

Smackdown – October 8, 2021: Tournaments Aren't That Awesome But They're Acceptable Enough

Smackdown

Date: October 8, 2021

Location: SAP Center, San Jose, California

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

We're done with the Draft, though we still have a few weeks before we switch over to the new roster. Until then we have Crown Jewel in less than two weeks, which is likely to get a lot of the focus tonight. Since it's WWE, we also have a contract signing to deal with tonight. Let's get to it.

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

We open with the contract signing, with Bianca Belair in the ring, Sasha Banks on the announcers' table and Becky Lynch at her own table in the aisle. Becky doesn't think much of Belair, who she beat in 26 seconds and Banks, who looks like a disco ball. Banks thinks Becky is jealous because she's a bigger star than the two of them.

Belair doesn't want to hear it and just wants to get the contract signed. Becky gets her attention so Banks runs in to jump Belair, meaning the brawl is on. That just lets Belair put them both in the KOD but she can't flip them over. Instead she puts Banks onto the table and puts Becky through Banks and the table. The contract wasn't signed in all of the melee. Of every contract signing, at least this one was short.

Rey Mysterio says being King of the Ring is the second best thing in WWE (after being Universal Champion), but it would

make him sick to see Sami Zayn as king.

King of the Ring Tournament First Round: Rey Mysterio vs. Sami Zayn

Before the match, Sami tells Dominik Mysterio that Dominik is better than his dad. Sami misses a Helluva Kick to start but Sami grabs a powerbomb for two instead as Cole talks about how important the tournament is. Rey is right back by sending Sami outside and the flipping hurricanrana takes him down again. There's the top rope splash for two on Zayn, who is right back with a shoulder first whip into the post.

We take a break and come back with Dominik at ringside as Sami suplexes Rey into the corner. The Helluva Kick is countered though and Rey gets two off Code Red. A springboard hurricanrana gets the same but the 619 misses. Another Blue Thunder Bomb gets another two on Rey so Sami goes to pull off the turnbuckle pad. Dominik goes to put it back but Rey is sent into him, allowing Sami to grab a rollup for the pin at 9:47.

Rating: C+. There was an energy here that I wasn't expecting as both guys were working hard to make this better. Rey hasn't moved that well in a good while and Zayn did his thing as well. Good match, while also advancing their story and the tournament. That's a rather nifty use of about ten minutes.

Here are the brackets:

Sami Zayn

Cesaro

Finn Balor

Kofi Kingston

Jinder Mahal

Xavier Woods

Ricochet

Hit Row is coming.

Commentary is excited about the changes from the changes from the Draft.

We look at Seth Rollins invading Edge's house last week and messing with his stuff as Edge freaked out.

Rollins doesn't know why everyone is freaking out about what he did last week. He managed to beat Edge in Madison Square Garden without any cheating and then he went to Edge's home as promised. That being said, Rolling still hasn't gotten an answer to his challenge so he's going to find someone who can make it happen.

Queen's Crown Tournament First Round: Zelina Vega vs. Toni Storm

First match in the history of the tournament. Storm goes with the power to start but Vega is back with the Thesz press and a bunch of right hands. The modified dragon sleeper has Vega in trouble but Storm fights up and cranks on the arm. There's a running hip attack in the corner to keep Vega down but she is back up to crotch Storm on top. Storm tries a backslide but gets reversed into a Code Red to give Vega the fast pin at 2:12.

Here are the brackets:

Zelina Vega

Liv Morgan

Carmella

Doudrop

Natalya

Dana Brooke

Shayna Baszler

We look back at Roman Reigns' rough night last week, with Reigns being the #1 overall pick but having to deal with Brock Lesnar as well. Lesnar then announced that he was a free agent, much to Reigns' annoyance as he believe Paul Heyman is behind it.

Here is the Bloodline for a chat. Reigns likes being acknowledged but he wants to get to the point: did Paul Heyman set up Lesnar's free agent status? Heyman goes into a nearly begging rant about how he has nothing but loyalty Reigns. He may have been accused of a lot of things over the years, but never of being stupid. Wouldn't it make more sense to stretch this out until Crown Jewel and set up Reigns' strategy and then tell Lesnar about it? Heyman talks about how Reigns will conquer the Conqueror at Crown Jewel, but Reigns wants Heyman to tell Lesnar himself.

