

WWE Never Ceases To Amaze Me

<http://www.wrestlezone.com/news/266019-exclusive-backstage-ww-e-concerns-on-the-rocks-involvement-in-royal-rumble>

Gee, who would have predicted THAT?

Monday Nitro – August 25, 1997: One Of The Most Underrated Wrestler Ever Says Goodbye

Monday Nitro #102

Date: August 25, 1997

Location: Carolina Coliseum, Columbia, South Carolina

Attendance: 8,048

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tony Schiavone, Bobby Heenan, Larry Zbyszko

We're past the Clash and the main change is that we have Sting vs. Hogan on the verge of being announced. Other than that we're getting ready for Fall Brawl which is in like three weeks I think. The main event tonight is Savage vs. Luger as they renew an old rivalry. Other than that I wouldn't expect anything big tonight. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the vulture stuff from Clash which is over the top but fits well for Sting at this point.

Here's Gene in the ring to recap JJ's offers to Sting. He calls out "Eric" Bischoff to address the possibility of Sting vs. Hogan. Bischoff says ultimatums can come back to bite you, which means the WCW ship has to sail without Sting. JJ is on the phone (seriously? They couldn't get JJ Dillon to a show?) and says that Eric is jumping to conclusions.

Apparently WCW was flooded with letters from fans so Hogan vs. Sting will happen. Eric FREAKS and says it won't happen because Hogan is too busy, but if the match happened, Hogan would destroy him. Cue Sting who puts Eric on his knees and puts a Hogan shirt down his throat. Sting smiles for the first time in a year.

Raven jabbars a bit.

The Nitro Girls dance.

Ernest Miller/Glacier vs. La Parka/Psychosis

Glacier vs. La Parka to start with Ice Man kicking him in the face. I'm as shocked as you are I assure you. Psychosis trips up Glacier but gets caught by a spin kick from La Parka in a bit of heel miscommunication. A powerslam puts La Parka down and Psychosis screws up again by hitting his partner by mistake. They're even now I guess. Miller comes in and gets caught in some EVIL double teaming on the floor while being stretched over the railing. Back in and the masked guys screw up AGAIN with La Parka kicking Psychosis in the head. Everything breaks down and La Parka hits Glacier with a wooden chair for the upset pin.

Rating: D+. What in the world was the point of this? Go show that Glacier and Miller aren't a good team? I think we established that about the day they started teaming together. Other than that, it's nice to see a new team who has done well before getting a win, even though they look like the Three Stooges at the same time. Nothing to see here, as usual.

Silver King and Ultimo Dragon come in as the brawl continues post match. Dragon gets beaten down, leading to this.

Silver King vs. Ultimo Dragon

Dragon is in trouble from the beating by all three other luchadores before we get going here. He says he's ready to go and it's on. King already misses a charge but a following kick in the corner connects with Dragon to take him down. A top rope legdrop and moonsault get two for King and we hit the chinlock. Silver misses a top rope elbow but takes Dragon's head off with a clothesline.

King chokes away a bit but jumps into a dropkick as Dragon makes his comeback. He pounds away on King in the corner and adds a Muta Handspring Elbow. A kind of rana is botched by Dragon and both guys are down. They try it again and Dragon gets much higher this time and hits the rana perfectly for two. King goes up and after bumping the cameraman twice, gets caught in the super rana and the Dragon Sleeper for the tap out.

Rating: C-. Not much here but at least they're trying to give these guys a story. What that story is I'm not sure but at least they're trying somehow. Other than that though, the botch on the rana wasn't great and it really slowed the match down. Silver King is a much bigger deal in Mexico, but in WCW he never amounted to anything.

Here are Savage and Hall for a chat. Hall says you can't have a party without the NWO and they're the reason why everyone is here and watching on TV at home. Apparently DDP has joined the NWO even though Savage voted no. As for Luger, the slump will continue tonight when he takes the Big Elbow. Gene asks Page to come out and asks if the Diamond Cutter to Luger on Thursday was intentional or not. Page calls the question stupid and says he and Luger will settle their differences like men. Just advancing stories here.

