

# Mayhem 1999: For The Canadian In All Of Us

## Mayhem 1999

Date: November 21, 1999

Location: Air Canada Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Attendance: 13,839

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Bobby Heenan

Since TNA is stupid and had two Final Resolutions in 2008, you get this until I can find a copy. This is WCW Canadian PPV debut so the main event is a tournament final of Benoit vs. Hart for the world title. The title was vacated this time because WCW decided to have the world champion's (Sting) opponent (Hogan) at Halloween Havoc lay down for him and then have Goldberg squash Sting so the title was vacated and we got a tournament. That's Russo for you. Let's get to it.

The opening video is about the final four in the tournament: Hart, Benoit, Sting and Jarrett.

Oh and this show is named after a video game, not vice versa.

We have a double main event: the tournament final and Sid vs. Goldberg in an I Quit match.

The fans want Flair as Tony and Bobby run down the card. Why we need to hear this is beyond me but I guess it makes sense to the bosses.

## WCW World Title Tournament Semi-Final: Chris Benoit vs. Jeff Jarrett

Jarrett takes him down to start and slaps him in the back of the head which ends badly for him. Benoit busts out a tornado DDT for two. Neckbreaker gets the same as Benoit is trying for as many pins as he can get. Superplex hits for two as well. This is all within the first 90 seconds. I'm not skipping a bunch of stuff. Out to the floor and Benoit chops away. A chop misses and Jarrett crotches Benoit against the post to finally slow him down.

Back inside and a powerslam gets two for Jeff. They hit a pinfall reversal sequence. This is faster and more crisp than anything I can remember in WCW in years. Jeff grabs a sleeper and Benoit is in trouble. He escapes but Jeff gets it again. This time Benoit hits a jawbreaker and both guys are down. The Canadian hits some Germans on the American and here comes Creative Control (Harris Brothers as the muscle of the Powers That Be).

Benoit is sent to the floor but Jeff doesn't want the win by countout. That's strangely galant of him. A top rope cross body is rolled through for two for Benoit and when he sits on a Jarrett sunset flip he gets the same result. Belly to back sets up the swan dive but Creative Control pulls Benoit out. The other member beats Benoit down to huge boos. There's the Stroke but Dustin Rhodes comes out to break up the pin and beats up Creative Control. There's the guitar but Benoit gets it and clocks Jarrett (totally against his character) to go to the finals.

**Rating:** B-. This was on the path to being a great match but then it's Russo booking a big time match and therefore we must have three run-ins and a weapon shot. When have you ever seen a face Benoit use a weapon? The opening part of this was GREAT though and if they had kept that up

for the entire match it would have been an easy A.

JJ and CC beat down Benoit post match to MONSTER heat.

Disco says he respects his Cruiserweight Title and the \$25,000 he can win doesn't mean as much as the belt. Jarrett and Creative Control pop up to beat him down too.

### Cruiserweight Title: Evan Karagis vs. Disco Inferno

Title vs. money here. Wait both guys have put up money meaning Evan can win the title and money while Disco can only win the money. That's not exactly fair. Evan also has Madusa with him. Disco has some issues getting to the ring due to the beating. Tony Marinara (Tony Mamaluke from ECW) is with him as his inspiration/lackey. Evan jumps him in the aisle and we start up in the aisle for a bit.

Marinara sits in on commentary. He's very annoying so far and is talking about how Disco owes him money or something which would go on for about a year and never went anywhere. It did bring in the Mamalukes though. Disco fires away with some kicks in the corner that are so hard Evan is falling down before they hit. The champ hits a pair of suplexes and dances.

Evan gets two off a crucifix but is taken down by a clothesline. This is a pretty bland match so far. Marinara is getting more annoying with every word he says. A middle rope elbow gets two for Disco. Madusa picks up Evan on the floor and the power of looks is enough to inspire him to dropkick Disco as he jumps off the apron at him.

Powerslam gets two for Karagis. The announcers debate what the belt is worth with the value stretching from \$150 to 50 grand. There's a LOUD boring chant as Disco hits a DDT. Marinara gets up to hit on Madusa and the distraction causes Disco to grab a chair and put it upside Tony's head. A springboard cross body gives Karagis the title which he would lose to Madusa.

**Rating:** D. This was a terribly dull match with neither guy being interesting at all. They just kind of did moves to each other for 8 minutes. I don't think anyone knew who Marinara was and I don't think anyone really cared. Disco was best served as a comedy act but instead they made him a champion because the other Cruiserweights actually had something to do. Bad match.

Bret is just getting here.

The Powers That Be (Russo with his face not being seen), yells at Jarrett and says he has to fix it tonight. Jeff says he'll do it.

Norman Smiley says he's ready to become Hardcore Champion and is scared by construction going on.

Hardcore Title: Brian Knobs vs. Norman Smiley

This is a tournament final to determine the first champion. Smiley comes out in a Maple Leafs jersey. The Hardcore Title is the exact same shape as the ECW World Title. Knobs takes over to start with some weapon shots.

