

On This Day: December 11, 2005 – Turning Point 2005: Fear The Scorpion

Turning Point 2005

Date: December 11, 2005

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Attendance: 900

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Don West

It's the final 2005 PPV and we go out with what should have been the main event last month: Jarrett vs. Rhyno for the title. Other than that we've got AJ vs. Joe and Christian vs. Monty in a #1 contender's match. This is looking like a better card than Genesis, but to be fair that doesn't really seem like it would take much effort. Let's get to it.

Jeff Hardy no showed the pre-show, which would be the final straw for him. He wouldn't appear on TNA TV for over four years.

The opening video is about barbed wire. Why they're talking about an opening match in the opening video I'm not sure but whatever.

Abyss vs. Sabu

This is barbed wire massacre, which means the ropes are replaced by barbed wire, which Abyss is terrified of. Abyss stomps on the chair that Sabu tries to bring in with him, so Sabu gets a barbed wire ball bat to scare Abyss away. Sabu tries to drive him into the wire but settles for a chair shot instead. Another doesn't put Abyss down so he launches himself off the chair into a powerbomb position.

That gets Abyss down but he launches Sabu into the wire which

draws a big gasp from the crowd. Sabu comes back with some punches but his cross body is caught and Abyss drops him throat first onto the wire. Sabu has a spike of some sort which he jabs into the shoulder of the monster, drawing blood. He tries another move off the chair but launches himself into the wire AGAIN. Dude, IT ISN'T WORKING FOR YOU!

With Sabu still tied up in the wire, Abyss charges but gets caught in a drop toehold into the wire. A chair shot gets two for Sabu. Abyss shrugs that off and chokeslams him onto a chair for two. Mitchell throws in a barbed wire covered chair and for SOME REASON, he tries an Earthquake onto it. The wire goes into Abyss' crotch and I cringe a bit. That chair goes onto Abyss' head twice and down he goes.

Abyss rolls to the floor so Sabu hits a huge flip dive over the wire to take Abyss out. Sabu throws a barbed wire board into the ring but gets draped over the wire stomach first. Back inside now and Abyss sets for a chokeslam onto the board, but Sabu bites the fingers to escape. Sabu winds up being launched into the air and landing stomach first on the wire. Abyss brings in another wire covered board and puts it in the corner. Due to the laws of wrestling, his charge misses and he gets all stuck in the wire. Sabu kicks Abyss down onto the other board into a sandwich, then drops a leg onto the top board for the pin.

Rating: C-. I'm not sure what to call this. For the violence and shock value it was fine, but as far as wrestling goes there was nothing here. Thankfully this was the ending to this feud which went on for months on end. The ending spot was pretty awesome but most of this was just a total freak show. They had to do this first too because of the ropes, which is annoying but there was no way around that.

We run down the remaining card to fill in some time while the ropes are replaced.

Jarrett and AMW got here earlier today.

Rhyno arrives too.

The 4 (yes 4) Live Kru says they're going to violate Team Canada tonight.

Abyss gets checked out.

Now we talk about the card again.

Alex Shelley/Roderick Strong vs. Matt Bentley/Austin Aries

Holy Generation Next. Aries and Shelley gets us going here. Aries takes him down with some headlocks and then runs up the corners twice, resulting in a back elbow. Back to the headlock now as the fans like Austin a bit more it seems. The brainbuster is countered by a bite to the hand and it's off to Strong. Aries takes him down almost immediately and works on the arm. Bentley comes in to a surprisingly good reaction.

The heels get him down into the corner and work him over though, resulting in Traci slapping the mat. Bentley rans his way out of trouble and gets two at the same time. Aries comes in with his corkscrew splash for two. Off to Shelley who takes Aries down and hits a Lionsault for two. The referee misses a tag to Bentley, allowing the heels to hit a double team neckbreaker for two.

Strong stays on Aries and loads up a belly to back superplex, only to get punched down. Another double team, this time with Strong holding him up for a missile dropkick, gets two on Aries. Aries counters the third double team and makes the tag this time. House is cleaned and Bentley gets two off a top rope elbow. Shelley gets in a kick but his tornado DDT is countered. Bentley hits a top rope senton backsplash for two on Shelley. Shelley gets sent to the floor in front of his camera, letting Bentley superkick Strong for the pin.

Rating: C+. Just another X Division tag match here. Strong

would never really do anything in TNA, whereas Shelley would become a big tag team star and Aries would become a big X Division star, albeit about five years later. Bentley never really did much of note but he had a hot chick in Traci. The match was fine for a time filling match that meant nothing.

