

WWF In Paris – October 13, 1989: They Played The Hits (Includes Full Show)

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Date: October 13, 1989

Location: Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, Paris, France

Commentators: George Eddy, Thierry Gilard

The name kind of speaks for itself as the company is across the pond. That means we should be in for some interesting match selections, as house shows alone can be all over the place but international house shows can be downright bizarre. Believe it or not, Hulk Hogan is headlining, as tended to be his custom. Let's get to it.

The ring announcer welcomes us to the show.

Honky Tonk Man vs. Bret Hart

Jimmy Hart is here with Honky Tonk Man and there are ring girls carrying signs with the wrestlers' names in a unique change. Hart chases Honky Tonk Man outside to start and Jimmy grabs the mic to complain about the booing. The villains are already trying to walk but change their mind, with Honky Tonk Man coming back for a lockup instead. Hart hammers away to take over and Honky Tonk Man needs a second break.

Back in and an armdrag into an armbar lets Hart start in on the arm. Honky Tonk Man gets up and tries a boot to the ribs, which is easily blocked so they can go back to the armbar. Hart is sent to the apron, where he is fine enough to come back with a sunset flip for two. That means we're already back in the armbar as Hart certainly has a theme here. Perhaps due to the experience he has of being stuck in the hold, Honky

Tonk Man fights up for some shots to the face but Hart cuts that off again.

Jimmy trips Hart though and Honky Tonk Man gets in a cheap shot to actually take over. A back elbow sets up some elbow drops to keep Hart down, but he's right back up with an elbow of his own. Jimmy tries to interfere and even goes up top, which is broken up just as fast. Hart knocks Honky Tonk Man to the floor...and apparently it's a DQ win for Hart at 9:56 shown. Apparently about five minutes was clipped, which was either at the beginning or very well done in the middle.

Rating: C. This wasn't bad as Hart's singles run continues to get teased. Putting Honky Tonky Man out there was a fine way to go as he's a heat machine who can make anyone look good. It was never going to be a classic exchange of technical skills, but I'll take Hart getting to show what he can do pretty much anytime.

Post match Honky Tonk Man talks about how the fans want to hear him sing so get the Canadian grease ball out of here. Hart comes back in and gets jumped with Honky Tonk Man stomping away but Hart is back with the required atomic drop to clear. That's enough for Honky Tonk Man to bail out, as you might have expected.

Jim Duggan vs. Dino Bravo

Jimmy Hart is here with Bravo and Duggan is the King here. Bravo poses a bunch to start and of course Duggan knows exactly how to play to the crowd to respond to that. With that broken up, Duggan fires off the clotheslines and Bravo is knocked outside for the breather. Back in and Duggan wins a slugout with an atomic drop so Bravo is right back on the floor.

This time Duggan sends Hart into Bravo and poses a lot (as he was known to do, because he's rather awesome that way). Back in and Bravo elbows him in the back of the head and it's time

to choke on the rope, as Bravo has something stuck to his chest and it's bugging me. Duggan is sent head first into the buckle and we hit the chinlock.

The comeback is cut off and the chinlock goes on again before Bravo sends him crashing outside. Back in and an atomic drop puts Duggan down again but Bravo misses an elbow. The right hands in the corner have Bravo back in trouble but the referee gets bumped. In this match??? Hart tries to bring in the megaphone and of course hits Bravo by mistake. The three point clothesline finishes for Duggan at 8:32.

Rating: D+. Yeah this was about as boring as you would expect, with both guys doing their thing and neither being much to see. Duggan was playing to the crowd rather well as expected, though that doesn't make for a good match. Throw in the ending being a bit messier than it needed to be and this wasn't exactly worth seeing.

Post match Hart comes in for a distraction and Bravo hits Duggan with the megaphone.

Rockers vs. Fabulous Rougeau Brothers

Believe it or not, Jimmy Hart is here with the Rougeaus. Michaels starts with Ray but gets distracted by Jacques, allowing Ray to jump him from behind. Jacques comes in to start on the arm but gets faceplanted for his efforts. It's off to Marty for an elbow to the face and a middle rope right hand gets two. Jacques does a really fast scamper over to the corner for the tag to Ray and we're clipped to Marty dropping an elbow on Ray's back.

