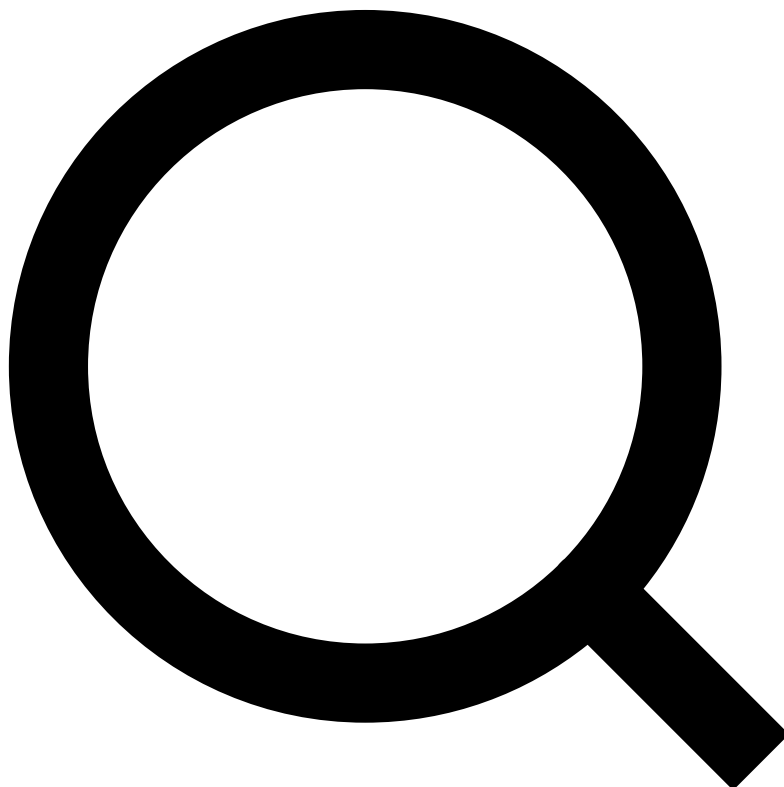


# Summeslam Count-Up – 2003 (Original): Yes They Did Do That



IMG Credit: WWE

## Summerslam 2003

Date: August 24, 2003

Location: America West Arena, Phoenix, Arizona

Attendance: 16,113

Commentators: Jim Ross, Tazz, Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

So Austin and Rock are retired, Lesnar is still a big name, HBK stuck around to shock the world even more, and that's about it. Seriously, not much else has happened. Cena and Batista haven't risen to power yet as they're about a year and a half away from taking over the company. There is a new arrival however: Goldberg, who I wouldn't call a flop but I'd call him a disappointment.

He's at war with HHH over the title currently, so that's your main feud, but of course they couldn't just have them go one on one, so we get the second Elimination Chamber instead. Your other main event here is Brock vs. Angle in a Wrestlemania rematch. The card looks...ok I guess but a bit top heavy. Let's see how it is.

Lillian Garcia sings the Star Spangled Banner with the Marine Corps Color Guard on the stage. To say she's gorgeous is an understatement. They need to do this more often at PPVs. The opening video is pretty good, as we hear a clock striking what I would assume to be midnight and with each bell sound we see a clip of another match. Oh I forgot to mention: Lesnar is a heel again and is working for Vince.

#### Raw Tag Titles: Dudley Boyz vs. La Resistance

This is as simple as you can get here: the French champions make fun of American so the American team that's never really been patriotic rally round the flag to fight for the Red White and Blue, despite the fact that the French flag has the same colors but you get the idea I guess. La Resistance are the guys that were the tag team of the year at this time, always holding the belts mainly due to the fact that they never had any opponents of note to face them.

The Dudleys were guys you could just throw into the title picture and it would work though, much like they do now in TNA. Guys like that are great to have because their resume makes them a legit threat so you know you'll get a decent performance out of them and they make the other team look good. It's the same thing that Shawn Michaels did in the last year or so.

He was never going to beat Jericho for the belt, but he was a legit challenger that you could count on for a solid match and he can be thrown into the title picture at a moment's notice and be perfectly credible. That's a very valuable asset to

have. This was also back in the day of the old school tag title belts which I've always loved. JR touches on the idea that Bubba and D-Von are related which he kind of brushes off.

