

# Three More WWE Releases

<https://www.wwe.com/article/damien-sandow-king-barrett-other-superstars-released>

And they're bigger names this time. Santino Marella – Basically retired at this point and never appears. Not exactly a big loss but he's certainly a name.

Wade Barrett – He was leaving in a few weeks/months anyway so this really means nothing. He's still one of the most mishandled names I can think of in years.

Damien Sandow – This one is all on WWE. Sandow was over and had worked hard for years but hey, let's have him get really close, get a huge pop, and then have him lose to Big Show so he can FINALLY win a (third) battle royal in WWE. It's a case of a guy getting popular and WWE saying "eh we're good" and then going with what they felt like doing. This has never sat right with me and I hope Sandow goes somewhere else and has a nice run.

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## Cameron and El Torito Released

That makes five (Hornswoggle, Alex Riley, Zeb Colter).

<http://www.wwe.com/article/hornswoggle-alex-riley-released>

I know Cameron posted that big rant about how she's constantly bullied over the mistakes she's made and I really didn't have a ton of sympathy for her. She did two stupid looking things and her character is based on being a self obsessed idiot

which isn't even touching on how annoying she comes across as on Total Divas.

Did anyone even notice that El Torito wasn't on TV anymore?

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## **WWE Releases Three Talents**

These are always interesting days. Hornswoggle – Not exactly an important deal. He's a background/comedy character at best and hasn't been around in forever.

Zeb Colter – Same, though he should have been brought back as someone's manager. The guy can still talk and has so much knowledge and experience.

Alex Riley – Arguably the biggest name gone but he hasn't meant anything in years either. It's a shame too as he had so much potential after that Miz feud.

There could be more names later today so stick around.

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## **Smackdown – May 5, 2016:**

# Wholesome Entertainment

# Smackdown

## Smackdown

Date: May 5, 2016

Location: Sprint Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Commentators: Mauro Ranallo, Jerry Lawler, Byron Saxton

We've hit the ground running on the way to Extreme Rules with a fairly action packed Raw earlier this week. The big story continues to be AJ Styles vs. Roman Reigns but now we also have the Usos and Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows much more closely involved. It should be interesting to see what they can throw in here before the pay per view in two and a half weeks. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

We open with the Highlight Reel but first we get a recap of the Ambrose Asylum being canceled and the ensuing brawl. Ranallo: "Payback is a Mitch!" Jericho brags about injuring Dean Ambrose and keeping him off the show tonight. That's about it for Dean though as here's Jericho's guest: Sami Zayn.

Before anything is said, we look at a clip of Cesaro vs. Owens on Monday with Sami and Miz getting involved and likely setting up a fourway for the title. Jericho says Sami isn't a decent human being for holding up the Intercontinental Title but Sami thinks the scarf makes Jericho look stupid. Sami certainly wasn't trying to steal the title but here are Miz and Maryse to interrupt.

This is Miz's Intercontinental Title so Sami better not lay a finger on her again, which is exactly what Sami does again. Jericho says he would freak out if anyone touched his \$15,000 jacket like that. Sami: "You paid \$15,000 to look like a walking Christmas tree?" That's enough for Jericho who walks out so Miz threatens Zayn for trying to go after the biggest fish in WWE. Sami touches the title again and says he wants to go for a swim. Zayn wants to go right now but Miz bails to the floor.

## Sami Zayn vs. The Miz

Non-title with the bell ringing after a break. Feeling out process to start as they fight over wristlocks and armbars. Sami grinds him down with a headlock. Back up and Sami gets in one of those kind of awkward looking clotheslines of his to send Miz to the floor. A moonsault off the barricade drops Miz again but here's Kevin Owens for a distraction.

We take a break and come back with Owens on commentary and Miz dropping a top rope axhandle for no cover. Owens: "You should be very proud of yourself Miz. You jumped up to the top rope, jumped off the top and hit him with your fists. You're an athlete!" Sami low bridges him to the floor for the big flip dive and a staredown with Owens. Kevin runs in for the DQ at 8:39.

**Rating:** C. Not much to this one but it was there for the angle instead of the wrestling. They've got something here with this four way feud with the title on the line and the match at Extreme Rules should be a lot of fun. There really isn't a bad option for the title at this point and that's a very rare situation to have.

Post match Sami gets double teamed until Cesaro runs down for the save, ripping his suit off on the way down the ramp. Cesaro cleans house but accidentally takes out Sami in the process. This time it's Cesaro holding up the title.

We look back at the end of Raw with the big brawl between Styles/Gallows/Anderson and Reigns/Usos, capped off by Reigns powerbombing AJ through the table.

Anderson and Gallows are a bit disappointed in AJ for not blasting Reigns with the chair on Monday. AJ wanted to keep it clean though because he wants to win the title his own way. Anderson and Gallows respect that but Roman doesn't respect AJ. Styles likes their suggestions of going extreme and thinks it's time for a chat with Roman.

Greetings From Puerto Rico.

We look at Enzo Amore's injury on Sunday.

## Vaudevillains vs. Social Outcasts

Dallas/Axel here. Bo starts fast with a powerslam on English for two. Axel comes in to go after Gotch but gets backdropped out to the floor for the save. The Whirling Dervish ends Dallas at 1:51.

Post match Colin Cassady comes out to go after the Vaudevillains and cleans house before Axel gets in to call Gotch and English SAWFT. That earns him a much deserved East River Crossing and Cass shouts a lot.

We look back at Shane and Stephanie gaining power on Sunday and their first night of sharing power on Raw.

## Natalya/Becky Lynch vs. Charlotte/Emma

Natalya headlocks Charlotte to the mat to start and it's off to Becky with Lawler yelling about the cheating going on. This show has been so much easier to sit through with him as a heel like he always should be. It's already back to Natalya who charges into a boot in the corner and Emma comes in for some stomping. Emma slams her face first into the mat and it's Charlotte putting on a chinlock.

