

Monday Nitro – May 22, 2000: Help Yourself

Monday Nitro #241

Date: May 22, 2000

Location: Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Attendance: 6,530

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Scott Hudson, Mark Madden

So Flair is World Champion but the forces of bad health don't want us to have some sanity in WCW and Flair collapsed to end last week's Thunder. This was a legitimate inner ear issue that screwed him up and not like that time where they had Ric Flair have a heart attack that wasn't referenced again outside of a one off moment. Odds are this is going to change the title status so let's get to it.

It probably won't matter but this show aired an hour earlier due to the NBA Playoffs.

We open with a recap of the New Blood falling apart. Remember: as soon as Bischoff and Russo were gone for a single night, the whole team started falling apart. They need that strong and MANLY influence of Vince Russo to keep them in line.

Russo, Jeff Jarrett, David Flair and Liz arrive behind a hearse. They're all in black and it's time for the funeral of Ric Flair's career. Russo has the World Title for reasons that aren't clear.

Booker T. vs. The Cat

Weapons match. The announcers explain that it's just martial arts weapons so Cat brings in a chair. Some martial arts sticks to the back put Booker down and Mark Madden says Cat is Eric Bischoff's son Garrett's martial arts instructor. Cat dances a bit and keeps hitting Booker with the sticks as this is already boring. Booker starts his comeback but Cat hits him in the head with one of the sticks.

Some kendo stick shots have Booker in even more trouble as this just keeps going. A quick Book End gives Booker a breather and he hammers away with the kendo stick. Cue Shawn Stasiak to help Cat with the beatdown (I guess his fists count as weapons?) and Cat cartwheel kicks the chair into Booker's face for the pin.

Rating: D-. Was there a point here that I was missing? This was a big waste of time as Cat still doesn't have much of a personality yet. Also I love that their idea of pushing Booker is to have him lose matches because that's going to get him over so quickly. Bad match because it was barely a match, though some of Cat's stick shots looked good.

The Misfits come out for the save. Major Gunns loads up CPR for Booker but here are Bischoff and Kimberly to interrupt. The fans chant some swearing at Bischoff and it keeps getting censored, making it sound like Bischoff's mic keeps cutting out. Bischoff talks about some business deal in California that is going to change the face of the New Blood. Eric offers the Misfits a spot in the New Blood but they tell them what he can kiss. In case he doesn't get the idea, Major Gunns lowers her shorts for a visual.

The Millionaire's Club, minus Nash, arrives. Hogan: "Nash is late again." Sting: "That's his gimmick. That's his giz-immick."

Post break, Bischoff fires Booker but can't fire the Misfits for reasons that aren't clear.

Russo and company are around Ric's casket, which contains his robe and a huge nose. Everyone is all sad over this and I'm more sad that this idea was later used by TNA for Team 3D in one of their funniest segments ever. Why am I not watching that instead?

Madden cries as Terry Taylor arrives with Ric Flair's son Reid.

Terry Funk held a press conference earlier today and might be retiring later tonight.

Here's Daffney to say that Crowbar knows she's the real Cruiserweight Champion so come out here right now to talk about this like reasonable

adults.

Cruiserweight Title: Daffney vs. Crowbar

They're co-champions coming in as part of another story that hasn't had a chance to go anywhere and is being blown off a week after it started. They thumb wrestle to start before Crowbar gives her an Indian burn. Cue Miss Hancock as Crowbar won't hurricanrana Daffney off the top. She'll give him one though, causing Crowbar to give her a slingshot splash. Crowbar immediately apologizes but here are Chris Candido and Tammy to attack him. Candido dropkicks a chair into Crowbar's face and piledrives him onto the chair, giving Daffney (called Daffney Unger by Tony) the pin and the undisputed title.

Rating: D. What was wrong with Candido holding the title? He's 28 here, a veteran and talented. Therefore, it's time to put the belt on ANOTHER comedy act because that's what Russo thinks is best for it. The cruiserweights were such an important part of WCW's heyday so obviously the solution is to turn them into a joke right? Oh and male vs. female. That should be a drinking game: take a shot anytime a woman is attacked by a man. You'll have a good buzz every week and it might even make the show go faster.

The Kid Cam is back and we see Torrie Wilson on Horace's back giving him a massage.

Booker tells the Misfits to stay tuned next week.

Ralphus and Norman are washing cars for \$1 apiece.

Kidman yells at Bischoff and company about Horace. Eric: "You're the one that wanted to hang on to the hot looking blonde." They come up to Torrie and make her referee. Eric beats up a referee and takes his shirt to give to Torrie. Kidman and Horace start brawling and I guess this is their match.

