

Reviewing the Review – Monday Night Raw: March 25, 2014

We're getting very close to Wrestlemania last night with only one Raw left after last night. The big story was the absence of Daniel Bryan but everything else was covered. Let's get to it.

The opening was Stephanie being called a sl** by Batista and Big Dave spearing Orton. This worked very well as the focus shifted to Batista vs. Orton instead of just HHH vs. Bryan as we've seen for the last few weeks. They're doing a great job at planting seeds of doubt about Bryan winning, which is the best thing you can do in a match that has a seemingly obvious ending.

Having Batista and Orton have their own issues also opens up a few more doors to the match. It's going to be boring if everyone is waiting for Bryan to hit the running knee on someone to win the title, so having the others have issues helps a lot. This and the very good HHH promo later gave me a lot more hope for both matches.

The HHH interview was HHH sounding evil and letting us inside his mind heading into Wrestlemania. While it's clear that HHH is corrupt and evil, it's ok as long as he can justify his own actions. HHH wanting to be the champion himself because he's the only one he can trust is where this story should have gone from the beginning and it's the right ending now.

The fourway was really good stuff with a lot of great false finishes. I love the idea of having a #1 contenders match to earn a title shot rather than just having someone beat Big E. to set up the title match. That being said, Christian didn't get the shot as he was injured in the match but it was a nice idea at least.

Wyatts were awesome. Nothing new here.

Scooby-Doo was just there to promote the movie and there's nothing wrong with that. The movie is good too if you've got an hour and twenty minutes to kill. I'm not sure what Sandow did to tick WWE off though.

Los Matadores beat Ryback/Axel, who are still getting a title shot at Wrestlemania. Apparently Los Matadores and the Real Americans have been added to the title match as well which helps a lot.

Fandango vs. Cody happened and that's about all I've got on that one.

The Hogan/Schwarzenegger segment was exactly what it needed to be. Miz getting to come out there might have been the second biggest night of his career.

Big Show beat up Titus O'Neil. Titus looked good but it doesn't matter when Big Show just shrugs off the offense and knocked Titus out for the pin.

Cena didn't see the sheep mask in a bathroom mirror. People were comparing this to Hogan vs. Warrior and Undertaker vs. Orton but it came off more as the Wyatts are creepy. Cena literally didn't see it so it was the Wyatts stalking him and Cena not knowing what was going on rather than him going nuts.

Harper and Cena had the best match of Harper's career. Luke looked GREAT out there and thankfully didn't have to job at the end of it. Cena continues to make people look far better than anyone else can and he did it very well with Harper last night. The ending was eery with the Wyatts tying Cena to the ropes and putting the sheep mask on his face. The fact that it was in the dark made it even better as you were left to think about what those creepy guys might have been doing to Cena.

The Divas Title match was announced and apparently AJ will be defending against thirteen people. The Total Divas theme song playing to end the segment made one thing clear: this was a big commercial for the show. Even with that, I have a feeling they're going to keep the title on AJ, perhaps for a Paige debut the next night?

Scott Hall is going into the Hall of Fame. I'm surprised they listed him as Razor Ramon instead of Scott but the fact that he's sober enough to be inducted is wonderful.

Shield vs. Real Americans was good stuff and Rollins continues to look

awesome. I already went on a rant about the Outlaws being in the six man with Kane at Wrestlemania does nothing for me so I'll spare you from a repeat. The word on the street says that it's so the Outlaws can work with the Shield because they want to, and Heaven forbid the Outlaws don't get what they want. Hopefully Shield destroys them and sends the Outlaws back into retirement.

I've never been the biggest Outlaws fan in the world but they're not horrible. The problem is I don't see the benefit in having them around anymore. It was a nice nostalgia run and them winning the belts was a nice moment, but it's been done and they lost the titles and their rematch. Why do we need to see them anymore?

Heyman/Lesnar vs. Undertaker was exactly what you would expect and there wasn't much to complain about with it. Undertaker was creepy and Lesnar got run off again, meaning the odds are he'll get the better of the dead guy next week as we head to Wrestlemania. The build to the match has been different than most as Brock is being treated as a huge underdog despite being the biggest threat to the Streak in years.

Raw was another solid effort last night. The company is clicking at the right now time and Wrestlemania is looking better and better every week. Bryan not being there last night was a good thing as he gets most of the attention whenever he's on screen. It made the show feel more like a complete card and even added three matches to fill the whole thing out. It was a good show and I'm fired up for Wrestlemania.

Oh yeah and there were Punk chants. WWE just ignored them and went on with the show, as they should have. The strategy worked and the whiny fans got into the show multiple times.

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