

On This Day: February 9, 2012 – Impact Wrestling: TNA Does Star Wars. Seriously.

Impact Wrestling

Date: February 9, 2012

Location: Wembley Arena, London, England

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Tazz

It's the go home show for Against All Odds and the final show in England. These shows are always fun because you get a much better crowd before we head back to Orlando on Sunday and the crowd that could put a Nick Bockwinkel promo to sleep. We'll probably get a few more matches to flesh out the card tonight and remember there's no Hardy due to travel issues. Let's get to it.

Oh and it's the Star Wars episode. This could mean ANYTHING.

We open with the Star Wars theme and shots of Qui-Gon Jin and Obi-Wan preparing to face droids. This is put together with Hogan returning last week. We also talk about the four way a bit.

Here's Ray to open the show who says he wants to talk to Bobby Roode and only Bobby Roode right now. Ray isn't happy. Here's Roode and Ray says cut his music. He meets Roode in the aisle and wants to know why Roode hasn't had his back at all. Ray says he had Roode's back against Storm but where was Roode for him? He says that Roode has the title because Ray has kept it on him.

Roode says he's had Ray's back and Ray says that's true, but last time he put a knife in it. Bobby says their problems are both with Sting and here comes the scorpion enthusiast. Sting declares himself the special enforcer at the PPV and also,

tonight it's going to be the two of them against Storm and himself.

Hogan and Garrett arrive.

We recap the AJ/Daniels/Kaz story with Kaz being forced to turn on AJ due to some form of control that Daniels has over him.

Christopher Daniels vs. AJ Styles

These two must be approaching Sheik vs. Bobo Brazil lengths of a feud. Daniels jumps him quickly but AJ knocks him to the floor and hits a great flipping dive. Coming back in AJ dives over the top and almost gets the Styles Clash but Daniels kicks him away. Daniels tries to pull out a foreign object but the referee sees him trying it. Daniels throws it to Kaz which the referee misses. AJ gets knocked to the floor as Daniels takes over. Back in a clothesline gets two.

Daniels hooks what appears to be a nerve hold and the fans are split. AJ gets in an enziguri to put Daniels down. Christopher goes over to Kaz for the foreign object but Kaz doesn't throw it in. Styles hits his moonsault into a reverse DDT and the springboard forearm. The Clash is countered again into a release Rock Bottom. BME misses but Daniels lands on his feet. Pele puts Daniels down but this time Kaz gives him the object. AJ tries to load up the Clash but as he pulls Daniels up, Daniels pops him with the knucks for the pin at 5:46.

Rating: B-. I really liked this match, probably a lot more than most AJ vs. Daniels matches. This feud has been done to death so if they have to do it again, I'm glad they're adding in a new factor to it. The object was a fine little plot point to the match and it worked very well for this. Good match and far more entertaining than what they usually do in my eyes.

Gunner tells Bischoff he'll protect him later.

Here are Joe and Magnus. Magnus talks about being back in the UK and how he has nothing against most parts of it. Tonight however, they're not in Her Majesty's UK. They're in England. Tonight he's come home and he's brought his partner with him. A few months ago there was a Wild Card Tag Team Tournament and everyone said this wouldn't work. However, they've proven everyone wrong. As for Morgan and Crimson, the only reason they're a team is so they don't have to face each other. At Against All Odds, they'll win the titles.

Here are the champions and they say the time for talking is done. The champs clear the ring very quickly, running over Magnus and Joe as they have every time that it's been on a level playing field. Joe pulls Magnus out before the double chokeslam takes him out.

Austin Aries vs. Doug Williams vs. Alex Shelley

This is non-title. Aries is sent to the floor so Williams and Shelley do their own thing for a few moments. Sliced Bread is countered and Williams goes after Shelley's knee. Aries slides back as Shelley hits the floor. Doug dives on Shelley and Aries dives on Doug to put everyone down. Aries tries a superplex on Williams but Shelley comes back in and tries a Domsday Device, but Aries escapes. Pendulum Elbow takes WAY too long to launch and Shelley moves. Chaos Theory to Shelley hits but Aries kicks Williams low to break it up. Shelley countered the brainbuster and hits Sliced Bread for the pin at 4:45.

Rating: C+. Fun match and it was a good way to have Shelley get momentum going into Sunday and his title shot. Williams is a guy you can bring in for something like this and it works well. They flew around the ring a bit and got the crowd going, which is what the cruiserweight style guys are supposed to do.

Hogan is talking to Garrett in the back when Sting comes in. Sting and Hogan are all cool and Hogan asks Garrett to step

out for a minute. Hogan says Sting has a target on him and everyone is coming for him. If Sting needs Hulk's help, he'll have it. Sting says he likes the sound of that and Hogan says something is going to go down. The cameraman is thrown out before that gets explained.

