

Smackdown – May 29, 2003: One Lies, the Other Punches

Smackdown

Date: May 29, 2003

Location: Pensacola Civic Center, Pensacola, Florida

Commentators: Michael Cole, Tazz

We're closing out the month with...a lie detector test! Yeah that's the big draw this week: Mr. America is being forced to take a lie detector test after losing to Sean O'Haire last week. Somehow this was probably viewed as a big win for O'Haire, even though he's already coming off as little more than a detail less than a week later. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Vince vs. America shenanigans setting up tonight's lie detector test.

Opening sequence.

Here's Sable to introduce the first match, but only after a quick shout out to...Tazz?

Torrie Wilson vs. Nidia

They're never following up on Torrie kissing Sable are they? Before we get going, Zack Gowen is shown in the crowd. Torrie shoves Jamie Noble off the apron and chops away at Nidia to start, earning herself a knee to the ribs. Nidia grabs a suplex for two as they've already done more wrestling than I was expecting.

A shot to the knee has Torrie in trouble and Jamie shouts at Nidia to stay on her. The knee is slammed onto the apron and wrapped around the rope for good measure. Back in and they do the roll over the referee spot so the referee poses on the ropes. Jamie trips Torrie though, allowing Nidia to grab a rollup with tights for the pin.

Rating: D. This was their best way to open the show? I know it's mainly for the visuals and I'd rather go with this than more of Vince vs. Hogan

but they didn't have any other options here? At least they got it out of the way I guess, but this really isn't the best way to set the show off on a good foot.

Post match Tazz punches Jamie out and Torrie rips off Nidia's shorts. Sable throws water at Tazz and bails to end this head scratch inducing segment.

Vince is annoyed that his limo driver has to move the limo out of a handicap zone. He orders said driver to stay right there because this shouldn't take long.

Stephanie McMahon tests out the lie detector.

Team Angle wants to regain their titles in preparation for Kurt Angle's return next week.

Eddie Guerrero has Tajiri in Guerrero gear and thinks he can feel some Latino Heat. Tajiri has even stolen his first car! He can even speak English too (which may be a first).

Tag Team Titles: Eddie Guerrero/Tajiri vs. Team Angle

Eddie and Tajiri are defending. Tajiri gets sent outside early on and it's a double beating until Eddie elbows his way to freedom. A pop up dropkick puts Shelton down and it's off to Tajiri for those hard kicks. Again: it's a very simple style of action but he does it well enough to make it work.

Tajiri grabs a sunset flip and rolls Shelton around the ring to really dizzy him up. A double kick to the head gives us a double knockdown though and we take a break. Back with Shelton kicking the knee out (two matches in a row with knee work) to take over. Charlie comes in for a modified Indian Deathlock before it's back to Shelton for a leglock of his own.

Eddie finally breaks up a half crab but the distraction just lets Shelton come back in sans tag. A headscissors finally gets Tajiri out of trouble and the hot tag brings in Eddie for a monkey flip. House is cleaned in a hurry and it's time to roll some suplexes. The frog splash crushes

Charlie with Shelton making the save. A double DDT takes Team Angle down and it's the not as hot tag to Tajiri for kicks using the good leg.

Charlie reverses a tornado DDT into a northern lights suplex for two with Eddie making another save. Tajiri superkicks Charlie down and Eddie dives off the top onto Shelton. The Haas of Pain has Tajiri in trouble and the bell rings...because Eddie rang it himself. As the referee yells at the timekeeper, Eddie misses a belt shot. Charlie grabs the belt so Eddie drops to the mat, drawing a phantom DQ to retain the titles.

Rating: B+. I was digging the heck out of this one and the screwy finish was the best way they could have gone as it gives them a reason for another match. Tajiri is an upgrade over Chavo and plays a great partner to Eddie. The tease of a submission at the end worked very well and Eddie was feeling it here, which makes for a nearly instant classic.

Zack Gowen talks about wanting to live his dream but being here as a fan to watch the lie detector test.

The lie detector is set up in the middle of the ring and here's Vince. McMahon recaps the whole double contract situation and mocks Gowen, who will never be allowed to wrestle here if America fails the lie detector. Here's America with Vince ordering that he be strapped into the chair. It's a simple system: ding means true, buzz means no.

We get straight to the questions: he's Mr. America, he's in a wrestling ring in Pensacola, Florida and he's employed by Smackdown. Vince demands the question but America would like a drink of water before answering if he's Hulk Hogan or not. He says no and that comes up true as well. They ask him again and it's still not what Vince wants to hear. Vince: "It's Hogan, Hogan, Hogan, Hogan, Hogan!" America: "NO NO NO NO NO!" Machine: "DING DING DING DING DING!"

