

On This Day: January 28, 2012 – Ring Ka King: TNA In India

Ring Ka King TV

Date: January 28, 2012

Location: Balewadi Sports Complex, Pune, India

Commentators: Siddharth Kanan, Joe Bath

After this, never let it be said that I don't give the people what they ask for. I've gotten a lot of requests from people for this show so why not. This is the TNA related company formed in India. The name means King of the Ring in some Indian language. Odds are this is going to be the only episode I watch of it but if it's good I might take another look. There are a lot of big named stars over there so let's get to it.

We open with a musical performance. It's an Indian performer who has a bunch of dancing girls. I don't speak whatever language this is so I can't say anything here. The crowd seems to dig it. I've heard there were about 1,500 people here which isn't bad. The set is similar to Impact's but in a bigger arena. Apparently this guy's name is Mika.

After he's done the ring announcer comes in and thank goodness she speaks English. That's one of the main reasons I don't watch puro: I have no idea what's going on. And never mind as they're in another language again. I think they're saying it's awesome to be here or something like that. She's shifting between languages. Either that or some of the words are the same. There's talk of a singles and tag titles and female wrestlers. She introduces the announcers and I have no idea what they're saying. The fans seem to like them so maybe they're known.

Now we bring out a guy named Harbhajan Singh, who appears to

be a cricket player of some national renown. He's listed as a Ring Ka King goodwill ambassador. Mika starts a chant of Singh is King or something like that. The singer wishes him good luck and that's about it. I'm just trying to pick up what I can here. Mika leaves.

Singh talks some more and says something about international wrestling and Ring Ka King. The girls are still at ringside. He sends us to a video of a familiar face: Chavo Guerrero Jr. He talks about being around the world but that he's never been to India and is here to become Ring Ka King Champion.

Chavo comes to the ring and Singh introduces someone else: Maxx B. He appears to be a boxing/fighting character but I don't recognize him and he doesn't speak English. The announcers talk about MMA during Maxx's entrance.

Sir Brutus Magnus says he'll win the title. He calls himself the International Athlete.

Next up is Doctor Nicholas Dinsmore, who is of course Nick Dinsmore, aka Eugene. I think these are just introductions of wrestlers. Dinsmore comes out in a medical outfit which is a character you don't really see that often.

Sonjay Dutt has a dollar sign above his name and gets a huge pop due to being from India.

In sixth (they're just standing in the ring) is Mahabali Veera, a muscular guy who doesn't speak English either. He appears to be the tallest and most popular guy so far.

Next up is Scott Steiner who talks about his arms and short fuse.

Matt Morgan says he's 7'0 tall which is still a lie. He's here to become world champion. Morgan and Steiner came out to their TNA music. Morgan is in street clothes.

Now we move onto the Commissioner, a man named Jazzy Laharia

who is with someone named Deadly Danda, who I guess is a bodyguard. I'm assuming Deadly is the guy in the military gear and has what appeared to be a sword. He's almost as tall as Matt Morgan. Singh talks some more and I think these eight are going to be in a Heavyweight Title Tournament. The belt comes down from the ceiling and pyro goes off. The belt looks like the ECW Silver Title but with a sticker on the middle of it.

We get a quick video of all eight people here and a graphic saying Ring Ka King Heavyweight Title Tournament.

Now here's Jeremy Borash who speaks English and talks to Morgan, who says everyone is honored to be in India. Magnus cuts him off and puts his arms around Dutt and Steiner and says they're going to take over Ring Ka King. A brawl is started but Deadly Danda breaks it up.

Ring Ka King Heavyweight Title Tournament: Dr. Nicholas Dinsmore vs. Mahabali Veera

We're about 25 minutes into the show not counting commercials and here's the first match. And no I'm not holding that against them as it's the debut episode. Dinsmore is basically the heel by default here. He cheats a top wristlock by pulling the hair to bring him down. Dinsmore sends him to the floor but Veera gets a sunset flip for two. Veera has a good look to him and moves well for a bigger (as in taller) guy. The referee is in a green shirt. Off to a chinlock by Dinsmore but Veera hits a spinebuster (called the Veera Bomb) for the pin at 2:59. Short but fine.

Magnus is on the phone in the back to his boss and talks about how he, Dutt and Steiner (all in the room) have three of the eight spots in the tournament and are going to dominate both it and Ring Ka King. It's Magnus vs. Morgan in the first round.

Someone called Shera brings out American Adonis, who is more known as Chris Masters. He does the same entrance that he did

as the Masterpiece. He's a lot bigger than he used to be too so I guess the roids are rolling again. Masters says he's here to prove that no one can break his Adonis Lock. Back to the old classics I guess. He's put up a lock of Indian Rupees (whatever that means. A lock I mean. I know what Rupees are) to anyone that wants to try it. There's a briefcase in there so I'm assuming it has the money in it.