Chris Benoit vs. Jeff Jarrett

Benoit drills him three times in a row to start and ducks the enziguri attempt from Jeff. Jarret heads to the floor and is immediately caught by a baseball slide, so he hides behind Debra like a coward. Back in and Jarrett misses a charge in the corner but manages to avoid the Swan Dive. Jeff goes up top but Benoit pops up for a superplex, but Jarrett hooks Benoit's legs once they hit the mat for a fast pin. Short but intense as you would imagine from a Benoit match.

The Nitro Girls dance some more.

Mortis/Wrath vs. Faces of Fear

Apparently this is a rematch from Saturday Night where the Faces of Fear lost. Wrath and Barbarian start things off with neither guy being able to keep an advantage. Vandenberg grabs Barbarian's leg and Wrath kicks him down for two but Barbie pops right back up. A top rope lariat gets two more for Wrath but he misses a middle rope elbow. Off to Meng for a double middle rope headbutt for two more. Everything breaks down so let's talk about WarGames.

There's no Jimmy Hart out here with the Fear dudes for some reason. Things calm down a bit and Wrath charges into a Meng boot in the corner. Back to Barbarian who gets caught by a cross body of all things. Not hot tag brings in Mortis to fire off kicks but Meng goes into MONSTER MODE...which lasts about four seconds before Mortis kicks him down for two. Everything breaks down again and Mortis jumps into the Tongan Deathgrip to end this.

Rating: C. I'll give them this: they're giving these lower level guys some programs which while not great do in fact exist. So many people today have nothing of note to do and just wait for a story to come along. This isn't much of a story for these guys but it's something to do and a chance for them to show their skills a bit. That's kind of nice to see and the matches aren't horrible or anything.

Wrath and Meng fight some more post match.

BUY THIS STUFF!

Hour #2 begins.

Here are the Horsemen with something to say. Flair wants to know RIGHT NOW if Hennig is with them or against them. Curt comes out but he says he's still not ready to give Flair an answer at this point. However, Flair was expecting this so here's Arn Anderson to give a final sales pitch. Anderson talks about how he's never been the biggest, the strongest, or the best at anything, but he's parlayed that into a wrestling career. Then a few months ago he had to have neck surgery which left his left hand (he's a southpaw) too weak to hold a glass or button a button.

Then a few days ago at the gym, he dropped a water bottle and saw the water falling out of it like the sand in the hourglass of his career. Therefore, he'd rather walk away than endanger the careers of men he respects. Every time he got in the ring, he gave you everything he had and that's how he wants to be remembered. However he has one more challenge and that's to Curt Hennig. He asks Hennig to be the new Enforcer of the Horsemen, which is Anderson's spot on the team. Hennig says it would be a privilege and shakes Arn's hand to join the team.

US Title: Steve McMichael vs. Eddie Guerrero

Mongo (the champion) gets jumped from behind to start with Eddie going after the knee. A snapmare puts the champ on the mat and Eddie stomps away before hitting a DDT out of the corner for two. A headscissors gets the same as Mongo is in trouble. Steve comes back with some basic power stuff including a slam and another slam and then a SPINNING slam. A charge misses in the corner and Eddie goes up, only to jump into a Tombstone for the pin to retain. Nothing to see here.

Here's Rey to update us on his knee injury. He shouldn't have wrestled at Road Wild which brings out Konnan to run his mouth. Trash is spoken but Giant comes out to scare Konnan off.

Bischoff comes out and runs off Heenan and Tenay, saying he and Tony are doing commentary for the rest of the show. Ok then.

Cruiserweight Title: Yuji Nagata vs. Chris Jericho

I never got the appeal of Nagata. I know he's a big deal in Japan but his WCW stuff bored me to death. Technical stuff to start with Jericho being sent into the ropes where he misses a spinwheel kick. Yuji takes it to the mat and fires off a HARD kick to Jericho. You know, because he's Japanese and Japanese wrestlers kick a lot. Jericho comes back with a dropkick and slam to set up a springboard splash for two. We hit a chinlock for a bit before Nagata is put in the Tree of Woe for some kicks.

