

# Wrestlemania Count-Up – Wrestlemania XXVIII (Original): Blink And You'll Miss It



IMG Credit: WWE

## Wrestlemania XXVIII

Date: April 1, 2012

Location: Sun Life Stadium, Miami, Florida

Attendance: 78,363

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

America the Beautiful: Lillian Garcia

As I wrote out that title, I almost started shaking. Today is Wrestlemania Sunday. In less than two and a half hours, the show is going to begin. This is the day that we as fans wait for all year long. Everything ends tonight and at the same time, everything begins. You all know the card by now, but for those who might forget, the main event is John Cena vs. The Rock, Once In A Lifetime (until ratings go down and we need a rematch). Let's get to it.

First up we've got a pre-show match as a bonus.

## Tag Titles: Justin Gabriel/Tyson Kidd vs. Primo/Epico vs. Usos

Primo/Epico have the titles and have beaten the Usos about five times already. Kidd and Gabriel are teaming for the first time after Kidd asked Gabriel if he wanted to be a team. Gabriel said yes, and apparently that qualifies you as deserving a title match. New tights for the Usos here. Josh and Striker are doing commentary for this match. This is under WCW rules as in three in the ring at once, but in a twist you can only tag your own partner.

Jey, Tyson and Primo start things off. Primo is sent to the floor and Tyson gets two off a sunset flip. Primo comes back in with a missile dropkick as Jey gets beaten down. Kidd makes the save but gets DDTed for two. Primo loads up a superplex on Jey but Tyson springboards up to make it a Tower of Doom in a cool twist on the traditional spot there. Tags bring in Epico and Jimmy but I think Kidd is still legal for his team.

Jimmy comes out of the corner with a spinning cross body and a Bubba Bomb for two. Tag to Gabriel who jumps over Jimmy but walks into a Samoan attack. Back to Jey who hits an assisted Samoan Drop. Jimmy tags in quickly for a double Rikishi attack to Epico and Gabriel. Epico gets dropped onto Primo so Jey can hit a HUGE dive onto both of them.

Kidd pops up on the apron but Jimmy launches him to Jey for a Samoan Drop. Gabriel sets for a top rope Asai Moonsault and hits it on his second attempt. Better safe than sorry on that spot. He tries the springboard 450 but (mostly) hits knees. Backstabber by Epico pins Jey at 5:05.

**Rating:** B-. Really fun opener here with the six smaller guys being thrown out there to fire up the crowd. That's what cruiserweights and hot Latin women that can shake their hips were made for so you can't ask for much more than that. I'm a big Uso fan so seeing them on Wrestlemania was a cool thing to see. Very good start to the night.

Lillian opens us with America the Beautiful. She even sings the second verse.

The opening video is about how this is the beginning, which includes a set of clips of the beginning of a lot of guys' careers, including some shots of Cena in OVW. We also get some shots of the main guys' careers. It's the four in the main events only, which makes sense.

### Smackdown World Title: Sheamus vs. Daniel Bryan

Makes sense. Might as well make this the most worthless world title match in company history given the build for it so far. Cole and Lawler are calling this alone. Bryan has his robe here and AJ is looking GREAT. We get the kiss to start and Brogue Kick and it's over in 8 seconds. I kid you not it was that fast.

We have 7 matches left and almost four hours to go. Each match could conceivably get 20 minutes each.

Miz fires up Team Johnny in the back. They don't seem to care until Otunga comes in to introduce Johnny in a white suit. He says this is going to be a night in the ranks of Hogan slamming Andre and Austin refusing to submit to Bret.

Win a trip to Wrestlemania 29.

### Kane vs. Randy Orton

This is over Kane shaking Randy's hand last year and hating himself for it. I can't imagine this feud isn't going to continue after this. Seeing Kane in daylight in the welder's mask makes him look pretty ridiculous. Kane takes him into the corner to start as I think the fans are chanting for Orton. Well it's longer than the previous match at least. Orton escapes a chokeslam and stomps on the foot/ankle.

