

# On This Day: September 13, 2001 – Smackdown: Two Days After

## Smackdown

Date: September 13, 2001

Location: Compaq Center, Houston, Texas

Attendance: 12,046

Commentators: Jim Ross, Paul Heyman

This is the post 9/11 Smackdown, which was the first major gathering to occur after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. Obviously due to that this is another show where the wrestling means nothing at all which is definitely the best thing they could have done. I saw this when it aired and haven't seen it since. Let's get to it.

Surprisingly enough we get the WWE opening which today would be the montage thing. This is live for once on a Thursday.

Loud USA chant to start and then we actually do the theme song. This is pre-Brand Split and in the Alliance period.

The roster is out in the aisle with Rock being out front. There's a very different dynamic here than there is at other tribute shows.

Lillian sings the Star Spangled Banner with the red, white and blue ropes out like the old days. I guess Vince was really patriotic back in the day

or something.

Don't expect a lot of jokes here or incredibly serious grading here as this isn't a regular show/review.

Edge talks about how he wasn't going to do one of these interviews because he didn't think the fans cared what Edge or Adam Copeland said about this. This is about entertaining the people tonight though as is their job. There's definitely a pride here and the mood is far more upbeat.

Ricky Santana, an agent, says that he's mad but he isn't going to hide in fear.

#### Hardy Boys vs. Lance Storm/Hurricane

WWF vs. Alliance here. At least we can look at Lita. Hurricane has some weird almost funk music here and is European Champion. Heyman's intro of Hurricane always cracked me up. "Able to leap tall cruiserweights in a single bound, more powerful than a local luchador, look, up on the stage, it's a bird, it's a plane, IT'S THE HURRICANE!" Hilarious. Matt vs. Hurricane to start us off which was the feud at this point.

Matt takes him down early and strikes Hurricane's pose. The Hardys send the evil ones into each other and Matt gets a rollup for two. Fast paced stuff to start and I can't keep up with it. Double team on Matt and we get a Lita chant. Hurricane is tagged in and puts the cape on. Cross body hits Matt for two. Matt grabs a Russian Leg Sweep and it's off to Storm and Jeff.

Poetry in Motion to Hurricane but the one to Storm misses. Twist of Fate is blocked by a superkick by Hurricane which gets two. Jeff takes Hurricane down on the floor with a rana. Back inside the Twist and the Swanton take care of Storm to end this. Quick match and too short to rate, but fun for an opener.

Terri talks about thinking of this from a mother's perspective and how so many people lost family members in this.

Rock says he can't comprehend what the families are going through with this. He doesn't seem sure of what to say which is totally understandable.

A local businessman says exactly what you would expect him to say.

### Rob Van Dam vs. Spike Dudley

RVD is Hardcore Champion but this is non title. Molly Holly is with Spike and is very cute. After we hear about the Red Cross accepting donations, Spike goes right at RVD. Paul talks about how these two had wars in ECW. I don't remember those at all but that's just me. This is hardcore mind you.

Van Dam gets his spinning leg drop across the apron for two. RVD brings in a chair but Spike gets a victory roll for two. In an impressive move, RVD misses a moonsault but catches the chair and dropkicks it into the head of Spike. Paul praises him, which makes me wonder why he never put

the ECW Title on him. Five Star ends this with ease in very short time so no rating.

Jericho says he'd rather be in New York doing whatever he could to help. We don't know what's coming in the next five minutes or ten minutes and tonight maybe we should be a bit kinder or more gentle. It was weird hearing Jericho be this serious but he was rather articulate and well thought out.

Stasiak says this will make us stronger. Very short and sweet.

Lita says she's numb to this still and she has a lot of emotions because of this. She isn't sure what to do and wouldn't say she was. She says everyone should stop and take a deep breath which is what this show is for. Makes sense.

### Chris Jericho vs. Christian

I'm reviewing this match on two shows at the moment. Kind of ironic I guess for no apparent reason. We do get the old CHRISTIAN! AT LAST YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN entrance which is always cool. Oh and he has the stupid glasses here which is always a cool perk. Edge is IC Champion and the feud is kind of going on at this point with the brothers (now not brothers).

