

Summerslam Pre-Show Matches Collection: Getting Ready To Set The Table So We Can Get Started

Summerslam Pre-Show Matches

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As usual, the name speaks for itself and this should be fun. Summerslam is a big enough show and these matches were designed to get the fans going for the night. Some of these matches have been rather good over the years and seeing them all together could be rather interesting. Let's get to it.

From 2017.

Smackdown Tag Team Titles: New Day vs. Usos

New Day (Big E./Xavier Woods in this case) is defending. Before the match, Kofi Kingston talks about the history that New Day has in this city (Brooklyn), with Francesca being born here and their record setting title reign starting here as well. Woods works on Jimmy's arm to start and hits a discus forearm, followed by the chops in the corner. Uso manages to get in a kick to the face though and we take a break (edited out on the WWE Vault collection).

We come back with Jey grabbing a chinlock before throwing chops and some trash talk for a bonus. Woods knocks him off the top though and a middle rope dropkick connects for the needed breather. Jimmy breaks up the tag to Big E. though and something like a Death Valley Driver into the corner keeps Woods in trouble. Woods is sent outside to keep up the

beating, followed by something close to a top rope Demolition Decapitator for two.

The chinlock goes on until Woods fights out, allowing the needed tag off to Big E. That means the gyrating into the Warrior Splash but Jey is up with an enziguri. The Rock Bottom out of the corner gives Big E. two and he powerbombs Woods onto Jey for two. Woods actually electric chairs Big E. into a splash for two more but Jimmy is back in for a double spinebuster.

A Codebreaker/Backstabber combination out of the corner hits Jimmy for two and Woods is stunned at the kickout. Woods unloads with headbutts to Jimmy so Jey tags himself back in, only to get kneed out to the floor. Another shot knocks Woods outside, where a superkick cuts off Big E.'s dive. Back in and the Superfly Splash gets two on Woods but he's right back with a Downward Spiral. The Koji Clutch has Jey in trouble, with Big E. pulling the leg to keep Jimmy on the floor. Jey manages to stack Woods up for two so Woods is back up with a Shining Wizard for two more.

The Honor Roll is countered so Woods superkicks Jey down and tornado DDTs Jimmy on the floor. Back in and UpUpDownDown hits Jey for two, with Jimmy making a diving save. Everyone is spent but Jey manages to toss Woods over the top into a Samoan drop on the floor. Kingston goes to check on Woods and gets sent into the steps, only for Big E. to spear Jey through the ropes for the huge crash. Back in and the Usos do one of their blind tags and the Usos fire off the superkicks. The double Superfly Splash finishes Big E. to give the Usos the titles at 19:22.

Rating: B+. Shockingly enough, the Usos and the New Day have a good tag match. That's something that has become the norm and there is no shock in seeing it happen again. The Usos seem to get the better of them most of the time but New Day winning was far from out of the question. This easily could have been

on the pay per view, but as it is, this is in the running for the best Kickoff Show match ever.

From 1998.

Disciples Of Apocalypse vs. Vader/Bradshaw

Paul Ellering is here with the DOA and we have the still awesome opening gates entrance. Vader and Bradshaw argue a lot to start until Vader locks up with Skull. Some big rights and lefts rock Skull but he's back with a powerslam. Vader's running body splash drops Skull and it's off to Bradshaw, meaning we get another argument. Skull clotheslines his way out of trouble and they trade some big shots to the face. It's back to Vader, who is whipped into Bradshaw on the apron. Back up and Bradshaw decks Vader, who is rolled up for the pin at 2:57.

From 1992.

Bushwhackers/Jim Duggan vs. Nasty Boys/The Mountie

Jimmy Hart is here with the villains. We pause on the floor to start and the good guys pose a bunch, only to get jumped from behind. That doesn't last long as the comeback sends the villains to the floor and more posing ensues. Knobbs comes back in to hammer on Luke in the corner but everything breaks down again and some triple clotheslines send the Nastys to the floor.

The Mountie needs a hug from Hart and apparently it works well enough, as Sags clotheslines Butch. Luke trips Knobbs though and everything breaks down again. The Bushwhackers whip everyone in for a clothesline from Duggan but Knobbs ducks, only to get clotheslines by the Bushwhackers.

We take a break (as this aired on Prime Time Wrestling) and come back with Mountie holding Luke in a reverse chinlock. Knobbs even adds some cheating and the fans chant USA...as a

Canadian chinlocks a New Zealander. Luke gets taken into the corner for the double teaming but fights out and brings in Duggan to clean house. Everything breaks down and the Battering Ram hits Jacques. Duggan's three point clotheslines hits as well and Sags' top rope elbow misses, allowing Duggan to get the pin at 12:04.

Rating: B-. It wasn't a particularly good match, but it was exactly the kind of fun that you want in a match like this. Duggan and the Bushwhackers knew exactly how to do this kind of a match and the heels played it perfectly well. I had a good time with this and the fans liked it as well, so call it a pretty perfectly played match.

From 1996.