Elevated DDT (called a bulldog by that idiot Cole) is countered and Kane drapes him over the top rope for a big

boot. This is Kane's 14th Mania which has to be up there on the all time list. Kane takes him down and it's off to a chinlock. Orton fights up with punches but runs into the uppercut for two. Side slam gets two. Kane again stops Orton's comeback and hits a vertical suplex for two.

A headbutt slows Kane down and Orton spins out of another side slam via a backflip. Orton's backbreaker puts Kane down but his clotheslines don't do much. There's the powerslam and Kane's shoulder goes into the post. Kane comes back and goes up but his clothesline is countered by a dropkick in a cool spot. Orton loads up the Punt but runs into the chokeslam for two. Kane is frustrated so he does an Undertaker situp.

He pounds Orton down in the corner but Randy comes back with a right of his own. RK0 is countered but Orton kicks the knee out again. Randy charges into an elbow and Kane goes up but there's Orton again. Orton pounds him down on the ropes and goes up with him. He loads up something but Kane grabs him by the throat and gets the pin with a super chokeslam at 10:55.

**Rating:** B-. This was my upset pick and I wasn't disappointed. That ending was pretty cool too as it looked great. Orton usually brings it at Wrestlemania and this was no exception as he got a decent match out of Kane. I'm likely overrating it but this is a match I've wanted to see for years.

Santino is with a captain from the show Deadliest Catch. They're having I think king crabs and Mick Foley is with them. He puts on a yellow hat and talks like a pirate but the captain tells him no one talks like that. There are Socko and The Cobra and they attack the crabs. Ron Simmons comes in and you know the rest.

The National Guard is awesome.

Intercontinental Title: Big Show vs. Cody Rhodes

The idea here is that Big Show can't win at Wrestlemania and

Cody has made fun of him for it. Cody immediately bails to the floor and Show goes after him. Cody has red trunks tonight. He dives onto Show on the floor and is tossed back in via a SCARY show of strength. Show destroys Cody with chops and gives him a Stink Face. Cody goes after the knee to get Big Show down which is smart.

Show is down on the mat now as Cody shouts about how this is his moment. He hooks a standing leg lock and Show is in some trouble. He starts to get up but Cody drapes the arm across the top rope to slow him down. Disaster Kick (I guess it's no longer Beautiful) staggers Show but a second attempt results in a spear. WMD gives Show the title at 5:23.

**Rating:** D+. I wasn't wild on this but it's a good way to get the title off Rhodes. That being said, I don't buy the whole "Show gets his moment" deal at all. He was in the main event before, so how exactly is winning the IC Title in about 5 minutes a bigger deal? Doesn't work for me at all, but this should be enough for Cody to move up the ladder.

Show cries post match and kisses I'm assuming his wife.

Video on what it means to be a Diva. This would be better used with the sound off.

#### Maria Menounos/Kelly Kelly vs. Beth Phoenix/Eve Torres

This is a REALLY risky move as the other four matches are Punk vs. Jericho, the Cell, the main event and the Battle of the GM's. That's a stacked final four matches and I'd be worried about them overcrowding the second half of the show. We get the video of the evil ones invading Extra. Maria arguing back at them is still horribly bad. She has a legit case of bad ribs due to Dancing With The Stars, plus stress fractures in her feet.

The sun has gone down now and the stadium looks awesome. Eve and Kelly start things off. Kelly charges into a boot in the

corner but the moonsault results in her getting crotched. Here's Maria and it's a double Stink Face. Beth kicks her in the bad ribs and Eve goes with a bodyscissors. Maria fires off some decent elbows as the fans chant for her to tap. Beth comes in with a modified bearhug but Maria fights out and tags Kelly.

The annoying screaming blonde does her usual stuff but adds a Molly Go Round for two as Eve saves. Glam Slam is countered into a bulldog and there's the tag to Maria. She...goes up and this isn't going to end well. Beth drills her and sets for a gorilla press, but Kelly gets her down and shoves Beth into Eve so Maria can get the rollup pin at 6:54.

**Rating:** C+. You know, given the amount of injuries to Maria, this was really impressive. That girl legit tries out there every time and you can't ask for more than anything than that. Decent match and the Kelly flip dive wasn't bad. When Kelly is the worst worker in a match that involves a celebrity, you know there's a problem.

