

Money in the Bank 2018 Preview



IMG Credit: WWE

It's finally, and I do mean FINALLY, here. After what feels like a thirty seven and a half year build, it's finally time for Money in the Bank. Just like last year we have two ladder matches and just like most years, a majority of the people involved in the matches have no realistic chance of winning the briefcase. There are some other matches on the card as well though and hopefully the show is as entertaining as these have the potential to be. Let's get to it.

Kickoff Show: Smackdown Tag Team Titles: Bludgeon Brothers(c) vs. Anderson and Gallows

We're starting off with one of the most obvious endings on the card. Anderson and Gallows are former Tag Team Champions but haven't really done much of late. Granted that might be due to WWE being unable to focus on much more than the champions and their #1 contenders at the same time, but what else can you expect from such a poor, helpless (and endless) creative team?

I'll take the Bludgeon Brothers to retain of course, as there's nothing going on with Anderson and Gallows while the champs are looking rather dominant. At this point I'm not sure

who is actually going to take the titles from them as no one on the roster stands out. I do however know that it won't be Anderson and Gallows, at least not for a long time. This is just going to be your usual ten minute Kickoff Show match with the champs retaining and that's all it needs to be.

SmackDown Women's Title: Carmella(c) vs. Asuka

Now on paper, this should be one of the squashest squashes in the history of squashing. However, that's not how WWE tends to roll and given how they've completely drained the energy from Asuka since WrestleMania alone, I'm not expecting her to get the title here. Throw in rumors of a certain chinless wonder returning to help Carmella and we have all the makings of one of the dumbest things that WWE could possibly do.

And unfortunately, that's exactly what I expect them to do. I'll take Carmella to retain with the help of James Ellsworth as Asuka loses her second singles match to someone who barely belongs in the same company as her, let alone the same ring. Carmella maybe a ball of energy, but after so many years of being undefeated, Asuka deserves something a lot better than losing to Carmella, who only has the title because of a match she won a year ago. They're also likely to shout about how important the briefcase was and how it's led Carmella to a win over Asuka, just in case the idea hasn't been hammered in enough yet.

Intercontinental Title: Seth Rollins(c) vs. Elias

This one intrigues me as you really could go either way with the thing. On one hand, Rollins is on fire and capable of having a good match with anyone or anything right now. Elias on the other hand has a heat all his own and has taken one of the more classic concepts in wrestling (insulting the live crowd) and turned it into a near art form, making him one of the best villains on the entire show. If he had the in-ring abilities to back it up (and he's not the worst by any

stretch), he could be World Champion by next year.

I'll take Rollins to retain here, but I can't imagine he holds the title much longer. With Summerslam coming up in about two months, it's going to be high time to move him up to the next level and that means giving him a shot at the Universal Title. I can't imagine them having it be champion vs. champion (though it wouldn't shock me) and having Rollins lose to someone significantly lower on the card than him would be a major hit to someone who has been on the kind of roll he's on. Rollins retains here, but his days as champion are coming to a close.

Daniel Bryan vs. Big Cass

They wouldn't would they? I know this company loves to set up trilogies for whatever reason but egads tell me they're not going to have Bryan lose here to someone like Big Cass. I like Big Cass, but there's no reason to have him go over Bryan. Again, with Summerslam coming up in the near future, Bryan needs to be geared up for a big match, perhaps against the Miz. Therefore, unless Miz is out there costing Bryan the match, I don't want to see anything but Bryan winning by whatever means.

Therefore, in what I hope is a show of good faith proven right, I'll take Bryan here, probably via the heel hook that they've been building up as a finisher. The long legs would be a perfect target and it's not like Big Cass doesn't have it coming to him. Bryan doesn't need the win but a loss would be a pretty bad blow to him. The fact that I have to worry about WWE having Bryan take the loss here is rather sad, but that's the WWE that we live in today. Bryan goes over, at least I hope.

Women's Money In The Bank Ladder Match: Ember Moon vs. Sasha Banks vs. Natalya vs. Alexa Bliss vs. Naomi vs. Charlotte vs. Becky Lynch vs. Lana

Like I mentioned in the opening, there are various people who just aren't going to win the ladder matches but have to be in there because Heaven forbid these things only have six people each. Therefore, you can write off Lana, Sasha Banks, Alexa Bliss and probably Becky Lynch. At the end of the day, they're all coming into this cold and there's no reason to believe they're going to pull down the briefcase.

With the remaining names, I'll go with what should feel obvious and take Natalya, who is likely coming after her new best friend Ronda Rousey. It's one of those stories where WWE has beaten us over the head with their ideas of subtlety, leaving little doubt of what's going to happen. Or they'll give it to someone completely random like they did with Naomi at the Women's Battle Royal back at WrestleMania. But yeah I'll take Natalya, which takes us to our next match.

