

Main Event – May 20, 2021: The Revolving Door Is Open

Main Event

Date: May 20, 2021

Location: Yuengling Center, Tampa, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Kevin Patrick

I'm glad to get to say this but I have almost no idea what to expect from Main Event these days. They have had a feud (with a VIGNETTE) from Ricochet and Mustafa Ali, plus a few returns in recent weeks. It's almost like they realized they had another show that they could use for a variety of things and are actually doing it for a change. Let's get to it.

[Here is Wrestlemania Backlash if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Mandy Rose/Dana Brooke vs. Lana/Naomi

Patrick calls Mandy and Dana one of the fastest rising teams in the women's division. The team has won three matches ever, with their most recent one taking place in March. Around here though, that could make them #1 contenders. If nothing else, Naomi's Glow entrance continues to be insane. Lana and Dana start with some tumbling to little avail. Now commentary would have you believe that this is a completely different Lana than the one we saw a year ago.

As you try to get your head around that one, Naomi comes in for a chinlock but gets taken into the corner for the tag off to Mandy. A flapjack gets two on Naomi and it's a pair of basement kicks to the face for two. Mandy waistlocks her back down and we hit the bodyscissors. Naomi powers up and hits a jawbreaker, allowing the tag back to Lana.

Mandy slams her down in a hurry and nails a running knee, allowing Brooke to hit a running Blockbuster for two. Everything breaks down and Naomi kicks Mandy outside, with Dana throwing her over the top (and onto Mandy for a bit of a scary crash. The distraction lets Lana get two off a rollup but it's back to Naomi for the double X Factor and the pin at 6:01. That is still one of the lamest finishers going today.

Rating: C-. This was a completely watchable match and what these teams needed to be doing for months. They don't need to be thrown out there on Raw in front of the biggest audience, but rather given the chance to figure out the timing and get more experience. WWE doesn't work that way and that is a big part of why their wrestlers are where they are these days. Oh and commentary really need to stop with acting like Mandy and Dana are some successes. They haven't won a match in over two months and have been Shayna and Nia's victims for longer than that. Stop acting like that is impressive.

From Smackdown.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Nia Jax/Shayna Baszler vs. Tamina/Natalya

Jax and Baszler are defending and have Reginald in their corner. Jax hammers on Tamina to start so it's off to Baszler, who gets headbutted across the ring. A catapult into the Samoan drop plants Tamina but Reginald's distraction means no count. That's enough for the ejection, allowing Nia to Samoan drop Tamina into the barricade. Back from a break with Tamina down and Jax ramming Natalya head first into the mat.

The running hip attack in the corner crushes Natalya again but she avoids a charge, allowing the hot tag to Tamina. House is cleaned in a hurry until Shayna twists Tamina's ankle around. Tamina shoves Jax off the ropes and Natalya takes Baszler outside for a German suplex into the barricade. Back in and Jax hits Natalya with the Samoan drop...and then just lays

there so Tamina can hit the Superfly Splash for the pin and the titles at 9:28.

Rating: C-. That ending was rather awful and Nia could not have made it look much worse. The rest of the match worked about as well as expected as they have built up Tamina winning her first title. I'm not sure the reign is going to last long, but at least the champions are a fresh pairing for once.

Post match Natalya and Tamina talk about fighting for their dreams and never giving up. Pyro goes off as I'm not sure if this is as big of a deal as WWE thinks it is.

Video on Asuka vs. Charlotte vs. Rhea Ripley.

Eva Marie is ready to help people out with being awesome.

From Raw.

Charlotte vs. Asuka

Asuka starts fast with the hip attack against the ropes but Charlotte elbows her down. A legsweep sends Charlotte to the apron for another hip attack. Charlotte gets in her own legsweep...and here is Rhea Ripley as we take a break. Back (with Ripley watching at ringside) with Asuka fighting out of a chinlock but getting chopped back down.

A pinfall reversal sequence goes nowhere as Charlotte takes her down into a figure four necklock. Asuka tries to fight back but gets kicked in the face for two instead. Natural Selection and the Asuka Lock are blocked so Charlotte elbows her in the face for two. A super Spanish Fly misses and Asuka hits a missile dropkick for her own two.

Asuka pulls her into a kneebar and then a triangle choke, with Charlotte reversing into a Boston crab. That's broken up and Asuka pulls her into the Asuka Lock. Charlotte makes it to the rope for the break and they head outside, with Charlotte getting distracted by Ripley. Back in and Asuka rolls her up

for two, allowing Charlotte to go for the Figure Four, which is countered into a small package to give Asuka the pin at 16:40.

