

Reviewing the Review: Night of Champions 2015

So here's the thing: it's pretty clear to me that there's no point in doing one of these things for every Raw. Far more often than not on the TV shows I'll have to stretch to come up with something to talk about and I can't stand it when someone writes just to fill in space. I don't want that to be the case here and I'm not going to do a Reviewing the Review for each week of Raw.

If there's a major point or two that I don't touch on in the weekly column I'll do a separate post for it, but I'm not going to waste my own or far more importantly your time with stuff like "Rusev and Ziggler did this to build to their next match. It's not great but I've seen worse," seven times a week with one or two in depth topics. I'll do one for every pay per view and major Raw's (like this week's) but it's stupid to sit around typing and not saying anything if there's nothing important.

As for Night of Champions, the show was built up very well given what they had to work with. Sting vs. Rollins was destined to be a mess instead a coherent match and that's best for everyone involved. Other than that we have Cena vs. Rollins, which will be good but nothing we haven't seen before. That being said, this looked good on paper and that's more than you can say about most B shows.

The pre-show match was a six man tag where Stardust/Ascension beat Neville/Lucha Dragons in a totally standard match that did nothing for me. Neville and the Dragons did their dives and high spots but Neville tried one too many and got taken out by the Queen's Crossbow. The match didn't advance the story but they did a rematch the next night (another reason not to do these things every week: so many rematches without anything significantly changing).

Kevin Owens won the Intercontinental Title from Ryback by raking the eyes. This sets up a nice story going forward as Ryback knows he can beat Owens in a straight up fight but Kevin spends weeks ducking him. Well as

many weeks as there are until we get to Hell in a Cell because WWE doesn't get the idea that you can have another match in between title matches and not everything has to be linear. It's cool to see Owens getting something after his feud with Cena ended and this is better than nothing. They'll screw up his reign of course but you have to expect that in WWE.

Ziggler and Rusev had a long match that ended when Summer threw a shoe and hit Rusev by mistake, setting up the Zig Zag for the pin. These two had a good story going but then Lana's wrist injury crippled whatever they had going. Now it's just the two of them running around in circles having lame matches without Lana being around to make things more interesting. People complain about Lana being weaker without Rusev, but could it have anything to do with her being a side player to Ziggler's repetitive antics. I'm sure the solution is to put her back with Rusev so it can start all over again right?

New Day retained the Tag Team Titles over the Dudleyz via DQ in a hilariously entertaining match. This was all about Xavier Woods at ringside being the most annoying pest he could do whatever things came to his mind. This is how comedy acts are supposed to go. Notice how much more entertaining Woods has been because he mixes things up.

That's what got on my nerves about people like Santino and Eric Young: they would do the exact same stuff over and over again and almost never added anything new. Woods is doing the trombone thing every week but he changes what he plays and shouts enough different stuff to keep it from getting boring. New Day is an absolute blast and I haven't had this much fun with an act in a long time.

Charlotte finally won the Divas Title from Nikki Bella in a rather strange match. Charlotte tweaked her knee early on and didn't get in any offense until the very end when she hit a spear and hoked the Figure Eight for the win. Now this can be looked in a few different ways. First of all, there's the idea that Nikki had to keep the pressure on Charlotte but as soon as Charlotte got in a single shot she had Nikki beat. On the other hand, it might have been a way to keep Nikki from having to do any actual wrestling and to just let her do stuff to Charlotte's leg.

On the third hand, maybe it was a legitimate injury and Nikki had to carry things. Either way, it was an entertaining match and Charlotte took the title after Nikki got the all important record. By all important I mean important to WWE alone but I'm sure they think the fans are thrilled. You know, all 800,000 of them that watch Total Divas, none of whom watch WWE already and all of whom I'm sure worship Nikki Bella. Either way, this might actually lead somewhere with the Divas Revolution, even though it died a month ago. Also of note: Ric Flair came out to celebrate and looked happier than he has in years. That's nice to see.

The Shield boys' mystery partner was Chris Jericho. This is the ham sandwich of choices: it's fine, but nothing that is going to blow the roof off the place. The live crowd seemed to like it though and that's always a big help. It's pretty clear that this feud is likely going on for a long time until Ambrose and Reigns realize the only way to stop the Wyatts is to do the unthinkable and reunite the Shield. That's fine for an idea and the response when it finally happens, even if it's clear where they're going, is going to be incredible.

The match itself was fine as Jericho, though older now, is at least still able to work a one off match like this. Strowman looked like a monster out there and that's all he needed to be. Notice that Reigns and Ambrose got to stagger him and even knock him off his feet but not much more. Eventually Strowman is going to lose and most of his character will change, but they're taking their time getting there to make it feel like a big deal.

John Cena got the US Title back from Rollins with a clean pin in easily the match of the night. These two work well together but like so many other things in WWE, the match has been run into the ground so badly that it's almost impossible to get fired up for it again. They did the trading big shots formula by skipping the buildup part, which made for a much more entertaining match. I don't need to see it again, which is why we saw it again the following night on Raw. I'm also not wild on the World Champion losing a clean fall, but that's apparently par for the course these days.

Cena gave Rollins an AA on the floor before Sting came out to make things

a bit more realistic. Yeah the deck was stacked against Rollins, but at the end of the day there's almost no way you can have Sting beat Rollins when he's nearly thirty years older and barely ever wrestles. Sting did everything he could here and pulled off an entertaining match which is all you can ask for. The story here was Sting's neck/spine getting jacked up by the buckle bomb, which hopefully doesn't end his career. Rollins retained with a rollup and that's about as good as they were going to be able to do. Fun match and as good as they could do it.

Sheamus tried to cash in but was foiled by the returning Demon Kane, which we'll get more into later. I knew they weren't doing the real cash-in here because this was the annual cash-in tease that doesn't go anywhere at this time of year because the briefcase has only been hanging over our heads for three months now.

Night of Champions was quite the entertaining show with almost nothing bad and a really fun match between Rollins and Cena. They've got some momentum heading into Hell in a Cell with Undertaker vs. Lesnar being a good choice to headline a B level show. Unfortunately no one is going to be watching because of Monday Night Football but at least the people who are sticking around are getting some good shows.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book of Complete 1997 Monday Night Raw Reviews at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/product/B015IN12I2>

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

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