

Smackdown – April 13, 2000: Jericho vs. Stephanie Begins Here

Smackdown

Date: April 13, 2000

Location: Ice Palace, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's another request and like most of them, I have no idea why it's on my list. We're on the way to Backlash 2000 but this isn't the final show before it quite yet. Other than that there isn't much going on here other than Wrestlemania being over recently, which means that HHH is still champion and is feuding with the Rock. Since it's 2000, I'll bet that this show winds up being awesome. Let's get to it.

Actually I've done the Raw before this. Here it is if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2012/09/24/monday-night-raw-april-10-2000-i-cant-believe-it-but-2000-actually-had-some-bad-shows/>

We open with a recap from Raw where Rock beat Boss Man and Bull Buchanan in a cage to earn his title shot at Backlash.

Opening sequence, which is still pretty cool even today.

European Title: Rikishi vs. Eddie Guerrero

Eddie is defending and only won the title a few days ago. He gives the Mamacita (Chyna) a vase of flowers and makes fun of Rikishi a bit ("WHERE IN THE WORLD IS SAMOA ANYWAY???"). Chyna's distraction allows Eddie to get in some shots which are promptly no sold. A powerslam gets two for the fat man but he hits the referee on the kickout. He loads up the Banzai, but Chyna hits him in the face with the vase, shattering it. That only gets two for Eddie so he knocks Rikishi to the floor. Chyna cheats AGAIN with a clothesline and still doesn't get caught, allowing Eddie to hit the slingshot hilo for two.

With no Chyna to help him now, Guerrero goes after the knee. This isn't that great so far. A Samoan Drop sets up a splash in the corner for Rikishi but Chyna distracts him again to prevent the Stinkface. Eddie dropkicks Big Kish into Chyna, crushing her in the corner. Rikishi no sells the dropkick and superkicks Eddie down before Stinkfacing Chyna. You can feel the STDs spreading just watching that. The Rikishi Driver is loaded up but Chyna hits Rikishi low to FINALLY draw the DQ.

Rating: C-. Nothing to see here. Rikishi would rise up the card very fast over the summer, culminating in one of the biggest WHAT WERE THEY THINKING moments in company history as he would turn heel and be revealed as the guy that ran over Austin. Eddie and Chyna did their thing for a few more months before splitting and doing very little else for a good while.

HHH, Shane and Stephanie think they're going to make Rock's night a nightmare. Rock arrives in the back and the games are going to begin soon.

Here are the three evil ones from the previous segment to the ring with something to say. Shane reminisces about Rock getting busted open on Raw and is proud to be HHH's brother in law. They hug it out even though they're friends, which makes that line incorrect I think. Stephanie says that Vince has a surprise for HHH but who cares about that, because let's spoil it: Vince wants to be in HHH's corner when he defends against Rock.

HHH is flattered but doesn't want Vince there because HHH wants all of the spotlight. Vince can be in the front row though. Gee that's nice of him. Seriously, HHH's levels of smug here are great and one of the top reasons he was so awesome back in 2000. Rock can keep coming back time and again but no matter how much blood and sweat he gives up trying, HHH will crush him every time.

Here's Rock who has something to say (duh). The pop for Rock is absolutely insane and it's amazing how over he is at this point. HHH cuts him off before Rock starts talking and says they'll be having the match at Backlash. I love how we need announcements about where matches are going to be when it's obvious where they're going to be no matter what.

Rock talks about being beaten down but coming out with the shot and he's going to be happy to win the title in front of Vince. HHH says Rock lost a lot of blood Monday (not really) and tonight it's Rock vs. HHH...with respective partners the APA and Boss Man/Buchanan. Rock says it doesn't matter if this is the best HHH can come up with because he'll win the title at Backlash. He promises to win the title at Backlash and that's it. That took fifteen minutes plus somehow.

Earlier today, Al Snow and Steve Blackman went to a retirement home, presumably for a personal appearance. The surprise is that Snow has booked Blackman, the most bland wrestler in the history of bland wrestlers, as a stand up comedian. More on this later apparently.

Hardy Boys vs. Dean Malenko/Chris Benoit

This is pretty shortly after the Radicalz debuted and Benoit is IC Champion. Oh and Dean is Light Heavyweight Champion. Matt and Dean start with the Hardy hip tossing the Radical. Matt takes him to the mat but misses a charge in the corner to give the villains control. Off to Benoit who whips Matt into a corner and Dean into Matt but Dean's charge misses as well. Nice little mirroring bit there. Benoit grabs Matt and starts rolling Germans but the third is blocked. Matt has to take out Malenko (is Jeff asleep or something?) and Benoit dropkicks Matt to the floor.

