

Smackdown – November 14, 2025: Let Me Know When It's Interesting Again

Smackdown

Date: November 14, 2025

Location: MVP Arena, Albany, New York

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're into the Last Time Is Now Tournament, with two more first round matches this week. In addition, Cody Rhodes might have some issues with Aleister Black, with Drew McIntyre and Damian Priest being involved as well. That could cause some problems for the champ and that isn't good with WarGames in just a few weeks. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

The opening recap looks at the setup of Women's WarGames.

Here are Rhea Ripley and Iyo Sky for a chat. Ripley doesn't think much of the Kabuki Warriors thinking they have a numbers advantage. Now, the Warriors have nowhere to hide in WarGames. Ripley brings out teammates Charlotte and Alexa Bliss, with the latter saying they're in to end their opponents. And then Charlotte says she's out because she doesn't like Ripley, who she thinks is a snake. Ripley probably thinks the same about her, and with that, Charlotte walks away.

Last Time Is Now Tournament First Round: Jey Uso vs. The Miz

Miz's entrance cuts off Jey running his own entrance back so he's booed even more heavily than usual. Miz knees him down to start fast but the running clothesline in the corner is countered into a backslide. The Skull Crushing Finale is blocked as well and Miz is sent outside for a suicide dive.

We take a break and come back with Miz hitting a hard DDT for two. That's enough for Miz to initiate John Cena's finishing sequence (Just like R-Truth. No wonder they were a good team!), setting up the Skull Crushing Finale for two. They go up top, where Uso reverses a super Skull Crushing Finale into a face first drop onto the turnbuckle. The spear into the Superfly Splash finishes for Uso at 9:55.

Rating: C+. Miz is one of the more useful people on the WWE roster, as he can be beaten over and over without losing much of his status. At the same time, he has all kinds of credibility after winning pretty much everything imaginable over the years. Uso beating him is the right move, but Miz's history with Cena gave you just enough of a reason to believe he could pull off the upset. Nice effort here.

DIY comes up to Ilja Dragunov, with Tommaso Ciampa complaining about not getting the title shot. Nick Aldis is fine with how Dragunov is doing things, with Dragunov saying tonight's shot is going to someone who fights with honor and respect. Aldis leaves and runs into Paul Heyman and Bronson Reed.

Post break, Heyman talks to Aldis about the WarGames agreement, which says Heyman can pick any wrestler from any show to be on his team. Aldis already knew this but here is Cody Rhodes to interrupt. Rhodes wants to fight and a match with Reed is set for tonight. Heyman says that's not good enough because it should be a title match. Rhodes: "Nick, book it." Aldis does as he's told, with Heyman giving a great evil smile.

United States Title: Ilja Dragunov vs. Axiom

Axiom is challenging and takes him down by the arm to start fast. A headlock grinds Dragunov down a bit, only for Dragunov to come back with a takedown. The H Bomb is blocked though and Axiom tries to catch him on top. That's broken up as well and Dragunov knocks him down, setting up the top rope backplash

for two.

We take a break and come back with Dragunov rolling some German suplexes. Axiom slips out and hits a missile dropkick but Dragunov kicks him in the face again. Dragunov's H Bomb misses and Axiom is back up with a springboard moonsault DDT (GEEZ) for two. The super Spanish Fly connects but the Golden Ratio is countered with the Torpedo Moscow. Now the H Bomb is enough to retain the title at 11:13.

Rating: B. That DDT alone kept me interested in this as Axiom is a rather solid hand in the ring. Dragunov gets to add another name to the pile of victims as he's gearing up for what could be an interesting showdown with Ciampa. I'm not sure how that's going to go, but it's nice to see it built up over some time.

R-Truth is still trying to get Nick Aldis to let him into the Last Time Is Now tournament. Chelsea Green comes in to demand pyro for her Women's US Title win, with Aldis saying yes to shut her up.

During the break, Tommaso Ciampa attacked Axiom with Nathan Frazer making the save.

Here is Sami Zayn for a chat. He talks about how he beat Solo Sikoa for the US Title and got to do a bunch of things as champion. Now he wants to keep up the war with Sikoa and the MFT's but he hasn't been medically cleared. That has left him on the sidelines for weeks but that ends tonight. Zayn wants Sikoa out here right now so here he comes, complete with the MFT's.