A plant accepts the challenge and we get a referee and the chair. The guy is named Zed. What kind of a name is Zed? He's from Pune and gets thrown all over the place in the full nelson. And he's out cold in about 10 seconds.

Veera says something which I'd assume means he'll win. Singh comes in and shakes his hand. Morgan comes up to shake his hand and says he hopes to see Veera in the finals.

Next week (I think) it's Steiner vs. Maxx B and Chavo vs. Dutt in the tournament.

Ring Ka King Heavyweight Title Tournament: Sir Brutus Magnus vs. Matt Morgan

Magnus runs to the corner to start. Morgan gets his hands on him and throws him around with ease. Magnus gets sent to the floor and it's time for a chase scene. Morgan misses a corner splash and Magnus takes over. A slam attempt fails as Morgan falls onto him for two. Off to an abdominal stretch by Magnus which Morgan easily escapes and starts his comeback. He beats Magnus up and hits a chokeslam, followed by the Carbon Footprint for the pin at 5:14.

Rating: D. This was a really basic and boring power match. I've seen far worse but there really isn't anything going on here. Morgan looks like a force though which is the point of this. Not terrible but if Magnus is supposed to be the top heel in the company or at least the mouthpiece for it (no sign of him being a coward yet) shouldn't he be treated as something better than a jobber to the stars like he was here?

Dutt and Steiner come in for an attempted beatdown but Veera makes the save. A tag team staredown ends the show.

Overall Rating: B-. As a wrestling show it was boring but for a show designed to introduce us to the product, I can't really complain much here. They set up the tournament and we have a top heel group already. Veera looks like a star (although we didn't get to see much of him in the ring) and Morgan is his usual self. I probably won't watch this again but it wasn't that bad at all. The production values were very good and definitely at the same levels as Impact. Great debut and if you're not familiar with these guys, it's a great show. It's probably not for fans that know the talent, though it's worth a look.

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ECW on TNN – January 21, 2000: They're Finally Getting It Right

ECW on TNN

Date: January 21, 2000

Location: ECW Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Attendance: 1,850

Commentators: Joel Gertner, Joey Styles

It's been so long since I did one of these that I had to look up the stories that were going on. Apparently there are no stories because the previous episode was taped before the PPV so nothing new was added after that. We're less than two months away from Living Dangerously now which

focused on something we haven't gotten to yet. Let's get to it.

Joel and Joey do their entrance with Joel mocking Cyrus. This brings out Cyrus to talk about how the office is mad about the fans for some reason but they're far madder about Joel and Joey. Cyrus goes off on Joel for having heat with the boys and having a stupid name joke to start the show. The next time Gertner defies Cyrus, it won't end well for Joel. Joey has to hold Joel back as we go to the opening theme.

That opening theme lasts WAY too long.

Here are the Impact Players to open things up as Joel and Joey are still in the ring. Justin says they told us they would win the titles and that's what they did. The higher ups want them to defend the titles tonight but that's not happening. This brings out Danny Doring and Roadkill apparently to protest. They demand a title shot tonight but Storm calls them a couple of midcard jobbers. If they can beat a midcard team, they can get the title shot. The team in question is Dreamer/Raven who immediately charge the ring and the match is on.

Raven/Tommy Dreamer vs. Danny Doring/Roadkill

The match is joined in progress after a break with Roadkill getting crotched when taking too long on the top rope. A superplex puts Roadie down and there's the tag to Raven. Bird Boy cleans house with knee lifts and covers Doring's face with the snot rag. The drop toehold onto the chair gets two on Roadkill and the Evenflow gets the same on Doring. Everything breaks down and Roadkill is sent out to the floor. Dreamer and Francine set up a table which Dreamer pescados Roadkill through moments later.

Elektra and Francine tease a catfight but Dawn Marie blasts Francine instead. Raven carries Francine to the back, making this a handicap match. Dreamer steps on Doring's crotch and hits a Death Valley Driver for two. There are a lot of saves in this match so far. A Roadkill

powerslam gets two on Dreamer but Tommy hits a Russian legsweep on Doring and a DDT on Roadie at the same time. This brings out Corino, Victory and Rhyno who lay out Dreamer, allowing Doring to hit a top rope elbow drop for the pin.

Rating: C. This was your usual overdone ECW match but at least it was entertaining at some points. This was a combination of wrestling and storyline with Raven walking out on his partner which is similar to Hogan leaving with Liz at Main Event II in 1989. Then again though it wasn't quite the same level of quality but you get the idea. As usual, this was overbooked though.

