

Wrestlemania XXXI Preview: Pre-Show: Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal

This one didn't take long.

This is on the pre-show this year and I can't say I'm surprised. The other day I saw someone say that this is just the same battle royal they had on the pre-show for years and he was exactly right. Yeah last year's was cool with Hogan endorsing it and Cesaro getting what should have been the star of a major push for him, but instead it would up being the catch all match for the people that couldn't get on the show anywhere else.

I won't bother listing off everyone in the match (only twenty this year, as it probably should be) but here are the names that matter: Miz, Mizdow, Kane, Big Show, Ryback, Mark Henry. Other than that everyone is a jobber or Hideo Itami making his main roster debut. The interesting thing is there's no spot for Sheamus, who I would have had winning the thing. However, now that he's not an option, it makes for a more wide open (or as wide as you can get with six guys as potential winners) field.

The only really interesting story for anyone in the match is between Miz and Mizdow, but the problem with FINALLY turning Mizdow here is if he doesn't win, what difference does it make? Unfortunately I have no faith in the writers to realize this so I don't think Miz or Mizdow goes over here.

Kane, Big Show and Mark Henry.....just no. Henry would be the best choice of the three and I think I've covered why I never want to see Big Show or Kane win a match again as long as they live. None of these guys need to win this though and there's no point in putting any of them over the younger guys. Let someone look good in eliminating them and leave it at that.

That brings us to the two people I could see winning. First and foremost, I really don't think Itami gets it. He comes off more like an entrant to

put in there so they don't have to put Neville or Balor in the match and have them lose before their callups in the very near future. Itami will probably get a kicking demonstration, but he isn't going to make it to the final three.

Therefore, I'm going with Ryback. He's been on a pretty good roll lately and they seem somewhat serious about making him into a big guy (see what I did there?) again. It doesn't help that I'm still a fan of the guy and would like to see him get as close back to where he was before the WE HAVE TO KEEP THE TITLE ON PUNK BECAUSE WE BOOK THINGS SEVEN MONTHS IN ADVANCE NOW booking cut his legs off. Something tells me I'm wrong on this, but it's more what I want to see than anything else.

Keep in mind that my pick instantly changes to Sheamus should he be in it, which wouldn't be the worst thing in the world. What would however be the worst thing in the world is if they don't do SOMETHING with Curtis Axel in this. I know he won't and shouldn't win, but have him do something to play up all the responses he's gotten since the Rumble. You have something there, so run with it, even if it's just a short sprint.

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