

Monday Night Raw – May 23, 1994: Hit The Random Button On Trash Day

Monday Night Raw

Date: May 23, 1994

Location: Struthers Fieldhouse, Youngstown, Ohio

Attendance: 1,500

Commentators: Randy Savage, Vince McMahon

We're thankfully onto a fresh taping cycle so maybe things can get a little bit better. It's not like you can get much worse than what we've had in recent weeks so hopefully this is a step in the right direction. We are about a month away from the King of the Ring and that means more qualifying matches in the coming weeks. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of last week's sumo match with Earthquake defeating Yokozuna. As a result, Yokozuna and Crush destroyed Earthquake on the Wrestlemania Revenge Tour, writing him out of the promotion. It also writes him out of tonight's King of the Ring qualifying match, meaning Owen Hart needs a replacement.

Opening sequence.

King of the Ring Qualifying Match: Owen Hart vs. Doink The Clown

Doink has Dink with him. Owen jumps him to start but gets sent into the buckle for his efforts. That earns Doink a rake to the face paint and the belly to belly suplex makes it even worse. Doink fights back up and grabs a backdrop as Dink has to stand on the steps to see the match. With Owen sent

outside, Dink gets in to dance a bit as the pandering is on a roll.

We hit the stall button for a bit and the WE WANT BRET chants have Owen even more annoyed. Back in and Owen gets him into the corner for some right hands, only to be sent outside. This time Dink offers a distraction, allowing Doink to catch Owen with a clothesline. That's quite a heelish sequence for Doink but he was better when he was evil anyway. Owen finally gets smart by pulling Doink down by the leg and wrapping it around the post. We take a break and come back with Owen grabbing a chinlock to keep things slow.

Back up and Owen's always good looking belly to belly gets two and we hit the camel clutch (not a Boston crab Vince). Doink fights up and takes him down for a breather, meaning it's time for the comeback slugout. An overhead belly to belly gives Doink two for a change and a neckbreaker...gets no count as here is Jeff Jarrett to kidnap Dink. The distraction lets Owen grab a rollup for the pin at 12:33.

Rating: C. This was a decent match, as Owen kept getting frustrated by Doink and even needed some cheating to move on. I think they actually saw something in Doink, as Vince was trying to get "The Doinkster" over on commentary. Not exactly a classic, but Owen getting some time was always going to be worth a little something at worst.

It's time for the King of the Ring Report, with Todd Pettengill explaining the tournament. I know this stuff is basic, but you're going to have someone who doesn't know how it works and this could hook them in. We run down the brackets and the remaining qualifying matches (including Tatanka vs. Jimmy Del Ray!) before moving on to the rest of the card. This includes Diesel talking about how Bret Hart was up against a monster. To put it mildly, Diesel is really, really bad at talking here as it sounds like he's reciting lines and not very well at that.

The Headshrinkers are defending the Tag Team Titles against Yokozuna and Crush, plus Roddy Piper vs. Jerry Lawler because reasons. Roddy even stops training to talk about how he needs the fans to send money to the kids. Lawler called Piper Jurassic Park, but that's the biggest film of all time so he'll take that as a compliment. Piper couldn't be less interested in this match if it was his time in WCW.

We get a WWF Unbelievable (ad campaign) video, with a loudmouth saying he can beat everyone up and then being more and more damaged. Come see the WWF abuse people?

Duke Droese vs. Barry Horowitz

This is Droese's Raw debut and he shoves Barry around to start. There's a hiptoss into a slam as this is feeling squashish. Another hiptoss has Savage wondering if Droese can do anything besides be big, fast, strong and wrestle. Barry manages a shot to the face of his own and gets in a middle rope ax handle. Droese's arm is sent into the corner and the armbars goes on to make it worse. That's broken up and it's a spinebuster to plant Barry. A jumping elbow finishes for Droese at 2:57. Yeah, but he's still a wrestling garbageman. This wasn't going to work.

Here's what the Wrestlemania Revenge Tour looks like. Jonathan Taylor Thomas from Home Improvement gets a cameo because...well because 1994 isn't good. Also, we're about three months removed from Wrestlemania. How much revenge do you need?

IRS vs. Gary Sabaugh

Sabaugh is a bit better known as the Italian Stallion from the NWA. The eternally sweaty IRS sends him outside to start as commentary talks about politics. An elbow to the face drops Sabaugh back inside and we hit the chinlock. A legdrop sets up another chinlock as the IRWIN chants begin. Commentary talks about basketball as the hammerlock keeps Sabaugh in trouble. IRS hits a butterfly suplex to set up a third chinlock, which

shouldn't happen in a twenty minute match, let alone a Raw match like this one. Back up and a hot shot cuts Sabaugh off and the Write Off (running clothesline) finishes at 4:12.

Rating: D-. Yes it's a running clothesline and yes it's called the Write Off. It isn't like there is much else that you can expect from a wrestling tax agent, so just try to survive the match most weeks. IRS was pretty firmly hitting the extent of his usefulness at this point, meaning he was fine as a midcard heel. Just stop giving him so much time.

We look at Crush costing Lex Luger his King of the Ring qualifying match on Superstars. A brawl ensued.

It's time for the King's Court, with Jerry Lawler mocking Randy Savage, but even he isn't as bad as Roddy Piper. For now though, here is Lex Luger as this week's guest. The USA chants begin and WOW this place is small. It feels like a small high school gym and that's not what you think of for Raw. How could you think this feels like Raw? This place is full! Anyway, Lawler talks about Luger's bad luck at Wrestlemania, including his first Wrestlemania (where Luger won, as Lawler's history seems off).

After threatening Lawler, Luger talks about how Crush cost him his King of the Ring chances and promises to damage him. Lawler doesn't think Luger would say that to Crush's face so here is Crush in person. His arm is in a sling though, and no one seems to have heard about it. Crush claims Luger jumped him from behind because Luger knows he can't win face to face. He would totally take Luger out right now if he wasn't hurt so Luger takes the jacket off.

Lawler says Luger wouldn't hit an invalid, so Luger clotheslines Crush to the floor, revealing that the arm is fine. Luger was quite evil here, as he didn't know for sure that Crush was faking it. Then again the feud was thrown together because Mr. Perfect is gone so this is as good as

they could do on short notice.

Nikolai Volkoff vs. Matt Hardy

It feels like a randomly generated match on a Wrestling Legends game. Ted DiBiase is on commentary as Volkoff hammers away on the mat and then catches Hardy on top. Forearms to the chest and a knee to the ribs has Hardy down again. Hardy gets in a few shots to the face but a kick to the ribs cuts him off. The Boston crab finishes for Volkoff at 2:32. Volkoff feels so out of place here, and not just because he needs a haircut.

Next week: Bret Hart is on the King's Court, which has Lawler and Savage rather excited.

Overall Rating: D. They continue the awful path to the even worse King of the Ring and this is getting harder to watch. The wrestling isn't good and the character stuff is downright awful, with stuff like the garbageman, Volkoff in 1994 and Doink as a good guy all combining to make the shot terrible. I'm looking forward to wrapping this month up because it really is that bad these days.

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