

Main Event – September 16, 2017: The Short Term Holding Pattern

Main Event

Date: September 14, 2017

Location: Honda Center, Anaheim, California

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Vic Joseph

It's been a busy week for WWE so let's make sure we have one more show in there, just to fill in some space of course. Hopefully the matches are a bit more interesting this week, though last week's show was one of the better ones they've done in a good while. Then again it's not like there's much continuity around here. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Rhyno vs. Dash Wilder

Feeling out process to start with Rhyno smacking him in the face a few times. Wilder charges into an elbow but is able to shove Rhyno off the top and down onto the floor in a heap. Back in and we hit a quickly broken chinlock, followed by Rhyno's running shoulder in the corner. The Gore misses but Rhyno settles for a spinebuster and the pin at 5:45.

Rating: D+. Just a match here with Rhyno still being over for reasons I can't quite pin down. Maybe it's just how simple his character is and you know exactly what you're going to get from his matches. It's also nice to have Wilder at least making an appearance here or there while Dawson recovers.

From Raw.

Roman Reigns vs. Jason Jordan

Reigns won't shake hands to start and John Cena is shown watching in the back. Feeling out process to start until Jordan charges into a right

hand. The corner clotheslines are countered with the belly to belly and Jordan has a breather. One heck of a running clothesline lets Reigns hit the corner clotheslines but the Superman Punch is countered into the Crossface.

Back from a break with a headbutt dropping Jordan again, followed by a suplex to do the same. We hit the chinlock for a bit before another suplex (granted a different variety) sends Reigns flying. That great dropkick puts Reigns down again and it's still another suplex for two more.

The running shoulder in the corner sets up some rolling northern lights suplexes for another near fall. We hit the Crossface but Reigns finally makes the rope (after nearly tapping on his face). Back up and Jordan's shoulder goes into the post, setting up the Superman Punch. The spear is enough to put Jordan away at 15:18.

Rating: B. Jordan is getting better and the more time he spends away from Kurt Angle, the better this push seems to be going. He just doesn't need the Angle connection and I'm glad that they're doing something like this instead of having them be paired on screen. Reigns looked good here too and is starting to look a bit more comfortable in recent weeks.

Reigns shakes his hand post match. Post break here's Cena to call out Reigns for almost losing. He'd like an explanation, but recommends that Reigns keep it at about one sentence in the form of a catchphrase. Roman says he was out here having a great match, which Cena can't do. Reigns has had more great matches in the last two years than Cena has had in his career. Reigns: "What do you think about that?" Cena: "You can't pin this one on me guys. Reigns is burying himself."

Cena talks about how Reigns has never been put in check before but Cena is going to show him what real failure is. The way things are going, No Mercy is going to be a cake walk. Cena goes to leave but Reigns calls him back in and says he finds it interesting that Cena wanted to fight him. The reason Cena is back is because Reigns is selling the tickets that Cena hasn't been able to sell in five years. It must be because he can't break into Hollywood. Reigns: "If you need help, I know a guy." Cena says

No Mercy is going to be like a drug test: Reigns isn't passing.

And again from Monday.

Here are Brock Lesnar and Paul Heyman for a chat. Heyman knows that we're coming up on a pay per view called No Mercy where Braun Strowman is going to have to do everything he can to take the title away from Brock. That's interesting though because Braun is reminding Heyman of what Lesnar did in 2002, when he beat people like the Rock, Hulk Hogan, Rob Van Dam and the Undertaker. So is Strowman going to be ready to cross the line from sports entertainment into Suplex City?

Heyman doesn't think so, but here's Braun to interrupt. The fight is on and Brock grabs a German suplex (I believe the first time he's ever done that to Strowman) but Braun no sells it, drawing a stunned look from Lesnar. That's a great spot, though ignore the fact that Cena did something similar in 2014. Strowman lays him out with a chokeslam and the running powerslam as Heyman is terrified.

Mustafa Ali/Lince Dorado/Gran Metalik vs. Noam Dar/Tony Nese/Ariya Daivari

Daivari and Dorado start things off and it's a hurricanrana and springboard moonsault press for two on Ariya. Dar comes in and it's time to start in on his arm, sending him outside for a break. Back with Daivari grabbing a chinlock on Metalik and shouting a lot. Dorado grabs the handspring Stunner and it's off to Ali and Dar. Ali grabs his rolling neckbreaker as everything breaks down. The villains are sent outside and of course that means a triple flip dive with Ali barely grazing Nese. Back in and the 054 ends Daivari at 8:49.

Rating: C-. This was every six man tag you see out of the cruiserweights and that's not the worst thing in the world. Dar has really fallen off the map since the Alicia Fox split and I can't say I'm surprised. He never was anything great in the ring (not that he's bad) but really, he's just kind of there at this point.

Video on Big Show vs. Braun Strowman in the cage.

From Raw, one more time.

John Cena vs. Braun Strowman

Graves says Cena is trying to take Strowman out like Reigns could never do. So Cena is out to put him on the shelf for several months now as Reigns already pinned Strowman and put him out for weeks. Cena gets thrown out to the floor to start and then whipped hard into the corner for good measure. Strowman hits a dropkick of all things and the announcers are stunned.

Cena's right hands have no effect but he gets the feet up in the corner. A fall away slam sends Cena flying and we take a break. Back with Strowman being sent outside but running Cena over again. They head back inside with Cena getting him up for the AA but falling forward from the weight.

The Shuffle is broken up just as easily with a spinebuster giving Strowman two. Cena manages an AA, only to have Braun roll out to the floor. A run around the ring is cut off with Strowman picking up the steps and bouncing them off Cena's head. That's not a DQ for no apparent reason so Strowman throws the steps inside for a powerslam, which is enough for the DQ at 13:58.

Rating: C. This was a squash with a screwy ending as Cena makes someone else look like a killer. You know, because he hasn't done it yet this month. Strowman looks like a monster and it was a heck of a performance. I'm actually believing he could win the title at No Mercy, only to lose it to Reigns before he beats Lesnar to retain at Wrestlemania.

Overall Rating: C-. Just a show here with nothing standing out. We're kind of in a short term hold pattern at the moment as we get closer to No Mercy, meaning a lot of this stuff doesn't mean a lot. Strowman vs. Cena being run on free TV with no build bothers me more each time I think about it but at least the ending was the right call. Not much of a show this week but that's Main Event for you.

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