

# Elimination Chamber 2023 Preview

It's the last big stop on the Road To Wrestlemania and for a five match card, four of them are big and the fifth includes some Hall of Famers. This show is pretty much stacked with either big matches or the awesome sounding main event. While the show is called Elimination Chamber, the whole thing is about Roman Reigns defending the World Title against hometown boy Sami Zayn. Let's get to it.

## Edge/Beth Phoenix vs. Finn Balor/Rhea Ripley

Somehow this is the least important match on the show as Edge's war against the Judgment Day continues. In this case, he is bringing in the wife to go after Ripley, who is on her way to WrestleMania. This should be a good, long tag match as all four can do well in a spot like this one. That being said, it doesn't help that this feels like it is only there to set up something at Wrestlemania.

I'll take Judgment Day here, as Ripley pinning Phoenix would make her look like a bigger deal on what could be her path to the main event of the first night of Wrestlemania. That leaves Edge and Balor to have one more showdown, likely in a big match in Los Angeles. The match should be a good way to give us a breather between the bigger matches. The fact that this is probably the smallest on the card is quite a positive sign.

## US Title: Men's Elimination Chamber

So here we have the first Chamber match with Austin Theory defending the US Title. This match hasn't exactly had the best build but there is quite the varied set of challengers to come after Theory. While I'm not sure if Theory is going to lose the title, they are doing enough to make me think that the title could change hands so something is going right so far.

As for the winner....I'll go with Theory retaining, but there is more than one option. First off, Gargano and Ford just aren't going to win. As fun as it would be for Reed to win, he isn't going to either. That leaves Rollins (always an option), Priest (who needs a win) and Theory, who is likely going to be in a pretty upscale match at Wrestlemania. Theory wins here, and gets the solid boost that it was designed to give him.

### Women's Elimination Chamber

Now this one is a bit more interesting as we have two viable winners and the bigger of the two isn't anything close to a lock. With six total contenders for the Wrestlemania title shot though, we'll knock out Liv Morgan, Natalya and Carmella without much thought. Nikki Cross is a dark horse candidate as well but I just don't think they are going to go in that direction.

That leaves us with Asuka and Raquel Rodriguez and I think I'll go with the latter. Asuka has been hyped up as the next challenger and while that would be a good match, it doesn't feel all that interesting. WWE has seemed like they want to get invested in Rodriguez and I think they'll actually pull the trigger here and give her the chance. Asuka is a very strong possibility and I won't be surprised if she wins, but I'll go with Rodriguez.

### Brock Lesnar vs. Bobby Lashley

It's the trilogy match and somehow the winner gets Bray Wyatt after a pretty surprising challenge on Smackdown. This is the first time that Lesnar is the clear face vs. heel Lashley and it offers a unique twist on the match this time around. Lashley is in his suits again and that works well for him, though happy go lucky Lesnar is one of the most weirdly intriguing things I've seen in years.

I'll go with Lashley winning here, if nothing else as the idea of Lesnar vs. Wyatt is something I can't get my mind around.

We should be in for a good power brawl here though and that's the way a fight like this should be. The two of them can do pretty much everything to each other and that should make for a fun one. I'm still not sure what happens with Lesnar at Wrestlemania, but I don't think he'll be dealing with Wyatt.

### Undisputed WWE World Title: Roman Reigns(c) vs. Sami Zayn

We had to get here and dang it I don't want to. Not that the match won't be great and the reaction to Zayn alone even better, but I don't want Zayn's incredible run with Reigns to come to an end. I don't think there is much of a secret as to who walks out with the title, but the (somewhat) more interesting question is how WWE goes about having the match end.

Yeah of course Reigns retains here, though I could go with the idea of Zayn winning by DQ, just for the sake of him saving some face. Zayn getting speared down would be a hard thing to see but Reigns losing via DQ or countout wouldn't do him any damage. Granted it would hurt Cody Rhodes though, and that's not worth it. Word on the street is that the Usos might be able to be around and them costing Zayn the title could set up what seems to be a likely Wrestlemania Tag Team Title shot for Zayn and Kevin Owens. So Reigns retains and probably wins, but hopefully there are enough shenanigans for a screwy finish.

### Overall Thoughts

This show has me rather interested as there isn't a bad or uninteresting match on the entire card. WWE is cooking at the moment and if they can hold onto that for another six weeks, we could be in for a great Wrestlemania. For now, we could be in for a great Elimination Chamber on the Road To Wrestlemania though and I'll certainly take that. Just make this stuff work and don't do anything nutty and it should be an awesome night.

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