

Smackdown – September 17, 2015: Bring Back Livewire

Smackdown

Date: September 17, 2015

Location: Verizon Arena, Little Rock, Arkansas

Commentators: Booker T., Jerry Lawler, Rich Brennan

It's the final show before Night of Champions 2015 and that likely means we'll be focusing on the midcard matches. If the past few Smackdowns before pay per views are any indications, that means it's likely going to be about Ambrose/Reigns vs. the Wyatts while they tease who the third man might be. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of Sting's two matches on Monday, neither of which were important enough to announce more two and a half hours early.

Here's Seth for his opening statement. When he defends the US Title this Sunday, he's going to remind John Cena of what happened to him at Summerslam. Sting is going to get what's coming to him on Sunday. As for Sheamus, tonight he and Rollins will team up to face Roman Reigns and Dean Ambrose and Rollins will show Sheamus what happens to him if he tries to cash in.

This brings out Sheamus to ask if Seth sees him as a friend or an enemy. Rollins agrees with the fans' chants of YOU LOOK STUPID but Sheamus demands that they respect the hawk. Sheamus says the exact same things he's said for three weeks now and Rollins smirks it off. Nothing new here and I don't buy the threat of a cash-in on Sunday. They do this every fall and it hasn't happened in years.

Sasha Banks/Naomi vs. Paige/Becky Lynch

Becky hammers Naomi in the face to start and knocks her into the corner for the tag off to Banks. Sasha quickly fights back and slams Becky on the back of her head as we take an early break. Back with Becky in trouble in the corner as Banks jumps down onto her ribs. Naomi does the

same before it's back to Sasha for an abdominal stretch. Basic psychology here so far. Becky gets away and makes the tag off to Paige for her assortment of superkicks and knees to the face. Becky pulls Sasha off the apron but distracts her partner by mistake, allowing Naomi to small package Paige for the pin at 9:02.

Rating: C. The story continues to build to Paige turning on her teammates and blaming them for all of her troubles. This was a better match than most from the Divas because they were working on a body part instead of just doing all their spots. It's the difference between having a match instead of having a collection of moves.

Stardust and the Ascension are ready for Neville and the Lucha Dragons on Sunday's pre-show. Simple promo to build up a match.

Kofi Kingston vs. D-Von Dudley

The SAVE THE TABLES signs are back! Before the match, Xavier wants to talk about a special woman: Mother Nature. Big E.: "She's a bad mother!" Woods: "SHUT YOUR MOUTH!" They have a petition on a clipboard (Woods: "That's like a mini table!") to save the tables and want the Dudleyz to sign right now. Kofi wants us to know that only we can prevent table poaching. D-Von isn't interested in signing and beats Kofi down in the corner. Big E. pulls out a table but D-Von throws Woods inside. The distraction lets Kofi grab a rollup with tights for the pin at 1:17.

New Day runs off with the table.

We recap Dolph Ziggler giving Summer a present on Raw. Brennan says it was a pair of earrings, which wasn't clear on Raw.

Recap of Nikki retaining the title via DQ on Monday, thereby breaking the record.

Team Bella is preparing for the Bellabration. They have 298 bottles of champagne ready for them. Nikki is proud that Kim and Kanye are coming but there needs to be some non-alcoholic drinks for Kim. Brie and Alicia don't seem pleased with her demands.

We recap the showdown between Reigns/Ambrose and the Wyatts on Monday.

Big Show is on his way to the ring for a match when Miz hands him a notebook with something inside. Show looks at whatever is in there, gets annoyed, and throws the book away.

Cesaro vs. Big Show

Cesaro hits a pair of quick dropkicks to knock Show into the corner but Show chops him back down. Another chop is countered into an armbreaker over the ropes in a unique idea. Cesaro starts cranking the arm across his shoulder but Show throws him down to take over again. Show stands on the knee against the ropes as Booker talks about his Top Five. I've missed that thing, though I have no idea why. We hit a leg lock on Cesaro (think an ankle lock but with Show's arms around the shin and knee instead of the ankle and foot) but he quickly rolls out.

The uppercuts in the corner stagger Show and a high cross body gets two. Another running uppercut to a kneeling Show gets the same and Cesaro tries the Crossface while Show is on his knees. Booker thinks it's an abdominal stretch because he's not very smart on commentary. The Neutralizer is countered as Cesaro flips out of a backdrop but he tweaks his knee on the landing. Show KO's Cesaro for the pin at 5:54.

Rating: C+. I liked this more than I was expecting to but the ending hurts it a bit. I guess it's time to make Big Show look good before he gets squashed by Brock Lesnar in Madison Square Garden because we're supposed to forget Brock mauling him at the Royal Rumble last year. Oh and well done on making sure Cesaro's push is stopped cold, because there was no one else that could do this job.

