

Monday Night Raw – December 5, 1994: I Had To Start Somewhere

Monday Night Raw

Date: December 5, 1994

Location: Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

Attendance: 2,500

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Shawn Michaels

This was on a list of requested shows so I might as well knock some of them out. That and I've never actually done an episode from 1994 and if I'm going to (eventually) do all of the episodes in history, I need to start somewhere. I have no idea why this was requested as it's a pretty dead time in the promotion's history. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence. I miss that old song, though Vince has to talk over it with an advertisement.

Shawn Michaels is brought out for commentary.

Jeff Jarrett vs. British Bulldog

Of note here: a cable puller "screws up", giving us the debut of the Roadie, later to be known as Road Dogg. An early armdrag takes Bulldog down and it's already time for some strutting. Jarrett takes him down again and walks over Bulldog's back (Vince: "Shades of Shawn Michaels!") for some more posing. A hiptoss doesn't work as well though as Bulldog sends Jeff out to the floor before doing Jeff's strut in a funny bit.

Back in and Jeff, with tinsel between his legs, gets run over again because he's not bright enough to realize that the power isn't working. Smith keeps countering a headscissors but the cable puller claps Jeff back to his feet. There's the delayed vertical (with Jeff doing a great terrified face) but Bulldog gets crotched on top for a superplex. We're off to a weak chinlock for a good bit before going to a break.

Back with Jeff missing a middle rope fist drop, followed by a double clothesline to put both guys down. Shawn again points out the tinsel on Jarrett's tights, likely because it's rather shiny and Shawn is easily distracted. Somehow this makes Vince refer to Jeff as the Tim Allen of the WWF.

Jeff grabs a sleeper for a long time before a bulldog to the Bulldog (you know these announcers are going to crack jokes about that one) gets two. Back to the chinlock as this is going way too long. Bulldog fights up with an atomic drop and a series of clotheslines to send Jarrett outside. Jeff staggers up the aisle but is quickly caught, only to have the cable puller grab Bulldog's leg, allowing Jeff to beat the count back in.

Rating: D+. This was your usual one long match on Raw back in the day, but that doesn't mean it's good. There was too much chinlockery going on here and they easily could have cut out about three or four minutes. The result was the right choice though as they might have finally found a way to get people to care about Jeff Jarrett. I mean, I wouldn't bet on it but it's always possible.

House show ads. Now there's something you don't see that often anymore.

Some WWF wrestlers were at a dinner for American sportcasters with keynote speaker...Gerald Ford?

1-2-3 Kid vs. Barry Horowitz

Kid starts fast with a dropkick and the rapid fire kicks in the corner. Barry comes back with a quick butterfly suplex as Vince plugs Diesel being in the King's Court tonight, only to get on Shawn's nerves. There's a Hennig necksnap for no cover as Vince begs people to come to the house shows. Not that it matters as the Kid comes back with two spinwheel kicks and an Oklahoma Roll for the pin.

Preview of next week's show with crazy Bob Backlund vs. Doink the Clown. I actually kind of want to see that mess.

Ad for the new WWF Raw game for SNES. That game wasn't bad actually.

Kwang vs. Scott Taylor

Better known as Savio Vega in a mask vs. Scotty 2 Hotty. Kwang drops Taylor with a shot to the face before dropping him with a faceplant. Shawn brags about his contract being better than Michael Jordan's baseball deal and we hit the nerve hold. Harvey Wippleman yells at Howard Finkel to continue their horrible feud that actually existed for reasons I'll never understand. Kwang's running spinwheel kick crushes Taylor in the corner and it's back to the nerve hold. Another spinwheel kick puts Taylor away, thank goodness. Kwang was such a weak character and it's no shock that he didn't last.

Ad for Lex Luger vs. Owen Hart on Action Zone.

It's time for the King's Court (Lawler's interview segment). After some good old audience insulting, here's the surprise guest: Shawn Michaels! So Vince was wrong about Diesel? Lawler calls Diesel stupid for doing things like buying a zebra and calling it Spot. Shawn claims to have plucked Diesel from obscurity (well yeah Vinnie Vegas was pretty obscure) and no one puts him down, including some 7'0 goon. Everything Diesel has ever earned was because of Shawn and he made Diesel on his own. However, Shawn can also disassemble him just as fast. If Diesel wants to find him, just come to the Heartbreak Hotel.

Bob Holly crashed in his latest race. This is making me long for the "This Week in WCW Motorsports" segments.

There will be a special 100th episode celebration of WWF Mania. I remember liking that show.

Hakushi is coming.

Well Dunn vs. Bushwhackers

See, one is named Well and the other is named Dunn. They're managed by Wippleman in case you were still confused about how much potential they had. The Bushwhackers drop both guys with a double clothesline to start but Well drops Luke with an ax handle from the apron. We get some breaking news: there will be a tournament for the vacant Tag Team Titles. So I guess this is like a boring preview? Not that we'll see any of it because the whole thing is taking place on Superstars.

Well dives onto Luke's back as this is actually less interesting than I was expecting. Some rapid fire legdrops keep Luke in trouble and Shawn plugs a movie airing on USA. Even more legdrops don't actually make the match any better so Luke clotheslines him down for a breather. The hot tag brings in Butch o clean maybe a room or two until Harvey trips him up, allowing Dunn to get in a knee to the back for the pin.

Rating: D-. Again, one was named Well and the other was named Dunn. Is there any real surprise that WCW was able to take over so easily? The only interesting part here was hearing Shawn cracking jokes for five minutes as he knew this was a disaster. Nothing to see here and I continue to be amazed that the Bushwhackers still had jobs at this point.

Fink tells the referee what happened but nothing changes.

Bob Backlund wants to exterminate Doink next week on his path to being WWF Champion again.

Overall Rating: D. Well that was bad. They were certainly in the Saturday Night's Main Event format at this point with the one big match going on first and then hoping people fell asleep and couldn't change the channel for the rest of the horrible show. It's no surprise that this era has basically been erased from history after this mess. For some reason though, I'm sure it's only going to get worse.

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