Michaels comes in to work on the leg and changes with Jannetty behind the referee's back, with the fans approving. Jacques' protest gets nowhere and I have a feeling that's going to be brought up again later. The Rockers change places again so Jacques tries to break it up, leaving Ray to get wishboned before Jannetty works on the leg some more.

Jacques goes on what sounds like a VERY non-PG rant to the referee, who goes over to yell at Michaels. Since Jacques is over there listening, there's no one for Ray to tag so Jannetty drags him back to the middle in a funny bit. The Rockers change behind the referee's back again and Jacques is appealing to the fans for honesty. Michaels insists that he tagged and Earl Hebner of course goes with it, because he and Michaels are such great friends forever.

Jacques finally grabs Michaels' hair from the apron so Ray can get in a knee to the back and send him hard into the corner. Some choking from the apron has Michaels in more trouble and it's off to Jacques for an assisted gutbuster. Jacques' always good looking jumping back elbow drops Michaels again and a double clothesline connects as well. Michaels is sent outside this time, leaving the Rougeaus to have a much needed hug. Back in and Jacques pulls the hair to stay on the back before Ray grabs a front facelock.

Jannetty tries to make a save and the Rougeaus trade places, just like the Rockers did earlier. The referee does at least yell at them before counting two on Michaels. The front facelock goes on again and Michaels fights up for the tag, with the referee not seeing it as they're hitting all of the high points here. Jacques accidentally knees Ray (Hart panics) and Jannetty gets to come in to clean house.

Jacques's sunset flip is blocked with a right hand and Ray's distraction means the backslide gets a VERY delayed two. Ray trips Jannetty from the floor and Jacques hits the piledriver, only for Michaels to come in for one of his own. That leaves Ray to celebrate at the sound of the count as Jannetty pins Jacques at 14:44.

Rating: B. This is a great definition of a fun match as you had both teams doing exactly what they should have done throughout. The fans were into the whole thing because not only is it an easy story, but it was also done rather well,

which helps a lot. Rather good stuff here from two teams who know exactly what they're doing with the theme of behind the referee's back throughout.

WWF Title: Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage

Hogan is defending and brings out Miss Elizabeth while Savage has Sherri. Savage throws in a chair before coming in to grab a headlock. A shoulder sends Savage bailing out to the floor and it's time for some stalling, with Savage grabbing the mic to promise to win the title. He even dedicates the win to Sherri, the most beautiful woman in the world.

Savage starts getting back in but Sherri comes in for a back rake, allowing Savage to hit the ax handle. The double stomping is on but Hogan fights them off without much trouble and we're clipped to Hogan hammering away on the floor. Back in and Hogan hammers away, with the fans counting along in French in a nice moment. Some choking brings Sherri up to the apron and Hogan is really not impressed, even threatening her with a right hand. Savage gets in a cheap shot so Sherri can scratch away some more, followed by the top rope ax handle back inside.

We hit the sleeper to make Hogan writhe around on the mat a bit, followed by the required comeback. We're clipped to Savage snapping his throat across the top rope and hitting a top rope ax handle with...something for a cheap shot. The cover triggers the Hulk Up, with Hogan holding Savage for Elizabeth. Sherri is kicked away and Elizabeth...seemingly slaps Savage, as the camera misses it. Either way, Hogan drops the leg to retain at 8:35 shown (of about 12:00).

Rating: C+. For the life of me I have no idea why they would clip this, as they not only have the full match but released it on the Vault earlier this year. Either way, it was about as standard of a Hogan vs. Savage match as you could get, which shouldn't be a surprise as they probably did it about 1,472

times. The big deal here was Elizabeth with the slap which of course didn't make air because the WWF could have some screwy camera work. It was fine for a main event though, as you probably expected.

Post match Sherri is sent into Savage and Hogan celebrates with Elizabeth to wrap things up, complete with pyro, confetti and balloons. Dang Paris treated this as a big deal.

Overall Rating: C+. The whole thing runs less than an hour so there is only so much to get interested in, but they hit a lot of the high points for this era. It's a four match show (with two dark matches) and the tag match is worth a look if you have time. This is the kind of random things that I love to see released and it was awesome to see it here, as close to full as you could. Nothing worth going out of your way to see, but for about fifty seven minutes, it could have been a lot worse.

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