The post match beatdown continues with Victory and Corino working over Dreamer. Dusty Rhodes finally comes out (I don't think this is his debut) and it's elbows all around. Rhyno comes in and beats Dusty down until Sandman comes through the entrance for the final save. Sandman pours beer into Dreamer's mouth to revive him.

Super Crazy vs. Tajiri

This is a Mexican death match and we go to a break about 15 seconds in. Back with Tajiri throwing in two more chairs to go with one that was already in the ring. Apparently Crazy is busted open as Tajiri throws in a table. Tajiri tries to slide the chairs along the table to hit Crazy in the head but Crazy keeps ducking to avoid death. With Crazy on the table, Tajiri hits a double stomp onto Crazy but the table doesn't break. A second attempt finally works and Tajiri follows it up with a HARD kick to the face.

Since this is ECW, Crazy is back up in roughly 8 seconds and hits a top rope Lionsault. We head to the floor and into the crowd for a chair shot to the Japanese head. A moonsault off the bleachers puts Tajiri through another table and we head back to the ring. Tajiri is busted open but comes back with the handspring elbow. Crazy of course no sells it and hits a clothesline to take over again.

Tajiri gets put on the top rope (as in on the rope itself, not in the corner) where Crazy hits a springboard spinwheel kick to knock him down for two. Tajiri pops back up and hits a German suplex for two before going back to the floor. Crazy is sent into the crowd for an Asai moonsault. Back in and Super throws in two tables again, because goodness knows he isn't going to stay on the mat. Tajiri hits the Mist but FIVE SECONDS LATER Crazy is fine enough to catch a rana attempt out of the corner into a powerbomb through the table for the pin.

Rating: C. This was fun again but MAN ALIVE Crazy brought it down. He pops up from an Asai Moonsault, two top rope double stomps AND Mist to the face? That's another ECW problem in a nutshell: the wrestling going on isn't of a very high quality. The no selling was really distracting here and makes Tajiri's solid offense look lame.

Call the Hotline and hear about the Radicalz leaving ECW. That actually happened.

Living Dangerously is coming!

Here's Awesome to talk about how he's going to crush Spike Dudley again. The fans chant for RVD but Awesome says that only his world title matters in ECW. Since he's the world champion, he's the Whole F'N Show. This brings out TV Champion RVD who praises Awesome but says that Mike is still just part of the show, but Van Dam IS the show.

Awesome issues a challenge and we get a bell! We also get a blackout and here's Sabu. Since he's supposed to help Van Dam, he turns on RVD and it's a double beatdown. RVD's manager Fonzie gets put through a table. Spike Dudley tries to come in and gets laid out as well. A top rope splash/legdrop combination puts RVD through a table to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This was one of the better shows they've had yet. We had major stories advanced and a BIG match set up at the end. That's how a TV show after a PPV should work but ECW doesn't often get that right.

The wrestling wasn't much at all but that goes without saying most of the time in ECW. Good stuff here though.

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Proper Nostalgia In Modern Times

Last night was a good example of this. Something that I've mentioned before is how nostalgic characters are supposed to be used today. The problem with having guys like Roddy and Dusty and Slaughter doing nostalgia appearances is that they've been nostalgic for such a long period of time that the impact is gone. They're stars of the 80s, not the 90s.

Last night on the other hand, we saw guys like Goldust, Godfather and the year before that we had the Outlaws in the Rumble. This is pure nostalgia for people that grew up in the 90s and are a bit bored by modern wrestling at the moment. Geez if you consider Rock much more than a nostalgia character at this point you're missing the point. WWE is FINALLY catering to the 90s fans whose wallets they built the Attitude Era on. It's fine to bring out the 80s guys every once in awhile, but mix it up with the 90s every now and then.

Dolph Ziggler At And After The Rumble

Coming into the Rumble, Ziggler was a big topic of conversation but last night not much happened. Ziggler had talked about cashing in MITB but he didn't. He talked about winning the Royal Rumble but he didn't. He's been losing a good deal of his matches recently and while he's certainly impressive with some of his matches, he hasn't really won anything other than at TLC where he was defending what he already had. Other than that, Ziggler hasn't really accomplished much lately. He has until July to cash in his case and as usual it seems like a matter of time before he does it.

I'm not sure what they're doing at the moment because they've kind of booked themselves into a corner. With Del Rio getting over very well as a face, that gives a minimum of four people who could be in the world title match at Wrestlemania: Orton, Ziggler, Sheamus and Del Rio. Odds are it won't be Ziggler in the title match but it's clear that he's going to have a top level match. I'm thinking he gets put with Del Rio, although not for the title. There's always a chance he'll cash in before Mania, perhaps after the Chamber.