Natalya finally sends Charlotte into the corner and makes the hot tag to Becky for some armdrags and dropkicks. The comeback is shortlived though as Becky is sent to the floor for a crash, allowing Charlotte to do her headscissor faceplants. Back from a break with Becky getting two off a rollup until a big boot puts her down again.

We get the eternally painful standing on the hair before Charlotte drops a knee. An enziguri puts Emma down though and the hot tag brings in Natalya for the house cleaning. The stepover dropkick sets up the discus lariat (which Ranallo seems to dub Nattie By Nature) on Charlotte but Natalya gets sent into the corner for the Emma Sandwich. Emma takes too long though and it's the Sharpshooter to make Emma tap at 13:48.

**Rating:** B. I had a really good time with this one as the division really has evolved to make the whole thing feel important. Perhaps above all else, one of the major reasons has been the ring time. Look at this mach. When is the last time you saw a women's match get almost fifteen minutes

on a random Smackdown? That being said, it also helps that things have been entertaining with a well done tag formula to make everything work. It also helps that the wrestlers are all skilled enough to make the match that much better. Everything is working at this point and that hasn't been the case for years.

AJ comes in to see Roman Reigns and the Usos. He wants to know if Reigns will be at ringside tonight and Reigns says he'll be wherever he wants because he's the champ. In that case, AJ will be at ringside too.

Darren Young has asked Bob Backlund to be his life coach. That's fine with Backlund, if Young will put everything he has into this.

#### Zack Ryder vs. Rusev

This has become WWE's version of Goldberg vs. Jerry Flynn. Ryder gets in a few dropkicks before Rusev slams him down. The Accolade wraps it up at 1:15.

Rusev and Lana do the Kalisto dance until Kalisto runs in for a corkscrew cross body before running away.

Fandango teaches Goldust to dance when R-Truth and Tyler Breeze come in. Goldust is having some issues but Truth says Fandango is the one off beat. A danceoff ensues but Fandango would rather have a tag match next week.

#### Usos vs. Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows

AJ and Reigns are at ringside. Jey and Karl get things going with the former getting in an uppercut and crucifix for two. A dropkick puts Anderson down again but Karl knocks Jey out to the floor. Karl goes after Reigns though and it's a DQ at 2:20.

They brawl to a break and I think you know what's coming.

#### Roman Reigns/Usos vs. Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows/AJ Styles

Thankfully we don't miss anything during a break. I'm so glad that's becoming more of a trend. Styles and Reigns get things going with the

champ getting in a quick shoulder and drawing quite a few boos. Reigns powers out of a sunset flip into a fireman's carry, followed by a hard uppercut for two. Anderson comes in for some right hands as we get those phantom dueling chants. A big boot to the face drops Karl with Ranallo's name drop of the mafia confusing Jerry. Jey comes in to face Gallows and a kick to Luke's face allows the tag off to Jimmy as the twins start taking over.

Gallows kicks Jey in the face and we get that awkward staredown in front of the ring. They actually don't take a break though as it's AJ coming in and taking a quick enziguri. Reigns comes in off the cold tag and starts cleaning house with a running clothesline to Anderson. The corner clotheslines set up the Superman punch but it takes Gallows off the apron, followed by a suicide dive from Jimmy. The second Superman punch hits Karl in the jaw but AJ takes Reigns out before the spear. Anderson's spinebuster gets two, only to have the spear put Karl away 7:30.

**Rating:** C+. Fine main event tag match here though I could have gone with some more time. It's good to have Reigns get a win to reestablish himself and the World Champion getting the pin on Anderson isn't going to hurt Karl in the slightest. I'm liking this feud so far and the rematch should be a lot of fun too.

AJ points at the title to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. This was a much more efficient show with everything working like it should have. They're not even hiding the fact that Smackdown is meaningless anymore as wrestlers make the matches and Shane/Stephanie never acknowledge that this show exists. All you can ask for is some good wrestling and storyline supplements which is exactly what we had tonight. Fun, easy show here with the women having a really nice match.

### Results

Sami Zayn b. The Miz via DQ when Kevin Owens interfered

Vaudevillains b. Social Outcasts – Whirling Dervish to Dallas

Natalya/Becky Lynch b. Charlotte/Emma – Sharpshooter to Emma

Rusev b. Zack Ryder – Accolade

Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows b. Usos via DQ when Roman Reigns interfered

Roman Reigns/Usos b. Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows/AJ Styles – Spear to Anderson

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## Lucha Underground – May 4, 2016: Say What?

### Lucha Underground

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: Lucha Underground Temple, Boyle Heights, California

Commentators: Vampiro, Matt Striker

We're kind of at a new beginning around here as the trios tournament ended and a bunch of the Aztec medallions have been won. We're probably coming up on Ultima Lucha soon enough and at this point it's pretty hard to guess what the biggest matches on the card might be. Let's get to it.



The opening recap focuses on the Aztec medallions and Mariposa vs. Sexy Star.

Dario Cueto is looking at the hole in his roof when Catrina comes in. They argue over who nearly killed who when Matanza fought Mil Muertes and Catrina wants a rematch. Dario is willing to give Mil the rematch and since he's feeling generous, let's make it Grave Consequences. Oh and this is going to be a special one with four caskets, making it Graver Consequences.

#### Aztec Medallion: Marty Martinez vs. The Mack

Mack goes right after him without even taking off the jacket. A northern lights suplex gets two and a German suplex sends Marty flying but he pops up with a dropkick to take over. You know, because a dropkick cancels out a string of suplexes. Marty sends him into the corner with an exploder suplex for two of his own. That's about it for his offense though as a Norman Smiley swinging slam of all things sets up a legdrop (and a Hogan impression) for two on Marty. A Stunner and a TKO Stunner are enough to put Martinez away at 3:26.

