

Monday Night Raw – January 24, 1994: Somebody Do Something

Monday Night Raw

Date: January 24, 1994

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Virginia

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jim Ross

Here's a rare one as we have a TV show taped before a pay per view yet serving as the fallout show. There's a chance that the commentary has been updated (remember that the Rumble was on a Saturday so they would have extra time) but this could be an interesting case. Let's get to it.

Lex Luger vs. Austin Steele

The commentary has indeed been done post-Rumble as the announcers talk about Luger being a co-winner. Steele has a great name but looks like Buddy Landel, which isn't the best thing in the world in 1994. Luger starts with the right hands and a pair of hiptosses but Steele actually gets in a few shots to the ribs to take over. Lex grabs a belly to back followed by a regular superplex for the pin. I don't think I've ever seen him use that as a finisher and...well it was just a superplex so there isn't much to say about it.

Rating: D. Just a match here and the ending didn't exactly do much. It's a smart move to have Luger on here two nights after he won a major match. I know the fans didn't get that at the time but at least they're keeping him on TV to keep him hot. You would think he'd be a bit more upset but he can't actually say that until next week.

We hit the Royal Rumble recap to cover everything major. Todd does screw up and say the show was last night (it was two nights ago).

Jeff Jarrett vs. John Paul

Jeff starts with a dropkick but gets small packaged and sunset flipped for two each. The comeback doesn't take long though as JR brings up a good point about Jarrett: for someone who wants to be a country singer, he certainly dresses oddly for his wrestling

matches. Jarrett misses an elbow and gets rolled up for two, followed by some uppercuts to the jaw. Jeff comes right back with a rollup and a handful of trunks for the pin.

Rating: D+. Well it was better than Luger's match. I know his later stuff wasn't the most interesting in the world but DEAR GOODNESS Jeff was so much worse back at this point. The gimmick, the look and the wrestling itself really didn't work and that's a dangerous combination. It's bad enough when one of them isn't up to par but with 1994 Jarrett, I'm not sure any of them were.

Men on a Mission vs. Headshrinkers

Men on a Mission are replacing the Harts, which is annoying as I wanted to see the original match. Mo sends Fatu into the corner in one of the only successful things you'll ever see him do. The Samoans head outside for a breather as this is already dragging. For some reason Mo tries a faceplant and is almost immediately superkicked down.

It's off to Mabel to scare Fatu, who actually tries a slam. A pair of superkicks actually bring Mabel down to a knee but for some reason Fatu tries a suplex. That earns him a big boot to the face before it's back to Mo as we take a break. Back with Mo taking a double clothesline and giving one of the most bewildered faces I've ever seen. Mo is sent into the steps and chopped down but does manage to get in a sunset flip.

Fatu is right there for a save, which probably isn't necessary considering it's freaking Mo (Did I mention I'm not a fan of his?). A double headbutt gets two more but Mo manages to fall into the ropes to crotch Fatu. The hot tag brings in Mabel for all of his usual stuff, only to have the Samoans knock him outside. Mo takes another double headbutt and a top rope splash for the pin.

Rating: D-. Who decided that Men on a Mission should have gone this far? Being a big Headshrinkers fan helped a bit but this was hardly the easiest thing in the world to watch. Mabel was good for a big man but....yeah Mo was horrible. Like horrible horrible. The look on his face when he got beaten up was amusing though.

Adam Bomb vs. Tommy Angel

Angel shrugs off some offense and scores with a few dropkicks, only to get shoved into the corner for a stomping. Bomb dropkicks him in

the ribs as the announcers take shots at Bill Clinton. JR switches over to blaming Harvey Wipelman for screwing up Bomb's career as Adam hits a top rope clothesline. The Atom Smasher (powerbomb) puts Tommy away.

Rating: D. Angel was a regular jobber around this time so he was able to put on a watchable match. The same could be said for Bomb, who was a good power guy but with a gimmick based on being the result of a nuclear disaster who sounded like he was from southern Alabama was a bit too much for him to overcome.

Sparky Plugg loves cars.

Doink the Clown vs. Joey Stallings

Dink has an invisible dog...and the jobber actually sells for it. JR: "Stallings is a sandwich or two short of a picnic." Doink gets two off a belly to belly and it's off to an armbar. Back up and Stallings grabs a bad looking side slam, only to miss a dropkick. Doink grabs a powerslam and finishes with the Whoopee Cushion.

Rating: D-. I'm not sure what there is to say about this one. Do you really brag about beating someone who was attacked by a non-existent dog? I know 1994 was kind of a dumb time but are we really to the point where jobbers are scared of a tiny clown's invisible dog. I...can't believe I actually had to type that.

Tyrone Knox vs. Shawn Michaels

Knox has a good look. They run the ropes to start with Shawn taking him down and dropping an elbow across his back. Knox's offense doesn't go very far as Shawn gets in a hiptoss and stomp to the head. We hit the chinlock and Vince confirms that the WWF will NOT be replacing the NFL on CBS. Thanks for that boss. Knox gets in a few headbutts (JR: "YOU GO TYRONE!") but it's a superkick and the piledriver (good one too) for the pin.

Rating: D+. Shockingly Shawn has the best match on the card. It helps when you have someone who doesn't look like a complete loser and Knox at least looked good at times. It's still just a squash but when you have a decent opponent and one heck of a piledriver to end the show, things are at least a bit better.

Overall Rating: F. Oh yeah this one was bad. They knew they had to be careful with what they could say in the arena and that makes for a REALLY dull show. Just long and boring here, which really

shouldn't be the case on a show that is only about forty five minutes long when you take out commercials. The new cycle should help but this was really boring.

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