After a beating from the Ice Man (we're in the Ice Palace so that fits quite well) on the floor, Matt gets an elbow up to stop a charging Benoit and it's off to Jeff. It's also off to Malenko who is immediately taken down and caught by a regular legdrop from Matt and one between the legs by Jeff. Benoit comes back in and tries to powerbomb Jeff but it winds up being a modified Doomsday Device (Benoit as Animal and Dean as Hawk with a powerbomb finish) for no cover as the referee is with Matt.

Benoit comes in and suplexes Jeff down and hits a backbreaker for two. Back to Malenko for a clothesline and some pounding. This is all hard hitting stuff which makes it a lot better. The Radicals take turns hammering away on Jeff and Jeff gets to show off his amazing selling abilities. Benoit drop toeholds Jeff down so Dean can hit a dropkick to the side of his head.

Jeff escapes a German but gets chopped immediately to slow him down. A belly to back superplex by Chris is countered into a cross body for two for Jeff as things speed up a bit. A double tag brings in Matt vs. Dean, with the latter kicking the former's head off for two. Everything breaks down and the Hardys counter a near collision into Poetry in Motion on Dean. Benoit throws Jeff to the floor and Malenko puts Matt down, but Jeff comes back with the Swanton to Dean's back, giving Matt the pin.

Rating: B. For a tag match on free TV, this was pretty awesome. The speed of the match was great and they never stopped moving. That whole thing was less than seven minutes and that's probably twice what I would usually write for a match that long. The Radicalz breathed fresh life into the WWF, which is even better when you consider the WWF didn't need fresh life in the first place. That's why 2000 was so great: they had all this talent AND THEY USED IT!

Angle is with Shane in the back and is told that since he was screwed at Wrestlemania, tonight he and Show are getting a tag title shot. Angle leaves and Shane and HHH chuckle.

Hardcore Title: Crash Holly vs. Perry Saturn

Crash is defending. Saturn brings in a barrel of weapons which Crash tries to empty out. Saturn is sent into the steps and we head inside. A headscissors gets two for the champion but Saturn counters a rana attempt into a powerbomb. A trashcan lid to the head gets two for Saturn and we get a short pinfall reversal sequence.

Saturn hits a flapjack and breaks a crutch over Crash's back. Crash comes back with a tornado DDT for two but a superkick gives Saturn the title. Taz comes out with a cookie sheet to the head to win the title but Crash hits Taz with it to win the title right back and runs away. When Saturn was champion, all four of the Radicals had titles at the same time. This was your usual hardcore mess and not really worth rating. The joke was getting old and would stay that way. Taz and Saturn brawl a bit.

We head back to the nursing home for the actual comedy performance from Blackman. He reads some terrible jokes than only Snow laughs at.

Angle comes out for the tag title match but he has something to say first. He's going to win the tag titles tonight because Show is all dominant. Here's Show...as a Scotsman, complete with Roddy Piper music. Scratch that. He's doing Fat Bastard from Austin Powers 2. After promising to break those "wee fairy sissy boys", we're ready to go.

Tag Titles: Edge/Christian vs. Kurt Angle/Big Show

The champs come through the crowd as is their custom and goes right after Big Show. Considering they combine to weigh what Show had for lunch that day, this goes about as well as you would expect with Christian being picked up in the air and slammed down. Edge tries to come off the middle rope but jumps into a chokeslam which Christian has to break up.

A double headbutt staggers the champions but Angle tags himself in due to Show dancing too much. Angle vs. Christian officially start things off but Edge comes in quickly. Show dances more on the apron while Angle wants a tag, allowing Edge to hit a German for two. Angle suplexes Edge down and yells at Show, resulting in a slap to Show's face. Show destroys Angle and the champs retain via countout.

Rating: D+. This was all about setting up a story and a PPV match between Show and Angle, meaning the titles here meant nothing at all. To be fair the champs had just won them in the forerunner to TLC so they probably were still healing. Nothing to see here but Show vs. Angle would wind up being absolutely hilarious.

Jericho is in the back and sees two women. He asks if they've seen the Godfather, but they're Stephanie and Tori. Well Stephanie isn't wearing a bra so she is being kind of hoish. If I remember right, this is what started the long running Jericho vs. Stephanie feud.

Albert vs. Bubba Ray Dudley

Albert put Bubba through a table on Raw to set this up. This is when Trish was all about her looks, which she lives up to tonight by wearing a schoolgirl skirt with her outfit. Bubba gets jumped coming into the ring but Albert charges into a boot in the corner. A middle rope shoulder gets two for Bubba but a Trish distraction lets Albert kick Bubba in the face

for two of his own. The future Tensai misses a middle rope leg and Bubba kicks him in the face, only to get caught jumping (yes Bubba jumped) into a powerbomb for two. Bubba ducks a clothesline and hits the Bubba Cutter out of nowhere for the pin. Short and surprisingly not terrible.

Post match the Dudleys get beaten up by Test but come back to put Albert through a table to pop the crowd. To put it mildly, Trish's chest looks awesome here.