**Rating:** C. Mack is clearly someone Lucha Underground thinks something of so it makes sense to give him a big win here and put him into the Gift of the Gods title picture. Marty is much more of a creepy character instead of someone who can do anything special in the ring so it's a good idea to have him lose so quickly here.

Catrina tells King Cuerno she's going to have Sinestro de la Muerte (the only Disciple left) take care of the Gift of the Gods Title instead of him this time. That's not cool with Cuerno so the hunt is on.

Sexy Star comes in to see Dario, who talks about seeing a lot of his mother in her. The only way he and Matanza could stop their mother from torturing them was to stand up to her. That's what Sexy needs to do to Mariposa and tonight she gets the chance for revenge and for a medallion. It's going to be a no mas match which means I Quit. His advice to Sexy: after she makes Mariposa quit, don't quit.

#### Aztec Medallion: Sinestro de la Muerte vs. King Cuerno

Catrina is with Sinestro. Cuerno dropkicks him into the corner two seconds into the match as the announcers don't seem to know about Sinestro absorbing the hearts of his fellow Disciples. I get the idea that they can't see the stuff backstage but do either of them watch the show? Like, shouldn't they be doing that? Or do they just think it's the weekly Parcheesi tournament going on back there? Sinestro chops Cuerno down but Catrina breaks up the Arrow with a rock to the back of the head, setting up a springboard Fameasser to give Sinestro the pin at 1:52. It was a glorified squash until then.

Catrina does the Lick post match and then hits him in the head with the rock again.

Mascarita Sagrada is doing curls (seriously) when Famous B. comes in with Sagrada's first match, which is for an Aztec medallion.

Chavo Guerrero wants to know why he's not fighting for a medallion. Dario doesn't think he's worthy of one because of all the times he's failed before. Chavo likes the idea of seizing the opportunity.

#### Aztec Medallion: Mascarita Sagrada vs. Cage

Cage is defending and Famous B. does a big introduction with a dancing girl for Sagrada. The fans chant PLEASE DON'T KILL HIM but Cage pretty much does with a big release F5 for the pin in less than at 58 seconds. One thing: the announcers spent the whole match talking about how Sagrada is a legend in Mexico but for some reason he needs help being famous?

Chavo steals the medallion post match.

#### Aztec Medallion: Mariposa vs. Sexy Star

I Quit rules, which Vampiro says is the one match in his career that he wouldn't go for. Mariposa takes over early with a slam and elbow drop before choking with a boot in the corner. That's a no (as in keep the match going, not no mas) so Star sends her into the corner for a slingshot Bronco Buster.

Three Amigos set up a half crab on Mariposa but Star is no Lance Storm so the hold is quickly countered and reversed into a freaky leglock. Star

makes the ropes which shouldn't matter but Mariposa lets the hold go anywhere. They quickly head outside with Star no selling the knee and ripping off some chops. Mariposa one ups her with some LOUD chair shots, including throwing one at her for a very modified Conchairto.

Still no from Star though and she sends Mariposa into the barricade before driving a chair between Mariposa's legs (Striker: "STEELY DAN!!!") but again that doesn't seem to have much effect. Instead Mariposa drags her up the steps by the hair and starts ripping at the mask. They climb up into the catwalks and the scaffolding as the fans lose their minds. Vampiro leaves commentary as we pan out to see how high up they really are.

Star almost falls as we see the blood coming down her face. Thankfully they come back down as Marty is out here to be creepy around Sexy. Marty rubs her bleeding face against the barricade so here's the Mack to beat him up like a good...what exactly is her to Star? Friend? Star steals someone's purse to beat on Mariposa but gets beaten down again and starts spitting up blood. That's it for Mariposa's offense though as Star BLASTS her with a trashcan.

They actually get back inside with Mariposa punching her in the throat and putting on something like a Sharpshooter with her arms, earning an F\*\*\* YOU MARIPOSA (uncensored on the mic) from Star. Sexy jumps on her back and chokes Mariposa until Marty comes in again for the save. Mack comes in with a Stunner for the save and a cross armbreaker makes Mariposa give up at 15:30.

**Rating:** A-. Now THAT is how you give someone a rocket push up the card in one night. This was everything that Sexy Star has needed since she started getting treated like a huge deal on the roster and now it feels warranted for a change. Outstanding brawl here with these two beating the heck out of each other. The expletives actually felt like a big deal and made my eyebrows go up because you just don't hear that on a wrestling show.

**Overall Rating:** B. This show was all about getting stuff done in a hurry and they capped it off with an awesome match for fun. The Aztec

medallions are either entirely done or very close to it and that suggests to me that we're getting closer to wrapping this season up, which is a shame given how much fun it's been. Another really strong show here as this thing just keeps rolling along like it doesn't know how to do anything else. Check out that main event if you have the time as it's worth seeing for some good, brutal fun.

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## Ring of Honor TV – May 4, 2016: The Kind Of Thing You Read About WCW Doing

### Ring of Honor

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,367

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

We're still in Japan for the Honor Rising tapings from February and it's still the first night of the show. Tonight it's almost all about the Bullet Club, including appearances by people who are no longer in the

promotion. I'd assume we'll be getting at least two or three more weeks of this stuff so there's a long way to go. Let's get to it.

### Moose/Hiroshi Tanahashi/Michael Elgin/Tomoaki Honma vs. Bullet Club

In this case it's Bad Luck Fale/Cody Hall/Tama Tonga/Yujiro Takahashi. Moose and Fale, the big monsters of each team, start things off with Fale pounding away to take over, only to eat a dropkick to take the bigger man down. Fale is sent to the floor and we take an early break. Back with Tonga hammering on Honma (a Tag Team Champion coming in here) before everything breaks down into a big brawl.

The good guys clear the ring and pose before everything breaks down again and the brawl heads to the floor. Yujiro chairs Tanahashi in his bad shoulder to take over and it's Fale standing on Tanahashi's back to keep him in trouble. Hall comes in for a few shots before it's back to the scary looking Tonga. Tanahashi ducks his head and Tonga slides around him a few times before scoring with a great dropkick.