Monty Brown is talking to a doll that he calls Christian Cage. Shane Douglas interrupts him and says Christian is trying to leapfrog Monty for his spot. Monty says that won't happen and Christian will feel the Pounce. Jarrett comes up and says that the win won't mean anything so Monty should join him. This really doesn't seem to go anywhere.

Raven vs. ???

Same deal as last month. Larry is in the ring again and says his schtick about the release or whatever. Raven says Larry is the answer to a trivia question that has never been asked. That's pretty true. The opponent is Chris K, meaning Kanyon. Kanyon immediately gets in and takes Raven down and the brawl is on fast. He takes over to put Raven in early trouble, dropping a leg on Raven as his head is in the ropes.

Out to the floor but Kanyon's dive hits barricade by accident and Raven gets back in first. Back in, Kanyon rides Raven down with a middle rope Fameasser for two, but the moonsault misses. Raven hooks an ankle lock which is broken pretty quickly. Two clotheslines put Kanyon down and a flying knee puts him on the floor. He tries to escape but Raven hiptosses him back down the steel. Raven is bleeding from the mouth. Back in and there's a chair now for some reason. Bird Boy tries to punch it into Kanyon's face but it just hurts his hand. Kanyon tries a rana but gets powerbombed onto the chair. Raven Effect and it's over.

Rating: D. Nothing to see here for the most part as it was all about an angle rather than a match. I don't get why they kept going with this as it was the same story for a few months in a

row. Why Larry wanted Raven to leave isn't really mentioned on these PPVs, but I'm sure it was explained on Impact somewhere which I can live with. Not a terrible match but it was short.

Raven and Larry get in a pull apart brawl post match.

Team Canada is worried about the lack of Roode. Petey tells Young to chill and hits him. D'Amore says chill, and then hits Eric himself. That was great. Jarrett comes up and says he's worried about what management means by the face of TNA changing. D'Amore doesn't know either but says they'll get to the bottom of it by the end of the night. Roode (weren't they worried about him not being there??) pops up, apparently just being out of frame, and says it's ok.

Team Canada vs. 4 Live Kru

This is the FINAL blowoff match between these guys, thank goodness. Eric and Kip get us going but Eric needs to stall a bit first. Ok so it's Roode starting for the Canadians. After about a minute we're finally hooking up. We get about a minute of the most basic wrestling you'll ever see. Arm drags, wristlocks and a slam. It's fine and all but very basic. Off to Petey who is launched in and Konnan hits him with a shoe. What's Up Petey.

Truth comes in now and speeds things up, taking Young down with a sidekick. Off to BG for all of the exact same moves they've done in the previous two matches between these teams. The dancing punches and shaky kneedrop get two. BG gets thrown into the corner and taken down by some apron interference. Roode puts him in the Tree of Woe and it's 0 Canada time from Petey. James hits a double clothesline on Roode and Williams, allowing the tag to Gunn. Everything breaks down and Kip hits the Fameasser on Roode. A chair comes in and Konnan kills Kip with it so Roode can pin him.

Rating: D-. The match was technically fine, but for the life of me I don't remember a more paint by numbers/going by the

pure stereotypical formula match in a VERY long time. Either way, it finally ended this way too long feud and would also bring about the end of the Kru which had outlived its usefulness anyway.

Konnan hits BG with the chair too. He would form LAX soon after this while the Outlaws would reform as well. Truth would just kind of float around.

The Diamonds in the Rough are reading the paper and say that this isn't about baseball. A New Age Outlaws chant is heard over this, meaning the Outlaws are getting up and leaving together I guess.

We recap the baseball feud. AJ Pierzynski (for the sake of this, he'll be called AJ. For clarification, AJ Styles is not involved in this whatsoever, so don't get confused) showed up on Impact to give TNA some gifts in exchange for some award, when the Diamonds come out to make fun of them. Dale Torborg (Demon in WCW) was brought in too along with AJ and they argued batting averages.

Oh one more thing: AJ had a manager teaching him how to manage: BOBBY THE FREAKING BRAIN HEENAN!!! He's doing commentary, which saddens me to a degree as it's after his throat surgery so he doesn't have his signature voice. His wit is still there though, and most importantly he's still alive to do commentary so it's really a good thing, even if it doesn't sound like it. Heenan looks older but good for the most part. He goes over to commentary and wants \$5 to do it. Classic Heenan.

