

Main Event – December 13, 2018: There's Only So Much They Can Do



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: December 13, 2018

Location: Valley View Casino Center, San Diego, California

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Percy Watson, Vic Joseph

I'm almost scared to watch this show given how likely it is to be full of Raw highlights. This hasn't been the best week for WWE (thought it's probably one of the least bad they've had this month) and I have a bad feeling we're going to be seeing a lot of Raw stuff on here instead of the better Smackdown material. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Mojo Rawley vs. Tyler Breeze

The announcers at least acknowledge Breeze's "change of attitude" for this match, which means they're forgetting the two week heel run. Rawley hides in the corner to start before powering out by driving Breeze into the other corner. A release gutwrench suplex drops Breeze again and Rawley pounds away with some right hands. Choking makes it even worse for

Breeze as Rawley doesn't seem to be sweating him that badly.

Rawley slaps on a half nelson on the mat for some trash talk but lets Breeze up and charges into a superkick in the corner. With Rawley on the floor, Breeze loads up a crossbody off the apron but gets pulled out of the air and dropped face first onto the apron. Back in and Breeze hits some running forearms in the corner but Rawley shoves the last one away, only to get caught in a sunset flip for the pin at 5:14.

Rating: C-. Not too bad here as Breeze continues to go all over the place with the face/heel alignment. Both guys continue to be way too good to be on these shows when Raw is looking for anything fresh to keep things going. There's no place for someone with a gimmick like Breeze other than waiting on Fandango to be healthy again? Or for someone with Rawley's charisma and natural athleticism? To be fair, neither of them is a small British guy (who is WAY too talented for what he's being used for as well) relieving themselves on a robe.

We look at Drew McIntyre losing to Dolph Ziggler and snapping on Finn Balor as a result.

From Raw.

Drew McIntyre vs. Dolph Ziggler

Ziggler goes right after him to start but has to fight out of the corner as Drew slugs him down. A belly to belly suplex sends Ziggler flying and we take a break. Back with McIntyre hitting Super White Noise with Ziggler almost falling out for a nasty looking landing. They head outside with Ziggler posting McIntyre for a close nine but Ziggler collapses trying a superkick back inside. McIntyre talks a lot of trash so Ziggler snaps off the Zig Zag for two. They both take a good bit of time to get up and it's Ziggler trying another superkick, only to get caught with a quick Claymore for the pin at 8:19.

Rating: D+. Nothing much to this one and I really, really hope that Balor isn't going to be replaced by Ziggler on Sunday. I don't get how he could possibly be the third biggest face on the show, mainly because he's not a face but rather a heel who was beaten down by another heel. At least

McIntyre won though.

Post match McIntyre destroys Zigler some more but referees break up a powerbomb on the floor. Instead, McIntyre kicks Zigler's head into the LED ring skirt.

From Smackdown.

Asuka vs. Charlotte

Before the match, Charlotte promises a preview for Sunday. Becky comes out to watch, as promised. Asuka goes for a kneebar almost immediately before throwing Charlotte HARD with a release German suplex. Charlotte kicks her down and tries the moonsault, which is countered into the Asuka Lock. That's broken up with a drop down onto the back but Asuka grabs it again.

Charlotte gets out a second time and we take a break after a hot start. Back with Charlotte getting caught in an Octopus Hold, which she switches into a triangle choke. Charlotte punches and powerbombs her way out so it's time for the Figure Four. Asuka turns it over so Charlotte goes right back to the knee in a smart move.

The spear is countered with a Codebreaker and Asuka starts firing off kicks, as the leg is just fine. Now the spear connects for two so Charlotte goes up again. The second moonsault attempt is blocked and the Figure Four attempt is countered into the Asuka Lock. Charlotte fights to the ropes and they fall outside, where Charlotte finds a kendo stick for the DQ at 15:23.

Rating: B. Good match here with both of them hitting everything they were going for here, including the big, hard shots and holds. They made it feel like a big showdown and that's exactly what you needed in a match like this. I'm fine with the non-finish as you don't want to take away the momentum from either of them before Sunday.

Post match Charlotte beats Asuka up some more and gets a swing at Becky. This doesn't go well with Lynch, who sends Charlotte into the steps and unloads on her with stick shots. Asuka gets the stick away and unloads on

both of them before posing with the stick to end the show.

Ascension/Curt Hawkins vs. Lucha House Party

Certainly better choice for the House Party than taking up a spot on Raw in an illogical place (there's a place for them on Raw, but not how they've been used as of late). Viktor takes Lince down to start but gets snapmared right back. Kalisto comes in for the step up falling splash and it's off to Hawkins, who gets dropkicked down as only he can. Well not as only he can but no one else loses as much as he does.

