

Thunder – August 9, 2000: Three Times The Bad Tags

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Location: World Arena, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Commentators: Mike Tenay, Stevie Ray, Tony Schiavone

It's the go home show for New Blood Rising because we're just that lucky. The big story continues to be the potentially SHOOT triple threat because Goldberg, Scott Steiner and Kevin Nash, because when you think of Kevin Nash, you think of a shoot. Oh and the World Title is in there somewhere too. Let's get to it.

Tag Team Titles: Kronik vs. Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire vs. Perfect Event

Right now, someone tell me who Kronik is defending against on Sunday. I'd be shocked if most of the regular fans of this show could answer that at this point. This is the result of Kronik wanting both teams to come out here for a fight which of course means let's have the challengers lose again before their REAL title shot on Sunday.

After some stalling (of course) it's a quadruple team on Adams early on. Stasiak gets in a jumping back elbow but Adams shrugs it off and hits a quick gutbuster, allowing the tag off to Clark. It's off to O'Haire for two off a clothesline as this is acting more like a handicap match than a three way tag.

Clark gets in a quick DDT and brings in Adams for a full nelson slam. A piledriver gets two on Stasiak and everything breaks down. The tilt-a-whirl slam gets two on O'Haire as Jindrak gives Clark a nice hurricanrana out of the corner. Sean pops up for a Seanton bomb but Stasiak wants the pin. That earns Shawn a Meltdown and High Times with Adams running interference so Clark can get the pin.

Rating: D. I've watched the match and I'm still not sure whether or not this was a three way or a handicap match. It was mentioned as a title

match, but there was no indication of how many opponents Kronik had here. You have a title match here but WCW really didn't care enough to explain who was challenging. Just...dang man.

Muta and Vampiro come out for a distraction, allowing Juventud Guerrera to run in and steal the belts again.

Mike Awesome and Heidi come in to Cat's office so Cat can put him in a flag match against Lance Storm later. The Dragons appear, have their heads rammed together, and are thrown out.

Daffney has made a Watch Crowbar Wrestling shirt to wear at ringside. Crowbar wants to tell her something but changes his mind.

Jeff Jarrett has a guitar with Booker's name on it.

Crowbar vs. Elix Skipper

Elix, ever the rookie, accepts a handshake and gets pulled into a German suplex. Crowbar sends him to the floor for a dive, followed by the apron splash. I've missed Crowbar being around here as he has more energy than half the people on these shows. Cue Smooth with flowers for Daffney, who doesn't seem to mind.

Crowbar tries a standing Lionsault but Skipper Matrixes away from it in an awesome looking counter. A Death Valley Driver puts Skipper down but Crowbar goes outside and yells at Daffney about the flowers. Skipper dives on Crowbar and destroys the flowers in a truly evil move. Back in and Crowbar can't hit a hurricanrana, allowing the Overdrive to give Elix the pin.

Rating: C. These were two hidden gems near the end of WCW and you could see them having fun out there. Sloppy fun, but still fun. Like I said, Crowbar looked like he was actually trying every single time out there and that's an effort you can't ignore. Skipper on the other hand was an athletic freak who could do things most people just can't do. That made for a fun match with an angle that actually made sense as everyone could see Crowbar loved Daffney so it was easy to exploit. In other words, my guess is Russo/Ferrara had nothing to do with this.

Jarrett asks Jimmy Hart where Booker is. The answer is not here so Hart gets a guitar. At least he could probably give us some good music with that thing.

Okerlund and Bagwell talk about Canyon, who appropriately comes in and issues a challenge for a tag match tonight. That means it's time for a mystery partner, which can only end badly. Like only. As in there is no other option.

Tank Abbott and 3 Count are here to perform their old song because Tank's new single isn't ready yet. I heartily approve of the classics.

3 Count/Tank Abbott vs. Misfits in Action

Shane gets in trouble to start with Rection doing a little dance before dropping a leg. A pop up powerbomb is countered into a hurricanrana as the announcers try to explain the double ladder match on Sunday.

Everything breaks down with Shane getting destroyed. Karagias gets in an argument with the fans on the floor and it's Flair/Hancock here to go after Hancock. Tank cleans house with right hands and here's a ladder for no logical reason. Shane and Shannon put it on the top for a top rope splash/legdrop combo for the pin on Cajun.

Rating: F. I have no idea what the point of this was, much like I have no idea if they remember that the Dragons and 3 Count are fighting on Sunday as they haven't had any contact in at least a week. This felt more like an angle than a match and it says a lot when Hancock can't save things.

