

Monday Night Raw – October 26, 1998: Austin Is Back Despite Never Leaving

Monday Night Raw

Date: October 26, 1998

Location: Kohl Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Attendance: 10,220

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

We're another step closer to Survivor Series here and hopefully for Vince his month of terror ends. At the moment Austin is still fired so odds are we're going to get some updates on his career options tonight. Also there's a chance we're going to get some of the brackets for the tournament at the PPV. Let's get to it.

Here's Vince and company to start and there's a band setup in front of the Tron. Austin is here apparently and Vince holds him responsible for everything that happened last week. Vince doesn't like the people and wants to know where they were when Austin was doing all this stuff last week. My guess would be they were here in Madison while Austin and Vince were in Milwaukee but maybe I'm missing something.

Vince goes over the stuff he was made to do last week, including ruining a perfectly good Armani suit. He'll never forgive Austin for what happened last week. As for the letter that Austin gave him last week, it was a legal document. Austin better take stock of himself before he goes further. Austin pops up on screen and says Vince should take stock in adult diapers.

European Title: X-Pac vs. Steve Blackman

Apparently Chyna has taken a leave of absence from the company until her

legal issues with Henry are over. The match is after a break and as we come back, Vince is telling his guys to look into the document that Austin gave him last week. He wants it broken. Blackman kicks Pac down to start and hits a side slam to put him down even longer. Off to the chinlock followed by a flying clothesline by Blackman. This has been a squash so far. Steve Regal comes out for no apparent reason and beats down X-Pac. The Outlaws come out and it's a big brawl. The match is thrown out and was too short to rate, but it was nothing of note.

Vince is talking to his lawyers again and says they wrote the document so they can break it.

Cole is outside Austin's locker room and we'll hear from Austin after the next match.

Darren Drozdov vs. The Rock

I don't see this being incredibly competitive. Rock is officially in the tournament. He takes Droz into the corner and pops him in the face to take over. Rock and those sideburns are so over it's unreal. Droz armdrags him down and puts on an armbar, which has to be the highlight of his wrestling career. Sunset flip gets two for Drozdov until Rock realizes he's The Rock and he's facing Darren Drozdov. A low blow puts Droz down and they slug it out a bit. A powerslam gets two on Rock but a middle rope shoulder misses. Rock Bottom, Elbow, done.

Rating: D+. See, this is what you NEVER get anymore. This was a match for Rock to get on TV and get a win over a guy that has no business beating him. This doesn't hurt Droz because he doesn't mean anything and doesn't lose anything by getting beaten up by Rock. Also, Droz got in some offense so it wasn't even a squash. Can you imagine Cena doing this with say Titus O'Neal? Of course not.

Hawk gets left behind again.

Austin has been advised not to say anything tonight. "We" will have a statement later on though.

Vince's meeting is over. Vince doesn't get something apparently.

Here are the Outlaws for the celebrity appearance of the week. The band equipment was for Motley Crue who the Outlaws and Pac will perform with. They perform and that's about it. The only wrestling related thing here is a bodyguard they have named Test.

Vince yells some more, talking about a contract and opportunities.

Kane vs. Gangrel

Kane is in the tournament also. Christian is at ringside and it doesn't really mean much at all. Kane runs him over and is apparently popular now. Christian's interference doesn't do much good as Kane hits the top rope clothesline and the chokeslam gets the pin. Total squash.

Christian dives off the top at Kane but it only staggers him. He and Gangrel can't do anything to slow Kane down but Edge makes it 3-1 and they get him down. Kane sits up and the group that would become known as the Brood runs.

Cole tells us that after the break, we'll hear from the McMahon Family.

Here's Austin who doesn't know why Vince is so mad at him. He told the cops that the gun was a toy and he told Vince that there wouldn't be any pain. Austin told Vince he wouldn't feel anything and he didn't, so maybe Vince should believe Austin when he says something. Or maybe he shouldn't. Austin pulls out a paper which he says is a new contract, which guarantees him at least one world title shot. The only way he's leaving is if he quits, and that isn't happening.

Here's Vince with his cronies who yells at Austin and says that Austin is in a match tonight whether he likes it or not. Austin points out what the fans are chanting at Vince which ticks Vince off even more. Vince closes his eyes and hates the way Austin got his contract, however that was. He talks about driving a wedge between something...and here's Shane in the ring. Vince has no idea what's going on but Austin hands Shane a mic and seems calm with it.

Shane says he doesn't listen to Vince anymore and that he's a stockholder in this company. He hired Austin back to get Vince's attention. Shane goes into a huge rant about how nothing he ever did was good enough for Vince. It was always about Vince and how to get his ego stroked. Shane was always called Vince's Boy instead of Shane and he's sick of it. Shane is a man now and he's no longer Vince's Boy. Vince and Shane are both about to cry so Patterson hugs Vince. This was a big moment as this was more or less Shane's national debut other than being a commentator on Heat.

