

Crown Jewel 2024 Preview

I'm not sure how to act like I'm interested in this show as there just very much here that I want to see. The show's main matches are designed around titles that are going to be kept on display at the WWE Experience in Saudi Arabia while the Bloodline match seems to be more about getting us ready or Survivor Series. That doesn't leave much to get excited about but maybe I can talk my way there. Let's get to it.

Seth Rollins vs. Bronson Reed

This is all about Rollins getting revenge on Reed for attacking him a few months ago, resulting in Rollins being left out of action. They've been fighting since Rollins got back and this week saw Reed damage Rollins' ribs. That should make for a big fight, as Rollins is often good at coming back from big odds to win in the end. That is of course assuming it's the way they go.

I think I'll take Reed to win here, as he can go a long way with beating Rollins and getting the biggest victory of his career. On the other hand, a Rollins win really diminishes Reed, who is getting over as a monster. There is some potential to this one though and it's probably the match I'm looking forward to the most. They could do something good here and hopefully it sees Reed getting a heck of an upgrade.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Bianca Belair/Jade Cargill(c) vs. Piper Niven/Chelsea Green vs. Meta Four vs. Damage CTRL

I'm not sure how they managed to make it work but WWE has put together something resembling a women's tag division. It doesn't have a bunch of depth, but this feels like something better than what they've been doing in recent years. For now, I'll certainly take that, as we could be getting something going with these belts after trying to make it work forever.

As for a winner...I almost want to say Meta Four but I'll go with a pick I expect to be wrong and says Green/Niven. Damage CTRL feels like it's been done and Belair/Cargill can lose the titles without taking much damage as a result. Meta Four winning could give them quite the elevation, but Green has more than earned some kind of a reward after everything she's done so I'll take a wild shot with them.

US Title: LA Knight(c) vs. Andrade vs. Carmelo Hayes

This hasn't been the smoothest build as Knight has felt like a villain throughout most of it, but he's just kind of a jerk in general so it's not the biggest switch. Andrade and Hayes have been fighting for months so giving both of them a title shot works as well. That means the title could go in a number of ways, but as you might have guessed, I can't picture it going in more than one.

I'll go with Knight to retain here, as there is little reason to think he's only going to be the champion for about three months. Hayes and Andrade are both capable challengers, but this feels like a way for Knight to beat both of them at once and get to brag about it. That's the best way to go, as Knight should be holding the title for a lot longer. Just find something else for the other two to do from here though, as it's time to move on.

Randy Orton vs. Kevin Owens

This is a grudge match as Owens is mad about Orton and Cody Rhodes being willing to work with Roman Reigns after all the years of battling against him. It's kind of an interesting long form look at how some people aren't going to be forgiving after everything that has taken place. You don't get that kind of an idea very often but it's working well here, as it rather suits Owens.

This one shouldn't be that complicated as Owens is going to have to go after Rhodes at some point, so he'll need to beat

Orton on the way there. I'm not seeing any reason for Orton to win here, as Owens has a bigger story going on. You can easily reheat for his major match with Orton down the line. For now though, this needs to be Owens wrecking Orton, which he is certainly capable of doing.

Bloodline vs. Roman Reigns/Usos

At least Reigns and the Usos don't have some kind of special name yet. This is another match where it feels like we're just having to get through this on the way to the bigger story later on. The Usos and Reigns are back together and trying to fight off the new Bloodline, which is probably not going to go that well for them just yet. The big issue they're facing is probably the main point of the story coming up.

In case it's somehow unclear, this is going to be the Bloodline, who will likely win thanks to their numbers advantage. Reigns and the Usos are going to need a fourth and there shouldn't be much of a secret about who that's going to be. Until Sami Zayn can join them though, Reigns and the Usos are going to be in trouble and that will result in a loss here, likely thanks to Jacob Fatu (or whoever doesn't wrestle).

Women's Crown Jewel Title: Nia Jax vs. Liv Morgan

I can't believe they're actually going through this this, as it doesn't see that even Rhea Ripley being healthy wouldn't have shaken this up. The only good thing here is the tease of Tiffany Stratton cashing in the Money In The Bank briefcase as it opens up some actual stakes which could matter after this show is over. That isn't enough to make me want to see the match, but it does help things out a bit.

I'll take Jax to win here, as Morgan beating her (even as she has before) is more than a stretch. At the same time, I don't think Stratton will successfully cash in, as WWE likes to tease something like that so much. Ultimately though, Jax

continues her path of destruction as we continue to wait for someone to challenge her. Like Jade Cargill in a few months maybe.

Men's Crown Jewel Title: Gunther vs. Cody Rhodes

Odds are this headlines (it's this or the six man) and I'm still not able to get into it. This is the kind of match that should be headlining a big pay per view with some real stakes but, instead, it's the old Battle For Brand Supremacy style match and that's not something that has worked most of the time. It really isn't here, as both of them feel like they're just getting through this to move on to something else.

Give me Gunther to win here I guess, as Rhodes could have some kind of interference to cut him off (Owens springs to mind). The wrestling itself should be good, but it still feels rather dumb to have one of them lose for the sake of a ring (because they don't even take the belt with them). I really could go with a better reason for them to be fighting, but I'll go with Gunther collecting another piece of hardware with the win.

Overall Thoughts

The more I think about this show, the more I'm thinking it's just a show that we have to get through before we get on to Survivor Series. I get that it's all about making the Saudis happy and all that jazz, but dang could they come up with something a bit more interesting to make us sit through instead? For now, I'm sure the wrestling will be adequate at worst, but I'm looking forward to moving on to anything else.

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