The faces are WAY over and take control early on which makes sense. They continue to dominate after a brief heel comeback, but after the 3D a cameraman comes in and hits D-Von with the picture taking machine for the pin. Bubba was too busy counting the three to stop the run in to break up the 3D, so the heels steal it. Post match, the camera guy beats up D-Von, Bubba and Spike who runs in for the attempted save, with the camera. Of course it's Rob Conway, who didn't have a name yet.

**Rating:** C. This felt like an extended TV match to me. It was ok, but nothing you wouldn't see on Raw. The tag division was pretty much the same for about 5 years and it's still that way today, with not much of anything of note going on other than the occasional title change. La Resistance was nothing special, but they were ok I guess. Not a bad match, just nothing that jumps off the page at me.

Coach interviews the Dudleys in the aisle, saying that the French were clever. Bubba doesn't like this.

Bischoff is warming up and Christian talks to him like they've never met. Really? Bischoff is fighting Shane tonight for some reason. Christian is upset that he doesn't have a match and Eric blames his co-GM, Stone Cold. The audio is bad here for some reason and I can't make out all of what they're saying.

We see the recap of Taker against A-Train. Basically Vince is hiring all the monsters he can find and Taker is the one he can't get, so he's the one that fights them off. A-Train started by attacking Stephanie last month at Vengeance to keep her from beating Sable, who Vince was having an open affair with.

Then, Taker fought back but A-Train kept making him lose matches, including one on Smackdown by pinfall to John Cena.

Yes, Cena has indeed hit the FU to the Undertaker and pinned him in the middle of the ring. Anyway, that of course leads to this match.

### Undertaker vs. A-Train

Taker's music with lyrics is just awesome. This is the very end of his biker character though, as he was literally buried at Survivor Series by Kane in a Buried Alive match. I used to get the opening to A-Train's music and JBL's music confused. How can Sable be this hot at this age? She's even hot now with Brock and this is 6 years later. Why is Taker in the second match of the night? Can I get an explanation?

Sable's chest is EPIC here. Taker still has taped up ribs. Basic big man match for Taker which is probably his specialty: fighting monsters. A-Train was always someone that they wanted to push it seemed but it just never happened. Old School puts the train down.

We hit the floor for a bit and Taker's back goes into the post as A-Train takes over. Can we just look at Sable's chest some more? It's certainly more entertaining. Taker grabs a sleeper of all things but walks into a belly to back suplex as Train keeps dominating. Taker gets out of the corner as nothing but punches. At times it seems like he does nothing but that and his finishers.

After some very basic stuff Taker can't get the Last Ride and walks into a Derailer (choke powerbomb) for two of course. Good grief this is a formulamatic match. Down goes the referee as A-Train hits a bicycle kick and grabs a chair. It gets kicked into his face for two as we learn a good lesson about bringing a foreign object in. Use AMERICAN DANG IT! Chokeslam ends it clean.

**Rating:** D. Again, Taker is good at fighting monsters, but it feels like a TV match and nothing more. Why would I want to watch a TV match on PPV when I have to pay for it? It's ok,

but that's all it is. A-Train was an underused talent, but come on. Taker deserves more than an underused talent, and to be fair he would be put into a title feud with Lesnar starting in the next week or two. Sable was hot as fire though.

Post match, Sable comes in to try to seduce Taker. Taker doesn't go for that and chokes her until Stephanie returns and beats the heck out of her. Cole says she kicks the heck out of her, but I'm pretty sure it's only punches. Then again, I'm no professional. Sable and A-Train bail as Cole freaks because of the power in the ring at the moment.

Brock has a new DVD.

We see Jericho stretching in the back as Coach is at ringside asking fans who they think will win the EC tonight. Everyone thinks Goldberg. If you're going to waste time, I guess you might as well involve the audience.

Hit the recap button for Bischoff vs. Shane. This is REALLY long so I'll try to summarize it as well as I can. Shane and Kane were feuding because Kane tombstoned Linda. Vince is being a jerk and won't let Shane fight Kane, so Shane fights Bischoff. Kane saves Eric and helps him win. JR then decides that since Bischoff caused Kane to try to burn JR alive, that he's going to sue Eric.

Austin comes out and says that JR won't sue if Bischoff agrees to face someone. Eric, assuming it's Shane, agrees. However, it's Kane. For no apparent reason, Kane bails and Eric immediately wins by count out. However, the contract had a clause in it that said that the winner got Shane at Summerslam.

