

Slammiversary 2013 Preview

Why on earth TNA would use one of their four PPVs a year as a filler show is beyond me, but that's exactly what we're getting here. Let's get to it. The main story here is of course Sting vs. Bully Ray as part of the now year long feud between TNA and Aces and 8's. The fact that this story lost its legs months ago means nothing to TNA, so the bonus feature is that it's Ray's title against Sting being able to challenge for the title ever again if he loses, as well as the match being no holds barred. That alone should tell you everything you need to know about the ending. That being said, this is TNA, meaning they might put the title on Sting as a swerve. I'm going to say it's Ray retaining, possibly with Brooke screwing Sting over "for love", as all signs seem to point to Hulk vs. Ray at BFG.

One of the other big matches on the show is the fourway for the tag titles with Chavo/Hernandez defending against Bad Influence, Bobby Roode/Austin Aries and the new team of Gunner/James Storm. Adding Storm and Gunner brings some fresh blood into the mix, but the story still isn't all that interesting. Either way, they NEED to get the titles off Chavo and Hernandez, as they're just not interesting at all. Aside from Storm and Gunner, these same six guys have been feuding for what feels like ever and the story is very old already. Let these guys fight different people over something a bit more important for a change. As for the winners, I'll go with Storm and Gunner, which is a shame as Storm could do so much more (once he's healthy that is).

In Styles vs. AJ, I think it goes to Styles. Angle doesn't need the win and what good is AJ if he loses his first big match back from his pouting? The Storm match he won was somewhat big but facing Angle on PPV is a bigger deal. Anyway, I'll go with Styles for the win here in what should be the match of the night.

Jeff Hardy is back in the six man tag with Joe/Magnus vs. Bischoff/Brisco/Anderson (Anderson is replacing Doc to give Aces and 8's something resembling a chance). There's no reason at all for Aces and 8's to win here and I can't imagine they will, as Hardy needs to start getting revenge on Aces and 8's and there's no better place to start than here in a meaningless six man. TNA wins, as they should.

I'll take Park to win the TV Title, although it's not like it really matters as he won't defend the stupid thing. I don't get why TNA does this with so many TV Champions. Joe defended it quite often and it made the belt seem valuable for a little while. Anyway, Park wins, which will at least remind people that the belt exists.

Then there's the X-Division Title match in an Ultimate X match with Kenny King defending against Chris Sabin and Suicide. This is where the X-Division rules get on my nerves. Sabin and King have a feud going, but we have to add Suicide to it to fulfill some requirement. Suicide adds nothing to the match at all and is there just to fill in a spot. I mean, was anyone begging for Suicide to come back? The match would be fine as Sabin vs. King with Sabin being able to show that he isn't frail and can still hang with anyone in the world. Sabin should win the title and I think he will, although watch out for a surprise Suicide win.

Last Knockout standing between Gail Kim and Taryn Terrell: it makes sense for Taryn to win and set up the showdown with Mickie at BFG for the title so we'll go with stupidity and logic by saying Taryn wins, but it's really hard to care about this match for me. I will however give them this: they're doing a better job with building stories in the Knockouts division as it's clear how we got here and it doesn't feel like something we've seen a dozen times before.

Finally we have Sam Shaw vs. Jay Bradley in the BFG Gut Check Tournament final. I'll go with Bradley as he's a better

prospect and leave it at that, as this is just a match to determine who gets to be the jobber in the tournament while getting a single fluke win.

Overall Slammiversary should be ok as a show, but the buildup to it has done nothing for me. The show feels like a filler PPV, which makes no sense for TNA given that they only have four shows a year. Sting vs. Ray with Sting's future title chances on the line again make it about Sting and not the title/champion, which is the way of life in TNA. The whole Aces and 8's story has taken so long to go anywhere (it began the show after last year's Slammiversary) that it's really hard to care at this point. At the end of the day, it's Sting/Hogan vs. the Dudley Boys and Anderson. Other than that, there isn't anyone in Aces and 8's worth a thing and they're fighting two of the biggest names ever. TNA is rather dull right now because it takes forever to get anywhere with this lack of PPV, and now they use one on a Sting story.

Also I'll take Jarrett or Angle for the Hall of Fame.