

Reviewing the Review: Money in the Bank 2015

Money in the Bank was always going to be a different kind of show as they had to fly through the build do to the lack of time. However, it was also helpful as we didn't have to sit through a month of people just fighting each other for no reason other than they would be in a contest determined by completely different means of winning. Let's get to it.

We'll get the biggest deal out of the way first: this show took place just a few days after the passing of the American Dream Dusty Rhodes. The show opened with a touching tribute as the roster came on stage to have the bell rung ten times, followed by Dusty's famous theme music being played one last time. This is one of the few wrestling deaths that actually got to me, which is surprising as I never cared much for Rhodes over the years. However, it's always good to see WWE give their heroes the kind of treatment they deserve.

However, there's also some really stupid stuff to get through, starting with the pre-show match. R-Truth beat King Barrett because that's what almost everyone does to Barrett. In theory this leads to Truth as the self professed King and Barrett running around saying "NO! I'M THE REAL KING!", because he hasn't been embarrassed enough yet. I'm not sure when we reach that point, but I'm scared to think of how bad it could get for him.

They started the regular matches off fast with the Money in the Bank ladder match, consisting of Sheamus, Randy Orton, Dolph Ziggler, Kofi Kingston, Roman Reigns, Neville and Kane. Sheamus won in what was actually a pretty big surprise, meaning it was time for people to criticize it. However, let's take a quick look at why Sheamus was at worst the second best option to win.

Neville – Not ready

Kane – Will you be serious?

Kofi Kingston – The longest of long shots but never a real contender

Dolph Ziggler – Dead in the water for months if not years now and potentially leaving in the near future. This would have been the weakest choice imaginable as Ziggler isn't a main event guy anymore.

That leaves us with three options.

Randy Orton is always a possibility, but we've seen Orton vs. Rollins how many times now? He would have been a good fall back option, but it feels like something we've seen so many times now that there's nothing to rehash.

Roman Reigns was definitely the heavy favorite but let's imagine the reaction if he wins. "Man, WWE never mixes things up anymore." "Reigns wins, just like everyone knew he would." "Can we get a surprise for once?" Well that's what we got, as Bray Wyatt remembered he had a reason to be mad at Reigns and interfered to cost him the match.

That leaves Sheamus, nearly through process of elimination. He may not be the most exciting option, but at least he's a former World Champion and has been doing well enough in the new heel role. If this leads to him taking over the Authority enforcer role from Big Show/Kane, it's certainly a plus. If Sheamus wins he'll be little more than a transitional champion, but he gets a recharge out of it. I see little problem here, but I'm sure I'll be told why he's so boring and all that, meaning I'll point out why doing the obvious Reigns win wouldn't have been much more interesting.

The match itself was the expected good Money in the Bank match, but as usual there were too many people in there. It lead to a bunch of sitting around for people, with Ziggler especially taking long rests outside on the floor instead of going for the briefcase. I could go for taking this down to five people or so and letting there be some drama instead of just piling the same spots we see every time. It's still entertaining though.

Nikki Bella beat Paige to retain the title with that big forearm after the referee caught the Bellas cheating because that's how the match was scheduled to end instead of having the ending that actually follows the

rules of wrestling. The match was actually good stuff as they had the longest title match since 2006 and the match worked accordingly. That's a telling sign going forward, but that being said, how many Divas would be able to survive a five minute match, let alone over eleven? Nikki is getting better but this Bellas storyline is long past its expiration date.

Ryback and Big Show did an average power match until Miz ran in to make it a three way feud, which is clearly what they've wanted to do the entire time. Why they didn't just MAKE IT THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE is anyone's guess, but I'd assume it has something to do with wanting to stretch feuds out for the sake of stretching them out because they think just waiting means building a story.

Cena vs. Owens II was outstanding, just as you would expect it to be. I liked it better than the first match but I won't put up much of an argument if you liked the first one better. The key here though was Owens' post match attack on Cena, as he continues to be the best heel in the company by just being a jerk that thinks he's better than everyone else. Yeah he'll run when it's not his time, but when the bell rings, he'll go toe to toe with anyone.

That's what makes all the chicken heels annoying: it's clear WWE knows how to book another style but they just don't. Owens could be in the title picture tomorrow if they wanted him to be, but I'm sure it's time for a gimmick match with Cena because that's what they do.

The Prime Time Players took the Tag Team Titles from the New Day in a surprising upset. However, the more you think about it, the more you think about it, the more it makes sense. This was the first time New Day was in a standard tag match (due to Kofi's injuries in the ladder match) and they lost the belts. It makes sense, which is why it's so surprising that WWE actually went with it.

The main event saw WWE World Champion Seth Rollins beat Dean Ambrose in a very, very long ladder match. This was a very solid option for a main event, but I'm hoping they take a break from Ambrose vs. Rollins for a while. It was a long, brutal match but the comebacks got a bit too much

to handle near the end. They could have cut five minutes out of the match to make it a bit better, though it was still an excellent match with some great drama. When you can make me believe that something I know won't happen might happen, you're having a good match.

Overall, Money in the Bank was exactly what I was expecting it to be, which made for an entertaining show. The ladder matches were always going to be fun, meaning they were more than carrying the show. That leaves you with anything else as a bonus, which consisted of a fun Divas match and an outstanding rematch between Owens and Cena. For a show thrown together in two weeks and the third in seven or so weeks, that's quite impressive.

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

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00XOUNBEA>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

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