

Impact Wrestling – September 17, 2014: Who's Left?

Impact Wrestling

Date: September 16, 2014

Location: Manhattan Center, New York City, New York

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Taz

This is the No Surrender special, which doesn't really need to exist as we're only a few weeks away from Bound For Glory. The card is fairly stacked though as we have a ladder match to continue the Tag Team Title series and Bobby Lashley defending against Bobby Roode. Maybe we'll even start building up the biggest show of the year. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the tag team series. The Hardys and Team 3D have won a match each and the first team to two wins are the Tag Team Champions.

Battle Royal

Taryn Terrell, Madison Rayne, Angelina Love, Velvet Sky, Rebel, Brittany, Havok

The winner gets a title shot at some point in the future. Havok destroys everyone in sight to start so the rest of the girls try to gang up on her. That goes as well as you would expect it to and Havok puts on Madison and Taryn in succession. The Beautiful People work together against Brittany and Rebel but Havok puts Brittany out. Rebel low bridges Angelina to the floor, leaving Rebel, Havok and Velvet. Rebel goes to the middle rope but gets shoved out onto the steps for the elimination. Velvet tries some kicks and a sleeper but Havok snapmares her over and slams Sky to the floor for the win at 6:00.

Rating: D+. This was your usual battle royal but they did a great job at making Havok look dominant. She sold the big beatdown a little bit but not enough that she stopped looking like a monster. The division has needed a new story for a long time and this might be just what it needed.

Gunner tells Samuel Shaw that his foot is fine and suggests that Shaw ask Brittany out. Shaw says he can't because he's fixated on someone else. It's going to be Gunner isn't it?

Here are MVP and Kenny King for a chat. MVP talks about how Lashley is going to win tonight and the headlines tomorrow will read Roode Awakening. He shifts over to someone else who has been making headlines: Chris Melendez. The Wounded Warrior comes out and they offer Melendez a spot on their team to carry their bags. Melendez turns it down, saying he doesn't need to be handed anything. King takes this as Melendez saying he's better than them. Kenny calls him peg leg and wants a referee out here right now.

Chris Melendez vs. Kenny King

MVP nails Melendez after the bell and we take a break ten seconds in. Back with King still in control and kicking Melendez in the back of the head. Some right hands get King two and it's off to a chinlock. A legdrop gets another two for Kenny and he picks Chris up, only to be countered into a sunset flip for the pin at 6:58.

Rating: D. This was a squash with Melendez getting in one move the entire match. King continues to be a hanger on with the other two members of the trio as he just doesn't do much for me. Melendez is getting a nice push, though he hasn't had the chance to show us much other than rookie level skills. That's not a knock on him or anything as he is a rookie, but he needs more ring time.

King beats Chris down post match until Mr. Anderson makes the save.

Video on Roode vs. Lashley.

Anderson checks on Melendez, who says he isn't hurt or injured.

X-Division Title: Homicide vs. Samoa Joe

Joe is defending. Feeling out process to start with Joe taking Homicide into the corner and firing off some kicks. A chop to the back and the knee drop gets two but Homicide gets in a few shots of his own to take over. He starts working on Joe's neck until Joe catches him in a release

overhead belly to belly suplex into the corner. A snap powerslam gets two for Joe but Homicide goes back to the neck. He loads up the Gringo Killa but Joe gets underneath him for the Koquina Clutch for the submission at 5:45.

Rating: C-. The match was way too short to mean much but it wasn't bad while it lasted. Homicide is a guy where I just don't get the appeal. I don't care for his style and his matches don't do anything for me. Joe is a decent X-Division Champion and it's nice to see the title actually defended more than once every few months.

Post match James Storm and the Great Sanada come out to beat up both guys. A low superkick lays out Homicide and Manik comes out in completely new attire to nail Homicide with a frog splash.

The Wolves talk about how this series is about their legacy and how they're climbing ladders to prove themselves.

Eric Young and Bobby Roode reminisce about how insane this year has been.

Wolves vs. Hardys vs. Team 3D

This is a ladder match and only the Wolves can't win the series here. The Wolves charge the ring to start the brawl and an ECW chant already starts up. The champions send the Hardys and Team 3D to the floor for back to back suicide dives. We get the first ladder brought in but Richards has to stop to kick Ray in the head. Ray and Matt both get hit by the ladder with Ray being driven back into the corner.

Jeff kicks the ladder into the Wolves and hits a Whisper in the Wind to put both champions down. We get the required helicopter spot with the ladder on Ray's head before he just drops the ladder on Richards' back. What's Up crushes Davey even more but Matt breaks up an attempt to get the tables. Edwards stops Matt from pulling down the belts but D-Von pushes the ladder over to send both guys into the ropes.

