

Monday Night Raw – May 31, 1999: Maybe We Should Ask Austin



IMG Credit: WWE

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 31, 1999

Location: Mark of the Quad, Moline, Illinois

Attendance: 9,755

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

So I started running through the 1999 Monday Night Raw shows and got near the end of May....before stopping for about three and a half years. That's enough time to recharge my batteries so we'll get back to it here.

Undertaker won the WWF World Title eight days ago and everything is about the Corporate Ministry right now. Let's get to it.

[In case you don't remember that far back, here's last week's show \(this is a special one\)](#)

[I've already done next week's show \(this is a big one\)](#)

We open with a recap of Shane McMahon screwing Steve Austin out of the WWF Title at Over the Edge. That Smoking Skull belt is still cool but doesn't look right in anyone else's hands.

Opening sequence.

Here's the Corporate Ministry and Undertaker has promised that we'll be meeting the Higher Power tonight. Druids are carrying out Undertaker's symbol and I forgot how much I don't like this aspect of the story. Undertaker sends the druids to the floor, leaving only the ten members in the ring. Shane brags about using his right hand to take the title from Austin, even demonstrating his much slower count.

Undertaker talks in a very un-Undertaker like fashion, saying there's nothing Austin can do about Undertaker being champion. For a bigger deal though, Undertaker has been promising "him" Austin's mind, body and soul. Tonight the Higher/Greater (it's used interchangeably) Power will be here and Austin will look into his eyes.

Cue Vince to say he's going to screw Undertaker tonight. That's because tonight, Undertaker is defending the title against Steve Austin. Shane says not so fast, because the match can take place but it's non-title. Vince isn't done though because he's going to face Undertaker as well after everything Undertaker has done. Shane is cool with that too and if Vince can win, the match against Austin is for the title. If anyone interferes, Austin NEVER gets another title shot. The Ministry goes to leave but Austin is a druid, triggering a brawl with the Union (Mankind, Test, Ken Shamrock and Big Show) coming in to help.

Post break, Austin yells at the Union for some reason.

Big Show vs. Billy Gunn

Gunn gets TOSSED into the corner for a cool visual to start. A running dropkick to the knee cuts Show down as Gunn shows some rare intelligence. Show is back with a boot to the face though and Gunn walks out before the chokeslam.

Road Dogg jumps Gunn in the aisle and the fight is on with Gunn being sent back inside for the chokeslam.

And now, Beaver Cleavage, the incest character that Russo probably thought was a combination of brilliant and hilarious.

Pat Patterson and Gerald Brisco can't talk Vince out of fighting Undertaker.

Christian vs. Beaver Cleavage

This is Beaver's debut and OF COURSE his real first name is Harry. Naturally he comes out in black and white with the video quality going down to resemble a 1950s sitcom. Beaver gets two off a powerslam but Christian gets the same off a facebuster. Some right hands in the corner don't get Christian far as Beaver drops him face first onto the turnbuckle.

Beaver gets in a good looking springboard clothesline to the floor, which is a positive but doesn't erase the fact that his name is Harry Beaver Cleavage. Back in and Christian grabs a belly to back suplex, followed by the reverse layout DDT. Cue Michael Hayes and the Hardys with a cane shot to Christian's head. Beaver's reverse suplex is good for the pin.

Rating: F. His name is Harry Beaver Cleavage. If that doesn't explain the rating to you, I don't know what else to say. What's so annoying is the guy wasn't a bad athlete (he was good as Mosh) but the name and gimmick is nothing more than a way to make Russo laugh and that doesn't make for anything more than a comedy character. Besides, it's not funny.

Christian goes after the Hardys and Hayes but Edge and Gangrel make the save.

Undertaker says no one is standing in his way tonight.

Intercontinental Title: Jeff Jarrett vs. The Godfather

Godfather is defending in this battle of Hall of Famers. After Godfather does his thing, he mentions that Debra should belong to him (he won her in a match but Jarrett said no). When he wins tonight, Debra rides the Ho Train and everyone sees the puppies. JR: "Of course Jerry Lawler will be supporting the Intercontinental Champion." Lawler: "LET'S GO GODFATHER!"

Godfather charges into an early knee and a middle rope clothesline keeps him in trouble. A high crossbody gives Jeff two as Lawler wants to open a puppy resort. Godfather is right back up with the Ho Train and a big boot

but Debra offers a distraction. The jacket is opened up but one of the Ho's takes hers off too. The distraction lets Jarrett hit Godfather with Debra's Women's Title to get the belt back.

Rating: D. This would be the third match centered around some form of anatomy and that's getting to be a little hard to take. I can get why this was entertaining when I was eleven, but my goodness it's getting to be a little hard to take this time around. Jarrett winning the title back is a good idea as Godfather is hardly a long term champion. The fact that this is the fifth title change of the year so far isn't a good sign though.

Undertaker vs. Vince McMahon

Non-title, though the thought of Vince winning the title is laughable at best. Especially in 1999. Vince doesn't have any music here, which is a really weird visual. Undertaker wastes no time in slugging away but Paul Bearer accidentally offers a distraction, allowing Vince to get in a low blow. More pummeling of the boss ensues...and Undertaker shoves the referee for a fast DQ.

Austin says he doesn't need any help.

Here's Mankind for a chat. It's time for the Union to get some payback so he wants HHH out here right now. He'd like that match to be hardcore but there's one more thing that needs to be covered. Mankind has heard about Chyna checking him out in the back. Maybe it's because of his charm or maybe it's because of that time she walked in on him in the shower when he was picking up the soap. It was clear that she wanted to touch him in an impure way. Tonight, he's going to give her a chance to see the merchandise, if you smell where his sock is hiding.

