

On This Day: May 14, 1995 – In Your House #1 – Mother's Day Mayhem: Back When I Sucked At This

Note that this was written over three years ago. I was brand new at this and this would be one of the first thirty or so reviews that I had ever done.

In Your House 1: Mother's Day Mayhem/Premiere

Date: May 14, 1995

Location: Onondaga War Memorial, Syracuse, New York

Attendance: 7,000

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Doc Hendrix

This would be the equivalent of Backlash today as we are just over a month removed from WM 11. This show was actually only 15 dollars and therefore got the highest buyrate of all 28 of the shows. Your big match here is Sid, Shawn's former bodyguard against Diesel, Shawn's other former bodyguard and the reigning WWF Champion.

You know, I have never gotten the point in wrestlers having bodyguards. If they're big time contenders as Shawn was during this time, shouldn't he be able to take care of himself? Anyway, your other big feud was Bam Bam Bigelow against the Million Dollar Corporation which for some reason was a video exclusive. This was a strange time for the company and the business as a whole as the ratings were weak to put it mildly.

WM 11 had done a lot to get the company in the news again and this was their way to get fans on the fence into the tent. I haven't seen this show other than maybe once since it aired,

so let's take a look and see if it was as good as it is remembered as. Also, due to the far shorter cards, I'll only be posting one match and at most two per show.

Standard recap package begins, and I almost forgot: the name for this show came from the idea that the company was actually giving away a house in Orlando to a randomly selected fan. It was actually a really nice house. Cool idea. The set is like a house and the wrestlers come in like they're coming in through the garage.

Bret Hart vs. Hakushi

Interesting backstory here as Bret had been given an award for being the people's favorite wrestler, but Jerry Lawler, whom Bret had been feuding on and off with for nearly two years at this time, said that Bret made sure that Japanese votes weren't counted and called Bret a racist (none of that happened so don't panic Bret fans).

Bret was then given another award from the Japanese media, but as this was happening, Hakushi attacked him, setting up this match. Hakushi's manager is named Shinja and he sports a white suit and face paint, making him look sweet.

Bret says that Hakushi is going to break Hakushi's undefeated streak. He also dedicates this match to his Mother, saying he's coming for Lawler after this.

Bret looks extra greasy tonight so you know this is a special show. Hakushi has characters written all over his body making him look like a walking menu for some reason. Hendrix's jokes never made a lot of sense. The fans of course chant USA as we have a Japanese wrestler vs. a Canadian wrestler.

This is Bret at his best: getting beaten up and making his opponents look like a million bucks. Hakushi uses what will later become known as the Bronco Buster in something that is just a tad weird. Hakushi's style is similar to cruiserweights

so at the time, he was amazing. Now he's still good, but nowhere near as spectacular as he used to be. Crowd is hot as Bret avoids a slingshot splash and makes his comeback.

During his five moves of doom, Bret throws in a random bulldog. Unexpected but it certainly breaks up the monotony. I like that. This keeps going though as it's being given time and is turning into something good. We even get the Asai Moonsault that is nothing short of sweetness. Crowd is going nuts as they trade a rollup sequence that ends in Bret scoring the pin!

We get a very random fireworks display as Bret celebrates. Fireworks for an opening match, seriously? As Bret leaves the ring he apparently twists his knee. Doc Hendrix has such a fine wrestling mind that not only can he see this before it happens but also in the dark at a terrible camera angle. Remember that knee as it comes into play later in the show.

Rating: B. Solid match here. While not a classic, it had the crowd lit up and was very fast paced. These two had chemistry together and it really was a fun match. Excellent way to get the show going and get the crowd into it.

Oh yeah I forgot: Lawler had an open contract with Bret, meaning he could face him anytime he wanted. Bret had agreed to wrestle twice tonight, but now he has a hurt knee.

The house giveaway is hyped by some female interviewer. They show a fake video of an armored car with a police escort bringing the contest entries in earlier in the day. Surprisingly enough, this woman isn't very annoying. I don't know what to say.

Jeff Jarrett/Roadie vs. Razor Ramon

This was supposed to be a tag with 1-2-3 Kid involved but he legitimately hurt his neck, so this is what we got in its place. Jarrett is IC Champion here and Roadie means almost

nothing. 1-2-3 Kid is on the phone which is surprising as I'd think it's past his bedtime. Quick promo from Razor saying it's always been 2-1 but for the first time it's an advertised handicap match.

