

# **Smackdown – October 1, 2015: A Lucha Libre Tradition And Split Personalities**

## **Smackdown**

Date: October 1, 2015

Location: Times Union Center, Albany, New York

Commentators: Booker T., Jerry Lawler, Rich Brennan

Oh joy it's another Smackdown. We're getting closer to the show moving to USA in January, meaning the show is the same lame duck that it's been for years now. I'm really hoping this show gets a new life on the new network but for some reason WWE is perfectly happy to have the show just exist on Fridays with nothing important happening. Let's get to it.

On a sidenote: today is five years to the day since Smackdown debuted on SyFy.

We open with a recap of Kane and Rollins on Monday. I'm still trying to figure out if I'm supposed to cheer for the demon who tried to drag Seth down to whatever was beneath the ring or the guy who cheats all the time and attacked Kane because he couldn't handle someone disagreeing with him.

Here's Rollins to open the show. He has the belt with him, even though Kane was last seen with it on Raw. Rollins is livid and demands that Kane get out here so here's Corporate Kane on crutches. Kane is glad to be back at his job, even if it includes dealing with Rollins acting like a spoiled brat. It's time for exposition mode (that should be Rollins' finisher as it puts more people out than the Pedigree) as Rollins recaps the entire story and explains everything again before they argue over who needs psychiatric evaluations.

Kane is just a corporate boss and the demon is a figment of Seth's imagination. Maybe Rollins is just trying to get out of his US Title match this Saturday in Madison Square Garden. I certainly would want to

get out of another loss because someone was stupid enough to have the World Champion feud with the US Champion and lose every match.

Kane says there's a demon chasing Rollins but it's not him. He could use a pick me up though so how about Rollins teams with the New Day against the Dudley Boyz and Demon Kane. You mean the figment of his imagination? So it's a handicap match? Rollins says no, but Kane says he'll be at ringside to make sure the demon is in action. Lawler: "This proves that Kane is smarter than the average bear!" Well we were running low on Hanna-Barbera references so thanks for covering us King.

### Team Bella vs. Team BAD

Before the match, BAD brings up the obvious point: no one cares who started the Divas Revolution. I do love how they keep arguing about this when it's a rare occasion where you can point to the night Stephanie started it but no one brings her up in the whole thing. Sasha says the only thing anyone is going to remember is Team BAD taking over. Booker: "That's hot."

Brie kicks at Sasha to start and is actually getting close to figuring out the timing on those YES Kicks. It's off to Naomi vs. Alicia but Tamina makes a blind tag and takes Fox down with a clothesline. Nikki bounces off Tamina and gets taken over in the Samoan drop. The Bellas are sent to the floor and we take a break.

Back with Nikki sending Naomi to the apron and Alicia offering a distraction so Nikki can hit the big forearm. Fox puts on the chinlock but the fans want Sasha. A double clothesline finally allows the hot tag to Banks for some house cleaning. The double knees in the corner get two on Nikki as everything breaks down. The Rack Attack is broken up and Sasha grabs the Bank Statement to make Nikki tap at 11:11. Booker: "THAT WAS SMOKING HOT KING!"

**Rating:** C+. This got going by the end but as usual they seem to have no idea how the story goes. As best as I can tell, at least Sasha is a face now but Naomi and Tamina are somewhere in the middle but closer to face than heel. Of course this all happened without a turn of any kind and we're just supposed to figure it out as we go. At least Sasha got to beat

Nikki, who hopefully moves away from the title soon enough. Then again this match isn't likely to ever be referenced again.

New Day teaches Seth Rollins the virtue of clapping, with Woods tying it into saving the tables of the world. Seth needs to drop the Cross Fit training and believe in the power of being positive. Rollins joins in and dances away to some to some trombone playing. Kane limps in and smiles. They're even making Rollins entertaining again.

Charlotte and Becky are getting annoyed at Paige for being whiny when Paige pops in. Paige doesn't want to hear it so Charlotte says you're with us or against us. Becky and Charlotte leave but are replaced by Natalya, who threatens Paige if she ever disrespects her again. It's amazing how much more interesting these basic stories (like the ones they use on NXT) are than some team battle series which overshadows the title.

#### Intercontinental Title: Kevin Owens vs. Ryback

This is Ryback's rematch after Owens took the title from him at Night of Champions. Kevin bails tot he floor to start but Ryback goes right after him. Back inside and the fight over a suplex with Ryback lifting him up for a nice delayed vertical. Ryback is sent into the post though, setting up a DDT for two from Owens as we take a break. Back with Owens elbowing him in the face and dropping a backsplash for two.

