

Main Event – December 20, 2018: Watch This If You've Seen It Before



IMG Credit: WWE

Main Event

Date: December 20, 2018

Host: Scott Stanford

This one is a little bit late because of the holidays but given the high likelihood of this being nothing but a recap show with nothing going on as far as original wrestling, I don't think it's going to be that big of a deal. It's a hectic time for WWE and this show isn't really high on their priorities list. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Stanford gives us a quick welcome from the studio and yeah this is all recaps.

From Raw.

We waste no time with Vince coming out to open things up. He knows everyone is wondering what is going on with Monday Night Raw and tonight

we're going to find out. One of the reasons that Raw has been on the air for 25 years is they change with the times and despite one man's brilliance and creativity, he can't do it by himself anymore. He can do it without the fans....and here's Stephanie McMahon.

Before anything can be said though, here's HHH, with Cole pointing out that he put NXT together. We're still not done yet though as here's Shane to complete the wrestling side of the family. The fans cheer for Shane but Stephanie gets to talk (of course), saying they haven't been doing a good job of running their shows. They've let middle management run the company so tonight, they're off to a fresh start. HHH: "The days of absentee management are over." Starting tonight, they're taking back Raw and Smackdown and it's time for a lot of fresh things, such as faces, stars and matchups.

As of now, the fans are the authority. Vince says that as long as we give you more of what you want and less of what you don't, WWE will always be then, now and forever. They seem to be done but here's Baron Corbin, who is booed out of the building. Corbin says those were some great words, but the word that wasn't mentioned was "fair". What happened to him last night wasn't fair, and that's why we need to have a conversation.

Back from a break with Corbin in the ring with the bosses and the fans booing him even more. HHH: "If you keep doing that, it's hard for him to speak." You get the idea I'm sure. Corbin keeps getting booed even more, but he eventually gets to say that it's not his fault the wrestlers aren't responding to his motivational tactics.

Last night wasn't fair because Braun Strowman wasn't supposed to be there so he wasn't prepared. HHH gets to the point and says Corbin wants his job back. Corbin says that's exactly right but it's a quadruple negative. Actually hang on, because Vince thinks they might all be wrong. Corbin can have a match right now and if he wins, he gets to be permanent GM. All he has to do is beat this man.

Baron Corbin vs. Kurt Angle

Heath Slater is guest referee and sweet goodness we're lucky that Angle completely forgave Stephanie for ruining his life and job oh....just a few

months ago with no repercussions? Angle punches him down and we take an early break. Back with HHH saying that this is actually a handicap match.

Baron Corbin vs. Apollo Crews/Chad Gable/Bobby Roode/Kurt Angle

So it was just a practice run when they did this last night? Corbin tries to go after all of them to start and it goes as well as you would expect. An attempted escape doesn't work and Slater fixes a turnbuckle while the beating is on. Cue Shane again to say that this is No DQ. Slater joins in and everyone grabs a chair to destroy Corbin even more. Everyone hits their finisher and Angle gets the pin at 9:05.

Rating: D. Well, it was slightly different than last night as there was no Finn Balor to get involved here, nor was there Strowman to stand on Corbin's chest for the pin. This was the first half hour of the show being dedicated to the bosses and Corbin, and that's been the biggest problem on Raw in recent weeks. This did nothing we didn't see last night and after sitting through a four hour pay per view, that's not a good start. There was no reason for this not to be a squash either, as Corbin should have been slaughtered in about thirty seconds, not the better part of ten minutes doing the same thing they did last night.

Post match the fans want tables so one gets brought in, with Corbin taking an Angle Slam through one.

From Raw again.

Here's Dean Ambrose, with the gas masked guards at his side. Corey: "There had to be some sort of big celebration in the Ambrose house last night." Renee: "Of course there was but do you think I'm going to tell you about it?" Ambrose said you all should be bowing down to him because he did what he promised to do last night. Not too long ago Seth Rollins had two titles and now he has none. Dean isn't done though and he's going to destroy Rollins once and for all.

As for now though, Seth can come out here right now and tell Dean that he's right to his face. There's no Seth, so Dean makes a non-title open challenge for Rollins instead. There's still no Seth, so let's have an Open Challenge for the Intercontinental Title for anyone not named Seth

Rollins.

Intercontinental Title: Dean Ambrose vs. Tyler Breeze

Ambrose is defending of course and this is indeed something different, after only an hour of waiting on anything fresh to happen. A running clothesline puts Dean on the floor and we take an early break. Back with Dean in control and stomping at the ribs before slapping on a chinlock. An enziguiri (becoming way too popular around here) gives Breeze two and Dean misses a charge into the post to give Breeze another near fall. There's the Beauty Shot and a high crossbody for two more. The Unprettier is broken up though and Dean hits Dirty Deeds for the pin at 7:45.