He's in an old school Nasty Boys shirt while Norman is in full hockey gear minus the helmet. A middle rope trashcan shot misses so Norman cracks him in the head with it.

Norman gets the hockey stick and Tony tries to sound like he knows something about hockey. The Big Wiggle is broken up and there go the shin guards. Why are wrestlers so obsessed with taking opponents' clothes off? Jimmy Hart jumps on Norman's back and Norman gets to have his one instance of physical dominance. They head to the back with Knobs hitting him in the head and Norman stumbles back to the entrance.

There's a camera waiting on them and Norman gets in a chair shot to the ribs. It's your usual hardcore match from the late 90s meaning there's a table set up with Norman going head first into it. Knobs goes into a bunch of boxes which are empty. He screams anyway because he's Screamin Norman Smiley. They get to the food stuff and not yet prepared food is tossed around. They fight into an elevator and the door shuts. Jimmy opens it up but when he swings the trashcan it hits Knobs and Norman gets the pin and the title. Yes, Jimmy Hart just physically ended a match.

**Rating:** D+. It's a hardcore match from the late 90s. The problem is that it's Brian Knobs in there instead of someone that means something anymore. In WWF this would have been people like Al Snow or Road Dogg, as in people still relevant at the time. This wasn't anything of note and is the same match you would see a dozen times over the next year on PPV.

Post match Jimmy is thrown into some hamburger buns.

We recap the Revolution vs. the Filthy Animals. It's your usual stable gang warfare. There was a pole match involving getting Torrie out of a

cage. There was a moment where Rey (Animals) was hung by the leg from the top of a cage and they destroyed his knee so he's not in this.

The Revolution talks about what if's and Saturn goes into a rant about dinosaurs.

The Animals say they'll win and they're not worried.

Disco talks to Tony Marinara and Tony says he's going to get his boys.

Jarrett has what looks to be a 2x4 and is going to look for someone.

### Filthy Animals vs. Revolution

This is an elimination match. It's Eddie/Kidman/Asya (Chyna ripoff) vs. Torrie/Saturn/Malenko. Shane Douglas of the Revolution is on commentary. Eddie and Kidman clean house as they're trying to keep Torrie (a spry 24 here and drop dead gorgeous) out of the ring. We start officially with Eddie vs. Dean which works almost every time. They head to the floor so Saturn takes them out with an Asai moonsault. Kidman dives on them too and then Torrie sets for one. Asya gets her hands on Torrie and it turns into something like a catfight.

Kidman plants Asya with a Sky High as Torrie has a bad ankle. Eddie shoves Kidman into Malenko as he's checking on Torrie but it lets Malenko roll Kidman up for the first elimination. Eddie is destroyed by Malenko and Saturn, taking a backbreaker/knee drop combo. Asya comes in and beats

on Eddie a bit, hitting an eye popping Davey Boy Smith delayed vertical for two.

Back to Eddie vs. Dean with Dean in control via a suplex. Eddie gets out of it and hits a standing rana for a pin to eliminate Dean and get us down to Eddie/Torrie vs. Saturn/Asya with Torrie having an injured ankle still. Asya comes in and beats on Eddie with another suplex getting two. Saturn accidentally superkicks Asya and a frog splash makes it 2-1 with Saturn vs. Torrie/Eddie.

It's so weird thinking of Eddie as a Filthy Animal when he left as one of the Radicalz with a lot of the Revolution in two months. Saturn hooks a sleeper hold on Eddie but a jawbreaker gets him out of it. Scratch that as he's right back in it. Now Eddie puts a sleeper on Saturn. Why do people that just easily escaped a sleeper think it's such a good move to use immediately afterwards?

Saturn tries a spinning springboard clothesline but Eddie steps to the side and dropkicks him down. Something like a tornado DDT gets two. Eddie jumps into a Death Valley Driver for two. Shane is losing it on commentary and is more entertaining than anything I've ever heard him say or do. Saturn misses a top rope elbow so Eddie tries the same move he got rid of Dean with but it only gets two. Eddie tries a top rope cross body but Saturn rolls through into the Rings of Saturn to give us Saturn vs. Torrie. Torrie kicks him low and Shane gets on the apron. Saturn hits Torrie low which gets him the pin for the win.

**Rating:** C-. Not bad but I really don't get the idea of having the girls in there. This would have been a lot better if they just had a tag match with the four guys or maybe threw in another dude to fight Asya. There wasn't anything great here and the ending was really pretty stupid. I can

think of worse ways to kill ten minutes though.

Jeff and Creative Control are beating up Buff Bagwell now.

### Curt Hennig vs. Buff Bagwell

This is a career vs. career match and the video package during Curt's entrance doesn't really do much of a good job of explaining why that's the stipulation. There's no Bagwell due to the beating so here are Jarrett and CC. Hennig tries to fight them off but he's outnumbered. Here's Bagwell who is fine and has a 2x4. He runs off the heels who have been in about 5 scenes tonight and the match begins.

