

Monday Night Raw – May 17, 1999: The Future Is Now

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 17, 1999

Location: National Car Rental Arena, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's the go home show for Over the Edge and that's probably a good thing all things considered. I know these shows were drawing huge numbers but I can't get into the episodes. It's far too focused on the short matches and a ton of angles, which really doesn't hold up all that well after fifteen years. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Tonight: Austin vs. HHH and Rock vs. Undertaker in a casket match.

Road Dogg/X-Pac/Kane vs. Mark Henry/D'Lo Brown/Billy Gunn

Take two feuds and roll them into one. Dogg hammers away on Henry to start but gets knocked down with a single forearm. Now Gunn is willing to come in for some cheap shots and a powerslam for no cover. Brown comes in to face X-Pac with a big spinwheel kick dropping D'Lo.

Everything breaks down for a few seconds until it's Gunn working over X-Pac in the corner. Gunn finally misses a shot and Dogg gets the hot tag to clean house. The shaky knee drop gets one but Brown comes in to start the parade of finishers. Everything breaks down and the Outlaws fight up the ramp as Kane and Henry fight in the crowd. We'll say the match is thrown out somewhere in here.

Rating: D+. The idea here was fine but it was a pretty dull match. This was still better than most of what I had to sit

through last week though so at least it's an improvement. Kane vs. Henry has potential to be a decent and quick power battle but other than that, this didn't do much for me.

Here are Shane and the Corporate Ministry to say that they're going to annihilate everyone in their path tonight. The Union's car has been delayed, so tonight the Corporate Ministry has a three man hit list tonight. First up is Vince McMahon who should lock his door.Be

Vince and the Stooges are in the back and locking themselves in the dressing room because the Union isn't here.

The Corporate Ministry comes after Vince and company but Vince tells his guys to do the best they can. He backs away and HHH, Chyna and Undertaker pop out of a closet as the lights go off.

We come back to see Vince being taken away on a stretcher.

Godfather/Val Venis vs. Owen Hart/Blue Blazer

Before the match, Val compares himself to a hurricane in his usual style. We're ready to go after some long entrances. Venis armdrags Blazer to get things going but gets taken down by one from the masked man. Blazer offers a handshake but Val runs him over with a shoulder instead. A hurricanrana gets two on Val as Lawler makes as many puppy jokes as he can. Off to Jarrett who hammers away on Val but he gets over to the corner for the hot tag to Godfather. The Death Valley Driver is broken up by a chop block as Nicole Bass comes out to yell at Debra. Blazer gets caught in the Death Valley Driver for the pin in the confusion.

Rating: D. Another dull match here but it builds up to a pair of matches on Sunday. This is another case where you could have a good match if you just let the guys wrestle but instead it had to be about the girls and the insanity, which is a hallmark of the Attitude Era. Just calm down already.

Austin arrives.

Meat vs. Test

Meat has the new Pretty Mean Sisters with him, meaning Ryan Shamrock has joined them. Test runs him over to start but Meat has a conference with the girls on the floor. Back in and Meat takes over with Russian legsweeps until Test gets two off a DDT. A jumping back elbow puts Test down for two and we hit the chinlock. Test rolls through a cross body for two but it's quickly back to the chinlock. This one doesn't last as long as Test comes back with a gutwrench powerbomb and clothesline but Jackie comes in with a dropkick to Test for the DQ.

Rating: D+. Did I mention I really don't like Jackie? Anyway, this was a long and dull match with almost nothing going on for the most part. Meat was a very low level story and Test was nowhere near ready to carry a match like this. Test would get better with experience but he needed better than this.

PMS beats on Test until Tori comes out for the save.

Here's Austin for a chat. He brings up Shane's vision for this Sunday. Austin sees HHH coming down here and taking a beating tonight. As a bonus, Chyna can have a boot of her own if she wants to get involved. He says he's ready for Undertaker on Sunday but here's the Corporate Ministry to interrupt.

Shane threatens to award Undertaker the WWF Title if Austin puts his hands on him Sunday. If Austin is looking for Vince though, he can join him in the hospital tonight. The Corporate Ministry comes after Austin but Ken Shamrock sneaks up on Shane. The Union comes out for the brawl and Austin Stuns Paul Bearer. Undertaker doesn't move.

Undertaker vs. The Rock

Casket match and Rock still has a broken arm. Rock hammers away to start and takes the big man down with a clothesline.

He lowers his head though and gets dropped with a running DDT. Undertaker seems to be limping a bit. We cut to the back where the factions are still fighting. Back with Rock slamming Undertaker and loading up the People's Elbow, but Undertaker sits up. Rock kicks him down and then drops the elbow in a funny bit. Cue HHH for a distraction but Rock nails Undertaker with the cast to stay in control. HHH nails him low though and a sledgehammer to the bad arm is enough to put Rock in the casket.

