

# Monday Night Raw – July 23, 2012: Raw Turns 1000 And Punk Snaps

## Monday Night Raw

Date: July 23, 2012

Location: Scottrade Center, St. Louis, Missouri

Commentators: Jerry Lawler, Michael Cole

It's the 1000th weekly episode of a show that airs year round which makes it the longest running show with as many catches as they can think of, as long as you don't count shows like WCW Saturday Night or Memphis Wrestling's Saturday morning show which ran for about 30 years airing new shows. There's A LOT to get through tonight as we have a wedding, Lesnar, Rock, DX and other legends appearing live, and Cena vs. Punk for the world title. Let's get to it.

We open with one of those always awesome WWE montages of past Raw moments. I'll set the over/under of moments from 1994/1995 at about 2.

There's a new logo for Raw tonight and for apparently one night only, there's a different song, called Tonight is the Night.

We start the false advertising right away, with Vince opening things. The video wall is different too, with HUGE walls on the side of the Tron now. Vince thanks us for 1000 shows and brings out DX complete with a hybrid of the old and new entrances. Shawn and HHH come out to do the entrance but Shawn is having issues because he's old and out of breath before the crotch chop.

They talk about having their DX merchandise on and asks each other if they're wearing underwear. After assuring that they are, Shawn still thinks something is missing. HHH thinks there used to be more of them,

drawing a BIG pop. Complete with military invasion vehicle, here are the Outlaws and X-Pac. They do their usual lines (complete with Road Dogg censoring himself on Billy's nickname in a very nice bit) and HHH points out that he's the only one left with a full head of hair.

Billy and Shawn aren't sure who should say the final line. Billy: "He never really gave me that much but I was good at this." Shawn says the same so HHH pulls Billy aside and says that Shawn might lose his smile and go pose for Playgirl again. Shawn: "I NEEDED THE MONEY!" They agree to do it at the same time...and here's Damien Sandow. That's the perfect choice too. He says this is what WWE has disintegrated to and how low society has gone: people like DX are now revered. Shawn says he's going straight to church and asking for forgiveness...AGAIN!

Sandow understands that DX could destroy him but if they do so, he won't be a victim. He'll be a martyr. HHH calls for a DX huddle but Sandow tries to listen in. Sandow: "That's very rude." HHH: "We're rude guys." HHH goes to talk but it's Sweet Chin Music and Pedigree for Sandow. Billy and Shawn get to do their line and that's it. GREAT opening segment and absolutely hilarious.

Here's JR with a goatee. Cole is fine with him now.

### Rey Mysterio/Sin Cara/Sheamus vs. Chris Jericho/Dolph Ziggler/Alberto Del Rio

The difference in pops for Cara and Sheamus is staggering. We're joined in progress with Cara in trouble from Ziggler before it's off to Jericho for a chinlock. Cara gets a rollup for two but Jericho knocks him right back down. We get the posing cover for two and a BIG reaction before it's off to Del Rio. The heel team works on Cara's back with Del Rio hooking a chinlock with a knee in the back. Cara hits a tornado DDT and it's hot tag to Sheamus. He cleans house on Jericho, hitting a running kneelift.

Irish Curse is kind of botched but the second attempt connects for two.

Everything breaks down and Rey knocks Del Rio to the floor, hitting a seated senton off the apron. Sheamus and Jericho are the only two left in the ring and White Noise is countered into a failed Walls of Jericho. Codebreaker is countered but the Brogue Kick misses. Zigler drills Jericho (intentionally) to break up the springboard dropkick and the Brogue Kick finishes Jericho at 4:26 shown.

**Rating:** C+. Other than the main event, expect a lot of these matches to be short and sweet tonight, which is the right move on a show like this. Cara getting to rub elbows with guys like Mysterio and Sheamus is a great thing for him and it should do him a lot of good. This was fast paced and fun, which is the right idea.

TOUT IT OUT!

Charlie Sheen is the social media ambassador and is on Skype with us here. Sheen thinks he'd fit in with DX. That's a perfect fit actually. He doesn't sound like he has any idea what's going on but he doesn't seem bored out of his mind and that's all I can ask for.

We recap the wedding buildup from last week.

AJ is getting ready in the back with Layla and she asks if AJ is ready. AJ says yes she is and yes she's mentally stable. Everyone is a bit off out here and she opens the door to prove it. Jim Duggan is talking to someone and R-Truth and Roddy Piper holding a jump rope for Little Jimmy. Then, in perhaps the funniest thing I've ever seen on Raw, MAE YOUNG AND A FULL GROWN HAND ARE HERE!

Someone delivers Sonic to Jerry Lawler. That's kind of awesome.

Brodus Clay vs. Jack Swagger

Brodus brings out DUDE FREAKING LOVE. Brodus is in a USA themed singlet

tonight. Swagger misses a charge, gets suplexed, and the splash ends this in 19 seconds.

It's time to dance, complete with a tye dyed Socko to Swagger.

HHH is in the back with Trish Stratus who I don't think people recognize. She demonstrates Yoga to him and shows HHH how to bend over when DX comes in. They don't know what to think but Road Dogg says they'll wait in the rear. Pac stays around and hits on Trish but it goes nowhere.

Daniel Bryan is talking to what appear to be orderlies.

We open the second hour with the wedding. Jerry is the master of ceremonies for some reason. The reverend is SLICK! Lawler was just introducing Slick apparently. Slick looks BAD. Here's Bryan first, to his theme music of course and in a white tux. AJ comes out as normal, minus the skipping. Slick goes into Jive Soul Bro mode and says that marriage shouldn't be entered into lightly but AJ tells him to get to it. We get the speak now moment and half the arena starts booing. Slick: "Wooooooooow. I never heard that before."

The fans chant no but Bryan has a speech ready for AJ. Once they're married, he'll have everything he's ever wanted. The ring goes on AJ's hand and he says he does. AJ says yes before she's asked a question. Slick is about to say they're married but AJ says wait. She wasn't saying yes to Daniel, but rather to someone else. Someone else proposed to her earlier tonight: VINCE MCMAHON???

Oh wait he's just interrupting things. Scratch that as apparently he did propose to her, but it's a business proposal: AJ is the new GM. Now that's something I didn't see coming. AJ hands Bryan the flowers and skips off to her music. Vince only said GM of Raw so I don't think she's in charge of Smackdown too. Bryan freaks out and breaks a lot of stuff.

Post break and Bryan is still freaking out, shouting NO at everyone. Cue Punk for likely a hearty laugh. He laughs about Bryan getting left at the altar and says that AJ is going to be GM. Punk: "You can continue to throw a tantrum. I'm going to continue to be WWE Champion." Bryan says Punk isn't even the best in the ring tonight and says that Bryan is the best of all time.

