

Monday Night Raw – April 19, 1993: They Starting To Get Close To Getting Somewhere



Monday Night Raw

Date: April 19, 1993

Location: Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

Attendance: 3,500

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, Rob Bartlett

We're a few weeks removed from Wrestlemania now and the big story here is a Tag Team Title match between Money Inc. and the soon to be gone Beverly Brothers. Other than that, expect your regular assortment of squashes that aren't the most interesting things in the world but do in fact fill in an hour of TV time. Let's get to it.

Money Inc. laughs off the idea of the Beverly Brothers as a threat.

The Beverlies are ready to bankrupt Money Inc.

Razor Ramon vs Virgil

Yes really. Virgil grabs a hammerlock to start so Razor takes the easy way out by going to the ropes. Razor's headlock takeover is reversed into a headscissors to get things back to even. Bartlett is impressed by Razor not losing the toothpick behind his ear, even as he gets caught in another hammerlock. The fans are behind Razor here because...well...would you cheer for Virgil? A missed dropkick lets Razor take over and it's off to the abdominal stretch.

Razor slams him and gets in the slaps to the back of the head, setting up something like an STF. Virgil taps as Bartlett suggests that Virgil pull a knife to get out of the hold. He finally grabs a rope instead and gets up a boot in the corner. The middle rope clothesline looks to set up a

spinning crossbody but Virgil only hits the mat. The Razor's Edge is good for the pin.

Rating: D. How did Virgil keep a job for so long? I know he was a name but don't you have to win more than one or two matches in your life for that name to have value? He just wasn't interesting and Razor taking nearly seven minutes to beat him didn't look great. Boring match too.

Rob Bartlett has a black eye from the Luna/Sherri brawl last week.

Giant Gonzalez vs. LA Gore

Gore has one of the best, ahem, adult mustaches I've ever seen. Gonzalez pulls him in the ring by the head and hits a big clothesline to start. There's a chop to set up the chokeslam for the easy pin. Total squash, as you probably guessed.

Luna Vachon, in a small dungeon, promises evil on Sherri. We see some clips of Luna beating her up multiple times, including last week. In short, she's just crazy and a fight should be coming.

Tatanka vs. Art Thomas

Thomas has a great physique that you would think would get him a spot somewhere. He sends Tatanka into the corner to start and gets in a few shots to the ribs. Some more forearms to the back wake Tatanka up as Vince keeps calling him Mark Thomas. The Papoose To Go finishes Thomas in a hurry.

Money Inc. vs. Beverly Brothers

Non-title with Vince admitting that no one likes either team. Before the match, IRS promises that there will be no extensions if you didn't file your taxes. Money Inc. jumps them to start but gets knocked outside in a hurry. Ever the unfunny non-genius, Bartlett thinks he's watching the Beverly Hillbillies. Blake works on a wristlock to start and gets nowhere at all.

A shoulder drops Blake and now Bartlett thinks Vince is named Dave. It's off to Beau for the arm work with Blake adding a flying headbutt to the

elbow. An armbar goes on and DiBiase's hot tag to IRS isn't seen. I...I don't know how to handle the idea of DiBiase as a face in peril. Thankfully Bartlett is there with a stupid question about Luna being a woman of the 90s. Savage's advice: "Never trust a woman whose voice is deeper than mine." That's rather logical actually.

DiBiase's arm is sent into the buckle but manages a slam for the hot tag off to IRS. That just earns him an armbar of his own as the Beverlies are looking better than I've ever seen them. I mean, they're still dull, but that's an upgrade for them. A fireman's carry takeover gets two and Blake cranks on another armbar. Some double team choking keeps IRS in trouble and we take a break.

Back with IRS holding Beau in a front facelock as the announcers don't bother explaining how control changed. DiBiase comes in with no tag but insists he made one and that's good enough. A swinging neckbreaker gets Beau out of trouble and bringing Blake back in because now the Beverlies are faces. Beau gets tagged back in way too soon but gets two off a backdrop. Heel (I think?) miscommunication causes Beau to clothesline Blake though and DiBiase steals the pin.

Rating: D+. This could have been something interesting with a better team than the Beverly Brothers but there's not much you can do to get past their nothing status. They never were an important team and since no one cared, why would I be interested in watching them fight the top heel team? Get a more charismatic team in there and this could have worked, but here it was a waste of time.

Vince brings out Bret Hart for a chat. Bret says he was the underdog against Yokozuna but he's used to that status. He's lost titles before and he feels strange without having one on his shoulder right now. Therefore, he's going to get some revenge and first up on his hit list is Lex Luger. He got knocked out by Luger's elbow at the Wrestlemania brunch and thinks there should be an investigation because there's more than bone under that pad. Bret wants the title back too and he's going to go through Luger, then Yokozuna and even Hulk Hogan to be champion again.

Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Phil Apollo

Apollo would eventually play Doink. Bigelow throws him off a headlock to start and hits a running headbutt for a bonus. We're already off to the neck crank as this isn't likely to last long. A dropkick is swatted away and a suplex drops Apollo again. Speaking of Doink, here he comes to spray fans with his umbrella. Apollo gets splashed in the corner as Bigelow is taking his time on this one. A backsplash sets up the Swan Dive to finally finish Apollo.

Rating: D. Bigelow was in an interesting place at this point as he was being pushed pretty hard but didn't break through to the main event scene for the better part of two years. He's fine in this role, but an actual story for him might be nice. You know, like with someone who can bounce off of him well and make both of them look good.

Post match Friar Ferguson comes out for the staredown with Bigelow. THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND!!! Ferguson dropkicks Bigelow in the back to put him on the floor. Again: THAT'S NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND!!!

Overall Rating: D. I can't get my mind around the fact that they thought Ferguson was going to be around long enough to get beaten up by Bigelow. Other than that, this was a show where they started to move towards some more interesting stuff, mainly with Bret being there. Star power is one of the most important parts of Raw and if your biggest name is a still pretty new Razor Ramon, you're not getting very far. They're getting closer to getting somewhere, but it's not here yet.

I've already done the April 26 show so here you go if you're interested:

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