That means he officially passes the test and Vince freaks out. He agrees to take his own test but America is getting to ask the questions. Vince is apparently a horrible pervert, a disrespected businessman who doesn't do things for any fans all over the world, enjoys himself with Torrie Wilson's Playboy (including in the limo on the way to the arena) and fantasizes about Mae Young. Vince is unhooked and America punches him

out. See, now this is the kind of goofy, over the top comedy bit that the story should have been about. It's not great but I've seen far less entertaining bits. More of this, less of America having matches.

Post break, Vince blames Stephanie for the whole thing. Things will change next week.

Chris Benoit vs. Sean O'Haire

Sean walks way in front of Roddy Piper, looking like he wants nothing to do with his mentor. Some early shots to the ribs have Benoit down in the corner but he grabs a dragon screw legwhip for a breather. That's fine with Sean who takes Benoit down again into a chinlock. Back up and a DDT gives Benoit a breather, followed by a German suplex for two. Piper grabs the leg and actually gets caught in the Crossface. Sean makes a save and grabs a rollup with tights for the pin.

Rating: D. That's a nice win for O'Haire but he desperately needs to get away from Piper. The pairing isn't all that interesting in the first place and now Piper isn't adding anything in the slightest. At least he got a big win here though and wasn't squashed until the ending, which is somehow an improvement.

We look back at Rey Mysterio defeating Crash and Shannon Moore to earn a Cruiserweight Title shot, which will take place next week.

An injured Rey says he'll be Cruiserweight Champion next week. He's all fired up but here's Matt Hardy to jump him from behind with a low blow.

Kurt Angle is back next week.

Ultimo Dragon is coming.

Rikishi/Spanky vs. Basham Brothers

This would be Doug and Danny's debut and I still have no idea which is which. Doug and Rikishi start things off with Bashman being sent over the top in short order. Rikishi keeps cleaning house and it's off to Spanky for a running forearm in the corner. Thankfully the Bashams finally take over and start hammering away with their pretty generic style of offense.

An enziguri allows the hot tag to Rikishi, who cleans house with superkicks. The Bashams take a double Stinkface and it's back to Spanky. A charge into the corner is countered though and Doug rolls him up with Danny adding extra leverage for the pin.

Rating: F. This was more about pushing Rikishi than anything else. He cleaned house multiple times and hit his embarrassing signature move on the newcomers. The Bashams look like a pair of clowns who won on a fluke while Rikishi looks like a world beater. Terrible debut and the team is in trouble from the start.

Vince's limo is towed and Gowen shows up to gloat. Who knew that regular fans had access to Vince's limo?

Undertaker/Brock Lesnar vs. FBI

This is your main event people. Hang on a second though as this is a handicap match but Nunzio is in street clothes. He's injured after last week so we have a replacement Italian.

Undertaker/Brock Lesnar vs. Chuck Palumbo/Johnny Stamboli/Big Show

Undertaker slugs Show down to start but it's Palumbo stomping at Undertaker in the corner. That just earns him Old School so it can be off to Lesnar for the house cleaning. Brock shrugs off some double teaming and hands it back to Undertaker to work on Stamboli. The running DDT plants Stamboli again so it's off to Show for the real showdown.

Brock comes in instead and takes a heck of a clothesline to the chest. It's too early for a chokeslam but Brock has to beat up the Italians. The chokeslam gets two on Lesnar and it's the Italians double teaming on the floor. Back in and the beating continues as Lesnar is selling too much for the FBI.

A clothesline takes Palumbo down and it's a hot tag off to undertaker to dominate. Snake Eyes and the big boot drop Palumbo and there's the dragon sleeper on Show. Nunzio's save with a chair only annoys Undertaker so there's a chokeslam. Palumbo breaks it up so it's back to back for the Italians, only to have the chokeslam end Lesnar.

Rating: D+. So yeah, we're actually heading towards Lesnar vs. Show again, just in case we didn't get the point last time. They really need to elevate someone already as this isn't getting anyone anywhere. Where does this leave Undertaker? Facing the Italians? That's the best they've got? The match was fun while it lasted at least, but Show vs. Lesnar again does nothing for me.

Overall Rating: C+. The tag match more than carries this one and the lie detector segment was a lot better than I was expecting. Smackdown is in a better place than Raw at the moment as they have some pieces to put together but they don't know the order yet. I'll take that over thinking Kevin Nash is their best option any day.

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