Rating: D-. A five minute casket match? This was just there to set up Rock vs. HHH on Sunday with the cast stuff being a nice touch. The match itself was WAY too short though, especially when you consider we spent part of it watching a brawl in the back. Nothing to see here, as is usually the case.

HHH beats on the casket with the sledgehammer, sending the casket to the back on a stretcher. Sgt. Slaughter and company cut it open and call for an ambulance.

Hardy Boys/Michael Hayes vs. Brood

Hayes is the Hardys' new manager and this was set up last night when the Brood took a Bloodbath. Jeff stomps on Edge in the corner to start but walks into a full nelson slam. Off to Gangrel who gets caught in a headscissors out of the corner before Matt comes in and hammers away. Christian comes in without a tag and gets two off a rollup before nailing a fireman's carry gutbuster for two more.

Hayes finally gets the tag and nails a few shots before bringing Jeff back in. A springboard moonsault gets two on Christian and it's back to Matt for some choking. Matt nails a northern lights suplex but dives into a dropkick to put both guys down. Edge comes in off the tag and spears Jeff in half. Hayes nails Edge but gets caught in an electric chair face plant. Everything breaks down and Edge hits a flip dive over the top to take Jeff out before the referee calls the match.

Rating: C-. The Hardys vs. Edge and Christian is never a bad thing and the match worked as well as you would expect it to. It's always fun to see these legendary teams getting their starts together. Gangrel would be out of the picture soon and everything would take off from there.

Rock is sent away in an ambulance.

Shane says two down, one to go.

Here's Al Snow with a box but first we get package on Al Snow thinking Head was the Hardcore Champion, only to have Pierre the One Eyed Deer pin Head to become champion. Hardcore Holly broke Pierre last night on Heat so Snow is here for a funeral. Pierre was a friend of the NRA and a Field and Stream cover deer.

Snow opens the box and Pierre is inside. Snow puts in Pierre's cigars, reading glasses, his favorite episode of Columbo, his favorite tape (Best of Sammy Davis Jr.) and his nightshirt. Snow swears revenge on Holly for attacking Pierre. "I haven't seen a man violate an animal like that since my class took a trip to the sheep farm!" Apparently Pierre has left the Hardcore Title to Snow. Al imitates Pierre's dying words until Holly comes out with Pierre's antler. Snow lays him out with a Snow Plow.

JR hypes up Raw's 8.1 rating last week. That's the highest rating the show ever received.

Austin gets jumped by the Corporate Ministry.

Big Show vs. Big Boss Man

Both guys have backup. Boss Man nails Big Show (wearing jean shorts instead of tights) with the nightstick before the bell and the giant is in trouble. Big Show comes back with a right hand (complete with a SICK thud) to take over. The seconds brawl to the back as Boss Man kicks him low. Not that it

matters as a big boot and the chokeslam get the pin for Big Show.

Beaver Cleavage talks about his mom's flapjacks.

The Corporate Ministry left during the break with the Union in hot pursuit.

HHH vs. Steve Austin

Non-title and HHH has Shane and Chyna with him. The brawl starts in the aisle with Austin getting the better of it. A clothesline puts HHH into the crowd and now we get the bell. They head inside and HHH has to bail to the floor to avoid a Stunner. That's fine with Austin as he nails another clothesline and goes after the leg back inside. A facebuster takes Austin down though and HHH stomps and chokes in the corner.

Steve comes right back with a Thesz Press and the middle finger elbow, only to be sent to the floor with his leg getting caught in the ropes. They head back into the crowd with HHH hammering away, only to have Earl Hebner take the chair away. Back to ringside and Austin goes to the announcers' table but dives into a right hand to the ribs. HHH whips him onto the table a few times and Austin is in trouble.

They head back inside with Austin grabbing a sleeper, only to get suplexed right back down. We hit the chinlock on Austin for a few moments before he fights back up for a double clothesline. Austin hammers away in the corner and throws HHH out to the floor. Now it's HHH being thrown over the announcers' table (JR: "AND WE'RE NOT EVEN SPANISH!") before Austin suplexes him back inside for two. The Undertaker's symbol starts lowering from the ceiling for no apparent reason as the match basically stops. The lights go out and here's Undertaker to attack Austin for the DQ.

Rating: C+. These two are always good for a watch and they got

the time to have a long brawl here. HHH was nowhere near ready for this level yet but he didn't do badly at all. The Undertaker interference was obvious but you don't want HHH to lose and of course he couldn't beat Austin yet.

Shane/Chyna/Undertaker/HHH destroy Austin as the Corporate Ministry returns. Of course the Union returns as well and in the brawl, Austin somehow handcuffs Undertaker to the symbol. The symbol is raised and Undertaker laughs to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. I liked this one much better than last week's show as they calmed WAY down and had some coherent stories going on. It also did a good job of setting up Sunday's show, which is the entire point of a go home episode. They still need to tone things down but the good stuff is coming.

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