

NXT LVL Up – April 7, 2023: I Guess That Helps

NXT LVL Up

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

We're done with Wrestlemania Weekend and the NXT double taping, meaning it is time to get back to a regular edition of this show. That means three matches instead of two and with some LVL Up names being announced for NXT proper, we could be in for some fresh faces around here. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory of Bushwhacker Butch.

Opening sequence.

Dante Chen vs. Boa

Oh yay, Boa is back. Boa kicks him down to start but gets pulled into an armbar. Back up and Chen hits a dropkick but Boa kicks him in the face. Ava comes out to watch and then leaves as Boa suplexes him into a chinlock. Back up and Chen reverses a suplex into one of his own before hitting a pump kick. The double chop finishes Boa at 5:07.

Rating: C-. Yep, that was a Dante Chen match, as he is a generic guy who has nothing to set him apart (aside from his ability to beat young up and comers). Boa continues to be someone who has nothing that makes him stand out and I'm almost scared to imagine either of these two being presented as a big deal. They're not bad by any means, but they're really basic and that makes for a dull match.

Oro Mensah is ready for the monster that is Joe Gacy.

Sol Ruca/Dani Palmer vs. Lash Legend/Jakara Jackson

Ruca and Legend start things off with Ruca working on the arm and it's off to Palmer, who gets launched at Legend for two. Jackson comes in and gets headscissored down, only to come back with an Edge-0-Matic for two of her own. Palmer manages a rollup before flipping over for the hot tag to Ruca. Everything breaks down and the Sol Snatcher finishes Jackson at 4:49.

Rating: C. That Sol Snatcher is just awesome no matter what else happens in a match and it is going to get a reaction no matter what. The key here was that it came out of nowhere and made Ruca look like a killer. Palmer continues to have potential and Legend is still coming along now that she isn't on TV every week and driving people crazy.

Oro Mensah vs. Joe Gacy

The rest of Schism is here too. Mensah cranks on a headlock to start and they fight in the corner until Mensah kicks him out. A rather spinny anklescissors sends Gacy outside but they switch places, allowing Gacy to kick him down. Back in and Gacy cranks on the neck and yells a lot. A knee to the face and scoop brainbuster drop Mensah, setting up the chinlock. Mensah fights up and starts the comeback, including a springboard kick to the face for two. A springboard moonsault misses for Mensah though and Gacy finishes with the Upside Down at 5:08.

Rating: C. If Schism is only getting five minutes in a week, things are looking up. I don't know if they're downgrading the team a bit or if this was just a cameo, but keeping them away from the main NXT for a bit is nice to see. Mensah continues to be little more than a jobber to the stars but at least he did his thing well enough here.

Overall Rating: C. It was nice to have some fresh faces around here, but there isn't much more to the show than that. Gacy

being around gave the show its star power for the week and since he didn't talk, we'll call it a positive. You never know what you're getting with this show, though at least there are some people heading to the main NXT to give these matches a bit more importance.

Results

Dante Chen b. Boa – Double chop

Sol Ruca/Dani Palmer b. Lash Legend/Jakara Jackson – Sol Snatcher to Jackson

Joe Gacy b. Oro Mensah – Upside Down

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Triple Threat: Update On Drew McIntyre's WWE Status, Multiple Issues Reported.

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Maybe Later: Details On WWE's Lack Of Hiring New Wrestlers.

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He Has Plans: Cody Rhodes Opens Up After Rough WWE Week, Talks Future.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/plans-cody-rhodes-opens-rough-wwe-week-talks-future/>

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Smackdown – April 18, 2008: The End Of The Vacation

Smackdown

Date: April 18, 2008

Location: O2 Arena, London, England

Attendance: 17,422

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jonathan Coachman

We'll finish up the England excursion here with the blue guys. These shows can be a cross between a bunch of stuff mainly for the live fans and a show that actually matters so we could be in for either here. Backlash is almost here though and Edge vs. Undertaker II is down for the main event so let's get to it.

