

Smackdown – December 27, 2019: The Spark That Doesn't Catch



Smackdown

Date: December 27, 2019

Location: Little Caesars Arena, Detroit, Michigan

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

It's the final show of the decade and that means...well probably not much really, as we are in the period just before the build to the Royal Rumble starts up. This time around though we are in for a big match with Daniel Bryan vs. The Miz vs. King Corbin for the #1 contendership to the Universal Title. Let's get to it.

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

Here's Elias to sing about how bad things were in 2019, such as Bayley and Shane McMahon. But hey, at least this show doesn't have the Lana/Bobby Lashley wedding.

Opening sequence.

Daniel Bryan vs. The Miz vs. King Corbin

Hold on though as Corbin needs to brag about his success before Miz can even come out. Miz and Bryan have a lot in common: they're terrible fathers, they're former World Champions and they've both main evented

Wrestlemania. They aren't doing it again next year though because Corbin is getting the shot and taking down the Fiend.

Miz thinks he's an action hero but he's not a real hero in the ring. Cue Roman Reigns as the throne falls over, meaning it's Reigns taking over on Corbin with a bunch of uppercuts. The Superman Punch off the steps looks to set up the spear but Corbin bails over the barricade instead. No match of course.

Post break, Corbin demands that the triple threat match be postponed.

New Day/Braun Strowman vs. Shinsuke Nakamura/Sami Zayn/Cesaro

Cesaro headlocks Kofi to start so it's off to Nakamura, who is elbowed in the face in a hurry. A clothesline puts him on the floor so Sami grabs Kofi's foot to take over. Sami actually comes in legally for the first time (well the first time where he does anything) in months. Kofi gets sent outside and Cesaro hits a heck of a running uppercut to knock him over the announcers' table.

We take a break with Cesaro feigning innocence and come back with Kofi's hot tag attempt being cut off. Cesaro uppercuts the heck out of him for two and it's Nakamura coming in for his own spanking abdominal stretch. Strowman grabs Nakamura's hand but Cesaro makes the save. Kinshasa is countered with the jumping double stomp to the chest and they're both down. Graves: "Kofi just waffle stomped him in the middle of the ring." I hope he managed to do the Watusi and watch I Love Lucy too.

The hot tag brings in Strowman and it's time to clean house, setting up the running shoulders around the ring. Strowman chases Sami but runs right into the jumping knee to the chest from Nakamura. Back in and Strowman blasts Nakamura with a clothesline, only to get caught with a great looking springboard uppercut from Cesaro. Nakamura tries to use the pancake platter but Kofi hits him with it instead, setting up the running powerslam for the pin on Nakamura at 13:32.

Rating: C. Perfectly watchable tag match here and it helps set up Strowman vs. Nakamura, likely for the title at the Rumble. I'm not sure if Strowman is going to win the title, but it's a different match that we

haven't seen before. New Day still needs opponents, but they're the perfect placeholder champions for a time like this.

Post match, Strowman dances with New Day. Corey, in the mod deadpan voice ever: "A 'get these hips' chant has broken out in the Little Caesars Arena."

We recap the opening sequence.

Corbin has demanded that the triple threat match be postponed so it's Miz vs. Bryan in a singles match.

Here's the dog food segment again.

Sonya Deville is signing some autographs when Mandy Rose comes up to get her for a match. Sonya isn't interested because Mandy wasn't there for her last week and storms off. Otis comes in and offers Mandy a homemade fruit cake. He apologizes for the sweat last week but Mandy is cool with it. Otis wants to say something else but Mandy has to leave.

Carmella vs. Mandy Rose

They go to the mat to start but Mandy slips out and hits a running knee. We hit the cross arm choke on Carmella, who is right back up for the slugout. They trade some near falls, including Mandy getting two off a backslide. The O'Connor roll is blocked though and Carmella hits a superkick for the pin at 2:30.

Rating: D+. Carmella's theme music saying "ain't got time for this" sums up where about half of the Smackdown women's division is at this point. These matches are like from back in the old days and while they aren't that bad, they're feeling like something that means nothing at all. It's not a good sign that they could slip back into that reality all over again but it seems to be the case.

Sheamus is still coming back.

Daniel Bryan vs. The Miz

Feeling out process to start with Miz shouldering him down, setting up

some staring. Bryan kicks him to the floor but gets backdropped to the apron. They hit stereo crossbodies for a double knockdown....and here are Corbin's helpers for the double DQ at 3:30.

Post match Miz and Bryan clean house.

Post break Corbin says he's in on the triple threat, so here are Bryan and Miz to jump him.

It's time for a Moment of Bliss with Nikki Cross joining Alexa. This week's guest is Lacey Evans, who did NOT like Sasha Banks insulting her daughter last week. We see a clip of the beatdown and Lacey talks about how that was crossing a line. It brought out Mama Bear and she isn't happy with the idea of standing out here with her back to the entrance. She's ready to fight right now so let's have this match.

