

Impact Wrestling – December 22, 2011 – Tag Teams And Tim Tebow

Impact Wrestling

Date: December 22, 2011

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

We're back with week #2 of the wild card tournament but at least now we know who almost all of the wacky partners are. The show last week was pretty ok so hopefully they crank it up a bit more this week as the year comes to a close. We've got I think three more Impacts before the PPV where it's pretty likely that Jeff gets the title back. Oh and the Jarretts are gone at the moment. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps last week which is the norm now.

Here are Roode and Ray to open the show. Roode is in a suit and to be fair, he's rocking that thing. He says he loves Christmas and the fans can all thank him for the gifts they got last week. Sting and Hardy getting beaten up was great and all they needed were bows on them. Ray talks about how giving he is: he gives chicken bones to the homeless, he gives dollars to strippers and he gives whiskey to his cat.

Roode talks about learning that every action has a consequence. Lately he's learned that he's probably on the naughty lists of both Sting and Santa. He asks Sting to come out here and get his suspension over with because he needs time off for Christmas. Instead he gets Hardy. Don't worry about the suspension because in three weeks, Hardy is taking the title. Tonight it's the two of them against Hardy and a partner of his choice. This would be a little more suspenseful if they hadn't mentioned this in the preview before the show.

Of course it's Sting. Here he is and he has the insane face paint on again.

The main event tag is officially a street fight.

Wildcard Tag Tournament First Round: AJ Styles/Kazarian vs. Rob Van Dam/Christopher Daniels

And remember, the teams are RANDOM! I mean, no one would take rivals and put them against stable mates. That would be STUPID! Tenay says Fournite is officially defunct. Kaz vs. Van Dam to start us off. They hit the mat quickly and it's off to AJ. Daniels wants him but Van Dam says he's mine.

After some basic stuff it's back to Kaz who seems to have better chemistry with RVD. Monkey flip by Rob sets up a headlock by Kaz. Back to AJ and Van Dam goes to the corner. He rams into Daniels and that counts as a tag. Daniels comes in and misses AJ, allowing the tag to Kaz. Van Dam slaps Daniels into the Fade To Black for the pin at 5:18.

Rating: D+. Basic but fine here and that's all it needed to be. Thankfully they didn't push Van Dam and Daniels as a team that lucks its way into the second round. Either way, this was ok but it wasn't anything special. That goes for a lot of first round tournament matches most of the time though so there isn't much to complain about there.

Anthony Nese says he's awesome and can hang with anyone.

Zema Ion says he's pretty.

Zema Ion vs. Anthony Nese

This is the second match in the best of three series with Ion up 1-0. Ion has hairspray so you know he's a heel. The winner of this is in a four way against Aries, Kash and Sorensen. Ion dives through the ropes to take Nese out with a dropkick before the bell. Back in Nese snaps off a rana for two. Cross body gets the same. Ion gets in a shot but Nese fights back

and hits a Lionsault for two.

The American hits a German on the Filipino for two. Nese misses a springboard body block for two and Ion takes over again. Nese jumps from the mat to the top for a super rana for two. Ion hits a spinning facebuster but pulls Nese up like he did last week. Naturally it allows Nese to nip up into a rollup for the pin at 4:00.

Rating: C+. Not bad but the problem is the lack of any reason to care about these guys or the match they had. Nese is a generic face and Ion is a generic heel. The match was fine and they did some good stuff, but I've seen a match like this a thousand times and I've seen it better a few hundred times. That's the problem with these cruiserweight matches: it's REALLY hard to top them and when they're average, they look weak.

Madison Rayne is in a referee dress and says Karen put her in charge of the Knockouts.

Pope says he's there for people when they need him. What D-Von didn't get is that Pope is a better trainer than he is so let him train. He'll always be pimping too. D-Von vs. Pope at Genesis again. D-Von comes in and grabs him but one of his kids hits him in the back. Pope calls them his boys.

Eric Young and D-Von are on a date because they're in the wild card tournament together. One of their opponents is Shannon Moore and Eric locks up with a referee.

Here's Madison and she calls out Tara and Tessmacher. She shouts a lot and the fans chant what sounds like USA. Madison repeats that she's the head of the Knockouts which surprises Mike and Taz, even though she said it earlier. Her job is to destroy the Knockouts and she's starting with the two of them. Their closeness makes her sick so they're fighting each other tonight and she's the referee.