Cue The Rock for a rebuttal. After a lengthy intro, Rock says Bryan doesn't get to say who the best of all time is. The fans get to say that, and guess who they chant for. Rock does the FINALLY bit but Bryan cuts him off because he can say anything else. He doesn't know who Rock thinks he is but Rock cuts him off as well. Rock says he won his first WWE Championship here, but he's not here to talk to Frodo right now.

Instead he wants to talk to Punk, because at the Royal Rumble, he's got the world title shot. That gets almost no reaction for some reason. Punk says that'll be him because he'll defeat Cena tonight. Tonight he'll end Cena and he'll beat Rock at the Rumble. Bryan says no because it's supposed to be about him and it's supposed to be the best night of his life.

Bryan, with his eyes bugging out, says that he'll fight Rock at the Rumble. He says he'll be the face of the WWE. Rock says we're not looking at the face of the WWE. We're looking at a homeless lumberjack mated with an Oompa Loompa. "Oompa Loompa dumpity ding, you look like a troll from Lord of the Rings." Rock Bottom to Bryan and that's that.

Here's Bret Hart to be ring announcer for the next match. He says he won his first IC Title by beating Mr. Perfect and he's introducing the Intercontinental Title match tonight.

#### Intercontinental Title: Christian vs. The Miz

Bret's boredom of introducing Miz is great. Christian immediately sends him to the floor and hits a dive to the outside but he may have hurt his

knee. We take a break and come back with Miz holding a weak leg lock on Christian. During the break the champ (Christian) had his knees sent into the steps to further the injury. A top rope cross body gets two for Christian and he goes up again, hitting the jumping back elbow for no cover. Unprettier is broken up and the sunset flip out of the corner gets two.

Miz kicks him in the face for a near fall of his own and things slow down again. Christian comes back with a tornado DDT for two but his leg is still messed up. Spear is blocked and Miz gets a short DDT for a very close two. The corner clothesline misses for Miz but the Killswitch is countered again. Finale and Killswitch are countered again. Christian escapes a belly to back but hurts his leg again, allowing the Skull Crushing Finale to give Miz the title at 7:46.

**Rating:** C+. That's a nice surprise for tonight as they needed to do something to give us a little history here. Also Miz gets to win something for the first time since losing the world title over a year ago. It's even better than it was clean, which is rare to see. Good stuff here and a nice surprise.

Charlie Sheen says he's a fan of Rock and is looking forward to the Rumble. As for Bryan, he has Anger Management issues.

Regis Philbin talks about all of the wrestling guests he's had on his show. He looks good for 80.

Here's HHH to talk to Lesnar. After a recap HHH calls Lesnar out but gets Heyman again. Lesnar is here tonight and Heyman has power of attorney for him. The match at Summerslam isn't happening. HHH says he's tired of this so he'll go find Lesnar himself. Heyman says HHH is already facing multiple lawsuits and that might not be best for business. HHH says Lesnar is a coward so Heyman makes fun of HHH's kids. HHH yells and Heyman backs off. Paul keeps talking about the kids and here's Stephanie, looking great in a black dress but showing off that famous Stephanie

acting ability.

She yells at Heyman for his failures and says the lawsuits are a way for him to make himself feel better. Heyman gets cut off and Steph says her dad has more guts than Lesnar. She calls Heyman a parasite and gives him an awful slap. Heyman bails but gets back in almost immediately. The match with Lesnar is on now. Heyman runs his mouth some more so Stephanie takes him down. Cue Lesnar who is actually here for once. Well he's here but his arms seem to be missing. Lesnar takes HHH into the corner and fires in shoulders but HHH comes back. HHH clotheslines Brock to the floor and takes his hair down so you know he's serious.

Tout it out!

After talking about WWE 13, we get a video on Vince vs. Austin, which needs to be on a show like this.

Here are Santino and Hornswoggle with WWE toys, which apparently are like old school WRESTLING BUDDIES. These talk though.

Howard Finkel is guest ring announcer for the next match. Now all is right with the world.

Heath Slater calls out any legend to a No DQ anything goes match.

#### Heath Slater vs. Lita

WOW. Lita still looks great too. Slater laughs this off but then accepts her challenge. The bell rings but Lita says she hired herself some protection. Cue the APA and Slater PANICS. Slater immediately runs but backs into every legend he's fought in the last few weeks. They chase him back into the ring and the Twist of Fate sets up the Clothesline which sets up the Litasault (looked perfect) for the pin at 1:54.

Take a guess what Ron Simmons says post match.

SEAN FREAKING MOONEY is in the back with Daniel Bryan. Bryan didn't like being called an Oompa Loompa by Sheen earlier and says he'd slap Sheen if he were here.

We talk to some guy that is the 100,000,000<sup>th</sup> social media follower. Good for him.

Fozzie Bear hosts a video on great catchphrases on Raw over the years. There's a great bit in here where they go with Austin and Vickie saying WHAT and EXCUSE ME over and over again.

Ryder is in the back with Cena and Mean Gene. Ryder thinks Gene was behind GTV and Gene says he wasn't working here at the time. Cena is lost when Rock comes up. Ryder and Gene leave and it's time for the staredown. Rock wishes Cena luck and Cena says see you at the Rumble. Rock says he's looking forward to it.

### Kane vs. Jinder Mahal

Mahal comes out with Hunico, Camacho, Reks, McIntyre and Hawkins. They say they've gotten no opportunity over the years and they're tired of it. They surround Kane....and a gong strikes. There go the lights and here he is. His coat has spikes on the arm now. There's no hat for some reason though. The six guys have bailed and it's just the brothers in the ring now. Taker has a buzz cut mowhawk now. The six guys run into the ring because they're pretty stupid. Hawkins and Hunico get stereo chokeslams and stereo tombstones.

BE A STAR! Just for clarification: We go to an anti-bullying rally preaching non-violence right after six guys were about to jump one and the solution to the one's problem was that his big brother came out and helped him fight.



Charlie Sheen says he'll shake Bryan so hard that the fake beard will fall off and you'll see the word losing under the baby cheeks. Sheen challenges Bryan to a fight when he's in LA. No mention of Summerslam is made because then it might happen. Scratch that as it's mentioned once Sheen is gone.

We get a clip from the end of the show last week where Cena challenged Punk and says he's cashing in tonight.

#### Raw World Title: John Cena vs. CM Punk

Punk is defending in case you're reading this years later. We take a break before the bell, and it's already 10:56. We don't get big match intros as the bell rings immediately when they come back. There's a quick hand slap and we're ready to go. Punk gets taken down quickly but comes back with an abdominal stretch. Cena hiptosses out of it and it's a stalemate. Cena fires off some right hands and takes Punk down with a headlock. Lawler says Cena is like Superman.

