

# Crown Jewel 2025: That Was Special

## Crown Jewel 2025

Date: October 11, 2025

Location: RAC Arena, Perth, Australia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

It's time for the annual champion vs. champion show and that should make things interesting. The word there is should, as the build has been hit or miss at best. We have Seth Rollins vs. Cody Rhodes and Tiffany Stratton vs. Stephanie Vaquer, plus AJ Styles vs. John Cena for the last time. Let's get to it.

We open with a video of the Crown Jewel titles being transported from Saudi Arabia to Australia. This aired on Smackdown.

The opening video focuses on Rhea Ripley (makes sense) and talks about the sounds they make around the world. Those sounds don't need translations because it's real. Now it's Australia's turn.

## Roman Reigns vs. Bronson Reed

Street fight and Paul Heyman is here with Reed. Reigns slugs away to start and sends Reed into some buckles before raining down the right hands. It's already time to go outside, which has Heyman waddling away. Reigns knocks him over the barricade and throws some Prime at him, which is quite the product placement. Some trashcan shots to the back have Reed in trouble and they get back to ringside, where Reigns finds a cricket bat and a rugby ball.

Reigns hits him in the back with the bat but poses too much, allowing Reed to run him over. That doesn't work for Reigns,

who is back with a posting and some kendo stick shots. Reigns grabs the mic and says if Perth wants tables, they have to acknowledge him. That's at least a smart way to get them brought in so nice job. Reed uses the delay to get in a cheap shot and send the table back underneath the ring. They head back inside where Reed hammers away with chairs.

One of the chairs is set up, which isn't a great idea as Reigns gives him a Samoan drop through said chair. Some rapid fire clotheslines against the ropes rock Reed and a jumping version puts him down. Reed's Jagged Edge gets two and it's time for the stop sign. A chair is wedged into the corner before a release Rock Bottom onto the sign gives Reed two. Reed's charge goes into the chair (of course) but Reed bails outside before the spear can launch.

They go outside and here's Bron Breakker with a Super Spear. A double powerbomb sends Reigns through the announcers' table so cue the Usos (who Reigns didn't want to get involved) for the save. The 1D drops Breakker but he's right back up with a gorilla press gutbuster to Jey. The Super Spear sends Jimmy through the barricade but Reigns is up to cut off the Tsunami to Jey. Back up and Jey accidentally spears Reigns through a table, leaving the Tsunami to give Reed the pin at 21:07.

**Rating:** B. I had fun with this and it makes Reed look like an absolute monster. Yeah he had help, but pinning Reigns is a big deal no matter who you are. At the same time, Reigns isn't going to be happy with the Usos for not listening to him and now we'll have some fallout. Good stuff here, and probably the right way to go.

Post match Reigns and the Usos are sitting on the mat, where Reigns yells at them for saying no one thinks he can do this on his own. It only works one way and he doesn't want to see their faces. Fans: "SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE!" With Reigns gone, the Usos argue as well, with Jey saying Reigns is always going to be himself and leaves on his own.

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

They go with the grappling to start with Stratton working on a headlock but getting reversed into a wristlock. A rollup gives Vaquer two and it's an early standoff. Stratton knocks her down but charges into a superkick for two. Something like a standing STF (that's a new one) has Stratton in trouble until it's broken up to leave both of them down. Stratton cartwheels into an Alabama Slam for two and Vaquer is in trouble for the first time.

That doesn't last long as Vaquer gets in a dragon screw legwhip out of the corner but the knee is fine enough for Stratton to hit End Of Heartache for two. The Devil's Kiss attempt is countered into a boot to the face to give Stratton two more and some frustration is setting in. A Swanton hits raised knees though and now the Devil's Kiss connects. The SVB gets two but Stratton gets in the Regal Roll. The Prettiest Moonsault Ever misses though and Vaquer's corkscrew moonsault finishes at 10:17.

**Rating:** B-. This was about what I was expecting, as they had a perfectly fine match but it didn't feel overly important no matter what they were doing. There was no way around the lack of heat on the story and they were running with an anchor here. Vaquer needed the win a lot more than Stratton, but it's not like this is going to mean much in the long term.

Post match HHH presents Vaquer with the title, which is massive on her (or on anyone for that matter). She talks about how this is for everyone and now she is the Crown Jewel Champion.