We take a break and come back with Jericho getting dropped stomach first onto the ropes. We head to the floor where Jericho comes back with a cross body and it's back inside. Yuji punches Jericho coming off the top to break up an ax handle shot. Jericho shrugs that off, hits the Lionsault, the WCW-rare double powerbomb and hooks the Liontamer for the tap out to retain.

Rating: D+. This didn't work for the most part for me. Nagata is another guy who is just there with no real character or anything resembling one aside from "he's a big deal in Japan." Therefore, it's hard to care about him and it's hard to buy him as a legit threat to Jericho's title. Not bad but nothing interesting at all here.

Harlem Heat wants to be #1 contenders but they have to get past the Steiners apparently. Ray talks about not having to go up north (to WWF) or to Japan because they're the big tag team of WCW. The Steiners come out to say they deserve another title shot because of how the previous

match ended. Vicious and Delicious come out to brag and a fight breaks out.

More dancing.

TV Title: Alex Wright vs. Dean Malenko

Alex is defending. Dean messes with him by using amateur stuff on him to start before taking him to the mat for two. The champ heads to the floor and comes back in with a strategy of punch Dean in the face over and over. Sometimes it's the simplest ideas that work best I suppose. There's an elbow drop but the champion stops to dance instead of covering.

There's a backbreaker and Wright bends Dean over his knee for a little while. Wright's piledriver attempt is blocked into a backdrop. Malenko loads up a superplex but gets shoved down. Instead Dean settles for a dropkick but Wright goes to the eyes to break up the Cloverleaf attempt. A pair of suplexes take Dean down but Dean counters into another Cloverleaf attempt, drawing Dean and Eddie out for the DQ.

Rating: C-. This was just waiting around until we got to the ending. The matches tonight haven't had much to them at all other than setting up stuff for the future. That's ok for a bit but when that's all that happens on the show it gets old. Dean needs Jarrett to go to the WWF already so he and Eddie can just do their thing without being dragged down.

Lex Luger vs. Randy Savage

Savage, an old Memphis man, stalls before we get going. Luger punches him into the ropes and gets pulled away by the referee, resulting in Savage getting in a punch to take over. Randy seems to be keeping things simple tonight with punches and a clothesline as we head to the floor. More basic attacking by Savage as he starts focusing on the ribs by sending

Luger into the barricade.

Luger tries crawling around but gets kicked in the head. You can't say Savage didn't live up to his name. A double ax off the apron puts Luger down again, preventing him from getting back into the ring. Savage finally throws him back in and drops the top rope ax on him for two. A sleeper on Luger is quickly countered into a belly to back suplex and both guys are down.

Luger gets up first and starts his comeback with his complete assortment of non-Rack moves (punch, clothesline, atomic drop, forearm) before calling for the Rack. Hall of course runs in and rams the guys together by mistake. Page comes out and checks on Luger, resulting in Lex Racking him to end the show.

Rating: D+. This was again just there for the ending to play off the idea of Luger and Page having issues. Based on that, I'll set the over/under for pleas for WCW to come together at 4 for the first hour of next week's show alone. Savage and Luger fought forever in WCW so it's kind of nice to see them rekindle that a bit here.

Overall Rating: D. This show just wasn't very good. It was almost all angle advancement, but at the same time there weren't any good matches to back it up. We're heading into WarGames now and nothing is really set in stone yet. We can see most of the card though, and that's the most important part. Anderson's retirement speech is worth checking out, if nothing else to keep in mind for the parody that would follow.

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The Official Rules of Professional Wrestling

I saw a link to this and thought it was pretty cool. Over the years, wrestling rules basically are altered to fit whatever story was going on. This however is an official set of NWA wrestling rules circa 1974 from a souvenir sold in the Mid-Atlantic area. It's pretty cool stuff.

<http://www.ddtdigest.com/features/prog1974/pictures/backib.jpg>

I'd LOVE to see a WWF version of this just for the sake of comedy.

On This Day: January 2, 2012 – Monday Night Raw: He's Here Too!