Lacey Evans/Dana Brooke vs. Sasha Banks/Bayley

Hold on though as Sasha and Bayley drag (kind of) Dana out here with Sasha calling Lacey a terrible mother and friend. The fight is on and we take a break before the opening bell. Back with Bayley jumping Lacey but getting taken into the corner for the tag off to Brooke. Dana hammers away but gets taken into the corner so Banks can start beating on her as well.

A little taunting brings Lacey in, allowing Dana to get double teamed in the corner. Bayley kicks her down again and Banks gets two off a Meteora. Brooke finally gets in a shot to the face though and the hot tag brings in Lacey to face Bayley. Some knees to the ribs have Bayley down and a picture perfect double jump moonsault gets two as Banks makes the save. The case lets Bayley hit the Bayley to Belly for two but Dana tags herself in. There's the Woman's Right to Bayley but the Bank Statement makes Dana tap at 6:35.

Rating: C. The heat on Dana was longer than it needed to be but this keeps Lacey vs. Bayley going and it's not like Dana can sink any further. I do like the fact that she is now trusted to be in matches like this and she is far from embarrassing herself. Dana is never going to be a star, but she's improving and that's what matters most.

Dolph Ziggler hits on Mandy, who still has the fruit cake. He asks about her New Year's plans and thinks the cake is for him. Some suggestions that everyone has gotten a piece of Otis' cake makes Ziggler put it down though and he steps on it. Cue Corbin to get Ziggler out of there in a hurry though.

Mustafa Ali talks about how this year didn't go as well as he was hoping for but 2020 will be better.

Otis is crushed, just like his cake.

The Miz vs. Daniel Bryan vs. King Corbin

The winner gets Wyatt at the Rumble, though Cole calls Bryan the Fiend as we get things started. Miz and Bryan kick away at Corbin to start so he bails to the floor, leaving Miz to roll Bryan up at one. Bryan posts Miz on the floor and hits the big running knee off the apron, only to get sent over the barricade by Corbin (with Bryan seeming to hurt his knee). The chokebreaker drops Miz as well and it's Corbin completely dominating early on. Back in and the Reality Check drops Corbin, setting up the running corner dropkicks. Corbin runs both of them over though and we take a break.

We come back with Miz and Bryan trading near falls until Miz sends him outside. Miz fires off the kicks to Corbin in the corner, including some to the leg to set up the Figure Four. Bryan comes in with the headbutt for the save and gets two, as Miz looks on in shock for a cool visual. The hold is turned over so Bryan grabs the LeBell Lock on Corbin in a combination you don't often see.

With that broken up, the End of Days gets two on Miz as Corbin has to make a save. There's the running knee to Corbin but Ziggler runs in for the superkick to give Corbin two as Reigns makes the save. Reigns knocks Corbin over the barricade and we take another break. We come back with Corbin and Reigns gone, leaving Miz to hit the running corner clothesline.

Bryan gets taken up top and it's a super shinbreaker (that's a new one) to work on the knee. A Codebreaker to the knee drops Bryan again and a

DDT to the other leg has Bryan in more trouble. Bryan grabs a quick cross armbreaker but Miz bites his hand to break up the LeBell Lock. The running knee is countered into the Skull Crushing Finale for two so Miz goes right back to the Figure Four. That's reversed as well and Bryan slaps on the LeBell Lock for the tap at 20:18.

Rating: C+. They went with some different stuff here and of course we can't beat Corbin because the show needs his head or whatever they want to call it. At least they got to the right result and we can move on to the big Fiend vs. Bryan rematch. That being said, oh come on with starting with the triple threat, going to a singles match and then doing a triple threat which turned into a singles. You think they might be overdoing it a bit there?

Post match Bray pops up on screen to say Bryan is about to have all kinds of fun. See, HE isn't done with Bryan so Bray wants to know if Bryan will let him in. Bryan: "YES!"

Overall Rating: C. There was a bit of a spark to this one and it helped out a good bit. Now what we had other than that wasn't all that great, but at least they have set up a few things on the way to the Rumble. The problem is more that the characters being presented, outside of Wyatt and Bryan, just aren't very interesting. The women's division matches are terrible and I'm not exactly going to get into Mandy and Otis' oddball potential romance. Corbin and Zigler aren't helping things, but there are other problems besides the two of them.

Results

New Day/Braun Strowman b. Sami Zayn/Cesaro/Shinsuke Nakamura – Running powerslam to Nakamura

Carmella b. Mandy Rose – Superkick

Daniel Bryan vs. The Miz went to a double DQ when King Corbin's throne carriers interfered

Sasha Banks/Bayley b. Dana Brooke/Lacey Evans – Bank Statement to Brooke

Daniel Bryan b. The Miz and King Corbin – LeBell Lock to Miz

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