

Thunder – September 2, 1999: Sid Can't Count

Thunder

Date: September 2, 1999

Location: Wendler Arena, Saginaw, Michigan

Attendance: 4,653

Commentators: Larry Zbyszko, Mike Tenay

We're getting closer to Fall Brawl and the card is starting to take some shape. The big story coming out of Monday is Luger accusing Hogan of driving the Hummer back in the summer, even though I don't think anyone was still wondering about that. Sting believes Luger, meaning he isn't sure if he can trust Hogan, who was totally his best friend who has never done anything bad to him ever. Let's get to it.

We recap Hogan/Sting/Luger from Nitro and Hogan standing next to the white Hummer. Wasn't it black at one point?

Opening sequence.

In case you want to check the color, we see the original Hummer attack on Nash. It's white there.

Clip from the end of Nitro where Sting found Savage and Gorgeous George in Hogan's locker room.

Here's Diamond Dallas Page to promise he's going to take care of Goldberg at Fall Brawl. He was going to do it tonight but then he realized he's in Saginaw and the fans here don't deserve it. Instead, he has a replacement for tonight.

Diamond Dallas Page vs. Al Greene

Page makes more Mama jokes and gets jumped from behind to start. That's fine with Page who hits a quick belly to back suplex and neckbreaker to take over. We get a nice variety of choking, stomping and choking as you can feel the televisions changing over to Smackdown in droves. Greene's

lone offense is a jawbreaker, followed by Page ducking a clothesline and Diamond Cutting Al for the pin.

Revolution vs. First Family in a No DQ match for Fall Brawl.

Shane Douglas vs. Dave Taylor

The Englishman sends him into the corner to start but charges into a boot, setting up a gordbuster from Shane. After a quick break on the floor, Taylor comes back with some European uppercuts before going after the legs with a very British style offense. Back up and Taylor goes for a middle rope forearm but Shane rolls away, sending Taylor into Regal by mistake. The Pittsburgh Plunge gives Shane the easy pin in a quick match.

Chris Adams comes out with the Union Jack but Benoit makes the save. The First Family and Revolution come in for a big brawl with the Revolution getting the better of it and earning the right to talk some trash.

Berlyn is here. As in WCW, not this show.

Kaz Hayashi vs. El Dandy

In something you don't often see to start, Kaz charges into a boot in the corner. Dandy doesn't follow up for some reason and gets armdragged down a few times, followed by a dropkick to send him outside. Kaz speeds things up with a big corkscrew dive but can't follow up. Back inside and Hayashi charges into another boot to the face (it's a really bad sign when they're repeating spots ninety seconds into the match), allowing Dandy to backflip over Kaz without making any contact.

That may not be the smartest move in the world but who am I to doubt El Dandy? Yes that joke has been done to death but what else is there to talk about with Dandy? A couple of slams put Kaz down but Dandy misses a middle rope splash. Back up and Dandy misses a charge but Kaz charges into the third boot to the face of the match. And this guy is supposed to be the next challenger for the Cruiserweight Title? Dandy hits a quick hurricanrana but his superplex is broken up, allowing Kaz to hit a senton backsplash for the pin.

Rating: D. This match ran just over three minutes and they managed to do

the same spot three times. I know neither guy is on the high end of the Cruiserweight division, but they really can't come up with anything better than this? Dandy really wasn't the best guy in the world to face Hayashi and he kind of jammed up Kaz's push.

Sid comes in post match for a chokeslam, powerbomb and win #76. Wasn't he in the eighties just a few weeks ago? With the lights coming down, Sid says Benoit is the only member of the Revolution that stands out and he'd love to beat him for the US Title.

Berlyn is still around. Still not here, but around.

Cruiserweight Title: Lenny Lane vs. Kidman

Hayashi, also known as victim #76, is getting the winner at Fall Brawl. Feeling out process to start with Kidman sending him into the ropes, only to eat a shoulder block. After some championship quality skipping, another shoulder (please not three times in one match again) puts Kidman down. Lane trips over him while running the ropes though and Kidman comes back with right hands.

A headscissors sends the champ down and a dropkick puts him on the floor, allowing Kidman to hit a big dive onto the brothers. Back in and Lenny flips out of a Fameasser attempt before sending him outside for a beating from Lodi. Kidman gets planted with a reverse powerbomb (I've always thought that would be a good finisher) and we take a break. Back with Kidman missing a charge, setting up a sexually suggestive waistlock. A gutwrench powerbomb gets...HE JUST POWEBOMBED KIDMAN!!!! I mean, of all the people that tried, LENNY LANE gets to powerbomb Kidman???

As my mind is trying to comprehend this, Kidman comes back with a powerbomb of his own for tow. The Bodog gets two more but Lane misses a cross body and hits the referee. Cue Lodi for a DDT but it has about all the effect you would expect from a Lodi move. Kidman reverses yet another powerbomb and loads up the Shooting Star, only to have Lodi come in again for the DQ.

