

Crown Jewel 2025 Preview

We're going to a rather different place for this year's Crown Jewel, which is quite the relief as we're away from Saudi Arabia. At the same time though, the Crown Jewel Titles are a thing again, as we have the annual champion vs. champion matches. The two of them have been built up rather differently and now we're going to see happens as we get into the last quarter of the year. Let's get to it.

Women's Crown Jewel Title: Tiffany Stratton vs. Stephanie Vaquer

We'll start here as this match just does not feel important. I get why they have to have it on the card, but it's just not that interesting. Vaquer has been champion for a few weeks now and that doesn't make for a big showdown against a long reigning champion like Stratton. They've been trying and the match should be good, but I'm only getting so much out of the setup.

That being said, I'll take Vaquer winning here, as there is not much of a reason to have her lose in one of her first big matches as champion. Stratton might not be the biggest star in the women's divisions, but she's more established than Vaquer at this point. It should be a nice match and they've been putting in the effort, but I'm just not that thrilled with it, even with Vaquer winning as she should.

Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky vs. Kabuki Warriors

To say the build for this has been melodramatic and over the top would be an understatement, but this is more about getting Ripley on the card in her home country. That's the kind of thing that should make for quite the reaction but thankfully she has also been tied into the story rather well. It's the idea of Sky being torn between her friend in Ripley and someone who has been so important to her career in Asuka.

I'll go with the Warriors to win here, as they're being turned into quite the force on Raw and need this kind of win to move forward. You can have Sky get pulled in different directions and ultimately get caught, likely with some mist, to wrap it up. WWE isn't crazy enough to have Ripley take the fall here and while there is a chance she Riptides Sane into next week, I'll go with the Warriors getting the win.

Roman Reigns vs. Bronson Reed

This is a rematch from earlier this year in France and in this case it's a street fight, which should play into both of their strengths. The interesting thing here is that it started over Reed stealing Reigns' shoes and has turned into quite the feud as a result. Reigns has already been put out on a stretcher by Reed so he has even more of a reason to want revenge, which should help as well.

Give me Reigns to win here, as taking Reigns out once is a big enough deal and I can't imagine that Reed is going to get to do it again (even if Reed didn't win in the first place). Reigns isn't around all the time and oddly he kind of needs the win to show that he's still a force. Let him take a beating and then make the big comeback to win before moving on to...whatever it is that's next for him.

John Cena vs. AJ Styles

Styles kind of summed up the issue with this match on Raw, as he said there isn't exactly a story to the whole thing. It's a match that is taking place because Cena is ending his career soon (as is Styles) and the fans wanted to see it one more time. That's not a bad thing at all as these two have quite the history together. The quality isn't going to be an issue here and that should make for quite the match.

As for a winner though...I'm honestly not sure. Cena winning would make the most sense, but I said the same thing last month against Brock Lesnar. They might be doing something

where Cena goes on a losing streak before his big final match in December, though that's quite the odd way to go. I'll take what feels like the safe bet here and say Cena, even if it's a pick I am not confident about whatsoever.

Men's Crown Jewel Title: Cody Rhodes vs. Seth Rollins

This is a very different story than what is being done with the women's version, but it's also not a traditional story in the slightest. The interesting thing here is that Rhodes is barely a factor in the whole thing. Instead, this has been almost entirely about Rollins and his self doubt about whether or not he can beat Rhodes. That makes for a unique situation and I'll take that over what we usually get with this kind of a match.

I can't imagine Rollins losing again, mainly because Rhodes has absolutely nothing to gain by winning. Rhodes won this thing last year and has beaten Rollins time after time. There is pretty much no need for him to win here so I'll take Rollins, who actually needs to win this match. I know that's been thrown around a lot, including by me, but it seems to really be the case this time around.

Overall Thoughts

I have never cared about this champion vs. champion stuff and that is really the case again here. WWE has shown that these matches mean next to nothing and that doesn't make for an interesting build. Hopefully the wrestling can overcome that and I'm sure a red hot crowd will help, but there is only so much you can do when the stakes do not feel like they matter whatsoever. With no real titles on the line, the stakes couldn't feel much lower and it is going to take a lot of work to overcome that issue.

Remember to follow me on Twitter and Bluesky @kbreviews and

head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>