

Reviewing the Review – Monday Night Raw: October 12, 2015

Aside from the important shows, my favorite reviews to look back on are the shows where people say I got the ratings totally wrong. I've changed my opinion on shows before via a second look so maybe that's going to happen here. This week's show was pretty much hated but I had a decent enough time with it. Let's get to it.

We start immediately with the big story of the night: the Authority isn't here (and won't be here despite saying they're trying to make it all night). Therefore Corporate Kane is in charge and gets to book the show on his own so he makes himself vs. Seth Rollins in a lumberjack match. Why doesn't he make this a title match you ask? Plot convenience of course.

Throughout the night, the Authority keeps trying to get hold of Kane and ask him what the main event is but bad reception keeps cutting them off. Why doesn't HHH send him a text or an e-mail so he can get the information when the reception is good and doesn't have to be on his phone at that time? Plot convenience of course. Granted it wouldn't matter in this case as the Authority found out about the match and told Kane he had to change it.

Naturally this gave us Demon Kane vs. Rollins because that's still supposed to be different. This wasn't the best idea, especially given that the fans aren't thrilled to see them fight in the first place, so now they get to fight twice. Monday Night Football was a weak game and they had a chance to do something good, but we get Rollins vs. Kane instead of the only match at the pay per view. I know I defend this company a lot, but there are times where they do stuff that boggles my mind.

Ambrose and Orton had a male bonding segment that was interrupted by New Day. As usual New Day stole the show with pure charisma and asked why Orton has been a part of so many groups. This led to a very long tag

match (by Raw standards at least) that didn't do much for me but could have been far worse. If my best option is nearly twenty minutes of pretty good wrestling, I'll gladly take it over the drek that Raw is capable of putting on any day. Even on a new day, like the team that won the match due to some face miscommunication.

Things aren't boding well for Orton/Ambrose heading into the pay per view. For one thing they lost here and even worse they're actually on the pre-show. That screams angle for later in the show to me, as they've been in one of the biggest stories on the show and the card currently has six matches. I could easily see a fight breaking out to set up Orton vs. Ambrose on the show, because why build what could be a solid midcard pay per view match when you can throw it out there with an hour of build?

Video on Undertaker vs. Lesnar, which would air again (or at least a very similar version) later in the night. Well that's nice of them. It's not like either guy can be bothered showing up and making me want to see the match so I'll take what I can get.

Nikki beat Naomi in a nothing match but the fans chanted for Sasha to fill in most of the time. The more I think about it the more I'm glad they haven't added Sasha to the title match in the hopes that we get past Nikki's rematch and move on to something else, because you know this company loves itself some rematches.

Dolph Ziggler answered the US Open Challenge and lost like everyone else does. It was another good match but when are they going to pick something for Cena to do at the pay per view? Word on the street is that he's leaving for a few months after the show but at the moment there's no one to challenge for the title and no real prospects, unless they throw Big Show in there again. Would that really be a big surprise at this point? You would think Ziggler wins it here but I guess this was the payoff to the accidental superkick. Every day that goes by scares me even more that we'll get something stupid at the pay per view.

The Dudleyz squashed the Ascension. At least they're on TV.

Sheamus and King Barrett beat Neville and Cesaro in a nothing match. Barrett has said he wants to be a tag wrestler and Sheamus/Barrett would

be fine enough for a team. I'd like to see Cesaro/Neville actually win something but they seem to be the latest acts on the doomed bulletproof list.

Roman Reigns came out and gave a big speech about how Bray was trying to take away his livelihood. This has been described as horrible but I really liked it. What was far worse was the obnoxious Chicago crowd jeering the whole thing because they can't shut up for five minutes. They decided a long time ago that they don't want to see Reigns (they'll take anyone but him I assume) and no matter what he says, they're going to boo. This gets annoying quickly and unfortunately that's often what decides everyone's reactions to the speech. Roman got to the point and delivered, which is a big improvement over his usual stuff.

In something I really don't like, Reigns beat Braun Strowman by countout. I could live with this if it was like Strowman's debut match against Ambrose where it was a squash, but in this case Roman hung with Braun the whole way and basically knocked him out to win. That shouldn't happen for months but this is WWE where the idea of CHILL OUT AND WAIT is sacrilegious. Not a good brawl either and that's not a good thing, especially with Braun losing and being made to look beatable this early.

Here's the column on the Lana/Rusev/TMZ fiasco:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2015/10/14/new-column-the-worldwide-leader-in-not-knowing-the-difference/>

Then Ryback beat Rusev in about three minutes because Vince loves publicity as long as it's controlled publicity.

Kevin Owens squashed Kalisto to end one of the best uses of the mini feuds that I've seen in a long time. They don't need to do their usual tropes so let Owens beat up a midcard tag team instead. The story works fine and Owens vs. Ryback is built up even more. Simple, yet effective. I love that idea.

Brie Bella pinned Charlotte in a tag match because the way to get someone new over in the division is to give them the title and then have them lose almost every match. Paige and Natalya fought a bit to pad out the

match. I do like the idea that they have more than one Divas story going at the same time, but they could have better ideas than Brie Bella pinning the Divas Champion.

Kane pinned Seth Rollins off a tombstone. This really doesn't surprise me at this point and it shouldn't surprise you either. Neither should Rollins retaining the title in a boring pay per view match.

So...yeah I'm not sure what I was thinking. Ziggler vs. Cena was good but not good enough to make up for a lot of the boneheaded moves going on here. This is looking like the weakest pay per view I've seen in a long time and WWE really doesn't seem interested in making anything of it. Lesnar vs. Undertaker might as well not even be happening because neither guy seems interested in building it, leaving us with a main event of Kane vs. Rollins. Which we saw here. And it sucked.

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