Punk comes back and they slug it out with Punk taking over via a kick to the face and a clothesline. The running knee in the corner hits and Punk does You Can't See Me. Bulldog is countered into the ProtoBomb and there's the Shuffle. Punk pops up and hits the high kick but the GTS is escaped. There goes the referee as the AA hits but there's no one to count.

Cue Big Show who spears Cena down and he loads up the right hand. Down goes Cena and Punk isn't sure what to do. The champ rolls the referee back in and covers Cena but it only gets two. He loads up the GTS but Cena rolls through into the STF. Big Show runs in again and hits Cena for the DQ at 11:15, making Cena the first person to cash in and not win the title.

**Rating:** C+. The match was ok but it's a far cry from their previous ones. That being said it wasn't bad or anything as these two feel like a major

match whenever they get in the ring. The interference was obvious but there's nothing wrong with that. Given the amount of time they had to work with, this was fine.

Punk turns his back and lets Cena get beaten down until Rock comes down for the save. He beats up Show and loads up the Elbow....but Punk takes Rock's head off with a clothesline. Hokey smoke I think we just had a heel turn. There's a GTS to Rock and the champ stands tall to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** A. The ending bumps this up a good bit. This was certainly an entertaining and very fun show, but it wasn't a masterpiece. The ending was great as Punk's demons of being overshadowed time after time finally got the better of him and he embraces his inner evil side. That's great storytelling and gives them a ton of possibilities down the line. Also by having him attack Rock, there's a much better chance of him being hated down the line. Great stuff here and a great show.

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# Monday Night Raw – November 2, 1998: Vince Says Rip Their Clothes Off

## Monday Night Raw

Date: November 2, 1998

Location: Compaq Center, Houston, Texas

Attendance: 12,590

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

Well it's been awhile since I've done one of these hasn't it? We're still building towards the Deadly Game tournament at Survivor Series which is another step in the feud between Vince and Austin. We have Shane as the top good guy now against Vince as Vince is still evil of course because his name is Vince McMahon. I barely remember most of what's been going on here so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Vince vs. Shane.

Here's Shane in the arena to a big pop. He says that the day after Survivor Series, Austin gets his title shot on Raw. Apparently Shane is in charge tonight. Here's Austin and we cut to the back to see Vince arriving. He comes to the arena before Austin can say anything and says that he's not going to retire. As the crowd tells Vince what they think he is, he says that Austin, Shane and the fans would love it if he left.

Well the only way he's stepping down though is the day he dies. That's very true I'd assume. When he dies, he doesn't want anyone coming to his funeral because he wants to get straight to where he's going forever. That's where he's been lately because of what Shane has been putting him through. Therefore, Shane is fired from his executive spot and now he's a referee. If he's bad at that, he'll be on the ring crew where he started his career. As for Austin, he's in the tournament at Survivor Series. In the opening round, he'll be facing Big Bossman, Vince's goon.

There's a cage over the ring.

During the break, Vince yelled at JR and Lawler. Also, someone will be paying hard time tonight in that very cage.

### D-Generation X vs. The Brood

This would be the Outlaws and X-Pac. This is being written the day after Raw 1000 so they're pretty fresh in my mind. The Brood is Edge, Christian

and the leader Gangrel. They may have picked the wrong guy to be in charge. Pac and Edge get us going and you know how fast that's going to go. Pac kicks Edge's head off for two but Edge comes back with a spinebuster.

Off to Christian who is in a long sleeve shirt for some reason which is really loose on him. It's a pretty odd look but he hits a gutbuster to take over. Hot tag brings in Road Dogg for some shaking punches and it's back to Edge. He DDTs Road Dogg and everything breaks down. The lights go out and it's Kane time. He clears the ring and we'll say it's thrown out too soon to rate. There was nothing to see here.

During the previous break, Vince yelled at Cole. Today these roles would be completely reversed.

#### Hawk vs. Droz

Thankfully they're just calling him Droz now. Last night these two got in a fight and cost the LOD a match to some team called The Hardy Boys. Hawk is drunk again. Droz jumps Hawk but Animal comes in and pulls him off. No match but Animal yells at Hawk a lot. Animal and Droz leave together.

Vince yelled at Cornette during the match. I'm sure there's a shoot video about this somewhere.

Al Snow and Mankind have an argument....I think. Mankind makes reference to a show called Real Secrets of Pro Wrestling Revealed, which was a documentary which was supposed to be a big deal but didn't reveal anything most people didn't already know.

#### Oddities vs. Mankind/Al Snow

Golga/Kurrgan here. ZZ Top is here. Mankind and Kurrgan start and we get a dance off until Snow jumps Kurrgan from behind. Off to Snow who has a

bit less success. Snow fires off some kicks to the legs and Kurrgan goes down before Mankind comes back in. Golga comes in with a splash in the corner and an elbow drop for two. A side slam from Kurrgan gets the same as we're told Vince is yelling at the Fink.

Mankind grabs a double arm DDT on Kurrgan and reaches for Socko, but he's not there. Snow hits Kurrgan in the head with Head as Mankind leaves in panic. Snow walks into a bad Bossman Slam from Kurrgan. Snow makes both Oddities miss a few times but Kurrgan chokeslams him and the Earthquake gets the pin.

**Rating:** D+. This was a comedy match at times and a major upset at the end. Well maybe not major but still an upset. Kurrgan is a total guilty pleasure for me and when he's in there with my all time favorite, what else am I going to say here other than it wasn't all bad. This was nothing great but I had to like it a bit given who was in there.

Most of the roster was watching the show and someone is with them. Vince comes up and throws the guy out because he doesn't have a backstage pass. His response: "I'm Shaquille O'Neal. I don't need a backstage pass." Vince leaves.

Post break Mankind is looking for Socko and thinks Vince can help him find it.

### Steven Regal vs. Goldust

It's the REAL MAN'S MAN! This is the result of an open challenge from Regal, who wants to fight a real man. Regal works on the arm but gets taken down with a shoulder block. Back to the arm for Regal but gets caught in a bad hiptoss. Regal comes back with some shots to the head and sends Goldust to the floor. Here comes Terri with a cigar. Back in and Regal pounds away in his usual clunky style. Goldie comes back with an uppercut and bulldog for two. Goldust loads up Shattered Dreams but here's Kane for the throwing out of the match.

**Rating:** D+. The song alone keeps this from failing but the match didn't work for the most part at all. By that I mean there wasn't anything here and the focus was on Terri for all of ten seconds. Basically they were there for five minutes until Kane came out. Can I just listen to Regal's song some more?