Kidman vs. Horace Hogan

Torrie is guest refereeing and wearing a referee's shirt that looks like a short dress on her. They come out to ringside and of course Bischoff

jumps in on commentary, calling this internal politics. Kidman takes over inside and the camera keeps cutting to Bischoff, the real star of the match. Hogan comes back with a big boot and grabs a table. Cue Hulk as Kidman counters a powerbomb. Horace is placed on the table so Hogan throws Kidman off the top and through his nephew. Torrie is forced to count the pin.

Rating: D. I'm sick of this story and it's getting worse every single week. I'll give them credit for trying to do something with Kidman and Horace but the two of them are being treated like big pawns (ok maybe bishops) in the Hogan vs. Bischoff feud. As usual, the story is so convoluted and messy that I have no idea what the point is even supposed to be.

Hulk says Bischoff used to be a cool guy but now he's heard Bischoff is going to have a special referee at the pay per view. He doesn't care who it is because he'll beat them up anyway. Oh and Eric is something censored. Is there a reason Hulk won't say the pay per view's name?

Jarrett and Russo make jokes around the casket.

Taylor asks Reid if he's ok with everything.

The Filthy Animals arrive in a bouncing car and the Misfits take notice.

Here's Terry Funk in a tuxedo for a major announcement. His daughter (who he calls Old Blue) is here in the front row. Funk's family thinks this announcement is way overdue but Bischoff tells someone to go to the ring. He's told his aunt Eleanor and uncle Dutch (Madden: "DUTCH???" Tony: "Yes, Dutch Funk.") to watch tonight but here are Shane Douglas and some New Blood lackeys to interrupt. The announcement: Terry is a grandfather! Oh and he's retiring June 1.

Make that June 1, 2001 because his contract was extended for another year. This brings the New Blood members to the ring and Terry is quickly beaten down. Two piledrivers onto the chair knocks him out and Funk's daughter tries to come in, only to get shoved down. Shane covers him and Cat counts the pin (with Funk not even keeping his shoulder down after that kind of a beating). Douglas takes the title and knowing WCW, that

counts as a title change.

The Misfits come out to help Ralphus and Norman was the Animals' car. Gunns distracts Ralphus and Stash changes the buckets.

Clip of the Kanyon interview from Thunder.

Here's Mike Awesome in a wheelchair and with a halo around his head and neck. He mocks Kanyon for being out of wrestling and says he wants Page to come out here for some reason. Instead he gets the Wall and it's time for a tables vs. ambulance match. Tables vs. amb...WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN??? It sounds like Russo was watching Frankenstein vs. the Wolfman one night and camp up with this match while he was falling asleep. Let's get this over with.

The Wall vs. Mike Awesome

Wall kicks him in the face to start and scores with a powerslam. Not that it matters as Mike backdrops him through a table and wins it in less than 90 seconds. So it was a tables match. In Russo's world, tables + ambulances = tables. Therefore, ambulances are in fact worthless.

Wall pops up and goes after Awesome but Shane Douglas runs out with a steel pipe. They fight into the back and Page pops out of an ambulance (because he was just in there) and everyone brawls.

We cut to the casket bring brought to the ring...with Shane and Awesome in different clothes walking alongside it. This doesn't even surprise me anymore.

Norman and Ralphus pour on whatever is in the new bucket. It looks like paint or paint remover.

It's time for the Ric Flair funeral. We see a clip of Ric collapsing on Thunder and Russo goes on about how he told Ric to retire. The fans think he suck but Russo says he has the belt, which he returns to Jeff Jarrett for his third World Title in thirty six days. Russo pulls out Flair's Rolex to throw in the casket and you know exactly what's about to happen. Naturally Kevin Nash pops out of the casket because we haven't seen him in a long time. He takes the title just in case you hadn't forgotten

those horrible days.

Post break Russo tells Nash that he has 45 minutes to give the title back or it's a no holds barred match. The champ was in the background here and, again, this was all about Russo.

Here's Scott Steiner with the Freaks dressed as University of Michigan cheerleaders. Steiner talks about the dark side of the moon rising and something that is bleeped out. As for the point tonight, Scott is now bringing his own circular cage called the Asylum and you can only get out by submitting.

