

Monday Night Raw – June 18, 2012: Not Only Is He Here Tonight, He's In The Main Event

Monday Night Raw

Date: June 18, 2012

Location: Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale, New York

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

Guest Star: Cyndi Lauper

It's the first show after No Way Out and Ace has been fired. Naturally he's here tonight to say goodbye or whatever. Is anyone really surprised that someone is here the night after he got fired? Other than that we're probably going to start the build towards MITB which is in four weeks. Punk is still champion so he needs a new challenger. Let's get to it.

Here's Foley to open the show. He got a call last night from the Board of Directors regarding the new permanent GM. Since he's a former Commissioner, he was asked to host both Raw and Smackdown this week. Therefore tonight, it's Kane/Daniel Bryan (HUGE Yes chant) vs. Punk/Sheamus. There's something he has to do that isn't so pleasing though, which is bring out Johnny Ace for his farewell address.

Ace is in a sling and a neckbrace while walking with a cane. Foley of course hugs him, making Ace cringe. The fans boo a lot and Ace keeps asking the fans to keep it down. Foley requests the same but also says Ace whispered that Long Island sucks. Ace says that before he was fired last night, he made the main event of Cena vs. Big Show, Otunga, and himself.

Sheamus/CM Punk vs. Daniel Bryan/Kane

Sheamus and Bryan start and Danny Boy sends him to the apron. Sheamus comes back with the slingshot shoulder and a powerslam for two. Tag to Punk with a slingshot hilo for two. Off to Kane who kicks the champion in the face for two. That would be the shorter champion in case you're confused for some reason. Punk hits forearms to both guys but Kane stops him cold again.

Punk ducks a clothesline and hits the suicide dive onto Bryan. This is a fast paced match so far. The springboard clothesline hits uppercut though and we take a break. Back with Punk fighting out of a chinlock with a failed GTS attempt. The chokeslam is countered by a high kick and both guys are down. Sheamus comes in with the top rope shoulder block. Bryan isn't on the apron for some reason.

Powerslam gets two for Sheamus and there's the Irish Curse. Bryan comes in sans tag but gets caught by six forearms to the chest due to Kane making the save. Regal Roll is countered and Kane shoves Sheamus to the floor. Bryan hits a running dropkick on the floor and takes over back inside. Some kicks to the chest get two and it's back to Kane. Side slam gets two as does the top rope clothesline.

Back to Danny Boy who fires off more kicks but misses a running dropkick in the corner. Off to Punk who fires off with his usual stuff on Bryan. The neckbreaker is countered but Bryan's kick misses. Powerslam sets up the running knee into the bulldog out of the corner. The Macho Elbow is countered and Bryan hits a superplex to put both guys down. And here's AJ in Kane colors and a Kane match. The song being called Let's Light It Up seems somewhat appropriate now. She skips around the ring and leaves with Kane following here. This allows a GTS into a Brogue Kick combination get the pin on Bryan at 14:29.

Rating: B-. Pretty decent main event style tag match here and AJ continues to be awesome. When a girl can look good in a mask, it says a lot. I would think this sets up Punk vs. Bryan again, but the ending wouldn't really suggest that. Anyway, this was pretty solid and made for

a good main event style tag match.

Ziggler and Swagger are arguing in the back when Vickie finally shoves them apart. She says that right now they're going to have a match and the winner full attention.

Ace, Otunga and Show are in the back. Ace talks about how Show is going to know Cena out so Ace can pin him. He says it's going to be funny when the fans get a great moment as their final Ace moment. Show says he doesn't find anything funny.

Dolph Ziggler vs. Jack Swagger

BIG face pop for Ziggler here in Smack Land. They trade takedowns to start and show off afterwards. Ziggler gets thrown off and may have hurt his knee. Swagger goes after it with a leg lock and shouts that he's better than Ziggler. There's the ankle lock and Ziggler is pulled back to the middle of the ring. Swagger CRANKS on that thing but gets rolled off into the corner. Zig Zag gets the pin at 4:10. That was the only big move Ziggler hit all match.

Rating: C. This wasn't bad but it was more or less a squash with a surprise ending. Ziggler is just dying for a face turn here as he has nothing left to do with Vickie but the same could be said about Swagger. Either way Vickie leaving one of them would be a good thing, but I think Ziggler would have the bigger impact.