That means Heyman has to look into the camera and tell Lesnar what is going to happen. Heyman, with some more seriousness in his voice, talks about how Lesnar conquered the Undertaker at Wrestlemania, but now he has met his match. Reigns will retain the title, and that is a spoiler. Heyman drops to his knees before Reigns, who seems pleased. This was more awesome stuff from the best thing going in wrestling today.

Seth Rollins comes in to see Adam Pearce and Sonya Deville because he wants to know if Edge is going to be here tonight. Either way, Rollins will be in the ring at the end of the show for an answer. If the two of them see Edge first though, he asks them to return this photo of Edge and Beth Phoenix from their house.

Queen's Crown Tournament First Round: Carmella vs. Liv Morgan

Carmella puts on her mask but Morgan takes her down and hammers away. The Code of Silence has Morgan in trouble so she grabs the mask to escape. An enziguri sets up Oblivion for two with Carmella putting her foot on the rope for the escape.

Back up and Carmella superkicks her down for the pin at 1:46. As much as I don't want to say it, I think it's time to give up on believing it's ever going to happen for Morgan. If you're losing to Carmella in less than two minutes, what kind of future do you have?

Mace says he isn't coming here to compete because that implies there is competition. All he sees is prey.

Here are Happy Corbin and Madcap Moss for Happy Talk. Before they can get too far, here is a ticked off Kevin Owens. Moss gets beaten up in the aisle and Owens goes inside to jump Corbin but the numbers game takes him down. Owens gets laid out again.

Naomi comes in to see the bosses and wants to know why she wasn't in the Queen's Crown Tournament but Sonya Deville cuts her off. Next week, Naomi is in the ring against...Sonya herself.

King of the Ring Tournament First Round: Cesaro vs. Finn Balor

Cesaro grabs a headscissors on the mat to start but Balor is right back up. That just earns him a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker to give Cesaro two and there's a hard whip into the corner. Balor manages a quick double stomp to the chest though and Cesaro is tossed over the top. The big dive is countered into Swiss Death to give Cesaro two and we take a break.

Back with Balor knocking Cesaro down again and stomping away. Cesaro manages to start the uppercut train but Balor Sling Blades him back down. The Coup de Grace is cut off though and Cesaro adds a headbutt on top. The superplex gives Cesaro a delayed two and a Crossface has Balor in more trouble. Balor rolls him up to escape and the Swing is countered into a cradle for two more. Cesaro misses a charge into the post and there's the big flip dive to the floor. Back in and the shotgun dropkick sets up the Coup de Grace for the pin on Cesaro at 9:43.

Rating: B-. I don't think it's any surprise that these two were going to have a good match. It helps that they got some time, just like Mysterio vs. Zayn. That's a bit better than the two women's matches tonight, which got about four minutes combined. It shows just how much of a difference that detail makes, but I don't think WWE cares that much these days.

We look back at the contract signing, which did not include any contracts being signed.

Becky Lynch goes on a rant about how she isn't respected around here but Sonya Deville says prove it by signing the contract. Becky signs to get us a third of the way to the match, though she throws the contract at Adam Pearce, hitting him low.

Here is Seth Rollins to call Edge out. Rollins says they can have any match Edge wants, anywhere they want. They can even have it Edge's living room with his wife and kids cheering him on. Rollins says Edge is disappointing everyone, from his fans to his family. He can't imagine how much this hurts Edge's daughters' hearts...and Edge arrives in the back (cutting it close with two minutes left in the show). Cue Edge to start the fight in a hurry and break the bar off of the chair. The Crossface is teased but Rollins elbows him to escape. Edge: "YOU! ME! HELL IN A CELL!" Rollins' jaw drops to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. I love a show that is quick and to the point and that's what we got here. They didn't bother trying to do anything more than hit the tournament stuff and advance or set up things for Crown Jewel. That's how you run an efficient show and it feels like to have a night that has such a focus. Good show here, though the women's matches left a good bit to be desired. Would it really hurt to give them five minutes each?

Results

Sami Zayn b. Rey Mysterio – Rollup

Zelina Vega b. Toni Storm – Code Red
Carmella b. Liv Morgan – Superkick
Finn Balor b. Cesaro – Coup de Grace

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