

Monday Night Raw – September 10, 2012: Jerry Lawler

Before we get to this, I want to apologize in advance for the last hour of this show. My mind wasn't focused on the show but I don't think anyone was.

Monday Night Raw

Date: September 10, 2012

Location: Bell Center, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

There are two major things going on tonight. First of all, we'll have the continuation and explanation of Heyman driving Punk away last week to end the show. The other is that Bret Hart is going to be in Montreal so you know the crowd is going to go nuts. This is the go home show for the PPV on Sunday so tonight is likely going to be a lot of pushing towards that show. Let's get to it.

Here's Bret to open the show. The fans give him a very long ovation and Bret talks about how dark that day in Montreal was. The fans got him through that time and he thanks them deeply. That's about it and here's Punk with less hair. Punk complains about Bret having a big ego and wants to know what would have happened if it had been him in Montreal instead of Shawn. Bret says Punk would have been in the Sharpshooter with his feet touching his head.

Punk says the WWE wouldn't exist because he would have beaten Bret without Vince, then jumped to WCW and there wouldn't have been an Attitude Era and the company would have died. Bret says that he's the best there is, was and ever will be which gets on Punk's nerves. Punk takes a jab at Lawler and in a bizarre moment, Bret defends Jerry. We get a clip of the end of last week's show with Punk coming back and leaving with Heyman.

Punk asks Bret if Cena is here tonight and is going to save Bret if things get too heavy. Bret mentions the word respect and Punk goes off on him. Eventually Punk says he'll put Cena to sleep on Sunday. Bret: "Just like you're putting these people to sleep here tonight." Punk says nothing else of note and we're done. I'm not sure if I liked this or not. It was better than the Lawler stuff, but at the end of the day it's the same thing he's been saying over and over again.

Pick Brodus, Lawler or Orton to be Punk's opponent tonight.

Antonio Cesaro/The Miz vs. Kofi Kingston/R-Truth

Cesaro's five language word tonight is prestige. There's going to be a battle royal on Sunday's pre show to determine who gets the shot at Cesaro later in the night. Truth comes in pretty quickly and the tag champs clear the ring with Kofi hitting a bit flip dive to the floor as we take a break. Back with Cesaro holding Truth in a chinlock while Aksana lays on the apron and watches.

Off to Miz who hits the top rope ax handle for two. Such a shame to see a former legendary team like this fighting isn't it? Truth comes back with a flying kick to take Miz down and there's the hot tag to Kofi who cleans house. A top rope cross body gets two on Cesaro and Truth takes Miz out with the spinning forearm. Kofi gets rolled up for two but even a handful of tights only gets two for Cesaro. Kingston pops up and Trouble in Paradise gets the pin on Antonio at 8:10.

Rating: C. Just your run of the mill tag match here but it worked well enough. I'm ok with the champions losing here as it's to set up the Night of Champions PPV, which means focusing on the champions by putting them in one match makes sense. Pretty decent match here and it's nice to see the tag champions win a match.

We recap Sheamus and Del Rio's stuff from Friday.

We go to a court deposition about the Otunga/Sheamus/Del Rio ordeal which involves Jewish and Mexican jokes from Sheamus. Otunga lists off some former victims of the Brogue Kick (including Daniel Bryan, making Sheamus answer every question YES in a funny bit) and we get some legal banter that belongs in a parody of A Few Good Men. Then Sheamus Brogue Kicks the camera and says let's have a party, prompting him to belt out Hava Nagila. This was out there but it was certainly different.

Alicia Fox/Natalya/Beth Phoenix vs. Eve Torres/Kaitlyn/Layla

Beth and Kaitlyn start us off and it's quickly off to Nattie. Kaitlyn gets beaten down and it's off to Alicia who hits a suplex for two. Off to Layla who cleans house before Eve tags herself in and hits the spinning neckbreaker for the pin on Alicia at 2:33.

AJ is looking a bit psycho when Punk comes up. He doesn't like that Cena doesn't have a match tonight and Punk doesn't know who his own opponent is. He yells at AJ but she doesn't back down. She leaves and Punk runs into Brodus who might face Punk tonight.

Orton wins the poll in a non shocking landslide.

CM Punk vs. Randy Orton

Punk is in Hart colors which is a weird kind of respect I guess. The champ starts with his traditional headlock to shout spots into Orton's ear but gets hiptossed down and we stall a bit. Punk stomps him down in the corner and hits a suplex for two. A chinlock stays on Orton for awhile but he fights up and almost gets the RKO. Punk bails to the floor and tries to walk out but Orton makes the save. Orton throws Punk in first so CM dropkicks Randy's legs out, sending Orton face first into the apron as we take a break.

Back with Punk dropping an elbow for two on Orton. Punk goes up top but

Orton channels his dad and superplexes him down. They slug it out from their knees and Orton takes over, but the Elevated DDT is countered by a kick to the head and the springboard clothesline for two. GTS and RKO are countered so Orton hits the backbreaker for two. Now the Elevated DDT hits but as Orton loads up the RKO, here's Ziggler for the DQ.

