

Impact Wrestling – November 29, 2012: This Was So Dull I Can't Come Up With A Witty Insult For It

Impact Wrestling

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Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Todd Keneley, Tazz

It's Championship Thursday because we can't go more than a week without having some kind of gimmick show. The main story going on is apparently a hidden love between Bully Ray and Brooke Hogan, because the world wants BROOKE. Other than that we've got Aces and 8's who likely won't do anything but beat up a lower card guy as they do every week. Let's get to it.

It's the usual recap intro. We get the results of Wes Brisco's Gut Check tonight as well.

Here's Hogan (Hulk in case you're a bit slow) to open the show. He talks about how he's a father and a general manager, and those roles collided last week. Hogan wants Ray to come out here right now and tell him to his face what's going on. Here's Ray in street clothes, seemingly ticked off at Hulk for this. Ray wants to know what's going on because Hogan doesn't trust him and never has.

Hogan says cut the nonsense and tell him what's going on between Ray and Brooke. Ray asks if Hogan is sure he wants that, because it might not be what Hogan wants to hear. Cue Brooke to really crank up the acting in this segment. Brooke says she's 18 now and Hulk immediately cuts her off. He doesn't want Brooke EVER with another wrestler, especially Ray.

Aries pops up on the screen, standing on a table in the back. Apparently Hulk needs to be here to pick a #1 contender to the X Title. The options are Ion, Kash and King. He lays on the desk but says it's uncomfortable. "Brooke, how do you do this?" I guess Aries is a candidate for the shot as well.

Gail Kim vs. Mickie James

Gail is all fierce tonight and pounds away on Mickie from the start. Off to a headscissors which goes nowhere for Kim but Mickie misses the Thesz Press off the top. Running dropkick gets two for Gail but Eat Defeat is countered. Mick Kick puts Gail down but Kim's foot is under the rope. Mickie hits the rana out of the corner and a neckbreaker gets two. The jumping DDT is blocked by Gail but a tornado DDT pins Gail at 4:57.

Rating: D+. This is what you call going through the motions. Gail is just there anymore in TNA, which could be said about the entire Knockouts Division at this point. There's nothing new about this division as Mickie vs. Tara has been done so many times before that there's no reason to get interested in it again.

Storm and AJ argue over who has the right to complain.

Hogan storms into his office and it's time for the first cut. King gets yelled at for snickering at Aries' joke. Ion says he's pretty. Kash says he started the X Division and is a two time champion. Aries says he never lost the title. King is gone, thereby making this far less interesting.

Here's Roode for a chat. He says last week he made a statement by attacking Hardy and York after Hardy almost lost to the Gut Check Rookie last week. Roode is the real champion and Hardy is just a paper version. If you want to make an impact, call out Roode, not Hardy. This brings out Christian York to deck Roode, which he says is calling Bobby out.

Bobby Roode vs. Christian York

This starts after a break with York taking Roode down very quickly. York comes back with a hop toss and a shoulder block. Make that a few shoulders for two. Roode gets sent into the steps but as York comes back in, Roode crotches him to take over. York gets up a boot in the corner but Roode clotheslines him down. A suplex gets no cover but Roode jumps into a boot. York comes back with more clotheslines and a dropkick, followed by a double stomp to the back from the middle rope. A small package gets two for Roode but York turns his head, allowing Bobby to hit a clothesline to the back of the head. Crossface beats York at 5:17.

Rating: D+. Not a great match but it's nice to see a Gut Check guy get actual ring time. Until last week, I don't think we had seen anybody from the competition back on the show at all. Anyway, not a terrible match here but it was pretty dull. York has a much better look than the other guys, but his offense is a bit limited. Decent way to spend ten minutes here.

Roode gets a chair post match but Jeff Hardy makes the save.

We recap the Aces and 8's hammer attacks over the last few weeks.

The boss talks to Aces and 8's about the holidays. Next week it's Doc vs. Angle. D-Von wants his TV Title back and he wants it next week. If he gets the shot, no one gets hut tonight. If not, everything goes nuts.

Gut Check judges talk.

Prichard says someone isn't here but Angle comes up and pleads Wes Brisco's case. Apparently Al Snow is the person not here.

Kazarian/Christopher Daniels vs. AJ Styles/James Storm

Before the match, Daniels says he'll win the FINAL MATCH and it'll haunt AJ forever. AJ and Kaz get things going with Kaz ducking under the dropkick. Off to Storm who speeds things up and hits a running neckbreaker. He glares at AJ before turning around to punch Daniels. AJ comes in and messes up a double elbow with Storm. A knee drop misses Daniels and the heels take over. Storm comes back in and is immediately beaten down in the corner. Daniels and Kaz want to be called Bad Influence because they like the vices of life.