My that's a fast contract to have drawn up in a matter of minutes isn't it? Anyway, Bischoff goes to Vince's house and kisses Linda and it's implied he either raped her or slept with her with her being willing.

## Eric Bischoff vs. Shane McMahon

According to Tony Schiavone, anyone that follows tournament karate knows that Bischoff is a great fighter. In other words, about 4 people know that. Eric gets on the mic before Shane comes out and implies again that he slept with Linda. Eric is cut off by Shane's music. You can tell he's mad because he only dances a bit. They're on the floor inside of a minute as Shane is just killing him as you would expect.

Shane keeps rolling in and breaking the count and then goes back out again and it's getting annoying quickly. JR references an elevator company, and sadly enough I get the reference. Coach pops up and smacks Shane in the back with a chair. Bischoff gets on the mic and makes it a hardcore match. Bischoff says that since Coach is the best commentator of all time to cut off JR and Lawler so that Coach can do all of the commentary. Yeah, this isn't going to be bad at all.

What was the appeal of Coach? I've yet to ever be entertained by him at all. Without commentary this is somehow more boring if that's possible. Shane finally wakes up and fights them both off, breathing some much needed life back into the crowd, but Austin comes out to really wake things up. I miss JR screaming about this. Austin can't hit Coach though unless he's touched so we get the I'm not touching you joke.

Shane makes Coach touch him though, which I think is illegal in some states, leading to the Austin beatdown. Austin and Shane make a weird team to say the least. Austin thankfully turns the announcers back on, which I hope is illegal in all states. Bischoff slaps him and gets a stunner from the man that he fired via fed ex.

Shane puts Eric through the Spanish Announce Table, which is famous enough to get all capital letters, with the elbow for the pin on the floor. JR calls this coast to coast. No JR, no. Austin and Shane have beers to kill some more time.

**Rating:** D. This was more like a big angle and it went on WAY too long. There were parts of this where it was just dragging on and on and on. Austin coming out completely saved this as it was an incredible boring segment. Coach is a waste of air and always has been so why would I care about him?

This was just really bad with only Austin being interesting at all. You know, even after this, the problem for Shane is that it's never known if Linda did anything or not, so what does Shane actually gain out of this?

Of all things, we get a Wrestlemania Recall. Dude, the show is EIGHT MONTHS AWAY. I get the idea of early promotion, but come on now isn't that a bit much?

Nash is getting ready for the Elimination Chamber.

Flair is with Orton, talking about how HHH will win tonight. Evolution was in a weird stage at the moment as Batista was out with an injury. The real reign of terror would begin in October when he came back.

US Title: Eddie Guerrero vs. Chris Benoit vs. Rhyno vs. Tajiri

Eddie is champion here. All four are in the ring and the first person to either get a submission or as Chimmel puts it, catch a pinfall, is the champion. After announcing that, he says it again seconds later in case we weren't listening I guess. There's no backstory here that I know of and if there is they don't cover it. I can't find any mention of one, so I'm guessing it's one of those let's throw everyone together and have them do their best. That can be a great idea at times.

Eddie comes out in a car of course. He would very soon be pushed to the main event and given the WWE Title in one of the biggest head scratchers of all time as he wasn't a big enough star and obviously wasn't ready for it, and likely never would be ready for it. Oh so Eddie hit all of them with the belt on Smackdown so that's our story? Dude, anyone can do better than

that. The US Title is just over a month old at this point, so it's not like there's time for a real history.

Eddie beat Benoit for it in a tournament final at Vengeance the previous month. It's funny seeing the table all destroyed with Eddie standing in front of it. It looks so out of place and it's making me chuckle. It's kind of cool to think that Benoit and Eddie would both be champions at the end of Mania in 8 months. I love the Rhyno character around this time as he was just completely insane and liked hurting people. I love that.

In other words, he was his normal self. Four ECW guys out there as well, so if nothing else ECW had an eye for talent. I always like the Lasso From El Paso. In a very cool spot, Benoit puts Rhyno in the Crossface at the same time Eddie has the Lasso From El Paso on Tajiri. For one thing, the referee isn't sure who to check on, but Eddie has a problem. Does he try to win, or does he break up the Crossface to save the title? That's very smart and I really like it.