Monday Night Raw

Date: January 2, 2012

Location: FedEx Forum, Memphis, Tennessee

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

We're in Lawlerville tonight for the first WWE show of the year. There are two major things tonight: we see who the It Begins videos are for and we have a world title match in the form of Punk vs. Ziggler. With the ratings sagging, it might be interesting to see if the title changes hands tonight. Anyway, the road to the Rumble probably will get going tonight

so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the ending last week where the fans didn't chant Cena Sucks, even though the video presents it as if they did. This is the most forced attempted heel turn ever.

Cena opens the show to of course a mixed reaction. He doesn't look that upset. He wishes everyone a happy new year and it's a split chant again. Cena talks about how the new year is time for resolutions and changes. He's going to make some changes in 2012. First off, he's going to start wearing less underwear (girl pop). As for the This is Your Life John Cena segment, his dad is now banned from WWE programming.

Finally, the last change is coming at Wrestlemania. After he beats Rock, he's resolving to prove he's lost his lady parts. The one thing that won't change: he's going to remain who he is and his convictions will remain true. Hustle, Loyalty and Respect don't go away because someone throws fire at you. Every single one of the fans here has paid their money to be here tonight and if they want to cheer, boo, or shout whatever they want, that's up to them and they've earned that right.

Cena's disappointment is in Kane. Kane has an issue with Cena and Kane can't settle it the way we do it here in the WWE. Kane pops up...or at least his voice does. He says Cena will eventually embrace the hate and tonight, he'll witness the power of hate. Maniacal laugh, maniacal laugh.

After a graphic about Punk vs. Ziggler, a video pops up saying the end begins tonight.

Daniel Bryan vs. Cody Rhodes

Bryan gets NO reaction. Cena got a big reaction and Kane got a pop too, but this is pathetic. Cody shakes off some kicks to start and hooks onto the arm. Bryan fights back and hits the running knee off the apron to the floor. Back in the Beautiful Disaster gets two. Cody tries a release gordbuster and gets

rolled up for the pin at 3:20. Where do I begin?

Rating: D. So the IC Champion who has a big match on Friday loses in 200 seconds. Could they be any more counter productive with this stuff? Does the name Jack Swagger or Drew McIntyre not ring a bell to anyone? I'm already in a bad mood tonight and this is just making it worse.

Video of Miz getting attacked last week.

Miz comes in to see Johnny Ace and Ace says he won't do anything about it. Miz wants to know why he's here tonight then. Ace shows him a video of Miz attacking Truth two months ago but Miz says he doesn't know why Truth would attack him. Sheamus vs. Miz tonight. Ace says he'll have some people watching for Truth tonight. Miz says he'll be a sitting duck. He leaves and the camera watches him go. Truth pops up and does a duck dance. This also gets a bigger reaction than Bryan had.

Video on Duggan's Rumble win.

Barrett comes out for a match but before the match we get a clip of the Orton injury moment. Barrett says he'd wish us a happy new year, but he really doesn't care about his new year, or our old year for that matter. This has been a good year for him already due to a lack of Orton. Orton was just another victim of the Barrett Barrage. Santino comes out and reminds us that he lasted longer than Barrett did in last year's Rumble. He makes train sounds so he's funny, get it?

Wade Barrett vs. Santino Marella

Let's get this over with. Barrett throws punches and Santino does the splits. Barrett stops and kicks him in the head which makes me smile. Santino tries to load up the Cobra and gets a kick to the face. His shoulder goes into the most and Winds of Change ends this at 1:18.

The Bellas argue in front of Miz and Miz asks if they've seen Truth. He walks off and Truth is still stalking him.

Sheamus vs. The Miz

Miz immediately jumps Sheamus with a DDT and pounds him down. I don't think the bell rang yet. He gets Sheamus tied in the ropes but Sheamus kicks him off. There are the forearms in the ropes and I mean like 20 of them. They go to the floor and Miz runs into the crowd. Truth jumps on the PA and is in the crowd.

Guess who he ran into? LITTLE JIMMY! Little Jimmy doesn't like Miz. Little Jimmy says Miz needs to get got. Miz runs back to ringside and right into a Brogue Kick. Truth pops him with the water bottle. There was never an official match I don't think. Truth goes back into the crowd and says this week's Miz Beatdown was brought to you by Little Jimmy where you're going to get got.