Kane goes for a chokeslam on Terri but suits come out. Tony Garea gets the chokeslam instead.

Here are the brackets for the tournament at Survivor Series:

Kane and Undertaker have byes to the second round.

Kane

Undertaker

The Rock

HHH

Goldust

Ken Shamrock

Mankind

???

Jeff Jarrett

Al Snow

X-Pac

Steven Regal

Steve Austin

Big Bossman

Mankind goes to Vince and Vince says Mankind can have something if Mankind doesn't interfere in the next match. The gift: the WWF Hardcore Title.

Intercontinental Title: Ken Shamrock vs. The Rock

Vince talked to Shamrock during the break but we didn't hear what he said. BIG pop for Rock here. Before the bell, Vince comes out and says if Rock doesn't win the title, he's not the #1 contender, nor is he in the tournament at Survivor Series. Rock takes over fast and sends Shamrock into the corner before hitting an elbow to the chest while Shamrock is on the apron. Rock punches some more but gets elbowed down as the champ takes over.

They head to the floor and the Brahma Bull is in trouble. Shamrock stomps away and Rock goes into the steps as well as the announce table. Back in and Shamrock is relishing the fans hating him like they do. Rock comes back with a clothesline but he gets taken down by a hurricanrana and the belly to belly. Ankle lock goes on but Rock makes a rope, taking the smile off Vince's face.

A double clothesline puts both guys down and Rock gets a very delayed two. Rock fires off right hands and ducks a high kick, followed by a swinging neckbreaker for two. The champ comes back with a powerslam for two but Rock gets a DDT for two of his own. Down goes the referee so Shamrock gets a chair. He swings at Rock's head but hits the rope, sending the chair into his own head. People's Elbow connects but there's still no referee. Shamrock gets up and cracks Rock in the head with the chair for the DQ.

**Rating:** C+. These two always had some good chemistry together and this

worked pretty well too. Rock would be thrown out of the tournament for this but since it's the Attitude Era, I'll put his time at being out of it at about 45 minutes. Good little match here and the ending makes sense given the story going on.

Vince tells Rock he's out of the tournament.

Rock is mad.

#### Val Venis vs. Jeff Jarrett

Val has recently dumped his pregnant chick of the week Terri, saying it's her problem and not his. This is a rematch from last night apparently. Feeling out process to start and Val hooks a quick abdominal stretch and a backslide for two. A spinebuster puts Jarrett down and Val does his running knees to the ribs. Val loads up the Money Shot but here's the Blue Blazer for the DQ. Too short to rate but this was nothing again.

Some cops arrive and Vince wants Rock arrested.

#### D'Lo Brown/Mark Henry vs. Headbangers

The Bangers are dressed up like the Outlaws. Brown and Mosh start and apparently the winners get a title match at the PPV. Off to Henry and Thrasher and Thrasher has hurt his knee. Mosh cheats a bit but Thrasher can barely walk. Mosh comes in legally now as does D'Lo. Brown charges into a boot but he lures Thrasher in to prevent a Headbangers tag. Mosh charges into a bearhug from Henry and what we would call the World's Strongest Slam. Big splash crushes Mosh but it's back to Brown. A middle rope elbow misses for Brown and everything breaks down. The Bangers take over....and here's Kane to end it.

**Rating:** D+. This was nothing of note other than a way to bring out Kane for the third time tonight. You know, I think we get it at this point.



Anyway, there would be a triple threat tag title match at the PPV where the Outlaws would retain. Also, points to Thrasher here for gutting it out through an injury.

Kane breaks some people.

Rock is arrested.

Post break, Rock is still being arrested and Vince and company gloats.

Here's Owen Hart dressed as himself in street clothes. He apologizes for injuring Severn a little over a month ago and states that he's retired. Tonight though he's here to hear from Severn in person. Here's Severn in a neckbrace who says everyone knows Owen is the Blue Blazer, but Severn is here to tell Owen that he's nothing but scum. Severn sounds like Goldust when he talks. Owen jumps him but Steve Blackman makes the save.

Severn is loaded into an ambulance and Blackman jumps Owen. The Blue Blazer comes in to beat down Blackman in a double team. JR has no idea what's going on.

The cage is lowered.

Here are Vince and company. Vince wants to send everyone in the audience into the cage to serve hard time but instead he'll just be wheeled down to ringside for now. To Patterson: "Straighten me out!" Patterson: "It's not that easy. You're heavy you know!" Boss Man is told to check the cage's security with the Stooges. They all get inside and Vince says all he wanted was a cup of coffee. He tells the Boss Man to go and the Stooges and Slaughter get destroyed. Boss Man vs. Slaughter would have been a BIG feud in late 90/early 91. Vince tells Boss Man to rip off their clothes for some reason.

Austin finally comes out for the save to attack Boss Man and save the

Stooges. Patterson, ever the nice guy, hits Austin in the knee with the nightstick and the beatdown begins. Shane comes out for another save but Vince tells Boss Man to let Shane go. Shane flips Vince off and here comes Taker. He goes into the cage and brawls with Austin with the Rattlesnake being too weak to fight back. Cue Kane for about the fifth run-in for this segment. Kane does his fire thing and the middle of the cage walls are on fire and it's a three way fight to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. There are two problems with this show. First of all, the matches went nowhere. There were seven matches on this show and ONE didn't have a run-in or a DQ finish, and that match had one of the four people in it walking out. Second, nothing really happened here. Rock was thrown out of the tournament and we were told that Austin's first victim will be Big Bossman. There's nothing here for the most part and while the show went by fast, it wasn't anything good or memorable at all. Bigger things were coming though.

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# TNA Weekly PPV #3: AJ Picks Up Another

## TNA Weekly PPV #3

Date: July 3, 2002

Location: Nashville Municipal Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: Don West, Mike Tenay, Ed Ferrara

We're into the home city of the company for the next few years now and we're going to get our first title defense too. We're also getting tag champions tonight in the form of a one night tournament. Also if that's not enough tag team wrestling for you, we've got the official main event:

Scott Hall/Brian Christopher vs. Jeff Jarrett/K-Krush. Let's get to it.

As the announcers talk, the NWA President, a big fat balding guy, comes up and says some people are coming to TNA. He has a trophy which is to welcome TNA to the NWA. He's been in Japan and next week, a guy named Omori is getting a world title match.

NWA World Tag Team Title Tournament First Round: James Storm/Chris Harris vs. The Johnsons

Oh geez it's the Johnsons. They're named Dick and Rod and we'll say Rod starts with Harris. Harris speeds things up and hits some armdrags followed by a Thesz Press to take over. Off to Storm who hits a headscissors to put Rod down. The Johnsons start cheating and hit a double powerbomb on Storm to take over.

