

Impact Wrestling – May 2, 2013: From Awesome To A Disaster In Just A Month

Impact Wrestling

Date: May 2, 2013

Location: Kovalchick Complex, Indiana, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Todd Keneley, Taz, Mike Tenay

It's another taped show tonight and shockingly enough, Sting is back. Yes for probably the tenth time in his TNA history, Sting has made a big return to take up the TNA torch and save the company from whatever the latest threat is. In this case it's the bikers of Aces and 8's, who still are pretty lame aside from Bully Ray. Let's get to it.

After the usual recap, here's Hogan to open things up. He immediately calls out Sting for a face to face chat to clear the air up to this point. Hogan talks about how they almost came to blows last week, but he knows when he's right and when he's wrong. He's had a lot of stuff going on lately and he made a big mistake by pushing Sting away. They should have been working together the entire time and that's on Hogan as well.

Sting says that they're together right now and that's what the fans want to see. He wants another six man tag with himself and two other guys against Aces and 8's. Hogan says sure but tonight, we need a new #1 contender for Slammiversary. This brings out Morgan who says this is where Sting is handed another title shot. Hogan says no more mistakes and no more handouts, so tonight it's Sting vs. Morgan for the title shot.

Chris Sabin is back next. He talks about doing whatever it took to get back to the ring. That was his goal and he was going to accomplish it no matter what.

Kurt Angle has issued an open challenge to Aces and 8's for tonight.

Chris Sabin vs. Zema Ion vs. Sonjay Dutt

The winner is in the next three way title match along with King and whoever didn't get pinned in the last title match. Sabin has the Hail Sabin music here instead of the Motor City Machine Guns' music. The referee camera is back for this match again. Ion gets caught in between the other two guys before being knocked out to the floor.

Dutt snaps off a quick rana on Sabin and hooks an armbar, but has to stop to knock Zema to the floor. An enziguri puts Dutt down for two for Sabin but Ion comes in with a sunset flip, sending Dutt flying via a German suplex from Sabin. With Sabin down, Ion drops Dutt onto the top rope as we're told that Suicide will be in the next X-Division qualifying match.

We get some overly complicated three way near falls followed by a sliding dropkick to Ion's head. A spinning DDT puts Sabin down and a running shooting star press gets two for Sonjay. Ion hits a snap DDT for two on Dutt as we see that X-Cam thing. Dutt hits a low superkick on Ion but gets powerbombed down by Sabin, but Chris picks him back up into a Death Valley Driver onto Ion for no cover. With Dutt in the Tree of Woe, Sabin throws Ion into Sonjay before hitting a scoop sitout brainbuster on Ion for the pin at 4:02.

Rating: C. These matches are already getting old. We get it: they can have three way matches with a lot of cool spots in them. Can the X guys do ANYTHING else? As in event a one on one match? No? Well of course not because why have two guys in the ring when you can have THREE? This division is dying and it's dying in a hurry.

Robbie E and Jesse plot against Rob Terry. Their plan: get Joey Ryan to help them.

Bully yells at Aces and 8's for Hogan and Sting mocking them earlier. Ray says he can beat either Sting or Morgan. As for tonight, it's about Kurt Angle. Ray wants him taken out tonight and D'Lo steps up to do the deed.

Robbie E/Joey Ryan/Jesse Godderz vs. Rob Terry

Ryan gets to start and backs in to the monster. A quick backdrop puts Ryan down but Godderz pulls Rob's trunks for a distraction. They try to triple team Terry until it's Joey going after the big man's knee. Off to Robbie for some shots to a downed monster followed by a sleeper. Terry stands up and backs Robbie into the corner to escape. Robbie takes him down again and it's off to Joey but all three guys wind up coming in. Robbie shrugs all of them off and runs them all down before picking up Robbie and Jesse at the same time. The over the shoulder spinebuster ends Ryan at 3:34. Apparently it's called the Beast Bomb.

Rating: D. We get it: Rob Terry is strong. The problem is there's not much for him to gain by just destroying sleazy characters like these guys. The Rob vs. Robbie feud is long past dead but since the writers in TNA can't focus on more than one story at once, we need to keep this going even longer.

Here are Aries and Roode to talk about Bad Influence trying to restart Fournune. Roode isn't thrilled with the idea and Aries thinks they were lying. Roode and Aries don't like each other like Bad Influence does...and here are Daniels and Kazarian. Daniels says that Roode and Aries are right in that it's about the titles but they're wrong by saying they're the best tag team in the world. Roode and Aries knows they're just a pale imitation of Bad Influence. Roode says they're awesome but Kaz calls Roode and Aries Bad Influence Lite.

This brings out the tag champions who says that there's a special referee for the #1 contenders tag match next week. It's James Storm for no apparent reason whatsoever, but it's yet another reason he can't move up on the card. Storm hands out beers and stands with the champion.

Sting goes in to see Angle behind closed doors.

Tara and Gail complain about Taryn Terrell. They're in a tag match tonight apparently. Tara leaves and Gail says she's going to make sure she gets the victory.

Sabin says it's great to be back in the ring.

