

Monday Night Raw – April 25, 1994: Back to the Downward Spiral

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 25, 1994

Location: Memorial Auditorium, Utica, New York

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Randy Savage

It has to be better than last week, almost by definition. That being said, the big draw for the week is Nikolai Volkoff as the guest on the King's Court. I'm really scared of what this show might do to my psyche and I survived the entirety of Nitro and Thunder. At least this one is just an hour long so let's get to it.

Vince immediately plugs Volkoff's appearance and we're already in the downward spiral.

Opening sequence.

Jeff Jarrett vs. Razor Ramon

Non-title but if Jarrett wins, he's going to be on a country music talk show. Vince makes sure to get in Hee Haw jokes but I'm more interested in Ramon's powder blue boots. Jeff takes him down and swats at Razor's head to start but is quickly tossed outside with the fall away slam. Razor follows him outside and gets sent into the steps as we see Volkoff sitting in the crowd (not mentioned by commentary).

Jeff gets two off an elbow to the jaw and there's the middle rope fist drop for the same. We hit the chinlock as the announcers switch over to boxing. Back from a break with Razor's sunset flip getting two and Savage needing a shower. It's off to a sleeper for the required two arm drops. Savage: "I HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE!"

Razor's belly to back suplex gets two but gets sent outside....and here's Shawn Michaels. Shawn doesn't do anything but Razor hits him in the jaw

anyway. Well to be fair he's a bad guy. Razor makes his latest comeback and clotheslines Jeff to the floor but stops to pull Shawn inside. The beating is on, only to have Diesel come in for the DQ.

Rating: C+. The match wasn't even all that great but it's already made the show better than anything else they had going on in recent weeks. Jarrett certainly isn't the most interesting wrestler in the world but at least he's capable of having a good match if you give him the right opponent. He and Razor always had good chemistry too so the match was certainly watchable.

Diesel destroys Razor post match, including hitting the Jackknife and standing on his chest. Shawn does the same and drops the title on Ramon. Diesel would win the title on Sunday's TV show.

Shawn says Diesel is the real champion. Diesel says the opportunity was there and he seized it.

Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Tony DeVito

The announcers talk about Jimmy Carter's daughter and Prince Charles' dog. Vince: "I don't get the connection." DeVito hits a shoulder but gets dropkicked down. Out of current news to discuss/mock, Vince gets a call from Jack Tunny, who officially makes the Quebecers vs. the Headshrinkers for the titles next week. Bigelow finishes with the enziguri.

The Quebecers will face the Headshrinkers but they're NOT happy with it.

The Mayor of Stamford, Connecticut thanks the company for a fundraiser they held recently. Did we mention Vince was dealing with the steroids trial around this time? No connection of course but just though I'd throw that out there.

Heavenly Bodies vs. John Paul/Jason Headings

Paul gets thrown around to start so it's off to the long haired Headings, who takes a quick Veg-0-Matic for two. We hear about Mr. Perfect not showing a match in Cincinnati and an indefinite suspension as a result. Translation: he's left the company, as would the Steiners and the Quebecers around this time. Del Ray takes Headings down and gyrates his

(own) hips, which Vince calls disgusting. Prichard suplexes Del Ray into a moonsault for two as Vince talks about National Secretaries Week. Del Ray's moonsault press finishes Jason.

Rating: D+. I couldn't stand the Bodies back in the day but they've grown on me in repeat viewings. They were a solid, slower paced team and that's where Cornette was perfect as the manager. Good little squash here with Del Ray's high flying helping move things along quite well.

It's King's Court time with Lawler bringing up Volkoff, who is \$8 shy of having thirty cents. Lawler mocks the hideous brown suit as you can see a lot of empty seats in the upper deck. That's a bad sign when the building only holds about 5,700. Lawler makes jokes about Volkoff's poverty but Volkoff says he'll tell the truth. He's just come from Europe but now he's home in the United States. He's made some bad investments and has lost a lot of money, though he'll still fight Lawler anytime. Volkoff is looking for a job and is willing to work for any honest man. We're actually to the point where a former evil foreign goon is the sympathetic face? There was NO ONE else available for this story?

1-2-3 Kid vs. Duane Gill

The announcers AGAIN talk about the Wrestlemania Revenge house show tour as Kid gets hammered in the corner to start. Kid gets in a top rope clothesline and a spinning kick to the jaw to take over. Gill takes him back down and grabs a chinlock as Vince gets on Savage for failing at reading an ad for a movie. Kid fights up and finishes with the spinwheel kick.

Rating: D+. At least Kid's offense is entertaining enough to make these things a bit more bearable. Gill was one of those career jobbers until he somehow wound up winning the Light Heavyweight Title because you never can guess how things are going to go in wrestling. Nothing to see here of course but I'm still trying to get my head around Volkoff being a face, even for a short bit of time.

A guy at a deli saw Undertaker buying cheese. Apparently he likes pickles too. And they wonder why they were in peril at this point.

Owen Hart vs. Rich Myers

Owen trips him down to start and slaps him in the face as you can see at least four empty seats in the first five rows. A gutwrench suplex plants Myers as we hit the WE WANT BRET chants. The beating continues until Owen avoids a dropkick and grabs the Sharpshooter for the submission.

Rating: D. Another boring squash but that's just what you have to expect at this point. Owen was on a roll at this point though and the WE WANT BRET chants at least show that they have a hot angle. Unfortunately it would be FOUR MONTHS before their title match with almost nothing of note in between from the two of them.

Johnny Polo and Lou Albano argue some more. Johnny: "WHAT ARE YOU A CAPTAIN OF ANYWAY???" Savage has had enough and grabs Polo so Albano can nail him to end the show.

Overall Rating: D. The opener helps this a lot but it's very clear that the extra pay per views in 1995 helped a lot. There's just NOTHING between Wrestlemania and King of the Ring and even that was a pretty lame show. Owen vs. Bret will be good but we'll all be dead of old age by the time we get there. Bad show, but not as bad as the rest of the terrible month.

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