Either way, Smackdown is pretty awesome at the moment with their title picture.

The End Of CM Punk's Title Reign

The Rumble was last night and there's a LOT to talk about so expect a lot of posts from me today about various topics from the show.

One of the major things that happened last night was CM Punk's 434 day world title reign came to an end. The common response to this (mine included) is that the ending to Rock vs. Punk could have been better. Let's take a quick look at why and some other things about the title reign. First of all the problem I had with the ending wasn't about the People's Elbow but rather the spinebuster that set it up. Rock had been talking about hitting the Rock Bottom and dedicated an entire promo to the idea. The Elbow itself is fine for Rock to finish with as he beat Hogan with it plus multiple other legends. It's a finishing move for Rock so it's not a huge deal at all.

As for Punk losing, you knew it was going to happen at some point. It had to. I mean, the guy had been champion since the November before last. It doesn't make Punk's title reign a joke, it doesn't make Punk look weak and it doesn't do anything bad to him. Everyone loses their title at some point, from Bruno getting pinned by Ivan Koloff to Hogan getting cheated by the Hebners. Punk had to lose at some point and he was pinned at a Big Four show by the third biggest star in the history of wrestling. That's hardly getting surprised by a rollup by Primo.

Finally, where does Punk's title reign rank all time? The main problem for Punk's reign is that almost everyone knew

that he was losing the title to Rock at the Rumble for well over six months now. That made nearly half of his reign feel like a formality than a championship reign that could go on forever. That being said, it was still amazing to see in this day and age, especially given the people he was retaining against. It doesn't come off as one of the greatest reigns ever due to feeling like a transitional reign, but it's going to be the longest we see for a VERY long time. That's something Punk can certainly be proud of. How he didn't win Wrestler of the Year from everyone is beyond me.

Brock Signs Through Wrestlemania 31

[Source](#)

Now keep in mind these are the same sites that said Benjamin, Carlito and others were LOCKS, yes LOCKS I SAY for the Rumble. If this is the case though, things change a good bit as now they can stagger his feuds out a bit more. This has to be a relief for WWE if nothing else.

Thoughts?

The Rock vs. John Cena II... .Anybody?

This seems to be the general consensus about the match that is about as obvious as you could ask it to be. So at the Rumble, Cena won the right to fight for a world title at Wrestlemania. As luck would have it, Rock won the WWE Title and will likely be defending it at Wrestlemania. If you're too dense to figure it out at this point, it's pretty clear that Rock vs. Cena II is happening in New York at Wrestlemania 29. However, every opinion I've read of it since then seems to be the same: people aren't that thrilled with the prospect.

That's about where I am on it too. Now don't get me wrong: the match is going to be solid as these two can, no joke intended, bring it. The problem isn't having the match be good. It's having the match feel huge. Rock and Cena had a year to set up the previous match and by the end of it, I had to see it. I didn't care what happened or how good it was but I needed to see the match. With two and a half months to go and nothing new other than the title being on the line, I don't see how this is going to come off as something nearly as huge as last year.

Do I want to see it? Eh...yeah I guess. If nothing else the promo work will be amazing as always. However, that comes back to the same problem: we heard these two talk about each other over the course of 14 months already. Basically this coming Wrestlemania feels like reheating the feast we had last year: it's still good but it doesn't taste like it did straight out of the oven.

Is anyone fired up at this idea?

Royal Rumble 2013: By The Book And Still Awesome

Royal Rumble 2013

Date: January 27, 2013

Location: US Airways Center, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler, John Bradshaw Layfield

As the tag line for the show says, FINALLY we're here. The main events tonight are Punk defending against The Rock and of course the Rumble itself. The shows have been rather awesome lately so hopefully they can keep things going tonight. Hopefully things don't change that much between tonight and Wrestlemania but odds are they will. Let's get to it.

Pre-Show: US Title: The Miz vs. Antonio Cesaro

Cesaro is defending and this is mainly happening because of Ric Flair, as Flair was on Miz's talk show and Cesaro interrupted. Flair "gave" Miz the Figure Four and apparently that's Miz's big weapon here tonight. A fast rollup gets one for Miz but Cesaro grabs a headlock to slow things down. Miz comes back with a back elbow for two and hooks a headlock on his own on the mat.

Miz hits the rope and charges into a kind of tilt-a-whirl powerslam to shift momentum again. Off to a bow and arrow hold by the champion which doesn't last long. A sitout slam gets two for Cesaro and a European uppercut keeps Miz down. There's the gutwrench suplex for two and Cesaro pounds away in the corner. Miz charges into a kind of Irish Curse for two and a jumping double stomp keeps him in trouble.