Shawn says this match is the end of an era. If HHH loses, it's the end of the Game. Shawn thinks it's ironic that he can end an era.

New attendance record: 78,363.

JR is here to call the rest of the show. Is that a beard on him?

### The Undertaker vs. HHH

Well this is quite the first hour main event. It's 8:03 and we've got four matches left, which means this and Rock vs. Cena are going to need to be about 35 minutes each. They can do it but that would be a lot. This is billed as The End of an Era, but I don't know what HHH is exactly putting up. If he loses, it's the same thing as last year. This is inside Hell in a Cell and Shawn Michaels is guest referee.

No buildup package so I'll help you out here. Taker beat HHH last year but had to be carried out, so he asked for a rematch. HHH didn't want to do it so Taker played the "Shawn is better than you" card to get him to say yes. The rest of it was a lot of ego stroking and here we are. HHH's big entrance this year is him coming out of something that looks like Vader's old helmet with spikes on it.

Shawn's shirt isn't tucked in. It's Wrestlemania and he's that sloppy? I think we need a new icon. Taker's robe looks like it has muscles painted onto it. Or does it look Japanese? These entrances still give me chills, even if he's bald under there. We get lightning, thunder and smoke as always. His head isn't completely bald but it's close enough. It's almost a mowhawk with hair on the side of it if that makes sense. That look kind of works on him actually.

The Cell is lowered to Memory Remains by Metallica. Slugout to start and JR calls Taker's punches carcinogenic. HHH comes back so Taker throws him into the corner. The haircut is attributed to HHH not giving him a rematch immediately. Ok then. Out to the floor and Taker goes into the Cell. Now HHH goes into it and is backdropped. This appears to be the taller model with the very little space between the cage and the ring.

Taker pounds on him and chokes on the floor. Shawn tries to break up the choking but Taker knocks him away. Into the cage again as Taker has controlled so far. HHH goes into the steps and we go back inside. The Facebuster is no sold and Taker clotheslines him down. Old School connects and HHH is down. Back to the floor and Taker rams the steps into the Game's face.

The steps are placed in the ring and Taker this the legdrop (loathsome according to JR) on the apron. Back in HHH grabs a DDT from out of nowhere to put both guys down. HHH rams Taker's head into the steps three times and tries a Pedigree

on the steps which is countered into a backdrop. Taker charges into a spinebuster onto the steps but he manages to grab the Hell's Gate which won the match last year. In a REALLY impressive counter, HHH picks him up into a powerbomb for two.

We're ten minutes into this and it feels like we're only in the beginning. Here are two chairs from HHH and one goes into Taker's ribs and back. The steps are set up in the corner and Taker gets whipped into them. HHH throws them out of the ring and there's another chair to the back of Undertaker. The Game goes Stone Cold with the chair and Shawn tries to stop him but can't.

Shawn finally throws the chair out and HHH says if Shawn wants it to end, then end it. HHH grabs the other chair and shoves Shawn down to beat on Taker some more. That must be about 20 shots with it so far. Taker specifically says not to stop it when Shawn asks. Taker gets up and a shot to the ribs and back puts him right back down, getting two. HHH heads to the floor and there's the sledgehammer.

HHH says he doesn't care as he's basically turning heel mid match. He keeps telling Shawn to end it but Taker keeps saying no when Shawn asks to end it. Sledgehammer to the face gets two. There appears to be some blood over HHH's eye and oh yes there is. It's not bad but it's certainly there. HHH sets for a BIG shot to Taker's prone head but Shawn stops it and throws the hammer to the floor.

HHH keeps shouting at Shawn to end it because Taker is done. Shawn pulls his finger up to end it but can't do it. He looks at Taker and thinks about doing it again but still can't do it. Now he looks at Taker again...and Taker puts Shawn in the Hell's Gate! HHH hits Taker in the head with the hammer but Shawn is down now. HHH sets for a big hammer shot but Taker kicks him low and puts the Hell's Gate on again.