Diamonds in the Rough vs. Chris Sabin/Sonjay Dutt/Dale Torborg

Need a filler in 2005? Call Chris Sabin. Brain has been teaching AJ how to manage. Tenay: "What have you taught him?" Heenan: "How to lie, cheat, get everyone to dislike you, that sort of stuff." Tenay: "Not how to trip people and use brass knuckles?" Heenan: "No I taught that to Steinbrenner." Sabin

and Skipper start us off as Heenan talks about his love of Chicago, his hometown.

Skipper tries to reverse out of a hammerlock by flipping out of it, but he winds up falling on his head as Sabin drops him. Sabin flips back into the ring and I have very little desire to watch this match. I'd much rather just listen to Heenan say things like this: Tenay: "How rabid were those fans in Chicago?" Heenan: "There was a lot of frothing." Tenay: "I don't mean that kind of rabid!" Heenan: "You never met the Wachowski Sisters." Seriously, JUST LET HIM TALK!

Sabin and Young are in there now but it's off to Dutt quickly. Trust me: the Heenan stuff is better than the match so you're not missing much. Top rope legdrop gets two for Sonjay. Off to Torborg who is taller than anyone else in the match. He launches Sonjay over the top onto all of the Diamonds so AJ can chase them with the bat. West calls it a bat, but Tenay corrects him by calling it a foreign object. Tenay: "We'll teach him eventually won't we Bobby." Heenan: "Uh probably not."

Young hits a spinning slam on Dutt for two and it's off to Simon who gets two as well. Skipper comes in to kick Dutt in the back for two. West talks about some singers and musicians in attendance here, resulting in Heenan asking if we're on American Bandstand or at a wrestling match. Skipper tries a mat slam of some kind but drops Dutt on his face again. Spinebuster by Young gets two.

Sonjay hits a slingshot rana to send Young down and it's off to Torborg. Heenan plugs TNA and does it like a master, telling people to go tell everyone else to watch it because it's the best wrestling today. See how easy it is? Chokeslam gets two on Skipper and everything breaks down. Young is put into the Tree of Woe for a hesitation dropkick from Sabin.

Stereo dives by Sabin and Dutt take out two Diamonds but Simon

hits Torborg low. A shin protector shot to the head of Torborg gets two as AJ pulls the referee out. Heenan intercedes for him, allowing AJ to get a home plate from Johnny Damon (baseball player in the audience) which he cracks Simon with. Cradle Shock and the Hindu Press get the pin.

Rating: C+. The match was just ok but the commentary was excellent. It's amazing how great Heenan is at just starting up again and being absolutely excellent. He was hilarious and at the same time he PUT THE TALENT OVER. He sounded legitimately happy to be there too, which is a great thing. I had a blast with that and he's still one of the best ever.

Post match the winning team gives AJ and Torborg (who is the strength coach for the White Sox) some TNA championship rings.

Christian says he hears the Peeps chanting his name. It's called anticipation for Christian becoming #1 contender. Christian says he does things on his own terms, so tonight he's going to the Serengeti and going Alpha Male hunting.

We recap Christian vs. Monty Brown. Basically it's just Christian's first big match and it's a #1 contender's match.

Christian Cage vs. Monty Brown

Officially this is just a Contender's match, but screw that and add the #1 part to it. This isn't Christian's in ring debut for the company as he already beat Bobby Roode on Impact, but it's his first big match. Monty shoves him around to start as you would expect him to. Christian is like screw the power stuff and fires away with right hands. Tenay talks about how you have to earn your title shots here instead of talking your way into them. Oh the irony (Look up the May 24, 2012 Impact for why that's funny in case you're reading this in like three years).

They head to the floor and Christian takes over with an uppercut before sending him into the barricade. Back in the

gorilla press is escaped and Brown is sent to the floor again, this time followed by a huge dive. Back in again and Brown hot shots him before gorilla pressing him over the top and onto the floor with a thud. Monty teases throwing him into the barricade but throws him back inside instead for some reason.

Brown's suplex is countered with some elbows but Christian walks into a belly to belly for two. The fans chant Alpha Female. Christian goes into the corner and is pulled out so hard that he rips the buckle off. Brown bends Christian's back around the post on the floor but gets sent into the barricade to give Christian a break.

Back in and Christian pounds away with a bunch of right hands to take over. Tornado DDT gets two as does a rollup with his feet on the ropes. Christian goes up and after knocking Brown off, hits a frog splash for two. Brown comes back with the Alpha Bomb for two. Brown misses a charge and hits the exposed buckle and the Unprettier gets the pin.