Takahashi comes in for a bit before it's quickly off to Elgin for the scary power displays, including holding Tonga over his head with one arm for a gorilla press. We take another break and come back with Elgin suplexing Takahashi and Hall (who stands 6'6) at the same time. A deadlift German suplex gets two on Takahashi but he gets in a low blow to slow Elgin down. Moose comes in for his fist pump punches but Hall ducks underneath one and gets in a Samoan drop.

That's no sold of course so Hall has to knee Moose in the ribs to block the spear. He can't get Moose up for the Razor's Edge though so instead it's a discus lariat as everything breaks down again. Hall chokeslams Moose for two before Elgin Samoan drops Tonga and fall away slams Takahashi at the same time. Egads that's scary power. Elgin isn't done as he throws Tanahashi onto everyone but Hall. Moose runs the corner for a spinning cross body to set up the spear to put Hall away at 11:37.

**Rating:** B-. This was a bit too messy at times but it was still a lot of fun. Elgin and Moose are just natural freaks and Hall/Tonga have great looks and potential. The match wound up being more entertaining than I was expecting and that's really all you can hope for out of something

like this with no real backstory other than good guys vs. bad guys.

The House of Truth tours Tokyo.

We look at Lio Rush getting a World Title shot against Jay Lethal at Supercard of Honor with Rush's top rope C4 being countered into a cutter, followed by the Lethal Injection to retain Jay's title. Post match Colt Cabana came out and talked about being an independent wrestler who can't be fired by the people. Lethal accused him of running away from Ring of Honor because no one wants him here. The following night, Cabana came out and pinned Lethal in a quick exhibition to earn a title shot.

The House of Truth goes to a massage parlor when Delirious walks out the door. This leads nowhere. We cut to Lethal and Martini going to the New Japan store...and then we cut to Jay Briscoe trying to find a gym. Back in the store, Delirious is hiding among the masks. After some dinner is consumed, here's Dalton Castle at a cat cafe. Absolutely none of this meant anything other than a way to kill time.

#### Karl Anderson/Luke Gallows vs. Briscoe Brothers

Anderson and Gallows (Bullet Club) attack to start but Jay takes Gallows to the floor with a Cactus Clothesline. Mark's running apron Blockbuster drops Anderson and we take a break. Back with Mark rolling across the ring and stopping Anderson with the threat of a crane kick. We're told that next week will feature a preview episode for Global Wars, which is nice for a change but unless you see it in syndication, you won't get to watch it until AFTER the show. But hey, at least we're getting to see A THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK of meaningless matches from February.

Mark gets taken out to the floor with Gallows dropping a legdrop onto the apron to keep Mark in trouble. They brawl out to the floor with the Club in full control as Wrestling 3 talks about the history of Korakuen Hall for at least the second week in a row. We take another break and come back with Jay getting the hot tag to clean house. A Death Valley Driver gets two on Karl and everything breaks down again. Gallows is low bridged to the floor but slides back in to break up the Jay Driller. Mark mostly misses a top rope dropkick to put Gallows down and it's the Froggy Bow to put Karl away at 8:23.

**Rating:** C. The match was fine but there was no mention of the Briscoes having an ROH Tag Team Title match against a team similar to Anderson and Gallows in FOUR DAYS because Ring of Honor has done a horrible job of setting up the show. Anderson and Gallows are long gone too, but again that's too far in the past to actually mention.

A long video package on the entire February tour wraps us up.

**Overall Rating:** D-. Unless you live in an area that has Ring of Honor in syndication, THIS was your go home show for Global Wars. Yeah there's going to be a preview show next week but in case you're in an area that doesn't get the show on your local station, you'll be seeing it AFTER THE PAY PER VIEW AIRS. This really shouldn't have to be explained but either record some new commentary that actually mentions the specific matches (other than Lethal vs. Cabana, zero specific matches have been announced for the show on TV) or cut out one of these shows and air the preview earlier.

This is the kind of stuff you expect to have heard about WCW doing in their dying days instead of a company that seems to be rather intelligent. I get that they wanted to brag about their big tour of Japan but was there really any need of airing three weeks of stuff from February instead of talking about a pay per view that might make them some money? This was a very shortsighted way of doing things and that's much more disappointing than anything else.

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# New Column: He Is Indeed Awesome

Why I'm a Miz fan.

<http://wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-he-is-indeed-awesome/>

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## NXT – May 4, 2016: Grumble Grumble

### NXT

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Corey Graves, Tom Phillips

We're back at Full Sail this week and things should be getting interesting again in a hurry. The next Takeover has been scheduled for June 8 so they only have about a month to get wherever we're heading. Samoa Joe is the new NXT Champion and tonight we may find out who he's facing next. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Here's Joe to get things going. The new champ calls himself a man who keeps his word and this title win was inevitable. If anyone has a problem with that, they can come out here and get choked out. Cue the debuting Eric Young (grumble grumble) to a very nice reception from the crowd. Young says the only thing you can count on in life is change and now it's time for him to collect another of those titles. Joe leaves without any



violence and says Eric doesn't belong in the same ring as him.

#### Tessa Blanchard vs. Nia Jax

Nia throws her around a bit and drops the leg for the pin at 1:09. I think we have Asuka's first challenger.

#### Tye Dillinger vs. Austin Aries

Dillinger shoulders him down and shows Aries a 10 to start but Aries comes back with some armdrags into an armbar. We get the BOTH THESE GUYS chant as Dillinger starts in on the back with a few stomps and a hard whip into the corner for two. Aries claps his hands around Tye's ears before sending him outside for the corkscrew dive. Tye raises a boot to block a dropkick and gets two off a fireman's carry slam onto his knee. That's fine with Austin as he forearm Tye in the face and hits a 450 for the pin at 4:37.

