

Monday Night Raw – October 30, 2006: The Calm Before The Cyber

Monday Night Raw

Date: October 30, 2006

Location: Mark of the Quad, Moline, Illinois

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's the go home show for Cyber Sunday and that puts this show in a weird spot. There are some matches set, but there are also some matches which will not be set up until Sunday. I'm not sure how that is going to go, but it is going to make for a bit of a strange final push towards the pay per view. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here are Edge and Randy Orton in the ring for the Cutting Edge to get things going. After mentioning that it is his birthday, Edge throws us to a clip of Orton beating HHH last week. That was a great moment but it is going to get even better on Sunday when they beat DX in a tag match. The match will feature a special referee so here are all three options: Eric Bischoff, Jonathan Coachman and Vince McMahon.

We get some sales pitches from each, with Bischoff saying that Controversy Creates Cash, which will be proven in his book, which will be released this week. Bischoff talks about the controversies he has created over the years and promises to show us what controversy is on Sunday. Coach talks about the lack of respect he has seen and doesn't have much to say. Vince wraps it up by saying that we need a guest referee tonight, and since Shawn Michaels isn't here, we'll have Orton

vs. HHH with Edge as guest referee.

With that out of the way, Vince needs to be worried about the possibility that we will have no WWE Champion next week. Coach thought John Cena should have the night off tonight, but Vince thinks Cena should be in action. But who should he face? We'll have the fans decide with a text poll, with the options of Big Show, King Booker or Coach himself. Coach's gulp seems rather pronounced.

Back from a break with another voting explanation.

Johnny Nitro vs. Carlito vs. Shelton Benjamin

Melina is here with Nitro. These are Jeff Hardy's three potential challengers for the Intercontinental Title so champion Jeff Hardy comes out to watch. Carlito gets double teamed to start and then tossed outside, leaving Nitro to spin around Benjamin into a Russian legsweep for two. Carlito is back in to hammer on Nitro but Shelton springboards in with a bulldog to put Carlito down. Nitro dropkicks Shelton out of the corner, only to have Carlito throw him outside and hit a Backstabber to finish Shelton in a hurry.

John Cena isn't worried about Cyber Sunday, but he is worried about Kevin Federline's album coming out, because it's the bomb. As in the kind of thing that we should drop on our enemies to get them to surrender. Cena asks Todd Grisham who he is voting for on Sunday but Grisham says he hasn't voted. He saw Todd texting someone, which Todd says was his girlfriend. Cena: "YOU LIKE DUDES!"

Cena yells at Todd, demanding to know that he say who he voted for. Grisham: "I VOTED FOR KING BOOKER AND I HOPE HE BEATS YOU TONIGHT!!!" Now that's all Cena wants, and now he is going to walk down that aisle like he is Frankenstein on PCP because you are looking down the barrel of a gun. Those are some very different metaphors.

Torrie Wilson comes up to Carlito in the back and they awkwardly agree to go out after the show.

Women's Title Tournament Semifinals: Maria vs. Lita

Mickie James is on commentary and Lawler says that Lita is rated E for Everyone. They trade small packages to start, followed by Lita stomping away in the corner. Maria hits a bulldog out of the corner into a Bronco Buster (Maria knows Lawler likes that) but Lita rakes the eyes. A DDT finishes Maria off in a hurry.

Lita points at Maria after the match.

The Marine is still a thing.

Randy Orton vs. HHH

Edge is guest referee. Before the match, HHH asks if you're ready....and then Pedigrees Edge. HHH: "I guess he wasn't ready!" Back from a break with a regular referee and Orton has to bail from an early Pedigree attempt. HHH sends him over the announcers' table but Orton hammers away back inside. A chop block cuts Orton down (remember he tweaked his knee two weeks ago) but it's too early for the Figure Four, with HHH kicking him into the post. The backbreaker sets up the Orton Stomp and we hit the chinlock. HHH fights up and hits the facebuster but here's Edge for the spear and DQ.

Rating: C. The ending made sense as there was no reason for a single Pedigree to keep Edge out that long. If nothing else, I'm glad they got in and out a lot faster this time as we have seen the match twice in the last two weeks before this one. It isn't like the matches have been great in the first place so keeping it short here was nice.

Post match the beatdown is on, including some chair shots. An RK0 onto the chair is broken up and Edge hits the spear...which sends HHH outside to find the sledgehammer and clean house. So

HHH just had a match with a former World Champion, got beaten down by two World Champions with chairs, and then shrugged off a finisher to clean house on his own with the sledgehammer? And I'm supposed to pay to see the pay per view tag match?

Eugene/Jim Duggan vs. Umaga

Eugene is terrified after last week so it's Duggan slugging away to start. That's broken up it's a middle rope headbutt into the Samoa Spike to finish Duggan in a hurry while Eugene hides at ringside.

Coach tells Eric Bischoff that he is going to beat down the next person to walk through that door. It's Ron Simmons, so Coach runs off before the catchphrase.

Ric Flair is ready to win the Tag Team Titles on Sunday and you can pick his partner. The options are Sgt. Slaughter, Roddy Piper and Dusty Rhodes. Each one gets to give their reasons and each one is rather fired up about the possibility. Slaughter says he orders us to vote for him, Piper says he refuses to lose and Dusty says it is about respect.

Cryme Tyme is interviewed....and steal the monitor.

Cryme Tyme vs. Viscera/Charlie Haas

JTG slugs away on Haas to start but charges into an elbow in the corner. A butterfly suplex drops JTG again and Viscera drops a legdrop for two. The bearhug keeps JTG in trouble but a missed charge in the corner allows the hot tag to Shad. Everything breaks down as Shad cleans house and Viscera's accidental distraction lets the G9 connect for the pin on Haas. JR: "It was just a misdemeanor!"

Rating: D+. I don't remember Cryme Tyme being this good in the ring, though it isn't that surprising given that they were both OVW guys. This was another nice win for them and even though it might be some time before they go anywhere, it is

great to see a team being regularly featured so they can be built up a bit. Why that is so complicated is beyond me, as it has worked for a few weeks now.

Cryme Tyme celebrates and steal Lawler's watch for a bonus.

HHH doesn't care who the guest referee is because you saw how he deals with them. No matter how big Edge and Orton bring it, he'll bring it bigger. Right.

Coach can't decide who to vote for when Booker and Show come in and argue over who should fight Cena tonight. They agree it should be Coach, much to his chagrin.

John Cena vs. ???

Non-title and all three options are here. Coach wins (with 74% of the vote) but the other two stick around. Cena chases Coach to cut off his escape attempt but Booker and Show beat him down. Back in and Coach gets two, setting up some choking. Cena shrugs off the chokes and initiates the finishing sequence for the fast pin.

JR and Lawler remind us to vote to end the show.

Overall Rating: D+. Not much of a show this week with some mostly bad matches and a lot of stuff that felt like a rushed build for Sunday. The other problem is this show being centered around a preview of the voting deal, which wasn't exactly thrilling stuff. The pay per view should be fine, but it's not like this was anything inspiring. It wasn't the worst show, but Cyber Sunday isn't quite inspiring at the moment.

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