A suplex puts Storm down and a double shoulder block gets two. We'll say Dick jumps into a boot and Storm superkicks him down. There's the hot tag to Harris who cleans house. He spears Rod down but his cross body gets caught. Storm dropkicks Harris' back so that he falls on Rod for the pin to advance.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing special here but you could see the talent in the team that would become known as AMW. At the end of the day here though, they were a one note joke written by a five year old. There's only so much credibility you can give to a match like this one. The ending was good though and that dropkick was pretty awesome looking.

Post match the Johnsons' manager Mortimer Plumtree yells at them and gets a chokeslam for his efforts.

Here's Scott Hall who says Hey Yo but here's Jarrett for a rebuttal. Jarrett says no one wants to hear Hall talk so get out. They're about to brawl but the fat guy President says go away. Jarrett says he'll wait for the main event. As he backs away, K-Krush sneaks in and beats down Hall. Scratch the beats down line and replace it with "gets caught in a fallaway slam and is clotheslined to the floor".

Harris and Storm have been attacked and there's blood everywhere.

## Anthony Ingram vs. Monty Brown

After Brown says he wants Shamrock, the squashing commences. After a powerslam the Alpha Bomb (starts in a slam position but Brown swings him into the air and powerbombs him down) gets the pin. Brown has what sounds like Abyss' old music.

Goldilocks can't find the NWA President. Two blonde guys haven't either. A midget named Puppet says he'll do the interview instead. He wants a fight against a Hollywood famous short person. Next.

## NWA World Tag Team Title Tournament First Round: Rainbow Express vs. Apolo/Buff Bagwell

Before the match, Buff and Apolo say nothing of note. Bruce and Bagwell get us going with Buff controlling early. He slams Bruce down and hits a Vader Bomb for two. Here's Alicia for some reason as it's off to Lenny. Alicia (Ryan Shamrock) goes over to Ed Ferrara and gives him money. Apolo hits something on Bruce for two. No idea what it was as we were looking at Alicia, which to be fair is a better idea.

Apolo chops away at Lenny and hits an elbow to the face to take him down. Bruce gets involved and Lenny hits a running DDT for two to take over. Bruce gets tagged in via a kiss to the hand and they do the World's Greatest Tag Team jump over the back onto the other guy's back spot. Lenny drops an elbow for two but walks into a full nelson slam to put both guys down. Hot tag brings in Bagwell and his offense looks pretty awful. Buff and Lenny collide and roll to the floor as Apolo superkicks Bruce down. TKO looks to finish but Lenny makes the save. A Blockbuster puts Bruce down but Lenny superkicks Buff for the pin.

**Rating:** D. Nothing to see here again. The Express are supposed to be interesting because they're gay or whatever, but it's not working at all. Bagwell keeps getting blamed for posing and showboating too much here which I guess is the story, but who in the world would be interested in Buff Bagwell in 2002? Nothing to see here.

Buff talks to himself so Ferrara gets a mic. Bagwell says he's Marcus, not Buff and he wants to go home. Ok then.

Here's Shamrock for a chat. He doesn't care about Monty Brown because Brown has only had one match and now he wants a title shot. Correct me if I'm wrong but hasn't Shamrock only had one match at this point? Tonight he's got Malice and then a Japanese guys next week. After that, maybe it's time for Monty Brown. We cut to Mitchell in the crowd who says that Shamrock will have his hands full with Malice tonight and Shamrock will never make it to Omori and Monty. The lights go out and when they come up, Shamrock is down and Malice is standing over Shamrock.

Jerry Lynn comes up to Bill Behrens and asks if he can get in the tournament in Harris/Storm's place if he can find a partner. Behrens sends him away because he doesn't have time right now.

#### Puppet vs. Todd Stone

Little people time. Puppet yells about midgets before the match. This is a hardcore match apparently. Puppet hits him with a kendo stick as he gets in, followed by a trashcan shot to the head. Stone gets the trashcan put over his head and Puppet pounds on it with the stick. A horrible TKO into the can gets the pin for Puppet. This match exists and that's as kind as I can be to it.

Puppet hits the referee with the stick post match. Borash gets a shot too. Even Don West gets hit.

Shamrock is being looked at.

We recap Francine and the lingerie battle royal last week.

#### Miss TNA: Taylor Vaughn vs. Francine

Vaughn is defending. Francine whips her with a belt like she did to Ferrara last week. Vaughn gets the belt and chokes away. This is thrown out in less than a minute.

Ferrara holds Francine's hand up as she won but she puts his hand on her breast. That gets him a beating with the belt.

Here's Hermie Sadler, a NASCAR driver, with his pit crew. K-Krush comes out and says no one around here like NASCAR. Sadler gets in his face and

the two of them are having a match next week. West says 500 million people like NASCAR. I'd like to see some stats behind that.

#### NWA World Title: Ken Shamrock vs. Malice

Malice is more famous as The Wall in WCW. I probably should have mentioned that earlier. Shamrock is all banged up but he comes in anyway, only to get beaten down almost immediately. Shamrock gets knocked down to the floor and Malice stomps him against the railing. Back in and Shamrock gets draped over the top rope and Malice hammers away. Ken grabs the arm into a quick armbar but Malice powers him right back down.

Malice sends him to the floor and puts on a dragon sleeper which is quickly broken. As they're coming back in Shamrock grabs a bad ankle lock but Malice makes the rope. A pair of release belly to back suplexes put Shamrock down but a regular suplex is blocked. Shamrock snaps off a suplex of his own and the belly to belly out of nowhere retains the title.

**Rating:** D. Malice looked good here but the ending sucked. It basically cut the legs out from under Malice because all of that offense he put in couldn't slow the champ down and then a pair of suplexes are enough for a pin? I didn't like this for the most part and it didn't do anyone any favors at all. This would be the end of Malice's time around the title.

#### X-Division Title: David Young vs. AJ Styles

AJ is listed as being from Atlanta here instead of Gainesville. Young jumps the champ from behind but AJ speeds things up and dropkicks Young down. A rana puts Young on the floor and AJ kind of botches a flip dive, with his legs hitting the apron on the way down. Back in the ring that gets two but a second springboard attempt is countered, sending AJ's throat into the top rope.

Young follows up with an Asai Moonsault which gets two back in the ring. The spinebuster is blocked as is a German suplex by Styles flips. Bobcat is on her phone now as the match isn't interesting enough to her. Young sends AJ back first into the corner for two. A crucifix gets two for Styles but Young takes out his knee and hits an enziguri for two. After a

quick chinlock a powerslam gets two for David.