Hennig controls early and we head to the floor with Bagwell going into the railing a few times. As they're getting back in though Hennig is shoved off the apron and into the railing himself. And he still managed to do it perfectly. This is far closer to a brawl than a match which is Russo 101. Hennig is a lot more popular because he's talented and old school while Bagwell is more or less a douche.

Off to a sleeper (popular move tonight) by Hennig which goes on for a long time. Buff fires off some punches and dances a lot but the fans do not care at all. Why would you think that in an old WWF town in a country that takes wrestling seriously that fans would want to see that dancing stuff? Not that it matters as Hennig controls 80% of the match but walks into a Blockbuster that is as out of nowhere as it sounds to make Hennig "retire".

**Rating:** D. What a boring match this was. The fans were all over Bagwell



who was the face in this I think and they gave Hennig a standing ovation after the loss. The match was awful, primarily because Bagwell wasn't any good at making people care or being able to have an interesting match. He had a good finisher and a good body and that's it. Hennig would unretire the next night and had his next televised match in 8 days.

Sting, the heel in his match against Bret, says he should be champion because he never lost the title. It's Showtime.

### WCW World Title Tournament Semi-Finals: Bret Hart vs. Sting

Sting is in a t-shirt and tights and has big hair. Feeling out process to start and they stare each other down a lot. Bret slugs away and the fans pop HARD. They brawl to the floor because Bret Hart is incapable of having a wrestling match in a ring right? Sting wrestles like a heel, raking Bret's eyes to break his momentum. This is a very interesting thing to see as Sting is wrestling as a heel in front of a crowd that believes him to be a heel. This has happened all of maybe twice ever.

Bret gets in a single shot to take over and the crowd explodes. Sting kicks him in the little maple leafs and actually hits the big elbow for two. They go to the floor again and Bret is sent into the announce table. The Stinger Splash onto the table misses and we head back inside. The referee goes down and here's Lex with a ball bat to beat up Sting. Bret beats up Luger and puts him in the Sharpshooter which somehow gives Bret a DQ win. Bret doesn't want it that way but he's stuck with it.

Scratch that he's not stuck with it as Bret demands we keep going so we keep going. Bret goes off on Sting with the original Five Moves of Doom including the Canadian hitting a Russian on the American. The elbow is

blocked by a boot to the chin and Sting limps into the Scorpion which he has some torque on for once. Bret counters that into the Sharpshooter and Bret is in the Finals.

**Rating:** D+. This match right here sums up Vince Russo's issues in a nutshell. Sting was past his prime at this point and Bret wasn't great but he still could have a decent match in the ten minutes they had here. Did we need the run-in and the ball bat? No, we didn't. The ending they did here could have worked fine and would have made a good ending kind of like his Summerslam 91 match. However, Vince Russo says no that's not a good idea and we need to have people running in and weapon shots because I guess the fans can't enjoy wrestling. That's Russo in a nutshell: he had no faith in actual wrestling.

Sting calls Bret back in for a handshake post match.

Benoit says it's an honor to wrestle Bret again here and he'll test the Best There Is/Was/Ever Will Be moniker.

Luger is already in a neck brace and says it'll be a permanent thing. He can't wrestle tonight either so he'll pay the fans something for an apology. The details aren't really clear.

### Vampiro vs. Berlyn

This is a collar match and Vampiro has Jerry Only of the band the Misfits with him. Berlyn is Alex Wright in something resembling a Neo-Nazi deal. It was rather weird to say the least. Dr. Death Steve Williams and Oklahoma, one of the creative writers making fun of JR. Immediately

Berlyn hits the referee. Vampy kicks Berlyn and Wall hits Vampiro. A second referee comes down as Wall beats up Vampiro and Berlyn is on the floor.

Wall misses a big boot and gets crotched as Berlyn beats up Jerry Only. Oklahoma's impression of JR is pretty good. I think the match has started now but I'm not sure. Oklahoma makes up a bunch of football stats for the three guys as Wall hits a HUGE chokeslam and is tied to Vampiro now. Berlyn yells at the Wall who takes the collar off.

I have no idea what the point of this is or if the bell ever rang in the first place. Oklahoma: "This Berlyn is tougher than Chinese algebra." Wall walks out and Vampiro hits a release superplex. Only (not a wrestler) comes in for the double team and The Nail in the Coffin (Michinoku Driver) sets up a camel clutch with the chain for the pin.

**Rating:** N/A. The bell never rang so I don't think this was an actual match. As for the match, I have no idea why it's on the card as Vampy and Berlyn were ever chained together at any time. It wasn't a good match or anything either as Wall was the one out there doing most of the work while a singer that most people probably didn't know was beaten up. I don't get the point of this at all.

Steve Williams comes in and beats down both guys post match. So THAT was the point of it.

Scott Hall (POP) talks about Rick Steiner not being here for the title vs. title match. Hall is the new TV Champion because Steiner can't defend it. He was already the US Champion. Hall issues an open challenge for later.

