

Monday Night Raw – May 15, 1995: They're Already Dying

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 15, 1995

Location: Broome County Arena, Binghamton, New York

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jerry Lawler

We're past In Your House and that means it's time to go towards.....towards.....dang it we're going towards King of the Ring 1995. Diesel is still WWF World Champion as Sid still can't win a singles title. Other than that, we still have Jerry Lawler vs. Bret Hart because why stop at two years? Let's get to it.

We open with dueling IRS and Bam Bam Bigelow promos with both saying they're ready.

Lawler is VERY happy after beating Bret Hart last night. That's quite the accomplishment for him actually.

Owen Hart/Yokozuna vs. Nick Barbarry/Bill Weaver

Non-title of course. Cornette yells that a fan didn't get enough oxygen as a fetus. I've asked this before but WHERE DOES HE COME UP WITH THIS STUFF??? A double clothesline drops the jobbers and it's off to Hart to beat on Weaver. Barbarry actually gets in a hiptoss and they take turns working on Owen's arm. Yokozuna will have none of that and finishes Owen with a Rock Bottom.

Rating: D. Just a squash here though I'm not sure what the need was after a successful title defense on pay per view the night before. Owen and Yokozuna were a good oddball tag team and held the belts for a good long reign, possibly due to a lack of any real competition. They weren't a great team or anything really close to it but when there were almost no other teams of worth around, it wasn't hard to stand out.

We look at some stills of Lawler and his mom (a twenty-something year old

model) beating Bret last night.

The latest ad campaign: aliens want to destroy the world but spare it for the sake of the WWF. Ok then.

Man Mountain Rock vs. Iron Mike Sharpe

That WWF guitar is still one of the coolest things in the history of the world. Like, up there with Tang. Sharpe (How is he still around?) bounces off the huge Rock and gets crushed with an elbow. A Fujiwara Armbar (thankfully not on Sharpe's bad arm) ends Mike in a hurry.

We see the house being given away last night and an 11 year old actually won the thing.

Stills of Jeff Jarrett/The Roadie beating on Razor Ramon until Savio Vega debuted for the save.

Savio speaks Spanish and I think says he's here to work. Vince calms him down enough to speak English and say no one is going to hurt his friends when he's around.

King of the Ring Qualifying Match: Mantaur vs. Bob Holly

Oh...dang man. Mantaur shoves Bob outside like he's nothing and shrugs off some dropkicks back inside. We hit the choking on the ropes as it's very clear that Mantaur isn't very good. Mantaur slowly forearmwrestles Bob in the chest and gets two off a suplex. A rollup and missile dropkick give Holly two each and a high cross body is enough for the pin.

Rating: D-. Oh yeah this was bad and that really can't be a surprise. Mantaur was as bad of a big man as there's been since the last time Mabel had a match (so last night) but Holly isn't exactly the most thrilling guy in the world. There was just no depth to the roster at this point and it's showing more and more every single week.

Bob Backlund has a big announcement. Back at Wrestlemania XI he saw a sign and now everything has ionized. Backlund talks about the Olympics starting in 1776 and John F. Kennedy being shot in December 1963. Then there's February 20, 1978, when he won the WWF World Title, which brings

us to his announcement: he's running for President of the United States and that means a marching band. Vince is STUNNED for a great visual. I'm actually stunned this hasn't been referenced in 2016 when Backlund is around again.

Stills of last night's main event and post match brawl with Tatanka and Bam Bam Bigelow getting involved.

Ted DiBiase wants a tag match with Diesel/Bigelow vs. Sid/Tatanka for King of the Ring.

I.R.S. vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

Bigelow, now a fire enthusiast, brings out Diesel to be in his corner and sounds like he accepts the challenge. Diesel chases DiBiase off and we're ready to go, despite that not being fair to I.R.S. Bigelow sends the tax man outside early on and it's time for an early break. Back with Bigelow dropping a headbutt but missing its top rope cousin. Vince mentions Bigelow having a bad knee, which A, should have been brought up earlier and B, should have been noticed earlier.

We hit the chinlock for a bit, followed by an abdominal stretch to really spice things up. I.R.S. takes a buckle pad off (Uh, Diesel? Help?) and sends Bigelow into the steel for two, only to have Bigelow do the same (with the head clearly not making contact) and dropping a headbutt for the pin.

Rating: D-. Egads they're actually getting worse. You would think a leg injury coming into the match would warrant an actual attack on the leg but instead it was a chinlock and an abdominal stretch. Also I hope this isn't their way to launch Bigelow to the next level as a main event face because he just had to cheat to beat a career midcarder.

Shawn Michaels is coming back next week so here's a video to get you fired up.

Overall Rating: F. Oh yeah they're already dying and this is coming off a pay per view. I have no idea how they could have thought this was going to be a good idea and pushing Bigelow as a main event face, at least like

this, is only going to make things worse. Now we've got tournament qualifiers on top of the bad matches, but maybe Shawn can do them some good. It certainly can't make things worse.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my new book, KB's WWE Grab Bag at Amazon for just \$3.99 at:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01IH70904>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>