Tajiri gets to the ropes though so that's all over. Eddie gets put in it and it takes several kicks from Rhyno and Tajiri to get him to break it up. Why does ever spinebuster have to contain an Arn Anderson reference? We get it, he had a sweet move. I will always mark out for the rolling German suplexes. Rhyno hits a gore but Eddie is holding the belt which is an old and classic move. Benoit and Tajiri fight to the floor which allows Eddie to steal the pin with the Frog Splash.

**Rating:** B-. To me, this is perfect for a PPV title defense for a new champion. It looks challenging, he gets a clean pin over an opponent, it's about 11 minutes long, and two guys save face, allowing them to challenge for the title in the future because they didn't get pinned. The wrestling was fine, but as is the problem with multi-man matches, it can get hard to follow. Either way, this was fine and a great way to really start Eddie's reign.



Shawn Michaels is in a hallway getting ready. I guess that's better than being in a closet.

Metallica is doing the theme song, with St. Anger. Still not sure if I like that album or not. The song is good, but I'm not sold on it. It's certainly not bad, but I'm not sure if it is good enough for Metallica.

Lesnar has been a monster lately and this past Thursday he beat up Zach Gowen, and for those of you that don't know, he had one leg. He broke his leg apparently. Gowen was supposed to fight Matt Hardy on Heat, so Matt declared himself the winner. Matt saying that real wrestlers fight through injuries absolutely cracked me up.

We get the recap of the Angle/Lesnar feud, which they more or less say has only happened over the course of a month and not 8 months, which is the real case. Angle was a heel back then so I guess that's why. Angle won the title at Vengeance as a face but it was a triple threat. Kurt and Brock formed kind of a super team in between the shows as Angle said Brock helped him through his injury. After he agreed to the title match though, Lesnar turned heel in a complicated angle.

Vince said that Brock had to earn the title shot, but he would have to beat Vince in a cage match to earn it. Ok, that makes little sense on Vince's part so I guess that means everything is perfectly normal. To continue making things odd, he makes Kurt the guest referee. Before the match though, someone attacks him.

Lesnar goes into the match anyway but collapses. Angle beats up Vince but Lesnar is faking and turns heel by beating up Angle. I'm not wild on Lesnar being the heel, but I guess that works. I am glad that he comes out alone though.

Smackdown Title: Brock Lesnar vs. Kurt Angle

They start with amateur moves which I'm always a fan of. It's

just cool to see guys that are so naturally talented at things like that and it's always fun to watch. This was back when Angle still had meat on him and didn't look like he was about 200lbs. He was also relatively sane at the time, which is always a plus. In a funny visual, Angle out wrestles Lesnar and sends him to the floor. The Spanish guys STILL have no table.

They have at least a dozen tables for hardcore matches but they can't loan the Spanish guys one for the night? I'd love to hear how ticked off they are at times. It turns into more of a brawl and Lesnar takes over as is expected. Lesnar's second press slam is countered into a rollup. I like that as it shows that Angle learns with every move that he uses. That's a nice little touch that likely wasn't even intentional at all.

Lesnar busts out a rear naked choke so I guess MMA was always in his blood. We slow it down a LOT as Brock takes over with some standard heel stuff which is fine, but when I watch Brock Lesnar I want to see more than just stomps and chin locks. They keep talking about how Brock won the title last year, which is stupid as I'm pretty sure he's done more since then. In this match, we get some of the good Angle, as he gets into that zone of his and more or less wills himself to victory.

He continues to steal moves from other wrestlers as he launches into a series of Germans from that other guy. Angle gets thrown over his head as I completely love Brock's belly to belly and I always have. This review is rather short but as I've said many times, it's hard to make fun of a good match. Lesnar's shoulder hit the post so it's hurt as well. Angle counters the F5 into a DDT while making it look miles better than Eddie would at No Way Out.

He pulls the straps down and for likely the first time ever, I'm loving Kurt Angle. He's much better as a face than a heel to me, but I'm odd in that area. In a very weird thing, Angle

puts the straps back up, only to pull them down again. Um, why? It looked very odd to see him do that as he got the big pop for it once so I guess he wanted another big pop? Either way it came off as odd. Ankle lock is on after Brock kicks out of the slam. In a huge twist, the referee gets knocked down.