Paul Heyman and Bron Breaker praise Bronson Reed for his win. Heyman also says no matter what, they cannot help Seth Rollins tonight because he has to win tonight.

## AJ Styles vs. John Cena

There's no recap here, which makes sense as even Styles has said there's no story. It's just two guys who have had a great rivalry facing each other one last time. Styles is even in the old school shorts, which I haven't seen him wear in at probably fifteen years. The roof comes off for Cena's entrance as this guy might have a future. We get the Big Match Intros and Styles gets a specialized entrance of his own, being described as the definition of Total Nonstop Action and hopes to get to BEAT UP JOHN CENA one last time.

Styles grabs a headlock before having to grab the rope to avoid an armdrag. The fans are already declaring this awesome and...yeah fair enough in this case. Cena's headlock works a bit better but Styles pops up for a dropkick to cut him down. The AA attempt is countered and Styles hits the sliding forearm for two. Another sliding forearm gets another two but the Phenomenal Blitz is countered with the ProtoBomb.

There's the Shuffle into the AA for two, which shouldn't be a shock as it's only the first finisher. Styles is back up with the fireman's carry backbreaker onto the knee but Cena busts out a Skull Crushing Finale for two more. Styles' torture rack slam gives him two of his own and they have to pull themselves up. A Scorpion Death Drop (without the moonsault) drops Cena for another near fall but the Styles Clash is countered into most of an STF. That's reversed into a crossface but Cena reverses into an Accolade (oh it's one of THOSE matches).

Styles escapes into a Koquina Clutch...which is reversed into the Walls Of Jericho (Cole: "You have got to be kidding me."). Styles escapes that so Cena pulls him into the STF, which Styles reverses into the Clash for two more. Styles tries the Phenomenal Forearm but dives into Sister Abigail (complete with the Kiss) for two and the Fireflies are out. Cena smiles at that and looks up for a second in a great moment. Styles grabs Angel's Wings for two and it's time to strike it out.

Neither finisher can connect so Cena tries a Pedigree, which

is reversed into a Deadeye for two. Cena is back up with a Randy Orton hanging DDT and the fans want an RKO. That's exactly what they get for a near fall...so Cena loads up the Punt. Styles counters that into an AA for two as Barrett compares this to watching a video game. The Shuffle is loaded up but Cena reverses that into a chokeslam for two as the fans want a 619. Cena actually does the drop toehold into the ropes and the crowd is ready to lose it.

That's cut off with a clothesline, which is probably better as Cena might have torn everything in his body. The springboard 450 connects for Styles and he tunes up the band for Sweet Chin Music and another near fall. The Phenomenal Forearm gets two more so the fans chant YES. Cena cuts that off with a quick AA for two so he takes Styles up. The super AA is reversed...so it's a Tombstone to Styles, followed by the AA for the pin at 27:12.

**Rating:** A+. There are certain matches where you just know you're seeing something special and that was the case here. They were out there having a great time and paying tribute to everyone they could think of and it was an instant all timer. In addition, the fans more than boosted this up and took it from something great to something incredible. I loved this.

Post match respect is shown (of course) and even commentary gives them a standing ovation.

We recap Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky vs. the Kabuki Warriors. Ripley and Sky are friends and that's not ok with Asuka, who wants Sky with them alone. Sky is torn and now it's time to fight.

### Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky vs. Kabuki Warriors

Ripley somehow gets a reaction that can rival Cena's, which is an amazing feat. The Warriors charge at them to start and clear Ripley out, with Asuka sending her head first into the post. Asuka and Sky have the big showdown with Sky flipping around and tripping her to the mat. Sky hammers away next to

the ropes and hits a running dropkick as Barrett has to remind us that this is in fact a tag match.

Asuka is sent outside for a suicide dive but comes back with a hard kick to take over. That's good for an eight count and Sane grabs the upside down triangle choke back inside. Asuka comes back in to yell at Sky and then fire off some kicks before Sane comes back in. Sky rolls over for the tag but the referee doesn't see it (of course) so it's a pair of spinning backfists to Sky's head. Sane sends Sky crashing into the corner for two but she manages a flapjack to Asuka. The tag brings Ripley in and yeah the fans approve.

A running kick to the head gets two on Sane, who has to escape a Razor's Edge. Asuka comes back in for two off a Shining Wizard but Ripley kicks Sane's head off. Sky is back in with a missile dropkick for two more, followed by a top rope armdrag. Over The Moonsault is broken up and Ripley is sent into the steps, only for Sky to drop the Warriors with an Asai moonsault. Back in and Over The Moonsault hits Sane for two, with Asuka making the save.