Kurt Angle vs. D'Lo Brown

Before the match, Brown says we make it an I Quit match. He jumps Angle to start but Kurt easily takes him to the mat as you would expect him to. Anderson tells the rest of the bikers to stay back as the guys head to the floor. Brown misses a hammer shot against the post but manages to pull Angle's arm into the post. Back inside and D'Lo goes after the arm with a bunch of basic stuff.

We get a wristlock into a cross armbreaker but Angle fights up into a quickly broken ankle lock. Off to a cobra clutch on Kurt but he Hulks Up and rolls some six straight German suplexes. Brown breaks the ankle lock again and busts out a Samoan drop of all things. D'Lo loads up a powerbomb but Angle rolls through into the ankle lock for the submission at 8:02.

Rating: D+. Yeah imagine that: challenging one of the best submission wrestlers ever to a submission match WAS A REALLY BAD IDEA. At the end of the day, this was D'Lo Brown trying to be a big physical threat in the year 2013. There's only so much you can do with something like that, which shows the problem with Aces and 8's.

Angle says he has his mind on AJ Styles and calls him out right now. Post break and Angle is still calling out AJ and finally gets him. Angle says AJ looks like he wants to take his head off, but that's a bad idea for Styles since we're in Angle's hometown. Kurt says everyone wants to

recruit AJ and Styles isn't one to take the easy way. Right now though, Angle wants to know where AJ stands. If AJ is with TNA then that's cool, but if not then they're going to have some problems. He wants Styles to join him and Sting against Aces and 8's next week and leaves AJ to think about it.

We recap the opening segment which set up Morgan vs. Sting tonight.

Matt Morgan says tonight he's taking the ball and then winning the world title.

Gail Kim/Tara vs. Taryn Terrell/Mickie James

Taryn gets double teamed to start until Mickie finally helps her out. The heels are rammed into each other before things get calmed down. Off to Mickie vs. Gail with James hooking a quick cross armbreaker, only to have Gail grab the rope. Gail pounds away for a bit by Mickie comes back with an enziguri knee to the head for two. Mickie is sent to the apron where she kicks Tara down, only to be knocked to the floor by Gail.

Back in and Mickie gets stomped down in the corner before Tara busts out a bridging Indian deathlock. Taryn comes in to break things up and it's off to Gail for more slow paced punishment. Both Mickie and Gail try cross bodies and go down from the collision. The hot tag brings in Taryn as everything breaks down. In the mess, Terrell rolls up Tara for the pin at 6:27.

Rating: D+. The match wasn't terrible and the girls all looked great out there, but we need to get the title on Mickie and have her turn heel so Taryn can take the belt from her already, because this whole "she's a rookie who gets a lot of fluke wins" deal is getting old already. Nothing to see here for the most part, much like all of tonight.

Post match they keep brawling until Gail hits Eat Defeat on Taryn and

puts her in the Figure Four around the post.

Ray yells at Aces and 8's for D'Lo tapping earlier. Next week it's the Dudleys and Anderson in the six man.

Roode and Aries say they'll win next week.

Matt Morgan vs. Sting

The winner gets Bully Ray at Slammiversary. Morgan pounds away in the corner as Taz talks about how great he is in Aces and 8's. Matt hits him with some hard clotheslines and right hands followed by a chokeslam for two. Back with Morgan ramming Sting into the barricade before heading back inside for some choking. Sting fights back on the floor with some shots into the barricade and steps. We head inside again but Sting walks into the side slam for two.

Morgan misses an elbow drop and gets caught by the Stinger Splash in the corner. Matt fights back with the rapid fire elbows and the Carbon Footprint...for two. Another Footprint hits the buckle and there's the Scorpion Deathlock. Matt is in big trouble but never taps out. He finally makes the rope so Sting puts the hold right back on. Morgan blacks out from the pain to send Sting to Slammiversary at 13:07.

Rating: D+. As soon as I heard this match announced, I knew Sting was getting the title shot. Why did I know that? Because that's what happens in TNA. No matter what your other options may be, at the end of the day it's going to be Sting getting the title shot no matter what. People have been BEGGING to see Morgan elevated for years now, but let's go with Sting again because he and Hogan have to cowboy up and fight the bikers, because that's what people (and by that I mean Sting and Hogan) want to see.

Ray stares down Sting to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. What in the world happened to this show? Two months ago this was the best show on TV and now it's a nightmare. There's WAY too much focus on Hogan and Sting while the younger guys are stashed away in the tag title scene. The stories are going nowhere, I don't know of anyone who is dying to see Sting get ANOTHER title shot, and the AJ drama is already getting old. TNA needs to change things around, but I have a feeling they're going to stay locked on this path for months to come.

Results

Chris Sabin b. Zema Ion and Sonjay Dutt – Scoop Michinoku Driver

Rob Terry b. Robbie E/Jesse Godderz/Joey Ryan – Beast Bomb to Ryan

Kurt Angle b. D'Lo Brown – Ankle Lock

Sting b. Matt Morgan – Scorpion Deathlock

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book on the History of the WWE Championship from Amazon for just \$5 at: