

Reviewing the Review – Monday Night Raw: September 29, 2014

At this point it's pretty clear that Lesnar isn't going to be defending the title at Hell in a Cell and at the end of the day, that's probably the best thing they could do right now. Lesnar vs. Cena is a good feud but they need to give it a chance to breathe instead of just doing it over and over again to diminishing results. Instead we have Cena and Ambrose vs. the Authority which is a very nice option and far better than what we were sitting through at this point last year. Let's get to it.

We opened with the Authority in the ring and Stephanie actually acknowledging the CM Punk chants in Chicago. They had to do something like that as the fans just want attention more than anything else. Heyman came out and had a chat with Rollins but not a lot was said. This felt like a way to distract the fans, because Heaven forbid we have a hot match to catch their attention because we need to have the twenty minute talking segment to open things up.

After all that was over, Rollins said he wanted the briefcase back because it has some personal items inside. Remember that as it's going to be brought up later. Ambrose popped up on screen and said if Rollins wanted the briefcase, all he had to do was come and get it. This wasn't the best opening segment in the world and it had the same problem most of them have: they spent twenty minutes to accomplish what could have been done in ten.

WWE doesn't like breast cancer. This is the first of at least three times they would explain this.

HHH sent agents Joey Mercury and Jamie Noble to get the briefcase back. Those two as the new Patterson and Brisco is a fine idea. They wouldn't find Ambrose until he came to the ring but apparently Jamie ate a hotdog at the concession stand. I can go with this going forward.

Ziggler retained the Intercontinental Title in a fast paced triple threat along with Cesaro and Miz. This was a good match with everyone moving

around and Zigler superkicking Cesaro to steal a pin on Miz. They can keep up the idea that Cesaro hasn't gotten pinned clean yet and has a rematch coming to him. It's like they're building an actual division with progressing stories. That's a VERY welcome change and something that could help the product quite a bit.

We get a Wyatt Family video which said Harper was free. This sounds like a way to split up the team and I'd prefer it over a fight. Bray could use some freshening up anyway.

Layla beat Rosa Mendes while Tyson Kidd messed with his phone. This is your Total Divas match and the first of three Divas matches tonight.

The big segment of the show was Ambrose coming to the ring with a bag and the briefcase. He offered to give away all the shirts because he didn't like the prices on them. After throwing them into the crowd, the agents came in and tried to get the case back. This gave Ambrose the great line of "they're sending the cruiserweight division after me?" Security came out ("weren't you Rosebuds last week?") and Ambrose left the case. Rollins opened it up and got covered with green slime. The look on Dean's face was outstanding and sold the whole thing.

I've heard people calling this the segment that made Ambrose a star but that's going a bit too far. This was very entertaining for one reason above all others: it was different. Those fourth wall jokes were funny and it made Ambrose feel like an outsider instead of the same old comedy guys. I remember JR talking about how bad comedy in wrestling can be if it's not natural. With Dean, it felt natural and not like the script said "comedy segment here". It's definitely good though and the showdown in the Cell is going to be great.

Bo Dallas interrupted Mark Henry's latest apology and beat him in about a minute. Henry destroyed Dallas in the back after a break.

Goldust and Stardust confirmed the Tag Team Titles were the Cosmic Key. Nothing else to see here.

Nikki and Brie did their usual argument and Brie had to face Cameron and Eva Marie in a handicap match. Amazingly enough, a former Divas Champion

was able to beat a girl with maybe an hour combined ring time and a girl who doesn't know how to make a proper cover. Nikki whining about having to be in a handful of handicap matches is really wearing thin and isn't going to sell a big match between the Bellas.

Time for COMEDY with Heath Slater and Titus O'Neil beating Los Matadores. There was a bull, a gator and a Bunny involved. I can live with the Bunny because it's showing off but the rest of the stuff was stupid. Again though, to people calling this the worst segment ever, I'd point out that the match wasn't even three minutes long.

Rusev and Lana came out to yell at Big Show. The giant came out and ripped down the Russian flag. Naturally WWE issued an official apology about this because HEAVEN FORBID anyone get offended over something that is going to be forgotten after about thirty seconds. I'm complaining about this apology offending me. Where's my official apology from WWE? I'm offended by how pathetic it is that people get offended by everything anymore. I WANT AN APOLOGY AND OFFICIAL STATEMENT! I MIGHT TELL PEOPLE TO PROTEST THE SHOW AND THAT MEANS THE STOCKHOLDERS MIGHT GET TICKED OFF!!!! LISTEN TO ME!!!!

Yeah I think some political correctness is stupid. Why do you ask?

Cena and Ambrose had a brief staredown in the back and tension was teased. They both want to beat up Rollins though.

Alicia Fox is Paige's new best friend and beat AJ Lee in a nothing match. It's better than repeating the same matches over and over again.

Sheamus beat Damien Sandow in another nothing match that doesn't seem to set up anything.

Hulk Hogan doesn't like cancer.

Stephanie told Kane and Orton that she doesn't care about their complaints. Tension is being teased here.

Cena and Ambrose beat Orton and Kane when Rollins interfered. There was nothing to the match and it was your standard main event tag. Rollins gave both heroes curb stomps onto the briefcase to end the show.

This show was the standard Raw Special: it would have been great if it only lasted two hours, but the extra hour drags it down. The cancer stuff is going to get old in a hurry and comes off like more of a publicity stunt than anything else. Thank goodness we have another month of WWE saying CANCER SUCKS because they might come off as pro-cancer otherwise.

The wrestling wasn't anything special but as usual they have a lot of good stuff coming up in the future. The problem though is them screwing up all of the upcoming stuff instead of it actually paying off. Or if nothing else they might have to worry about offending someone and apologizing for logical storylines. Again, either step on some toes or be perfect schoolchildren that don't offend anyone and listen to the complaints that come with it. Pick something and stick with it though. Not a great show this week but it had its moments.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of 1997 WCW Monday Nitro Reviews at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NPPH0WI>

And check out my Amazon author page with wrestling books for under \$4 at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>