

Smackdown – August 8, 2014: When The Authority's Away... .WWE Is Pretty Dull

Smackdown

Date: August 8, 2014

Location: Laredo Energy Arena, Laredo, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

We're continuing to Summerslam and the main story continues to be Stephanie vs. Brie. With Cena and Bray gone, there really isn't much of interest on the shows. Thankfully we do have something to look forward to tonight as Ambrose gets to pick his stipulation for the match against Rollins at Summerslam. Let's get to it.

Here's Ambrose to select his stipulation for the match at Summerslam. Ambrose talks about how the Authority thought they had a plan but they found out you can't plan for insanity. Dean pulls out a list of options for the match: Cole Miner's Glove, Alligators Around The Ring, JBL's Hat On A Pole, Fight in the Parking Lot, Boxing, Good Housekeeping, Loser Washes HHH's Car match ("But Seth already does that") but all of those are off the table.

This brings out Rollins who wants Dean to just get to the chase. Dean introduces Seth as Mr. Money in the Bank and suggests the briefcase get a good detailing. Seth says Dean thinks with his heart instead of his head, but it's only going to get Dean so far. In two weeks, everyone is going to get to see the end of Dean Ambrose, "on the WWE Network for the low low price of \$9.99."

Dean asks if they're going to pay to see Seth run again. Not this time actually, because it's going to be a lumberjack match. Seth says he's not going anywhere at Summerslam because

he still has the briefcase, and that makes him the future of this company. As for Ambrose's future, he has a match of his own, against Randy Orton. We get a clip of Orton attacking Reigns and Dean seems pleased.

Ryback/Curtis Axel vs. Mark Henry/Big Show

Henry and Axel get things going with Curtis bailing out to the floor. Ryback comes in and tells Henry to hit him so they shove each other around a few times. Ryback shoves him down and goes after the leg as the heels start tagging to stay on the leg. For some reason Ryback tries a powerbomb but is backdropped with ease. Big Show comes in to clean house and it's a World's Strongest Slam to Ryback and a chokeslam to Axel for the pin at 3:20.

Rating: D+. So which monster turns on the other first to set up a huge showdown on pay per view while the fans get nachos? This is the fallback option for all of the big monsters and it gets very tiring after awhile. Also, nice job of building up Ryback and Axel so you can job them out over and over.

Ziggler is with the Divas and Rosebuds as they watch Rollins' briefcase get destroyed. Rollins comes up and they insult each other a bit before making a match between the two of them for later.

Network ad.

Damien Sandow vs. Sin Cara

This time Damien is a border patrol agent, which is probably a jab at the immigration issues down in Texas. Sandow easily takes him down and drops the Wind-Up Elbow for two but Sin Cara's handspring elbow gets the same. Damien comes back with an Edge-0-Matic for two but Cara takes him down with ease and hits the Swanton for the pin at 2:02.

Six minute video on Lesnar vs. Cena from Raw.

Seth Rollins vs. Dolph Ziggler

Rollins quickly takes him down and puts on a chinlock followed by Three Amigos for two. Back to the chinlock for a bit until Dolph fights out with a jawbreaker. The Fameasser is countered though as Ziggler is sent out to the floor. We take a break and come back with Seth kicking Ziggler in the face for two before heading outside for more right hands to the head. Ziggler fights out of yet another chinlock and gets two off a neckbreaker.

A small package gets the same and Dolph grabs the running DDT for a third near fall in a row. Rollins counters the Zig Zag but gets sent out to the apron. Dolph avoids a springboard dive and grabs the Fameasser for two. Seth throws him shoulder first into the post to put Ziggler on the floor again before sending him into the barricade. Back in and the Curb Stomp is good for the pin at 10:55 shown of 13:25.

Rating: C+. This wasn't bad but it was just a step above a squash with Ziggler having almost no chance for the entire match. Ziggler's start and stop push continues as he gets to run circles around Miz one week then gets screwed out of a win against Bo Dallas and now gets beaten by Rollins.

Randy Orton says Ambrose will find out who the truly sadistic one is in WWE.

Paige vs. Natalya

Natalya quickly takes her down into a Sharpshooter but Paige crawls out to the floor. The Paige Turner on the floor has Natalya mostly out but she still grabs a rollup for two. The PTO makes Natalya quit at 2:09.

Rusev vs. Big E.

The Bulgarian hammers away with shots to the face and a kick to Big E.'s chest. Big E. tries his Rock Bottom out of the

corner but gets elbowed in the face. The belly to belly puts Rusev down but he misses the Warrior Splash. A kick to the face sets up the Accolade to make Big E. tap at 1:51. Speaking of pushes disappearing, have Woods, Kingston and Big E. appeared together on a major show since uniting?

Lana does her usual while the hold is still on.

Jericho talks about how he's going to rid the WWE of the disease that is Bray Wyatt. The antidote is spelled Y2J and he's going to shove the buzzards down Bray's throat.

After another Network plug, we get a recap of Brie vs. Stephanie on Raw.

Dean Ambrose vs. Randy Orton

Randy goes right for the bad arm as you would expect but Dean hammers him into the corner, also as you would expect. Ambrose takes him down into a headlock and hammers away with right hands to the head. Randy is sent outside and nailed with a suicide dive as we take a break. Back with Randy holding an armbar before sending Ambrose chest first into the buckle. The bad arm is bent around the ropes so Dean fights back with right hands to the jaw.

Randy takes him right back down by the arm but gets caught in a quick DDT. Dirty Deeds is countered but Randy is sent out to the floor. Another suicide dive is countered by a forearm to the head and Ambrose is sent into the steps. The Elevated DDT is reversed with a backdrop over the top and now the suicide dive connects. Back in and the Rebound Clothesline drops Orton. Dirty Deeds connects but Rollins comes in for the DQ at 9:40 shown of 13:10.

Rating: C+. This is interesting as the spoilers said this was nearly a thirty minute match, so either the commercial cut out a lot of things or the reviewer couldn't tell time. The match was nowhere near the match they had on Raw a few weeks back

but at least Ambrose didn't do a job here. It's decent enough, but lumberjacks don't do much for me.

The brawl is on until Orton takes Dean down with an RK0. Rollins pours a soda on Ambrose's face and shouts that this isn't a game. A Curb Stomp ends Ambrose to close the show.

Overall Rating: C-. This was just ok but it gave Ambrose vs. Rollins a focus that it hasn't had in awhile. Other than that though, the lack of star power is really hurting things. Thankfully Monday is the go home show and the main event guys will be back. The Australian tour didn't help things either but it's something you have to deal with. This wasn't a bad show but it was a totally meaningless two hours of television.

Results

Big Show/Mark Henry b. Curtis Axel/Ryback – Chokeslam to Axel

Sin Cara b. Damien Sandow – Swanton Bomb

Seth Rollins b. Dolph Ziggler – Curb Stomp

Paige b. Natalya – PTO

Rusev b. Big E. – Accolade

Dean Ambrose b. Randy Orton via DQ when Seth Rollins interfered

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