

Looked At Some Documentaries And A Book

And believe it or not, it's a mixed bag.

These things really pile up, though that might be because WWE likes to crank them out at a crazy rate. That being said, they're mostly good so let's take a look at a few of them, plus something from a long time ago.

Untold: The Second Coming Of ECW

This is a series called Untold which only has a few episodes so far. It's basically a mini documentary over a given subject with this one being WWECW. In short, the ECW Originals completely bury the thing while some of the people who came up on the show like it a bit better. Paul Heyman sums it up perfectly: if this show was ANYTHING other than ECW, it would have been fine.

Even Big Show has to admit that his match against Batista that drew the CHANGE THE CHANNEL chants was a disaster and that's putting it mildly. The fans wanted ECW and got WWE3, which was never going to work. Not much new here, but it's rare to see WWE admit that they completely botched something this badly.

Arrival: Matt Riddle

I believe this one aired in parts on one of WWE's YouTube channel but this is the full (and still short) edition. Riddle is a former UFC fighter and seems to be one of the most can't miss prospects in years, which has seemed to be the case every time he's been on NXT TV. This is basically an introduction to him as we see his transition from the indies to WWE.

Riddle comes off as the most laid back, likable guy who happens to be incredibly talented. He's also an athletic freak who can work with almost anyone, meaning it's a matter of time before he shatters through the glass ceiling. If WWE doesn't go that way I don't know what to tell them,

because Riddle is awesome both in and out of the ring. If you're not familiar with him, check this out and see what WWE has waiting in the wings.

The Mark Henry Story

Now this one was surprising as Henry's strongman stuff got a lot of focus and you got to see just how great he was. The main thing that stood out here though was how charismatic and entertaining Henry can be. He was making me laugh throughout, which just made me wonder where that Henry was throughout his 20+ year career (yes 20+). If you had someone with those physical gifts and that kind of entertainment value, he could have been a much bigger star than before.

It was cool to hear Henry get this kind of praise as he's not really the kind of guy who gets that much attention. I was never the biggest fan of him but this one gave me a lot more respect for the guy. It's a rare thing for me to want to hear and see more of someone but I was wanting to hear more from Henry after this. He could have been a lot more than he was, though when you're literally the strongest man in the world, why deviate from that style?

Chronicle: Roman Reigns

This is the main event for the documentaries as no one with a soul didn't feel at least somewhat bad for Reigns. This covers the time from the night he announced his diagnosis to his return, without much actually being covered in the middle. We see a lot of the day of his return announcement with a long time spent at Georgia Tech's football stadium where Reigns played college football. It's good stuff though and the thing flies by.

That being said, the biggest thing I took from this was how human Reigns felt. You don't get that from Reigns when he's on TV for the most part but he came off as very likable and charming here, which is how they should present him more often. In other words, act like he's a human instead of this monster who gets pushed whether you like him or not. Give us this side of him and people might actually like the guy a lot more. It's not like much else has worked.

Ted DiBiase: The Million Dollar Man

DiBiase has written two autobiographies, one on his own and the other with WWE. This is the latter and...it's really not very good. DiBiase has an interesting enough story and is absolutely a legend, but the writing is rather bland and the conversations/dialogue are written as generically as possible (fair enough, but not exactly entertaining reading).

It's one of those wrestling books where you get the basic story, a few details, and not much else. What amazed me was the amount of factual errors (Randy Savage was a heel at Wrestlemania IV? Bret Hart and Lex Luger were both named King of the Ring for being eliminated from the Royal Rumble at the same time?), which you don't often see from a WWE product. If you're a HUGE DiBiase fan then maybe skim through it for some pretty good stories, but don't waste your time (which won't be much as it's a short book).