Hennig is leaving and is congratulated by some guys as he leaves.

Kimberly is here, an hour and thirty five minutes into the show.

### Meng vs. Total Package

Luger is the Package for those of you uninitiated. He's in the neck collar and hasn't been wanting to wrestle at all lately so this is a continuation of that story. Luger gets his shirt ripped off quickly and there go the pants too. Again, WHAT IS WITH THE RIPPING OFF OF MEN'S CLOTHING??? Luger goes to the eyes and manages to suplex Meng despite having a bad neck. The suplex isn't sold either so we'll call it even.

They go outside for a bit and Luger hammers away as they come back in. Meng tries the Tongan Death Grip but he can't get past the neck brace. Instead he steps on the throat while we talk about the main event. Powerslam gets two for Lex. He rams Meng's head into the buckle. I guess when they say Total Package that doesn't include intelligence as YOU DON'T HIT A SAMOAN IN THE HEAD. Meng starts his comeback as this is going in slow motion. Liz has some spray or something but it hits Luger instead. Meng takes the brace off and the Death Grip ends it.

**Rating:** D. In other words, Liz was Jimmy Hart, Luger was Brian Knobs and Meng was Norman Smiley. I'll give Russo this: I've seen him go shorter than this between using the same style of an ending. This was another match where I have no idea what the point of this being on the PPV was but I'm sure it made sense at the time. I'm not being serious with that last line but I thought I'd try being nice for a change.

Bret says he'll win and Luger walks behind him ranting about his loss. Bret doesn't stop talking.

David Flair is "polishing his crowbar" for his time where he'll try to hold Kimberly down against her will later or make her scream about how she can't take it anymore.

US Title/TV Title: Scott Hall vs. ???

Booker T accepts the challenge. Hall is so over it's incredible. Since it was more newsworthy when he was sober than the other way around though, that would never result in a world title run. He says Nash is coming and they're going to have a party later. Hall rams his shoulders into Booker for that signature spot of his. Booker fires off a hook kick and is booed during the cover.

Side slam gets two. Hall gets knocked to the floor but comes back with a chokeslam for two. Much like any other match with it being thrown together on the fly like this, there's not much to it because there's no story or hatred to it. Fallaway slam puts Booker down and we go to the floor again. Off to a sleeper as the fans are looking at something to the right of the ring. Here are Jarrett and Creative Control AGAIN. They go after Booker, he fights them off, Booker gets caught in the Outsider's Edge and Hall retains.

**Rating:** D+. Again, WHAT WAS THE POINT??? In this case I'm talking about the run-in. This is what, the third match they've been involved with? We get it: he's trying to disrupt things. Can we please have a match that

ends cleanly? Is it that much to ask? Oh wait Russo is running things SO OF COURSE IT IS. This gets really frustrating after awhile.

Midnight, the black Chyna ripoff, makes the save for the post match beatdown.

Lex can't find Liz.

We recap Kimberly vs. David Flair. She wanted to sleep with David Flair but got Ric instead. David went insane because of it and wanted to beat her for some reason. I still don't get the point of this.

### Kimberly vs. David Flair

Let's get this over with. She does look good at least. Kimberly stretches a lot to try to distract David. Within thirty seconds, Flair is kicked low (no effect) and the referee is shoved. David gets the crowbar and she gets on her knees in front of him. Crowd: "SUCK IT SUCK IT SUCK IT!" She reaches for his crotch and pulls his cup out so she can kick him in the balls. The fans are dead.

David picks up the crowbar but Canyon comes out to beat him up. Now here's DDP to hit the Diamond Cutter on David. His ribs are killing him though. DDP gets the crowbar but Arn Anderson comes out and takes the bar away from him. David hits Arn with the crowbar and leaves, I guess ending this.

**Rating:** N/A. Get me a wrestling match and I'll rate it. Kimberly looked great.

Arn is taken out on a stretcher to fill in some time.

We recap Sid vs. Goldberg which is part of Sid's Millennium Man deal where he was going to break Goldberg's record for a win streak which turned into a comedy deal where chokeslamming people counted as wins and all that jazz. They kept having big brawls and the Streak might have been broken. It's not mentioned but who cares about stuff like that I suppose.

Sid says he'll never say I Quit. It's an I Quit match if that wasn't mentioned.

#### Sid Vicious vs. Goldberg

Sid jumps him during the entrance and the piped in chants begin. You can tell as no one is moving yet everyone is chanting. Sid is knocked to the floor and they slug it out again. Sid is WAY over and there's a cobra clutch slam to Goldberg. Another cobra clutch slam sets up a chokeslam and make that a pair of them. Goldberg counters a choke into a cross armbreaker and is booed out of the building. Back to the arm and Goldberg isn't sure what to do. Off to something resembling a cobra clutch and Sid is out cold in maybe 20 seconds to end it minus saying I Quit.

**Rating:** F. Well let's see. In an I Quit match between two monsters, it was a standard Goldberg match with a sloppy looking hold to end it. What was the point of this? I know I've asked that a lot tonight but that's what I leave most of these matches asking: what did that happen for?