Brooke Tessmacher vs. Tara

And it's a comedy match. They do the slowest wristlock this side of Delirious and Tara shouts ouchie. They trade some very weak covers and this is kind of amusing. The limited wrestling turns into talking and even the Impact Zone is silent. They finally get into a fight and Madison won't count due to reasons of waving. Madison shouts at them to hit someone so they hit her. And then the Tebow it. Ok then. It ran about 6 minutes but there wasn't exactly an ending point.

Rating: N/A. This wasn't exactly a wrestling match. I'm not sure what it was but the girls were hot so I'll let it go.

Sting and Hardy say they'll win.

Eric looks for a gift to give ODB and looks through the kitchen of the restaurant.

Here's Storm to FINALLY give us something interesting. He says that Angle is looking for him but Storm will either be in the bar or in the ring. Angle gave him a beating but Storm won in the end. He makes football references and drops Tebow's name. Angle pops up on the screen and is in Storm's hometown. He insults a woman and that's about it.

Ray says he and Roode will win.

Wildcard Tag Tournament First Round: Eric Young/ODB vs. Anarquia/Shannon Moore

Young vs. Anarquia to start us up and Eric dances a lot. Young locks up with the Mexican America chicks outside and then disrobes. Anarquia comes in and slams Eric. It's off to ODB and Moore bails. ODB kind of slams him and Eric hits a top rope elbow. A low blow by ODB gets the pin at 4:36.

Rating: F. What. Ever. Man. I'm so over Eric and his unfunny comedy but TNA insists we need to see it time after time on every show.

Matt Morgan and Crimson recap the tag tournament. They don't take it seriously it seems.

Angle beats up people in Tennessee. He pulls out a freaking cap gun and hits someone in the head with it. He superkicks a lot of them after standing them up in a line. Angle even throws the Christmas tree at someone. He challenges Storm for Genesis.

Bully Ray/Bobby Roode vs. Sting/Jeff Hardy

This is a street fight and they have a ton of time. I wonder if Sting vs. Ray is going to happen at Genesis. Probably not. Those two head to the floor and Roode takes over in the ring on Hardy. They go split screen for a bit but the painted guys clear the ring. STEREO DIVES take the heels out. Sting diving like that was pretty awesome. That takes us to a break.

Back with more violence and the bad guys in trouble. Ray hits Hardy with a kendo stick to the back and does the same to Sting. We get the dreaded cookie sheet and Ray takes over on Sting. Sting fights back and hits a superplex to take Ray down. He's showing off tonight. Roode comes in to beat down the guy with the full facepaint (Sting) but Sting comes back again. He loads up the splash but Ray hits him with part of a wooden sign to break it up.

Ray drops an elbow for two. Hardy hasn't been focused on in this match very much. Ray and Roode set for something but Sting ducks so Ray clotheslines Roode. Death Drop to Ray but Sting walks into a spinebuster. Hardy comes in and takes out Roode but Ray kicks his head off. Ray gets the table but Sting moves it before Hardy can go through it. He cleans house and hooks the Scorpion on Ray (who taps but it doesn't count) and puts Roode down with a Death Drop. Another table is set up and Hardy splashes Roode through it for the pin at 18:20.

Rating: B. This knew that it was supposed to be an over the top and fun brawl and that's what it was. There wasn't really

anything all that significant going on here but it did the job in giving Hardy the pin over Roode. Also it gave Sting a chance to look awesome as he's limited in the ring anymore and that's fine. Fun match and a good way to close the show.

Overall Rating: C-. I don't want to say this show was bad, because it really wasn't. It was however pretty meh. It came off a lot like Raw on Monday as a throwaway show, and for the most part I'm ok with that. However, stuff like the Knockouts and Eric Young got really old really fast. The main event was fun and there was kind of an energy to the show that helped it, but not one of their better episodes. Still though, it's a holiday kind of show so taking things less seriously might be a good idea.

Results

Kazarian/AJ Styles b. Rob Van Dam/Christopher Daniels – Fade To Black to Daniels

Anthony Nese b. Zema Ion – Rollup

Tara vs. Brooke Tessmacher went to a no contest

Eric Young/ODB b. Anarquia/Shannon Moore – Low blow to Anarquia

Jeff Hardy/Sting b. Robert Roode/Bully Ray – Splash through a table to Roode

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