Christian talks for a bit but is cut off by Jericho. Jericho makes fun of the ring entrance including a falsetto version of theme song with a little parody thrown in. For a bit there I forgot the point of this show, which I think is exactly the idea. Jericho comes straight at him and the

fight is on. Attempt at the Walls starts almost 15 seconds in but Christian sends him into the post very quickly.

A single arm DDT by Christian gets two. I think Christian is in the Alliance here but I'm not sure. There's an Alliance referee in there so that should sum things up pretty clearly. Jericho gets a shot in and here he comes (TO SAVE THE DAY! SAVE THE DAY!). Enziguri sets up the bulldog but the Lionsault gets knees. And never mind as Christian yells and gets rolled up for the pin. Another fast match that is too short to grade. Decent while it lasted though.

Kanyon says he's proud of New York and his family who are cops in New York for coming together for this.

Taz says he's scared because his family is in New York. He seemed to get cut off here almost.

Torrie says nothing of note.

Hurricane says this isn't about being American but about being human. The people that did this are less than human.

Bubba Ray Dudley says that which does not kill us makes us stronger. Even though a lot of people were killed, America is stronger.

Here's Rock, who is WCW Champion. That was always weird for some reason. He talks about how this is a special night and he's here to have a great

time, live on his show. He issues an open challenge.

### Shawn Stasiak vs. The Rock

Stasiak is the son of the former WWF Champion, Stan the Man Stasiak. The problem was that there was a lack of talent between the generations. He has Stacy with him so that helps. Part of Stasiak's gimmick was that he would charge at people and they would just step aside. Rock does just that and Stasiak goes flying. Rock issues the challenge again and once again goes flying.

Third time the challenge goes out and one more time Stasiak comes a-charging! Rock holds up one hand and wants to know what is wrong with this guy. Every week this happens and Stasiak either knocks himself unconscious or gets thrown out of the ring. It's probably embarrassing and it probably hurts. Instead, let's talk about pie.

Stasiak doesn't like pie. Any longtime WWF fan immediately gets the joke here. Rock asks if he likes strudel but before he can answer Rock asks Stacy if she likes the People's Strudel. She seems to be intrigued but Shawn interrupts again and wants a WCW Title shot RIGHT NOW. Wait isn't this match already going on? Either way, handshake, Rock Bottom, pin. Absolutely hilarious segment with Rock being his usual awesome self.

Bill Demott says the firefighters and cops are the real role models, not him or the people in this company.

Ivory says there are more good people than bad in the world. America is made up of a bunch of different people and we'll embrace this tragedy.

## X-Factor vs. APA

X-Factor is X-Pac and Albert. Pac has the Light Heavyweight and Cruiserweight Titles. Pac vs. Farrooq to start us off with the tiny guy getting hammered down very quickly. Pac gets some kicks in and here's Bradshaw, making the tiny guy run. Off to Albert vs. Bradshaw and down goes Albert to a big boot. JR talks about dipping Bradshaw's fist in barbecue sauce.

Vader Bomb by Albert misses and it's off to Simmons. BIG bicycle kick takes his head down as JR is planning a road trip with Heyman to Oklahoma. Spinebuster takes Pac down and it's back to Bradshaw vs. Albert. Fallaway Slam sends X-Pac flying. Albert misses a splash and the Clothesline From JBL (complete with a Hook Em Horns sign) ends this with relative ease.

**Rating:** C-. Pretty weak match but the commentary was hilarious. I have no idea if they were talking in code or if this was just random chatter to fill in time but it cracked me up. JR can be funny when he's not taking himself far too seriously. The APA was far past their prime here but they could still fight.

Angle says he's not a real hero but rather the people helping in New York.

## Booker T vs. Big Show

Booker is Alliance here and the hometown guy so this is a weird combination. They don't mention him being from Houston here for semi-obvious reasons. He and Shane have a handicap match vs. Rock at Unforgiven. There was a live even in Lexington for Sunday but it was postponed. I have never heard of that show before and I don't think I went to the rescheduled one. JR is still talking about barbecue.

Show chops away and puts Booker on the floor quickly. All Show to start as Ross and Heyman continue to have a good old time on commentary. Booker gets a superkick but is knocked right back down again. This is Show in the one piece swimsuit that never looked right at all on him. Chokeslam is reversed by knees to the ribs but the sunset flip just doesn't work at all. Show misses a big boot and a missile dropkick puts Show down for the axe kick for a long two. A second also gets two so a front flip leg drop gets the pin finally. Another short quick match that you really can't grade as it was so short. This is getting old.

