

Thoughts on the CM Punk DVD

Yeah it came out months ago and everyone has seen it, but when have I ever been one to have something up as soon as possible? This is going to be more of a collection of single thoughts instead of a point by point review.

The first part of the DVD focuses on Punk's indy days and how hard he worked and all that jazz. I'll save the reasoning for an I Want To Talk A Little Bit About that (hopefully) will be up this weekend, but the short response to this is "That's nice, now let's let the real wrestlers do their stuff over here." Also those Samoa Joe matches really aren't that great. They're just not.

Punk talking about no one knowing what to do with him is probably a fair point. The early days in ECW were indeed awkward because he didn't have time to do much. You can only get so much out of a four minute match with Little Guido or Justin Credible. He doesn't mention it but he should have gotten a MUCH bigger push in the Extreme Elimination Chamber. Bobby Lashley clearly didn't work long term, but at the time it was fair to say he was a stronger prospect than Punk.

It amuses me greatly that WWE is still trying to convince us that being World Heavyweight Champion means something. I will however agree that he should have been pushed harder as champion and shouldn't have been treated like the third biggest act. The complaints about being beneath Cena vs. Batista on the card are laughable though. That's a legitimate dream match that had been built up for over three years minimum.

Yes Punk should have at least been on the Unforgiven card (sidenote: it's a bad sign that I said "it was in Cleveland" before Punk pointed out that it was in Cleveland. This is at least the second time I've known the city a show was in while watching the documentary.) but Jericho vs. HBK was the feud of the year and far better than anything Punk was doing at the time. Punk's story was that he was an underdog fighting for respect. That's not exactly lighting the world on fire.

Punk talks about not getting to be the face of the company. He also talks about not just burning but blowing up every single bridge he's ever had with a company and being a mean jerk. But I'm sure he isn't pushed as the biggest star because someone doesn't get him right?

He's absolutely right about writers not knowing what's going on in his head. At least have a wrestler's input when you're writing promos if you just have to do it that way. It's why I rarely let people do promos when I wrote OCW. They were my characters and I didn't want people missing the point with them.

The Straight Edge Society could have been a much bigger deal. Luke Gallows and Joey Mercury did it no favors though. Also I was there when the stable debuted which was rather cool. As someone who has never smoked, drank or done any drug whatsoever, I always liked those guys. As for Punk's thoughts on it: I LOVE the mentality of wanting fans to hate you for what you say. That's the old school booking which has worked for years as opposed to whatever tactics heels use today.

Miz was a very well built up heel and should have been in the main event. If Punk had been in his spot, he would have been overshadowed by Rock just as much. That's how wrestling works.

On to the Pipe Bomb. John Cena is indeed the best in the world because he draws more money than anyone does at the moment. He's been the biggest star in wrestling for years because he can be put on a poster or be on ESPN and comes off like the nicest guy you'll ever see. He isn't a, for lack of a better term, punk covered in tattoos who brags about how awesome he is all the time. That's a great look and attitude for wrestling fans in their 20s, but for 43 year old Jim Nelson from Omaha, Punk is someone they'll see on TV, mutter about how stupid kids look these days and keep flipping. You know what's going to make people stop changing the channel? John Cena throwing Big Show on his shoulders and flipping him into the air for an AA.

The best thing about the Pipe Bomb? It lead to a professional wrestling match for the WWE Championship with CM Punk talking about how he was going to pin John Cena 1-2-3 because he's a better wrestler. It didn't lead to some southern belle talking about being in the 1% or what was best for business. The same was true for the Punk vs. Heyman promos and they led to AWESOME matches as a result. That's called hyping a match and it WORKS.

I watched the MITB match again for the History of WWE Championship e-book and it more than holds up. The fans there look like a bunch of girl scouts compared to the ONS 06 crowd though. Note one thing though: for at least part of the match, the fans are chanting LET'S GO CENA/CENA SUCKS.

They're talking about Cena, not Punk, and that's why Cena is Cena and Punk is Punk. Also the line about "we didn't know how that was going to end and that's what makes it great" is as true of a line as anything you'll ever hear about wrestling.

Overall, I liked this quite a bit though I don't agree with Punk on a lot of stuff. He is indeed a huge deal at the moment, but he's not as big as Cena and never will be due to the reasons I've gone over. I love the mentality of being better than you are now though and it's something a lot of people would benefit from. Good stuff and worth seeing though.

Side notes:

Punk looks a lot like Sami Zayn when he wears a hat.

There's a voiceover early on and I thought it sounded like Road Dogg. It was Scott Armstrong, which means I was close.

For those of you unaware, Scott Armstrong is Road Dogg's brother.

Kofi Kingston and CM Punk are some of the most forgettable tag team champions ever.

I still don't buy that Punk wasn't signed at least 24 hours before he cut the Pipe Bomb promo.

The Ferris Bueller's Day Off bit was GREAT.