Rating: C+. This was your usual main event style match which wasn't bad but it's also nothing great. I don't think anyone expected this to be a classic or anything and the ending was pretty predictable, but that's ok in this case. I'm not wild on the Raw Active stuff because it takes away the reason these guys are fighting, but social media rules the world anymore.

Post match Orton gets double teamed but Lawler makes the save. The four brawl as we head to a break, leading to....

Randy Orton/Jerry Lawler vs. Dolph Ziggler/CM Punk

Back with Ziggler pounding on Orton in the corner and hitting a neckbreaker for two. Orton comes back with the slingshot suplex and brings in Lawler for a pair of middle rope fists for two. Ziggler dropkicks Jerry down as Punk looks bored out of his mind on the apron. It's intentional boredom though so at least he's doing his job properly. Ziggler drops some elbows on Lawler and hooks a chinlock as Punk still hasn't been in yet. Lawler suplexes out of the hold and it's hot tag Orton.

He cleans house but the Elevated DDT is countered and Orton is sent to the floor. Here's Heyman for a chat with Punk but Vickie starts shouting at them. Punk ignores them and keeps talking to Heyman. Heyman hands Punk the title as Ziggler is pounding on Orton in the ring. For no apparent reason Cole has stopped talking.

A Fameasser is countered (we're watching Punk and Heyman so the match is being seen in the background) but the RKO doesn't hit. A rollup gets two

for Ziggler but he walks into the RK0 for the pin at 7:10 shown. Punk was never in the match and walks away with Heyman without caring at all.

Rating: C. This wasn't bad but it was more about an angle than a match which is fine in this case. Heyman was the talk of the internet this past week so him coming out here was what everyone was waiting on. This was definitely different which is what Raw has been needing for awhile now.

Punk and Heyman are walking in the back but we still can't hear what they say. Matt Striker asks them what their relationship is and Punk says he's a Paul Heyman guy.

We recap the hugging segment from last week in a package that aired on Smackdown.

Bryan and Kane meet in the back but they aren't sure who sent both of them messages to meet here. Someone set the meeting up and Kane is mad to see him. It's the doctor who wants to run a checkup. AJ asked the doctor here apparently because they have to trust each other before everything falls apart for them.

Heath Slater wants to face Ryder again after losing last week. Ryder pops up on screen and says he's not facing Slater. Here's the real opponent.

Heath Slater vs. Ryback

Slater gets in some offense but poses to the crowd too much. Clothesline, double powerbomb, Shell Shock for the pin at 2:07.

The Prime Time Players have whistles now and come in to see AJ. They aren't the #1 contenders now because they have to beat Kane and Bryan tonight.

Daniel Bryan/Kane vs. Prime Time Players

Winners get Kofi/Truth on Sunday for the titles. Kane and Titus start things off with the bald guy jumping Kane. Off to Bryan who stays right with Titus to take over. Young comes in with a rollup for two and a double shoulder block from the Players puts Bryan down again. Yong puts on a cravate but Bryan escapes, only to get distracted by the fans. Titus comes in and walks into some kicks but he hits a backbreaker to slow Bryan down again.

There's a chinlock which doesn't last long and it's back to Young. Something is going on at the announce table and the people are all looking at it. The word on the street is that something is very wrong with Lawler and it may be something along the lines of a legit seizure. That's scary stuff man.

They trade uppercuts before Bryan gets caught in another chinlock. Bryan suplexes Young down but he won't tag. Bryan misses a Swan Dive and it's chinlock #3 in the match. Another suplex gets Bryan out of trouble but he still won't tag. After kicking the tar out of Young, Bryan gets too close to the corner and Kane tags himself in. He cleans house and hits the top rope clothesline on Young but Titus breaks up the chokeslam. After disposing of Titus, Bryan tags himself back, only to get chokeslammed onto Young, sending the anger management buddies to Night of Champions at 8:30.

Rating: D+. The match was pretty dull but this was absolutely the right move. These two had gotten way too much momentum to not do anything on the PPV and it's not like the Players can't get put back in later. Not a good match, but it's 100% the right move to make. Hopefully they win the titles and bring something fun to them again.

We recap the opening segment.

Alberto Del Rio vs. Tyson Kidd

Kidd comes out second which is surprising. Tyson almost immediately takes

Del Rio down but can't get the Sharpshooter. Del Rio hammers away but gets caught in a quick Sharpshooter. He gets the rope on the second try and almost immediately the armbreaker gets the tap out at 2:50.

Del Rio says he'll win the title.

Cole says Lawler passed out at the announce table. They're performing CPR and Cole is adamant that this isn't part of the show. This is real based on everything I can find.

Sheamus vs. David Otunga

Cole isn't saying anything still. Otunga jumps him to start and I don't think we're going to have commentary for awhile. Cole can be seen at the desk with his head on his hand watching the match but he isn't saying anything. Otunga gets in an early shot but Sheamus pounds him down and the Cloverleaf gets the tap out at 1:28.

Sheamus hits the Brogue Kick post match. This brings out AJ who says...nothing because Booker interrupts her. Booker is conducting an internal investigation and if Sheamus uses the kick before it's over, he's stripped of the title.