Renee Young, in a leather jacket, asks Ambrose and Reigns who their partner is on Sunday. Reigns says they have a partner but they can't say because they know Bray will be on him. Whoever it is, it was Dean's idea. They're ready to get momentum tonight before going to war on Sunday.

Kevin Owens vs. Dolph Ziggler

Ziggler attacks with right hands to start but eats a big forearm to the

face. Kevin avoids a dropkick and hits his back splash for two. It's already time for the trash talking, followed by countering Dolph's running DDT into a regular one. We take a break and come back with Zigler sidestepping a charge to send Owens into the post. A bunch of clotheslines set up the big elbow for two on Owens as they're not exactly doing anything beyond basics here.

Now the running DDT gets two more and Owens stumbles out to the floor. Zigler tries to slide to the floor after him but gets caught in a fall away slam into the barricade. Owens throws him into the timekeeper's area for a nine count with Zigler diving in before ten. Kevin superkicks him back to the floor and loads up the apron bomb but here's Ryback for the DQ at 11:07.

Rating: D+. I was bored for the most part here and the ending didn't help things. They were just doing the basics here and that's not really enough to get me interested in a match. I'm glad to see Owens win again though while Zigler doesn't get pinned, proving that you can protect both guys and not have them limping into their pay per view matches. Good booking to a lame match.

No one has shown up to the Bellabration.

Connor's Cure video.

Nikki tries to have the Bellabration but no one has shown up. Brie and Fox go off to fix it when Team PCB comes in. Charlotte talks some smack but the three leave without doing anything. Adam Rose, now in glasses, comes in and rips on the party. Nikki throws her cake and hits Brie and Fox. This was even less entertaining than it sounds.

Summer comes up to a tired Dolph and asks about the earrings. He tells her that sometimes a rose is just a rose, but sometimes it means more. Summer is confused.

Roman Reigns/Dean Ambrose vs. Sheamus/Seth Rollins

Rollins and Ambrose get things going but do nothing before Sheamus gets the tag. We have to wait some more though as Sheamus rolls outside to

yell at the fans for calling him stupid. He's very sensitive you see. Dean finally gets to punch Sheamus a few times before it's off to Roman for more of the same. Reigns sends Rollins to the floor and the Shield guys stand tall as we take a break.

Back with Seth holding Ambrose in a chinlock, followed by a belly to back suplex backbreaker for two. Sheamus comes in for a suplex into a slam and a lot of trash talking. It's back to Seth for a lot of stomping as Seth and Sheamus don't seem thrilled with tagging in and out. Off to an Irish chinlock until Dean fights up and takes Sheamus to the floor with a hurricanrana. The hot tag brings in Reigns to clean house and it's time for all those clotheslines. Seth escapes a powerslam but his low superkick is countered into a rollup.

That's not enough for Reigns as he lifts Seth up into a powerbomb The threat of a Superman Punch sends Seth to the apron but he comes back in with a chop block and the low superkick. Sheamus reaches out for a tag but drops down to the floor instead. Seth grabs the briefcase but tags Sheamus in anyway. Sheamus takes the case right back, only to eat the suicide dive from Ambrose. Back in and the Superman punch and Dirty Deeds give Ambrose the pin at 16:51.

Rating: C. This was your standard main event tag as they continue to try to build up towards the six man on Sunday. It should be interesting to see who the partner is, but I have a bad feeling it's going to be Kane, because we need more Kane in our lives you see. Not a bad match though and Sheamus vs. Rollins is an interesting tease, though I don't think it's going anywhere.

Post match a Wyatt video pops up showing the destruction of Orton and Jimmy Uso. Bray and company come on screen to ask who would be foolish enough to join the fight on Sunday. Not that it matters as they will all fall down.

Overall Rating: C. Well let's see. The promos were mediocre. The wrestling was mediocre. The build to Sunday was mediocre. What else can I do here other than call it an average show? It's the standard Smackdown: it's a decent enough way to kill two hours but you wouldn't miss a thing

if you didn't see it. I've never been one to say that Smackdown should be canceled, but if this is all they can do with it, there's no need to have Smackdown around.

Results

Sasha Banks/Naomi b. Paige/Becky Lynch – Small package to Paige

Kofi Kingston b. D-Von Dudley – Rollup with a handful of tights

Big Show b. Cesaro – KO Punch

Kevin Owens b. Dolph Ziggler via DQ when Ryback interfered

Roman Reigns/Dean Ambrose b. Sheamus/Seth Rollins – Dirty Deeds to Sheamus

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