There's no Shawn and HHH drops the hammer. HHH tries the



powerbomb counter but can't do it. He grabs the hammer again but passes out. No wait he's back up. Taker's face is a meme in waiting. Shawn is still down and Taker has to let the hold go due to exhaustion. Both guys are out. Here's Charles Robinson who unlocks the cage to a ton of booing. Chokeslam to HHH gets two. Robinson gets a chokeslam for the count. Eh you knew it was going to be Shawn to count the fall so that's no shock.

The fans think this is awesome and they would be correct. Shawn kicks Taker into the Pedigree but it gets a VERY close two. I really thought that was it. That didn't happen at all last year which makes this even better than last year. Shawn is distraught that he almost counted the fall after interfering. HHH has the hammer again and he throws Shawn to the floor. The Game goes after Taker with the hammer but Taker sits up, making HHH fall down in fear.

Here's the Big Dead Comeback with all of his old favorites. Snake Eyes into the big boot is followed by a legdrop. Tombstone plants HHH but only gets two. Not even a close two either. Shawn looks like he's about to cry in the corner. They slug it out from their knees to their feet and HHH Pedigrees him out of nowhere for two. It wasn't a great one so it's a bit more believable. Taker sits up again and grabs a chair. HHH has the hammer but Taker steps on it. Now HHH takes the beating with the chair and the chair is bent. All of the shots only get two though.

Shawn yells at both of them to let it end already. HHH tries to grab Shawn to pull himself up and gets the hammer. Taker can't follow up and HHH is in agony. He tries a hammer shot but Taker blocks it due to HHH's exhaustion. Now Taker has the hammer and HHH shoves him away. There's a crotch chop so Taker hits him in the face with the hammer. Shawn turns his back on the match and the hammer is thrown to the floor. There go the straps and the throat slit sets up the tombstone for the pin at 30:53.

**Rating:** A+. I liked this a lot better than last year's. Of the four matches these three have combined for, I'd put this at second best after HBK vs. Taker I, which is pretty high praise. Great match with some great drama and there were actual moments here where I thought the Streak was over, namely the DX Special finisher. Shawn added something here, but I don't think it was as epic as they were shooting for. The Cell wasn't a huge factor but it did add something to it as far as a visual goes. Great match and I loved it.

Shawn pulls Taker to his feet post match. Both of them help HHH to the back in a cool visual.

Hall of Fame video. It's cool to see Flair up there.

Here are the Hall of Fame inductees. The Fink does the intros which is good. That man belongs at Wrestlemania. Tyson does a crotch chop of course. Edge is on the stage and gets his theme music played. No one says anything but it's cool to see Flair there. Note that I said there and not in the ring.

Win a trip to Wrestlemania 29!

Josh is about to talk to Flo Rida when Heath freaking Slater says interview him instead. Flo Rida comes out and Slater asks about a duet. That gets a no so Slater wants to be a DJ or backup dancer. Those both get a no. Flo Rida says Slater can hold his mic. Slater gets in his face and Flo Rida shoves him into a wall. Hawkins and Reks come in to laugh at Slater. Ok then.

#### Team Johnny vs. Team Teddy

Johnny: The Miz, Mark Henry, Drew McIntyre, Jack Swagger, Dolph Ziggler, David Otunga (captain)

Teddy: Kofi Kingston, R-Truth, Booker T, Great Khali, Zack Ryder, Santino Marella (captain)

Otunga has his coffee cup with him too which is awesome.

Vickie and Horny are flagbearers. The winning GM controls both shows. Eve is with Ryder. Aksana looks good in the Teddy shirt. Dolph and Kofi start things off and Dolph takes over. Kofi comes back with a top rope cross body for two and here's Truth. Spinning legdrop gets two but Ziggler dropkicks him down.

Off to Drew who gets caught by the Lie Detector. Khali comes in and chops a bit before Booker gets the tag. Side slam gets two. JR is gone now. Otunga gets in a shot to Booker and Drew's big boot allows him to tag Swagger. Why is Swagger in aquamarine? He's an ALL AMERICAN AMERICAN. Swagger takes him down and it's time for Henry. He does absolutely nothing so it's time for Miz.