Cesaro hooks a double arm lock which is quickly broken, allowing Miz to

hit the Reality Check for no cover. Miz pounds away in the corner and hits the running clothesline but the ax handle misses. He may have injured his knee on the landing. They trade rollups for two each and Miz goes after the knee. The Figure Four is easily blocked so Miz kicks him to the floor instead. Cesaro lures Miz in and sends him into a piece of metal under the ring, setting up the Neutralizer to retain at 7:40.

Rating: C-. This was your basic Raw match which is to say nothing special. Miz is floundering right now and this stupid Figure Four stuff is making it even worse. He needs a big moment to really hammer in the change but more than that he's still the same guy he's been for years. I actually like his in ring stuff, but he needs to stick with the Finale and be a bit nicer about things. It would help a lot.

On with the show!

Smackdown World Title: Big Show vs. Alberto Del Rio

Last man standing with Del Rio defending. After Big Show's entrance, we cut to the back where Alberto and Ricardo are getting ready. Bret Hart of all people pops up and says that he's proud of Alberto. Hart sees Del Rio as a Mexican Bret Hart while Del Rio sees Hart as a Canadian Del Rio. Ricardo says he's a big fan so Bret gives him some sunglasses. I have no idea what the point of this cameo was but it wasn't bad.

Show chops him into the corner to start and gets seven off a series of shows to the chest. He loads up that reverse powerbomb of his but gets caught in a hurricanrana to put him down. A top rope seated senton takes Big Show down again but the armbreaker is easily countered into something resembling a one armed Angle Slam.

Show heads to the floor to grab a chair but Alberto dropkicks the knee out and cracks the chair over Show's back a few times. Then he pounds it into the ribs even more but another huge show is deflected and Show hits a chokeslam for an eight. Del Rio rolls to the floor where Show slams him down onto the floor. Alberto kicks him low and superkicks him to get a nine count.

The Big Bald kind of swats Alberto into the floor before throwing him

into a piece of the set. Show misses a superkick into said piece of the set so he whacks Del Rio in the back with a light bulb that doesn't break. Instead Big Show loads up a table in front of that piece of the set. Show climbs onto the set and pulls Del Rio up onto it with him with one arm. A hip toss/chokeslam through the table (it wasn't a huge fall) gets nine and Show is ticked off. They head back to the ring but Del Rio heads to the floor to hide from the KO punch. Show follows him out and loads up the steps but can't hit the champion.

Ricardo tries to jump Big Show but gets thrown into the barricade for his efforts. Show misses a spear and crashes through the barricade for a close nine count. Alberto hits a bunch of chair shots to the back and hits a kind of Conchairto on the shoulder using the steps. Then he sprays Show with a fire extinguisher as Show staggers back inside. Is that really going to keep him down? Back in and the cross armbreaker goes on as Ricardo uses duct tape to tie Show's legs to the ropes ala Cena vs. Batista. Alberto lets go of the hold and wins the match at 17:00.

Rating: B. Good match here but not as fun or special as their first match. I don't think most people thought Show was getting the title back here so they had a big mountain to get over. Still though, they did a good job of beating each other up here to set up a kind of goofy ending. I'm not wild on Del Rio having to use something clever to beat Show when he had already beaten him using force before. Still though, solid stuff here.

Striker is with Ziggler, AJ and Langston in the back. Ziggler is going to enter at #1 because he can. Matt says that's hard to do (remember that Ziggler had to pick #1 or #2, and there's such a HUGE difference between 1 and 2) so AJ gets in his face. Langston then cracks me up by going into an impersonation of a stereotypical nerdy news reporter asking Ziggler on his thoughts on his chances. Ziggler says he'll win both titles at Mania. That was awesome by Langston. The others, not so much.

We get a medley of promos from people in the Rumble ala the old days.

Cesaro says he'll win because he's foreign.

Young and Titus do their thing.

Orton says he's winning because he's awesome.

Cena says what you would expect him to say.

Barrett says he'll be the first Intercontinental Champion to win the Rumble.

Sheamus says he can win his second in a row because of the Brogue Kick.

Ryback says he isn't a predator and he doesn't eat Fruity Pebbles. Just feed him more. He might not be so hungry if he ate Fruity Pebbles.

Tag Titles: Rhodes Scholars vs. HELL NO

The Scholars are getting what is probably their 95th title shot in a few weeks. Bryan and Rhodes start things off with Cody having a leap frog countered into a surfboard. Off to Kane as JBL goes into a mini rant on Dr. Shelby. Kane fights out of the heel corner and slams the now legal Sandow. Bryan comes back in to fire off the kicks as JBL goes off about the hugging on Raw.

