

# Monday Night Raw – February 6, 1995: Big, Bad and...Well More Bad

## Monday Night Raw

Date: February 6, 1995

Location: Manatee Civic Center, Palmetto, Florida

Attendance: 2,500

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Shawn Michaels

We're fresh off the Royal Rumble and that means it's time to build towards Shawn vs. Diesel in about two months. Shawn being on commentary for these shows is a good idea as he's certainly entertaining and one of the few heels who doesn't wear out his welcome when he's out there all night. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of last week's Royal Rumble Challenge between King Kong Bundy and Mabel with Bundy getting some help to win, because MABEL requires assistance. Tonight it's a six man tag.

Opening sequence.

## Lex Luger/Men on a Mission vs. IRS/Tatanka/King Kong Bundy

IRS has the massive Undertaker Urn with him after "repossessing" it at the Rumble but there's no Ted DiBiase in sight. Bundy and Mabel start things off with the heavy forearms to the chest, because that's about all they're capable of doing. Oh and splashes of course but we'll save that for when it gets serious.

Mabel hits something like an enziguri for two and it's off to the worthless Mo, who can't slam Bundy. IRS comes in for some elbows but Mo hits one of the worst dropkicks I've seen in recent memory to come back. Thankfully that goes nowhere and it's off to Tatanka for some chops to the head as we go to a break. Back with Tatanka bailing from Mabel, likely repelled by the magical powers of purple and gold. Mabel drops the

big fat elbow and it's off to Luger for the showdown with his former friend.

Naturally Tatanka hands it off to IRS instead, showing that he's learning the heel arts. For some reason Luger thinks it's a good idea to bring Mo back in. Must be the steroids getting to his head. The slow beating continues with a variety of whips and chops, likely because Mo can't be trusted to take anything more complicated.

Mo gets sent into the corner where a far too sweaty IRS grabs an abdominal stretch. Even a sunset flip looks horrible until Mabel knocks IRS down from the apron for two. Bundy finally misses a charge in the corner and the hot tag brings in Luger to a lukewarm reaction at best. Everything breaks down and Luger slams Bundy but Tatanka gets in a DDT to give Bundy the pin.

**Rating:** F. This was FIFTEEN MINUTES LONG and Luger took the pin? They really thought this was the best idea for the opening of Monday Night Raw? I knew 1995 was terrible but dang I didn't realize it was this bad. The ending is the worst part though and I have no idea what the heck they were thinking.

Man Mountain Rock compares playing guitar to winning the WWF World Title.

Lawrence Taylor's agent reads a statement basically saying he's sorry and if Bam Bam Bigelow keeps calling him out, Lawrence will sue.

Bam Bam Bigelow Slim Jim ad. These really didn't last long as it turned out that Randy Savage might have had just a bit more charisma. Slim Jim knew this too and took the campaign to WCW instead. You know, because they're smart.

#### Man Mountain Rock vs. Charlie Hunter

Rock plays some guitar before the match. Hunter slides between the legs to start but a hiptoss fails as badly as you would expect it to. Some big elbows have Hunter in trouble and Rock drops a splash for good measure. A nerve hold of all things kills even more time as this is already feeling long. Rock finishes him with a gordbuster. Too short to rate but this

didn't quite, ahem, rock. For you trivia people: Rock's theme song would later be used by Droz and Prince Albert.

We look at Shawn Michaels coming out to stare Diesel down over the weekend.

Diesel sits down with Vince to talk about facing both Hart Brothers recently. His knees are banged up but he'll be ready for Shawn. We talk about all of Diesel's celebrity appearances and...my goodness Diesel just does not look right in this role. He'll be ready to face Jeff Jarrett in two weeks though.

Shawn will debut his new bodyguard soon.

#### Mantaur vs. Leroy Howard

Howard has a good look (Think Ice Train if you remember him. If not...yeah I've got nothing for you.). Mantaur misses a charge in the corner to start but is still able to catch Howard's (who has some size) high crossbody. We hit the standard big man offense until Howard hits a clothesline and a dropkick, only to get caught in a World's Strongest Slam. Jim Cornette screams at Mantaur to stay on him and you can imagine him wanting to kill someone for being stuck managing a character like this. A belly to belly ends Howard.

**Rating:** D. Howard wasn't half bad but there's only so much you can do when you're stuck against Mantaur. I'm not sure what else anyone was expecting here, but what was anyone expecting when they came up with Mantaur? It's really one of the worst gimmicks ever and there's no way around that.

#### Razor Ramon vs. Frank Lancaster

They trade arm work to start as Shawn catches himself complimenting Razor, which doesn't sit well with him. Shawn: "Give me a second. I'll cut him down in just a minute." Razor shrugs off some chops and beats up Lancaster in the corner without much effort. An abdominal stretch goes nowhere so let's talk about the current events for some reason. The belly to back superplex sets up the Razor's Ramon to put Frank away.

**Rating:** D+. Eh Razor is at least better than Mantaur. An understatement I know but there's only so much you can say about a match like this. Believe it or not, Razor would be in the Intercontinental Title picture around this point and recently lost the title at the Royal Rumble. Just a squash here.

#### Henry Godwinn vs. Bill Weaver

Weaver misses an early dropkick and Henry hits him with a wheelbarrow slam. This match's time filler: wrestlers' favorite cartoon characters. Henry hits a big clothesline and elbow drop, followed by the Slop Drop for the quick pin. Much better squash here.

Vince tells us that there's no show next week but Shawn has worse news: he won't be doing commentary anymore because it makes him too big of a target. They better have a good replacement because he's one of the only good things about these shows.

**Overall Rating:** D-. This was the show of big slow squashes and that's not a good thing. They're in the slow build to a bad Wrestlemania and that's a really boring stretch. There's only so much you can do when you have heel Henry Godwinn and Mantaur as featured acts, plus Luger losing to Bundy when Mo is available to take the fall. Really bad show here, but that's what you have to expect at this point.

Remember: no February 13 show so the next one is February 20.

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