Running knee lift gets two and it's off to a chinlock. Back to Ziggy for a knee drop and then back to Miz. Booker finally gets some breathing room but Henry comes in for the World's Strongest Slam. Khali chops Henry down and everything breaks down. Kofi/Truth hit double dropkicks to send the heels to the floor. For some reason they throw Horny onto Henry and then along with Ryder hit stereo dives to the floor. Aksana spears Vickie as the match is a mess.

Booker and Miz are down in the ring at the moment but there's the tag to Santino. Santino does his usual stuff and the saluting headbutt from the top. Cobra is loaded up but he stops to go after Johnny. Cobra to Miz gets two as Dolph makes a VERY close save. Tag to Ryder who monkey flips Dolph and a neckbreaker takes down Miz. He loads up the Rough Ryder but Miz throws him onto Ziggler. He loads up the Broski Boot but Eve comes in for no apparent reason. The distraction lets Miz hit the Finale on Ryder for the pin at 10:42.

**Rating:** C. Was Otunga ever in the match? This was pretty much exactly what was expected with Eve screwing over the team "by mistake" and Johnny's team winning. I don't think anyone ever thought Team Teddy had a chance and even further ends the

Brand Split, which is more or less dead already. No issues here for the most part.

Eve kicks Ryder in the balls post match and walks off with her hand on her hip.

Extreme Rules is in four weeks.

Alex Rodriguez and Torrie Wilson are here.

Video on what WWE has done for Miami.

Ace brags to Punk a bit about the win. If Punk gets disqualified, he loses the title. That sounds like the perfect setup for a rematch where Punk can't get disqualified at Extreme Rules.

#### Raw World Title: Chris Jericho vs. CM Punk

If Punk, the champion, gets DQ'ed, he loses the title. We get a quick video recapping Punk's rise up the roster and Jericho saying that Punk has addiction in his blood. They go to the mat quickly and Punk stomps away on him in the corner. Jericho slaps him as he's trying to get disqualified. Punk stomps to four and then stops each time which is a nice touch. Jericho slaps him two more times and then hides. Punk dropkicks him in the corner and pounds on him to four again.

Jericho shouts about Punk's father, earning him more elbows to the head. Punk loads up the Macho Elbow but Jericho rolls to the floor. Punk is cool with that and hits a top rope clothesline for two. Jericho asks about Punk's sister which draws a chair from Punk but he won't swing. A line about Punk's sister being a drug addict doesn't do it so Punk kicks him in the ribs instead. Punk throws the chair away and walks into a bottom rope dropkick (yes a bottom rope dropkick) to take the champion down.

Back elbow puts Punk on the outside. They go to the apron and Punk tries a GTS but the Canadian escapes and clotheslines

Punk back in. Jericho suplexes him to the floor and it almost looked like a Jackhammer. Back inside that gets two. Butterfly backbreaker gets the same. Jericho is working on the back to set up the Walls. Off to a chinlock and then a kick to the back. Surfboard submission goes on so Punk jumps up into a dropkick to the gut in a nice counter.

Punk counters the bulldog by sending Jericho into the corner crotch first. CM makes his comeback with kicks and chops, plus a neckbreaker for two. Punk hits the knee in the corner but the bulldog is countered. Lionsault gets knees but Jericho counters into the Walls but that gets countered. Sweet sequence. High kick gets two and Chris is down. The Macho Elbow looks awkward as it looked like it hit but I think Jericho put his knees up, which doesn't do much good for an elbow. That looked weird.

Codebreaker hits but Punk rolls out. Jericho throws him back in but walks into the GTS. Punk can't cover immediately though and Jericho gets his foot on the rope. Another high kick misses but a powerslam gets two. We get a series of standing switches resulting in Jericho draping him over the top and hitting the Lionsault for two. Chris goes up and Punk tries a rana, but Jericho counters into the Walls in a sweet counter that I've seen him use before. Punk of course gets the rope but getting there was cool.

Jericho charges at him but Punk backdrops him to the floor. Punk is holding his back and Jericho stands in perfect position for the suicide dive from Punk. The fans are a little dead for some reason. I don't get why as this has been a good match. In a SICK spot, Punk hits the running knee to the head of Jericho while it's against the post.

