

Smackdown – June 1, 2012: Another Stake In The Brand Split

Smackdown

Date: June 1, 2012

Location: Riverside Centroplex, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Commentators: Michael Cole, Booker T, Josh Matthews

Tonight we have a Raw World Title match on Smackdown for the first time in a few years as Punk defends against Kane. I'd assume that Bryan has gotten the title match for No Way Out but it's hard to tell with this company anymore. Other than that we'll probably have some more stuff with Big Show as he continues to take over the stories everywhere. It'll also be interesting to see how they work around the Orton suspension. Let's get to it.

The opening video is about the title match tonight. It looks more like a TV commercial than a normal opening video.

Do You Know Your Enemy? Mine is the weather tomorrow for my neighborhood yard sale.

Here's Sheamus to open the show and we get a clip of him kicking Del Rio's head off to end the show last week. Sheamus talks about how Del Rio has been waited on hand and foot for years, but it's not going to matter at No Way Out because he can't buy the World Heavyweight Championship. Cue Otunga who again demands that Sheamus apologize for running over Ace. Sheamus says this isn't Starbucks where you order someone around. If Ace wants an apology, he can come out here and get it himself. Otunga: "You may be the whitest bulb, but you're not the brightest."

Cue Del Rio who calls Sheamus a peasant and a street hooligan.

People like Sheamus wind up working for people like Del Rio and Otunga. Otunga thinks Sheamus should be in a match tonight, with the opponent being chosen by Del Rio. The champ kicks Otunga's head off and Del Rio runs. Sheamus says never trust a hooligan.

Sin Cara vs. Heath Slater

No trampoline and he's in red and white not instead of blue and gold. The lighting is back too. Slater grabs the arm to start but Cara grabs the arm and hits his spinning wrist drag. Out to the floor for a BIG dive but Slater jumps him coming back in. Off to a chinlock but Cara fights out and hits some kicks to the leg. A jumping back elbow puts Slater down as does an enziguri from the apron. The La Mistica mat slam gets the pin at 2:24. I didn't see any botches here and Cara looked pretty good.

Damien Sandow vs. Ezekiel Jackson

Sandow's Titantron graphic has a theme of a curtain being pulled back like at a theater. Sandow says he won't be in this match and goes to leave but Jackson pulls him back in to get us going. The Torture Rack is countered and Sandow goes psycho. Russian legsweep puts Jackson down and the neckbreaker ends it at 1:36. Sandow gets in the Thinking Man position during his cover. I'm liking the 2012 Genius a bit more.

Del Rio and Ricardo are in the back when Zigler comes in and asks to be put in the match tonight. Del Rio says okey dokey.

Ryan Shelton/Chris Lyons vs. Ryback

The jobbers are from Alabama so the Louisiana fans HATE them, due to them saying Roll Tide. It's the exact same match as last week with the double MuscleBuster getting the pin at 2:02.

Raw ReBound chronicles Show's destruction. Apparently Brodus

has a concussion and bruised ribs.

Dolph Ziggler vs. Sheamus

Non-title. Ziggler cuts off Vickie's intro and says tonight he beats the champion. He's serious tonight. If the reaction is to be believed, Sheamus is getting very popular. Ziggler tries a headlock to start but gets run over very quickly. He dropkicks the champ down and hooks an armbar which gets him nowhere at all. Ziggler punches Sheamus in the corner but gets sent to the apron. Top rope cross body is caught in a Regal Roll for two.

Sheamus launches him over the top and to the floor as we take a break. Back with Sheamus breaking a top wristlock. Dolph runs to the apron and has to grab the ring skirt to keep from getting a worse beating. He suckers Sheamus in and guillotines him on the top rope. Sheamus gets dropkicked off the apron and onto the floor for awhile. Neckbreaker gets two back in the ring.

Off to the chinlock and Ziggler does the handstand. Booker: "That's just showing off." Now he's getting it. Sheamus starts to fight up but gets caught in a DDT for two. Ziggler hooks an ugly sleeper but Sheamus dumps him onto the apron for the ten forearms. Irish Curse is countered twice so Sheamus uses a regular backbreaker (which Cole calls the Irish Curse anyway). He loads up the top rope shoulder but gets crotche. A top rope X Factor gets a close two and a good reaction from the crowd on the kickout. Zig Zag is countered and it's White Noise, failed Swagger interference and the Brogue Kick for the pin at 10:06 shown of 13:36.

Rating: C+. These two always have good chemistry together and they did again here. The ending is good too as it furthers the Ziggler split from Vickie and company, but it also keeps Sheamus looking just as strong because he had Ziggler beaten without the interference going wrong. Little things like that

can make a match so much better.