Rating: C-. Brown didn't do much but punch, kick and slam but it was ok enough. Christian did his usual stuff and that's fine as the fans were really getting into him here. I like the Frog Splash better as a finisher for Christian and thankfully he's been using that more often in his latest WWE run. Not a bad match or anything but it was pretty bland.

Team 3D says they want the NWA Tag Titles, but tonight it's about revenge.

We recap Team 3D vs. AMW. AMW beat 3D down so now they're back for revenge. It's a tables match tonight, but it's not for the titles for no apparent reason.

Team 3D vs. America's Most Wanted

Both guys have to go through the table. Team 3D jumps them while the pyro is still going off and the fight starts fast. I don't think there was a bell but who cares. It's Storm vs. Ray

on the stage and the other two at ringside. Harris and D-Von get in the ring and a delayed suplex puts D-Von down. Harris covers but it doesn't count here of course. Storm comes in and walks into a double clothesline from D-Von who covers as well.

Ray pulls Harris to the floor and What's Up Storm. Here's the table but Harris breaks up the 3D. AMW tries to put D-Von through one but Ray makes the save this time. Storm and Ray go to the floor for some chopping as Harris puts D-Von on the table. He goes up but Ray makes the save. Ray loads up a superplex but Storm moves the table. Instead of, you know, not letting his partner get suplexed. No wonder they split up.

There's a table next to the ring on the floor now. Storm gets launched to the floor but Ray throws him too far, missing the table completely. I think that was intentional. The table is set up in the ring again but Ray goes to the floor instead. Storm and Ray go into the ring but Ray gets hit low to break up whatever he was trying from the ropes. D-Von moves the table but Ray has to take the rana anyway. No wonder they split up.

Superkick puts D-Von down and AMW is in full control. The Dudleys come back very quickly and put Storm through the table with AMW's own move, the Death Sentence. Harris comes in with a chair and beats down both of them before heading out to the floor with D-Von. There's a table up by the entrance too, and here's Bubba. 3D through the table ends it clean.

Rating: D+. This was ok and there wasn't anything all that great about it. It's just a tables match which you've seen the Dudleys have about a thousand times. At the end of the day, they're probably 50/50 in them so it's not like this really means anything anymore. AMW wouldn't lose the titles for months and it wasn't to Team 3D, so this really didn't do much other than set up a title match later.

We recap Styles vs. Joe. Joe turned on Daniels last month and

annihilated him, hitting him with a MuscleBuster on a chair. AJ (Styles) took issue with this and said it was against the X-Division Code. Joe beat him up in the back and tonight, it's revenge vs. title.

James Storm is helped to the back due to a possible neck injury. This might be legit. He's sitting up though. He has to be helped out but he's on his feet at least.

X-Division Title: Samoa Joe vs. AJ Styles

AJ is defending and Joe is undefeated. They've fought before, I believe at Sacrifice. Joe has the bloody towel which is still awesome. AJ goes right at Joe as soon as the bell rings, knocking him into the corner where Joe is just covering up. AJ ducks his head though and Joe gets in a kick to the chest. The drop down dropkick knocks Joe silly though and the champ takes over again.

Joe misses a charge and for some reason they have a stalemate. AJ has that fire in his eyes here and that means this is going to be awesome. They chop it out and Joe fires off HARD kicks to take over. A running kick sends Styles to the floor and the fire is gone all of a sudden. AJ comes in first but can't suplex Joe over the top. Instead he guillotines him on the top rope, sending Joe to the floor.

Joe pulls the feet out and spins him around in a powerbomb position to send Styles into the barricade. SICK impact. Styles gets sent into the barricade and a running boot sends AJ flying. Back in and AJ is knocked into the corner and a kick to the chest puts him down. Backsplash keeps Styles down and gets two. A chinlock runs through a few seconds and it's Facewash time. AJ blocks one of them though and fires off some rights. That gets him nowhere though as Joe kicks him HARD in the face and Styles' lights are out.

Styles is knocked to the apron but he manages a kind of enziguri but the springboard forearm is countered into a

powerbomb into a Boston Crab and then a modified one with AJ's legs in a powerbomb position. AJ kicks his way out of it and goes to the corner. Joe misses a charge and goes to the floor. The running Shooting Star dive (LOVE that move and it's called the Fosbury Flop) takes Joe down. Springboard forearm to the back of the head gets two.

Joe's release German is escaped into the moonsault DDT for two. Powerslam gets two for the Samoan. Joe fires off kicks and Styles says kick him harder. Joe does and AJ crumples up in the corner. AJ comes back again after some right hands and kicks Joe down. AJ's mouth is busted but I think we're in Rope-A-Dope land. He loads up the Clash but powerbombs Joe instead for two. That was impressive.