Angle looks like he's going for a sunset flip but in a unique move he locks his legs around Brock's head and I guess uses a sleeper? It looks cool and I could see it working as a knockout hold I guess. From this he transitions to the ankle again and after about 30 seconds and two ropes Brock taps but there's no one to tap to. I guess Brock is a drunk man? Vince runs out and chairs Angle to break it up as I'm going into a play by play guy which I don't like doing.

Vince looking around as if to say I didn't do anything makes me laugh. To just show how much of a freak he is, Lesnar hits the F5 while standing on one leg. To say that's insane is the understatement of all time. It looks completely sick too as Angle lands straight on his head. However since this is a major PPV, Angle kicks out. Vince's shirt looks completely stupid. The F5 is reversed into the ankle lock but Brock gets to three of the bottom ropes (called all four by Cole as he's just a stupid boy).

However, despite him touching the ropes and even grabbing them, Kurt pulls him back and the referee doesn't count them I guess. Lesnar taps as Kurt Mir keeps the belt. Post match Vince tries to attack Kurt with a chair and in an odd looking bit Vince misses but falls on his back. Angle slam through the chair looks completely sick.

**Rating:** A-. This was a GREAT match. It was two machines working very hard out there and with the right amount of time they were able to make this something special. Brock would get the title back in a few weeks after an iron man match on Smackdown. This was a very good match all around with Angle having to go to lengths he rarely had to in order to keep the

title. Very good match and you should watch it.

We get an ad for Shawn's first DVD which is also available on VHS. That just sounds odd.

Goldberg is getting ready with iPod headphones in. That makes me chuckle.

I think it's Vince's birthday if I'm reading the commentator's hints right.

We see the first diva search winner, Jamie. She never got a contract which is why you've never heard of her. She's cute.

Recap of RVD and Kane. This came about because Kane had to unmask in a very creepy moment and he blamed RVD for it for no apparent reason. Since then he's just been a violent big red monster. Van Dam tries to fight him off but Kane just keeps destroying him, leading to Van Dam being tortured.

### RVD vs. Kane

Just before the match starts, Fink announces that it's been made no holds barred. At the time Kane was wearing the singlet top with pants and no mask, so he looks like a freaking moron. Anyway, Van Dam comes out and Kane of course kicks his head in for the most part. The opening half is just about all Kane but Van Dam is able to get some random punches and kicks in, but of course since he's a main event guy, they work better. I've always wondered that.

Why do jobber punches mean nothing while a single right hand from say Austin can stop a guy dead in his tracks? Is it the punch that makes a guy great or is it the guy that makes the punch great? We get weapons brought into the equation and now Van Dam at least has a fighting chance. I wouldn't call this filler, but it's certainly not a major match, at least not in my eyes, as it's sandwiched between the two title matches.

It's odd to think that RVD has been world champion for far

longer than Kane was, twenty two times for that matter. Kane comes off the top with the diving clothesline but misses and hits the barrier which is awesome looking.

This is back when Kane was really quite good in the ring still, but for no reason at all they wouldn't give Kane the belt in 2002 when he was at his hottest since his debut. Van Dam gets in his usual offense but it was fairly obvious that Kane was getting the win here. RVD goes for the Van Terminator but Kane moves. This leads to the tombstone on the stairs to end it.

**Rating:** C-. You have a former tag team, no rules, and a violent guy. That should be a solid match wouldn't you think, especially with two of the bigger names around. This just fell flat to me. It's ok, but it wasn't something I wanted to really watch. Some people would probably say it was good and I likely wouldn't argue with them, but I just couldn't get into it. I think the placing on the card was bad for this.

In the back Eric is getting iced and Terri asks how he's feeling. He asks if she's stupid. This came off as really funny to me when it likely wasn't that great, but I really liked it. Linda comes in and Eric gets all nervous. She slaps him.

HHH is looking at his title belt. I've always wondered if it talks back to him. Flair gives him a pep talk.

The Chamber is lowered.

We get a recap of the first chamber match, including HHH's legit throat injury. The problem is that we're never told why these 6 are in this match. We instead get a music video set to St. Anger. From the best I can tell, HHH and Shawn have been kind of feuding, Nash and Jericho I know were feuding, Orton is there because he's in Evolution, and Goldberg is the next big feud for HHH and his current feud. This is all what I remember and infer from the video.