Ripley comes back in and gets caught with the assisted Insane Elbow, with Sky making the save this time. Sky hits a painful looking missile dropkick to Asuka and everyone is down. Ripley wins a slugout with Asuka and Sane has to break up a super Riptide. That means a regular version to Sane and Over The Moonsault finishes for Sky at 19:02.

**Rating:** B. The match went a bit longer than it needed to but this worked for what it needed to be. The fans wanted to see Ripley and Sky gets to knock the Warriors back a few steps. We're all but guaranteed to see Sky vs. Asuka one on one at some point and that should be awesome, with this being a nice stepping stone to get there.

We recap Cody Rhodes vs. Seth Rollins. They're both big stars but Rollins is going nuts because he can't beat Rhodes. The

idea is supposed to be that this is about who is the future of WWE but it hasn't exactly clicked. Rollins' self doubt has been a much better way to go and thankfully has become the focal point of the build.

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

Rollins has gear inspired by his previous matches with Rhodes and the camera makes sure to show him taking off his watch. Rollins' headlock doesn't do much to start as Rhodes reverses into a release gordbuster. It's already time for a breather on the floor, with Rollins having to yell at the fans. Back in and they argue a lot before slugging it out, with Rhodes hitting the drop down uppercut.

Rollins needs another breather on the floor, where he gets to throw some things around. He even goes after commentary, which allows Rhodes to send him face first into the announcers' table. Rollins dropkicks him through the ropes and hits a double stomp to the back for two back inside. A running clothesline gives Rollins two and he counters the Disaster Kick into a sitout powerbomb for two more, which means it's time to yell at the referee.

Rollins starts in on the arm but Rhodes fights up, only to get pulled into the Figure Four. Rhodes escapes and the fans chant for CM PUNK to get on Rollins' nerves. A Vertebreaker drops Rollins hard and the Disaster Kick does it again. The Bionic Elbow sends Rollins outside for the suicide dive, followed by a Cody Cutter for two back inside. Another Disaster Kick is countered into the Pedigree to give Rollins his own two. Rhodes gets up and misses a Cody Cutter attempt, meaning it's a Pedigree into a Stomp for another near fall.

Rollins is stunned so he goes outside to grab his watch but changes his mind and puts it down. The distraction lets Rhodes score with Cross Rhodes for two but Rollins catches him on top. That means Rhodes is tied in the Tree Of Woe for a coast

to coast headbutt for two more. Rollins comes up favoring his own arm so Rhodes goes up, with Rollins catching him with a super Spanish Fly for another near fall.

Now it's Rollins going up, with Rhodes pulling him down in a super Cross Rhodes for two of his own. They slug it out until Rollins has to escape a Pedigree before grabbing the watch. The referee is bumped and the watch to the head sets up the Stomp. The Super Stomp gives Rollins the pin at 29:44.

**Rating:** B. This was WAY longer than it needed to be as it was almost all about setting up the watch, which was telegraphed all the way from the beginning. The problem with the build to this match was Rhodes had nothing to gain, which made Rollins winning almost the only way to go. The match was good, but it doesn't really change anything for either of them, which is the big problem with the whole thing.

Post match HHH comes out to put the title on Rollins. Cathy Kelly comes in to talk to Rollins, who takes the mic and goes on about his greatness. Rollins hits the catchphrases and Stephanie Vaquer comes out so the two champions can pose to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** A-. Well, they managed to make it work. This show is pretty much all about the wrestling rather than anything major happening storyline wise and that's ok. Nothing is bad and there's an all time classic with Cena vs. Styles, plus a fun opener and a good enough main event. If nothing else, I'm rather happy because we don't have to act like the Crown Jewel Titles mean anything for another year, mainly because we won't even see the belts. Pretty awesome show here, with a rare instance of a match actually feeling special.

### Results

Bronson Reed b. Roman Reigns – Tsunami

Stephanie Vaquer b. Tiffany Stratton – Corkscrew moonsault

John Cena b. AJ Styles – Attitude Adjustment

Rhea Ripley/Iyo Sky b. Kabuki Warriors – Over The Moonsault to Sane  
Seth Rollins b. Cody Rhodes – Super Stomp

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>