Kane kicks Sandow through the ropes and Cody is thrown on top of him. Bryan hits a suicide dive (JBL: "THE FLYING GOAT VEGAN!") to take out both challengers and the fans seem fired up. Back in and Cody gets in a few shots to take over with a half Boston crab as the announcers talk about 1980s TV. Sandow comes in for the Wind-Up Elbow and some stomping for two. Cody comes back in and gets kicked in the face to take him down. Sandow blocks the hot tag though and brings Cody right back in.

Rhodes hooks an over the shoulder backbreaker for a bit but once the hold is released, Bryan hits a running DDT to take Cody down. Kane finally gets the tag (no reaction) and house is cleaned with Sandow taking a side slam for two. Kane loads up the top rope clothesline (JBL: "That's a flying taker.") but Sandow breaks it up. A kind of running swinging neckbreaker gets two for Damien but Cody comes in for a double suplex. Bryan makes a blind tag at the same time though and it's a chokeslam for Cody and the NO Lock for Sandow for the tap out at 9:30.

Rating: C. Average tag match here, but the booking was pretty dull. To

clarify, the Scholars lost every match leading up to the title match, then lost the title match? Well you can't say one thing doesn't lead to another I guess. Then again, I would have avoided having the Scholars lose EVERY SINGLE TIME they fought the champions but why would you want to add drama?

Rumble by the Numbers.

Vickie gives HELL NO their numbers for the Rumble. Kane sees Bryan's and says interesting. Bryan wants to see Kane's and jokes ensue. Ron Simmons unfortunately doesn't show up.

We recap Fan Fest which had the NXT tournament.

Royal Rumble

This is earlier than I was expecting. 90 second intervals and Ziggler is #1. He says he's going to be here at the beginning and at the end. Ziggler doesn't care who #2 is so he doesn't mind when.....CHRIS JERICO is #2??? Jericho has a big tattoo on his left arm now and if you remember correctly, Ziggler got Jericho fired last year. Ziggy throws him to the apron but Jericho comes back with a top rope forearm to the head. Jericho clotheslines him to the apron but Ziggler gets right back in. Cody Rhodes is #3 and the double teaming begins.

Ziggler gets knocked down and Cody is put in the Walls, only to be quickly broken up (or down?) by Dolph. Kofi is #4 and Dolph has to duck Trouble in Paradise. Cody and Jericho both try to dump Kofi to no avail and we enter into the lame brawling section. Santino is #5 and throws Cody and Jericho to the apron but no further. The Cobra takes Kofi down but Ziggler superkicks Santino out. The heels double team Kofi but can't put him out.

Drew McIntyre is #6 and more heel alliances form. Jericho BARELY survives being thrown out by dangling until Titus O'Neal is #7. He picks up Kofi and does the Millions of Dollars dance before hitting him with a backbreaker. McIntyre is sent to the apron and kicked out by Jericho. Ziggler is sent upside down on the ropes but hangs on at the last second. The fans chant for Jericho as Goldust returns at #8.

Goldie goes right for Cody to a big pop and there's the kneeling uppercut. Cody hangs on to avoid elimination as the fans cheer for Goldust. Otunga is #9 as the ring is getting too full. JBL goes into a weird series of insults to Lawler about how Cole kept beating him which goes nowhere. Heath Slater is #10 as we need someone to come in here and clean some people out. Jericho puts Ziggler onto the apron again but can't get him out.

Sheamus is #11 and after a bunch of forearms he dumps Titus and Otunga. Slater tries to jump Sheamus resulting in a big heel beatdown. Tensai is #12, giving us Ziggler, Jericho, Rhodes, Slater, Goldust, Kofi, Sheamus and Tensai. Cole talks about Jake Roberts being the first person to eliminate someone in 1998 (you read that right) as people keep fighting by the ropes. Brodus Clay is #13 complete with the Funkadactyls who are rocking some shorts.

There are way too many guys in there at the moment as Goldust sends Rhodes to the apron. Cody pulls his brother to the apron and slides back in where he whips Goldust into the post to eliminate him. Cool sequence there. Rey Mysterio returns (kind of) at #14 in a weird looking low cut singlet. He hits a few 619s and the top rope splash on Jericho but has to fight off Rhodes.

Darren Young is #15 and joins a group of guys to eliminate Brodus. Kofi low bridges Tensai for an elimination. Ziggler knocks Kofi off the apron where he lands on Tensai's back and is dropped onto the announce table. Kofi teases jumping off the announce table to the ring as the camera stops focusing on the match at all. He asks for JBL's chair as Bo Dallas is #16. Kofi hops with the chair to get back to the apron and gets back in. Ok, last year it was a cool idea but this took like a minute to work which makes it WAY too much.

