

Survivor Series 2023 Preview

I've always loved Survivor Series and but it is the show that has evolved more than any other Big Four pay per views. The days of the elimination tag matches are long gone but now things are more focused on the ideas of survival. We have a pair of WarGames matches this year, which should be more than enough to carry the show. Other than that, the show is looking decent enough so let's get to it.

Raw Women's Title: Rhea Ripley(c) vs. Zoey Stark

We'll start with what should be the easy one here as Ripley is by far the biggest star in women's wrestling and needs a victim. The good thing is that we're getting someone fresh in Stark, who only had her one shot in a five way, which barely means anything. This is a match we haven't seen before and it should make for a nice showdown, even if there might not be the most drama.

So of course Ripley retains here, as it could be a very, very long time before she loses the title. I'd be rather surprised if we don't get a Becky Lynch showdown at WrestleMania next year and that isn't going to be derailed by Stark winning here. Stark will definitely get in some offense, but this is going to be Ripley hitting Riptide and doing her dominant cover to retain and move on to something bigger.

Dragon Lee vs. Santos Escobar

This is an adjusted match as Lee is replacing Carlito, who was injured by Escobar on Smackdown. What has me interested here is that this could be part of a much bigger story, especially with Rey Mysterio out of action for the next good while. It's pretty clear that WWE sees a lot in Lee and it would make sense to push him in a spot like this one. That leaves some questions here though and that makes it a bit more interesting.

I'll take Escobar winning here, likely through some shenanigans. There are more than a few other people who have to be accounted for in this story and I'm expecting some of them to get involved here. If Escobar is supposed to be the new big bad, there is little reason to care about what he is going to be doing with Mysterio later on. Escobar wins here, albeit with some shenanigans.

Intercontinental Title: Gunther(c) vs. The Miz

Now this one could go either way and that makes for a good bit of fun. The thing is, now that Gunther has the record, there is a much greater chance that he could finally lose the title. Other than the total combined days record, which he would break some time in February, there isn't much else for Gunther to do with the title. Miz also has a nice track record of winning matches where he seems to have no chance and that would be the case again here.

Now that being said, as much as I believe there is a chance Miz could pull off the big upset here, I think I'll go with Gunther to retain. I could see the Imperium minions causing drama here, but Gunther deserves a better ending to his title reign than that. I'm not sure how that is going to happen, but I don't think it's going to be at the hands of Miz and what would probably be a fluke win.

Women's WarGames

We're getting to the meat of the matter here with one of the two matches that really matter and what will probably open the show. This is the latest band of thrown together heroes against Damage CTRL, though the villains are hardly all together either. Smackdown focused on the issues between Lynch and Charlotte, but that could very well be a red herring going into the big showdown.

I'll go with Lynch and company winning here, as Damage CTRL seems to be ready to fall apart, with a loss coming here

making sense. I could see Lynch and or Charlotte saving the other in a Sting/Nikita Koloff way (look it up) and Bayley taking the fall, earning her big trouble from the rest of the team. Having this at four on four helps a lot as it could shorten the match, which has been one of the biggest problems in WarGames past. But yeah, Damage CTRL loses here.

Men's WarGames

Here's the real main event as an even rag taggier band of good guys are getting together to fight Judgment Day/Drew McIntyre. On paper, this should be Judgment Day going over and causing a bunch of chaos on Raw, though any match where JD McDonagh is included means a chance of the good guys picking up a win. That's just one of the ways this could go though and that has me wondering.

I could see this going either way but I'll take Judgment Day/McIntyre winning here. At the end of the day, it makes more sense to have them win, perhaps even with a Money In The Bank tease as Seth Rollins will be right there. What matters here is keeping McIntyre strong though, as he is freshly turned heel and you don't want him to lose in his first big match on the new side. The villains win, after a war that goes on a good bit long.

Overall Thoughts

This is a show with a shorter card and in a way that makes sense. Save for LA Knight not being on the card, there isn't much missing from the show and we could be in for a good night. I'm liking the idea of the women's WarGames match going a bit shorter, as it should make for a better match. This show doesn't really have a marquee matchup but in a way that works, as it's more about the team showdowns anyway. Now just don't have WarGames be an overly long and bloated mess and everything will be fine.

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