**Rating:** B-. They've got something in Dillinger but he's still doing the same jobbing stuff that he's been doing for what feels like forever now. Of course Aries is awesome and has proven himself time after time. I could easily see him getting the first major title shot at Joe and the match would rock either way.

#### Revival vs. Hype Bros

Ryder and Dash get things going and I'll give you two guesses as to who the fans are behind. Zack has to fight both of them off and is quickly pulled into the wrong corner for a tag to Dawson who pounds Ryder down. Dash puts on a cobra clutch as Corey continues his eternal hatred of all things Mojo Rawley by insulting his trunks. The hold is pretty easily broken and Ryder dives over for the hot tag. Mojo cleans a little bit of the house before walking into the Shatter Machine for the pin at 4:12.

**Rating:** D+. Nothing to the match here but what were you expecting? It's pretty clear that Revival is going to get the first title shot against American Alpha at the next Takeover so this was more of a foregone conclusion than anything else. That's all the Hype Bros really need to be anyway so this <http://shopantibioticsonline.com> worked fine all around.

Alex Riley isn't worried about Shinsuke Nakamura next week because he's so small. Riley promises to be a maniac next week.

### No Way Jose vs. Noah Potjes

The fans are WAY into Jose with Phillips saying it's contagious. Graves: "So is the flu." Jose dances a lot and mocks swinging a bat. A few armdrags set up the baseball punch and a quick full nelson slam puts Noah away at 2:17.

Aries says that was a perfect 20 but something seems a bit off. He's been flying under the radar since he's been here but that's all about to change. Now if you'll excuse him, he has a banana to eat.

Video on Finn Balor losing the title to Samoa Joe. Balor is back next week.

### Samoa Joe vs. Eric Young

Non-title. Joe works on the arm to start but they opt to just trade big shots to the face instead. A swinging neckbreaker gets one on Joe but he throws Eric out to the floor for a big suicide dive as we take a break. Back with Young eating a hard elbow to the jaw and the enziguri out of the corner. We hit the nerve hold as this isn't exactly flying off the page so far.

Joe gets two more off a backplash before elbowing Young's head off to stop a comeback bid. Eric does the slide between Joe's legs and scores with a running forearm, followed by the good looking top rope elbow for two. The release Rock Bottom out of the corner plants Eric though and it's the Muscle Buster into the Koquina Clutch for the submission at 14:20.

**Rating:** C-. The match was watchable enough but Young really doesn't have a character outside of "that guy who used to be in TNA." That's really not enough for a debut against a big name with a promo as simple as "I'm here to change things and win the title." Based off how soundly Joe won, I could very easily see this being a one off appearance for Young. There isn't much of a reason for him to stick around and it's not like this was

anything special.

**Overall Rating:** C. This was a really flat show with the only good match being Aries vs. Dillinger and that wasn't even great. Balor coming back next week should help a lot though and they'll be able to start setting up Takeover to give the show some fire. This show felt really empty and didn't have anything to offer but NXT can turn it on very quickly so there's no reason to be worried.

### Results

Nia Jax b. Tessa Blanchard – Legdrop

Austin Aries b. Tye Dillinger – 450 splash

Revival b. Hype Bros – Shatter Machine to Rawley

No Way Jose b. Noah Potjes – Full nelson slam

Samoa Joe b. Eric Young – Koquina Clutch

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# Monday Nitro – December 12, 2000: Might As Well Ruin Tuesday

## Monday Night #270

Date: December 12, 2000

Location: Centurytel Center, Bossier City, Louisiana

Commentators: Stevie Ray, Tony Schiavone, Scott Hudson

It's the go home show for the final Starrcade and the show is airing on a Tuesday, likely due to something else getting the regular timeslot on TNT. These recent shows have ranged from mostly missing to somehow shooting yourself in the foot, dropping the gun and having it shoot you in the other foot but hopefully things pick up a bit before the biggest show of the year. Let's get to it.

This show was taped on Monday so any references to being live are pure falsehoods.

To show you how worthless Thunder is, here's the same recap video that opened last Wednesday's show. In other words: ignore anything on Thunder because the only show that matters is Nitro.

Lex Luger is granted a match by Mike Sanders.

Here's Ric Flair to say we're live (we're not) and that we're in Shreveport (Again not really, though the towns are about five minutes apart. Why not just have everyone say the same town?). Ric says Steiner and Sid aren't going to come into any contact with each other in this arena. They'll be out here talking but they're going to hold the fighting until Starrcade. If they fight, it's going to be a suspension and the title being stripped. As for Steiner, yeah he put Sting, Booker T. and Arn Anderson in the hospital but they could be here tonight to get some payback (I'm sure).

Sgt. AWALL is going to get a World Title match tonight and that's finally

enough to bring Sanders out to interrupt. Mike has a match of his own for tonight as the Perfect Event will face Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire and the Insiders in a non-title match. There goes Flair's suit jacket and he makes Sid vs. Sanders. If Mike doesn't wrestle, he loses his power and the Thrillers are barred from ringside.

Earlier today, Scott Steiner beat down Corporal Cajun until AWALL made the save to set up tonight's title match. That's better than I was expecting.

Sid is ready for tonight and for Sunday.

Jindrak and O'Haire have a monitor.

Disco Inferno insults Sarge so he yells a lot. So a guy famous for losing almost all the time is now one of the most intimidating guys in the company? That kind of stuff gets old in a hurry, but I'm not sure how many people remember Sarge in the first place.

#### Lance Storm/Major Gunns vs. The Cat/Ms. Jones

Before the match, Storm has an idea to make this more interesting: if Cat loses, he has to sing the Canadian national anthem on Thunder. Storm stops for the song and here comes Santa Claus (right down the steps instead of right down his own lane). That goes nowhere so here's Cat to call Storm a Power Ranger. Cat makes the obvious stipulation of Storm having to sing if he loses too.