Post break Shane is leaving and Austin throws him a beer.

Tiger Ali Singh vs. Godfather

Godfather runs him over to start and Singh runs to the floor. He sends Godfather into the barricade but gets his leg sent into the apron. This is much more a fight than a match. Back in and Singh works on the arm a bit but Godfather clotheslines him down. The move that would become the Ho Train hits Singh and but he comes back with a bulldog for one. Godfather dumps him to the floor and Babu gets shoved down. The referee goes down too and it's thrown out.

Rating: D. For the life of me I do not get what they saw in Singh. The guy just wasn't anything interesting at all and he was around for a few years. He's the Million Dollar Man but the Indian version, which isn't something I care to see at all. This was much more of a brawl than a match which is probably the best thing they could do here.

Oddities vs. Kai En Tai

This is an eight man tag with the Oddities being the ICP teaming with Kurrgan/Golga. Golga starts with I think Funaki, who is blonde here. Teioh comes in and gets crushed along with Funaki in the corner. Taka comes in as well and all three of them combine to get Golga down. Togo joins his partners and all four drop elbows on Golga before it's off to Kurrgan. Violent J comes in and pounds on Funaki as the embarrassing part of the match begins. Everything breaks down and the Clowns double team Funaki and throw the referee down for the DQ.

Rating: D. The crowd popped for the Clowns but they always got on my nerves. They're fine when they're doing their JCP thing which is basically a big joke on the idea of wrestling, but when they're taking up time on Raw to have fun imitating wrestlers, it gets annoying. The match was short though so it wasn't that terrible.

Shamrock talks about his I Quit match tonight against Austin. He says he quits, and that's the last time you'll hear him say that tonight.

Marc Mero vs. Goldust

Goldust takes him down with a clothesline to start and pounds away in the corner. He hits a slingshot belly to back suplex for two but Mero gets in a low blow while Jackie offers a distraction. Goldust comes back and hits Shattered Dreams for the quick DQ. Not much here.

Post match here's Sable to talk to Jackie even more. There's a challenge for Survivor Series and I guess Jackie accepts.

Mankind is confident that he and Snow can win the titles tonight. They argue over whose prop is dumber.

Tag Titles: New Age Outlaws vs. Al Snow/Mankind

Mankind is in the tournament as well. Snow starts with Gunn and gets press slammed for his troubles. Off to Mankind who waves as he comes in. Road Dogg comes in with a wide variety of punches followed by the shaky knee drop. Snow cheats and I think dances on the apron. After a brief beating on the floor by Snow, Roadie gets sent back into the ring for Mankind's Shake Rattle and Roll. It's as ugly as you could imagine it as.

Double arm DDT looks to set up Socko but Billy breaks it up. The challengers fight over Head but no one swings it. Billy and Mankind go to the floor as Snow hits the Snow Plow on Dogg. The challengers argue over whether to use Socko or Head for the pin and it lets Roadie roll Snow up to retain.

Rating: D. This was another boring match in a long running series of them over the last two weeks. The ending was the usual swerve as one team was dominating and the other wound up winning on a fluke. Then again that could be the case for almost every Outlaws match for a long stretch of time.

Post match Henry and D'Lo run in to beat up the Outlaws.

Snow has Socko and Mankind has Head until they trade back.

Ken Shamrock vs. Steve Austin

This is an I Quit match, so if Austin loses he's done. Shamrock is in the Tournament too, giving us four of the sixteen entrants. Austin doesn't have his wrist tape which is a nice touch as he wouldn't be ready to go here tonight. Shamrock jumps Austin as he gets off the ropes to take over quickly. Austin fights back and finally gets the vest off. Shamrock gets dumped to the floor and it's time to fight.

Ken gets rammed into the announce table and choked by a cord as Lawler is freaking out. Shamrock comes back and they go into the crowd. That goes

nowhere so they head back to the ramp with Shamrock still in control. Back inside and Austin is in trouble, being sent into the corner. Off to a chinlock which is quickly broken. There's the Thesz Press but Brisco trips up Austin and gets beaten up for his efforts. Cue Mankind with the Claw on Shamrock and Austin adds a big chair shot to the head, giving Austin the win by knockout.

Rating: D+. These matches continue to be really dull. The I Quit aspect here was just a way to have Austin seem like he was in danger but it never got close to that at all. Like I've been saying with the majority of the matches lately from this time period: there's not enough here to get me interested and the in ring stuff isn't working at all for the most part.

The Stooges all get Stunners to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. These shows are suffering from the same problems they've been suffering from all year: when Austin and Vince aren't on the screen, things aren't all that interesting. Rock is still a work in progress and HHH is out with a knee injury. Other than that, there isn't much going on here and it makes things less interesting to watch. The matches are just bad on top of that, with Russo being at his peak of insanity and bad endings. This would be the peak that would be made to look like 1986 AWA within a year of course but we'll get to that later.

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