

Monday Night Raw – March 12, 2012: Word Life Says Cena Wins Again

Monday Night Raw

Date: March 12, 2012

Location: Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland, Ohio

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

Guest Star: James Roday

We're a step closer to Wrestlemania now so it's hard to say what to expect. Well actually it isn't but that sounds better. Tonight we'll probably get more of Rock vs. Cena, although I'm not sure if Rock is going to be here tonight. Undertaker and HBK both will be though and their confrontation is one of the highlights of the show. Let's get to it.

Oh and I forgot: tonight Cena raps and we get another Rock concert.

The full theme song and opening sequence starts things out. We haven't seen that in awhile.

Lawler announces the Rock and Rap concert in the shadow of the Rock N Roll (Express?) Hall of Fame. We're going to start with Thuganomics so here's Cena in the Word Life gear, complete with chain and throwback jersey. He starts with a LeBron James joke to get the crowd to love him. If Rock gets all choked up, it's all in the wrist. I can't do these lines justice by just writing them out. He mentions the Tooth Fairy chant from last week. This one is short though and ends with him throwing nuts at the camera, like he'll do at Rock's face.

Here's Vickie who I can't understand. She introduces Dolph. Ok then.

Sheamus vs. Dolph Ziggler

Sheamus' march through the midcard continues. Ziggler can't quite pull off the pink but at least he matches Vickie. Sheamus takes him to the mat and then runs him over to start. Back to the mat with an armtrap headlock. Forearms in the ropes take us to the first break. Back with Sheamus clotheslining Dolph down. Sheamus hip tosses him to the outside but Dolph slips under the ring and hits a dropkick to take over.

Still on the floor Sheamus is rammed into the back and both guys are down. OH MAN there's a bit mark on his back. He manages to get back in at about eight and Dolph stomps away. Off to a chinlock as AJ and Bryan are in a skybox watching. Josh is up there so let's cut to Bryan talking instead of watching the match. AJ is scared of Bryan after Bryan told her to shut up last week.

Sheamus comes back with a tilt-a-whirl slam for two. Celtic Cross is countered and a one man flapjack gets two. They botch what could have been a cool ending as Ziggler hooks a crucifix but Sheamus tries to pull him into White Noise but can't get him up. Fameasser gets two. Brogue Kick finishes clean at 11:53.

Rating: B-. Sheamus dominating the upper midcard is fine but they desperately need something substantial to make us care about the Bryan match. When Bryan hasn't beaten anyone big on his own in months, there's no reason to care about the match. Then again no one in charge cares about this match at all so it doesn't really matter.

The Battle of the General Managers match was announced earlier on WWE.com The GM's will get to pick their own teams and the winner gets to run both shows.

Santino Marella/Aksana vs. David Otunga/

Santino is captain for Team Teddy at Mania. Oh dear. Ace is on commentary here. Otunga is Ace's captain. Ace says hold it a minute. There's not going to be a mixed tag. Instead it's a handicap match.

Santino Marella vs. David Otunga/Mark Henry

Teddy comes out to an actual pop. Aksana is on the apron even though we were told this was a handicap. It's a 12 man tag at Mania. Teddy escorts Aksana out as Otunga jumps Santino. Teddy shoves Ace down and we're missing the match for the second time tonight. Santino avoids Otunga and comes back with his usual stuff but Henry makes a blind tag. He grabs the Cobra and headbutts Santino down. World's Strongest Slam makes Santino the latest squashed champion at 1:32.

Kofi comes out for the save but is beaten down as well. Truth comes out but is beaten down as well. Ace officially announces Henry as the second man on his team.

Preview for Psych, guest starring Miz.

Piece from Extra with the Bellas and Alicia talking about Mania and Rock vs. Cena.

Eve and her AWESOME rack is in the back when Ryder comes up. He wonders why Eve hasn't answered his calls this week. Ryder asks if she's playing him so she says be friends with benefits instead. Beth comes up and says she should have been on Extra. She's going to see Maria Menunos on Extra. I smell a celebrity match. Ryder leaves and Beth says she could get Ryder wrapped around her finger too if she wanted. Eve says she'd mind and leaves.

Ace is on the phone when Miz (hometown pop) comes in. He wants to know when he'll be added to Team Ace. Ace was on the phone with a member of the Board of Directors so Ace is mad. James Roday of Psych comes in and Miz says he's a guest star, which is the star power Team Ace needs. Miz has a match tonight and

if he wins, he's on the team. Roday is guest ring announcer. He says he'll Fink it up tonight. Oh and Miz is facing CM Punk.

BRODUS IS BACK NEXT!!!!!!

Jinder Mahal vs. Brodus Clay

Jinder now has a case for his turban. The girls still look good, this time in white. Jinder jumps Brodus to start and gets a headbutt for his efforts. There's the suplex and a splash ends this in 26 seconds.

Brodus dances for a bit post match.

Some rapper is here.

It's Shawn time. He talks about how it's going to be the end of an era inside the Cell. Shawn is guest referee and HHH wasn't aware of that when he told HHH that last week. We get a clip of last week where HHH says he's going to end the Streak for Shawn. How that makes people stop talking about how Shawn couldn't do it still eludes me. Shawn has been in the back and he hasn't heard anyone calling him a loser.

