

Main Event – July 26, 2018: Blue Makes Better



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: July 26, 2018

Location: US Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Ohio

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson, Vic Joseph

Hopefully things pick up a little bit this week as last week's show was basically the shortened version of Raw. I have no idea why WWE thinks there's no need to focus on Smackdown, especially when it's going to become the bigger show next year. Maybe this week will be different but I don't have the highest hopes. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Zack Ryder vs. Mike Kanellis

I saw this one at a house show two days earlier and hopefully it's better. Ryder hits an early faceplant for one but gets choked in the corner to slow things back down. Nigel quotes Power of Love to make things a little more pleasant as Kanellis puts on a reverse chinlock. Ryder fights up and sends him into the corner, setting up a running knee. The Broski Boot misses (as it so often does) so Ryder goes with a

dropkick through the ropes instead. Back in and Kanellis catches him on top, setting up a superplex. A superkick gets two but Ryder slips out of a suplex and hits the Rough Ryder for the pin at 5:39.

Rating: D+. Ryder is always going to get some kind of a reaction but Kanellis is just a good theme song and another reminder that Maria isn't here. He's just a warm body at this point and that's not going to get him much further than what we have here. At least Ryder got the crowd going, which is why you put him in a spot like this.

We take a very quick look at Stephanie's announcement from Raw.

From Smackdown. It's nice for a change.

Carmella vs. Becky Lynch

Non-title but Becky gets a Summerslam title shot if she wins. Becky goes straight for the arm to start but Carmella hits her in the face. A trip to the floor goes badly for Becky and we take an early break. Back with Becky starting her comeback, meaning it's time for clotheslines. There's the Bexploder but Becky misses the top rope legdrop. Carmella kicks her in the face for two and frustration is setting in. Not that it matters as the Disarm-Her sends Becky to Summerslam at 7:10.

Rating: D+. I really could go for eliminating the "here's a match to set up the same match" booking trope. Becky getting the title shot makes sense and I could certainly go for her winning the title, but they need to have a slightly better match next time. Then again, that's not likely with Carmella in there.

From Smackdown again.

Here are Miz, Maryse and their daughter to wrap things up. Miz says we're here to talk about the future instead of relics like Daniel Bryan. He introduces Maryse, who claims that the evolution started with her. Miz introduces his daughter, who has accomplished more in her life than Daniel Bryan (Graves made the same joke about Saxton). The fans chant for Monroe but the mere mention of Bryan has put her to sleep.

We get a clip of the show, which is a highlight of bad moments in Miz's

life and career. Bryan pops up on screen to apologize to Miz but then realizes he should do this to Miz's face. Here's Bryan in the arena to beat up Miz's security but Miz throws the baby to him, revealing it to be a doll. That means a Skull Crushing Finale and a rant from Miz about how the baby earlier was an actor. Like he'd bring his real daughter to a city like this and if you want to see Monroe Sky, watch the show.

Video on WWE winning the ESPN Sports Humanitarian Award.

Chad Gable/No Way Jose vs. Ascension

Gable spins out of Viktor's wristlock to start and slaps on an armbar. Konnor comes in and plows through Gable as we take a break. Back with Gable getting dragged into the wrong corner so a spinebuster can get two. Gable fights out of a chinlock and brings in Jose as everything breaks down. Konnor breaks up a cover but goes to the floor with Gable, leaving Viktor to take the pop up right hand for the pin at 8:16.

Rating: D+. What does it say when you're losing to a make shift team of jobbers to the stars? Neither Jose nor Gable have anything going for them at the moment other than being thrown into a match here or there and now Ascension is losing to them too. I'm not surprised, but I am rather sad about seeing them fall so far.

Video on Bobby Lashley vs. Roman Reigns.

We look at James Ellsworth being fired, allowing Samoa Joe to attack AJ Styles and become #1 contender.

From Raw.

Roman Reigns vs. Bobby Lashley

The winner gets Lesnar for the title at Summerslam. Reigns starts fast with the clothesline for an early two and they fight to the floor. The apron dropkick is countered into an overhead belly to belly suplex to put Reigns down and send us to a break. Back with Lashley nailing a spinebuster and grabbing a surfboard.

Reigns gets up and it's a double clothesline for the double knockdown.

They slug it out with Reigns getting the better of it and lifting Lashley to the apron, only to charge into a hard clothesline. Back in and Lashley counters the Superman Punch into a full nelson, followed by a headlock on the mat. Reigns fights up again and sends him shoulder first into the corner, meaning we get the multiple clotheslines.

Lashley is right back with a spinebuster but the spear is countered with...I'm not sure as it looked like it was supposed to be a leap frog but Reigns kneed/thighed him in the face instead. The Superman Punch gets two and Lashley rolls outside for a breather. Reigns slowly follows but can't get the belly to belly. Instead Lashley throws him back inside for the spear and a rather near fall in a call back to Extreme Rules. Another Superman Punch rocks Lashley and the spear sends Reigns to Summerslam at 18:04.

Rating: B. I mean, is it really even surprising at this point? They've gone around the horn so far now that Reigns winning so often has gone from surprising to not surprising to surprising again and now back to not surprising. Who cares if this match makes Reigns 1-1 vs. Lashley? It gives Reigns another chance to fight Lesnar in the most non-epic epic feud that they've ever put together.

Lashley and Reigns shake hands and Lashley can barely stand in the aisle. A lot of posing ends the show.

Overall Rating: C+. It's amazing how much better this show is when we can get a balanced look at Raw and Smackdown. The show was perfectly watchable and covered the biggest stories of the week, with only a little bit from the Stephanie announcement. The lack of hearing about it every ten seconds made this week that much easier to listen to and this served as a rather good recap of what happened. As usual, blue makes things better.

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