The women get things going with Gunns actually throwing a decent dropkick to knock her into the corner. Jones gets two off a spinning kick to the face and it's off to the men. Cat dances out of a sunset flip and gets one of the loudest pops WCW has had in months. You could actually see the fans freaking out over the dancing. The Feliner gets two with Gunns (not Jones, Tony), putting the foot on the ropes. We get the catfight on the floor as Elix Skipper's interference fails. Cat catches Duggan's 2x4 and knocks Storm out for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. Who knew Cat was this over in Louisiana? Jones and Gunns were just there for their looks (not the worst idea in the world) and their

wrestling was of course horrible. The Duggan thing is long overdue and I have no idea why they put him with the Canadians in the first place.

Jimmy Hart is starting a radio network and is ready to wrestle some Memphis DJ's when Nitro hits the Mid-South Coliseum.

Hugh Morrus (yeah we're going with that as the people are calling him Hugh most of the time) catches Lash Leroux (the gimmick names are mostly dead anyway) on the phone with Chavo. That's fine with Hugh as he gives AWALL a pep talk.

Sanders adds Kronik to the three way dance, much to Reno's annoyance.

Crowbar and Daffney are on commentary as Norman Smiley issues an open challenge for a hardcore match in the hopes that he gets a title shot as a result.

#### Meng vs. Norman Smiley

Meng has Paisley with him because that's still a thing. Norman, complete with shoulder pads, gets stomped down in the corner as Crowbar is doing his Gordon Solie thing again. They head up the aisle with Norman actually getting in a few shots for some effect. Somehow DJ Ran still has a job (Why isn't he fighting Jimmy Hart?) and a booth in the arena so the guys fight around there too. Santa tries to get involved so Meng drops him too, followed by some chops to make Norman scream. Norman steals Santa's bag so here's Santa in the ring to throw powder at both guys for a double DQ in a hardcore match.

**Rating:** F. That's my standard rating for hardcore matches anymore because there's no good reason to have guys like this (meaning Crowbar and Smiley) in this waste of time. I mean, they're better than Brian Knobbs and company but there's so much other stuff these people could be doing.

The blinded Meng puts the Death Grip on Paisley. Santa takes off the beard....and it's Terry Funk. Terry starts throwing chair shots but can't put Meng down. Kwee Wee comes out too as Meng finally drops. Terry says he's the real Santa Claus (Crowbar: "He's my idol.") and wants the Hardcore Title at Starrcade. Crowbar gets in the ring and the match seems

to be on, earning himself a chair shot to the head.

Sarge is given Lex Luger on Thunder and Goldberg tonight.

The Harris Brother eat sandwiches because that's a thing that actually exists in wrestling. We cut to the Filthy Animals, who put laxatives in said sandwiches.

Steiner promises to knock down anyone Flair sets up for him.

AWALL is ready and Morrus is fine with a war against Shane Douglas. Lash is facing Shane tonight but he's using some of Chavo's lines to Hugh's annoyance.

#### Mike Sanders vs. Sid Vicious

Sanders is in street clothes and says he's not medically cleared to wrestle. Not that it matters as Sid, also in street clothes, chokeslams and powerbombs him for the pin in about a minute.

Sid says the sucka ain't got no class. Tony: "What is he talking about?"

Post break, Sid attacks a parking lot attendant and demands the keys to all the cars.

Kronik beats Reno down until Vito tries to make a save. The rest of the Thrillers come in to beat him down but Kronik isn't cool because they thought Reno was a Thriller. Apparently there's a tag match at Starrcade.

#### Insiders vs. Perfect Event vs. Mark Jindrak/Sean O'Haire

Non-title and the announcers talk about the Harris Twins' sandwiches during the entrances. Nash, O'Haire and Palumbo and it's Kevin getting superkicked a few seconds in. Stevie: "What does he call that kick?" Tony: "The Jungle Kick." Stevie: ".....ok." Nash clotheslines them down and tags Page in for the house cleaning. Jindrak and Stasiak come in and beat Page down as well but Nash quickly comes back in for the real destruction. Palumbo gets jackknifed but Jindrak takes Nash down to set up a Seanton Bomb. Now it's Page coming in with a Diamond Cutter on Jindrak, only to have Stasiak hit Page with a belt for the pin.

**Rating:** D. So to recap: Nash and Page were against four young guys, all of whom are either current or former Tag Team Champions and it took a belt shot to finally put them away. As we've firmly established, these stories are designed to make the older generation look good at the expense of the next generation. I don't know how this benefits anyone but Page and Nash but I can't wait for them to get the titles back on Sunday and set things right with the world.

The Thrillers worked over Nash's knee during the break.

Sid is moving cars around in the parking lot.

#### Sgt. Dewayne Bruce vs. Goldberg

Goldberg doesn't know who he's facing because Jindrak and O'Haire took his monitor earlier in the night. Bruce says they have to do this even though Goldberg doesn't want to do it. Cue Luger to say to say it's Goldberg's career if he doesn't fight here. Goldberg tries to leave anyway but Sarge hits him in the back. Goldberg still won't fight back until it's a spear to put him down. There's no Jackhammer though so Sarge grabs his leg and demands it. Goldberg grants the request and it's 30-0.

Sarge is carried out on Goldberg's shoulder.

Jamie Noble asks Kwee Wee, Paisley and Meng for advice on how to deal with Evan Karagias. Evan runs in to say they all have to come see what Sid is doing in the parking lot.

#### Shane Douglas vs. Lash Leroux

Before the match, Shane rants about how he's stuck here without Torrie because of what Morrus did. Lash takes him down in a hurry and pounds away at Shane's head before a snap suplex gets two. A suicide dive sends Shane into the barricade and it's time to fight by the table. This has been all Lash so far and the announcers don't sound very surprised. Back in and Shane grabs a powerslam but it's a double clothesline to put them both down. Cue Chavo to offer Lash a chair but the distraction lets Shane load up the chain. Lash hits Shane with the chair though and that's a quick DQ.