Nothing match and it does little for either guy.

Lex blames Liz for the loss and threatens her despite not being able to find her.

### WCW World Title: Bret Hart vs. Chris Benoit

Long feeling out process that leads to Bret hooking an armbar. The fans are for Bret but they're not against Benoit if that makes sense. Benoit tries a comeback with various strikes but a sunset flip is rolled through into a Sharpshooter attempt. Benoit avoids that into a Crossface attempt but Bret grabs the rope. They're still cool though and have a handshake.

Bret throws him to the floor and a fan jumps out of the crowd in a hockey jersey and face paint to beat up Benoit. It's Malenko so Bret beats up him and mark run-in #1 since Bret Hart vs. Chris Benoit in Canada with over 15 minutes isn't enough to have a good match right? Benoit fights back with more basic stuff like a backdrop. Bret might have bad ribs so Benoit starts firing off the suplexes.

A tombstone looks to set up the swan dive which hits but here's Scott Hall to take out the referee. Nash is here too with a chair but here's Goldberg to fight them off. Hall and Hart fight up the aisle as Benoit is down. The Outsiders leave and we have a second referee. Goldberg jumps the Outsiders and beats them to the back as Benoit starts in on Bret's knee. Since the world title match isn't important enough we go split screen to see the Outsiders get pulled off Goldberg.

Ok NOW we can get into the title match, 12 minutes into it. Benoit hooks



on the figure four and Bret's knee has been worked over. Bret grabs the rope and goes to a comeback, hitting a backbreaker for two. A top rope superplex hits and both guys are down. Benoit's back is getting messed up quickly here which means it's Sharpshooter time soon. Benoit falls on top of Bret in a slam for two and goes to the outside to try to clear his head. He counters a suplex back in and hits the Rolling Germans. He goes for the Crossface but Bret rolls out. Bret grabs the legs into the Sharpshooter and Bret wins the title.

**Rating:** C+. Pretty good match but the run-ins crippled it just like the rest of the matches tonight. I mean seriously, you have two of the best ever out of Canada and this is what you decide to do to them? The match was kind of a mess on top of that as different parts were worked on until the ending where Bret picked the back which made sense. It's a good match but it was running with an anchor.

Tony calls this "just another chapter in Bret's career." Nice way to sell this as a huge moment.

**Overall Rating:** D. I have no idea what they were going for here. The CONSTANT run-ins aren't redeemed by a long and fairly good main event. How many times have you heard that about Impact in the past say two years? Two matches, as in the main event and the elimination tag are over ten minutes long. The idea is to have short matches on TV to set up the long ones on PPV. Russo never quite gets that, but there are a lot of things he doesn't get. Nothing to see here for the most part.

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# On This Day: May 1, 2011 – Extreme Rules 2011: Take Wrestlemania And Add Gimmicks

## Extreme Rules 2011

Date: May 1, 2011

Location: St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Jerry Lawler, Booker T, Josh Matthews

I see this show as being like TLC from last year: there isn't much of a difference in the stories from here and Wrestlemania so here are a bunch of gimmicks tacked on and we hope that you watch our show and don't notice that we haven't put much thought into this past month. The main event tonight (possibly) is Christian vs. Alberto Del Rio for the vacant world title. If Christian doesn't win here, I doubt he ever will. Not really but it sounds good. Let's get to it.

Opening video is pretty much what you would expect: TONIGHT IS EXTREME!!!

## CM Punk vs. Randy Orton

Last man standing here. New Nexus is with Punk as they continue to try to validate their existences. And never mind as an E-Mail throws them out. Punk takes the pad off a buckle before he even gets in. Hot start as they go right at it. We go to the floor quickly with Punk getting introduced to the barricade. They hit it off and are taking in a movie next Tuesday.

They go back into the ring as they're keeping up that fast pace. The problem of course is that in last man standings, there's no real point to buying into any counts until after at least 8 minutes. Punk grabs a kendo stick and the "brutal" part of the match starts. Multiple shots by Punk (Straightedge anyone?) gets about seven and now it's payback time. Finisher attempts are exchanged and Orton sends Punk into a chair wedged in between the ropes to the floor for about 6.

Punk gets a solid kick to the head for about 8. As always in these matches, a lot of time passes with little happening due to the counting and setting up for the counting. Orton sends him into the barricade for six and we head back to the ring. GTS actually hits and Orton gets up at 9, only to fall back down a second later. That counts as being up though as it should. Punk throws in a chair and a Russian leg sweep onto it gets about 8.

To their feet and Punk tries another leg sweep. Orton pulls an RK0 out of nowhere and both guys are down. Orton gets up as does Punk but he stumbles to the floor just after he gets up. Punk fights off the elevated DDT and wraps a chair around Orton's throat to send it into the post. THAT gets 9 and Punk is ticked off. They go to the table and Punk tries the GTS on it...which wouldn't add anything to the move but whatever. There's the counter into an RK0 onto the (non-breaking in this case) table and Punk stumbles to his feet somehow at 9. I would have bet on that being the ending.

