

Reviewing the Review – July 7, 2014

Raw on Monday was another show designed to build up to a pay per view that isn't the most important in the world. However, for once WWE seems to actually be putting some effort into this one. Yeah it's just in the hopes of driving up some more Network buys, but who am I to care about why I get a good show? Let's get to it.

The opening segment saw Roman Reigns coming out to talk about how the Authority isn't here tonight. This moved into a showdown with Kane, setting up a match for later in the night. Many agents were tossed aside during the melee which is always cool to see. The most interesting part though was Reigns stopping for the CENA SUCKS chant before saying that the chant is absolutely right when he's in the building. Reigns is fitting into this role perfectly and it's a good sign.

The Wyatts beat the Usos in another awesome match. There really isn't much to say about this series other than the 2/3 falls match at Battleground should be just as good.

The announcers spent most of the show hyping up the free preview week of the WWE Network. Yeah I've been a subscriber since day one, but I have zero problem with this. The more people buy it, the longer it's around and that's a good thing.

Orton, Kane and Rollins all said they hate each other. There's some very nice characterization going on here as the Authority is gone and their minions are all fighting with each other, but they act all nice when the bosses are around. Nice touch.

Alicia Fox beat up Nikki Bella in a non-match as per the Authority's rules. Nothing much here, though Nikki's surgery is probably the best investment she ever made.

Rusev crushed Rob Van Dam for his biggest win yet. I know I like Van Dam jobbing, but he needs a win or two so that beating him still means something.

Ambrose and Orton had a very good match where Orton won clean with the RKO. The more I think about this the less I like it. This is a match that shouldn't have happened. You can't job Orton as he goes into a title shot but you shouldn't job Ambrose as he's white hot right now. Ambrose looked like he was on equal footing with Randy, but he's at the point now where he should be beating main eventers, not just hanging with them.

Cena and Reigns had a staredown in the back. You can feel the money when they finally have their match.

Alberto Del Rio beat Dolph Ziggler because Ziggler is a face in the WWE, meaning he can't handle a man dancing fifteen feet away from him. I'm really sick of that ending.

Stardust and Goldust had another great out there promo with Goldust getting in the awesome line of "Where we're going, we don't need Rhodes."

After a break, Layla hugged Fandango and said she couldn't handle it if he still had feelings for Summer. He assured her he didn't but then saw Summer (looking GORGEOUS) who gave him a look that said she knows he wants her. I never thought I'd say this, but being Fandango doesn't sound half bad.

Jerry Lawler brought out Bret Hart for an appearance in Montreal. Bret seemed happy to be there and even got to punch out Damien Sandow. This was a special for the live fans and there's nothing wrong with that at all.

Sheamus beat up Sandow in a short match.

Renee Young interviewed Batista, who read a fan letter from Johnny Russo who is worried about what would happen if

Batista's face got hurt. Funny stuff and Batista is feeling the character.

The listings for what's on the free week of the Network makes me want to go buy it again.

Jericho beat Batista clean with a Codebreaker. Post match Bray Wyatt came out and taunted him, so Jericho told Bray to shut the heck up as is his custom. Jericho went after him but Bray just had the Family appear next to him. I read this somewhere else but Cena has been the only person to figure out how to fight Bray Wyatt: bring back up.

By the way, yes I know Miz allegedly did all those things, but it's all a big jab at Batista because WWE is really petty and doesn't get why Batista would leave WWE for three months to promote his major role in one of the biggest movie series of all time. You would think they would market the heck out of that but instead, let's have Miz be a stand-in for Batista and mock him.

Paige continued her over the top praise of AJ as her slow burn heel turn continues. They beat the Funkadactyls and the losers argued after. I still have no idea why I'm supposed to be interested in Cameron.

Kofi Kingston beat Cesaro again as what should be a Superman push continues to go absolutely nowhere. Cesaro was so ready to turn face the night after Wrestlemania and now he's jobbing to Kofi before probably winning the Intercontinental Title in a few weeks to put him right back where he was a year or two ago. WWE can be stupid like that. Big E. saved Kingston from a post match attack.

Rollins talked to Cena in a good promo where again, Cena made it seem like Rollins was his equal.

Bo Dallas beat El Torito because he's awesome. I don't know where they're going with Bo but he's won me over.

Orton and Kane broke up a decent Rollins vs. Cena match, which is what should have happened in Orton vs. Ambrose. Reigns and Ambrose came in for the save and Cena stared Reigns down to end the show.

This show was a good example of what I was hoping this series would be. I really liked the show as I watched it live but it doesn't hold up all that well when I look over it again. It's still a solid episode but down more in the B range than the A-I gave it in the first place. Good stuff though and Battleground actually looks awesome instead of being the worst show of the last year.

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