

Main Event – January 7, 2021: Legends Are Bad

Main Event

Date: January 7, 2021

Location: Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Florida

Commentators: Tom Phillips, Samoa Joe

It's a new year (yes it is) and unfortunately it seems that the experiment of trying something new around here has already come to an end. I'm surprised it took that long actually, as Main Event continues to be either near or at the very bottom of WWE's television ladder. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Akira Tozawa vs. Slapjack

Tozawa strikes away in the corner to start and snaps off a hurricanrana. There's a missile dropkick for two and it's back to the corner to stomp away even more. Slapjack catches him on top with a superplex though and a regular suplex gets two. It's time to work on the arm with a stomp and some cranking, followed by a neckbreaker for two more. Tozawa is back with another hurricanrana into a Shining Wizard. The top rope back elbow gets two on Slapjack but Mustafa Ali offers a distraction to break up the top rope backsplash. Slapjack hits the Snapback for the pin at 5:05.

Rating: C-. Pretty standard opening here and that's all it needed to be. I can always go for some Tozawa so seeing him on Main Event is better than nothing. It's not like they have anything else going on for him so put him out there and hope for the best. Retribution has built up a nice little winning streak, but it's not like these wins are going to mean much of

anything.

We look back at Kevin Owens vs. Roman Reigns in the cage.

From Smackdown.

Kevin Owens vs. Jey Uso

Owens unloads on him to start and stomps Uso down with no trouble. They head outside with Owens hitting a back splash on the floor, followed by another for two back inside. Back in and Owens starts in on Jey's recently injured leg, including crushing it on the rope. Uso gets in some right hands for a breather and a superkick puts Owens down on the floor. They head outside with Owens hitting his own superkick and throwing him over the announcers' table. We take a break and come back with Jey shoving Owens off the top. Jey has to bail out of the Superfly Splash though and Owens hits the Stunner for the pin at 7:25.

Rating: C. The post break stuff was rather short and the match was almost a squash. This should be setting up the next Reigns vs. Owens match at the Rumble and if so, they did a nice job of reheating Owens in a hurry. It wasn't a competitive match or even close to one of the most part, but that wasn't the kind of match they should have had here.

Post match the beatdown is on, with Owens telling Reigns to come help his family. Jey gets handcuffed to the top rope so the leg can be further destroyed. Owens finally gets tired of the beating and unhooks the cuffs, allowing Jey to stagger up the aisle. That just earns Jey another beating, including a superkick onto a table. Owens loads up something but here's Reigns to jump him from behind. Jey grabs a chair and the big beatdown is on, with Reigns unloading with said chair. Owens gets sent into various screens and then gets tossed off the stage through a table to finally end the beating.

We look at Randy Orton teasing lighting Alexa Bliss on fire.

From Raw.

Randy Orton vs. Jeff Hardy

Orton pokes him in the eye to start and takes it to the floor. That lets him drop Hardy onto the announcers' table a few times before going after the arm back inside. Hardy hits a clothesline but Orton knocks him out of the corner and hits the circle stomp. The chinlock goes on but Hardy neckbreakers his way to freedom. Orton rolls to the floor so Hardy hits a running clothesline off the apron to send us to a break.

Back with Orton grabbing the chinlock again but this time he puts his finger in Hardy's ear gauges to pull rather hard. With that let go, Orton drops the knee for two instead. We hit another chinlock before Orton just opts to hammer Hardy down again. Hardy fights up and this time hits a basement dropkick for his own two. There's the Whisper in the Wind for the same and Orton is sent to the floor for a dropkick through the ropes. The hanging DDT catches Hardy on the way back in though and the RKO finishes Hardy at 12:12.

Rating: C. I'm going to have to downgrade this one a bit as the ear gauge thing was hard to watch. Orton beating Hardy is going to keep him strong and it's not like Hardy is going to lose anything by taking a fall here. Hopefully there is something else from Orton with the legends later though, because this wasn't much in the way of being more evil and violent.

Ricochet vs. Drew Gulak

This should be good. Gulak is in long tights for a change and Ricochet takes him down by the leg to start. Ricochet's headlock doesn't work so they trade rollups for two. Now it's Gulak getting in a headlock of his own, followed by a sunset flip for two of his own. A slam into the ropes puts Ricochet down again and we take a break.

Back with Ricochet fighting out of a chinlock and sending him outside for the big flip dive. Ricochet has to bail out of a top rope dive so Gulak pulls him into a half crab. That sends Ricochet over to the ropes but the Kick Back is countered into another half crab. Gulak switches that into the STF but Ricochet is out again. Now the Recoil can finish at 10:44.

Rating: C+. Gulak is in the same league as Tozawa, as he can get a little something out of every match he gets to have. It's nice to see him getting a little more time, but thankfully he gets some slightly higher spots than Tozawa. They're both talented guys, but Gulak is just a hair ahead of him and that was on display here.

From Raw.

Raw World Title: Drew McIntyre vs. Keith Lee

Lee is challenging and walks through the legends (including Booker T. and Jeff Jarrett) to get here. They shove each other around to start and run the ropes, with Lee not quite getting high enough on a leapfrog. He's fast enough to drop down as Drew comes back though (that was a smooth save) and then forearm him out to the floor. Lee follows him out and hits the big Pounce to knock Drew over the barricade.

Back from a break with Lee driving in elbows and shoulders in the corner to keep Drew in trouble. Lee slams him down to stay on the bad ribs for two and McIntyre's belly to belly attempts are blocked. McIntyre finally sends him into the corner though and NOW the belly to belly connects (for some Legends applause). A neckbreaker sets up McIntyre's nip up but Lee plants him with a spinebuster.

They head outside again with Drew managing a powerbomb off the apron, with Lee's back hitting the edge of the announcers' table as he crashes through to take us to a break. Back with the two of them going up top, with Lee hitting a freaking Spanish Fly for two, because he can just do something like

that. The Spirit Bomb is countered though and the Claymore retains the title at 21:13.

Rating: B+. This was the kind of hoss/how are they doing that kind of match and if you ignore the times where they nearly killed/horribly injured each other, it was a heck of a fight. I'm a bit surprised by the ending, but Lee got a lot out of this and looked like a threat. If they can follow up on that, it might go somewhere for him, but that hasn't quite been the case yet. Heck of a match here though.

Post match McIntyre grabs the mic but here's Goldberg to interrupt. Goldberg says McIntyre has a lot of things going for him, except for respect. McIntyre doesn't respect those legends so that's where Goldberg steps in. He isn't demanding anything like a match at the Royal Rumble, but Drew seems interested.

They go head to head and Goldberg shoves him down...as we cut to Straight Up Steve Austin because we're out of time. On a show that is THREE HOURS LONG, they manage to go over (for the second time in three weeks). That takes talent. Not as much talent as making up a character trait for McIntyre, but still talent.

This was horribly dumb, as McIntyre spent the entire summer defending the legends from Orton but now, because they need a story for the Rumble, he disrespects them? That's not how writing a story works, but I don't think WWE quite understands it that way. I did see a theory that said it was the script they had for Goldberg confronting Reigns and just changed the opponents. It's just a fan theory but...would you put it past them?

Overall Rating: C+. It's amazing how much easier Monday's show was to watch when you drop most of the legends stuff. The show just wasn't very good but going with the highlights worked out well enough. Throw in some Roman Reigns from Smackdown and you

have a rather nice hour of programming. Now let's wait until next week to see how much they change things again.

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