A brainbuster only gets two but Styles' kickouts are getting weaker and weaker. Back to the chinlock but Styles fights out of it again and superkicks Young down for two. The moonsault into the reverse DDT gets another two count. AJ tries to speed things up again but walks into a spinebuster for two. That looked great too. Young puts him on the top rope for a top rope rana, but AJ blocks it in mid air and hits the Styles Clash off the middle rope to retain.

**Rating:** B. I was really digging this one as AJ in 2002 was incredible. Young wasn't much but he had a good spinebuster and could do some other stuff decently. This was basically an AJ showcase match and that's what it should be. The X-Division was a way to show off fast paced matches and they did that well here. Very good match.

Post match Bobcat gets in the ring to dance but gets shoved by AJ. That's pretty heelish.

Goldie is with the Rainbow Express, who doesn't like her hair. Joel Gertner hits on her and says the Express gets the titles because they don't have anyone to fight. Gertner rhymes a lot and kisses her.

NWA World Tag Team Titles: Rainbow Express vs. ???/???

The NWA rules that they must have another match, so the opponents are AJ Styles/Jerry Lynn. The Express jumps them as they come in and the unnamed team is in trouble early. Lynn sends them to the floor and hits a slingshot dive followed by a corkscrew dive from Styles. Jerry and Lenny officially start and it's time for gyrations. Lynn sends him into the corner and Bruce comes in illegally for some homosexual themed spots.

Lenny takes over and it's off to Bruce via a kiss to the hand, freaking West out. Lynn is sent to the apron and he hits a legdrop to the back of a charging Bruce's head to take over. Off to AJ who hits a spinwheel kick for two as West praises him nonstop. Back to Lynn who gets two off a bulldog. Back to Lenny who avoids a dropkick and puts on the Liontamer (screw the Tiger Tamer) while shouting to ASK HIM. AJ breaks it up with a clothesline and Bruce comes in sans tag.

Lenny comes back in quickly and a long delayed vertical suplex gets a sexual cover for two. West's anti-gay shouting is kind of funny. Lynn comes back with a sunset flip out of the corner for two on Bruce and Bruce does the same for the same result. Bruce hooks a chinlock and then a headscissors to keep Lynn on the mat. Lynn escapes a powerbomb but Bruce escapes the Cradle Piledriver, only for Bruce to escape into a rollup for two.

Lynn DDTs Bruce down and both guys are dazed. Hot tag brings in AJ to face Lenny and things speed up. Everything breaks down and Lenny hits a Skull Crushing Finale on Styles for two. Cradle Piledriver takes Lenny down followed by Bruce and Jerry going to the floor. Spiral Tap to Lenny gives Lynn and Styles the titles.

**Rating:** C+. This was pretty good although it culminates one of the worst "tournaments" I've ever seen. The story works well as AJ beat Lynn last week and now they're partners with AJ still holding the X Title. That would be the big feud for the next few weeks, although I'm not sure why, as AJ beat Lynn twice in a row last week. Yeah Lynn won once, but that still puts AJ up 2-1. The match was pretty good though.

The NWA President has been tied up in the back and has FU painted on his stomach. You know Cena had debuted about a week before this. I think I smell a conspiracy.

We recap Christopher vs. Krush last week which set up the tag match this week.

#### Scott Hall/Brian Christopher vs. K-Krush/Jeff Jarrett

It's a brawl to start and all four head into the crowd. Hall and Jarrett head into the dancer's cage as Christopher and Krush get in the ring. Hall knocks Jarrett onto the announce table as the Hip Hop Drop misses for Christopher. Scott comes into the ring and chokeslams Krush but Jeff is back in quickly. There haven't been any tags at all yet. We finally get started with Hall vs. Jarrett and the good guys (Hall/Christopher) take over quickly.

Hall clotheslines Jarrett into the corner and it's off to Brian who



dances a bit too much and crotches himself in the corner. Off to Hall who is sent into Christopher while Christopher is on the apron before Hall collides with Jarrett. Jeff brings in Krush with a top rope dropkick but no cover. They badly mess up the spinning forearm as Krush lands on Hall's back and Hall waits a few seconds before he falls. That looked pretty bad.

Back to Jeff for a cross body off the top but Hall rolls through for two. Jarrett hooks a sleeper and Hall reverses into a quick one of his own. Jarrett suplexes him down but can't follow up. Christopher leaves the corner for some reason to yell at the referee, meaning Hall has no one to tag. Krush comes in with an ax kick and it's off to a chinlock which is positioned so that Hall can stand up and hit an electric chair drop.

That gets followed up by a clothesline and it's hot tag time, but Christopher won't tag. Hall cleans house on his own including a punch to Christopher. Hall pulls Brian into the ring and beats him up too followed by an Outsider's Edge to Krush. The referee went down in there somewhere. Brian breaks up an Edge on Jarrett and the Stroke pins Hall.

**Rating:** C-. This was the standard main event tag team match and it was nothing of note at all. At the end of the day, Grandmaster Sexay/Scott Hall vs. Jeff Jarrett/R-Truth isn't a match that grabs me. There wasn't much of a reason for this match to happen and it certainly wasn't a big fight that we were dying to see. It wasn't bad though and it sets up the main event feud for awhile.

Jarrett says he's beaten Hall for years and he's done it again here. Hall gets hit in the head with a trophy. Jarrett says he won't get screwed again. The stretcher Hall is on is turned over to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. This was better than last week's show overall as they cut out some of the nonsense but the main event was nowhere near the level of the one from last week. These earlier shows for the company were very dull at times and this was no exception, but you can see things starting to shape up a bit better. With only three shows done so far, that's a good sign.

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# TNA Weekly PPV #2: AJ Styles' First Classic

## TNA Weekly PPV #2

Date: June 26, 2002

Location: Von Braun Center, Huntsville, Alabama

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Ed Ferrara, Don West

So now that I'm done with all of the regular three hour PPVs for all of the companies, I figured I should start doing the two hour TNA shows as well. There are 111 of them and I've already knocked off one, so we've got 110 to go. Last week we crowned a new world champion in the form of Ken Shamrock. That means we need a first X Division Champion, which is what we're doing tonight. Let's get to it.

Here's the first weekly PPV in case you've never read it:

## [TNA Weekly PPV #1 – It All Begins](#)

We open with a recap from last week with Jackie Fargo making Jarrett be the first entrant in the gauntlet match for the world title. Shamrock was in the gauntlet and Scott Hall debuted too. Shamrock wound up winning the title after Jarrett was eliminated by country singer Toby Keith. Jarrett went off and beat up everyone post match and Fargo made Hall vs. Jarrett for tonight.

Jeff Jarrett vs. Scott Hall

Toby Keith and Jackie Fargo come out with Hall. Hall looks decent here, despite having been fired by WWF a few weeks before this. We stall to start before Jarrett does his walk up the back and slaps to the back of Hall's head. Hall takes Jarrett down with some right hands and catches a cross body in a fallaway slam. A clothesline puts Jarrett on the floor and Jeff runs from the singer.