## Raw World Title: Kevin Nash vs. Jericho vs. HHH vs. Shawn Michaels vs. Orton vs. Goldberg

In case you don't know the rules, you start with six guys, four in the individual pods and two in the ring. After a set amount of time, one of the four are released. It's pinfall or submission, last man standing wins. Orton is out first, so he'll be in the pod, as will the next three. I'm 21 years old. That's how old Orton is here. That's absolutely scary. Nash, out second, got his hair cut by Jericho on Monday, which in reality was for a movie he was in.

Third is HHH, who I would say needs no introduction but he's getting one anyway. Flair isn't with him. Correction yes he is, but just very far behind. HHH was coming off a torn groin at the time so he's rocking some shorts, kind of like Lashley wears but a bit longer. Think of Cena's but tights. Goldberg is out fourth so Jericho and HBK will be starting. WWE of course had to change his music, which is dumb because his music was awesome.

The chants have already started. Him walking through the pyro was always cool. JR says that describing Goldberg as intense is like describing the universe as fairly large. Listen here fat boy, I use analogies, not you, UNDERSTAND? Goldberg is also wearing the shorts now and he also looks stupid. I guess it was to avoid looking too much like Austin, which makes sense as he was a pure rip off of him already. The fans are WAY into him.

Orton is just a kid here and he looks almost scared to death. Jericho is next, making Shawn last. HBK is the grizzled veteran here who once again is going for one more shot at the title which would be his storyline going into Mania. The Chamber really does look awesome. There's the bell and we're finally ready to go. Jericho and Shawn had the classic at WM 19 so this is going to be good. JR says a coin toss determined who starts. How can you have a six way coin toss?

JR says that HBK dominated the late 80s and early 90s. Am I thinking of a different HBK? The fans are chanting Goldberg so I'm not sure what promotion I'm watching. The announcers do a good job of playing up HBK vs. Jericho as JR talks about the history of the world title changing in Arizona. Dude, you're either preparing WAY too much or you're the most bored man in the history of the world. Wait, that's not right anyway.

That was the original world title, not this one. This belt has only been around about a year at this point, so no it hasn't changed in Arizona. Are you starting to see why I can't stand JR? This is probably my favorite period in Jericho's career. It's a shame he was turned face soon and feuded with that waste of air Christian. Orton is in third so it's 2-1 in favor of the heels. I wish he did that cross body more. It's awesome and always has been.

We get the WOO for Jericho's chops, which is interesting as Flair is at ringside. I wonder if he considers that a compliment. I'd have to think that he would. Ross is really getting annoying with his repetition of things. Ross calls for Orton to break free of HHH and work for himself. Give it about a year or so there Jimmy boy. They finally go outside the ring and hit the cage a bit and the match instantly gets more interesting.

Shawn goes for...something and Jericho catches him with the Walls. It looked bad as more or less Shawn jumped perfectly for the Walls. Nash is in now as they try as hard as they can to make him sound like a credible threat. Well, he's been in there 15 seconds and he's not hurt yet so he can consider tonight a victory of sorts I guess. He has short blond hair here, so he looks completely stupid.

He's the jobber here as no one, and I mean no one thought he was a legit challenger, despite being the only guy here to actually have beaten Goldberg. Jericho is busted. Nash and HHH had easily the worst Cell match ever earlier this year, ending

any credibility that he had left. Apparently Shawn is really close to a lot of people. It's a shame none of them are named Becca.

Shawn super kicks Nash leading to a Jericho rollup to get rid of him, just furthering the theory that he's a jobber. HHH is next and in a cool spot he steps through the door and HBK kicks him in the face. HHH falls back into the pod, out cold. Nash, desperate to get injured so he gets more time off with pay I guess, jackknifes Jericho and Orton before leaving. It's a shame that he couldn't stay healthy as he's certainly a decent worker, especially when he's talking.

He gets a solid pop when he throws his hand in the air, so if nothing else the people still liked him. HHH looks like he's taking a nap. Shawn is bleeding now too, so at least we're getting some solid violence in this one. This match isn't very good. It's about half the length of the original if even that and it's just not interesting. All anyone wanted to see was Goldberg and HHH, yet for no good reason, we got this. It's a novelty and nothing more, and in this case it's hurting things.

