

Reviewing the Review: Monday Night Raw – May 5, 2014

This week was the first show after the sequel to Wrestlemania and it seems like we're setting up the third part of the trilogy even though people don't seem all that interested in what we're getting. In other words, it's spring in the WWE. Let's get to it.

The show opened with Dean Ambrose defending the US Title in a battle royal. He wound up losing the title to Sheamus as the last man in the match and I can't complain at all. This accomplishes two things: it gets the title off Ambrose who had held it for nearly a year and gives Sheamus something to do. It also makes the US Title seem more important as a big name like Sheamus is holding it now. With only one world title now, there simply isn't room for guys like Sheamus, Del Rio, Christian and Ziggler to challenge for the big belt. You elevate the midcard titles and everything fits much better.

I'll cover all of the Bryan/Brie/Stephanie/Kane stuff here. This of course leads us to the Disco Inferno. He used to post on the WrestleZone Forums as a paid guest and made a comment once that makes so much sense: "If a champion pins a challenger clean, why in the world would I want to watch them fight again?" That's the problem with Kane vs. Bryan again. Bryan pinned Kane in the middle of the ring after his finisher. The question was "what can Bryan do to stop Kane?" We answered that at Extreme Rules but the feud is continuing because they have nothing else to do and the script says it has to continue. That's rarely interesting.

What makes it even worse is how they're going about doing it. From the camera in the back of the car to the Michael Myers feeling the segment had to having to watch Stephanie's acting to the supernatural stuff with the Kane masks everywhere to

how stupid the other segments are likely to be, this stuff got old fast. I don't want to watch a bad slasher movie, but at least it's better than Zack Ryder as Bryan will actually fight back. Also I don't mind Brie Bella being there as it doesn't feel incredibly forced and Bryan is the kind of character that seems like he'd be a family man.

Cesaro got disqualified for attacking RVD too much. The match wasn't anything great but Cesaro had RVD defeated when he got disqualified which made this way easier to sit through. This is what RVD should be used for and he did it to perfection.

Bray Wyatt's promo worked very well as he talked about being a god instead of just a leader. It seems that his feud with Cena will continue and again, Bray needs to win the third match. That would open the door for stories going forward and it's not like Cena needs the win. Yeah the Extreme Rules match felt forced, but at least there's a story here that makes me want to see where it goes, unlike the World Title feud.

Ryback beat Cody Rhodes to continue the Rhodes Brothers breakup that is going on too long now. Nothing to see here.

Los Matadores and Torito beat up 3MB. I have no idea where they can go after Sunday and I really don't care to find out.

Rusev has dropped the Alexander and squashed Kofi Kingston. Again I didn't care too much about the match as Lana was very distracting in blue.

Daniel Bryan beat Alberto Del Rio in a good match. This is the kind of thing I'd love to see as the co-main event of the B shows. You don't have to have A-list star vs. A-list star as the main event of every show. Have another big match on the side (Shield vs. Evolution in a big gimmick match for example) and have Bryan go 25 minutes with Del Rio or Ziggler etc. Bryan gets a win over a former World Champion, the other guy gets a rub and doesn't look bad in losing to Bryan and maybe he even looks better in the future. It worked at In Your House

and it can work here.

Bad News Barrett beat Big E. again to retain the Intercontinental Title. This was as by the books as you could get and there's really nothing wrong with that. Big E. needs a story instead of a feud now though, which isn't likely to happen as the writers aren't that competent.

We got a Mother's Day message from Mr. T., which was basically just a way to make fun of his Hall of Fame speech. This kind of stuff makes WWE look so childish and likely is done to entertain themselves. They're already borderline toxic to most big name stars, so why would they make fun of someone willing to work with them? What does this one off, 90 second joke accomplish?

Adam Rose debuted but didn't wrestle. His first match/feud is going to be with Jack Swagger, which is WAY better than having him squash jobbers for a month while we wait for someone of note to fight him. The fans were way into the character which is the right idea, even though Rose doesn't have a long shelf life. Also Zeb dancing, even if by accident, was hysterical.

Shield vs. Wyatts was nothing we haven't seen before but it wasn't bad. We got all the usual spots and sequences until Evolution came out for the distraction. The show ended with Evolution standing tall, which is the right move if they're continuing the story.

Overall Raw was a decent show but Payback seems like they're running on whatever fuel they had left over at Wrestlemania. Evolution vs. Shield should be an interesting second PPV match but I'm hoping they go for three singles matches instead of another match and THEN have another six man tag. Cena vs. Wyatt III all depends on the ending and Bryan vs. Kane II is just nothing I want to see. Still though, there was enough good to get me through Raw on Monday, but it didn't do much to make me care about the future going forward.

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