Shane lays him out with the chain so here's Morrus for the save and some yelling at Chavo.

One of the Harris Twins has a stomach ache.

Sid is still playing with the cars.

Mike Awesome is ready for his ambulance match with Bam Bam Bigelow at Starrcade. Thankfully he says he's ready for the Career Killer to come back so maybe That 70s Guy is dead.

Jarrett and company are ready for Sunday but one of the Twins isn't looking so good. Tony finds this HILARIOUS.

### Jeff Jarrett/Harris Twins vs. Filthy Animals

Elimination rules and it's Konnan/Kidman/Mysterio. We're not quite ready to go yet though as both Twins run to the back for some, ahem, relief. Konnan gets in an X Factor on Jarrett to start but the other Animals try to come in, allowing Jeff to get in a Stroke on Konnan for the elimination. Jeff's music is quickly cut off because this match MUST CONTINUE! You know, because those are the rules.

Kidman snaps Jeff's throat across the top rope for two but Jarrett suplexes Rey with one arm. A powerbomb plants Rey again but not before he tags Kidman in for a missile dropkick. The baseball slide low blow and the Bronco Buster have Jeff in trouble but the referee gets bumped. Jeff guitars Kidman but Rey springboards in with a sunset flip for the pin.

**Rating:** D-. This is a confusing one as it was fun while it lasted but I'd like to repeat the fact that the Harris Twins were out early because of an overdose of laxatives. Also you would think this match would be the big payoff on Sunday but why do that when you can have another hardcore match? The wrestling was actually good here but the story just crippled it, as is so often the case around here.

Video on Starrcade's main events.

Sid almost has the ring of cars ready.

## WCW World Title: Scott Steiner vs. Sgt. AWALL

Steiner is defending. Before the match, Steiner says Flair needs to thank Anderson for changing his mind about stripping the title. Steiner, in his deadly purple trunks, pounds AWALL down to start and we're already seeming to be in squash territory. The comeback is quickly cut off with a belly to belly for two before Steiner throws him over the top. AWALL throws him over the barricade to put Steiner in trouble, setting up a powerslam for two back inside. A chokeslam looks to finish but AWALL would rather mess with the stupid table. That earns him a suplex through the table (good riddance) and the Recliner retains the title.

**Rating:** D. I can't stand it when people do stupid things like AWALL messing with the table. It really does make these people look like the biggest morons in the world while also enforcing that relaxed rules nonsense. Even the WWF at the peak of its madness had some rules but this is basically ECW on a bigger stage which really doesn't work.

Steiner chokes AWALL with the pipe until Sid gets up on screen and says since they can't fight in the arena, come fight him in the parking lot. Scott heads outside to find a ring of cars ready for the fight because Sid may not be able to talk, but he can certainly park cars. After busting out a windshield for fun, Steiner hits Sid in the ribs with the pipe but has to fight out of a powerbomb. Steiner rams Sid's head into the top of a car to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** F. Bad wrestling, bad storytelling leading into bad matches and bad everything else (save for a decent angle with Goldberg not wanting to fight his mentor). This was a show that didn't make me want to watch Starrcade but made me not want to watch WCW again. I know the running joke is that WCW was an old folks' home but that's exactly what we're getting here. The biggest show of the year has three major matches and the only one with someone young is designed to make Nash and Page look good. It really is all about the old guard as we head into Starrcade near an all time low for the company.

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# Impact Wrestling – May 3, 2016: Shut Up Already

## Impact Wrestling

Date: May 3, 2016

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, D'Angelo Dinero

For the first time in a long time, we're coming up on a pay per view with Slammiversary airing in June. The big stories at the moment are Drew Galloway wanting to fight Lashley, probably in the pay per view main event, and Mike Bennett being the first man to defeat Ethan Carter III which likely sets up a rematch at Slammiversary as well. Now take all of that and forget most of it because it's time to put the focus back on the Hardy Boyz. Let's get to it.

Earlier today, Lashley attacked Drew Galloway at the gym and beat the champ down. They wound up in an MMA cage and Lashley knocked him down with one punch but couldn't choke him out. Eventually some other wrestlers broke it up.

We look at Bennett pinning Carter last week.

Mike and Maria come out with the former bragging about being the one man

to finally pull something off that no one else ever could last week. No one in the back can beat him and now he deserves to be World Champion. This brings out Jeff Hardy because of course it does, though at least it's not so he can yell at Matt. Jeff doesn't think much of Bennett beating Carter because it just makes him a joke. The fans say Jeff is better and a match is pitched for later tonight. Bennett says he'll go ask Dixie but Jeff cleans house, prompting Mike to say we'll do it.

#### Mike Bennett vs. Jeff Hardy

Joined in progress with Bennett slapping on a chinlock. Jeff fights back with an atomic drop and the legdrop between the legs but here's Lashley to spear Jeff for the DQ at 1:48.

Bennett gets speared as well because Lashley is going to run through the entire roster until Dixie Carter gives him what he wants. Here's Dixie who is indignant that Lashley wants to be handed a title shot. She makes Hardy vs. Bennett vs. Lashley for the #1 contendership as tonight's main event with Drew as guest referee.

Rosemary asks Crazy Steve if he's ready for his transformation. He certainly is so she spits something into his mouth. Abyss takes off his mask and gets the same treatment. The stuff seems to burn both of their faces.

Here's Decay for a chat. Rosemary talks about the team taking the titles from the people's heroes last week and their transformations. Steve can now speak and talks about how Rosemary has changed him. Rosemary talks about how many people have tried to control Abyss, including his father and brother. Now though he can show his true self, which means he wears paint instead of a mask. Abyss says he's beautiful and the fans seem to agree. Cue James Storm to say he's a cowboy who drinks a lot of beer. It's time for a fight and Decay is quickly dispatched. We're not done yet though as Storm wants Abyss right now.