Orton sets for a Punt but gets caught in a GTS into the steps. When I say the GTS I mean he gets dropped face first onto the steps which is really about all you can do with that move. Up at nine and Punk has a kendo stick. Punk sends Orton in and goes up top for some reason, only to have Orton intercept the stick and WEAR PUNK OUT with it as he's hanging from the top. SUPER RK0 from the top ends this with Orton barely beating the count.

**Rating:** B. I rather liked this one, mainly because they gave it a lot more time than I expected them to. I would have thought the ending was going to happen multiple times in there but they let it keep going. I think it was pretty clear Orton was going to win, but they had a lot of very close calls in there and it worked rather well. Much better than I expected actually.

Lawler heads to the back to get read and we recap the Draft.

Morrison is warming up.

Sheamus is ticked off that Teddy has added an extra match with him defending against Kofi in a tables match. He's the US Champion and is defending against someone not from the US. He demands to see the birth certificate. This is FAR less stupid now that that whole issue is over.

US Title: Sheamus vs. Kofi Kingston

Booker continues to imply Kofi should turn heel as we hit the floor early. First table is brought out by the pale one and set up on the floor. Back to the ring and Sheamus gets caught on the apron, only to hit a slingshot shoulder block to take Kofi down. Table #2 comes in and lands on top of Kofi. We hear about how Sheamus beat Cena in one of these to win the title which still blows my mind.

Table gets set up in the corner but Kofi fights out of it. Sheamus moves to avoid Kofi's dive but Kofi is like screw it and does the splits in midair to land on the ropes with the table between his legs. Big boot sends Kofi flying over the table on the floor as Sheamus takes over again. The corner table is set up in front of the corner and Sheamus hammers away. Sheamus can't suplex him onto a table on the floor and gets caught by Trouble in Paradise but it doesn't put him through the table. The Boom Drop as Sheamus turns around does

however to give Kofi the title.

**Rating:** C+. Not bad here and considering it was just a way to get a midcard title on Raw this was fine. Kofi of course is his usually solid self and Sheamus loses the title without getting pinned. This was perfectly fine and the ending plus some cool spots by Kofi were enough to push it over the top.

Truth complains about Morrison because that's what he does anymore. He can't spell conspiracy. The one thing he can't stand is a thief which is what Morrison is. Back in the 80s this would have been a squash over a jobber and the point is just to establish that Truth is here for when he likely runs in later.

#### Michael Cole/Jack Swagger vs. Jim Ross/Jerry Lawler

Country whipping match here, which means they all have straps. Cole, I kid you not, is wrapped in bubble wrap. Ross has a legit broken hand after beating Cole up Monday. Cole gives us his resume as a reporter and insults all of Florida by saying everyone is old. Lawler vs. Cole to start as Lawler can't hurt him. Lawler goes for the only unprotected part: Cole's face. There goes the bubble wrap and it's off to Swagger.

Basically this is Lawler vs. Swagger for all intents and purposes as they have a one on one match for a few minutes. Lawler gets him down but takes a chop block as he goes after Cole. Ankle Lock goes on for like 30 seconds as Ross WEAKLY hits Swagger to break the hold. Off to JR who puts an ankle lock on Swagger! Swagger escapes and I think accidentally tags Cole. Ross wastes WAY too much time for a clothesline and whips Cole a bit. Ankle lock goes on Cole and even takes Swagger out with a low blow. He turns to whip Swagger...and gets rolled up by Cole to end it. Dang it this is going to keep going isn't it?

**Rating:** F. Hey look, Cole wins again and gets to run his mouth a bit more. Not as bad as Mania but still, DO SOMETHING ELSE! This has been done and it's been done multiple times already so why do they keep going with it? Cole can still be a jerk but give us SOMETHING for a change instead. Match sucked too.

Over the Limit is in three weeks. Well of course it is.

Cena says he hasn't been champion since June and will be champion again tonight. Short interview here.

We recap Rey vs. Cody. Not much to say here other than it's been awesome from Cody and Rey messed up Cody, turning him into someone that thinks he's grotesque despite looking the same as he always has. That's some solid psychological stuff there.

#### Cody Rhodes vs. Rey Mysterio

Falls count anywhere. People hand out the bags which is a nice touch. Cody has promised to send Rey to the hospital on his way to Raw. Cody charges at Rey to start us off but Rey speeds things up to send him to the floor. They go up the ramp and Rey gets a seated senton off the stage for two. Out into the crowd as Rey kicks away at the head. NOT IN THE FACE!!!

Up towards the back of the arena with Cody kind of in control now. Into the back as this is more or less an old school hardcore match. Cody mangles the Beautiful Disaster off a concession stand window for two. That looked awesome. Back to the ring as this has been a very stiff looking match. Rey tries his sitout bulldog but Cody reverses with a wheelbarrow drop onto the steps for two.