Post break Rection yells at the Misfits and a mixed tables match is made later with Gunns/AWOL vs. Flair/Hancock.

Crowbar yells at Smooth about the flowers (how did he know Smooth gave them to her if he didn't see the delivery?) but Smooth says he's an operator.

The Dark Carnival attacks the Jung Dragons because they're just jobbers for midcard acts. Cat makes the save and puts himself in a tag match against Muta/Vampiro with a mystery partner. So to recap that's two mystery partners and one mixed tag.

Video on Sunday's triple threat.

Okerlund hopes Pamela isn't the mystery partner because she's nuts about him.

Cat gets a mystery partner, even though the partner doesn't like his fashion.

Mike Sanders vs. Norman Smiley

Sanders is now Above Average, meaning he's on top of the B list at 49%. That's not how above average works but whatever. Let's make this a hardcore match just because of reasons. Smiley declines because he's retired from hardcore wrestling (thank goodness), only to get a chair to the back. Norman whips him over the barricade so Mike hits him with a ladder.

They head backstage where Sanders puts a trashcan over Norman for a beating with a broom. There's a stretcher here for no logical reason so Sanders throws Norman on top. Both guys being thrown through tables, only to have Jarrett pop up and nail Norman with a guitar. Apparently the pin has to take place in the ring though so here's a wheelbarrow to bring them back to the ring. Sanders tries a chair shot from the middle rope...and knocks himself out to give Norman the easy pin.

Rating: D-. So what was the point here? Norman being dragged back into hardcore? That's the best they've got for these two? Sanders can clearly talk but people aren't going to care if you have him lose a match he challenged Norman to. At least he can talk though and that's the best thing you can have, especially here.

The Dark Carnival broods in the back. Demon shows how much depth he has by growling.

Mike Awesome vs. Lance Storm

Non-title, which is actually the right move for a change. Storm gets in a good line by saying Mike better be a good fat chick thriller because he's horrible as a career killer. They brawl on the floor to start with Mike getting the better of it as you might expect. Storm tries grabbing a

chair and gets it punched into his face, setting up a very quick Awesome splash.

Mike goes for the flag but Heidi, the woman we've known for like a week, turns on him by hitting him with the American flag. She takes off her shirt and shows off a new one saying "Canadian and Proud of it!". The Maple Leaf goes on and Heidi hands Storm the flag for the win. As usual, this is too much character development and something that could have been done at the pay per view instead of the big mess they wound up doing instead.

Kidman challenges Shane to a strap match, which Torrie can teach him a thing or two about. Pamela finds that way funnier than it should be and Kidman steps to the side to kiss Syren (Reno's girlfriend/Nitro Girl).

Sgt. AWOL/Major Gunns vs. David Flair/Miss Hancock

Tables match to make sure this is as bad as possible, or to make sure that David Flair or Sgt. AWOL doesn't have to job. The guys slowly brawl to start with Wall having to figure out how to make David look threatening. While this is going on, the women yell at each other a lot. Hancock takes over with choking as David sets up a table in the ring. Wall kicks him in the face but gets his eyes raked by Hancock, only to have Gunns choke her. Hancock whips her through the table for the win a few seconds later, making this one of the shortest table matches in history.

Wall chokeslams David through another table post match.

This Week in WCW Motorsports. Do we have any proof that those teams have actually been shut down? It really wouldn't surprise me if they were still around to this day.

Kanyon is talking to his partner.

Doug Dillinger tells Cat that "he's here".

Kidman vs. Reno

Kidman starts fast with a headscissors to send Reno outside, setting up a

nice plancha (are any of Kidman's dives ever bad?) to drop him again. Back in and Reno gets smart by grabbing Kidman for a pair of quick suplexes. When all else fails, throw the guy around. A third suplex stops Kidman's comeback but he grabs a quick Low Down for two. Not that it matters as Reno Rolls the Dice, only to hammer on Kidman instead of covering.

Cue Syren, allowing Reno to bring in a chair. For some reason Reno tries a powerbomb onto the chair and you know what that means. This brings out Torrie for another distraction, allowing Shane Douglas to come in with the chain to knock Kidman out. The referee actually sees it for a change though and it's a DQ.