Lance Storm says that he isn't American but he's a person. Every time he's not at home he's going to worry about his family. This is an attack on the world, not America.

D-Von says this wakes us up and tells us that this is real. Everything is screwed up right now in other countries so they want to bring us down with them.

A retired member of the Navy thanks Vince for doing all this which really was a big deal.

Lita vs. Ivory



Lita has the pigtails and doesn't look right in them. She has the flag with her which is cool to see. Ivory is in the Alliance here and looks a lot better in leather than in the RTC stuff. Lita knocks her around with relative ease to start us off. Sunset flip doesn't work as Ivory grabs the pigtails. We hit the chinlock which lasts for only a second or so. Another chinlock is fought out of and there's a headscissors to put Ivory down. Twist of Fate and Moonsault gives us another short match that wasn't very good. Again though, it's not a typical show.

Stacy says she's 21 so she has no idea what this means for the most part. She sounds like a high school chick here.

Austin says he can't change the world but what he thinks is that whoever did this is a coward. Tonight by going back to work it's the thing to do. He offers his condolences for those that lost their loved ones and we do have to mourn, but we need to get back to the way things were. That seemed to be the common answer and that makes sense I think.

Booker says the people that helped in New York are the real heroes. This is going to make us stronger.

And now there's this part. This is the interview/talk that makes everyone look at the company and the McMahons and say "really?" Stephanie, looking TICKED, talks about how a few years ago people tried to take shots at her family and the company but they only made them stronger. She's talking about the steroids trial. That's what's happening to America today. Yes, Vince McMahon allegedly breaking the law by distributing illegal drugs has just been compared to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. And people wonder why this is made fun of so much.

## Dudley Boys/Test vs. William Regal/Tajiri/Scotty 2 Hotty

Tajiri has a title of some sort here. At least I think he does. Maybe he doesn't and it's just part of his outfit. D-Von vs. Regal to start us off. Scotty is literally jumping up and down and screaming for a tag. Tajiri comes in instead in an unintentionally funny bit. He kicks the tar out of everyone but Test takes care of that.

Bubba hammers on him a bit as Tajiri is the face in peril. That back splash that never hits doesn't hit here and it's off to Scotty to face Test. The Worm to Bubba is broken up as is What's Up, the latter by mist to the face. There's the Worm to Bubba and then thankfully Test kicks the tar out of Scotty for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. Just a six man here to fill in time before the end of the show. Test got a big push around this time but they never pulled the trigger on him. He got a bigger one the previous year which was his real chance at being champion which he probably should have been. Match was more or less just there and a way to get the Worm in.

Lillian says she isn't sure about her family and friends who live in New York.

Farrooq is mad about it and says the people that did it are cowards.

Regal is from a country where terrorism is more common but he can't explain how he feels here. We have to get on with our lives though, which

seems to be happening.

Albert talks about being disgusted by what he saw.

### Rhyno vs. Kurt Angle

Was there really any doubt that the American Hero would close the show? Rhyno grabs a headlock which gets him nowhere at all for the most part. Cross body gets two. Angle hammers away but Rhyno gets a shoulder into the corner to take over. Rhyno busts out a freaking airplane spin for two.

Off to the chinlock now which doesn't last long. Rhyno gets the belly to belly but the Gore misses, as does the Olympic Slam. Double clothesline puts both guys down for a bit. Rolling Germans to Rhyno but Angle takes a spinebuster to put them both back down again. Gore hits but THE POWER OF AMERICA prevails and it's only two. Angle Slam is the counter to an Irish Whip and since it's AMERICA against Ireland the AMERICAN HERO wins it.

**Rating:** C. Just a match really. Kurt was banged up from an attack on Monday night so that was the idea of the match here. There was no drama or heat on the match and there wasn't supposed to be. Decent enough for the main event of a shot that wasn't about wrestling, so I can't complain here.

**Overall Rating:** A+. This is a show that is worth seeing if you have the chance to find it. The idea was to get people's minds off of what happened two days before and I think they did that. There were no stories advanced or anything but there weren't supposed to be any advanced. This

left you feeling positive that things were going to be alright again, which is exactly the idea at the end of the day. Good show.

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