

Smackdown – May 16, 2002: More Vince

Smackdown

Date: May 16, 2002

Location: Bell Centre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Commentators: Michael Cole, Tazz

It's the go home show for Judgment Day and luckily hopefully we should get something competent this week. Smackdown may not be great but they're put together far better than Raw. At least this show has more than one top level good guy, which the red show certainly can't say at the moment. Let's get to it.

The opening video recaps Chris Jericho/Vince McMahon vs. HHH from last week, including the announcement of Sunday's Cell match.

Opening sequence.

Here's HHH for a chat because we haven't had that in a long time. See, Vince McMahon just doesn't get it. He thinks you can just send people out here and have Jericho hit him in the head and cut off everything that HHH has done. HHH is going to keep going no matter what because he's never going to stop. As for tonight though, how about Jericho comes out here right now for a preview of Sunday?

Instead HHH gets Edge, who was hit by HHH's sledgehammer last week. Edge says they're both good guys but he's got an itch to play the game. The fight is actually on but here are Jericho and Kurt Angle to beat down the self-described good guys. Angle cuts some of Edge's hair off but HHH makes the save...of someone who punched him in the face a few minutes ago. Well they're both good guys so it's a rule.

Stacy Keibler is about to give Vince a preview of her swimsuit for tonight's contest but Angle and Jericho run in to celebrate cutting Edge's hair. Tag match, main event, you know the drill.

Hardcore Holly/Lance Storm vs. Big Valbowski/Randy Orton

Orton charges in and gets chopped in the corner for his efforts. The dropkick puts Holly down and it's off to Val to clean house. Orton's high crossbody gets two on Storm with the Overdrive (that weird spinning Fameasser neckbreaker) getting the same. Storm gets in a superkick for two but gives a lazy cover, allowing Orton to roll him up for the fast pin.

Recap of Undertaker and Hulk Hogan's motorcycle hijinks.

Hogan is here.

Maven awkwardly hits on Torrie Wilson and actually gets a date out of it. Torrie leaves but D-Von and Batista come in to yell at him for thinking lustful thoughts. Well yeah. Al Snow comes in because Maven still needs protection.

Ace reporter Gregory Helms comes in to see Funaki and accuses him of being evil. Funaki asks what's wrong with him but has a note on his back. The note says Hurricane will be in for some pain if he wins the Cruiserweight Title tonight. This was amusing for pure goofiness.

Jericho promises to pull off his mask and show how evil he can be.

Reverend D-Von vs. Maven

D-Von beats on Maven like the rookie he is to start but misses the middle rope headbutt. Some rollups get two each for Maven but Batista gets on the apron, allowing D-Von to kick Maven low. Cole: "A shot to the kidneys!" No Cole, not exactly. The reverse inverted DDT (Saving Grace) puts Maven away.

Batista beats up Al Snow post match.

Stacy is on her way to the ring but stops to look in a mirror. A short person pops out from a cupboard and shells a new camera. Stacy is as confused as you would think.

It's time for the swimsuit contest with Tazz emceeding. Stacy and Torrie

come out but Tajiri comes out to cover Torrie up, despite us seeing most of what's under her robe. Stacy doesn't want to disrobe but here's Trish Stratus (who can be on both shows since she won the Women's Title) in a robe of her own. What luck that she was here and brought a robe with her own logo on the back. Trish doesn't have a swimsuit but does have some red lingerie. Stacy swings a shoe but gets kicked to the floor, leaving Trish as the default winner.

Post break Stacy comes in to rant to Vince, who gives her a Women's Title shot on Sunday. D-Von and Batista are in Vince's office so Vince asks D-Von to provide protection. D-Von: "You want a reverend to buy CONDOMS?" Actually Vince means taking care of Bubba Ray Dudley, who will certainly be in Trish's corner. I'm certain that's not going to happen just because Vince suggests it either.

Rico vs. Rikishi

Rico jumps him from behind and gets launched into the air for a one man 3D (probably supposed to be a Samoan drop, as is Rikishi's custom). Billy and Chuck interfere to give Rico an opening but Billy dropkicks Chuck by mistake. The distraction allows Rico to get in a spinning kick to the face but Rikishi sits on his chest for the pin.

Rikishi dances post match. Maybe he and Bubba Ray Dudley have a secret alliance?

Billy and Chuck and Rico interrupt Vince and Stacy (dude get a hotel already) to complain about losing to Rikishi. Vince says they'll be defending the titles on Sunday against Rikishi and a partner of Vince's choosing. It's going to be Rico.

HHH promises to destroy Jericho's career just like he did to Mick Foley. Edge comes in and says he'd love to continue their fight from earlier. HHH isn't interested until Edge wins a few more World Titles. Maybe Edge can use HHH's methods and marry the boss' daughter and sleep his way to the top (which Edge would eventually do with Vickie Guerrero). That was a better burn when it hadn't turned into a running joke.

Cruiserweight Title: Hurricane vs. Billy Kidman vs. Tajiri

Tajiri is defending and jumps Kidman during the entrance. Hurricane runs out and the champ gets double teamed until Kidman is smart enough to knock Hurricane outside. Kidman dropkicks Hurricane off the top and hits the shooting star for two on the champ with Hurricane making a last second save. A chokeslam gives Hurricane the title in less than three minutes. It's not like the title means anything anyway so put it on the entertaining Hurricane. It isn't likely to make a difference either way.

We run down Sunday's card.

Here's a limping Hogan, who actually has the nerve to sell that stupid motorcycle schtick from Monday. After a full three minute long ovation, Hogan praises the fans for having his back so many times. We pause for more cheering before Hogan talks about being in his own fantasy world every time he comes out here. Cue Vince to say he hates Hulkamania and enjoyed Monday night. See, Hulkamania has a terminal illness called cancer.

This Sunday, Undertaker is going to stuff Hulkamania in a cardboard box and bury it once and for all. The fans start singing the Goodbye Song, which I guess is aimed at Vince, even though it doesn't make a ton of sense. Then again neither does cheering for Hogan. Vince says the red is for the blood Undertaker will spill on Sunday and the yellow is the streak up Hogan's back. The boss slaps him in the face so Hogan punches him a few times. The big legs wraps up this very unnecessarily long segment.

Chris Jericho/Kurt Angle vs. Edge/HHH

Edge is stupid enough to charge in before HHH gets out to the ring and earns the double teaming from Angle and Jericho. A flapjack puts Jericho down and the good guys (their official name remember) take over. Jericho offers a distraction though and Angle belly to belly superplexes Edge off the top. A regular belly to belly sets up a missed Lionsault but Edge is too slow to make the tag. Instead Jericho comes in with Three Amigos so Edge gets in a middle rope dropkick for a breather.

The hot (work with me here) tag to HHH allows house to be cleaned. The double teaming doesn't last long and it's back to Edge for a double

clothesline. Edge spears a chair out of Jericho's hands, leaving HHH to Pedigree Angle for two with Chris making the save. HHH and Jericho fight into the crowd, leaving Angle to chair Edge in the head so the Angle Slam can give him the pin.

Rating: C-. I was bored with most of this as they were just going through the motions to set up both big matches at once. Edge vs. Angle is going to be fine and Jericho vs. HHH will be long yet watchable. The match was fine but there's only so much you can do when you're trying to fulfill a pretty simple goal.

Overall Rating: D. This show needed a lot more wrestling and a lot less Vince. Most of the show was built around Vince doing whatever he needed to advance stories or try to sleep with Stacy this week. The problem here though is only the main event was long enough to rate. I really need more than a bunch of two and a half minute matches and then a dull main event. Sunday's show isn't interesting for the most part and this show didn't help anything.