

Fastlane 2016 Preview

It's that time again and I'm really not sure if this show is going to be any more interesting than last year's or not. They're making no secret out of the fact that this is a one match card which is only there as a stop before we get to Wrestlemania. However, the main event here should be awesome and more than enough to carry this thing. Let's get to it.

The pre-show match is 2/3 falls for reasons that I can't fathom. You would think that this would be perfect for AJ vs. Jericho but instead we're getting it on a match that we've seen four or five times already. I mean, it should be entertaining, but at the same time I have little reason to want to see Kalisto trade falls with Alberto before hitting a big Salida Del Sol for the win. This is a good example of a match that should have been on Raw or a big Smackdown but instead we're getting it here, thankfully on the pre-show. I don't have a ton of interest here but at least it should be entertaining.

We'll start with the token six man tag (not a bad thing) and probably the easiest match to pick. There's no reason to assume that the Wyatts don't win here as they're probably about to head to Wrestlemania for something against Brock so Bray can lose all over again. Since Big Show and Kane are there and expendable, you can almost guarantee that Ryback takes the fall here and probably most of the beating during the match. I mean, it just makes sense right?

There's no reason the Divas tag should be up for debate. It's pretty clear that this is all about putting Becky and Sasha over before they head to the triple threat (at least) at Wrestlemania. The idea that they'll implode before the end of the match has been presented well enough but there's no way that Tamina and Naomi go over here. It should be entertaining at least though and the makeshift team's charisma will be enough to carry this.

Charlotte retains the Divas Championship over Brie Bella. Why? It's Brie Bella. Even the powers of Daniel Bryan's retirement can't carry her that far.

In what should be another obvious title defense, Kevin Owens will retain the Intercontinental Title over Dolph Ziggler. As Ziggler has said, these two have fought well over a dozen times and Ziggler has won like two of them. Why that should make me want to see a title match between the two of them isn't clear but hopefully this sets up something better for Owens than a big multi-man ladder match for the title at Wrestlemania. Ziggler has no reason to go anywhere other than right where he is, which should be losing to a Pop Up Powerbomb here.

Maybe Owens can fight AJ Styles, who really should win his third match against Jericho. It's one of those matches that shouldn't have any doubt but there's a glimmer of hope because Jericho is capable of making you think an upset could happen. There's no reason to believe that AJ is going to lose and there's no reason that he should. Jericho exists to put young, talented guys, like AJ, over. That's all we're getting here, nicely wrapped up in a good match.

That leaves us with the main event and.....Reigns is going to pin Ambrose. I know a lot of people would like to see something else but I really can't imagine that this is anything but the Wyatts preventing Lesnar from getting the fall and then Reigns pinning Ambrose just like he did at Survivor Series. Ambrose was only added to this for the sake of taking the fall because you know Brock isn't going to. That leaves us with Reigns vs. HHH at Wrestlemania and roughly 80,000 people booing Reigns while WWE brags about the other 20,000 cheering. The match should rock though and that's almost just as important here.

Overall Fastlane is.....well it's Fastlane. It's a show that really doesn't need to exist and the name isn't doing it any favors as they're advertising it as a stop on the way to Wrestlemania. It's not a great card here as most of the matches are really predictable, though that's not always the worst thing in the world. The pre-show interview (because just having a match on that thing isn't enough) should be fun and I can think of worse ways to spend a Sunday night. Not many but at least some.

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