

Mixed Match Challenge – November 27, 2018: The Thing We've Needed To See



IMG Credit: WWE

Mixed Match Challenge

Date: November 27, 2018

Location: Target Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Michael Cole, Renee Young

It's time for the playoffs, meaning we're down to four teams left on either side. Tonight we'll get down to the final two Raw teams and given the options we have, I'm not sure what to expect here. Well other than some bad wrestling and unfunny comedy because this show isn't something anyone is taken seriously. Let's get to it.

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

Raw Division Quarterfinals: Ember Moon/Curt Hawkins vs. Alicia Fox/Jinder Mahal

The women start things off with an exchange of rollups until Moon headscissors her into the corner. Mahal comes in and Moon wants to face him, knowing how worthless Hawkins really is. I mean, she's not wrong. Mahal punches him down and slaps on a headlock takeover but Hawkins

scores with a dropkick. A clothesline puts Mahal on the floor but Hawkins stops to go after the Singh Brothers, allowing Mahal to get in a shot to take over.

Back in and we hit the chinlock on Hawkins, because that's all Mahal knows how to do. Actually I sit corrected as Mahal switches off to a cravate to show some range. And never mind as it's right back to the chinlock, just to keep things comfortable. Hawkins fights up and sends Mahal outside for the hot tag off to Moon so the pace can pick up.

The spinning suplex out of the corner is broken up so Moon settles for a low superkick instead. The Eclipse connects...but Hawkins tags himself in and covers out of desperation for win. Since that doesn't count, Moon Eclipses one of the Singh's, leaving Mahal to hit the Khallas on Hawkins for the pin at 8:04.

Rating: D. Well of course we're getting more Mahal. The guy can't even win a match on Main Event but he's one of the final four options for the #30 spot in the Royal Rumble. Oh and make sure to push the heck out of Mahal and Fox, because it's so wacky to have them advance this far after being a disaster in the regular season. This felt like a way to laugh at the fans and pull the rug out from them, which seems like the goal more often than not.

Asuka and Miz are ready for Naomi and Jimmy Uso next week.

Naomi and Jimmy Uso are ready for Asuka and Miz next week.

Fox and Mahal promise to win next week. Mickie James comes in and says Fox should watch this.

Raw Division Quarterfinals: Bobby Lashley/Mickie James vs. Bayley/Finn Balor

The men start things off but Lashley tags out less than a second in. That means a lot of stalling until a Lio Rush distraction lets Mickie get in a cheap shot to take over. The way too early chinlock goes on, followed by a neckbreaker for two on Bayley. We hit the bodyscissors as they don't exactly seem interested in going full speed ahead here. Bayley gets up

and it's a double clothesline to set up the double tag.

That's a bit of overkill as only one is needed but I guess that's making up for the weaker effort. Balor tries to pick up the pace but gets knocked off the apron and into the announcers' table. Since that's only good for two, Lashley sends him outside again and mocks Braun Strowman's run around the ring, allowing Balor to hit the Sling Blade. Mickie is right there to pull Bayley off the ropes though and there's no tag.

Back up and Lashley misses a charge into the post, allowing the hot tag off to Bayley. A flapjack cuts her off in almost no time though and the top rope Thesz press gets two. Bayley fights out of the MickieDT but Rush breaks up her dive. Balor throws Rush outside and hits the flip dive onto both guys, leaving Bayley to grab the Bayley to Belly for the pin on James at 9:20.

Rating: C+. That's one of the better matches of the entire season so far for the simple reason that it felt like they were trying. Instead of having a dance off or doing something stupid, you had two teams fight each other because they wanted to advance on in the competition. That hasn't been the case for most of the season and it was very, very nice for a change.

R-Truth and Carmella are ready for Jeff Hardy and Charlotte next week.

Jeff Hardy and Charlotte are ready for R-Truth and Carmella next week.

Balor and Bayley try the Dirty Dancing lift to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. The second match was much better than the first and that's enough to make this a better show than we've had in a few weeks. If nothing else it's great to have the ending in sight, because we've sat through this whole thing for so long that there's no charm left to it. Hopefully the finals are good, because what we've gotten so far hasn't exactly been worth seeing.

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