Rating: C+. This was getting good and that powerbomb thing was actually a cool moment. I'm sure that's why the announcers didn't notice it and just

kept going with the match instead of mentioning how rare it was. Lane is decent enough in the ring but I have little desire to see him defending the title against people like Hayashi. It's just quite the drop in talent, but the match could be a pleasant surprise.

Mysterio comes out for the save. That would be another team that would be better than the Windhams.

Here's the Revolution for a chat. Benoit talks about Sid saying people need to stand out, so Benoit is ready to step up. Sid is going to have to beat him to death to take the US Title at Fall Brawl and that means more than a powerbomb. Saturn challenges Sid for tonight.

This Week In WCW Motorsports.

Coach Buzz Stern gives his four candidates a pep talk and picks Luther Biggs to be part of his Winners' Club. Biggs looks like a stoner and falls on his face on the way to Stern's side.

Harlem Heat vs. Disorderly Conduct

We get the intros this week because Harlem Heat doesn't have the belts coming in after losing them on a live show. Booker wristlocks Mike to start but they're quickly into the ropes. Instead it's off to a hammerlock followed by the yet to be named Book End and the Ax Kick for two.

Off to Stevie for a delayed double suplex, but Mike rakes the eyes to get over for a tag. It seems that WCW has given up on the idea of actually fighting Smackdown and is content to just let them have Thursday nights. Another eye rake staggers Ray but a double clothesline doesn't even put him down. His double clothesline puts the alliterative pair down though and it's the hot tag to Booker T to clean house. The Big Apple Blast (Hart Attack with a Harlem Side Kick instead of a clothesline) is enough to pin Tom.

Rating: D. Total squash here which took me back to 1995. Harlem Heat was a good team but they didn't need to be going after the belts again here. I like having Disorderly Conduct around as a jobber team though as they

seem like the kind of team that could possibly score an upset someday but never had any real chance.

The Windhams run in and are quickly dispatched. After a break, the Windhams vs. Harlem Heat for the titles again at Fall Brawl is announced.

Scotty Riggs vs. Prince Iaukea

Riggs jumps Iaukea at the bell as Tenay talks about a golf tournament. Iaukea comes back with a quick enziguri and we're in a chinlock less than a minute into the match. Oh yeah this is going to be quick. Back up and Riggs hits his dropkick before choking in the corner. Another dropkick and clothesline get two on the Prince before they head outside for even more dull stuff. Just because you go to the floor it doesn't make your match interesting. Back in and Iaukea misses a high cross body, setting up a Fameasser to give Riggs the fast pin. Thankfully it's too short to rate, meaning I didn't have to be bored for very long.

CALL THE HOTLINE!

Ad for Cat-Bo, a parody of Tae-Bo. This was kind of funny so points for that.

Here's the Cat to challenge...Hogan. That goes nowhere so he promises he can whip Goldberg.

The Cat vs. Goldberg

Miller gets in a superkick with the red shoes. He then gets speared and Jackhammered for the pin in about thirty seconds. Goldberg has his original theme back too and it really does work better than Crush Em.

Goldberg vs. Page video.

Hogan vs. Sting video.

Sid Vicious vs. Perry Saturn

Sid mocks Saturn to start but he might just be asking if Saturn wants to get some cheesecake after the show. Saturn ducks a right hand and low bridges Sid to the floor but the big man casually punches and chokes him

down. Back up and Saturn scores with three straight superkicks and a clothesline to send Sid outside. I'm shocked he's getting in this much offense. That offense ends though as Sid catches his plancha and drops Saturn across the barricade to take over for the first time.

Back in and Saturn nails a quick dropkick but the sunset flip is countered into a chokeslam for...no cover. No word on if that counts as a win or not but in WCW world it probably gives Sid another three victories. That's actually not the worst story in the world but when it's at the expense of half the roster, the value takes quite a hit. We hit the chinlock for a bit until Saturn fights up, only to have his cross body countered into a World's Strongest Slam for two. Saturn makes another comeback and hammers away in the corner, drawing in Steiner for the DQ.

Rating: D+. Saturn's offense looked good and I'm actually shocked they didn't have Saturn do the clean job here. It's almost like they're protecting the young guys instead of just jobbing them every chance they can get. I'm sure that's coming later, but it's nice to get a breather from the same stuff over and over again.

Speaking of getting a break, Sid loads up the powerbomb but Malenko comes in for the save with the TV Title belt. The rest of the Revolution runs out and cleans house. Notice how WCW makes sure that it takes four young guys to get rid of two big stars, which means young guys are ganging up on the old ones and even used a weapon to take them out. This story is pretty backwards when you think about it. A standoff ends the show.

Overall Rating: D. Well the booking was less frustrating tonight, but my goodness could they make it any more clear that they've just given up on the Thursday night battle in just a week? Sid vs. Saturn in a five minute match is the best they can give us for the main event? The matches were mostly short though and that makes things a bit easier to get through, but it's still low level stuff and some of the most boring wrestling I've seen in a long time.

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