During the break, Big Boss Man jumped Mankind and they're still fighting when we get back. As luck would have it, Boss Man has a match.

Road Dogg vs. Big Boss Man

Dogg hits him in the head with the microphone but walks into a side slam for two anyway. The Shake Rattle and Roll into the shaky knee drop gives

Dogg two but a spinebuster takes him down again. They fight over the nightstick until Boss Man hits him in the head for the DQ. This might as well have been a brawl instead of a match.

Post match the referee takes the nightstick away so Boss Man whips out a chain to choke Dogg.

Shane throws a fit in the back, which presumably has been going on for about ten minutes now.

Tag Team Titles: X-Pac/Kane vs. Acolytes

X-Pac and Kane are defending. Faarooq misses a charge in the corner to start and X-Pac snaps off the kicks to put him down. That means a double tag with Kane sending Bradshaw into the corner without wasting much time. The big clothesline puts Kane on the floor but he's right back in with the top rope clothesline. I would say that'll teach Bradshaw but he seems a bit hard headed at times.

Kane tags X-Pac in to Jerry's shock, because Russo likes to book teams that hate each other. Cue Shane to cheer the Acolytes on as X-Pac's spinning kick is countered into a slam for two. The second kick connects though and it's Kane back in to clean house. Faarooq cuts him off with a powerslam but Kane sits up in short order. Shane breaks up the Bronco Buster with a char though and the Clothesline gives Bradshaw the pin on X-Pac.

Rating: D. I'd rather the titles go on a team that actually gets along, even if this feels like another title change for the sake of having a title change. X-Pac and Kane were fine for an oddball tag team but it got really annoying when X-Pac was the giant killer and beating people like Big Show with the still lame X Factor. As usual though, another angle disguised as a match.

GDTV takes us to the bathroom where someone is having some stomach issues, complete with sound effects. D'Lo Brown comes in and it's Mark Henry having said issues. This has been another unfunny segment that is supposed to make Russo laugh.

Val Venis vs. Ken Shamrock

Venis has Nicole Bass with him in a story I had tried to forget. They trade right hands to start until Val has to bail away from a cross armbreaker. A spinebuster gives Val two but Shamrock gets the same off a DDT. Val slams him down but the Money Shot misses. Cue Jarrett to distract Shamrock though, allowing Val to grab a small package for the pin.

Shamrock destroys Venis post match. Val blames Nicole for the loss...but she can make it up to him.

Undertaker promises to destroy Austin.

HHH vs. Mankind

Hardcore rules. HHH hammers away to start but that's just not going to work very well against someone like Mankind. They're quickly into the crowd with Mankind beating the fire out of HHH, who is tossed back over the barricade. There's a suplex on the floor and Chyna sends Mankind into the steps. The sledgehammer shot only hits the steps so HHH backdrops him onto a chair instead.

A Pedigree on the chair on the floor is countered though with HHH getting catapulted into the post instead. HHH is right back up and knocks Mankind into Chyna into the steps, but it doesn't seem to cause too much damage. Back in and the Mandible Claw goes on, only to have Chyna hit Mankind low with the hammer. That earns her the Mandible Claw of her own but HHH blasts Mankind in the knee with the hammer for the pin.

Rating: C. These two are always worth a look though the ending is pretty obviously just there to write Mankind off for a bit. That's all well and good, as Rock and Austin are more than capable of being the top guys who can fight off the evil. It also gives HHH a nice rub as taking out Mankind is something Undertaker never could quite do. Not a bad hardcore match either.

Post match HHH stays on the knee until Rock makes the save. That would be Mankind's last match until August.

Post break, Mankind is taken away in an ambulance with Test riding with him. Geez that might be worse.

WWF World Title: Undertaker vs. Steve Austin

Undertaker is defending and his symbol is now back on the stage. Austin wastes no time in wrapping the legs around the post, followed by a good crotching. The Thesz press and middle finger elbow are good for two and a clothesline puts Undertaker on the floor. Austin rams him into various things but his piledriver is countered with a backdrop. With Undertaker slugging away, Austin kicks him low (very common move on this show) and they head back inside.

Austin kicks him in the face to block a backdrop (thankfully avoiding the head snapping up) and nails a clothesline. They head outside again with Austin being sent hip first into the post of the steps. A suplex on the floor keeps Austin in trouble but he's right back with right hands inside. The running crotch attack misses but it's a Stunner to drop Undertaker. Bearer pulls the referee out so here comes the Ministry for the DQ.

Rating: C-. Much like HHH vs. Mankind, these two are always worth a look, even if they didn't have anywhere near the same level of chemistry. It's pretty clear looking back that the title wasn't changing hands here but at the time, it wasn't out of the question to see it happening. Then again, a clean (well, clean by 1999 standards) ending wasn't likely no matter what.

Austin gets tied in the ropes and here comes the Higher Power, of course with his face covered by a robe. He leans over to Austin, pulls open the robe and looks at Austin. The stunned look from Austin takes us out and OF COURSE he never actually said who was under the hood until after the reveal.

Overall Rating: D+. I've said it many times but these shows REALLY don't hold up. Sure they were fun to watch week to week when there was the drama of who would it be (I was glued to the screen the next week to find out who was under the robe) but everything else is just so lame. Above all else though, the horrible names and sex puns. It's so sophomoric and

just flat out not funny that it gets very tiresome after about five minutes.

There is some good stuff on here though and shockingly enough, it's when you have top stars being able to make something out of this drek. Austin, Undertaker, HHH and Mankind are as good as you would expect and can carry a lot of this nonsense. They're people who are going to be interesting no matter what they're doing and it shows here. Next week is ALL drama though and that's what they were selling here, which helps so much. But yeah, not a strong show here with a lot of Russo's issues shining through.

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