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

Here is Chris Jericho for the Highlight Reel to get things going. Jericho reminds us that he is the guest referee for the Backlash match between Shawn Michaels and his guest this week, Batista. Cue Batista, with Jericho saying he thinks Shawn relished retiring Ric Flair and all of his lies over the years. We look at a clip from Raw where Jericho made such accusations, earning himself Sweet Chin Music.

Back live, Jericho says that kick proved him correct and for that, Jericho says you're welcome to Batista. That's not what Batista was looking for because he didn't need Jericho to

speak for him. Batista says this is between himself and Shawn so Jericho has nothing to do with this. Jericho offers some analysis: Batista is upset at Shawn for retiring Ric Flair because he wanted to do it himself. We get a quick fan pole about Jericho's claims but Batista takes him out with the Batista Bomb.

Tommy Dreamer vs. MVP

Non-title and Matt Hardy is on commentary. Dreamer slugs away to start and grabs an armbar, which doesn't last long. MVP gets in a shoulder to the ribs before sending him throat first into the bottom rope. Some more knockdowns set up Ballin for two but Dreamer gets a boot up in the corner. The comeback is on including a neckbreaker to give Dreamer two. The DDT gets the same but MVP sends him shoulder first into the post. A running boot in the corner finishes Dreamer off.

Rating: C. Not quite a squash here but it was there to have MVP get a quick win over someone the fans care about. Dreamer got in a few shots here and there but it was done in about five minutes, as it should be. Now they just need to get to MVP vs. Hardy, which is more than a bit overdue.

Hornswoggle vs. Matt Striker

This is revenge for Hornswoggle helping inlay beat Striker last week. Before the match, Striker goes on a rant about how unfair this is when he is far too smart. Hold on because Hornswoggle, with Finlay, starts with some juggling before throwing the tennis balls at Striker. Then it's some squirt guns, followed by some bigger water guns. Striker finally gets smart by going after Finlay on the floor before finally taking Hornswoggle down and hammering away. The Shillelagh is picked up but the referee takes it away, allowing Finlay to get in his own shot to Striker's head. The Tadpole Splash finishes for Hornswoggle.

Rating: C. It's kind of hard to get annoyed at anyone,

including Hornswoggle, beating up a goof like Striker. The only reason he is around is to get beaten up like this and it being all goofy made it better. They didn't waste a ton of time on this and it wasn't meant to be anything more than a quick joke.

Big Show didn't care for Great Khali giving him a goat and a chicken last week. Tonight he has Mark Henry, which is going to be a big showdown.

Chavo Guerrero vs. Jamie Noble

Bam Neely is here with Chavo. Noble takes him down by the leg to start but Chavo is back up with a running shoulder. Chavo's headlock on the mat doesn't last long as they trade rollups for two each until the armbar goes on. Back up and Noble grabs a northern lights suplex for two but Chavo knocks him down and Eddie dances. Noble manages a quickly broken up Sharpshooter attempt so Chavo necksnaps him across the top. The frog splash finishes Noble off.

Rating: C-. Talented people don't always make for the most interesting matches as this was a good bit of chinlocking before Chavo finished him off. Chavo beating up a former Cruiserweight Champion and having an impressive looking bodyguard isn't going to make him all that much more interesting. I'm sure he'll still be near the top of ECW for the time being though because of course he will be, but it's not quite working.

Mark Henry vs. Big Show

They shove each other away from a lockup to start until Henry knocks him away. The bearhug goes on to keep Show in place until a shove and superkick get Show out of trouble. There's a chokeslam to Henry but cue Great Khali to come out and go after Show for the DQ.

Rating: D+. This didn't have the time to go anywhere but it

was mainly spent in a bearhug with some shoving included. The idea of getting Show ready for Khali was fine but the match was pretty lame on the way there. Then again the idea of Show vs. Khali in a featured match could be rough, even if it wouldn't be much bigger than this.

Post match the brawl is on with Khali hitting a chokebomb (with Show pretty clearly doing all of the work).

Backlash rundown.

Video on Batista vs. Undertaker before tonight's main event.

Victoria vs. Cherry

Natalya and Michelle McCool are here too. Victoria powers her down into the corner to start and then hits a clothesline to cut off the comeback. Cherry grabs a rollup out of the corner for two but Victoria slaps on a reverse chinlock. Victoria keeps up the beating and trash talking but Victoria makes the mistake of yelling at Michelle. In a totally original ending, the distraction lets Cherry grab a rollup for the pin.