However, there's one person that hasn't been around lately. He calls out Undertaker and 27 hours later, Taker is in the ring. Shawn accuses Taker of being the one talking about him and that that's not cool after what they did at Mania. Taker wants to know if it's eating at Shawn that he couldn't get it done. He thinks Shawn is just repeating what HHH has been saying. Taker starts talking about Shawn's insecurities and Shawn cuts him off.

It was Undertaker that was begging for the match so he's the insecure one. Last year HHH got so close to beating him that Taker needs another match. Taker says he's prepared to accept the outcome whether it's a win or a loss, but he's not prepared to have Shawn cost him everything.

He says Mania is on April 21st and that Shawn will pay if the outcome isn't pure. Shawn says this is irony, not destiny. The guy whose career Taker ended might end the Streak. He could still be the guy to end the Streak. Taker says he'll win and that the Streak will continue and he'll end an era. If Shawn screws him, he'll end Shawn. Shawn pulls back like he's going to superkick Taker but doesn't move. He leaves with a smile. Shawn gets to the stage and HHH meets him. They share a quick look and Shawn leaves. HHH shoots Taker a crotch chop.

CM Punk vs. The Miz

Rodday is the ring announcer. If Miz wins he's on Team Ace. Miz takes over with a quick knee to the ribs and we take a break 40 seconds in. Back with Miz holding Punk in an abdominal stretch. Punk comes back with some kicks but the GTS is countered. Low DDT gets two. The Finale is countered into the Vice and we're done at 6:10. Since we saw about 2:20 of that, I'm not going to bother rating it but it was mostly a squash.

Jericho pops up on screen and says that Punk is a fraud. He says he's found out something about Punk. Punk is straightedge because his father is an alcoholic which is why Punk doesn't drink. It scares Punk which is why he puts on this big front. Punk is going to drink eventually and Jericho is going to drive him to it. Punk almost freaks out like he's having a relapse but gets serious again.

We get a commercial for David Otunga's law offices. See, THAT is the kind of character development that the people in today's company is starving for.

Randy Orton vs. Jack Swagger

Orton takes over to start and sends Jack into the steps as we take a break. Back with Swagger controlling with a top wristlock as Cole says the attendance for at least the third time tonight. Swagger goes after the ankle but misses the Vader Bomb. Jack grabs the ankle but Orton kicks him off and

they go up to the corner. A superplex puts Swagger down and Orton comes back with his signature package. RKO ends this clean at 8:30.

Rating: C-. This was fine. Swagger is nothing more than a jobber to the stars and putting the US Title on him was the way they're trying to keep a victory over him meaning anything. Orton looks strong before the inevitable Kane post match stuff (and hey there it is) which is the right idea.

Post match the Kane pyro goes off and the red light comes on but there's no Kane.

We recap the Cena rap (with the fourth use of attitudinal by Cole).

HHH, Shawn and Undertaker will be at Raw next week. Cena vs. Henry next week also.

Here's Rock with a guitar for the Rock Concert. Rock talks about how the people have broken a record. This is the largest sellout crowd the WWE has ever had in Cleveland. He says to chant Cleveland instead of Rock. He wants to know if the people have seen Marky Mark tonight. What's up with the chain anyway? Also Cena looks like Vanilla Ice crossed with a Teletubbie. And he has pictures. This isn't funny.

Rock sits down with the guitar and the fans cheer for him. This isn't about a two minute rap because Cleveland Rocks. Rock gets a spotlight and starts singing what sounds like a parody of Jailhouse Rock. He says Cleveland Rocks a lot and the people cheer. Rock says Cena went to a doctor last week and he's got a song about it. It ends with Cena wanting a rectal exam. Now he has a story about Cena and Eve. They were making out but Cena has a wife. Ok then.

Now he's got a story about Cena's birthday. The doctor wanted to get rid of Cena at birth and Cena had lady parts. THIS ISN'T FUNNY! I know that's blasphemy but this isn't funny at

all. He keeps singing about how Cleveland Rocks so the fans cheer for him but the stuff he's saying isn't funny. He asks if there are any adult male Cena fans and says that they're virgins in a funny bit. He asks about the ladies. Rock says he loves women and there's a special woman that he has a song for. He's going to bring her wine and yeah it's Cena's mom.

He has his finale now and it's for the people. This is for Team Bring It. It's for the millions you see. It's We Will Rock You. Rock actually sings the song but throws in some Cena Sucks lines. There are lyrics on the screen for the modified lyrics. Rock totally screws the words up (I mean, we can see them on the screen) and that's it. No Cena at all. Seriously? This was the lowest Rock has his since he's been back.

Overall Rating: B. I liked tonight's show again. The Cena stuff was good, Rock was just dreadful and they plugged a good amount of matches. Plus you get some Brodus time which is never a bad thing. The 12 man tag was finally announced to help flesh out the card a bit. I'm starting to wonder how many more people they're going to induct into the Hall of Fame (Mil Mascaras was announced on WWE.com earlier today but there was no mention of him tonight) but other than that, everything is getting time. Good Wrestlemania push show.

Results

Sheamus b. Dolph Ziggler – Brogue Kick

David Otunga/Mark Henry b. Santino Marella – World's Strongest Slam

Brodus Clay b. Jinder Mahal – Splash

CM Punk b. The Miz – Anaconda Vice

Randy Orton b. Jack Swagger – RKO

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