Kofi dumps Darren (who looked to injure his knee on the landing) but gets Disaster Kicked out by Cody. Godfather returns at #17 and is dropkicked out in two seconds by Ziggler. Gee I'm so glad they wasted this spot on him. We've got Ziggler, Jericho, Rhodes, Sheamus, Dallas, Mysterio, Slater and now Barrett at #18. Barrett and Jericho try to put Sheamus out but Mysterio breaks it up for no apparent reason.

Cody and Barrett are the only ones on their feet as Cena is #19. All of the heels stare him down and it's a dog pile as he gets into the ring. There goes Slater (immediately checked on by referees) and Rhodes as well but Jericho blocks an AA attempt. Dallas goes after Cena so points to him for trying. Sandow is #20 and Rey tries to rana Barrett to the floor, only to get kicked to the floor. Sheamus goes after Barrett because that's the law anymore.

Jericho busts out the Walls on Cena but can't quite hook them. Now he gets them on as Daniel Bryan is #21. There are the kicks for Ziggler and some for Barrett as well. Daniel is the only one on his feet at the moment but he and Sheamus can't put Jericho out. We get dueling Cena chants as Cesaro is #22. Nothing of note happens so Khali is #23. This is his 7th Rumble which is really surprising. WAY too many people in there again.

Ziggler hits a kind of stunner on Cena as Cesaro tries to put Sheamus out. Kane is #24 and sends Ziggler to the apron for about the 17th time. More people lay around until Zack Ryder is #25. There's a Rough Ryder for Dolph and Kane dumps Khali. Bryan dumps Kane but Cesaro knocks Bryan right into Kane's arms. Kane isn't sure what to do but eventually he drops Bryan to the floor, more or less turning him heel for one night only.

Orton is #26 and fires off a bunch of clotheslines and a powerslam for Ziggler. Bo Dallas manages to stay in, only to be caught in a double Elevated DDT at the same time as Ziggler. Ryder eats and RK0 and is gone. Jinder Mahal gets lucky #27 as we now have ten guys in there at once. Cena dumps Cesaro and slingshots Ziggler to the apron but can't put him out. The Miz is #28 and gets in a fight with Cesaro in the aisle. Apparently Miz has a bad ankle from the pre show match and is limping a bit.

Sheamus knocks Mahal out and Miz hits the Reality Check on Cena. Sin Cara gets #29 and totally misses a kick to Ziggler's head as he comes in. Sheamus puts Cena on the apron as Bo Dallas pulls Wade Barrett out in a big surprise. Miz and Jericho fight on the apron as Barrett pulls Dallas

out of the match. There's Dallas' first feud I guess. The Bull Hammer lays Dallas out as well. Ryback gets #30, giving us WAY too many people for me to list at the moment.

Ryback dumps Sandow and Sin Cara and glares at Miz for trying to toss him. There goes Miz and we're down to six: Jericho, Ziggler, Cena, Sheamus, Orton and Ryback. Jericho fires things up and dropkicks Sheamus to the apron but poses too much and gets superkicked out by Dolph. Orton and Sheamus go at it which is probably a title match at Mania. Ryback goes shoulder first into the post and walks into an RKO as does Cena. RKO to Sheamus and an Elevated DDT to Ryback but there's no one on their feet to eliminate.

Ryback counters an RKO and clotheslines Orton out. The Brogue Kick knocks out Ziggler at roughly 50 minutes and we're down to three. It's Cena, Sheamus and Ryback left and Ryback gets double teamed. Now the two superheroes look at the sign and slug it out. Cena fires off his finishing sequence by Ryback breaks up the Shuffle with a Meathook. Sheamus escapes Shell Shock and hits White Noise on Ryback. The pale one loads up the Brogue Kick but gets dumped out by Ryback.

So we're down to Cena vs. Ryback and after a catchphrase battle, Cena walks into a spinebuster. There's the STF to Ryback and the bald one passes out. Cena tries to pick him up but Ryback is dead weight. Cena is fine with that though and sits Ryback on the top, only to get caught in a kind of Thesz Press off the top. Ryback puts him in a kind of powerslam position but Cena escapes and throws him out to win at 54:50.

Rating: C+. I've seen worse but this wasn't the best Rumble or even close to it. The first part was pretty dull stuff after Jericho returned and after that it didn't pick up for a good while. Cena winning was kind of predictable but that doesn't mean it's the wrong choice. I'm really not wild on him facing either Rock or Punk, but maybe he'll go after the World Heavyweight Championship. Well not likely as that title doesn't exist at Mania time but it was worth a try.

We recap Rock vs. Punk which means the Divas Title match got scrapped. That's likely a good idea. Anyway you should know this by now: Punk

doesn't like Rock because he thinks Rock has too much handed to him while Rock got this shot because he won a match nine months ago. The main idea here is that Shield might interfere against Punk's wishes but if they do, Rock gets the title.