Cody picks Rey up like a 24 pack and throws him into the ring. Rey fights back and sets for the 619, intentionally exposing his knee brace. Cody counters and hits an Alabama Slam for

two. Up we go but Rey FIRES GREEN MIST at Cody to send him flying. 619 out of nowhere and the springboard splash finishes completely clean.

**Rating:** B. Another good match here, mainly due to them beating the tar out of each other. This feud was solid and at least Cody got the win at Mania which looks better on his resume and will be what is remembered. Good stuff overall here and the mist was a nice touch despite messing up the racial stereotypes again.

Layla apologizes to the Divas for being mean to them over the years. They say they don't like her but they like Michelle less.

Cole is back on commentary. Oh joy.

#### Michelle McCool vs. Layla

More or less a street fight here and the loser leaves WWE. Michelle wisely jumps Layla during her lay on the rope entrance. Out to the floor as this is another intense brawl. A shot into the table gets two for Michelle. Big boot misses and here comes Layla. Belly to belly gets two for Michelle as we hit the floor again.

They fight on the barrier of all things with Michelle taking over. DIAMOND DUST gets two for Layla as they come back in. Faithbreaker is countered into the Layout for two. Michelle counters a jackknife cover into a Faithbreaker (Styles Clash) but can't cover immediately. Layla counters the cover into a rollup/crucifix pin to get rid of Michelle.

**Rating:** C+. I liked this again. The Divas can do pretty well if they're given the proper amount of time. Layla winning here is probably due to Michelle leaving soon if not tonight apparently which is fine. Definitely one of the better matches

with the females in awhile as this worked fine. Layle is getting a lot better every time she gets in there, which is definitely a good sign.

Layla cries as she leaves.

Michelle gets the goodbye song treatment but Kharma (Awesome Kong) debuts. Implant Buster kills Michelle dead with ease. All of the Divas are freaked out. Beth is made to look the most prominent here.

Alberto gives Ricardo instructions on how to announce the ending.

We recap Edge's retirement and the title being vacant. This gets the 3 Doors Down video again which makes me smile. Edge was supposed to defend in a ladder match but had to retire due to a neck injury so Christian took his place by winning a battle royal.

Smackdown World Title: Christian vs. Alberto Del Rio

Ladder match here. Well we're in Christian's match with Edge's momentum behind him in his (kind of) hometown. If he doesn't win here, he's never going to have a better chance. Brawl to start and Christian goes for the ladder only for the king of the golden banana hammock to take over. Baseball slide into the ladder into Del Rio as Christian takes control right back.

First ladder is brought in and Del Rio gets in a shot to take over. Christian is knocked to the floor as Del Rio gets the big ladder set up between the table and the ring like a platform. Suplex is blocked but Christian is kicked into the steps hip first. The Canadian gets knocked off the top onto a ladder and then jumps onto Del Rio to keep the advantage for the most part.

Up goes Christian but we're only about 8 minutes into this so



that's not the ending. They slug it out but the Killswitch is avoided. Del Rio is sent into the ladder arm first. Big ladder goes up in the middle of the ring but Del Rio chucks a stepladder at Christian for the save. Codebreaker to the arm with Del Rio on the small ladder and Christian coming off the big ladder which looked awesome.

Del Rio works on the arm a bit as Cole declares Christian done. The small ladder (I smell an alliance with Horny) is used again but Del Rio goes crashing into the big ladder to put him down. Christian goes up again, only to get caught by Alberto in a kind of powerbomb move which is countered by a rana by Christian. They fight over a chance to put the other through the ladder platform but Christian gets a suplex onto a ladder to put Del Rio down.

Alberto goes up, only to be stopped but the arm goes out on Christian as Alberto keeps control. Chair slipped in by Ricardo which goes nowhere. Back in the ring Christian busts out a SPEAR to put Del Rio down. I guess he isn't a master of it though as Del Rio makes the save by pulling Christian through the rungs of the ladder. Christian slips free, sending Alberto into the corner where the stepladder gets kicked into his face again.

Christian gets laid out on the platform ladder and Del Rio goes up for an elbow/legdrop/splash/whatever. Christian moves though and the ladder DOESN'T BREAK. FREAKING OW MAN! There goes the Canadian but Brodus runs in to move the ladder and pull him down. Stepladder shot puts Clay down as Del Rio comes back in to take over. Cross armbreaker with the arm in the ladder makes Christian tap which means nothing.

Christian is busted open so we bust out the towel. Alberto sets up the ladder and has to take his time as first aid is administered, making this look REALLY FREAKING STUPID. He goes up but a horn honks and Edge is in a car. Brodus is busted BAD. The distraction lets Christian shove Alberto onto Clay

and Christian is champion. One important thing here: Edge stands off to the side for a good while to let Christian celebrate on his own.

**Rating:** B. Another rather good match here and this is the right move. I'm skeptical about Christian as champion still, but this was 100% the right call given the circumstances. He gets the chance to run with things here, despite being 37 now. It's a gamble, but it's not a huge walk the plank one so I don't have many complaints here. Rather good match too but nothing we haven't seen before for the most part.