Raw Women's Title: Nia Jax(c) vs. Ronda Rousey

Remember when Jax did that big speech about bullying and it sounded kind of ridiculous because she's three times Bliss' size and yet still took ten minutes to beat her both time? Remember how that seemed like something that would crush her momentum because it really didn't work on any level? Well Jax is already back to mediocrity and now the only question is whether or not this show actually closes the show.

So yeah of course I'm going with Rousey to win here, and I think it might actually close the show. Well actually I think it ends with Natalya cashing in to take the title from her in all of ten seconds because Rousey isn't used to wrestling and Natalya was just following the rules that Rousey didn't know. That can set up the big rematch in Brooklyn, even if Natalya is one of the least interesting people you could possibly put the title on. Rousey should be fine, but this could go badly if she can't handle someone of Jax's size and lack of experience. But yeah, Rousey wins, as she should.

Roman Reigns vs. Jinder Mahal

Let's get this thing out of the way before I get buried by the booing from the crowd. I have no idea who the fans are going to go for here, but somehow it might wind up being Mahal, just because he's not Reigns. What worries me more is that we might not be done seeing these two fight, meaning this is only going to be the first match in a series. But hey, if Reigns isn't cheered here, maybe he can be cheered next time.

I'll take Mahal to win here, likely through some form of shenanigans, which will set up a rematch at Extreme Rules which won't be well received either. I'm really not sure what either of these two are expected to get out of a feud against each other but that's what we're stuck with. The more interesting thing here is going to be the crowd reactions though, as this match might even befuddle the Chicago fans. Either that or it's going to be a new level of rejection and hatred, the latter of which is the more likely of the two.

Smackdown World Title: AJ Styles(c) vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

I know I've said this before, but Nakamura has to win the title here right? I mean, this is the fifth match these two have had against each other and there's no reason for him to not get the belt already. This is a Last Man Standing match and that would seem to favor someone with a hard hitting finisher like the Kinshasa. Given how this story has been going though, it wouldn't shock me if they went to a draw and we somehow got another match out of the thing.

With that being a possibility, I'll hold out hope that Nakamura FINALLY wins the title here, as I can't imagine how far he'll fall if he goes 1-4 in the feud and never even wins the title. Styles has the longest reign with the title since Brock Lesnar's reign that started when he beat John Cena at Summerslam 2014. The other problem is Styles being out of someone to fight, meaning it's time to move the title on from

him. Nakamura wins, as he should have done two months ago.

Bobby Lashley vs. Sami Zayn

The worst part about the whole build to this match? It should actually be pretty good. These two are more than capable of having a good match and Zayn has been such a great heel in the whole thing. There's only so much they can do with this kind of terrible material though and Lashley never seeming to get upset in the whole thing hasn't done them any favors.

Of course Lashley is going to win here, because he needs to give Zayn what's coming to him or whatever, even though the story has been such a mess that I've forgotten why they're fighting in the first place. Lashley should be moving on to something bigger, but Zayn deserves a big run of his own. I'm sure he's too small to count in WWE though, especially when you have someone Lashley's size. In other words: this continues to be a big mess and it's not likely to get much better after the match is over.

Men's Money In The Bank Ladder Match: Braun Strowman vs. Bobby Roode vs. Kevin Owens vs. Finn Balor vs. Samoa Joe vs. The Miz vs. Rusev vs. Xavier Woods/Big E/Kofi Kingston

The list of people involved in a match shouldn't go on for three lines. That has to be a rule somewhere. Just like in the women's version, there are some names here who aren't going to win. Therefore, we can drop Roode, Balor, Rusev and whoever goes in from the New Day. I'd almost say Strowman is a stretch as well because they've built him up as too unbeatable to actually give him the win.

I'm going with Samoa Joe to win the briefcase. First of all, what's the point in putting the briefcase on Monday Night Raw when they don't actually have a World Champion most of the time? Samoa Joe comes off as the kind of guy who could be downright menacing with the thing and make himself out to be a real threat. Miz would be fun too, but I'll go with Samoa Joe,

just for the sake of really wanting to see him get the World Title which he's deserved for so long.

Overall Thoughts

I'm not exactly thrilled with this show, though it has a tendency to be one of the more entertaining shows of the year. The problem is there's only so much that you can get out of a show that had such a dull and boring build. The ladder matches are always worth a watch and there's enough potential later on down the card to make it work out a little better. If the show is at least good, everything should be fine. Just not fine enough to warrant the excessively boring buildup.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the paperback edition of the NXT The Full Sail Years Volume III (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2018/05/25/new-book-nxt-the-full-sail-years-from-dallas-to-new-orleans/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>