

ECW on TNN – July 21, 2000: The Dog Days

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Date: July 21, 2000

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

Commentators: Joey Styles, Joel Gertner

We're finally past Heat Wave and...nothing happened. Justin Credible is still World Champion, Rhino is still TV Champion, we still have no Tag Team Champions and the Network is still endlessly feuding with ECW. The next pay per view isn't until October so this might not be getting better for a long time. Let's get to it.

Joey and Joel do their thing and I can't think of a way to censor what Gertner said. Cue Dawn Marie (my goodness) to interrupt so the guys can tell her how beautiful she is. Sex jokes are made but we cut away to breaking news of Steve Corino putting a bounty on Jerry Lynn. Da Baldies would like to collect.

Opening sequence.

Da Baldies vs. Jerry Lynn/???

It's another mystery partner and this time Lynn has chosen.....Tommy Dreamer. Tommy comes out late with Lynn already being beaten down. That happens way too often with Lynn's partners. We take an early break and come back with the fight in the stands, meaning you can only see pieces of Dreamer beating on Angel. They head back down to ringside with Tommy beating on Angel as the other two have disappeared. Back in and Dreamer misses a charge to go shoulder first into the post. It wouldn't be an ECW match if Dreamer wasn't injured.

They're on the floor all over again with Dreamer being crotched on the barricade. DeVito and Lynn remember they're in the match and fight on the floor for a bit as Angel beats on Dreamer inside. A double flapjack drops Dreamer and of course it's table time. Cue Jazz to powerbomb Angel for a

save, allowing Dreamer to put him through the table instead. Jerry comes back in with the cradle piledriver for the pin on DeVito.

Rating: D. I'm never a fan of these matches where you can barely see a lot of the action and it's basically two singles matches at the same time. There's a basic enough story here though with the thugs vs. the two guys fighting against the Network and it's nice to have anything other than the same matches over and over. The match was nothing to see of course but you can't expect that on ECW TV.

Post match the Network runs in for the beatdown. This means we get the third name for Anton's Sharpshooter (Clap, Clapper, Clap Trap).

CW Anderson says he's awesome and doesn't care that Johnny Swinger used to work in WCW.

ECW World Title: Justin Credible vs. Tajiri

Justin is defending and I have no idea why this isn't closing the show. Also wasn't Tajiri a heel like two weeks ago? I mean, he had a Network badge and all that jazz. Tajiri starts fast with the kicks, including a big one to send Credible into the barricade. Francine has to hide from Tajiri so Justin can get in a few stomps to the back. For the life of me I don't get the Credible appeal. There's just nothing there and it shows worse every time he's in the ring. I'm not sure if it was miscommunication or intentional but Tajiri hits a kick perfectly upside Justin's head, leaving both guys standing there for a few seconds.

After that awkward pause (and a great looking kick), Justin hits him low to take over again. A swinging DDT gets two for Justin but he eats yet another kick. Tajiri goes after Francine though, meaning he has to reverse the Tombstone into one of his own (while misting Francine at the same time). The handspring elbow completely misses so Tajiri brings in a table. A top rope double stomp through the table gets two on the champ. Tajiri's tornado DDT gets the same but That's Incredible retains the title a few seconds later.

Rating: D+. So Justin gets beaten up, hits a few cane shots, kicks out of a bunch of stuff and hits his finisher for the pin. That sounds like

money to me. I have no idea what the appeal of someone like Justin is supposed to be but it's really not clicking no matter what he does out there. Justin feels like a midcard guy who got lost and wound up in the main event but no one can bring themselves to tell him the truth.

House show ads, including talk of a Tag Team Title tournament.

Rob Van Dam vs. Balls Mahoney

Van Dam spins around until Balls fires off those jabs. That just earns him a kick to the floor and a big flip dive so Van Dam can pose. Balls takes him outside and starts using various beverages to hit Van Dam in the face. They head into the crowd where Rob hits a quick Van Daminator and heads back to ringside. I'm so glad they added that part.

Back in and Van Dam kicks some more, including a second Van Daminator. The Five Star looks to finish but Balls small packages Rob for two instead. A super Nutcracker Sweet (sitout tombstone) gets two but Balls makes the mistake of wedging the chair into the corner. The Van Terminator puts Mahoney away.

Rating: C-. I know Balls was a big ECW fan favorite but he's really just a brawler with a lot of joke names for his offense. Van Dam really should be doing something more than fighting random matches and then feuding with Scotty freaking Anton on pay per view. The match was fine enough, despite there being no doubt who was winning.

Overall Rating: D+. That might even be a bit generous. This was a completely nothing show with almost no story development coming off a pretty lackluster pay per view. The company has almost no momentum at the moment and it's really showing more every single time they go on the air.

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