Back in and Jeff cleans house with punches and dropkicks, followed by the running crotch attack while Hall is in 619 position. Jarrett puts on a sleeper and we go to a LONG shot of the crowd for some reason. Hall fights up to a knee and puts on a sleeper of his own, which is a signature sequence of Hall's.

A suplex to Hall puts both guys down but it only gets two for Jeff. Hall comes back with a bunch of clotheslines for two of his own. He loads up the Edge but K-Krush (R-Truth) breaks it up. Brian Christopher chases him off which would set up a future tag match. Jarrett loads up the Stroke but Keith low blows him, followed by a double clothesline from Keith and Hall for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. This was a kick and punch match for the most part but it was fun to see Hall looking decent for once. It's a shame that he screwed up so much over the years given the natural ability that was there. Jarrett would obviously move on to a lot more stuff in the company while Hall would be gone before Halloween.

We recap last week's preview of this week's lingerie battle royal. To clarify, we're recapping previews of things that haven't happened yet. The match is for the title of Miss TNA and the preview wound up being about ECW as two of their former chicks were in there.

### Cheex vs. Frank Parker

Cheex is an ENORMOUS man, listed at 400lbs but likely closer to 600. This is the only match either guy ever had in TNA. The tag match between

Christopher/Hall vs. Truth/Jarrett is announced and that's the highlight of the match. Cheex is basically Rikishi and does the same kind of gimmick he did, minus being Samoan, having charisma, or any form of talent. Some decent looking chick (Apparently Ryan Shamrock, called Alicia) is talking to Jeremy Borash which is apparently about a payoff from last week. Cheex wins a squash with a splash.

We'll have new tag champions next week via a tournament.

We recap K-Krush vs. Brian Christopher which is about NASCAR drivers because that's what wrestling fans want to hear about. Well to be fair this is in Alabama.

#### K-Krush vs. Brian Christopher

They keep swapping between calling his Brian Christopher and Brian Lawler. Christopher does his Too Cool dance to the ring and the NASCAR guys with him look at him like the idiot he looks like. Krush is the evil one here which I doubt was clear coming into this. He jumps Christopher to start but Brian comes back with a neckbreaker. A bulldog out of the corner gets two for Brian but a second results in him getting crotched on the middle rope.

Krush suplexes him down to take over again, getting a delayed two in the process. He does the backflip into the splits into the side kick spot that he uses today for two. Off to a chinlock as this is going nowhere. Brian fights up, I guess doing what you would call Cooling Up. An enziguri puts Krush down as does a Stunner but Krush hits an atomic drop to put him down. The NASCAR guys shake the ropes to crotch Krush and he falls right into position for the guillotine legdrop from Christopher for the pin.

**Rating:** D. This felt like a random match between two former WWF guys, and that's not something interesting. At the end of the day, why in the world am I supposed to care about the guy best known as K-Kwik yells at some

NASCAR drivers? Christopher without his Too Cool partners isn't interesting either, at least not outside of Memphis. Nothing to see here.

### Miss TNA: Lingerie Battle Royal

Taylor Vaughn, Alexis Laree, Elektra, Erin, Francine, Miss Joni, Miss Sasha, Shannon, Teresa Tyler

Borash gets the names completely wrong, really hammering home how inept these guys were to start. Everyone is in white pants and shirts here. You're eliminated by being stripped and I think that's the only way. I have no idea who most of these chicks are but one of them trips coming to the ring. That's Erin apparently. Various people have their clothes taken off, they look decent in lingerie, Francine cries after being eliminated, Ferrara feels her up and gets hit low for it, the final two are Vaughn and Elektra with Vaughn winning. This is four and a half minutes of my life I'll never get back. No rating as it wasn't wrestling.

Oh and Francine strips Vaughn.

Apolo says nothing because Bobcat and David Young interrupt Goldilocks while she's interviewing him. Bobcat yells at her and Goldilocks says cut the interview.

### Apolo vs. David Young

Young keeps ramming into Apolo but he also keeps bouncing off. Apolo hits a tilt-a-whirl slam and an overhead belly to belly to send Young to the floor. Apolo dives onto him as the camera stays on Bobcat, who is hitting on Borash. Young works on the arm in the ring as we watch Bobcat seduce Borash. Back in the whole match portion of this part of the show, Young suplexes Apolo for two and we hit a chinlock. That doesn't last long as Apolo hits a springboard tornado DDT. A spinebuster puts Apolo down but Young looks at Bobcat. Apolo superkicks him down and hits a TKO for the

pin.

**Rating:** F+. I feel bad for the wrestlers here because the main problem with this match was the Bobcat nonsense. They cut over to her at least eight times in a five and a half minute match. This was nothing good either way though as both guys were rather dull. I've always liked Apollo for some reason though so we'll give it just slightly above a total failure.

Joel Gertner of all people does the ring introductions for the next match. He doesn't have the neck brace and is far skinnier than I remember him, but he can still rhyme. Apparently he's the manager of the Rainbow Express. They're gay and he's not, but who cares. Gertner gets on a moderate high horse and says it's ok that they're gay because they're awesome.

#### Rainbow Express vs. The Dups

Rainbow Express is Lenny and Bruce, meaning Lenny Lane and Kwee Wee from WCW. The Dups are Bo and Stan. Say their names in your head and you'll get it. We cut to the back and the Dups say they won't wrestle these alternative lifestyle people. Bill Behrens goes up to two guys in jeans who are going to replace them.

#### Rainbow Express vs. James Storm/Chris Harris

If you don't recognize the names, this would be the debut of the team that would become known as America's Most Wanted, who would be the most successful team in TNA history. The Express jumps the replacements but Storm and Harris clean house, knocking both guys to the floor. Storm and Lenny get things going and Storm charges into a boot in the corner. Lenny hits a bad looking tornado DDT to Storm and it's off to Bruce.

Don West has to FREAK because Lenny kisses Bruce's hand to tag. You know,

because they're gay and therefore evil. Harris gets a hot tag and cleans house but everything breaks down. Oh ok the hot tag wasn't seen. Lenny suplexes Storm down as we hear about how the Express had to be in the closet for years because of WCW. Lenny hooks a Liontamer (called a Tiger Tamer here for no apparent reason) but Harris breaks things up. Everything breaks down and Harris gets two near falls on Lenny. The Express is rammed together and a rollup gets three on Lenny for the pin.