Rock goes on a rant about not getting drafted into the NFL which turns into a longer rant about adversity and his mom having cancer. Oh she's here tonight. That's a relief. Anyway, Rock talks about Punk saying the fans don't count but insists they do. He reaches out his hand ala Dusty Rhodes in Hard Times (look it up) and says tonight he and the fans are one. Good ending to an oddly started promo.

Raw World Title: The Rock vs. CM Punk

Shield attacked Rock on Monday so he has some bad ribs. Rock wins a fast slugout but can't hit the Rock Bottom. Punk gets knocked to the floor but gets in a shot to Rocky to slow him up. The champ (Punk) loads up the Spanish announce table...and then puts it right back where he found it. Well at least Mama Punk taught him well. Rock sends Punk into the barricade so Heyman hits him in the back. Heyman: "MOMMY!" CM comes back and messes with the table again before we head back inside.

Punk hooks a bodyscissors to slow things down and knees Rock in the stomach for two. Off to something like the cousin of the Anaconda Vice before Rock comes back with some right hands. Punk will have none of that as he leg lariats Rock right back down. Rock gets draped over the top rope as we get a dueling catchphrase chant (Knees 2 Faces and Rock's version of the same line).

Punk fires off a kick to send Rock to the floor but he might have hurt his knee in the process. He goes up top and hits a forearm to the head but hurts his knee again in the process. The suicide dive keeps Rock down as they seem to be in second gear or so here. Back in and Punk misses the springboard clothesline so Rock goes after the bad knee for the first time. Both finishers are blocked as is the Sharpshooter but Punk counters into the Vice.

In a smart move, Rock rolls over into a cover so Punk has to leg go to escape. A DDT puts Punk down for no cover but Punk rolls through the Rock

Bottom. Now the Sharpshooter is hooked but Punk finally makes a rope. Rock loads up the announce table but doesn't set it back like Punk did. If nothing else, Punk wins the manners battle. Punk gets placed on the table but escapes with a kick to the face. A GTS is countered into the Rock Bottom but the table collapses underneath them. Rock is holding his knee but pulls off a Rock Bottom on the floor, presumably to buy some time.

That gets two back inside and Rock's knee seems ok. That's a good sign. Rock picks Punk up but gets caught by the high kick to put both guys down. A slugout goes to the Great One and there's the flying clothesline to set up the spinebuster. Rock loads up the People's Elbow...and there go the lights.

We can hear something happening at the announce table and flashes of light show the Shield. Rock is put through the announce table but the referee didn't see it so the match doesn't end. DOES VINCE NOT WATCH THESE SHOWS??? Punk is all like "oh dear what an unfortunate turn of events." He insists he has nothing to do with the Shield and rolls Rock back in...for the pin at 21:30.

Rating: B. Good stuff here but they didn't hit their stride until the middle of the match. The Shield stuff is pretty stupid if it stands as Vince isn't stupid enough (kayfabe of course) to let it go. Rock looked like his usual self but this was nowhere near as good as Cena vs. Rock at Wrestlemania. It's good, but it's not great.

Thankfully Vince comes out and says not so fast my friend. He says that he saw the Shield so as Chairman he has to...be cut off by Rock. Rock says Vince doesn't take the title from Punk because that's what Rock is here for. He wants the match restarted and Vince says do it. Punk immediately stomps Rock down in the corner and hits the running knee. There's the Macho Elbow for two more as the fans are getting into this. The GTS is escaped and there's the People's Elbow for the pin and the title at 26:47. There was only about two minutes of extra stuff so the old rating stays, but MAN that was a fast ending for Punk's reign.

Overall Rating: A-. This was a pretty awesome show but the ending was

kind of sketchy. Anyway, Rock vs. Cena II is set up, presumably with Punk getting his rematch next month. I'm not wild on the way Punk lost the title as it wasn't even to the Rock Bottom. I mean, if he can spinebust Punk can't he hit the Rock Bottom? Either way, good stuff here and I can't say I'm complaining about Rock winning the title again. Very good but not excellent show here.

Results

Alberto Del Rio b. Big Show – Big Show couldn't answer the ten count

HELL NO b. Rhodes Scholars – NO Lock

John Cena won the Royal Rumble last eliminating Ryback

The Rock b. CM Punk – People's Elbow

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He's Going to Wrestlemania

In a terrible joke, just like the name before the fold, you can't see him. Cena won, last tossing out Ryback.

Chris Jericho Returns In Royal Rumble

He's starting with Ziggler. Now THAT is a surprise.

Oh and no, this isn't a spoiler because it already happened so spare me your complaints.