Scratch the quick part as he won't shut up. Razor is introduced as the opponent of Jarrett and Roadie. Doc says this is the first handicap match on WWF PPV ever. Really? Are you sure about that? I haven't put much thought into it but that would really surprise me.

The heels try to crowd Razor to start but Roadie goes to the apron. Roadie hasn't gotten in the ring at this point, as in this is his first match. That being said all he can really do is punch and kick. In other words he's more or less at the same talent level that he was at during the height of his career.

Fallaway slam takes down Jarrett. Roadie comes in and hits a pretty bad looking clothesline. Again how exactly do you perform a move with authority? And now we stop to dance for no apparent reason. Sunset flip by the incoming Jarrett gets two. The fans get behind Razor but he's in trouble.

Back to Roadie now who is doing pretty well. Razor makes his comeback and goes for the Edge but gets sent over the top rope and down to the floor. Roadie hits a clothesline from the second rope to the floor to take out Razor. He beats the count back in as this has been mostly one sided.

We pick up the pace and they slam heads into each other. Aww Razor has Kid written on his boot. That's so disturbing. A weird looking belly to back suplex from Razor as he more or less fell down. And now we hit the

chinlock. The heels are dominating here.

Razor manages to take both guys down but Jeff goes after the knee. He escapes though and the Razor's Edge ends JJ. Vince says Razor has accomplished the impossible. If it's impossible how did he just do it? Wouldn't that make it possible? Jarrett goes after the knee again and we have Aldo Montoya of all people come out for the save.

His high levels of suck cause him to get beaten up so a "fan" comes in and makes the save again. This would be one Savio Vega and of course since he's just a fan he can beat up the Intercontinental Champion. You know, because that's common.

Rating: C-. While not bad, it's nothing great. The ending introduced one of the biggest wastes of space in history to the company with Savio Vega debuting. This more or less ended this feud between Jarrett and Razor save for a house show title exchange between the two.

Jarrett left the company about two months later. Not sure what the point is to have Razor pin the champion clean and then do nothing with it.

Lawler wants his match right now, but Jack Tunney (WWF President at the time) won't allow it.

Video package of Sid's awesomeness.

KOTR Qualifying Match: Mabel vs. Adam Bomb

And so it began. This was the start of the absolute worst idea in WWF history: pushing Mabel as the company's top heel. Seriously, what in the world was Vince on when he thought this was a good idea? For those that aren't familiar with this guy, it's Big Daddy V, but somehow even less talented and more

boring at this time.

Adam Bomb was a weird character who was apparently the product of nuclear experiments gone wrong. Somehow he got WAY over but he was nothing more than a jobber. This guy might get the second biggest pop of the night after only Bret Hart and ahead of Diesel. That's just a weird thing to hear. This is a squash match but it's the worst I've ever seen.

Here's your match: Mable jumps Bomb before the bell, Bomb comes back with some explosive (I'll be here all week) offense and flat out dominates Mabel. It looks like Bomb is squashing him. Mabel lands a spin kick that almost gets high enough to hit Bomb below the belt but Bomb comes back from it.

Mabel catches a cross body and falls on him to pin him, as the commentators talk about how valiant an effort it was by Adam. VALIANT??? He beat the living tar out of Mabel then got hit by one move to lose. How in the world is that valiant?

Rating: F. It's hard to screw up a squash match and make the guy that is supposed to look dominant look terrible, but if any overrated fat boy can do it, it's this overrated fat boy. Bomb was decent and got massive pops but instead he gets fed to this monster in a squash. Seriously, how good were the drugs Vince must have been on at this time? This led to Mabel winning the KOTR and getting a world title shot at Summerslam 95, which still just leaves me shaking my head.

Razor Ramon introduces his new friend Savio Vega.

Lawler again wants his match right now but is turned down one more time.

Tag Titles: Owen Hart/Yokozuna vs. Smoking Gunns

This is a rematch from WM 11. Not really sure if we're supposed to buy the Gunns as legit challengers or not, but this is just a step or two above a squash. The Gunns get some

decent offense in, but at the end of the day they didn't stand a chance at winning. It only goes about six minutes with Yoko dropping a leg on one of the members of Rednecks R Us allowing Owen to pin him.