Punk says he'll beat up anyone that Ace throws at him, including Kane. Kane is going to sleep tonight.

Darren Young/Titus O'Neil vs. Santino Marella/Zack Ryder

An inset promo says that O'Neil and Young want to be known as the Prime Time Players. Young and Santino get us going but it's quickly off to Titus. Ryder comes in to break up a double team which gets him run over by Young. Then Santino gets a rollup out of nowhere on Young for the pin at 1:13. What in the world was the point of that? They spent the pre-match stuff and the match talking about how awesome Young and O'Neil were and then the ending comes from out of nowhere. Marella and Ryder had no offense at all other than the rollup. Literally, none.

Post match here's Big Show to destroy everything. Make that just Ryder and Santino as Young and Titus escaped. Ryder tries to fight back but it gets him nowhere. The beating goes on for awhile. Show is in the same kind of stuff he was wearing before his turn. Santino gets put in a camel clutch on the steps on the stage before getting punched in the back of the head and knocked out. So in four days he's been punched out and made to tap out in 45 seconds. Another champion is made to look like a joke.

We see Punk in the back but it's actually AJ in a Punk shirt. Bryan pops up and asks why AJ thinks Punk cares about her. He pretends to care about her again and you can see her knees get weak. Bryan is only joking though.

Cody Rhodes vs. Tyson Kidd

Christian is on commentary and Kidd has full tights now. Kidd gets in a quick legsweep but Cody is too fired up for Kidd to be able to do much. Tyson keeps fighting and tries the Dungeon Lock but Cody shrugs it off and Cross Rhodes ends this at

1:20.

Cody and Christian stare at each other a lot post match.

Raw World Title: CM Punk vs. Kane

They have a lot of time here. The announcers talk about how Kane hasn't been champion in 14 years. Cole thankfully points out the mistake and reminds Booker of the Smackdown World Title that Kane won like a year and a half ago. Out to the floor and Punk drops a double ax off the top onto Kane to take over. Back in and the uppercut drops Punk, but he dropkicks Kane's knee out to send him into the middle buckle.

Punk wraps Kane's arm around the post and drops some elbows onto it as well. He works on it some more and hooks on a top wristlock. Kane throws him off and sends him tot he floor as we take a break. Back with Punk in control but quickly getting knocked to the floor. Here's AJ to check on the champion. Back in and Kane slams Punk and drops an elbow for two. Chokeslam is countered into a DDT but Punk can't follow up.

Punk hits two knees in the corner but still can't hit the bulldog. High Kick misses but the spinning neckbreaker gets two. Kane tries to slam him but Punk slips out and hits the High Kick for two. Punk tries the GTS but Kane falls on top of him. Low dropkick gets two. Top rope clothesline is countered by a dropkick and now it's Punk going up.

AJ gets on the apron to try to get his attention. She's pointing at Bryan who is coming to jump Punk. The champ dives on Bryan on the floor but that's not a DQ. Punk kicks Kane from the apron and drops the Macho Elbow for two. Cole: "The championship almost left Punk there." Punk goes up and jumps into the uppercut. Kane loads up the chokeslam but Bryan comes in and dropkicks both guys for the DQ at 12:00 shown of 15:30.

Rating: C+. For a TV main event this was fine. It's pretty clear where they're going for No Way Out so the ending here

was fine. It sets up the likely triple threat title match at the PPV which needed to be done one way or another. They were going back and forth pretty well here and the arm work made sense from Punk. Pretty good little match here.

Bryan DESTROYS Punk with kicks but both guys get chokeslammed. Ace and Eve come out to make the triple threat match.

Overall Rating: B-. I liked this show for the most part. Nothing was really bad on it and they had something big in the main event, which is what Smackdown needs. It's basically a supplement to Raw anymore so throwing a big match into the main event is the right idea. The show wasn't great but with nothing bad and a main event that had something on the line, this was about as good as Smackdown is going to get at this point.

Results

Sin Cara b. Heath Slater – Spinning Mat Slam

Damien Sandow b. Ezekiel Jackson – Neckbreaker

Ryback b. Ryan Shelton/Chris Lyons – Double MuscleBuster

Sheamus b. Dolph Ziggler – Brogue Kick

Santino Marella/Zack Ryder b. Darren Young/Titus O'Neil – Rollup to Young

Cody Rhodes b. Tyson Kidd – Cross Rhodes

CM Punk vs. Kane went to a no contest when Daniel Bryan interfered

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