Sikoa says he knows the real Zayn will do desperate things and knows that Zayn is still hurt. This could go very badly for Zayn, as Sikoa could have them drop him where he stands. Zayn says it won't be long as he is officially medically cleared, but he didn't come alone. Cue Shinsuke Nakamura and the Motor City Machine Guns for the brawl, with Rey Fenix joining in for

a big corkscrew dive off the top. This could make for a good Survivor Series match.

Jey Uso and Cody Rhodes run into each other and have a nice reunion. Jimmy Uso comes up to say he has their backs tonight and at WarGames.

Solo Sikoa wants Sami Zayn so Nick Aldis makes the Survivor Series match for...the Smackdown before Survivor Series. Well they're in the right area at least.

Last Time Is Now Tournament First Round: LA Knight vs. ???

And the opponent is...ZACK RYDER, unfortunately what sounds like a remix of Oh Radio but it's a better than nothing. They're a bit slow to start until a Rough Ryder attempt misses. Instead Knight is sent outside and we take an early break. We come back with Knight hitting a backdrop and firing off the left jabs.

A jumping neckbreaker gets two but Ryder sends him into the corner for the running Reboot. Back up and Knight rams him into the buckle for the reverse DDT. Ryder is able to hit a Rough Ryder out of nowhere for two more and the BFT is countered into a rollup for the same. Ryder's middle rope dropkick is countered into a sitout powerbomb though and the BFT finishes for Knight at 8:37.

Rating: C+. They didn't have much time, especially with the break in the middle, but it was cool to see Ryder back, even if it's a one off. Ryder is someone who has turned his time away from WWE into something and I'm sure he'll turn this into something else that makes him money. Knight winning is fine, but this was about the cameo and it was rather fun.

Iyo Sky, Rhea Ripley and Alexa Bliss look for a replacement for Charlotte but get jumped by their opponents, with Lash Legend and Nia Jax laying them out.

Jade Cargill vs. B-Fab

Non-title. B-Fab dropkicks her into the corner to start fast and fires off some elbows. Cargill isn't having this and drops her with a hard forearm. The fall away slam sends B-Fab flying and a chokeslam drops her again. There's a powerbomb to drop her again and Cargill gives her a second one. Jaded finishes for Cargill at 2:14.

Post match Michin comes in to check on B-Fab and Cargill isn't impressed.

Next week's first round Last Time Is Now tournament matches:

Carmelo Hayes vs. Bronson Reed

Penta vs. Finn Balor

Carmelo Hayes says he'll see Miz when he sees him but first, he wants to get a shot against John Cena because he won't miss. Bronson Reed comes in to say he'll end Cena after ending Hayes next week.

Aleister Black talks about how he and Zelina have corrupted Damian Priest, just as they said they would. Now though, they're coming for the rest of the locker room.

Smackdown World Title: Cody Rhodes vs. Bronson Reed

Reed, with Paul Heyman, is challenging and misses a charge into the corner to start. Rhodes hits him in the face but gets elbowed down for two. They head outside where Reed runs him over and we take a break. We come back with Rhodes scoring with a Disaster Kick but the snap jabs are countered into the Jagged Edge. The Tsunami misses though and Rhodes hits a Cody Cutter for two. Reed rolls outside, where he cuts off a suicide dive with a shot to the face. Rhodes fights back...and Bron Breaker runs in for the DQ at 5:23.

Rating: B-. They knew they didn't have much time here so this was about getting as much in as they could manage. What they

did was good enough, though it was smart to not have Reed take a pin. You can pretty much guarantee that this was a way to set up the post match stuff and that's ok for a match like this.

Post match Breakker and Logan Paul beat Rhodes down. Cue the Usos for the save and a table is brought inside. Drew McIntyre (suspended last week) runs in to wreck the Usos, with Paul Heyman saying "ANYBODY" to a screaming Nick Aldis. The good guys are wrecked, including a Claymore and Tsunami to Rhodes, to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. There was more of a theme to this show, as WarGames is coming so the teams have to be set up. At the same time, there wasn't as much in the ring, with only the Dragunov vs. Axiom match standing out. It's the kind of show that is more about setting things up for later than anything else, and while this kind of a show is necessary, it's not the most thrilling thing to watch. Decent, but pretty skippable show this week.

Results

Jey Uso b. The Miz – Superfly Splash

Ilja Dragunov b. Axiom – H Bomb

LA Knight b. Zack Ryder – BFT

Jade Cargill b. B-Fab – Jaded

Cody Rhodes b. Bronson Reed via DQ when Bron Breakker interfered

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