

# Summerslam 2024 Preview

We're back to one of the biggest shows of the year and it's another stadium version, which should make things that much more interesting. The show has been well built up and we could be in for quite the night if things go as they have planned. We have six title matches and a major grudge match, the latter of which might be the most interesting thing on the show. Let's get to it.

## Smackdown Women's Title: Bayley(c) vs. Nia Jax

We'll start with what feels like the most obvious result, as Jax has been built up as the unstoppable force, while Bayley is the plucky champion who believes she can stop the monster. That's a nice way to believe but it doesn't feel like it is based in reality. Jax is being pushed as unbeatable right now and there is a good chance that it means we'll be seeing a title change here.

Naturally I'll go with Jax winning, as a mixture of WWE's weird obsession with her and the fact that her cousin helps run the place does not bode well for Bayley's chances. I could see Tiffany Stratton cashing in on Jax here, but it wouldn't shock me to see it shut down. Either way, Bayley gets annihilated and Jax gets to be the queen of everything, because that's just what we have to see happen.

## Intercontinental Title: Sami Zayn(c) vs. Bron Breaker

This is a rematch from last month at Money In The Bank where Zayn won in something of an upset. Now Breaker wants another shot on the bigger stage and has been wrecking people left and right on his way back to the title. In theory that should mean it is time for him to get the big win, but beating Zayn is one of those things that is often talked about but rarely happens.

I can't imagine they'll have Breaker lose at back to back pay

per views though so I'll say the title changes. Breakker is someone who feels like he could be one of the next big things around here and he is going to need a major win on the main roster do that. Beating Zayn in a major spot is a great way to go and there is no reason to believe that he loses again. Breakker wins here, as he should.

#### US Title: Logan Paul(c) vs. LA Knight

Here we have another weird situation as Paul is doing rather well in his role as champion but he doesn't really have anything else to do. He already got his shot at Cody Rhodes and came up short, so there is no reason to go back there again. At the same time, Knight almost desperately needs to win a title, because he is long past the point where he has lost too much. That makes for an interesting situation, and there is pretty much only one way out.

Knight pretty much has to win here so we'll go with that, even in Paul's hometown. Paul is someone who has already firmly established himself as a big deal while Knight has always been the one who comes up short. Give him the win here and let him move up a bit, which is long overdue. The reign doesn't even need to be long, but it needs to start at some point, which is what happens here as Knight wins.

#### Raw World Title: Damian Priest(c) vs. Gunther

Maybe I'm overthinking this, but the more I think about it, the more I think Priest might retain. The idea being Priest's reign is that he is in over his head and should lose the title but then he just keeps hanging onto it. That hasn't been a bad thing so far, though this isn't quite the same kind of match. Gunther is a different animal, but there is one more thing that gives me caution.

In a pick I'm sure is going to be wrong, I'll say Priest retains here, likely through Judgment Day shenanigans. For once that isn't something the champion wants, leading to a

rematch later this month in Berlin where Gunther gets the big win. You can screw Gunther over and turn him into more of a monster while Priest gets to further what should be a face turn and everything works. Or Gunther just smashes him and wins. I'll say Priest wins, but not with the most confidence.

### Raw Women's Title: Liv Morgan(c) vs. Rhea Ripley

Here we have one of the more interesting matches on the card as it is all about the soap opera side. The question remains centered around Dominik Mysterio's status, which seemed to shift in recent weeks. Now it seems that Mysterio and Ripley are fine and Morgan has been left out in the cold. That comes off as too simple to be true and we might see that this weekend.

I'm thinking that Mysterio officially turns on Ripley here to side with Morgan, allowing her to retain. At the same time it would not shock me to see Morgan drop Mysterio immediately because she just wanted to break him rather than wanting him for herself, but that would just be a bonus. While there is always the chance that Ripley crushes Morgan to get her title back, I'm thinking Morgan gets what she wants here while Ripley gets her heart broken instead.

### CM Punk vs. Drew McIntyre

This is the grudge match on the show and quite possibly the best thing on the entire card. These two cannot stand each other and have gone after the other for months but they have not been able to have an actual match. Hopefully everything goes well here on the health and safety side, because Punk's next injury very well may be the last one of his career. Assuming he can stay healthy, he can keep going from here, which brings up the result.

I'm going with McIntyre here, even with Seth Rollins as guest referee. Punk has gotten the better of McIntyre too many times now and McIntyre can only get so angry at Punk anymore.

McIntyre needs to win here, either with or without Rollins' help, as there is almost guaranteed to be a rematch of some sort. This should be a great start though, and it will be very nice to have Punk back in the ring.

### Smackdown World Title: Cody Rhodes(c) vs. Solo Sikoa

This match got a big boost on Smackdown as it is now under Bloodline Rules. That should help with making things a bit more suited to Sikoa, as I'm not sure how well he could have carried his half of a traditional main event. As has been the case elsewhere on the show, this doesn't so much feel like the big event but rather a piece of a much larger story, which is due to one person.

I'll take Rhodes to win here one way or another, as not only is it far too early for him to lose the belt, but it also could set up the return of Roman Reigns. Sikoa has hinted at Reigns' return, and if Sikoa loses, Reigns can throw the "losses have consequences" line right back in his face. That's the big step forward though, which is impressive when you consider that it's likely to be the main event of Summerslam. But yeah, Rhodes wins and Reigns is back sooner than later to go after Sikoa.

### Overall Thoughts

For a show that only has seven matches at the moment, they have done a great job of making the show feel packed. There is a little bit of everything here and if the big stuff goes well, we could be in for an outstanding show. That is the hard part, but at least they have done a good job of setting the stage for success.

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