

Slammiversary 2026 Preview

After a pretty lengthy time away, we're back to the pay per view days for TNA and that might not be a bad thing. The build for this show has gotten more a lot more interested than I expected to be and now I want to see if they can pay that build up off. That's the tricky part though as you never know how the whole thing is going to work. The main event is Nic Nemeth challenging Mike Santana for the World Title so let's get to it.

Kickoff Show: Mara Sade vs. Indi Hartwell vs. Elayna Black

I'm still trying to figure out why Black is treated as such a big deal, as I really do not see the success there to warrant it. She's far from bad, but she has made no impact since her arrival in TNA and I often forget that she's part of the roster. Maybe that changes here, but I really can't imagine that being the case after such a long time of pretty much nothing from her thus far.

That leaves Sade and Hartwell as your realistic options here and I'll take the former for the win. Sade has gotten somewhere with her charisma and general appeal and it's working well for her. Given that she was little more than Lash Legend's lackey in NXT, this is quite the step up for her and I'm curious to see what she can do on her own. Give her a win here and see what's next around here.

Ricky Sosa vs. Eric Young

Oh dear it's this match. For the life of me I do not get Eric Young and I haven't for a long time. He'll pop up, pick a new target, say the same things, lose, and then move on like nothing has changed. Sosa is his latest target and it's hard to fathom that he's going to be any different for Young. The whole idea of Young as this evil force is quite the miscast

and I do not get the appeal but we're here anyway.

I'll go with Sosa to win here, as there is no point in having him lose to someone like Young, who loses all of the time. I'm not sure what Sosa is going to be but TNA is really in need of some new stars, so put him out there and see what he can do. It's worth a shot and beating a former multiple time World Champion is a good start, especially if it gets Young off the show for a few weeks.

AJ Francis vs. Elijah

This is a battle for Elijah's name, likeness and music catalog, because that's a thing we're doing in wrestling. As ridiculous as it might sound, I do appreciate the idea of having a less than normal reason for a feud in wrestling. This is Francis taking away the thing that defines Elijah the most and that is going to make Elijah mad as a result. Francis has been doing well as a big man too so it's certainly worth a try.

As much as I would like to see Francis win here and see where he can go with things, it doesn't make sense for Elijah to lose. I'll take Elijah to win, as what in the world is he without his music deal? We tried that with the whole Ezekiel thing in WWE and we've seen how that worked out, so I'll go with Elijah here, if nothing else for the sake of keeping his career going.

Knockouts Title: Lei Ying Lee(c) vs. Xia Brookside

Every so often you get a pretty much perfect setup for a big moment and that's what we have here. Brookside turned on her friend out of jealousy over not being able to win the title and now gets a title shot. It helps that Brookside has turned into quite a nice heel in the process, which is impressive for someone who is fairly small in stature and easy to cheer in the first place.

There is a grand total of zero reason for Brookside to lose here so I'll go with the logical result and say she wins the title. Lee is already a two time champion and hardly the biggest star in the world, so go with Brookside getting her big moment and see what she can do as champion. It's kind of overdue at this point and if she loses, she's basically dead in the water anyway. So yeah, new champion here.

X-Division Title: Ultimate X

Here we have the signature match of TNA and it makes sense to bring it out of mothballs for the anniversary show. They're also bringing Amazing Red back, which should quite the nice thing to see. Red had a heck of a match with Bandido over Wrestlemania Weekend and he can still more than go. Seeing him back in the ring is an interesting idea, even if he has pretty much no chance of winning.

Red is one of a few wrestlers you can probably write off, along with Mr. Elegance. That leaves a host of people to win and I'm going to go with an underdog in KC Navarro. He's come a long way lately and this is the kind of match where they can make him into something without having him get a big pin. I'm not saying it'll work, but I think they could do it here. Granted this kind of thing is a total shot in the dark but why not have some fun?