Rating: D+. It had a nice bit in the middle where Breeze got in some offense but this was another boring match and just a quick stop on the road to another Rollins vs. Ambrose match, which completely fits the "fresh" description on the show. After last night, I never need to see them fight again but you know we're getting it several more times. Lucky us indeed.

Post match Ambrose calls Rollins out again and here he is, as one of the people in the gas masks. Now that might not make a lot of sense given what Dean offered him before the match, but I guess Rollins would rather get in a few shots than a match.

Video on the new NXT callups.

From Smackdown.

Here's a ticked off Becky Lynch to open things up. She's not cool with meetings so it doesn't matter what Shane said. It doesn't matter who is running the show because it's all about someone delivering Ronda Rousey to her right now. She didn't come this far to have a ladder turned over so it's time to fight. This brings out Charlotte instead, to say that Becky can take a number. Say perhaps the number two, because she's in line behind Charlotte to get at Ronda. Becky says the days of pretending to be behind Charlotte are over, but Charlotte thinks the days of Becky looking up at her will be then, now and forever.

Cue Asuka to say forget Ronda because she's the champion. Becky and Charlotte call her a paper champion but here's Vince McMahon for a very rare Smackdown appearance. Vince doesn't want to hear complaints because anything goes in a TLC match, including Rousey interfering. As for tonight, Asuka is defending her title against...someone to be named and here's Naomi to interrupt, with Vince getting in some dancing of course. We'll have that title match right now.

Women's Title: Asuka vs. Naomi

Naomi is challenging with Becky and Charlotte at ringside. They fight over a wristlock to start as the announcers recap the elimination of automatic rematches. Naomi takes her down and gets in a kick to the back until Asuka grabs an armbar to slow things down. The armbar goes on in the corner as well but Asuka takes too long yelling at Becky and Charlotte.

That's enough for Naomi to get in a super Russian legsweep and we take a break. Back with both of them on the floor and Naomi hitting a spinning kick to the face from the barricade. Naomi takes it back inside for a bunch of kicks but the split legged moonsault hits knees. The Asuka Lock is broken up so Asuka pulls her back, only to get rolled up for two. The Rear View gets two but another Asuka Lock retains the title at 12:30.

Rating: C. There wasn't any drama here but that wasn't what they were going for. The point of this was to give Asuka a win over someone who has some credibility and that's what they did well enough. The question now is who gets the Royal Rumble shot and ultimately the Wrestlemania shot, which is what really matters most.

Post match Asuka stares down Charlotte and Becky.

From Smackdown again.

Mustafa Ali/AJ Styles vs. Daniel Bryan/Andrade Cien Almas

Joined in progress with Bryan tagging out so Ali can elbow Styles in the head for two. AJ is right back with the drop down into the dropkick and it's off to Ali for a dropkick of his own. Bryan comes in for the kicks

to the chest in the corner and an abdominal stretch to keep Ali in trouble. The rolling X Factor sends Bryan outside but Almas and Zelina Vega are there with the tranquilo pose to block the dive. AJ isn't having that though and backdrops Ali onto Bryan as we take a break.

Back with Ali having to slip out of a Liontamer but Almas comes in for a running kick to the back of the head. Bryan comes in for the YES Kicks (with Almas handling the chanting), followed by the running clothesline to keep Ali in trouble. A surfboard into a dragon sleeper makes things even worse and it's back to Almas for more kicks. Almas turns him inside out with a clothesline but the moonsault into a moonsault hits Ali's knees. That's finally enough for the diving tag off to AJ and the pace picks way up.

AJ gets two off a neckbreaker and the Calf Crusher has Bryan in trouble. Almas makes a save but the hammerlock DDT is broken up with Almas being sent outside. Ali slips off the steps but manages to turn it into an acceptable enough hurricanrana. Bryan's running knee is countered into the moonsault reverse DDT and it's back to Ali for a tornado DDT. AJ takes out Almas with the Phenomenal Forearm...and the 054 finishes Bryan at 17:39. Ali seemed to land on Bryan fairly hard but Bryan seemed ok.

Rating: B. Well that's how you put someone over as a new talent and Ali is a good choice. He's had some incredible matches on 205 Live and I'm really glad to see him get rewarded for it. If nothing else, that might give more people a reason to head over to that show. If Ali can use it to get a big boost, other people can too. Also, it makes sense to move a high flier or two up rather than leave them on 205 Live. When you have someone who can do the flying like Ali, it shows off even more as there aren't many on the roster doing that stuff. This should get Ali a one off title shot and that's not bad for his second match on the main roster.

We see the last bit of the women's gauntlet match from Raw to wrap things up.

Overall Rating: C. It's not like I can really get mad at this. I know some of you were really wanting the same tag match with the nothings of Main Event again but even they need a holiday every now and then. This

was just a longer form recap of the week in WWE and that's perfectly fine given what they were facing here. Can you imagine sitting through the entire double tapings of Raw and then having Apollo Crews vs. Curt Hawkins on top of it? This was nothing, but that's fine.

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