Scott Steiner vs. Rick Steiner

Non-title because the US Title hasn't meant anything in months. They start fighting as the cage is slowly lowered, making the gimmick even less important. Scott belly to bellies him down and puts on the Recliner but Scott falls for the Tank Abbott Goldberg entrance all over again. He lets go of the hold (after three minutes according to Madden) as Tank comes out with bolt cutters. Those don't work so he beats up the guy that controls the cage and raises it up to help Rick beat Scott down. This brings out Nash (again) to help save Scott.

Pamela Paulshock, the new fake chest with a pretty blonde interviewer attached, asks Nash about what he just did. Nash wants a title shot tonight.

Chuck Palumbo vs. Diamond Dallas Page

Liz is here with Palumbo along with the security. Page gets a quick two off a belly to belly, followed by a Batista Bomb for the same. Elizabeth slams Palumbo into a rollup for two before a double clothesline puts both guys down for an eight count. Cue Kimberly to hit Liz in the back with a ball bat so the referee leaves the ring, allowing Awesome to come in with the halo. Page looks at Awesome and stands there so Mike can hit him in the face. Palumbo racks Page for the win.

Luger comes out and takes a beating of his own. Palumbo hits him in the face with the exercise bar and Luger has to go out on a stretcher.

Kimberly blames Liz for what just happened to her. I'm having a lot of trouble feeling sorry for Liz when she hasn't taken one of her 948 chances to escape.

Here are Terry Taylor and 12 year old Reid Flair, the latter of whom wants his brother David to come out. David and Daffney come out and Reid apologizes for whatever he's done because the family needs David. Daffney hits Terry with the Statue of Liberty but Reid, an amateur wrestling champion, double legs David down. David pops back up and puts him in the Figure Four until security breaks it up.

Vampiro vs. Hulk Hogan

Remember when this was a thing a few months ago? Well this time Vampiro comes out with a blowtorch and a can of gasoline. Vampiro jumps him to start and knocks Hogan out to the floor. A superkick knocks Hogan up against the barricade but he comes right back with punches to the face.

Hogan chairs him in the back and beats up the table for a bit before it's weightlifting belt time. Madden runs down WWF's finishes as Hogan slams Vampiro down. Madden: "I'm orgasmic!" Hogan kicks him low and drops the leg but opts to punch instead of cover. This brings in Kidman to hit Hogan in the head with the blowtorch to give Vampiro the pin.

Rating: F. Weapons, run-ins, Mark Madden's orgasms. Pick a reason why this was bad and go from there.

Sting saves Hogan from being set on fire (little reaction) and lays Vampiro out.

It was in fact paint remover, triggering another brawl between the Misfits and the Animals. Major Gunns has to reluctantly give Ralphus mouth to mouth. Naturally she winds up getting tongue, which Tony finds hilarious.

WCW World Title: Jeff Jarrett vs. Kevin Nash

It's not clear if Jarrett is defending or if the title is vacant coming in. Before the bell rings, cue Russo to knock out the referee and take over his job. That's very manly of him. Jeff hammers away to start but

walks into Snake Eyes. Tony casually throws in that this is falls count anywhere. Russo's slow count is good for one and Jeff pops up for a chair to Nash's head. Nash no sells it of course and follows Jeff to the floor.

Another Snake Eyes on the apron is good for one as Russo crotch chops Kevin instead. A belt shot barely puts Nash down and Russo maces him to break up the Jackknife. There's a bad looking Stroke but cue Steiner to beat Jeff down. That earns Steiner mace as well, allowing security to handcuff him to the ropes.

Nash starts choking Russo as he covers Jeff but it's only good for two. They head outside with Nash loading up a powerbomb on Russo, only to have the blood fall.....next to them. Nash is nice enough to take a step to the side so it at least touches him, allowing Jarrett to guitar him down and get the pin for the title. Or maybe to keep it as it's not really clear.

Rating: D-. The fact that WCW still doesn't seem to know whether or not that's a new champion or a title defense sums up the show quite well. As usual it was way too much at once and the whole thing came off as a big mess that was thrown together instead of anything that I might want to watch.

Bischoff comes out to say that's just the beginning for Nash. The people can bite them. Jeff declares himself the Chosen One again to end the show. That's a cry for attention if I've ever heard one.

Overall Rating: F. This show was such a disaster that I don't even know where to start. There were way too many gimmick matches (many of which ranged from stupid to nonsensical), plot devices flying by in minutes instead of over a week, ridiculous editing errors such and WAY too much Russo. That continues to be the biggest problem: Russo is all over this show and everything is about him. There's almost nothing good about this show and it's the same problems over and over again. WCW is beyond one saving grace at this point and it's creating more problems for itself every single week.

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