

# Monday Night Raw – May 16, 1994: It Certainly Is Wrestling

## Monday Night Raw

Date: May 16, 1994

Location: Memorial Auditorium, Burlington, Vermont

Attendance: 2,500

Commentators: Randy Savage, Vince McMahon

Let's have some sumo wrestling. That's the big story this week as Earthquake and Yokozuna will have a sumo match with the ring ropes taken down. Why that is supposed to have my attention for an hour long show is beyond me, but maybe we can get another King of the Ring match to fill the time. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the sumo match, with both guys being big and good at sumo. Earthquake as a face still just feels wrong.

Opening sequence.

Commentary runs down the show but Vince seems to mistime things a bit and is left standing there for a bit before the camera cuts away.

King of the Ring Qualifying Match: Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Sparky Plugg

Bigelow has Luna Vachon with him and wastes no time in hammering away. Plugg ducks a dropkick though and dropkicks him to the floor as the racing jokes abound. Back in and Bigelow has had enough of this and runs him over again, setting up a headbutt for two. A charge into the corner hits Plugg's boot so Bigelow enziguris him down for two. The chinlock goes on, even though it seemed like they were wrapping up.

Bigelow cuts off a comeback with a knee to the ribs and drops another headbutt. Plugg avoids a charge though and grabs a bulldog into a DDT.

The high crossbody is good for two more on Bigelow as the fans are excited as you're going to see for a Plugg comeback. Luna grabs the foot though and it's a clothesline into the Swan Dive to give Bigelow the pin at 6:29.

**Rating:** D+. This didn't work very well and that shouldn't surprise you. The main point of the match was to get in as many racing jokes as possible. When those dried up, you were left with a pretty dull Plugg match and I think you can figure out how well that went. Cut off about two minutes here and it's a lot better.

Here's the King of the Ring Report. Todd Pettengill gives us a quick rundown of the tournament before moving on to Bret Hart vs. Diesel and Jerry Lawler vs. Roddy Piper. This time around, they have an address where you can send donations for the children's hospital that brought Piper out of retirement. We also get a quick look at who has qualified for the tournament so far.

#### Diesel vs. Mike Moraldo

Diesel's Intercontinental Title isn't on the line. Diesel knocks him down to start and sends Moraldo flying outside to make it worse. Back in and some kicks to the ribs set up the bearhug with Diesel just dropping him hard. There's a side slam to plant Moraldo again and Snake Eyes connects. Commentary talks about celebrities and Diesel picks him up (after a camera cut) for the Jackknife and the pin at 3:10.

**Rating:** D. What does it say that you had to cut something out of a completely one sided match that barely broke three minutes otherwise? Diesel was starting to get better but he didn't have the most thrilling squashes so far. Then again, maybe he just needs a long match with Bret Hart on pay per view.

A guy at a gas station saw the Undertaker.

It's time for the King's Court with Jerry Lawler saying that the fans would find their own picture if they looked up the word repulsive. Lawler moves on to Roddy Piper, who was drafted into the army when he turned 18. He didn't want to go

so he put on a dress and high heels. It didn't get him taken into the army, but it got him taken out by a doctor. After a break, here are this week's guests, with Ted DiBiase and Nikolai Volkoff of all people. DiBiase explains things in a hurry: Volkoff is broke, so now DiBiase owns him (there's a "you broken it, you bought it" joke in there somewhere). Volkoff: "I hate you."

Lawler says DiBiase looks like a million bucks but Volkoff looks like ten cents. DiBiase agrees, so we have some new gear for Volkoff. We'll start with some "Property Of The Million Dollar Man" trunks, followed by a tuxedo shirt, with Volkoff hating everything about this. McMahon talks about Volkoff being an Olympic weightlifter, "Just like Mark Henry today." DiBiase and Lawler laugh a lot to wrap this up. All this for Nikolai Volkoff in 1994? There was NO ONE else to do this?

### Owen Hart vs. Tony Roy

Vince ignores the match to talk about the Hall of Fame induction ceremony as Owen takes over to start. Owen knocks him down and drops a middle rope elbow to keep up the beating. A knee to the ribs cuts Roy down again as Savage reads copy about an upcoming USA movie. Owen gets in a gutwrench suplex and finishes with the Sharpshooter at 2:19.

Post match Owen rants about how much better he is than Bret Hart. Owen sends Roy outside and puts some Bret sunglasses on him. Isn't that just saving him money at the merch table?

Duke Droese is sleeping in a dumpster and is grateful for the wake up call. You have a guy in a dumpster and Nikolai Volkoff on the same show. How is this supposed to work?

The ropes are being taken down so Vince tells us to call somebody. I called a local beekeeper. He wasn't thrilled with me telling him about a 27 year old sumo match on Raw and then screamed a lot because the bees went nuts over the phone ringing. I'm visiting him in the hospital later.

## Yokozuna vs. Earthquake

It's a sumo match with the ropes gone. The first person to shove the other out of the ring wins. They take their time getting ready, tease the start a few times, and then stand back up. That goes so well that they do it again as we are now a few minutes into the stalling. They finally collide and grapple, with neither going anywhere. Yokozuna headbutts him and starts driving Earthquake back before they wind up back in the middle for some standing. Earthquake finally switches places, shoves him down, and wins at 6:03.

**Rating:** D. I get the idea here but egads they didn't exactly make this interesting. It's a case where it might be accurate, but it wasn't interesting. This almost has to be it for Earthquake and uh....what a great way to go out I guess. It's certainly an idea, but you're only going to get so far with this kind of an idea.

House show ads.

Recap/preview wrap us up.

**Overall Rating:** D-. This was pretty awful with nothing worth seeing on the whole thing. The sumo deal at the end wasn't so much bad as much as it was a big miss. The most interesting thing on this show was the mention of a weightlifter who wouldn't be in WWE for about two years. I think that sums up the whole night as well as anything else, as the horrible stretch continues.

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