We see how Zigler "earned" his shot tonight.

Zigler is showing off in the back and says he flaunts it better than anyone else does every night. He talks about debt and how it dominates things, but he's a walking talent surplus. Everything he's wanted he's gotten except for the WWE Title. He wins tonight. Good stuff.

Ryder continues to hit on Eve because he's the US Champion so he's hitting on a woman. Swagger comes up and says he should be champion. They get into an argument and Ace pops up. There's a six man elimination tag with Kane/Swagger/Kane vs. Cena/Ryder/Show.

Raw World Title: CM Punk vs. Dolph Ziggler

You know, because the world title needs to end the first hour, not the main event of the show. This gets big match intros. If they let this match go, it should be good. They go to the mat

to start and neither guy can get much of an advantage. Backbreaker gets two for Punk. Punk takes over for awhile until Ziggler hits a hot shot to take over. Ziggler gets in a shot on the floor and we hit the chinlock and take a break.

Back with them slugging it out on their knees but Ziggler grabs the sleeper. Punk quickly escapes and hits a leg lariat to take over. Snap powerslam gets two. They trade rollups and Dolph hits a Fameasser for two. Stinger Splash and something like a reverse powerslam gets two. They go to a corner and the buckle gets pulled off. Knee in the corner and a bulldog get two for Punk.

He calls for the GTS but here comes Ace. He points out the exposed buckle as Punk locks in the Anaconda Vice. Ziggler is tapping but there's no referee so Punk lets it go. Ziggler tries the Zig Zag but Punk moves and Ziggler collides with Ace. GTS is countered and Ace pulls the top rope down. The fastest count ever results in a LAME countout win for Ziggler at 13:09.

Rating: C+. It was good up until the really stupid ending. If Ace wants the title off Punk that badly, wouldn't he know to throw him back inside? I think we know what the Rumble is going to be though and that's fine. Anyway, good stuff here, until the ending. That's about what you would expect for this match though.

Ziggler celebrates with the title and goes into the crowd. The video interrupts it and says He Is Here.

Another Rumble video, this one from 1995.

Bella Twins vs. Eve Torres/Kelly Kelly

Kelly vs. let's say Brie to start and Kelly does her spanking and Stinkface to get on my nerves even more. Eve comes in and does her usual stuff. The moonsault is broken up and it's Nikki in now. Top rope moonsault gets two and it's Twin Magic

for the pin on Eve at 2:04. Are we really back to this again?

Punk comes in to yell at Ace and Ace makes Punk vs. Ziggler with Ace as referee for the Rumble. Punk says if he gets screwed out of the title, Otunga is going to come in handy because Punk will be arrested for animal cruelty when he beats Ace like a female dog.

Here's another video with very similar images. It says a familiar force shall arrive to claim what is his. She holds the beckoning of his rebirth. The focus seems to be more on the girl in this. She has spoken. It is time. And it looks like an earthquake in the arena. And it's....a blackout. Big Y2J chant starts up and there are lights of a guy in Jericho's pose on the stage. It's Jericho. Blast it. Freaking blast it. All those weeks and it's Jericho...again.

Jericho takes a lap around the ring, slaps the hands of the fans, goes into the ring, goes back outside and slaps more hands and does the pose where he leans against the crowd. It's Y2J Jericho too. He keeps playing to the crowd but hasn't said a word onto the mic yet. There's something up here. He goes outside AGAIN and shouts at the crowd. Now he points to the side of the crowd he wants to cheer. I'm waiting on a heel promo here.

And he drops the mic and does it AGAIN. This has been going on for like 5 minutes now. Here's lap #4 around the ring and the fans are getting tired. Up the ramp he goes to grab a camera. And now he's leaving. Ok no he isn't....and yes he is. He's on the stage and there are some boos now. And he leaves. Jerry isn't sure what we just saw. Jericho never said a word into the mic and nothing at all other than COME ON BABY!

