

# Night Of Champions 2025 Preview

It's time for the latest Saudi Arabian offering with something that could be considered a theme show but is really just more of a big pay per view. The main event is John Cena defending the Smackdown World Title against CM Punk for the final time, plus the King and Queen Of The Ring finals. That should be more than enough to deliver a big time show so let's get to it.

## Sami Zayn vs. Karrion Kross

This one has been brewing for a good while now, albeit without Kross actually wrestling. The idea is that Kross wants Zayn to go all evil to finally get what he wants but Zayn is having none of it. Zayn has finally had enough of Kross and decked him, setting up the match earlier this week. That's more than a good enough setup, with Zayn being crazy over in Saudi Arabia as usual.

There is pretty much no reason for Zayn to lose here so we'll take him for the feel good moment. Zayn is pretty clearly getting ready to go after his first World Title and he shouldn't be losing to Kross on the way there. This is Zayn getting to beat someone who has been bothering him about not being what he wants to be and that is a story that can be relatable for everyone.

## Rhea Ripley vs. Raquel Rodriguez

This is the hoss fight on the show as it's two women who can use the power stuff and on top of that it's a street fight, allowing them to be even more violent. What matters here though is Ripley getting a win, as she has somehow gone fairly cold in the last few months. She's still a huge star and probably the most over woman in the company, but she hasn't

really felt like focal point lately.

I'll go with Ripley to win here, even if there is a good chance that Roxanne Perez will get involved on Rodriguez's behalf. That very well may be the long term solution to the Women's Tag Team Titles in Liv Morgan's absence but for now, Ripley getting built back up is the more important idea. She's been all over the place lately, even after being in the awesome Women's Title match at Wrestlemania. Ripley should win here, mainly because she needs to.

#### US Title: Jacob Fatu(c) vs. Solo Sikoa

As much as it feels like Fatu should be running through Sikoa here, I can't help but think Sikoa might need to steal the title here. At the end of the day, Fatu is already being treated as the unstoppable monster, but at some point he's going to have to lose the title. On the other hand you have Sikoa, who needs a big win to feel even remotely important. Having him steal the title, likely with JC Mateo (or even Jimmy Uso's) help isn't a bad idea.

But will they go that way? I'm not sure I can picture it, even though it seems like it might be a smart play at the moment. I'll reluctantly say Sikoa steals the title here, while calling it my pick most likely to be totally wrong. I could see it happening though, as I'm really not sure how many more losses Sikoa can handle in a big match. While I would be stunned if it actually happens, I'll take Sikoa to win here.

#### Queen Of The Ring: Asuka vs. Jade Cargill

So Asuka is back and already wrecking people, which shouldn't be a surprise as that is what she is known to do. That being said, there is a difference between normal people and Cargill, which could be quite the problem for Asuka's comeback. Cargill feels like a different kind of star around here though and that's going to be the big issue here.

I'll take Cargill, who feels all but destined to be the next big thing in WWE, whether she's ready to do it or not. Cargill vs. Tiffany Stratton sounds like a huge match at Summerslam and it would not surprise me a bit it set up here. Asuka putting Cargill over would be a big moment for Cargill's career and it isn't like Asuka is going to lose any status after walking Cargill through a match like this.

#### King Of The Ring: Randy Orton vs. Cody Rhodes

Orton is back in the finals against another major star and in this case...yeah he's probably in trouble again. At the end of the day, Orton is a top guy but Rhodes is still THE top guy. At some point Rhodes is going to get his hands on John Cena again and Summerslam sounds like a very strong possibility. That would mean another awesome match here, and that very well may be what we're getting.

So yeah, I'll go with Rhodes winning here, as it sets him back on track for the big rematch from Cena. The good thing is that this should be a heck of a match, as both guys are capable of delivering in the big moments. Rhodes makes more sense at the moment, as we've seen Orton vs. Cena earlier this year and it feels wrapped up. Cena vs. Rhodes doesn't though and that is where we should be going next.

#### Smackdown World Title: John Cena(c) vs. CM Punk

This is rather similar to the Randy Orton match at Backlash, with Cena getting to face one of his greatest rivals (if not his greatest rival) one more time. Punk vs. Cena is something that had to be done again and the stealing the other's signature promos was a nice way to make things feel interesting. Punk saying that Cena could never beat him at his best gives it some drama, but that's where we get to the ending.

As nice as it would be to have Punk be the one to end Cena's title reign, that isn't what makes sense here. The point of

Cena's run is that the clock is ticking and that isn't going to be solved with about six months to go before his final appearance. Odds are this ends with either some kind of interference or another belt shot, but Punk isn't going to be the one to take the title from Cena.

### Overall Thoughts

It really is amazing how much more complete the show feels by bumping it up to six matches. WWE has been needing to tighten their shows up a bit, with the ridiculously long gaps between the matches taking away a lot of their steam. They might not be able to do that with an additional match or two and I could go for the change. The card itself should be the usual quality work, but we're really just setting the stage for Summerslam in August.

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