Rating: D. So many of these women's matches are just dreadful as there's nothing to them since they rarely get any time and often involve someone who really can't do anything in the ring. It also doesn't help that there's nothing on the line, so why should I get invested here? Cherry doesn't wrestle often, but when your big weapon is a rollup, what are you supposed to do?

Vladimir Kozlov vs. Leroy Kincaid

Kincaid is in pretty good shape. Kozlov works on the arm to start and shoves him away before hitting a headbutt to the chest. An overhead belly to belly sets up the reverse DDT to give Kozlov the easy win.

Video on Edge vs. Undertaker.

Edge and the Edgeheads have front row tickets.

Batista vs. Undertaker

Non-title. Undertaker takes him into the corner to start and gets two off a clothesline. Batista hits the corner shoulders and elbows Undertaker in the face for two of his own. The running DDT drops Batista again and Undertaker stomps away in the corner. Old School is broken up and it's a double clothesline to leave them both down. We take a break and come back with Undertaker choking on the ropes and staying on the arm.

Old School is blocked again and a superplex brings Undertaker back down for one. Undertaker is right back on the arm and now Old School connects. They go outside with Batista being dropped onto the barricade for two but he's right back with the spear. That bangs up the arm though and a delayed cover only gets two. Batista dumps him to the floor and they brawl at ringside until it's a double countout.

Rating: B-. This was a way to get the stars in the ring to continue one of the biggest feuds of the last year or so. The ending was a good way to protect both of them before their major pay per view matches but even the two of them in a match like this feels like something special. There aren't many options that can make something that work but they got the right one here.

Post match the brawl stays on with Edge and the Edgeheads being drawn in so they can get beaten up too. Edge escapes so here is Vickie Guerrero (with an EXCUSE ME) to say that Edge and the Edgeheads are members of the audience so lawsuits could be filed. No worry though, because their justice will come when it's Undertaker vs. Batista for the title next week, with the winner facing Edge at Backlash.

Overall Rating: C. Much like this week's ECW, there wasn't much to be seen here other than one match. These England shows

tend to be more like that but the spectacle does often work. Things will be back to normal next week as Backlash gets closer and we head back stateside, but for now it's one match worth seeing and little else.

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ECW On Sci Fi – April 15, 2008: The Spectacle Show

ECW On Sci Fi

Date: April 15, 2008

Location: 02 Arena, London, England

Attendance: 17,422

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz, Mike Adamle

We're over in England this week as the European tour is on. In this case, we have a special main event as the Brothers of Destruction are here. That alone should be enough to carry the

show, as there is little to care about other than one or two stars. Maybe they have something else to help it out, because the show needs it. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a preview of the show, which in this case means Undertaker/Kane vs. Miz/John Morrison. Well that ups the star power.

Opening sequence.

Tazz tells us that this is Joey Styles' last night on the show as he is going on to head up WWE.com. We meet the new play by play announcer: Mike Adamle. Oh boy.

CM Punk/Kofi Kingston/Jimmy Wang Yang/Shannon Moore vs. Elijah Burke/Deuce N Domino/Shelton Benjamin

Well it's different. Domino and Punk start things off with Punk taking over. Moore comes in with a sunset flip and starts on the arm, as the good guys get to take their turns. Yang hits a dropkick and lands on Domino for two before it's back to Punk. Benjamin comes in and gets kicked in the face as everything breaks down on the floor.

We take a break and come back with Burke missing an elbow to Punk, allowing Kofi to come in for an armbar. The rapid fire tags continue as it's off to Moore to stay on the arm. Burke comes in and uppercuts Yang to take over, setting up the running crotch attack to the back of the head. Benjamin and Deuce put on a chinlock each before Domino drops a leg. A backdrop gets Yang out of trouble though and the hot tag brings in Kingston to clean house. Everything breaks down and Trouble In Paradise finishes Deuce (who had tagged in) for the win.