Punk tries the springboard clothesline but jumps into the Codebreaker for two. That would have been back to back losses at Mania due to the springboard for Punk. Two GTS's are countered and Jericho is getting frustrated. He goes up but

Punk kicks him in the back. GTS is countered AGAIN, this time into the Liontamer and then the Walls. Punk crawls for the rope but Jericho drags him back into the middle.

The champ crawls through the legs into a small package and they reverse it a few times but Punk counters into the Vice which Jericho counters into a rollup for two but he can't break the hold. Now Jericho knees him in the back of the head and FINALLY breaks the hold, countering into a Walls attempt. Punk counters THAT into the Vice and this time he leans his head forward so Jericho can't knee him. Jericho is forced to tap at 22:23.

**Rating:** A. ANOTHER awesome match here. That finishing sequence was absolutely awesome with some SICK counters. I'm not sure if I'd call it a masterpiece or anything, but these two nailed it and it looked like Punk outsmarted Jericho using psychology he gained throughout the match, which is great stuff. Loved this and it's another great match on a GREAT show so far.

Mania 29 will be in New Jersey.

FUNKASAURUS!!! AND HE'S TALKING!!! I don't think most people care about him. He asks people to pull out their phones because they're going to call their mamas. Brodus calls his mama and says he wishes she was there. His mama is here with the bridge club apparently. She was in the back....and he didn't know it? She's a woman with really weird hair and what has to be.....oh my goodness the bridge club is all here to dance with her. There must be 20 old women out there dancing. I think I need a minute.

Go see G.I. Joe 2.

Clips of the Once in a Lifetime special to hype up the main event. If you don't get the story here, go look it up.

Diddy introduces some rapper to sing one of the theme songs. The rapper defines an underdog who apparently is Cena in this.

Uh...not quite but ok.

### John Cena vs. The Rock

Writing that gave me a chill. Cena is booed but it's not horrible. We get his traditional shot from the back as he runs to the ring. There's a new green shirt too. Ok now he's getting booed. There's nothing really special to Cena's entrance this year. Once Cena is in the ring Flo Rida does the other theme song to the show with a full set of backup dancers. Now some chick comes out to sing another song with him. Could the timing on this be worse?

Rock's entrance really could have done without the dance troupe behind him and it made things look a bit less epic than they were going for. He looked like he was going in for a big fight though and that's the important thing. We get a shot from above the stadium and it looks AWESOME. We get big match intros. This is really happening. Oh THERE are the boos for Cena. There are some cheers and it's nowhere near MITB but it's up there. Big pop for Rock as expected.

The bell rings at 10:24:42 after about a minute of staring. My heart is beating out of my chest as I can't believe it's finally here. They lock up and Cena shoves him off. He looks like he lost five pounds of air with the exhale after that. The dueling chants begin and it's certainly not a one sided crowd. Rock shoves Cena off. That's so Hogan (in a good way). They lock up again and Rock grabs a headlock.

They fight over a wristlock and Rock does Owen's counter into a pair of armdrags and La Majistral for two. He did that at Survivor Series and Cena still looks stunned. Cena whips him in and gets perhaps the highest leapfrog I've ever seen into a headlock takeover. No one has an advantage of note after about four minutes. Rock lowers his head for Cena to kick him and Rock pops him with a right.

Cena charges and Rock tries a Sharpshooter, but John rolls to

the floor. Rock catches Cena coming in but Cena sends him into the corner and hits some shoulders. Clothesline gets one and Rock gets to the rope. You know it occurs to me: Cena has an experience advantage here and a big one at that. He's been in WWE going on ten years, whereas Rock was around less than seven in total, and that's stretching A LOT.

Rock fires off some punches but misses a charge to send him to the floor. They're starting slow but we have almost half an hour for the slow build. Rock gets dropped on the barricade and they go to the floor. Cena drops the ribs into the announce table and sits in the ring. Back in the ring and Cena is in control. Belly to belly gets two as he keeps working on the ribs. Now a bearhug which is a smart move. Cena's power is often forgotten until the end of the match so this makes sense.

Rock fights out of it with punches and a DDT, but Cena fights back. Now Rock comes back with punches and the jumping clothesline. Spinebuster looks to set up the elbow but Cena picks the leg for an STF attempt. That gets countered so Cena comes back with the shoulders and ProtoBomb. The Shuffle hits but the AA is countered and they clothesline (kind of) each other.

