

Monday Night Raw – April 18, 1994: When Even Bret Can't Save You

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 18, 1994

Location: Memorial Auditorium, Utica, New York

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Randy Savage

Save us Bret. Like please, SAVE US. The shows have gotten even more boring than they've been in the months leading up to this, which I wouldn't have believed to be possible. Thank goodness Bret is back tonight and hopefully he can turn things around a bit. As long as Men on a Mission isn't wrestling, we should be ok. Let's get to it.

We open with a clip of Lawler falling off the throne last week.

Opening sequence.

Savage wants a title shot against Bret. Why didn't he get one at some point actually?

Bret Hart vs. Kwang

Non-title. Kwang wastes no time in jumping Bret during the entrances and scores off some early kicks. If nothing else we get the highly amusing idea of Vince trying to call the various kicks in a moment that would make Eric Bischoff cry. Bret easily takes him down and works on the arm, only to be sent hard out to the floor. A weak forearm from the apron drops Bret again as Vince says Kwang could be ranked in contention for the title if he wins here. I'll take that over "getting into the title hunt".

Back from a break with Bret still in trouble via a nerve hold as Owen Hart calls in. The power of his brother's voice lets Bret get in a crossbody, only to have Kwang choke him on the ropes again. Bret avoids a spinwheel kick as Owen brags about beating Bret at Wrestlemania (as he

should). The Five Moves of Doom set up the Sharpshooter to make Kwang quit. Savage: "THIS IS HISTORY!"

Rating: D. What were you expecting here? When a guy isn't even good enough to guarantee a spot in the title hunt by beating the champ, it might be time to find a better career. Like as a Caribbean legend with a high level of success strap matches. Bret vs. Owen is clearly the big match coming up and there's nothing wrong with that.

Doink and Dink were at a charity hockey game. There's nothing wrong with that.

Jeff Jarrett vs. P.J. Walker

The announcers talk about current events to avoid having to talk about how bad this match could be. Jeff takes him down to start and runs his mouth about wanting respect. Well I guess Jarrett is higher up in the ranks than Kwang. Savage STILL wants a shot at Bret and again I want to know why that never went anywhere, even as a one off house show match. We hit the abdominal stretch and let's talk about a book written by Bill Clinton's mother. Jarrett keeps things slow with a slingshot suplex and middle rope fist drop (Where's Lawler when you need him?). A DDT ends Walker.

Rating: D. It's slightly better than the opener, mainly due to a lack of Caribbean martial arts. Jarrett was ridiculously boring though and that's not made any better by Vince ripping on Clinton for some issues with beauty queens. I'll spare you the Trump joke/reference for now and get away from this match as fast as I can.

Lou Albano wants a title shot for the Headshrinkers next week.

Steiner Brothers vs. Barry Hardy/Mike Khoury

Scott throws Khoury around with ease before it's off to Barry, who eats a t-bone suplex of his own. A hard kick to the ribs makes things even worse as the Steiners are seeming a bit stiffer than usual. Rick sends Barry ribs first into the corner as Savage implies he'd date Christie Brinkley. He has good taste if nothing else.

Scott ties Barry in the Tree of Woe and chokes as Vince points out that the Steiners are being more aggressive than usual. More Clinton sex jokes follow and Rick busts out a belly to belly superplex. A middle rope Angle Slam plants Barry and it's the FREAKING STEINER SCREWDRIVER (completely ignored by the announcers) to end Khoury.

Rating: D+. I could watch that Screwdriver all day as it's one of the best looking finishers of all time. On top of that, I could go for more of these aggressive Steiner Brothers but unfortunately they were on their way out of the promotion due to wanting to work more in Japan. At least we get one more good squash before they leave in a month or so and that's never a bad thing.

Duke Droese, the wrestling garbageman, is coming. Duke: "I don't take trash from anyone. Well yeah I do." And that's all you need to know about Duke Droese.

It's time for the King's Court with guest Women's Champion Alundra Blayze so Lawler gets in some ugly jokes before she comes out. There's no title belt to start but Blayze does have a gift for Lawler: a Burger King crown labeled Lawler is a Loser. Hard hitting indeed. Blayze makes jokes about last week's fall, which is getting more mileage than Wrestlemania at this point.

We hear about this being a ripoff of Piper's Pit (well duh) and Blayze thinks Piper should be getting royalties. Lawler goes into a rant about Piper wearing a dress and manages to spit on Blayze. He gets to the point of asking about the belt, which Blayze turns into a question about Lawler wearing women's clothes.

Lawler brings out Luna Vachon, with Lawler suggesting that Luna stole the title. If she did, Blayze didn't seem too mad about it until Vachon came out here. Luna says she didn't steal the title but if she was champion, she would keep her belt with her. Blayze accuses Luna of stealing the title so she can feel like a champion and challenges her to a fight. Of course she leaves before Luna can do anything, making this a rather awkward segment.

Blayze was REALLY bad on the mic here but it's fairly clear that she

didn't get to talk very much. It would take her a long time to get better on that and while she was never great, she would be passable and that's about all you need to be, especially when women's wrestling wasn't a big deal during her era.

Earthquake vs. Mike Bell

Vince AGAIN pushes the house show tour, including speculation of Earthquake vs. Yokozuna. Earthquake sends him outside to start and Bell actually gets in some right hands on the way back in. A dropkick (topsy turvy according to Savage) puts Bell down though and it's time for the squashtization to begin. Earthquake gets in a second dropkick and grabs a belly to belly as I think you get the idea from here. The big leg sets up the Earthquake for the easy pin.

Rating: D. I always forget that Earthquake was a moderately big deal in 1994 and how odd it always seems. That's quite odd as he was a Tag Team Champion as late as fall 1992 so this is hardly the biggest stretch in the world. If nothing else though, I get why he left to be a main event jobber in WCW instead of losing to Yokozuna over and over.

We look at IRS attacking Tatanka and Chief Jay Strongbow over Tatanka's headdress. You have to pay those gift taxes you see.

IRS vs. Major Yates

Yates, who unfortunately isn't a military guy, gets sent into the buckle to start as the IRWIN chants get going. We hit an early abdominal stretch, followed by a seated half nelson of all things. A sunset flip gives Yates two (Savage: "MAJOR YATES IS COOL!") but the Penalty (STF) puts him away with no effort.

Rating: D-. For the love of all things good and holy END THIS SHOW ALREADY! If nothing else let me have some shorter squashes so I don't have to come up with something to talk about every single time. These things are somehow getting worse and that makes for a very long set of matches.

Johnny Polo is NOT worried about fighting the Headshrinkers and he's not

heading to Toronto to beg Jack Tunney to not make the match.

Lawler promises Nikolai Volkoff as his guest next week. That's your draw here people.

Overall Rating: F. Thank goodness it's over. This was one of the worst episodes the show has ever done as it was just so BORING. The squashes were all longer than they needed to be and Bret was clearly not all that interested in doing anything of note. Terrible show here and I'll take anything else at this point.

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