This is very eerie right now as the show is basically operating like a house show because we're not sure what's happening with Lawler. This is legit scary.

Back from a break and Cole still isn't saying anything. We get a clip from the tag match which I think is after Lawler collapsed. Yeah it's the ending of the match with Kane chokeslamming Bryan.

The tag champs send out a Tout about keeping the belts on Sunday.

Kane and Bryan are with the doctor and are still arguing. The doctor says

they passed a trial. Bryan didn't appreciate the chokeslam but they won and that's what matters. An argument breaks out over whose name comes first in the team name. The doctor suggests Team Friendship, drawing a collective NO.

We get the rundown of the graphics for the matches on Sunday with no commentary.

Cole is back on screen and says Lawler passed out and was stretchered to the back. Lawler has been taken to a hospital in Montreal. He's receiving oxygen but is breathing on his own. There won't be any further commentary tonight. That might be the best idea. In advance, I want to apologize if the last part of the review is off. I'm not going to be able to focus that well and I apologize in advance. This is scary stuff and when you see it happen live, it's hard to take in all at once.

Rey Mysterio vs. Cody Rhodes

The lack of commentary is eerie. Cody drops down twice early, getting hit once and hitting Rey once. Cody hits the release godrbuster but Cross Rhodes is broken up. They go back and forth for a bit with Rey hitting the sitout bulldog and taking out an interfering Miz before the 619 can hit. Miz's distraction lets Cross Rhodes get the pin at about 5:00.

Rating: C. This was fine and when you consider how messed up these guys might be, that's pretty impressive stuff. They have to get people's minds off what they just saw and that's not easy no matter what you do. The match was just a match for the most part and I guess they were trying to set up something for Sunday, which they had to do.

Post match Cody hits Cross Rhodes on Miz for no apparent reason. He holds up the title and I think that's a challenge for Sunday which would be heel vs. heel.

Post break Cole tells us a bit more about what happened to Lawler earlier. Lawler was breathing on his own and now he's more responsive than he was earlier. He's reacting to lights being put in his eyes and is in the isolated ER, awaiting a CAT scan.

Here's Hart for the closing segment. He brings out Cena and says that he sees a lot of himself and Shawn Michaels in Cena and Punk. Cena talks about how he's nowhere near those two and he thanks Bret for the compliment. Punk isn't like Shawn because Punk isn't always himself. Hart wants to know what Cena is going to do to shut Punk up.

Cue the champ who is annoyed at the lack of respect. Cena calls Punk out and asks for a fight but Punk says Cena is the biggest phony in the company. Punk talks about how the two in the ring have been surpassed by people better than themselves, those people being Punk himself and Shawn Michaels. Punk says that comparison doesn't work though because he's better than Shawn. He's better than Austin and Rock too. Punk says he's the best at everything and his eyes are bugging out. Cena says Punk is right but that makes Punk a liar and a scumbag.

Cena talks about how Punk has spent a year watching PPVs go by and thinking that everyone is against him. Punk said everything on the mic and then became champion in Chicago, which made the fans believe change was coming. Then it became clear that Punk didn't want ice cream bars or new talent or anything else. He wanted to be a star and that's it. Cena mentions a line Punk said about becoming what he hated the most and that's true. On the other hand there's Punk who has no idea who he is.

Punk steals colors from Hall of Famers and stole the elbow from the late Randy Savage. CM has changed his identity over and over again over the years and right now it's based around being champion. Cena stops to thank the fans for a bit and starts speaking French, drawing perhaps the loudest face pop he's gotten in years. Punk yells at Cena for sucking up to the crowd and it's time to get in each others' faces. Cena says he'll beat Punk up on Sunday so Punk pulls back to hit Bret, only to be stopped

by Cena. Cena takes the shirt off and Punk goes for Bret again, only to get punched down and out to the floor to end the show.

Scratch that as Cole says Lawler is breathing on his own and his heart is beating on his own. He's stabilizing and Cole gives us a recap of everything tonight. Lawler is awaiting a CAT Scan still.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a better show than last week but obviously that's not what matters here, nor is the show on Sunday. Lawler is the important thing here and the updates coming in about him are at least somewhat positive. The last half hour of the show gets a total pass as you can't blame the guys for their performance, nor is it important. The show built the PPV well enough, even though that's not important right now.

Results

Kofi Kingston/R-Truth b. Antonio Cesaro/The Miz – Trouble in Paradise to Cesaro

Eve Torres/Kaitlyn/Layla b. Beth Phoenix/Natalya/Alicia Fox – Spinning neckbreaker to Fox

Randy Orton b. CM Punk via DQ when Dolph Ziggler interfered

Randy Orton/Jerry Lawler b. CM Punk/Dolph Ziggler – RKO to Ziggler

Ryback b. Heath Slater – Shell Shock

Daniel Bryan/Kane b. Prime Time Players – Bryan pinned O'Neal after a chokeslam from Kane

Alberto Del Rio b. Tyson Kidd – Cross Armbreaker

Sheamus b. David Otunga – Texas Cloverleaf

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