Back in 2002, it was great because it was new and flashy. It's been a letdown since then and this match is a great example of that. I think a big part of last year being a success also was Shawn's big moment, which really was cool when you think about it. I'm actually pretty bored right now watching this. I think it's the lack of drama. Everyone knew that it was coming down to Goldberg and HHH, so why have the other four?

There are a bunch of combinations you could put those guys in, so why have the Chamber other than to bump up buyrates? Goldberg and HHH had the one on one showdown the next month, so it's not like it was never going to happen. It makes little sense to me and it's really hurting things because we have to wait 20 minutes before Goldberg is there and another 10 before he and HHH get into it.



What's the point? Most of the rant is over but I reserve the right to come back to it later on which I likely am going to do. Yeah this is another reason it sucks. Right now and for the last 45 seconds or so, EVERYONE IS DOWN. Literally, we're watching them lay there and try to get up. Dude I can go to my aunt's house and watch people lay around and do nothing if that's what I'm looking for. Why would you have a match based on a lot of action and then do nothing with it?

Who do you think you are, TNA? Of course since we get a fistfight, JR says it's like Saturday night in some obscure Oklahoma town. Is there really nothing better to do in Oklahoma than get in bar fights and choke in big football games? Oh yeah apparently you can overeat and become the world's most annoying announcer who does nothing but shout and be a big country boy.

I get that JR is a great announcer and he's had some masterful moments, but DANG he's just annoying most of the time. Some of the stuff that he says blows my mind with how annoying it is.

Man I want to just sit here and rant about him for the next few minutes but I guess that would be fairly boring, so instead I'll continue rambling like this. Oh Goldberg is in and the fans have a pulse again. Good for them. JR says he's hitting everything with a heartbeat. If that's so, why isn't he hitting the camera guys or himself?

Jericho and Shawn commit an ultimate sin and cause a sign of the apocalypse by teaming up to fight Goldberg. Orton gets the heck speared out of him to eliminate him and HHH has been down a LONG time now. Oh he's up. I guess that's this being a cowardly heel thing I've heard about so many times. I know it's hard to believe but yes, the WWE does make their heels cowardly from time to time.

In the first really good spot of the match, Goldberg spears Jericho through the Plexiglas. That just looked and sounded

awesome. Sweet Chin Music is ducked and Shawn gets speared. I don't have a Becca joke here. Jackhammer ends him. Just before that he points at HHH and JR says it's as if he's saying you're next to HHH. My oh my what a great phrase JR has coined. How does he EVER come up with these things?

Jericho gets the same combo platter so it's now one on one but HHH is still in his pod. There's no way to get him out, so Goldberg kicks and punches the door in. That's actually really stupid but it was all he could do. Anyway, HHH gets completely destroyed as you would expect. HHH starts coming back so at least this isn't a squash. The showdown lasts all of 3 minutes though as they go into the ring and Flair slips the hammer to HHH.

Goldberg goes for the spear but he gets a hammer into the head. After the match we get the Evolution beat down. JR says that it's felonious assault. You know what, that's so stupid I'm not even going to make fun of it. You Jim Ross, are annoying, plain and simple.

They handcuff him to the cage as JR is saying that they think Evolution doesn't want to see Goldberg around here anymore. Really JR? Did you figure that all by yourself? Did you manage to tie your own shoes together too? I guess Vince and Linda must like each other since they have kids. HHH poses with the belt as we go off the air.

**Rating:** D, For reasons already given, this match just sucks and it sucks badly. Actually that makes no sense because it means it's bad at being bad, making it good. Oh dang it I'm turning into JR. Where's my Texas shirt when I need it? Anyway, this match was horrible.

It was about two guys and they were together for all of 4 minutes out of 18 the match went for. Last year it was anyone's to win, even guys like Booker or RVD. This year, we knew it would be one of the two, so why should we care? Add

onto that the dead time and Nash and this was just really bad.

**Overall Rating:** D+. This was really quite bad. There's one very good match here with Brock and Kurt, but other than that everything is either bad or average at best. I liked the US Title match but for the way it was booked more than the match itself. This show is pretty bad, as was most of the WWE around this time.

Nothing of interest was going on and it wouldn't until the young blood stepped up and took over next year with Benoit's title reign and Edge coming back from his injury to fight Evolution. Batista would be back in about a month or so to complete the team, which was both good and bad but that's a rant for a later time. I wouldn't watch this again, but Brock and Kurt is definitely worth checking out. Other than that, stay away.

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