Big Show/Zack Ryder/John Cena vs. Kane/Mark Henry/Jack Swagger

Elimination rules here. And there's no Kane. Instead Otunga comes out and says it'll be a handicap match. Swagger and Cena start us off with Cena taking him to the mat and dropping an

elbow for two. Dropkick gets the same. Swagger kicks him into the corner and we take a break. Back with a Vader Bomb getting two. Cena backdrops out of it and here's Big Show. No eliminations yet.

Show beats Swagger up and it's time for a battle of the giants. Henry gets knocked to the floor and Show goes after him. Henry grabs a chair but Show knocks it out of his hands and cracks him in the back with it to get us down to two on two. It's a double elimination though so it's now Ryder/Cena vs. Swagger. Ryder comes in for the first time that we've seen and hits the Broski Boot. Rough Ryder is countered into an awful powerbomb and the ankle lock. Ryder makes the tag to break the hold and Cena cleans a few rooms (I don't think Swagger qualifies as a house). AA ends this at 8:22.

Rating: D. Uh...yeah whatever man. I don't get the point of anything here other than the lack of Kane. Having him not come in here is a good thing as he needs to make a big return for his first match back. Not a terrible match but what was the point of this being like 8 minutes long? I don't get it.

Ryder is down from the ankle lock and the fire goes off. Cena goes straight up the ramp to go after Kane when he pops up through the ring. He gets one shot on Ryder and knocks Cena off the apron. Cena get smothered down and is out. Kane goes back in and grabs Ryder's bad ankle. He pulls him down into the hole with him ala Taker and Diesel. Or maybe he doesn't as Cena pulls Ryder out before he goes under. A big explosion from the hole and a bunch of fire pops out to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. The word of the night should be frustrating, because this show just failed to deliver on almost everything. Cody loses in three minutes, the world title match goes nowhere other than to set up another match, Brodus doesn't debut still, Kane is a no show (which might be a good thing), Jericho does....whatever (and yes I know it's going somewhere else) and the main event was whatever it was.

I don't know what they were shooting for here, but I don't think it was their foot like they hit.

Results

Daniel Bryan b. Cody Rhodes – Small Package

Wade Barrett b. Santino Marella – Winds of Change

Dolph Ziggler b. CM Punk via countout

Bella Twins b. Eve Torres/Kelly Kelly – Small package to Eve

Big Show/John Cena/Zack Ryder b. Jack Swagger/Kane/Mark Henry
– Cena last eliminated Swagger to win

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On This Day: January 1, 1984 – WWF St. Louis: He's Here


Welcome to a new series called On This Day. In kind of a challenge to myself, I'm going to post a review of a show that happened On This Day at some point in history every day for the entire year. I'll try to keep the Nitros and Raws to a minimum but I can guarantee they'll pop up. I'll also try to have something with some historical significance in each show, but sometimes stuff can be difficult to find. Also note that these shows may have been taped earlier, but for the sake of this we'll be going by the air date (although I might change that later if I get desperate). Let's get to it.

WWF St. Louis

Date: January 1, 1984

Location: The Chase, St. Louis, Missouri

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Gene Okerlund

Now as some of you may know, WWF would have a lot more house shows back in the day. What they would do is film these shows in their major cities and have commentary for them, then air them on local television. They did this in New York and MSG for years. They would also split these up and air them on syndicated shows. This is one from St. Louis. This is about three weeks before Hogan won the world title so it's an era we don't really see. Let's get to it. 

The Chase is a legendary wrestling venue in St. Louis but is actually a hotel. The NWA ran shows there for years and WWF came in at the very end to do a few months worth of shows.

Vince and Gene run down the card.

Dennis Stamp/Jerry Valiant vs. Rocky Johnson/Tony Atlas

Johnson/Atlas are tag champions but this is non-title. Stamp vs. Rocky starts us off. Rocky is called The Rock and it's off to Atlas. Atlas hits some bad dropkicks and we're in squash city here. Off to Valiant who is more of a brawler. Not that it does him any good as he gets knocked backwards quickly by right hands. A flying headscissors by Johnson takes Valiant down and it's back to Tony.