Jericho tries to apologize but calls the girls fat. He gets a handicap match as punishment.

Back to the nursing home and he's getting booed out of the room. Blackman makes a your mama joke and gets cursed out.

Terri Runnels/Fabulous Moolah vs. Mae Young/The Kat

It's going to suck, it's not going to be funny, let's get this over with. The young girls start with Terri tagging in Moolah. The Fabulous one gets slapped in the face by Kat so Kat gets snapmared. Back to Terri for a victory roll which is countered into a rollup by Kat for two. When I say these moves are being done, I mean that in the stretchiest of stretches of the word. Kat and Terri go to the floor where Kat has a glass of water thrown on her, much to King's delight.

The old chicks come in and have a MUCH better match than the young girls. Moolah is 76 and Mae is 77 at this point. Moolah monkey flips Mae a few times and everything breaks down. Mae and Kat hit stereo Bronco Busters before Kat spears Moolah down and a Mae elbow gets the pin.

Rating: S. As in seriously or screw this or shame on whoever thought this was a good idea to do. You do not have women in their mid-70s out there doing something like this, no matter how sure they are that they can do it. Show some responsibility and say no, this isn't going to happen. Let them be managers or something like that, but this is ridiculous.

Chris Jericho vs. X-Pac/Road Dogg

Before the match, Jericho says that he insulted Stephanie (Tori is ignored) and he was going to apologize, but since he's getting screwed,

he's getting his money's worth. Apparently he and Rock were correct in calling her a ho, but that's not enough. Stephanie is the filthiest, dirtiest, most disgusting, skankiest, most brutal, bottom feeding trashbag ho he's EVER seen. And thus two years of feuding are born.

I miss the King of Rock theme DX had at this point. I also miss Tori in those shorts of hers. Roadie starts for his team but Pac tries to sneak in a shot. Jericho tries to fight them both at once but gets spin kicked in the face to take him down. Jericho comes back with a spin kick to Road Dogg but Pac interferes again.

The Bronco Buster misses as do Road Dogg's dancing punches. The Walls are put on Road Dogg but Pac breaks it up. X-Factor is countered into a powerbomb and the Lionsault gets two on Pac. Chris is rolling now, hitting all of his signature stuff. Tori gets in and is put in the Walls but Road Dogg kicks Jericho into the X-Factor for the pin. Too short to rate but this was very fast paced while it lasted.

Shane EXPLODES on Hebner in the back for mistakes he's made. He didn't do anything tonight that I can think of. Hebner is on probation now.

Blackman apparently pulled nunchucks on an 84 year old woman. Bad timing here.

Here's Stephanie with some chick in pink. Stephanie talks about how hot the Divas, led by her, are. The chick is apparently her new personal trainer Muffy. This is one of two appearances Muffy would make before disappearing and never being referenced again.

The APA won't tell Rock if they've been paid off or not.

Acolytes/The Rock vs. Bull Buchanan/Big Boss Man/HHH

Rock and Boss Man start things off with Rocky sending both him and Buchanan to the floor so he can stare down HHH. Boss Man saves the Game (drives me crazy when I forget to do that) and it's off to HHH who is punched in the face. HHH comes back with a knee to the face and brings Buchanan in again, which goes about as well as you would expect Bull to do against Rock.

Off to the APA for a double spinebuster on Buchanan and a top rope shoulder for two for Bradshaw. Bull comes back and kicks Bradshaw down before it's off to Farrooq. A Shane distraction gives Bull the advantage again and it's off to Boss Man. After some double teaming, here's HHH to stomp Farrooq down in the corner. Earl Hebner breaks it up, causing Shane to freak out. Earl BLASTS Shane and HHH snaps, allowing Farrooq to make the comeback. That goes nowhere but Rock breaks up a Pedigree attempt, giving Farrooq the chance to tag Rock.

The Great One goes off on HHH with punches and the high impact clotheslines. Everything breaks down as Rock loads up the Rock Bottom. After some brawling, it's only HHH left against all three guys. The fans freaking out over HHH's impending destruction is great. Unfortunately it doesn't happen because DX runs in for the big brawl and the match is thrown out somewhere in there.

Rating: C-. This was your usual main event tag match with a screwy ending. The fans were erupting for any sign of fighting between HHH vs. Rock, which is why it was even better when the title match at Backlash was great stuff. There's a reason this was the top feud for years in the company and it never gets old. The other guys being there didn't help anything though.

Rock Rock Bottoms Shane through the announce table to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. Just like Monday there wasn't anything great here but this was a better show with some better matches. Announcing the title match always makes things feel bigger and this was no exception. 2000 was a great time for the company but it wouldn't really hit its stride for a few more weeks. After Backlash though it's great stuff (save for King of the Ring) until the end of the year. Watchable show here but nothing great at all.

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