Time for the standard chinlock because that big build up to the chinlock had to be killed before it got over. The FEED ME MORE chants get Ryback to his knees and a swinging belly to belly puts Owens on the mat for a change. A sitout powerslam gets two on the champ so he comes out of the corner with some slaps to the face. Ryback is ticked off so he charges into a boot for two. The Meathook connects but Owens rolls outside again and takes the countout at 11:28.

**Rating:** C-. They had a decent power match going but it was clearly just a matter of killing time until they got to the ending. I mean, there hasn't been a title change on Smackdown in over two and a half years and I really didn't expect them to change anything tonight. I'm sure we'll see this again at the pay per view.

Ryback escapes the apron powerbomb and Shell Shocks Owens post match.

Video on Lesnar vs. Big Show.

### Lucha Dragons/Neville vs. Ascension/Stardust

Well they had to have a rubber match before people started taking the shows hostage without knowing who the better team was. Viktor takes Cara down to start but an attempt at a slingshot powerbomb (like Blanchard's slingshot suplex) is countered into a hurricanrana. Stardust comes in but gets kicked down by Neville, followed by a standing shooting star press for two. Everyone goes to the floor for a staredown and we take a break.

Back with Neville firing off his kicks to Viktor, who slugs Neville off the ropes and hits a middle rope falcon's arrow of all things for two. Stardust misses a charge out to the floor though and the hot tag brings in Kalisto to really speed things up. The Queen's Crossbow is countered into a tornado DDT and Cara dives through the ropes to take Viktor down. Stardust and Neville fight to the floor, leaving Kalisto to hit a quick Salida Del Sol to end Konor at 8:48.

**Rating:** C. Take a fun feud and then drag it out until there's nothing left to do with it and the matches start going nowhere. I'm assuming Neville or Stardust move on to fight Barrett now and the feud ends because the idea of pushing a feud beyond a best of three series is unthinkable in WWE. I mean, it was a rubber match and rubber is like, impressive.

We recap Reigns and Wyatt's brawl on Monday. Bray using a person as a projectile is still awesome.

Here are the Wyatts in the arena to address Reigns. Bray has fought many men over the years but he's never met anyone like Reigns. On Monday, they created complete chaos but it's still anyone but you Roman. Cue Reigns on his own but Bray tells the monsters to step to the side. Roman slowly gets in the ring and stares Bray down.

Bray raises the mic but Roman cuts him off, making Bray's eyes open wider than they have in a long time. Reigns: "Hell in a Cell." Bray, not on the

mic, says what looked to be like "I would be delighted." Reigns leaves and Bray says he hopes Roman is willing to sacrifice everything and die. Cool stuff here, as is usually the case when Reigns plays it serious. This is the logical way to blow off the feud too, as it's a match culminating inside the Cell instead of just having a match inside because the calendar says so. In other words: it's what people have been saying since they started the Cell PPV.

### Kane/Dudley Boyz vs. New Day/Seth Rollins

It's Demon Kane in the mat and Corporate Kane (who claps along with New Day's entrance) sitting at ringside. Translation, we're starting with a handicap match. Woods is on the floor and it's Big E. vs. D-Von to start as Booker is giving shoutouts to his old band director. All five come in for a staredown and we're off to a break about a minute and a half in. Back with D-Von getting stomped down in the corner.

Woods plays the trombone and New Day does some dancing on the apron until D-Von is tossed to the floor. Rollins busts out a suicide dive and takes out Kane in the process, damaging the leg again. Seth freaks out over Kane going to the back and follows him up the ramp, leaving us with a regular match for a bit. Kane gives Rollins an evil smile and you should know what's coming.

Reality sets in on Seth as D-Von suplexes Big E., allowing for the tag off to Ray. Bubba splashes Kofi in the corner and knocks Rollins out to the floor. D-Von dives on New Day and here's Kane. Destruction begins and Rollins bails, allowing the 3D to take Kofi out for the pin at 10:37.

**Rating:** D+. There wasn't much to the match aside from an obvious ending. I'm actually digging the idea of Kane going back and forth like this, but I really don't need Michael Myers Kane as a face, or in a title shot for that matter. It's a cool enough idea but I'm not a fan of sitting around waiting on a twist that everyone knows is coming.

Kane grabs the title again and lays out New Day and the Dudleyz. Rollins comes out on the stage to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. What was with all the six man tags tonight? This show

felt more energetic than usual but most of the wrestling brought it back to earth. I like the idea of having Reigns vs. Wyatt made for the pay per view here as it felt like an important moment for a change, even if it's something that will likely be mentioned on Raw half a dozen times in the first hour. Still though, fun enough show that felt bigger than most weeks.

### Results

Team BAD b. Team Bella – Bank Statement to Nikki

Ryback b. Kevin Owens via countout

Lucha Dragons/Neville b. Ascension/Stardust – Salida Del Sol to Konor

Kane/Dudley Boyz b. New Day/Seth Rollins – 3D to Kingston

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