Edge celebrates with Christian but DOESN'T STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT.

Package on Orton's movie at a film festival. I think they've figured out the idea here: let the actors do the acting and let the WWE guys have supporting roles. It'll do a lot better.

Riley gives Miz a pep talk as the fans can be heard heckling Del Rio.

Tag Titles: Kane/Big Show vs. Wade Barrett/Ezekiel Jackson

Lumberjack match here which is really needed as it's 10:15 and we only had the Raw title match left. Show vs. Barrett to start us off as Show dominates. Kane comes in with his low dropkick for two. Everything breaks down quickly as Show beats up various jobber lumberjacks as Jackson runs over Kane to take over. Double clothesline puts both guys down as this is a bit of a mess. It's a bonus match though so you really can't complain that much.

Off to Show who cleans a few rooms but gets sent to the floor by Jackson. Jobbers pound on him which means they'll be his dinner later. DH Smith is actually here. Wow indeed. They finally get Show back in and Jackson slams him, but Barrett

wants the glory. The glaring between the foreigners allows Show to grab a chokeslam to retain over Barrett. Just a quick match here.

**Rating:** D+. Again, it's a bonus match so you really can't complain much here. They filled in the card and pushed the whole Corre breaking down thing. This was fine for what it was as they weren't expected to do anything of note. I'm done will filling in space here but with this sentence I get four lines out of it so I'm happy.

Raw World Title: John Cena vs. The Miz vs. John Morrison

In a cage and it's pin, submission or escape. Miz tries to run but the not brothers John save him. Midnight Express flapjack puts the champ down as we're firmly into the three way formula already. Everyone beats on everyone as the former tag champions.....and by that I mean Miz and Morrison....go up but Cena makes the save. Miz and Cena fight on the top rope for a bit and down goes Cena.

Morrison tries to make a quick escape as Miz tries a pin but the champion saves. They sit on top of the cage and slug it out as Booker says they're 20 or 30 feet in the air. I give up. Cena pops up and it's a double suplex to Miz but they kind of botch it into almost a double brainbuster. That looked SICK. Back to the formula again and down goes Morrison.

Cena locks on the STF but Miz tries to escape. Cena lets go for some reason and no one escapes. Morrison gets thrown into the cage, only to jump up the wall and almost escape. He's a wildcard in this and changes the whole thing, as wildcards are designed to do. With the Johns on top, Miz tries to go out the door. Morrison kicks the door onto his head but gets crotched on said door.

Miz wisely pulls Morrison back into the cage because Morrison

was about to just fall onto the floor. Cena gets two on Morrison. BIG DDT on Cena by Miz gets two. Miz rams Cena into the cage and Morrison almost escapes, only to be caught again by Miz. They slug it out on top of the cage again and Miz can't quite get down. Miz goes down so Morrison launches a Starship Pain off the cage to take out both guys in a cool spot.

Morrison almost gets out but of course here's Truth to slam the door on Morrison's head. Truth comes into the cage and destroys Morrison. Axe kick to Cena as Booker is confused. Jumping downward spiral (NAME THAT MOVE ALREADY!) to Morrison as Truth climbs the cage. He hasn't touched Miz. Truth climbs out of the cage and has the big freaky eyes going on.

Everyone is down now and Miz is the first one up. He goes to escape, for some reason not going through the door, only to be caught by Cena. They slug it out with the boo/yay which is required for Cena matches anymore. Skull Crushing Finale is blocked into a big old FU off the top (stealing moves from Orton Cena? Really) and Cena is champion again.

**Rating:** B-. Well we all knew the Truth interference was coming and that Morrison wasn't walking out with the title which is fine. The ending sets up a rematch and Truth vs. Morrison which is fine on both counts. This was a pretty solid main event to a pretty solid show which is always a good sign. They worked the formula and they worked it well here, so no complaints for the most part.

**Overall Rating:** A-. Dude this show was pretty awesome. There are good matches throughout, some history thrown in there and two bonus matches, one of which was pretty good. This is a lot like TLC: it wasn't meant to be an epic show but rather fun instead and that's just what they did here. Good stuff throughout and not boring at all with everyone working hard. That's what you want here and it paid off. Very good show and rather fun overall.

## Results

Randy Orton b. CM Punk when Punk couldn't answer the ten count

Kofi Kingston b. Sheamus – Boom Drop through a table

Michael Cole/Jack Swagger b. Jim Ross/Jerry Lawler – Cole pinned Ross with a rollup

Rey Mysterio b. Cody Rhodes – Springboard splash

Layla b. Michelle McCool – Crucifix Pin

Christian b. Alberto Del Rio – Christian pulled down the championship

Big Show/Kane b. Ezekiel Jackson/Wade Barrett – Big Show pinned Barrett after a chokeslam

John Cena b. John Morrison and The Miz – Cena pinned Miz after an Attitude Adjustment off the top

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