Daniels hits a slingshot elbow followed by a slingshot legdrop for two. The evil ones do that Gangam Style or whatever it's called dance as Taz audibly rolls his eyes. Hot tag brings in AJ to clean half of the house or so. The springboard forearm puts Daniels down but AJ goes for a slingshot dive onto Kaz, which misses completely (these misses are intentional if that's not clear). Daniels goes to the floor for some double teaming, followed by a combination Blue Thunder Bomb/neckbreaker for two on AJ. Storm pulls Kaz to the floorr but AJ misses the Pele. Blind tag brings in Storm for the Last Call to Daniels for the pin at 7:08.

Rating: C+. Decent tag match here and we've got a story going on with AJ here. I'm not wild on Storm being used as a placeholder in a feud like this but that's TNA for you. I'm also not looking forward to AJ vs. Daniels again, because it's been done SO many times already. It'll be good, but I don't care to see it again. I just don't.

Lockdown is in San Antonio.

Back to the X-Division reality stuff. Ion references Hulk Hogan's Pastamania which is just cool. That will never be said about Ion again. Kash says he should get a shot because he's been there before. Aries gets the shot. Sure why not.

Joe says ok to D-Von's challenge, because D-Von abandoned the title.

Douglas Williams vs. Matt Morgan

Ryan does Morgan's intro here. Morgan has Hogan's old robe from 1980 here. Total squash, ended by a chokeslam and the Carbon Footprint at 2:11.

D'Lo Brown is replacing Snow. Taz says no, the others say yes. That took ten minutes somehow. Angle and Garrett come out to celebrate.

Ray yells at Hogan and says he's confusing business with personal. Hogan accuses Ray of the same thing.

Aries tells Hogan that winning the X Title back is his path to the world title and says this was his plan. We don't hear Hogan's response because of an audio glitch, which means we hear a Roode/Hardy package instead.

X-Division Title: Rob Van Dam vs. Austin Aries

Van Dam takes him down into the corner to start but Aries comes back quickly. Aries' splash hits knees though and we head to the floor. Van Dam hits a plancha and we take a break. Back with RVD countering the suicide dive but hitting the barricade with the spinning legdrop. Aries hits a neckbreaker over the barricade which gets a bunch of two's back in the ring.

A DDT gets two for Aries as does a modified Rolling Thunder. Aries tries the Five Star but hits only mat. Van Dam hits the real Rolling Thunder and the Split Legged Moonsault for two. Van Dam dropkicks him down and loads up the Five Star, only to get knocked into the barricade by Aries. Aries gets the mic and insults Brooke a big, drawing out Bully Ray for the DQ 12:31. Oh freaking screw this.

Rating: C. This was getting good until the end. Aries vs. Ray at the PPV I guess, but man alive I do not care at all about this story. Could it be

because there's WAY too much Brooke Hogan in it? Well she's in the story at all, so that would imply there being too much of her. The match was going fine until the end, but a bit too much stealing moves for me.

Aries gets caught between Ray and Hogan to end the show. Aries of course is an afterthought as Hogan and Ray stare at each other, with Ray saying Hogan still doesn't trush me.

Overall Rating: D. Oh I did not like this show. I mean I didn't like it AT ALL. The main problem here is that the stakes were so freaking low. We've got Ray, who has to be injured or something given how long it's been since he had a match, apparently dating (that hasn't been confirmed yet) Brooke because TWO secret relationships aren't enough in a single year. We've got Hogan FURIOUS at Aries so he gives him a title match. Not a world title match mind you, but a title match for a title that is often tacked on to PPVs at the last minute.

Other than that we've got Hardy and Roode feuding through Christian York to set up a match that Roode has as much chance of winning as I have of winning Miss America 1984. Wes Brisco, a guy famous for coming from a famous family and who is clearly in Aces and 8's because NO ONE ELSE IN WRESTLING HAS HAIR LIKE THAT gets to beat Garrett Bischoff to make it to Gut Check. Why am I supposed to care?

That's Impact in a nutshell right now: they seem to have no idea where they're going and no reason to give me to care. We're getting Mickie vs. Tara in the dead Knockouts Division. We've got Storm going nowhere. We've got AJ vs. Daniels for literally probably their 12th PPV match. We've got D-Von and Luke freaking Gallows as the only names in Aces and 8's. What is interesting about TNA right now? If you can come up with something, you're either smarter than I am or a total mark for their company.

Results

Mickie James b. Gail Kim – Tornado DDT

Bobby Roode b. Christian York – Crossface

James Storm/AJ Styles b. Kazarian/Christopher Daniels – Last Call to Daniels

Matt Morgan b. Douglas Williams – Carbon Footprint

Austin Aries b. Rob Van Dam via DQ when Bully Ray interfered

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