

# Reviewing the Review: Tables Ladders and Chairs 2014

We're up to another show which feels like they're trying to drain as much blood from the stone of Survivor Series that they can squeeze out. Basically it's a bunch of singles matches from people who were on the main event teams with gimmicks, more than one of which just do not need to happen. Also, since Lesnar shows up like once every three months, the main event is for Cena's #1 contendership, but only Cena can leave with it. Is there any reason why this wasn't the best looking show on paper? Let's get to it.

The pre-show saw the New Day beat Goldust and Stardust. Would you really expect anything else happening here? That's really all there is to say here, but I don't mind the New Day so far. Kofi and Langston have talent and giving them anything to do is a thing idea for them.

The opening match was Luke Harper losing the Intercontinental Title back to Dolph Ziggler in a ladder match in Ziggler's hometown. This was using the idea of "hit each other really hard with some big ladders" for about fifteen minutes and then have Ziggler win. It's a great choice for a brawl, but here's the problem with opening a show with something like this: it's going to be hard to top. Someday I need to write up a piece on how to structure a card.

Anyway, Ziggler got the title back and that really shouldn't have shocked anyone. It's his match in his city (until tomorrow when he was billed from Hollywood, Florida) against a guy that hadn't actually won a match since he won the title with help. The idea here was that the win elevated Ziggler, but when you think about it, he's right back to where he was before he was added to Team Cena but now he's the reason the Authority is gone. Winning the title really doesn't elevate him any higher than the Survivor Series win did, so I'm not sure if they're hitting their target on this one.

Earlier in the night, Miz told Naomi that she would be a Hollywood star

if he and Mizdow left with the titles. That's quite the idea, so of course Naomi played absolutely zero role in the title match. Miz hit one of the Usos with a Slammy for the DQ, meaning the story has to continue. They need to do something with Mizdow though because he can only do the same idea so many times before the time is over. I did hear a great idea for how they lose the titles: Mizdow is legal but Miz is down, so Mizdow lays down and takes the pin because Miz isn't up yet.

The stairs match was the disaster everyone expected it to be. I'll avoid ranting on Big Show winning again because I think I've covered that idea to death already. Here's the major problem with this match though: why was it a stairs match? The gimmick didn't get anyone to buy the show, it didn't help either guy get over, it doesn't have a history, and it made the match repetitive. There is such a concept as "less is more" and that's what happened here. This should have been a wrestling match (with Rowan not getting pinned but that's another story) to give the fans a break from the weapons.

Cena and Rollins had a long and overbooked yet good tables match. I'm not entirely sure what the point was in the tie midway through the match as it really didn't do anything but extend the match. I guess it lets Rollins say he put Cena through a table but you don't need the tie to do that. Reigns and Big Show coming down were fine but the match had too much going on. Also, on top of that, what did Rollins have to win here other than pride? Put the #1 contendership on the line or something, because without a title to fight over, it stops meaning much.

Nikki retained over AJ in another nothing match. Three notes here: first of all, Brie said that she's fine with her sister because they're family. That's about as lame of an answer as they could have gone with and is code for "We changed the story. Get over it." The other note is Nikki Bella ACTUALLY CHEATED to keep the title by using hairspray to blind AJ for the Rack Attack. You know, like a villain is supposed to do. If villains don't cheat, it's hard for them to be villains.

Third, to further illustrate how over managed the whole company is, the stuff sprayed in AJ's eyes was originally called hairspray on WWE.com but they changed it to "an unidentified substance." Here's the thing: someone

actually looked at that report on WWE.com, saw that it said hairspray, and said no no no it was just some substance.

1. What's wrong with hairspray?
2. Why not just call it an unidentified substance in the first place?
3. Who in the freaking world cares that it wasn't actually hairspray??? I know there are some nitpickers out there, but was there really someone out there freezing the screen and zooming in on it to see if it was really hairspray???
4. Who looked at the report and said "CHANGE THIS IMMEDIATELY!!!!"? I really want to know who is in charge of the "identifying what Nikki Bella uses to cheat to win matches" department at WWE.com.
5. Someone is being paid to change hairspray to unidentified substance. Remember that the next time you're looking for a job.

Next up was Ryback vs. Kane in a chairs match. Here's a quicker way to cover this one. Read this but substitute Kane for Big Show, Ryback for Erick Rowan, chairs for stairs and swap the winner.

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Rusev b. Swagger Part 19.

Wyatt beat Dean Ambrose in the namesake match when a TV monitor blew up in Dean's face so Bray could hit Sister Abigail. I'll skip all the spots and get down to the message of this match: sometimes someone has to lose a match. Anymore WWE seems obsessed with finding ways for someone to slip on a banana peel to lose after dominating for most of the match.

Sometimes you have to have someone win and someone lose without some big gimmick ending.

If you're trying to elevate both guys, having one put up a heck of a fight but come up short isn't going to kill them (see Cactus Jack vs. HHH in 2000 for proof) but having Ambrose lose like he did here and in the Cell make me roll my eyes and forget the rest of the match. Tell me: how many things do you remember about the match outside of the ending? It was a good match but no one is talking about anything but the ending and how stupid it made Ambrose look. Get the idea here?

Overall this show had too much thought put into it and the whole thing got screwed up. The chairs and stairs matches could have been wrestling matches and the main event being worth anything (#30 in the Rumble perhaps?) would have helped it a ton. At the end of the day, Lesnar and the title not being around is killing this company and they need to get the title off of him as soon as possible.

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