Vickie kisses Ziggler post match.

We get HHH challenging Brock from last night.

Lawler's favorite Raw moment is Vince in the hospital in 1998. Mr. Socko debuted and Austin hit him with a bedpan. The anal violation is missing.

Here's Heyman to answer for Lesnar: No. As he leaves, here's HHH. "You know, I don't think we're in a bingo hall here." HHH says he wants to only talk to Brock Lesnar and Brock Lesnar will face him at Summerslam. Lesnar wants things to be about him, so Lesnar will be the star of Summerslam and we get a promotional poster with Lesnar on it. Heyman says Lesnar has no ego and even HHH laughs at that. HHH knows Lesnar will fight because there's no way Brock will go down in history as the guy afraid of HHH.

Heyman tells HHH to stop pretending to be a fighter he used to be. Go back home to your wife and kids and be the King of Kings, because around here you're not the king of anything. Paul tries to goad HHH into hitting him, even saying that HHH is becoming like Vince more and more every day.

Heyman says go ahead and hit me because then he and Lesnar will own this place, and there won't be anything in it for HHH. There will however be something for Stephanie, and that snaps the Game. He doesn't hit Heyman but he chokes him. Heyman says he's HHH's match because he's smarter and knows everything HHH will do. And there's a right hand for Paulie. HHH leaves as referees help Paul up.

Alberto Del Rio vs. Santino Marella

Non-title of course. Also since it's the US Champion, this is a total squash with Santino tapping to the cross armbreaker in 1:25. Ricardo gets in a shot on the arm post match.

Video on Cyndi Lauper in the WWF in the 80s. Basically she was the catalyst for Hogan vs. Piper which spawned Wrestlemania.

Here's Layla to introduce Lauper as part of the 1000th episode of Raw celebration. You know, a show Lauper has NEVER BEEN ON. Wendi Richter is here too. Lauper is BOMBED. Even Cole says we're sorry for this after she says about two words. Richter says nothing of note. THANKFULLY Heath Slater comes out to brag about not needing a band. He's going to debut

his single here tonight and it's him badly singing his theme song. Lauper makes fun of him and here's Piper for the rescue.

He calls all four of them Miss and Slater says that Piper didn't like Lauper back in the day. Piper takes off his jacket. He says he loves Lauper and gives her a gold record to replace the one he broke over Lou Albano's head back in the day. Slater is still here for some reason. He says it's time for him to sing and Lauper breaks the record over his head. Cole says this is one of the worst segments in Raw history. That would be correct.

Primo/Epico vs. Prime Time Players

AW introduces his new team, which is the Prime Time Players if you didn't watch the PPV last night. Epico and Titus get things going and the power controls to start. Off to Young who Titus suplexes onto Epico for two. After a quick chinlock by Young it's off to Primo as things speed up. Everything breaks down and Young's gutbuster is countered. Backstabber to Young but Titus pulls him to the floor. The Colons hit steres dropkicks through the ropes but the Players leave before the double dives can hit. It's a countout loss at 2:56. Ok then.

Jericho is back next week.

Here's Ace to talk about how all of the fans are losers now because they don't have People Power. Post break Teddy is here to rip up his name tag. Big Show says that there's no need for him to be here because he knows he can beat Cena and that he doesn't have to answer to Ace anymore. Otunga and Ace are on their own.

John Cena vs. John Laurinitis/David Otunga

Otunga starts and is slammed and bulldogged very fast. Ace walks away from a tag of course and after more of a beating, Cena FINALLY misses a

charge and gets sent into the steps. Ace comes in and throws off the sling and brace and stomps away a lot. Now Otunga won't tag in and walks out. Cena is back up, hits three AA's and the STF for the tap at 6:21. I'm not even going to bother to rate this but it was nothing at all other than a way to write Ace off TV for at least a week.

Overall Rating: C-. This was more or less a throwaway show without anything really going down tonight. HHH punching Heyman is probably the biggest thing tonight and that's really not saying much. The show wasn't horrible but it was one that you could easily pass on without having to watch at all. Ace will be back I'm sure. Foley didn't really do anything at all as the host either, but maybe that's what Smackdown is for. Weak show this time.

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