They slug it out and Rock takes over with faster punches. He tries to do You Can't See Me but Cena grabs the AA for two. NOW this is getting good, almost fifteen minutes into it. That's not a bad thing mind you as it's about what happens in every main event match. Cena might have a cut next to his nose but it's not bad. Cena goes after Rock and gets caught in the Rock Bottom for two. Rock hammers him in the corner but walks into a side slam for two.

Cena goes up and takes forever, but manages to hit the top rope Fameasser for two. Out of nowhere Rock grabs the Sharpshooter and somehow it's gotten even worse. We're over twenty minutes into this and Rock is getting frustrated.



Sharpshooter goes on again and he's just pulling on the feet instead of wrapping his arm around them. They go to the floor as we're over 20 minutes into this.

Cena goes into the steps and Rock is in full control so far. John goes into the steps again but as they come back in he sunset flips Rock (that boy can JUMP) but instead of covering he hooks the STF. The leg is bent in a freaky way. Rock almost gets the rope so Cena lets go and pulls back to the middle of the ring. Rock is starting to fade and he's not very close to the rope. The referee takes forever to check the arm and it drops once. It drops twice, but on the third try Rock continues to channel Hogan (again awesome) to raise the arm. He FINALLY makes the rope and we're not done yet.

We're 24 minutes into this so it's got to be running short on time. It's 10:49 now so it can't break forty minutes. Cena is tired but he walks into a Samoan Drop to put both guys down. They slug it out and both finishers are countered. Spinebuster puts Cena down and there goes the elbow pad. The People's Elbow hits for two. Cena grabs a small package (easy big fella) for two. John grabs a slingshot to send Rock into the buckle and a rollup gets two.

Cena drives him to the corner and puts Rock up on the second rope. He looks like he's setting for a superplex but Rock shoves him off. Rock looks very tired and I can't blame him. It's his first singles match in about 9 years and he's going half an hour. Rock goes up top (huh?) and tries a cross body but Cena rolls through and flips him onto his shoulders for the AA for TWO. I thought that might have been it. It's 10:54 and they've gone thirty minutes now. John looks at his hand, takes off the wristband, and sets for the People's Elbow but walks into the Rock Bottom for the pin at 30:40. WOW.

**Rating:** B+. I have no idea what the point of that is, but they did it. The match was never going to be able to live up to the hype and I don't think it was going to ever be able to do so.

I really don't agree with the ending as there's no incentive for a rematch now, Cena looks like he can't beat a guy that's been retired almost longer than he was active, and it does nothing for the guys sticking around. I don't get it at all. Good match, close to great, not a masterpiece.

Rock poses to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** A+. This was an incredible show and one of the best Wrestlemanias I've ever seen. I was really worried about the pacing of the show for awhile but they pulled it off really well and it never dragged. There were multiple classics and that's exactly what Wrestlemania is supposed to be. When the worst match is probably the Divas, that's definitely a good sign.

As for the main event, it was indeed very good but I didn't like the ending. Granted that's two minutes after it so maybe that'll change. I don't hate it, but I don't like it that well at the moment. Still though, it's a very good match to end an amazing show and we'll have to see where things go from here. Absolutely worth seeing though.

### Results

Sheamus b. Daniel Bryan – Brogue Kick

Kane b. Randy Orton – Middle Rope Chokeslam

Big Show b. Cody Rhodes – WMD

Maria Menounous/Kelly Kelly b. Beth Phoenix/Eve Torres – Rollup to Beth

Undertaker b. HHH – Tombstone

Team Johnny b. Team Teddy – Skull Crushing Finale to Ryder

CM Punk b. Chris Jericho – Anaconda Vice

The Rock b. John Cena – Rock Bottom

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up the

paperback edition of KB's Complete 2004 Monday Night Raw Reviews (also available as an e-book) from Amazon. Check out the information here:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2019/08/26/new-book-and-e-book-kbs-complete-2004-monday-night-raw-reviews/>

And check out my Amazon author page with cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>