

Monday Night Raw – April 5, 1993: Who Needs Live When You Can Have Jim Brunzell?



IMG Credit: WWE

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 5, 1993

Location: Manhattan Center, New York City, New York

Attendance: 1,000

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Randy Savage

It's the night after Wrestlemania IX...and it's a taped show from about two weeks ago. To say it's a different time would be a huge understatement but to be fair, the show isn't even three months old at this point so it's not like there's a history to go off of here. I wouldn't expect anything special here but that's the case with a lot of 1993. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Virgil vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

During the entrances, Savage talks about Hogan winning the title last night. So either they did commentary later or they were a lot more trustworthy with some of the results. Virgil can't get very far with the

wristlock so he dropkicks Bigelow in the forearm as the fans tell Virgil that he sucks. For some reason Virgil tries a crucifix and gets crushed with a Samoan drop to change things up in a hurry.

We hit the chinlock as Vince gets in the required laughable line that Wrestlemania IX might be the best of all time. A headbutt sets up the neck crank and then a bearhug as this isn't exactly thrilling. Virgil finally gets out and hits a bad looking missile dropkick for two. That's enough for Bigelow, who headbutts him down and hits the top rope headbutt for the pin.

Rating: D-. There's not much you can do with these two and they weren't really going as hard as they could. Virgil was one of the weakest jobbers to the stars that I can remember and considering how bad some of them were, it's covering quite a bit of ground. Bigelow wasn't exactly at his peak here either and it wasn't going to get any better for awhile.

Jerry Lawler comes out for his first ever WWF match but leaves over the BURGER KING chants.

Still at the backstage set of Wrestlemania, Mr. Fuji and Yokozuna have launched an official complaint about Hogan being the champion. There was no contract and therefore, no title change. Gene Okerlund tells us all that as Fuji and Yokozuna never actually talked.

Bob Backlund vs. Kim Chee

Chee is Kamala's handler and probably played by Steve Lombardi (Brooklyn Brawler). Backlund's handshake is declined so he trips Kim down with next to no effort. An elbow puts Backlund down and we're already off to the chinlock. A sunset flip gives Chee two more and we hit the chinlock. Backlund fights up without much effort and hits some hiptosses. Chee tries a monkey flip but Bob rolls him up for the fast pin.

Rating: D+. Backlund is still worth seeing for his technical prowess but I don't think anyone was thrilled with seeing the old guy back for one more run like this. It's just not that thrilling of a story as the character is hardly interesting, which is kind of the point. At least they kept it short, which is a common thing to say around this era.

Damien Demento vs. Jim Brunzell

Regular commentator Rob Bartlett calls in, saying that he's wasted all of his money at the tables in Las Vegas and can't get back to work. He begs Vince for money but Vince can't hear him in an unfunny bit. Why this is happening during a match isn't clear, but why Demento was a thing isn't either. Bartlett asks Vince to send him some money or a ticket as the "connection gets worse and worse". So that wasn't funny.

Brunzell works on the arm for a bit and Demento is annoyed that he has to grab the rope for the break. Brunzell gets two off a sunset flip as Vince hypes up the Wrestlemania replay. I didn't want to see it in the first place. The announcers debate whether or not Hulk Hogan is a legitimate World Champion after last night as Demento hits him in the throat. Brunzell gets in his big dropkick for a bad looking two but gets caught in a neckbreaker. A knee drop of all things finishes Brunzell.

Rating: D-. The match was just a backdrop for the announcers talking about whatever they could come up with at the moment. That's rarely a good idea and that's a problem that kept happening around this time. Bartlett's joke was funny for all of five seconds and then just got annoying, much like most of the stuff they had him doing.

Lawler comes out for the match again but still doesn't like the Burger King chants and walks out a second time.

Steiner Brothers vs. Beverly Brothers

I didn't realize the Beverlies were still around at this point. Scott takes Beau down without any effort but Beau complains of a hair pull to get out. Beau's second attempt goes a bit better as he slams Scott's head into the mat, only to get caught in a butterfly suplex. Well you knew that was coming. Blake and Rick come in with the former hitting a pretty nice powerslam. It's back to Scott, who gets kneed in the back, allowing Beau to jump over Blake's back and land on Scott (ala the World's Greatest Tag Team).

A backbreaker gets two and we take a break. Back with Scott fighting out of a reverse chinlock, meaning we might have missed five seconds. Scott

gets choked in the corner as the fans don't seem thrilled with what they're seeing. Beau puts on a bearhug until Scott muscled him over with a suplex. A missed legdrop and a tilt-a-whirl slam are enough for the hot tag to Rick so house can be cleaned. Everything breaks down and Scott hits a quick Frankensteiner for the pin.

Rating: D+. Pretty much a long beatdown on Scott until we got to the obvious ending. The Steiners were going to be the biggest stars in the division in no time because the division was so horrible at this point. The Beverlies are still fine for some low level jobbers, though they would be done in less than a month. Not terrible, but longer than it needed to be.

Watch WWF Mania! I always did.

Jim Powers vs. Jerry Lawler

Powers (a good 50lbs of muscle lighter than his Young Stallions or WCW days) punches him from behind to start and we're off in a hurry. A top rope shot to the head lets Lawler do his great selling and a clothesline sends him scurrying out to the floor. Back in and Lawler gets slammed so he bails to the floor again. That means a lot of stalling, as you would expect from a Memphis legend.

Back in again and Lawler stalls even more, only to get annoyed at the BURGER KING chants. Powers misses a dropkick though and Lawler wants him to kiss his feet. Lawler starts choking and drops the fist but stops to yell at Savage. A raised boot in the corner gets Powers out of trouble and he sends Lawler into the corner a few times. Lawler has finally had it and hits the piledriver for the pin (with trunks because Lawler of course).

Rating: D. Boring match of course but Lawler deserves the chance to get to show just how awesome he was. Look at how little he did here but how much the fans were chanting at him. How much do you see people do today for almost no reaction? It's because you can get so much more out of so little if you know what you're doing.

Post break Lawler comes over to commentary and mocks the fans for yelling

at him before calling out Savage as a coward. Savage stands up and Lawler bails to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. This was about as bad as it could get with nothing resembling a good match and no storyline advancement from Wrestlemania. Odds are that comes next week, but it doesn't exactly thrill the fans who were watching this show. They were still very new to the Raw concept so it's a bit more excusable, but sweet goodness what a weak night.

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