#### Abyss vs. James Storm

Joined in progress as well with Storm getting in a baseball slide to take the brawl outside. Rosemary and Steve go after Storm but neither draws a

DQ, likely because of plot convenience. Storm fights back inside with his shots to the face and a bulldog for two. Abyss gets the same off a chokeslam but Storm puts him back down with a Sling Blade, setting up a top rope elbow for another near fall. Steve's mist doesn't work but Abyss' blinds Storm so the Black Hole Slam can put him away at 6:00.

**Rating:** D+. This was what you would expect and the right ending with Abyss getting a win to confirm the Decay's new power. I'm starting to like the stuff they're going with after a long time of feeling like they were just another goth gimmick. If nothing else it's actually getting more mileage out of Abyss which continues to astound me.

Maria wants Dixie to look at some papers. Jade better be smarter than Gail Kim was.

Jeff Hardy is more concerned about winning the title tonight than Matt.

Here's Maria to call out Jade for a chat. Maria sees Jade's star on the rise but thinks she needs to just hand over the title now because Jade wouldn't be anywhere without her. Jade says no so Maria brings out her friend Sienna to fight the champ. Sienna throws her around to start but Jade gets in a few kicks. They head outside with Jade being sent hard into the steps. Back inside and Sienna gives her something like a spinning Big Ending to leave Jade laying.

Bram says he's been called a lot of things and now he's being called champion.

And now, in case you haven't heard enough talking yet, we have a sitdown interview with Ethan Carter III. Well at least we would if he was here but Bennett comes in to say that Ethan is missing because he's scared. Tonight he'll get his title shot no matter what.

King of the Mountain Title: Bram vs. Eli Drake vs. Andrew Everett vs. Eddie Edwards vs. Jesse Godderz

Bram is defending in a King of the Mountain match, meaning you have to get a pin to become eligible to hang the title. If you pin someone, they're sent to a penalty box for a minute so there's some strategy

involved. Jesse and Eli trade rollups to start as Everett hides on the floor with Shane Helms. Bram plants Everett with a powerbomb for the pin to become eligible early on.

Eddie grabs a half crab on Drake but Everett breaks it up for no logical reason. Edwards sends him out to the floor and hits a big dive, only to have Drake get in a cheap shot from behind for a rollup and pin to become eligible. Bram sets up a ladder and gets the belt but Jesse dropkicks him down. Drake slams Jesse but the champ comes back in for a Cactus Clothesline.

Everett misses a moonsault and gets caught in the Adonis Lock for a quick submission to make Jesse eligible. Edwards and Everett brawl to the back to leave us with three people. Godderz goes up but Drake pulls him down and hits him in the head with the Feast or Fired briefcase. He takes too long going up though and it's Bram dropkicking the ladder down, allowing him to hang the title to retain at 7:25.

**Rating:** D+. I'm just not a fan of these matches and this didn't change anything. It's four guys getting title shots for no logical reason and this week the title is defended in a King of the Mountain match after last week's title change was in a regular match. Just call the thing the TV Title and get rid of this stupid gimmick already because it's way more complicated than it needs to be.

Drake tries to cash in post match but Bram gets up and chases him off.

Galloway says he's had a rough day so he'd love to see Lashley try to put his hands on him.

Matt Hardy sits in the shadows and accuses Jeff of trying to remove him from this dimension. Their war isn't done.

Before the main event, Ethan Carter III comes out to congratulate Bennett on the win. Carter isn't like the rest of those people who lost to him over the years and then came out here to complain about it. He accepts this loss but it's changed him. Bennett needs to go and win that World Title because he wants to take the title back from Mike one day. Carter rants about how the loss made him incomplete and kept him from becoming

the best wrestler on the planet. He'll be back for Bennett soon enough.

### Jeff Hardy vs. Lashley vs. Mike Bennett

For the #1 contendership with champion Drew Galloway as guest referee. Drew promises to call this down the middle and we're finally ready to go. It's a slow start with both guys going after Lashley who easily powers them away. The big guy is sent outside though and Jeff takes them both out with a Whisper in the Wind as we go to a break.

Back with Jeff still fighting off both guys but eating a powerslam from Lashley. A long delayed vertical suplex, complete with a point to Galloway, plants Bennett. The spear hits Galloway though, followed by Bennett hitting the cutter on Lashley. Jeff dropkicks Bennett to the floor and adds the Swanton on Lashley for no count.

Bennett is sent face first into the steps over and over, followed by a Swanton onto Bennett on the steps. Cue the Decay for no apparent reason to go after Hardy, including a chokeslam onto the steps. Decay leaves so Lashley spears Jeff into the post for a great looking crash. Another spear gives Lashley the pin and the title shot at 14:02.

**Rating:** C. The match was entertaining enough at times and I'll take Decay vs. Jeff over Hardy vs. Hardy any day. Lashley was the obvious winner here and that's fine but this needed more time instead to really get good. If you take out the commercial and the Decay interference, this was under ten minutes long and that's really not enough for a big epic match.

Lashley and Drew brawl to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D. This one really didn't do it for me as they didn't even have thirty minutes of wrestling in a two hour show. There was just WAY too much talking on here and even though there was some good stuff built up, you have to actually have something in there instead of just setting up stuff for six weeks from now. I wasn't feeling this one and the pacing issues really need to be fixed, including less than eight minutes of wrestling in the first seventy five minutes of a show. Big miss this week and that's not a good sign on the first show of a new taping cycle.

## Results

Jeff Hardy b. Mike Bennett via DQ when Lashley interfered

Abyss b. James Storm – Black Hole Slam

Bram b. Eli Drake, Andrew Everett, Eddie Edwards and Jesse Godderz – Bram hung the title

Lashley b. Jeff Hardy and Mike Bennett – Spear to Hardy

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