

Thunder – October 8, 1998: Longing For A Warrior Promo

Thunder

Date: October 8, 1998

Location: Market Square Arena, Indianapolis, Indiana

Commentators: Lee Marshall, Tony Schiavone, Bobby Heenan

The main stories coming into this week are Bret Hart and Sting having a big old fight in the back to close out Nitro and Eric Bischoff apparently going completely insane because he's the only person that didn't see Warrior in Hollywood Hogan's mirror. We're still on what feels like an eternal road to Halloween Havoc so let's get to it.

We open with the laughter and Tony trying to find out what it is.

Mike Tenay is going to a bar forty miles away from the arena tonight to meet with Scott Hall. We go to the bar where Hall says Nash knows where he is tonight and can come find him if he wants. They used to hang out at a place called the Meridian and Nash can come down here anytime. Hall implies that Nash should drop the Wolfpack and just be the Outsiders again.

A limo is seen leaving the arena, presumably with Nash inside.

Kanyon vs. Prince Iaukea

Kanyon does his Who Better Than Kanyon bit and complains when the crowd doesn't say no one. The Prince is quickly sent down but Kanyon bails to the ropes when he comes back up. Iaukea hits a spin kick to send Kanyon to the floor and hits another one off the apron in a nice spot. Back in and the Prince gets crotched on the top, setting up a neckbreaker out of the corner for two.

Something resembling a Fameasser gets two more, followed by another neckbreaker and a fireman's carry pancake. All Canyon for the most part as the announcers ignore the match and talk about Nash chasing Hall. We hit the chinlock for a bit before the Prince grabs a dragon screw leg whip to take Canyon down. Iaukea goes up top but jumps onto Canyon's back and gets slammed back first onto the mat. The Flatliner ends it a few seconds later.

Rating: D+. This didn't do it for me but I've seen worse. Iaukea continues to be one of the least interesting wrestlers I've ever seen as there's just nothing special about him. Canyon is kind of all over the place anymore as he'll squash a jobber one week, then get crushed by Goldberg, then be Raven's lackey. I'm surprised he hasn't gone towards a midcard title yet.

Chris Jericho is outside a locker room yelling for Goldberg.

Scott Steiner video.

Here are Scott Steiner and Buff Bagwell with something to say. Buff doesn't want to live there so the fans need to sit down and shut up. The Halloween Havoc match against Rick isn't happening because Rick is scared. That's quite the announcement. Scott grabs the mic and yells at Buff for allowing his mom to show up and embarrass the NWO on Monday. Buff gets in Scott's face and blames his neck injury on Steiner. He's tired of it always being about Scott and walks out.

Peyton Manning is here.

Jerry Flynn vs. Meng

What do you expect here? Meng no sells everything and pounds Jerry down in the corner until Flynn comes back with a kick and cross body for two. Another kick is blocked and the Tongan Death Grip is good for the easy

win.

Jericho yells at Goldberg and hides behind security. Goldberg isn't on camera.

Meng hasn't gotten out of the ring yet when Chris Adams comes out for his match and gets destroyed for his efforts. This brings out Wrath to pull Meng off and the monsters brawl. They head outside with Meng getting hit by a chair but throwing Wrath over the barricade. That could be a good blowoff match.

The Horsemen are here and immediately handed restraining orders. Dean isn't given one so here's JJ Dillon to say that if Dean stays then all of the Horsemen stay. The Horsemen leave and Dean stays as the Horsemen continue to look worthless half the time.

Tokyo Magnum vs. El Dandy

Dandy grabs an armbar to start but gets taken down by a sunset flip for two. The fans aren't exactly thrilled by this. A hard slap puts Tokyo down but Magnum comes back with a dropkick. Dandy suplexes him down and the laughter starts up again. Dandy hammers away and they chop each other a lot as this is going nowhere. Cue Scott Norton to destroy both guys and the match is thrown out.

Post break Eddie Guerrero and his LWO lackeys are in the ring. Eddie accuses Bischoff of sending Norton out there and asks El Dandy to join the team. Magnum tries to get in on this too but is shot down because he's Japanese. Dandy agree and puts on the LWO shirt.

Saturn vs. Scott Putski

They trade armbars to start until Saturn takes him to the mat with amateur stuff. Putski stis out in a nice move and blasts Saturn in the

ribs with a kick to take over. Saturn pops back up and runs Putski over before firing off some nice kicks to the ribs and head. Back to the armbar but Putski sends him into the corner and clotheslines him out to the floor. Saturn goes into the barricade and Putski stomps away back inside.

Scott hammers away again with another clothesline and puts on a sleeper. Saturn quickly breaks it up with a jawbreaker and goes off on Putski with kicks and a quick suplex. A top rope knee drop gets two on Scott but he comes back with a nice powerslam for a near fall of his own. Saturn ducks an ax handle and suplexes Putski down again. The Death Valley Driver ends Putski with far less ease than expected.