Rating: D+. I like both guys and you had Syren and Torrie in the same match so it's kind of hard to get mad here. Reno is a good power guy and has a nice selection of suplexes to go with a cool look, which is why he never went anywhere in wrestling. The Kidman vs. Shane feud needs to wrap up soon but I can tolerate it as long as Torrie is around.

Vito runs out to make the save for no logical reason. Reno and Vito seem to know each other. Like, aside from working together.

The Artist, now in street clothes, finds Paisley and I believe Papaya from Nitro giving Kwee Wee a massage, leading to a brawl. I still have no reason to care about the Artist.

Jarrett comes out again and makes Penzer read a message, basically saying that it's Booker's fault for everyone getting hurt tonight. Jeff is going to keep screwing with stuff until the end of the show and there's a guitar shot for Penzer. He guarantees a title win on Sunday. So Jeff is now stealing Canyon's schtick?

Here's your weekly shoot style interview, this time with Booker T. Bash at the Beach was the greatest day of his life because he finally reached his top goal in wrestling. It meant a lot to him to see the company give him the shot and the fans accept him with everybody raising the roof. Booker talks about coming up through the Dallas territories and how much it means to come all the way to the top over all the years.

Tony brings up Russo talking about the old guard being shoved aside so people like Booker can rise up. Booker doesn't feel any pressure because he's at home in the middle of the ring. His knee is still banged up and will probably never be the same but he's still going to be defending the title every night. The fans have paid their money and Booker is going to give them his best every single time.

This wasn't a shoot and felt a lot more like a talk with the man outside the ring. In other words, it was far easier to sit through than the usual nonsense that didn't tell us anything we would want to hear about. That being said, this wasn't exactly riveting stuff but at least it didn't make me go nuts sitting through it. As usual, Booker is the voice of reason around here.

Buff Bagwell/Gene Okerlund vs. Positively Kanyon/???

Kanyon's partner is....oh sweet goodness it's Mark Madden. Let's get this over with. Judy sits in on commentary as I'm assuming this is supposed to be funny. Madden and Gene start things off but Gene actually decks Kanyon off the apron. It's off to the actual wrestlers with Bagwell in control until Madden knees him in the back. Buff goes after him as Judy's voice has me begging for this to end even more.

Back in and Buff gets two off his double arm DDT but another Madden cheap shot lets Kanyon run him over. Kanyon misses a splash though and it's hot tags Gene and Madden. Everything breaks down and Madden's low blow has no effect (with Tony pointing out that Gene didn't sell it). Apparently Gene is wearing a cup, which winds up on Madden's face. Of course it does. Buff throws in a Blockbuster to give Gene the pin.

Rating: D. This could have been a lot worse as they had the wrestlers do most of the work. I get the idea here and it was cute at times but giving this five and a half minutes was just a bad idea. Hopefully this ends the story with the announcers and leaves us with serious material....like Judy Bagwell on a forklift.

Kanyon takes out Buff with the Kanyon Cutter but Stevie saves Gene, while also holding Judy back.

Sting/The Cat vs. Great Muta/Vampiro

Not a bad mystery partner if you don't mind a lack of mystery. It's a big brawl to start of course with Sting sending Vampiro into the announcers' table, much to Stevie's approval. Tenay: "Do you think Sting will ever forget being set on fire by Vampiro?" Cat gets dropped and it's time for some double teaming inside. Muta's power drive elbow sets up some choking as we're a far cry from the classics these two had ten years earlier.

It's off to a front facelock from Vampiro and the referee actually doesn't allow a tag he didn't see. So this is a rare match with rules. The Stinger splash hits Vampiro's raised boot but a double clothesline puts both guys down. Cat comes in off the lukewarm tag and gives Muta a really bad looking hiptoss. Sting stands around while Cat fights both guys and here's Demon (who Tony calls Disciple for the second time in the match). The mist takes Sting down but Cat kicks Vampiro in the head for the pin.

Rating: D-. Cat really doesn't belong in the ring and the story isn't working either. It's basically Sting fighting a bunch of guys who look like evil clowns and are doing a lame Ministry impression. That's the best you can do for one of your biggest stars of all time? Lame main event, but you kind of had to expect that given who was involved.

Muta gives Cat the red mist and Demon puts Sting in the Scorpion Deathlock to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. There were some better efforts here but just too much bad to overcome. With the same mystery partner angle running twice and a cooky mixed tag tables match thrown in, there's only so much something like Skipper vs. Crowbar can do. That means it's time for New Blood Rising though, meaning I'd probably want to watch this show three times over instead.

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