Rating: C+. This match got some time and picked up steam as it kept going. What mattered here was keeping Kingston strong as

ECW is certainly protecting him. With Punk pretty clearly not long for the minor show, fresh talent is going to be needed. Kingston is getting better in his spot so maybe he could do some good in the future.

We look back at Chavo Guerrero and his lackeys beating up Kane, including his new bald enforcer.

Kane promises revenge on Chavo, but tonight it's about the Brothers of Destruction.

And now, a Diva Dance Off, featuring Layla, Maryse, Eve, Lena Yada and Kelly Kelly. Tazz, the emcee, demonstrates a bit of dancing (or kind of jigging in his case) before everyone gets to go. Shockingly Layla and Eve, the former professional dancers, blow everyone else away but Kelly, the only one to remove clothing, wins. Post contest, Kelly and Tazz dance together in a funny moment.

Tommy Dreamer vs. Mike Knox

Colin Delaney is here with Dreamer. Hold on though as here is Armando Estrada to change things up.

Colin Delaney vs. Mike Knox

Dreamer is sent to the back. Total destruction with Knox hitting a swinging Downward Spiral for the pin in about a minute.

Miz and John Morrison say they're a real team while Undertaker and Kane are always fighting each other. Morrison is even willing to let Miz start the match!

Miz/John Morrison vs. Kane/Undertaker

Non-title. Kane shoulders Miz down to start and sends him shoulder first into the corner. Undertaker comes in to punch the shoulder, setting up Old School. Morrison breaks up the apron clothesline with a legdrop though and we take a break.

Back with Morrison striking away at Undertaker in the corner, only to have Undertaker show him how it's done.

Morrison gets struck in the face a few times, allowing Kane to come in with a side slam to Miz. A Morrison distraction lets Miz get in a chop block though and Morrison comes in to crank on the knee. Miz hammers away until an uppercut and big boot give Kane a breather. That's enough for Undertaker to come in and really take over, including Snake Eyes into the big boot. Double chokeslams set up the Tombstone to finish Morrison.

Rating: C. This is a good example of "it was what it was" as Kane and Undertaker ended up decimating the champs in the end. Miz and Morrison got in a bit of offense on Kane but there is no way to buy this working when things evened up. It's also no shame to lose to a pair of monsters with success of their own like Undertaker and Kane, so Miz and Morrison could have come out looking worse.

The Brothers posing with their titles is a great visual to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. Pretty skippable show, but then again it felt like it was more for the live fans than anything else. ECW really needs to develop some new names and right now it seems to be Kane and Kofi Kingston leading the charge. Kane is fine, but Kofi has a long way to go but the potential is there. This week was more or less a spectacle though and it was an easy enough way to burn through about forty five minutes.

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Battle Of The Belts VI: They Still Don't Got It

Battle Of The Belts VI

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Ryan Center, Kingston, Rhode Island

Commentators: Excalibur, Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone

It's time for another of these specials, which as you might have guessed, are all about titles. These do not tend to feature many title changes and this edition's card was announced with about ten minutes to go in this week's Dynamite. This could go in a variety of ways but there are some interesting matches on the show. Let's get to it.

International Title: Orange Cassidy vs. Dralístico

Cassidy, with the Best Friends, is defending, and runs into Julia Hart, who was still at ringside after the main event of Rampage. Dralístico, with La Faccion Ingovernable, bails to the floor to start before throwing some of his gear at Cassidy. They go with some grappling and Cassidy gets taken down, leaving him glancing up at Dralístico. A hurricanrana sends Cassidy outside, where the seconds get into a staredown.

Back in and Cassidy fires off some lazy chops before taking him by the hand and walking the ropes. Instead of hitting him,

Cassidy puts a hand in the pocket and casually jumps down. A dropkick sends Dralístico to the floor and poses, just to rub it in a bit. Jose the Assistant crotches Cassidy on top though, leaving Dralístico to hit a big dive to break up the brawl on the floor.