Styles' eyes say "what more do I have to do" and Joe KILLS him with a clothesline. That only gets one and Joe looks stunned. A SICK double underhook powerbomb gets two for Joe and Styles screams at him. Joe hooks a standing Clutch but AJ escapes and hits the Pele for no cover. AJ takes him to the corner but has to escape a top rope MuscleBuster. Instead AJ pulls him to the mat and then hits the Clash....for two. The champ tries an O'Connor Roll but gets caught in the Clutch and Styles passes out to give Joe the title for the first time.

Rating: B+. Styles may not bring out the best in Joe, but Joe brings out the best in Styles. This was telling a great story with Styles wanting to hold on as long as he could and tire Joe out but in the end, Joe was just too much for him. The match was great, but when they threw in Daniels it made things excellent. Very good match here though and the fire in Styles was great.

Joe helps AJ up and then lays him out with the belt. Security goes down and Joe gets a chair. He loads up the MuscleBuster but here's Daniels for the save. Joe beats him down too, although Daniels wasn't completely healed up yet so it's not as bad.

We recap Rhino vs. Jarrett. It's the rubber match as Rhino won the title at BFG and Jarrett won it back on Impact. The idea here is that Rhino is going through a lot of personal issues and this is all he has.

Rhino says he'll always be a champion to everyone that loves him and he'll win tonight.

NWA World Title: Jeff Jarrett vs. Rhino

Feeling out process to start and Jeff grabs a wristlock. That gets him nowhere as Rhino runs him over for one. A dropkick gets the same for the champ and it's off to a short arm scissors. The fans want Jarrett fired as Rhino powers out of the hold and drops Jeff onto the top rope. Press slam is followed by Jarrett being draped over the top again. Out to the floor and Rhino hits a dive out to the floor.

They head into the crowd with Rhino in full control. He tries to suplex him off a wall but Jarrett knocks him down and onto the floor again. They head up towards the backstage and Jarrett is rammed into various metal objects, busting him open. Back to ringside and Jeff takes a chair shot to the shoulder and the back. Back to the backstage area and Rhino loads up a table.

Rhino takes him onto a scaffold but Jeff finds a chair to pop Rhino with, sending him down through the table with a crash. Jeff takes him back to the ramp and goes for a suplex but Rhino counters into one of his own. Rhino goes to the back to get something and comes back with another table. He puts the table up against the ramp and Gores him "through" it, as I don't think it actually broke but rather fell on top of the two of them.

With both guys down, JB gets on the mic and says both guys have until ten to get to the ring or it's over. You know, like in a regular match. Team Canada comes out and beats down Rhino some more and carries Jarrett back to the ring. Rhino makes it

back in anyway and is all fired up. A clothesline puts Jarrett down and the champ is reeling. The Canadians come in and are quickly dispatched.

Spinebuster gets two for the challenger. He goes up but Petey crotches him. So you can start that ten count thing but you can't do anything about these guys? Superplex gets two for Jeff as does a TKO for Rhyno. The referee takes a shoulder block in the corner, which isn't going to mean anything because he's been useless. Stroke is countered and Rhyno loads up the Gore, only to have Roode come in.

He goes down as does A-1 but Roode gets up quickly and hits his Northern Lariat to Rhyno, getting two. There's the guitar shot for two. Here comes Jackie Gayda who apparently has something on Jarrett. The distraction lets Rhyno Gore Jeff down for two. The challenger sets up two chairs and tries the Rhyno Driver through them, but D'Amore hits him with the hockey stick. A middle rope Stroke onto the chairs keeps the belt on Jeff.

Rating: B-. It was a pretty solid brawl here but the Canadians at the end got annoying quickly. Then again that's the point, but this was the HHH formula 101 from 2003. Rhyno wasn't going to get the title back and probably shouldn't have, so I can't really complain about the ending. For a B show main event title match, I can't complain much here.

Post match the lights go out. After awhile, a Scorpion logo pops up on screen with what would become Sting's music. A spotlight comes up and we see a chair with black boots in it, a trenchcoat around it and a bat leaning against it. Jarrett sees it and panics to end the show. Sting showed up on January 1 or whatever the first show of the year was.

Overall Rating: B-. This wasn't bad. It's a B level show to close out the year and there's nothing wrong with what we got out of it. It sets up something for the new year and closes

out some of the old stuff. There are some good matches here but some of the matches just fall flat. If you ever check this out, you won't be completely disappointed, although there are much better shows to check out.

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