

Thought of the Day: When Commentary Sounded Real

Somehow, it's much more real than in the reality era.

Since we have the WWE Network (still the greatest thing for any wrestling fan), I'll often throw on an old pay per view just for some background noise while I'm working on something else. The other day I threw on Survivor Series 1988 and heard the following discussion between Gorilla Monsoon and Jesse Ventura when Jacques Rougeau was tagged into the match:

Jesse: "Which Rougeau is that? Is that Jacques or Raymond?"

Gorilla: "That is Jacques. He's a little bit taller than his brother."

Jesse: "Oh that's Jacques, ok. I get those two confused."

And that's it. No insults, no jokes about how Jesse is stupid, no laughing and ignoring the match and no stupid bickering between the two over some petty feud that only they care about while the match is ignored. This felt like a simple, realistic conversation between two people watching a wrestling match. The Rougeaus may not have been twins but it might have been difficult to remember at times (I couldn't remember which Hardy was which until about 2001) and it's not ridiculous for Jesse to be confused, or for Gorilla to say which one it is and give him a way to remember it.

Today, this would set off a minute long argument between Corey Graves and Byron Saxton because they have to fight every chance they get over whatever stupid thing is going on at the moment, all while the match is completely ignored. Then Cole will laugh about something and plug whatever is coming later in the night, ignoring the match even further.

It's such a different world of commentary and shows just how forced and scripted things have become today. Let these people sound normal and see if it's not way more effective.