Off to a test of strength because Valiant is stupid enough to try that with him. Now Atlas uses a headscissors. Symmetry people! Valiant takes him down into a chinlock as this match is getting more time than I expected it to. Back to Johnson who gets double teamed in the corner as well. And never mind as Atlas comes in, gorilla presses Stamp and splashes him for the pin.

Rating: C-. Just a long squash here but that's what a lot of TV back then was supposed to be. Johnson and Atlas are a team that the more I see of them the more I like of them. Atlas

especially as he'd be a great guy to have around today with his look and power. Decent match here and a good way to showcase the champs.

Ken Jugan vs. David Schultz

Schultz is most famous for attacking a journalist who asked if wrestling was fake. He's known as Dr. D. Schultz grabs a headlock to begin and rides him on the mat. Jugan hasn't gotten in a single shot yet. Schultz pulls him up after an elbow drop and keeps beating on him. Out to the floor as the beating continues. A backbreaker gets two. This is getting boring now as it's been going on way too long. Back to the floor again as there's nothing to talk about in this. Schultz hits various offense and Jugan gets nothing in at all. Jugan gets in some very weak punches and then gets tombstoned (called a southern piledriver) for the pin.

Rating: D-. Like I said, there's only so much you can get out of a guy getting destroyed for this long. One thing that's kind of different: the announcer reads the time and even says what the finishing move was. Ok he didn't here but he did in the first place. This ran over seven minutes so you can see how it gets a bit uninteresting.

Bill Dixon vs. Hulk Hogan

Oh my goodness! Now THIS is an historic moment. This right here is Hulk Hogan's first match back in the WWF after being gone for about four years and becoming a superstar in Rocky III. He comes out to Eye of the Tiger and is way over. Hulk would jump into the world title scene in about two weeks, winning the title in about three weeks and holding it for four years.

Actually, this is being reviewed on the anniversary of his title win so that's appropriate. Hogan takes him to the mat with a Fujiwara Armbar ala Del Rio. Dixon hammers away but Hulk comes back with a big boot, slam and the big leg (I'm

assuming making its WWF debut) ends this. Total squash but the crowd reaction tells you everything you need to know here. This is history people.

The local network president welcomes WWF to St. Louis. It lasted about two months.

Hulk says he loves St. Louis and that he's focused on an upcoming battle royal. He wants a world title shot. Bear in mind he's 1-0 (by his own admission) and he's just declared himself #1 contender.

Murdoch and Adonis say they want the tag titles. They would get them in about 4 months.

Johnson and Atlas come in and say St. Louis is their home away from home.

Big John Studd says he's awesome. He has a new manager named Magaw Maginaw. No idea who that is but he looks like Luscious Johnny V.

Jimmy Jackson vs. Big John Studd

In the words of Rocky III, "my prediction? PAIN." Jackson tries to slam him and that goes nowhere. Studd offers him a top wristlock which goes just as well. Over the shoulder backbreaker ends this quick. Another squash.

Bill Berger vs. Ivan Putski

Putski is a Polish dude that is short but incredibly muscular. See, he's really strong. That's about it. And he's Polish. This is just Putski using his strength to break almost everything and throw Berger around. Eventually the Polish Hammer (double axe to the chest) ends this.

Rating: D-. No idea what there is to say here. Putski is a pretty boring guy and this was no exception. His shoulders are huge but he has little chicken legs. Nothing really to see

here and these squashes are certainly a generational thing. You couldn't get away with this if your life depended on it.

Terry Daniels/Kevin Collins vs. Adrian Adonis/Dick Murdoch

This is probably the main event. Adonis vs. Daniels gets us going. Really I don't know what to say here. After like 6 squashes there's only so much you can say. Daniels is sent to the floor and thoroughly pummeled. Back in and he gets beaten up even more. Collins comes in and gets beaten up as this is really boring. Adonis puts Collins to sleep to end this.

Rating: D. See any other match already tonight to get the idea here.

Overall Rating: D+. This is a hard one to grade. There were certainly a lot of big names on here and for a TV show that aired locally, there isn't really a lot to complain about. For the masses, this wouldn't have been much. Most of 1984 was pretty generic stuff, but once 85 got here things took off like a rocket. Not much here, but you have to keep some specifics in mind.

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