Rating: C. Better match than I was expecting here but like Canyon, why was Saturn never allowed to go after the US Title or something like that? He was having good matches and interesting stories, but I guess there was no interest because he wasn't in an NWO shirt. Putski had a decent look and wasn't half bad in the ring actually.

Here's Disciple with something to say. He goes on a horrible rambling speech about Hogan not making his career and how Hogan has turned WCW into his playground. Disciple calls out Horace Hogan, saying Horace doesn't deserve a job. Cue Horace for a match. Oh joy.

Horace vs. Disciple

Horace jumps him but gets his eyes raked to slow him down. A neckbreaker puts Horace down for two but he comes back with a belly to belly suplex. Disciple no sells it and comes back with a ridiculously slow Stunner for the pin. To clarify, they're fighting over whose career Hogan made less, but guys like Juvy, Kidman and about 30 other talented guys can't get a two minute match.

Horace jumps him post match.

Long video for Warrior vs. Hogan.

Here's Jericho in the ring to call out Goldberg. First off, Jericho says get well Brian and come back soon, referring to Brian Hildebrand, more commonly known as referee Mark Curtis, who is fighting cancer. Jericho says Goldberg is more green than gold, so get out here right now. There's no Goldberg so Jericho says start counting and declares himself the winner by countout.

Bret Hart comes out and tells Tony he can take care of this by himself. He's been waiting a long time to face Sting and wants a match with him at Halloween Havoc. Sting better bring everything he's got...and that's it.

Horsemen montage.

Here's Dean Malenko to sit in a chair in the middle of the ring. Bischoff seems to have forgotten about him but he's not leaving until he gets a match. Cue Eric who gives Dean the Barbarian. On the way to the ring, Eric asks Jimmy Hart what Barbarian makes. Jimmy says \$500,000 (!) and Eric offers to double it if Barbarian wins.

Dean Malenko vs. Barbarian

Barbarian goes right after Dean and Eric sits in on commentary. All monster to start with stomps, slams and punches. Dean's comeback is easily stymied as he's rammed into the corner to block a suplex attempt. Barbarian's superplex is countered as well and Dean scores with a missile dropkick. Jimmy tries to interfere but Barbarian accidentally runs him over, setting up the Cloverleaf for the quick submission. Bischoff freaks out and beats on Schiavone with some papers.

Goldberg vs. Page video.

The laughter starts up again as Raven comes out with something to say. He

wants to know why DDP gets all this attention and no one worries about him. Page pops up and says he'll bang Raven.

Diamond Dallas Page vs. Raven

Raven chokes Page to start and blocks an early Diamond Cutter attempt. A suplex gets two and Page is sent into the buckle for a stomping. We're already in the chinlock and Raven actually gets a two count off the hold. Page fights up but gets kneed in the ribs and sent outside where Raven grabs a chair.

Raven tries to wrap Page's legs around the post but gets pulled face first into the steel in the most common counter. Inside again and Raven comes back with the drop toehold onto the chair. Cue Lodi but Page rams Raven into him and gets two off a clothesline. A chair to Raven's back sets up a suplex but Raven comes right back with a drop toehold into the buckle. Raven throws on a sleeper but Page counters into a quick Diamond Cutter for the pin.

Rating: C-. Not bad here but it doesn't work as well without the backstory that made their earlier matches great. Raven's free fall continues which is a shame as we have to sit through Disciple getting a push because he used to be a midcard star nine years ago. The match was fine for five minutes but at this point I'd give a passing grade to anything decent.

Stevie Ray vs. Lex Luger

Here's your main event people and it's already after 10pm. Tony tells us that a MAJOR Hollywood star will appear on Nitro. They pose at each other to start before hitting each other with a basic move and posing some more. Luger takes over with a quick slam and a clothesline but walks into an elbow and kick to the face. Vincent gets in a few cheap shots on the floor and Stevie hooks a chinlock.

Luger quickly fights out and scores with a suplex, only to get caught in a quick jawbreaker. The Slap Jack is countered with a backdrop and Luger goes into the same sequence he's used for ten years. He loads up the Rack but here's Hall to jump him. Lex fires back with right hands but Stevie hits him with the slap jack (weapon) for the DQ.

Rating: D. I've got nothing left and this was a dull match with a lame ending.

Konnan tries to come out for the save but gets laid out. Hall says he fooled Nash and does

the Survey to finally end this show.

Overall Rating: F. This was AWFUL and one of the biggest waste of time I can remember in years. The most interesting thing all night was Meng fighting with Wrath. Think about that. MENG was the highlight of a show. The Horsemen look like nothing, there was almost no star power doing anything of note and the wrestling was so uninteresting I could barely sit through the show. This had me longing for a Hogan promo so I could at least have something to laugh at. It's a terrible show and Havoc needs to get here so we can move on to ANYTHING else.

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