Steve Austin vs. Yokozuna

Austin strikes away from behind to start but can't get very far. Yokozuna hammers away and catches Austin in a Samoan drop. Rather than covering, Yokozuna loads up the Banzai Drop...but the rope breaks and Austin gets a rollup for the pin at 1:57. Hey did you know Yokozuna was huge? I wasn't sure if that was clear or not.

From 1992.

Papa Shango vs. El Matador

Shango jumps him from behind to start and sends Matador into the buckle. The running splash crushes Matador again but he fights back with a dropkick to send Shango outside. Back in and a top rope clothesline hits Shango and we hit the armbars. A running crossbody gives Matador two more and he grabs a sleeper. That's broken up with a ram into the corner and Shango drops an elbow, meaning it's time to...lay on the mat and look at Matador. The top rope elbow misses though and Matador fights back, with the flying forearm connecting for two. Back up and Shango hits the shoulderbreaker for the pin at 6:13.

Rating: C. Not much to this one, but Shango is going to get a little something out of beating a star like Matador. Even this late in his career, Matador was still able to work well with anyone in the ring and this went well enough. It's not exactly good, but for a short, house show style match, it was completely decent.

From 2003.

Cruiserweight Title: Rey Mysterio vs. Shannon Moore

Mysterio is defending. Moore flips out of a suplex to start and hiptosses Mysterio into the corner. Back up and Mysterio rolls out of a sunset flip and hits a basement dropkick. The springboard seated senton connects for Mysterio but Moore is back with a Whisper In The Wind. Mysterio shrugs that off and hits a 619 into the super hurricanrana for the pin at 2:04.

From 2009.

Battle Royal

Jillian Hall, Katie Lea Burchill, Alicia Fox, Beth Phoenix, Rosa Mendes, Natalya, Layla, Nikki Bella, Brie Bella, Eve Torres, Maria, Melina, Gail Kim, Kelly Kelly, Mickie James

James' Divas Title isn't on the line and Chavo Guerrero is guest referee. It's a typical battle royal start and Maria tosses Mendes. Hall eliminates Nikki but gets sent out as well. Maria is out and James gets rid of Burchill. James hurricanranas Fox out as as Brie was eliminated somewhere in there. Melina dumps Layla and we're down to six.

Melina kicks James and sends her to the apron, where a headscissors choke is broken up. They eliminate each other, leaving us with Phoenix, Natalya, Torres and Kelly. Natalya and Phoenix have a staredown until Kelly and Torres dump Natalya out. Phoenix can't toss both of them at once so they try to toss her, only for Guerrero to come in and dump Kelly

and Torres, giving Phoenix the win at 6:30.

Rating: D+. There's a reason the women's division was so desperately in need of a freshening up at this point, though we were still a few years away from that happening. They were trying to get better, but it was only going to get so far with matches like this being the featured point. It was the usual messy battle royal, and who wound up causing the ending? A man. See how that's a problem?

From 2002.

Spike Dudley vs. Stevie Richards

Spike strikes away to start and grabs a headscissors. They go to the floor, where Richards sends him into the steps to take over as commentary talks about how emotional of a day this is for the people on the card. Richards rolls some suplexes into a sitout gordbuster, followed by a superplex for two more. Spike hammers away but gets powerbombed out of the corner for another near fall. A charge into the corner misses though and Spike hits the Dudley Dog to retain at 2:27.

From 2013.

US Title: Dean Ambrose vs. Rob Van Dam

Ambrose is defending and this is during one of Van Dam's returns to the company. Feeling out process to start, with Ambrose's headlock not going anywhere. A running shoulder does a bit better though and Ambrose gets to mock the finger pointing (so you know it's serious). Ambrose grabs a hammerlock but gets hit in the face, allowing Van Dam to get in a headlock takeover.

Back up and Van Dam hammers away in the corner but Ambrose knocks him back down. The neck crank goes on and we have some dueling fan chants, despite the fans being rather pro-Van Dam to start. Van Dam fights up and kicks him down but misses the

split legged moonsault. Ambrose hammers away for two but the bulldog driver is countered as well. The step over kick to the face drops Ambrose and Van Dam goes up...but here is the rest of the Shield.

Cue Mark Henry and Big Show to even things out and we take a break. We come back with Van Dam down and Ambrose putting on a sleeper. Van Dam is sent outside so the other four can have their big staredown. Ambrose goes outside and gets suplexed, setting up the spinning kick to the back. Reigns grabs the leg to break up Rolling Thunder, allowing Ambrose to hit a spinebuster. Ambrose misses something off the top but Rollins offers a distraction. They slug it out until Van Dam kicks him down and hits Rolling Thunder. The Five Star connects...and Reigns spears Van Dam for the DQ at 13:40.

Rating: B-. That ending fell very flat, as it came off like they had no idea how to end the match and just went with the lamest possible way out. At least have someone hit Van Dam to cost him a pin or something. Either way, good start to the night here, with another match that could have made it onto the pay per view.

Overall Rating: B-. This was a nice mixture of rarities and good action, with the New Day vs. the Usos being the best by far. While a lot of them were totally skippable, it was fun to see what the company was putting out there to get the crowd warmed up. Those matches can go a long way and that's what we had here, with some of them being good enough to be on the pay per view itself.

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