Knockouts Tag Team Titles: The Elegance Brand(c) vs. Rosemary/Allie

Just name Rosemary and Allie the Undead Realm already. Anyway, this is an interesting one as normally I would say that there is no reason to leave the titles on the Brand but they're kind of great with having the titles as accessories. It makes them even more annoying and that's a perfect thing for a stable built around the idea of getting on the fans' nerves. I'm just not sure they'll keep the belts.

Yeah I think I'll go with the title change here, as Rosemary

and Allie are popular enough at the moment to warrant getting the gold. If nothing else, the Brand is going to be able to drive everyone crazy with or without the titles so let them drop the belts for now. They can easily win them back later if necessary, but for now, Allie and Rosemary are a better option for the win here.

International Title: Mustafa Ali(c) vs. ???

This is one that's hard to predict, as there is only so much you can do without knowing who is getting the title shot. There have been some rumored names, including at least one who used to be in WWE, but no one really stands out all that well. If nothing else, Ali deserves to hold onto the title longer as he's getting somewhere with his stuff (as he tends to do when he's given the chance).

I'll take Ali to retain over whomever he is facing, even if I want to see him get into the World Title picture sooner rather than later. Ali is someone with the talent to make this work and you can almost guarantee that he'll be doing something special around election season. For now though, he retains, likely with the help of his goons, though I'm almost worried to see who he's going to be facing here.

Eddie Edwards vs. Moose

This is, at least in theory, the final blowoff to Moose vs. The System, though it feels like we should have been at that point months ago. The idea here is that you can only lose if your corner person (Alisha Edwards and JDC) throw in the towel to end the match. That opens the door for some shenanigans and it comes down to whom is going to screw the other one over.

I'll go with Edwards winning here, as it feels like they have set up JDC to mess with Moose again because that's the kind of thing TNA would do. I'm not sure how you pay that off down the line if JDC is retired, but for now at least, Moose loses again. This feud has gone on far too long already and at this

point, I'll take it ending in whatever way they can figure out.

Tag Team Titles: The System(c) vs. Hardys vs. The Righteous vs. Great Hands

Say it with me: it's a ladder match! The level of eye rolling I did when that was announced should come with a doctor's warning but here we are again. The Hardys almost have to be in a ladder match every so often because the law of diminishing returns means nothing in wrestling. It also doesn't help that the non-Righteous teams are just kind of there, which should tell you where this is going.

The Righteous should take the titles here, as they should have done six months ago. I get that the Hardys are big stars but how many title reigns does one team need? On the other hand you have the Great Hands, who were randomly thrown into this match for reasons I don't quite get. That leave the champions and, well, does anyone believe they're the top team in the company right now?

TNA World Title: Mike Santana(c) vs. Nic Nemeth

This is one of the more impressive showings that TNA has had in a minute, as they have taken a pretty nothing story and turned it into one of the hotter feuds going into the pay per view. Nemeth is cashing in his Call Your Shot win and just got a title shot. The catch though, as usual with Santana, is bringing up his daughter, who is his one weak spot. Nic and Ryan Nemeth have gone after Santana over and over but they might have just ticked him off beyond belief. I'm just not sure if that's a good or a bad thing.

At the end of the day, it seems all but guaranteed that Santana is going to WWE sooner rather than later. The question is whether he drops the title here or later and I think he'll hang onto it for now. TNA and WWE have a working relationship so Santana doesn't have to cut all of his ties to go over. It

should be interesting to see how it goes, but if they have a big fight with Santana winning, he can move on to whomever is going to take the title as he leaves. For now though, he retains.

Overall Thoughts

For the first time in WAY too long, I'm actually excited about this. The problem is that at the end of the day, this is still TNA and that means there is a real chance of letdown. I'm almost scared to get my hopes up that far as they have been dashed far too many times over the years. The potential is there though and if everything works out, we could be in for a heck of a Sunday afternoon.

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