

Royal Rumble 2020 Preview



IMG Credit: WWE

It's finally arrived. After what felt like a very long wait, we are ready to get on the Road to Wrestlemania. That means starting things off in Houston with the Royal Rumble, which feels both wide open and pretty clear about the winners. There are some odds on favorites but both feel like they are favored due to default more than anything else. I'm holding out hope for a surprise, but that hope might be false. Let's get to it.

Shorty G. vs. Sheamus

We've waited for the better part of a year for Sheamus to come back and this is what he gets to do: make fun of someone for being short. Words can't express how much I can't stand this horrible gimmick for Gable, who deserves so much better (anyone would). The whole idea is built off one joke that probably only Vince McMahon himself finds funny, but Gable does seem willing to try and make it work.

That being said, Sheamus isn't losing his first match back so Gable will try hard (as always) but still lose in the end. WWE does not see anything in Gable and while I can understand what they see in Sheamus, I can't get my head around how they've set this up. I really hope this winds up on the Kickoff Show because it doesn't feel like a match that needs to be on the main show at all.

SmackDown World Title: The Fiend(c) vs. Daniel Bryan

This is a strap match, which is kind of a weird choice for a gimmick. It fits their story well enough, but a cage match would make a lot more sense. I'm not sure what the point is in tying them together and whipping each other, as Fiend can survive a lot worse than pain. Bryan will be able to deliver some good visuals by letting out his aggression, but it still feels like an odd choice.

Of course I'm going with the Fiend here as there's no logical reason to expect him to lose in this spot. Fiend seems destined to defend the title at WrestleMania in Tampa so winning here seems obvious. I'm not sure what Bryan is going to do next but he can take a few weeks off and come back to set up his WrestleMania program. Fiend wins here, after a pretty brutal match.

United States Title: Andrade(c) vs. Humberto Carrillo

They set this one up on Monday Night Raw and that's not the biggest surprise in the world. Andrade took Carrillo out a few weeks ago and now it's time to get revenge and the title. The fact that Andrade tried to take out Rey Mysterio made it even worse, but it's nice to see two younger guys getting a spot like this.

I'll take Andrade to retain, as he seems primed for a serious run for the title. Carrillo is someone who makes sense on paper but hasn't exactly clicked with the audience yet. Someone with his skills is going to be around for a long time though and they should have a good match, but it isn't going to include a title change. Andrade is too hot at the moment and Carrillo isn't ready.

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

This is the match that I've been looking forward to more than anything else on the roster. It was set up last year when

Asuka made Lynch tap, which set her forward on her path to winning the Royal Rumble later in the night and then winning the Women's Titles at WrestleMania 35. The loss is still in Lynch's head though and that is driving her to want to face Asuka again.

I think Lynch wins here, but it's after a war. Lynch is going into WrestleMania 36 for a heck of a showdown with someone (who we'll find out tonight as well) and having her beat Asuka on the way there would be a great way to start. This could be an outstanding match and I could see an upset being possible, but the champ retains here, as she should.

Roman Reigns vs. King Corbin

This feud is still going and I'm really not sure I get why. Well ok I get why from WWE's perspective, but the fans are the ones getting stuck with this boring story as WWE continues to try to make us care about Corbin. It's Falls Count Anywhere so they can brawl around the stadium, which is a good bit better than trying to imagine them having another regular match.

Corbin wins here and, assuming Reigns can win the Royal Rumble, we get ANOTHER match out of them for the title shot in February. It's the same idea that they had with Lynch last year and since WWE sees their wrestlers as the same all around, Corbin will win here, likely with the help of all of his cronies. I really don't want to watch this but the faster we get done with this match, the faster both of them can get on to ANYTHING else.

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

I'm curious about this one as it could go either way. Bayley has been Women's Champion for a good while now and WWE seems to like what they have with her during the heel run, but at the same time, Evans is the kind of person they have been trying to push for years now. This really could go either way and that's a very nice feeling to have.

I'll play it safe and pick Bayley to win, though other than Sasha Banks, I'm not sure who in the world she's supposed to face at WrestleMania. The SmackDown women's division isn't exactly strong at the minute and Bayley could use a fresh challenge. I'm not exactly confident in this one and Evans could very easily walk away with the title, but I'll take Bayley to retain.

Women's Royal Rumble

This is your wide open Rumble as there are only five entrants announced as we come into the show. Out of those five, the only one who has a realistic chance to win is Charlotte, and I'm only kind of believing she could win. This is going to require some mixture of returning stars, NXT names and legends, which leaves the whole thing wide open.

I'm going with Shayna Baszler to debut and win, though I'm holding out hope for a Ronda Rousey return. Lynch vs. Rousey is the dream match that WWE would want at WrestleMania and one of the only logical ways they could go. Baszler is the other option and I'm hoping that's the way they go, as she has certainly earned the chance. Then again the Survivor Series main event was kind of horrible and I don't really need to see Baszler vs. Lynch again. Either way, Baszler wins here, save for Rousey returning.

Men's Royal Rumble

I'm completely lost on this one. Brock Lesnar is starting the match at #1 and the question is who, if anyone, throws him out. There are a ton of wrestlers who are already announced for the match who could take him out, plus the possibility of Cain Velasquez returning (take me now) or a surprise Edge return (maybe but I'll believe it when I see it). Then again there's one name that seems to be a strong favorite.

As much as I don't want to see it, I'll take Reigns to win here so we can have his latest coronation at WrestleMania. I'm

not sure why I'd want to see that, but Reigns vs. Fiend is the most likely choice they can have. Hopefully we get some nice surprises or that I'm completely wrong, as there are probably a dozen people who could get a rocket push out of this thing. They won't, but they could and that gives me some nice false hope.

Overall Thoughts

The more I think about the two Rumble matches, the more confused I am. That's the best thing that you can have happen, but I'm scared that we'll get the easy way out and that's the most annoying possibility. This year's matches do feel wide open so maybe we can get a better show than last year. Then again, if it's over six and a half hours counting the Kickoff Show, it isn't going to matter how good things are.

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