Video of the fans talking about how much they love Impact.

Here's a video from earlier today with Tara at the arena. She's filming stuff when Gail comes in and beats her up. They go into the arena so as not to draw cops I suppose with Gail destroying her. She leaves Tara laying.

Quick video from Hogan talking about how TNA is this close to being the best in the world.

Here are Hulk and Garrett with Hulk talking about how these are the best fans in the world. Hogan talks about everything the fans have given to him over the years and how now he wants the fans to give all of that to Garrett now. And the fans just do not care one bit. There's a canned pop and it still sounds weak. Hogan blames Eric for a lot of Garrett's problems and here's the papa now.

Eric and Gunner come out and Eric wants to know who Hogan thinks he is to get in Eric's family business. Hogan says it's not Eric's time anymore. Eric says it's not Hogan's time anymore and that Hogan has no right to be here. Hogan says Eric doesn't get it and that he has the Hulkamania Stroke around here. He talked to Sting and Hogan has booked Garrett vs. Gunner at the PPV. There's more to it but Gunner and Garrett get into a fight. Eric hits Hogan low and down goes Garrett. Hogan gets up and clears the ring, still making Garrett look like a guy that is in way over his head and has to be saved. Garrett hits his dad and that's about it.

Ray is mad at Roode and yells some more about Roode not having his back. Roode says they'll be ok and wants a hug. Ray hugs him and says three days.

Hey it's Hogan and Garrett again. Hulk says that they'll put an end to Eric's time in this business so Garrett can have a future. How exactly is Eric stopping that?

Mickie James vs. Velvet Sky

The announcers talk about Star Wars and Princess Leia in particular. The girls are a bit sloppy with Velvet barely holding onto a side roll. Mickie sends her into the corner and the fans are booing this somewhat. Headscissors puts Mickie down but she pops up and hits a low dropkick for two. Mickie hooks a seated abdominal stretch and the fans still don't care. Velvet comes back and drives Mickie into both knees one at a time. Taz talks about pigeons and both girls reverse each others' finishers. Velvet rolls Mickie up for the pin with a small package at 5:18.

Rating: D. This was a terrible match as both of them were missing things very rapidly. Also was there any point to this match being on the show? I can't think of one other than to get hot women in the ring. That's certainly good enough of a reason but it doesn't do much for the sake of storylines.

Video on the UK tour so far.

Video on the PPV main event with all four of them talking about the match. There's a ton of time left too.

Sting/James Storm vs. Bobby Roode/Bully Ray

Sting and Roode start us off and Sting quickly takes him down and puts on the Scorpion in less than two minutes. Ray comes in but Sting avoids the big boot. Off to Storm and the ring is cleared as we take a break. Back with Ray demanding Storm get in and here's the Cowboy. The announcers talk about how there's been no sign of Abyss since Genesis, which is a point I had forgotten about.

Storm takes over and winds up for awhile before poking Ray in

the eye. Back to Sting as the dominance continues. The heels finally take over and work on the injured ribs of Storm. Roode comes in with a body vice and slams Storm into the mat before Storm can make the tag. Off to a bearhug which Storm breaks up with a poke to the eye. A Russian legsweep takes Ray down and it's off to Sting vs. Roode.

He beats on Ray as well as house is cleaned. Both guys get splashes but a second to Roode misses. Sting calls on his memories with Flair and slams Roode off for two. Roode's head goes onto Ray's balls to send Ray to the outside. Spinebuster gets two on Sting but the fisherman's suplex is countered. Death Drop puts Roode down and the Deathlock goes on. Ray looks to save but Ray say see you in three days. Roode taps at 15:14.

Rating: C. Yes, the world champion just tapped out clean to the part time wrestler/boss in the middle of the ring three days before a PPV. I've got nothing. I'm sure the TNA fanboys will explain to me how this is a brilliant move and foreshadows something or other, but I REALLY do not get who this benefits whatsoever. Was there a reason Storm couldn't have gotten a pin here? Like ANY reason? I'm needing some help here because I don't get it at all.

Overall Rating: B-. I really liked tonight's show and it did a great job of building up Against All Odds. I still really don't like the overpushing of Bischoff but that's life in TNA anymore. The main event on Sunday is a pretty wide open field which is something you rarely get in wrestling anymore. Good show here and hopefully that means good things for Against All Odds on Sunday. Also, thank goodness the Star Wars stuff didn't mean anything.

Results

Christopher Daniels b. AJ Styles – Pin after Daniels hit Styles with brass knuckles

Alex Shelley b. Austin Aries and Doug Williams – Sliced Bread

#2 to Aries

Velvet Sky b. Mickie James – Small Package

Sting/James Storm b. Bobby Roode/Bully Ray – Scorpion

Deathlock to Roode

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