Rating: D+. This was nothing at all and was rather boring. With another 5-10 minutes it could have been ok, but given the short time, it was just bad.

Diesel talks about how he lost his mother last Christmas and says happy Mother's Day. This is oddly kind of sad. Nash evoking emotion? What am I seeing? He says he's ready for Sid. He gets a laugh out of me by talking about how Sid says he is the master. Nash says he is the walrus, coo coo ca choo. It was so random and out of left field that it was great. Dang, he used to be very good on the mic. What the heck happened to that?

Bret Hart vs. Jerry Lawler

Lawler does this weird bit where he claims an attractive woman is his mother. Not sure what the point of this was but it didn't work. In the back, Bret is asked about his knee. He says it's not April Fool's Day, but it'll do. He limps to the ring but as he gets in he reveals he's just fine and Lawler is scared to death.

This is about four and a half minutes of Bret beating the tar out of Jerry before Shinja runs out and interferes, allowing Hakushi to knock Bret out and Lawler pins him. Bret and Lawler blew off their feud the next month at KOTR, but Hakushi and Bret went nowhere for some reason.

Rating: C. Bret beating on someone was always fun, but the knee injury thing was kind of a waste if this wasn't the blow off match. Not bad, but kind of a head scratcher.

They announce the house winner.

WWF Title: Diesel vs. Sid

Backstory: After Mania, Shawn fired Sid who beat up Shawn and Diesel made the save. Shawn and Diesel were scheduled for the rematch here but Shawn was hurt, so this is our main event. Bam Bam Bigelow and the Corporation were involved also but I'll get to that later. DiBiase is revealed as the man behind all this and is in Sid's corner. Standard big man match here which means it's nothing that great.

They beat on each other for awhile with Sid of course getting the advantage. Long story short, both land powerbombs but Diesel kicks out. Sid isn't going to but Tatanka runs out to cause the DQ after the worse powerbomb of all time. Bigelow makes the save and they pose to close out the PPV.

Rating: C+. It's ok, but it feels like a glorified Raw match, which I suppose is what it was supposed to be. Not bad at all but there was only so much two guys that had identical styles and the same moveset were going to be able to put together. Not bad, but really needed about another 5 minutes to get something good.

Home Video Dark Matches

We get two this time, which is good because so far, this show isn't that great. However, for 15 dollars, what more do you want? Also that night there was a match taped for Raw three weeks later where the British Bulldog and Owen Hart went to a draw. Why they did a match for almost three weeks later here I'm really not sure. I can't find an explanation for it, but ok I guess. This match isn't on the tape.

Undertaker vs. Kama

This was a moderately big feud at the time as Kama had stolen the urn and melted it down into a really ugly chain that he kept around his neck. This match definitely had a purpose and is a great example of the issue with the two hour card as it

certainly deserved a place on the card, but there's absolutely no place to put it.

Kama is more commonly known as the Godfather/Papa Shango, but in this incarnation he's known as the Supreme Fighting Machine which would be something like a black Kozlov now I guess. He uses a variety of unimpressive submissions and strikes here as this gimmick becomes harder and harder to take seriously.

There's almost no drama here at all as we're all expecting Taker to make his comeback. Yep, look, there it is. Taker is coming back, he's chokeslamming Kama, he's Tombstoning him, the lights are blue, Taker is posing, the music is playing. I can't believe I didn't see this coming. It was so unpredictable!

Rating: C-. It's ok but nothing more. Very formula based match but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Taker in a match like this is as basic as you're going to get and it worked pretty well I guess. Kama was just flat out bad though as always.

Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Tatanka

Following the main event, this is academic I suppose. Not much here at all, but it's pretty good for what it was. About 9-10 minutes with Bigelow's power helping to balance out the terrible thing that is Tatanka's offense. It was so generic that it just never got to work right. Bigelow hits a powerbomb kind of thing to win the match.

Rating: C+. Fine for what it was, but not great. These two didn't work that well together but I've seen far worse.

Overall Rating: C. Certainly not a bad show and while there's only one truly good match, for fifteen dollars this was probably worth getting at the time. It's nothing great now, but it was a very novel idea that really worked in my mind.

A two hour show for half price and you get decent matches? I'd buy it today as I think this would be a great move for WWE. Put shows like Vengeance or the GAB in this format and they instantly go up in value. Not bad, but there were far better versions of it coming.

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