Everyone else fights up the ramp and we take a break. Back with Cassidy hitting a Michinoku Driver for two and the tornado DDT for the same. Dralístico Codebreakers him for two and they both go to the top to slug it out. They go back to the mat with Dralístico grabbing a Fujiwara armbar to send Cassidy over to the rope. A Canadian Destroyer into a spinning kick to the head gives Dralístico two more. Cassidy is sent outside and punches Jose the Assistant down. Back in and Dralístico's spinning knee to the face is countered into a small package for two. Cassidy hits the Orange Punch to retain at 10:49.

Rating: C. Not a bad match here, but there was almost no drama about the idea of Dralístico winning the title. It also didn't exactly feel special when Cassidy has been on TV so often lately as it isn't a special defense just just the next one. Cassidy is being built up for a major match though as the person who beats him is going to feel like a big deal.

Post match Cassidy is badly favoring his hand, which was already banged up after punching Buddy Matthews' mast last week. The House of Black pops up on screen and says that was impressive before Buddy Matthews issues the challenge for the title match.

We look back at Dynamite.

Mark Briscoe says he has a lot left and is looking forward to the Lucha Bros' match tonight. Jay Lethal comes in to ask how long they've known each other. Jay Lethal comes in to say everyone is still proud of Mark and they've known each other for over twenty years. Lethal offers to have them work

together and they shake hands. Jeff Jarrett/Satnam Singh and Sonjay Dutt come in but Mark isn't sure about this.

TBS Title: Jade Cargill vs. Billie Starkz

Starkz is challenging and doesn't like Jade not being impressed. Jade talks trash and gets slapped in the face, earning a ram into the corner. A backbreaker keeps Starkz in trouble and Jade spansks her, only to get caught in a Backstabber. Starkz's sunset flip is broken and Jade sends her outside as we take a break.

Back with Jade dropping her again but Jaded is countered into a hurricanrana. Jade is sent outside and a running dropkick to the back connects. Back in and a Downward Spiral drops Jade but she gets her knees up to block a Swanton. The pump kick sets up Jaded to retain the title at 8:35.

Rating: C+. Starkz was trying here but again, there was no reason to believe that she was going to win the title. At the end of the day, Jade's title reign has been built up as such a big deal that it is going to take something special to beat her. Starkz is talented, but she isn't going to come here and be the big streak breaker.

Post match Taya Valkyrie comes out and takes Jade down. Road To Valhalla is blocked though and Jade bails.

Brandon Cutler and Michael Nakazawa are the only ones left of the Elite right now but they're going to stand up to the bullies in the Blackpool Combat Club.

The Lucha Bros and QT Marshall/Powerhouse Hobbs are ready for a fight.

Ring Of Honor Tag Team Titles: Lucha Bros vs. QT Marshall/Powerhouse Hobbs

The Lucha Bros are defending. Penta does his pose at Marshall to start and they trade a few flips until both miss their

finishers. Marshall gets knocked into the corner so it's Hobbs coming in to go nose to nose with Penta. Hobbs knocks Marshall to the floor by mistake and everything breaks down, only to have Hobbs run Penta over. Fenix gets pulled out of the air and a slam plants Fenix hard. Penta tries to chop both of them down so it's a double shoulder to drop him instead.

We take a break and come back with Penta still in trouble but managing a Sling Blade on Marshall. The Backstabber out of the corner allowing the tag off to Fenix as everything breaks down. The wheelbarrow splash gets two on Marshall and a top rope splash is good for the same with Hobbs making the save. An exchange of kicks to the head leaves everyone staggered so Hobbs runs Fenix over.

Marshall hits his cutter but Fenix takes him down again to leave everyone down again. Back in and Marshall gets kicked down again, followed by a top rope splash for two more. Hobbs runs both Bros over but Penta is back up, drawing in the rest of the QTV crew. Aaron Solo gets some of Harley Cameron's spray into Fenix's eyes for two. Penta gets powerbombed onto the apron but Fenix reverses Marshall's suplex into a hurricanrana for the pin to retain the titles at 14:44.

Rating: B-. The Bros are awesome, Hobbs was treated like a monster and Marshall is still a good hand. Everything they did in the ring was good enough, but again the lack of drama hurt this a bit. The inclusion of Marshall brings everything down and there is no real way around that. Hobbs defending his own title would have been more interesting/useful, at Marshall just isn't going to be seen as a potential champion.

