhodes b. Santino Marella – Cross Rhodes

CM Punk b. Dolph Ziggler – GTS

Wade Barrett b. Kofi Kingston – Wasteland

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