We take a break and come back with Ray powerbombing Jeff onto a pile of ladders, knocking another ladder into Eddie and Matt's faces. Ray sets up a ladder but the Wolves powerbomb him down for a save. The Wolves, D-Von

and Matt all climb up until Davey and D-Von knock each other off and Matt hits a Twist of Fate on Eddie. Jeff loads up a ladder in the corner and tries to jump over it but Ray gets up and superplexes him down with Jeff's feet hitting the titles on the way down.

Davey hammers away on D-Von in the corner until Ray slaps him HARD across the back to set up a Doomsday Device. Now the Hardys start cleaning house with the ladder and hit double Twists of Fate to Team 3D. Matt moonsaults Ray and Jeff Swantons D-Von in a cool spot. Poetry in Motion crushes Eddie against a ladder as the Hardys are in total control. They lay Davey onto a ladder and Matt holds it up for a splash from Jeff.

Team 3D comes back with tables but the Wolves bring in chairs (fans: "TLC!"). Davey double stomps Matt through a table at ringside, leaving Eddie to climb for the belts. Jeff is right there with him but Davey shoves the ladder over, sending Jeff ribs first onto a ladder. Eddie pulls down the belts to tie the series up at 18:10.

Rating: B. I think we've established that these three teams are going to be awesome no matter what they do. It's obvious that they're setting up a TLC match (even though that's what this was) for the final match and that's the logical choice. Unfortunately I'm not sure where they can go after this as the division could crash back down to earth after Bound For Glory. Still though, at least it's great stuff while it lasts.

Gunner vs. Bram

They lock up to start and the fight quickly heads to the floor. Gunner hammers away and gets two off a headbutt back inside. An exploder suplex gets the same but Bram gets in some shots to the knee to take over. Samuel Shaw comes out to offer support as Bram cannonballs down onto Gunner's leg. Gunner comes back with a clothesline and some headbutts, but his knee gives out on a powerbomb attempt. Shaw comes in and accidentally hits Gunner again, giving Bram the pin at 4:08.

Rating: C-. This was a decent power brawl as both guys can work a similar style well enough. I'm not sure where this story with Shaw and Gunner is going, but I have a bad feeling it might be Gunner as Shaw's latest obsession. Shaw has outlived his usefulness at this point as the insanity

has basically been written off, leaving him as just kind of odd. He's nothing special in the ring either so I'm not sure why he's still around.

Gail Kim is ready for Havok.

TNA World Title: Lashley vs. Bobby Roode

Lashley is defending and I'll only refer to Roode as Bobby. The champion shoves him down to start and leapfrogs over Roode with ease. Roode clotheslines him out to the floor to get himself a breather but MVP trips Bobby up to change control again. Things backfire though as the referee ejects MVP as we take a break.

Back with Roode not being able to get a fisherman's suplex due to his back. He holds his back and screams, prompting Tenay to say "I'm sensing his back is hurt!" Lashley throws him across the ring but gets caught in the Crossface until King makes the save. Eric Young comes out to deal with King and the Crossface goes on again. Lashley powers out with relative ease and there's the spear for a very close two. The shock on Lashley's face at the kickout is good stuff.

A quick Roode Bomb gets two and both guys are spent. They slug it out until Roode grabs a spinebuster for two. The powerslam gets two for Lashley and he has nothing left. Roode gets back up and Roode Bombs Lashley over the top and out to the floor for a big crash. Back in and Lashley slams Roode off the top but Roode jumps over the spear. He injures his leg though and can't Roode Bomb the champ, setting up the second spear to retain Lashley's title at 17:07.

Rating: B. The match got better as it went on, but who in the world is left for Lashley to fight? There are three shows left before Bound For Glory and Lashley has cleaned out the entire main event scene. I'm really not sure who they're going to put him against at the show unless he's going to fight some guy from Wrestle-1 that maybe five American fans have heard of. The match was good stuff here and probably could have headlined Bound For Glory.

A quick video for next week announces MVP vs. Robbie E vs. Magnus vs. Abyss vs. Austin Aries for a future World Title shot, though no date is

given. Only MVP and Aries come off as good challengers there and MVP vs. Lashley would be one of the weakest main events I could think of.

Overall Rating: B. This was one of the best shows they've had in a long time with two long and good matches and nothing really bad. Impact is actually really entertaining right now and easy stuff to sit through as they've cut out most of the stupid stuff and just let the wrestling act for itself. That being said, they're running out of time before the PPV and we only have a few matches even penciled in. The build is going to be weak at best and that's not good when the show is already in a weird place due to not airing live in America. Really solid show this week.

Results

Havok won a battle royal last eliminating Velvet Sky

Chris Melendez b. Kenny King – Sunset flip

Samoa Joe b. Homicide – Koquina Clutch

Wolves b. Team 3D and Hardys – Edwards pulled down the title belts

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Bram b. Gunner – Pin after Samuel Shaw accidentally hit Gunner

Lashley b. Bobby Roode – Spear