Everything breaks down and Kalisto's dive to the floor is caught in a gorilla press (freaking ow man) by Konnor. Back in and Hawkins grabs a chinlock with Viktor coming in to cut off a comeback attempt. The chinlock goes on again and this time it's a jawbreaker to get Kalisto out of trouble. Since this is a longer match though, Hawkins comes in to break up the hot tag attempt and it's Konnor getting in a chinlock of his own to complete the trio.

Back up and Kalisto avoids a charge to send Konnor shoulder first into the post. That's enough for the hot tag off to Metalik, who springboards in with a high crossbody. A missile dropkick gets two on Hawkins and it's Kalisto and Dorado sending Ascension to the floor. As the double dives connect, Metalik drops the rope walk elbow on Hawkins for the pin at 7:23.

Rating: D+. Those chinlocks sucked the life out of this thing, which is hard to do in a match with the Lucha House Party. It's not an entertaining match or anything but the ending was a great way to hype up the crowd as the long show gets started. Just keep them away from the main roster with all their annoying shenanigans.

Video on Dean Ambrose vs. Seth Rollins over the last few weeks.

From Raw.

Here's Seth Rollins to get things going. He isn't happy with Dean Ambrose and tonight it's time to spit some truth. Rollins is tired of hearing Baron Corbin (you and me both brother) talking about things so Corbin can

get out here right now. Corbin says his door is always open to a superstar of Rollins' caliber but Rollins tells him to cut it. Since Rollins has been dealing with Dean Ambrose, he hasn't had the chance to tell Corbin how much he sucks as General Manager.

Rollins talks about everything Corbin has done wrong, including ruining a team like the Revival in whatever a Lucha House Party Rules match is. If Corbin keeps firing people, is it just going to be him, Lashley and McIntyre out here? Rollins: "That'll send ratings up." Or maybe they can have more urination segments. Then there's BROCK LESNAR, who is never around and hasn't wrestled on Raw since 2002. Right now, morale and TV ratings are at an all time low and it's all because of Corbin's job as boss.

Corbin says he doesn't care about any of this because he's in charge. If Rollins isn't careful, it's going to get worse for him. Rollins: "I don't think it can get much worse around here pal." Corbin talks about becoming permanent GM of Raw on Sunday after Rollins loses his Intercontinental Title. Then it's time for Rollins' life to become a nightmare.

Rollins tells him to start doing it tonight so the challenge is on. Actually, if Corbin wants to have a TLC match so badly, let's do that tonight. Corbin says no so Rollins calls him a coward over and over. That's eventually enough to get Corbin to agree to the match and it's going to be for the Intercontinental Title.

I'm of two minds about this. On one hand, it's a good sign that WWE is acknowledging how much people have been rejecting the show. The problem though is that this isn't making things better. Having a TLC match is going to be cool, but not if Corbin is involved as he's a big part of the problem. It's one thing to admit that something is wrong, but until you do something to fix it long term, the problem is still there.

And from Raw again.

Intercontinental Title: Seth Rollins vs. Baron Corbin

Corbin is challenging in a TLC match with Slater as referee. Rollins stomps him down in the corner and knees his way out of a suplex. They

head outside with Rollins grabbing a chair but getting punched in the face for his efforts. Corbin orders Slater to get him a ladder but the delay lets Rollins hit a spring clothesline and we take a break. Back with Corbin cracking a chair over Rollins' back and whipping him into the barricade to make things even worse. Rollins gets in a dropkick and tries for a ladder but Corbin suplexes him into said ladder in the corner.

Corbin hits the slide under the ropes clothesline and stops to hit the Strowman pose. A backdrop sends Rollins to the floor but he springboards in to catch Corbin on the ladder and hammer him down. Corbin is fine enough to knock him outside and we take another break. Back again with Corbin hitting a Deep Six and some big right hands to the head. Corbin tries another slide but walks into an enziguri.

That means it's time for the big beating with a chair as Cole recaps the opening segment again. Back to back suicide dives connect but the third sees Corbin throw him through a table. Corbin can't climb fast enough though as Rollins chairs him down. One of the chair shots hits Slater and knocks him off the apron, though Rollins doesn't seem to mind as he hits a huge splash off the top through Corbin through a table.

Back in and Rollins goes up but Slater shoves the ladder over, sending him arm first into a table in the corner, which doesn't break. Corbin climbs up and....gets powerbombed through the table as Rollins won't stay down. With Slater down, a Stomp is enough for Rollins to climb up and retain the title at 24:30.

Rating: C+. It's hard to screw up a TLC match and there was some drama at the end, even though the Slater turn (I think?) didn't mean much. The problem here is even more Corbin, which is the last thing this show needed. Rollins winning to give us a hero we can believe in helps, but my goodness did we need a twenty five minute Corbin match to wrap things up?

Overall Rating: D+. The Raw stuff could have been a lot worse but the wrestling really didn't work all that well. At least they had something with the Smackdown material, but there's only so much you can do when the wrestling content is so lame for the most part. Not terrible here, but it's just a bad time for WWE at the moment.

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