

Clash Of Champions 2019 Preview



IMG Credit: WWE

It's time for one of those shows that shouldn't be all that novel of a concept yet it apparently only matters one night a year. Titles are usually what matter most in wrestling and they are defended on every single show, but in this case we have a show dedicated to them. That doesn't mean the show will be bad (as it shouldn't be) but the show isn't exactly a novel concept. Let's get to it.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Alexa Bliss/Nikki Cross(c) vs. Fire & Desire

I know this hasn't been announced for the Kickoff Show yet but it's tailor made for the show. Bliss and Cross are suddenly real friends and faces, which means they aren't likely to hold the titles for very long. What interests me more than anything else here is how the titles have gone from complete afterthoughts to something that actually matter in the span of a few weeks, all because they've been treated like something people want. Funny how that works no?

I'll go with new champions here as Bliss and Cross are fresh faces and therefore must be crushed immediately. WWE has been

wanting to push the heck out of Rose forever now and Deville shouldn't be that far behind her. Giving them the titles lets some more teams chase them, possibly while even getting some more people back on the show (like Asuka, as her rehabilitation needs to begin). New champs here, though it's far from a guarantee.

Cruiserweight Title: Drew Gulak(c) vs. Gran Metalik vs. Humberto Carrillo

This is another match that hasn't been announced for the Kickoff Show but you can all but guarantee it's going to be there. Just for the sake of tradition if nothing else. Metalik was added to this match a few weeks ago when people realized that the idea of Carrillo vs. Gulak on their own wasn't the most thrilling thing in the world. Then again, does it really matter at this point?

We'll say Gulak retains here as it seems like the perfect kind of match to have the challengers get in the way and then likely blow it in the end with Gulak stealing the pin. Odds are the title is moving to NXT in the near future (where it should have been in the first place) and they might as well put Gulak in there so Kushida or Isaiah Scott can take the title from him.

SmackDown Tag Team Titles: New Day(c) vs. Revival

This is the forgotten match on the card as New Day has been laid out by Revival and Randy Orton so many times now. In theory that should mean new champions as New Day is not only banged up, but they also don't have any reason to keep the titles. The team has done everything they can do now so they might as well just change the titles and get it over with.

So yeah Revival wins here, as there is just no reason for the New Day to hold onto the titles any longer. There's a case to be made for giving them their revenge but Revival has been held back so many times that they need a win where they can

keep the titles for a long, healthy reign. New Day is far past the point where they need the belts so just give them to the Revival already.

US Title: AJ Styles(c) vs. Cedric Alexander

Now this one interests me as there are a lot of factors to consider. First of all, it is clear that Alexander is one of Paul Heyman's pet projects. They want to push the heck out of him, which seems to be a very similar story to what they did with Ricochet. Now Ricochet got the title, but I'm not sure if that is what they are going to do here with Alexander. Couple that with Alexander being the hometown boy and it isn't clear how this is going to go.

I'll go with Alexander winning the title in a fluke for a feel good moment. At some point you have to pull the trigger on someone and see what you have with them. It seems that they did that with Ricochet and then he lost the title just a few weeks later. Maybe Alexander does the same thing, but he needs a reign to establish himself more than Ricochet did. Either way, Styles doesn't need the title at the moment so he can drop it without a problem.

Roman Reigns vs. Erick Rowan

This is the only non-title match on the card but it's also one of the most personal. Rowan was recently revealed as the attacker who had been going after Reigns, which makes him a lot more interesting than he has been in years. Rowan seems to be the only villain at the moment, but Daniel Bryan being added to the story would make a lot of sense in the near or far future.

That being said, I think you have the match end with something other than a clean finish. If Reigns wins, the story is over in a hurry as he beats Rowan the first time out. Therefore, I'll go with Rowan, as there is little benefit to having him lose, unless they want to blow the thing up already. There is

no reason to go there, so Rowan wins with the biggest singles moment of his career.

SmackDown Women's Title: Bayley(c) vs. Charlotte

Oh I'm worried about this one. Bayley is getting better as champion and has held the thing for a nice reign now, but you can never count out WWE's ability to give Charlotte the title, again in her hometown. What better way to make everyone happy than to give her the title again because she hasn't held one in over five months now (which might be a record for her).