**Rating:** D-. This was another dull match in a series tonight. The stuff here with the Express being gay was about as forced as you could get and it became really uncomfortable at times. Also it's very clear at this point that they have almost no idea how to fill in "two hours" (read as about 100 minutes) every week. Bad match here, but AMW would get about a million times better.

Here's Ricky Steamboat to bring out the new world champion: Ken Shamrock. Steamboat lists off a bunch of names of former NWA Champions that Shamrock's name now joins. Shamrock talks about being everywhere doing wrestling and MMA and in every one of them he's risen to the top. Except WWF that is I guess.

Cue James Mitchell who says he's on a mission from God (so no one can stop him). He means his own god that is, which is why the Disciples of the New Church are going to control the world title. Therefore, Mitchell challenges Shamrock to defend against Slash next week. Shamrock says let's do it now, but the distraction lets Malice come in from behind and chokeslam the champ. Malice keeps choking him and security can't pull him off.

We recap the opening match next week which was a six man X-Division tag. The match saw AJ Styles/Jerry Lynn/Low Ki vs. the Flying Elvises. Tonight the first X-Division Champion will be crowned from Styles, Lynn, Low Ki and Psicosis. Tonight it's a round robin tournament for the belt, even though three of these four guys lost their match last week.

## X Title: AJ Styles vs. Jerry Lynn vs. Low Ki vs. Psicosis

Yes it's just the X Title here as this isn't an official division at this point. Ok so from what I can tell, two people start it off and when one is pinned, someone else comes in. When you lose twice, you're eliminated. That's a pretty cool concept actually. Styles and Psicosis start things off with AJ taking over quickly. A superkick gets two but Psicosis hits an elbow to the face to take over. Guillotine legdrop gets two on Styles but he pops back up and hits the Clash for the first pin on Psicosis.

Low Ki comes in immediately and fires off kicks, but AJ nips up from the mat and rans him down. That was AWESOME. Low Ki reverses a German and kicks AJ's head off to take over again. The Clash is broken up and AJ is launched into the post. Low Ki goes up top and Germans AJ down into a dragon sleeper (nowhere near as smooth as it could have been). AJ grabs the rope to escape so Low Ki kicks Styles in the head again. Low Ki misses a BIG flip dive and AJ clotheslines his head off. A German suplex into a belly to back facebuster gets the pin on Low Ki to get Jerry Lynn in to face Styles.

Lynn immediately clotheslines AJ down and hits the Cradle Piledriver to give him his first loss. This took less than ten seconds.

Psicosis comes in with a missile dropkick to the back of Lynn's head to take him down fast. They fight over a go behind until Lynn snapmares him down, followed by a headscissors. Lynn gets a boot up in the corner and a middle rope bulldog gets two. Psicosis sends him to the floor and hits a somersalt plancha to take Lynn out. Back in and a spinwheel kick off the top gets a close two. Ricky Steamboat is going to take over as referee once we get down to two. Psicosis goes up again but jumps into a dropkick. Lynn hits the Cradle Piledriver to eliminate Psicosis.

Low Ki is back in next and it's time to kick. To recap it's Lynn with zero losses and Styles/Lynn with one each. Low Ki kicks Jerry down and hits a Muta Elbow for two. Lynn gets up a boot in the corner but Low Ki



kicks him in the face and rana's him off the top. Jerry rolls through that into a sunset flip for two and it's time for more kicks. Lynn says bring it on and hits an enziguri to take Low Ki down. They slug it out and Lynn backdrops him to take over. Jerry goes to the apron and avoids a shoulder to the ribs so he can hit a kind of Fameasser.

Cradle Piledriver is broken up and Low Ki grabs an arm hold. Lynn counters into a HARD powerbomb for two and loads up a brainbuster. Low Ki counters into a fisherman's buster but Lynn counters THAT into a DDT for no cover. Cradle Piledriver hits out of nowhere and it's down to Styles vs. Lynn. Styles has to get two falls to win the title while Lynn only has to get one.

Styles runs in and hits a quick kick but the Clash is countered into a rana. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker gets two for Jerry and both guys are down. Lynn is sent to the apron but his sunset flip only gets one. AJ pops up top and hits a springboard moonsault for two. Jerry snaps off a tornado DDT for a two count and they're both down again. Styles hits a DDT of his own for two but he charges into a running Liger Bomb out of the corner for two for Jerry. Cradle Piledriver is countered into the Clash and it's one fall apiece, meaning Steamboat takes over and it's next fall wins the title.

Both guys are down for a bit before they head to the corner. We get a pinfall reversal sequence which would make Flair and appropriately enough Steamboat jealous. There are about ten near falls in a minute and they clothesline each other to put both guys down again. They head to the floor and Lynn hits a WICKED Irish Whip into the barricade to send Styles flying.

AJ is like screw the pain and hits the moonsault into the reverse DDT on the floor to take over again. Back inside and Jerry breaks up a springboard to hit an Elevated DDT for a VERY close two. Lynn loads up the Cradle Piledriver but AJ counters into a rana. The rana is countered into a powerbomb but Lynn rotates him further than that, sending AJ's

face into the mat in a SWEET move.

Both guys are down again but it's Lynn up first. Another Cradle Piledriver is countered into an FU into a backbreaker for two for Styles. Lynn counters a suplex into a brainbuster for two of his own. There's a sleeper but AJ escapes and goes up top, only to get crotched and superplexed for two for Jerry. Lynn loads him up top again but AJ shoves him off and Spiral Tap gives him his first of many X Division Titles.

**Rating:** A. This was AWESOME and a total star making performance for AJ. Matches like this one were the ones that got the company on the map (eventually) and this was excellent even ten years later. Lynn vs. AJ was the first big feud as they would go at it for months, over that title and another one eventually. Great stuff here and an actual new idea for a match.

We recap the match and recap the show to end things.

**Overall Rating:** D+. The majority of the grade here is for the main event, because everything before that was DREADFUL. It's very clear that they have no idea what they're doing for the most part, but they have enough for some flippy matches and a feud between the bigger named guys. Things would get better, but it would take a long time to get there. The main event is well worth seeing, but other than that there's nothing here at all.

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# It's Back!!!

Thank goodness. I appreciate the effort from Fan vs. Fan but to say the least, it didn't quite fit. This is going to be kind of a stopgap for awhile because I plan on having a new design in the upcoming weeks, although this is going to be 100% designed and maintained by ME. It'll look like a website rather than a blog and if that doesn't work, I'll change it back to this permanently.

As for differences, I'll have to update all of the reviews I did while I was on the other server, so that'll take awhile but I have them all ready to go. I'm hoping to have them all back up by tomorrow at the latest.

Table of Contents will be updated regularly.

Hopefully I can update my Facebook page again.

I CAN SEE COMMENTS AGAIN!!!

Are there any other questions?

KB