Rating: B. That is probably Charlotte's best match since the return as they were working out there. It's nice to see Asuka getting a win, though it felt more like Charlotte lost than Asuka beating her. This is going to set up Charlotte vs. Ripley for the title somehow, as that is the match they have been wanting to do since last year's Wrestlemania, hopefully with Ripley getting her win back. For now though, very good TV match.

From Smackdown.

Aleister Black talks about how his father taught him about the cruelties of life, which takes us to Chapter Three: The Lesson. His father taught Black that he is a cruel man but he needed to fight through it. Black could teach us that, but we are spectators instead of participants.

Mansoor vs. Cedric Alexander

I hope Mansoor enjoyed that one Raw match. Cedric takes him to the mat without much trouble and smacks him in the back of the head for some messing. Back up and Mansoor cranks on the arm but Cedric slips out and yells again. Mansoor grinds away on a headlock but gets broken up, with Cedric shouting even more. This time Cedric takes him into the corner for a kick to the face, which earns himself a dropkick from Mansoor.

A tornado DDT is countered though and Mansoor gets dropped across the top rope. Mansoor gets Rock Bottomed onto the apron and Cedric screams his own name as we take a break. Back with Cedric still being rather cocky and driving a shoulder into the back in the corner. Cedric kicks him down again as the total dominance continues.

We hit the waistlock to stay on Mansoor's ribs, followed by a

tilt-a-whirl backbreaker to make it even worse. The fireman's carry gutbuster gets two and the waistlock goes on again. Mansoor finally gets up for some shots to the face and a middle rope bulldog drops Cedric. There's a tornado DDT for two but Cedric rolls away from the moonsault. The Lumbar Check is broken up though and the slingshot neckbreaker finishes Cedric at 12:59.

Rating: C+. This was a perfectly watchable match with the rib injury making you want to believe in Mansoor's comeback. Cedric was playing a good heel here, because Cedric is rather good at everything he does in the ring. Mansoor is perfectly fine as well and I have no idea why the Raw plug was pulled so fast. I would say maybe it can get better, but I'm not that naive about Raw these days.

We look at Bobby Lashley retaining the WWE Title at Backlash.

From Raw.

A group of women escort Bobby Lashley into the arena, where MVP handles the introduction. After a look back at last night's triple threat match, MVP talks about Braun Strowman having broken ribs and Drew McIntyre not being able to get out of bed. On top of that, Lashley did all of that with a bad hand. Lashley has insisted on working tonight so the open challenge (erg) is on. Cue Drew McIntyre to say he accepts but MVP says McIntyre cut him off: the challenge was to anyone OTHER than McIntyre and Strowman. McIntyre knocks Lashley out to the floor, where MVP has to hold him back.

From Raw.

Bobby Lashley vs. Kofi Kingston

Non-title and Kofi jumps him at the bell, earning himself a spinebuster for two. Some knees to the head get Kofi out of a delayed suplex attempt, followed by three straight one footed dropkicks to the floor. There's the big dive over the top to

drop Lashley and we take a break. We come back with....a clip from earlier tonight, with Drew McIntyre answering the open challenge. Now that they have covered that it was not going to be a title match, we get back to the ring where Lashley knocks him into the corner and choked on the rope. Now the delayed vertical suplex connects for two and we hit the waistlock.

Kofi fights up and hits a DDT for two, setting up the Boom Drop. Lashley pops back up for a Downward Spiral but Woods offers a trombone concert. That's enough of a distraction for Kingston to hit a top rope DDT across the top, sending Lashley head first into the apron. Back in and the SOS is countered into the spinning Dominator. Lashley takes him outside for a posting so Woods yells a lot, earning himself an ejection. The distraction lets MVP load up the cane but here is Drew McIntyre to take it away and hit Lashley. Kingston grabs the rollup pin at 10:50.

Rating: C. I can always go for Kingston fighting his way through a match, even if the ending is likely to set up McIntyre vs. Lashley again rather than Kingston vs. Lashley II. To be fair, that isn't much of a pay per view match, but it is something fresh after months of Lashley vs. McIntyre. We'll probably get a Kofi title match on Raw, but I can't picture it going much further than that. Kofi getting the shot was certainly surprising and there were worse options, though it wasn't exactly exciting.

Overall Rating: C. It wasn't quite the show that you were getting from Ali vs. Ricochet but what matters here is the fact that they are trying some different stuff. You can only get so much out of the same six people having matches around here so mixing it up a bit has been a world of improvement. It still isn't a show you need to see most weeks, but it's better than a waste of time, which has been the case for years. Fine enough show here, though still not exactly must see.

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