I'll go with Bayley retaining here, though I have no reason to believe she holds onto the title much longer. WWE is annoyingly obsessed with having Charlotte as the dominant champion and it would be quite like them to cut the newly heel Bayley off at the knees less than two weeks after her turn. Let Bayley keep it a little while longer and maybe build up someone fresh for a change instead of going with the same women and matches over and over again.

Intercontinental Title: Shinsuke Nakamura(c) vs. The Miz

This is one of those matches that looks one sided on paper but at the same time, you could also look at the bigger picture and see something complete different. There is no reason to have Nakamura lose here as he and Sami Zayn are starting to get somewhere and Nakamura needs to reestablish himself as a player with something like a long Intercontinental Title reign.

At the same time though, I'll take Miz for the sake of tying Chris Jericho, then have them trade the title again so Miz can make it to ten and then go the other three weeks he needs to set the record for most combined days as champion. I know it sounds ridiculous, but would you put it beyond WWE to do something this petty? It's not what I would do, but WWE has done something like this before for the sake of something that silly.

Raw Tag Team Titles: Seth Rollins/Braun Strowman(c) vs. Robert Roode/Dolph Ziggler

Now this one might be the easiest pick all night long. Rollins and Strowman are meeting later in the night for Rollins' Universal Title, so why in the world would they be trying to work hard to defend these titles? I know the idea of any title means something but it doesn't make much sense for Strowman to break his neck to retain these titles. It wouldn't surprise me to see him turn on Rollins, as he should in one sense.

So yeah this one is the obvious title change as the titles should go to Roode and Ziggler. Why in the world would you go with anything else here? I know they're just another pair of heels thrown together with nothing else to do but in this case, they're going after some champions who are the face version of the same thing. New champs, hopefully with the Viking Raiders crushing them for the titles like, the next night.

Raw Women's Title: Becky Lynch(c) vs. Sasha Banks

Again, this one depends on what you're looking at for the future. Lynch is the biggest star the women's division has at the moment and is one of the marquee stars of the company. Banks on the other hand can be a heck of a heel champion if she FINALLY gets to retain the thing for more than a few weeks. She's been awesome in her return, but I'd be skeptical about handing her a title just a few weeks after she took so much time off.

I think WWE goes with a new champ though, as Lynch going to SmackDown Live wouldn't shock me, meaning she needs to lose the title sooner rather than later. Let Banks get her title win here (possibly with Bayley helping) and go from there. Lynch is going to be a star no matter what and she doesn't have anyone else to feud with on Monday Night Raw anyway.

SmackDown World Title: Kofi Kingston(c) vs. Randy Orton

Egads man I don't know. What you can all but guarantee is that Kingston isn't champion when the first SmackDown Live on FOX ends, but the question is who does he lose it to? Is it here vs. Orton or LESNAR SMASH on SmackDown Live? Kingston has already had a FAR longer reign than I would have expected so the title change does make sense.

And I think that's what we'll be getting. Orton hasn't been World Champion in a very long time now and having him win it here wouldn't be the biggest stretch. Go with what makes sense here and put the title on Orton. If WWE absolutely has to, and something tells me that they much, they can go with Lesnar soon enough, because it's been...well just over a month since he was champion at this point, which is more than long enough.

Raw World Title: Seth Rollins(c) vs. Braun Strowman

I'm rarely a fan of a lame duck title match but that is what we have here. Bray Wyatt is going to be getting the title match next month inside the Cell and that is the big money match at the moment. That leaves the question of who should get to face him, which is kind of a debatable point here with two viable options.

While they've both viable, WWE just isn't going to put the title on Strowman. If they were going to do it, they would have done it by now and since they should have pulled the trigger over a year ago, it would seem to be the time to do it again. That's why I'm going with Rollins: it makes sense to put the title on Strowman, so WWE won't do it here.

Overall Thoughts

This show is uh, heavy. There is a lot to digest on a single card and that could become a big problem in a hurry. The show offers no room to breathe and I'm worried about what that is going to mean for the show. I'm sure there are going to be several title changes, but how many of them are going to matter with SmackDown Live on FOX looming as much as it is? It

looks good enough on paper, but it seems like a show that could be rather exhausting in execution.

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