Overall Rating: C+. Ever since this show began, it has felt like something AEW has to do rather than wants to do and that was the case again there. The main event is good enough but it's nothing you wouldn't see topped on any given Dynamite. None of the titles felt like they were in jeopardy as we will now have gone over a year since the last time a title changed

hands at one of these shows. It's nothing you'll be mad at yourself for watching, but there's no reason to watch this show.

Results

Orange Cassidy b. Dralistico – Orange Punch

Jade Cargill b. Billie Starkz – Jaded

Lucha Bros b. QT Marshall/Powerhouse Hobbs – Hurricanrana to Marshall

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[Rampage – April 7, 2023](#)

Old School: Big Reason Why This Week's Monday Night Raw Was So Different.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/old-school-big-reason-we-eks-monday-night-raw-different/>

That's Different: WWE Scrapped New Tournament Scheduled To Start On Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-different-wwe-scrapped-new-tournament-scheduled-start-monday-night-raw/>

Gone Girl: Former Champion Taking Hiatus From WWE Following Title Loss.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/gone-girl-former-champion-taking-hiatus-wwe-following-title-loss/>

Not Too Bad: WrestleMania 39 SMASHES Several WWE Records.

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WATCH: Former NXT Champion Turns Evil In Surprise Twist.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-former-nxt-champion-turns-evil-surprise-twist/>

It Didn't Go Well: WWE Reportedly Unhappy With Ric Flair Over Hall Of Fame Speech.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/didnt-go-well-ww-reportedly-unhappy-ric-flair/>

He's Here: Details On Vince McMahon At Monday Night Raw, Morale Reportedly "Felt Nuked".

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-details-vince-mcmahon-monday-night-raw-morale-reportedly-felt-nuked/>

Nope: Former WWE World Champion On Wrestling Again: "No, No".

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/nope-former-ww-world-champion-wrestling-no-no/>

Later? WWE Stars Reportedly "Considering Options" If Vince McMahon Continues Running Television.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/later-ww-stars-reportedly-considering-options-vince-mcmahon-continues-running-television/>

Thieves! WWE Allegedly Confiscates Sign Supporting Rarely Used Wrestler.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thieves-ww-allegedly-confiscates-sign-supporting-rarely-used-wrestler/>

Nope: Former World Champion Not Likely Signing With WWE.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/nope-former-world-champion-not-likely-signing-ww/>

Didn't Make The Cut: WWE Reportedly Scrapped WrestleMania Segment For Popular Star.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/didnt-make-cut-ww-reportedly-scrapped-wrestlemania-segment-popular-star/>

He's In: AEW Confirms Signing Of Former World Champion.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-aew-confirms-signing>

[-former-world-champion/](#)

It's Over! Huge Title Change Takes Place On AEW Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/huge-title-change-takes-place-aew-dynamite/>

Over There: AEW Makes Huge Announcement About First Time Ever Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/aew-makes-huge-announcement-first-time-ever-event/>

They're Back: Two AEW Stars Make Surprise Return During Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/theyre-back-two-aew-stars-make-surprise-return-dynamite/>

Might Want To Fix That: AEW Star And Reigning Champion Currently Working Without Contract.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/might-want-fix-aew-star-reigning-champion-currently-working-without-contract/>

Popular Return: Former Champion Expected To Make WWE Return Soon.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/popular-return-former-champion-expected-make-wwe-return-soon/>

He's In: 25 Year WWE Veteran Officially Jumps To AEW.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-25-year-wwe-veteran-officially-jumps-aew/>

She's Out For A Bit: WWE Star Reveals She Is Hospitalized With Multiple Issues.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/shes-bit-wwe-star-reveals-hospitalized-multiple-issues/>

You Don't Say: Interesting Details On Cody Rhodes vs. Brock Lesnar Story.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/dont-say-interesting-details-cody-rhodes-vs-brock-lesnar-story/>

New Home: Rhea Ripley Reveals Change In Her WWE Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-home-rhea-ripley-reveals-change-wwe-status/>

Up Next: New WWE Series Coming, John Cena Set For Appearances.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/next-new-wwe-series-coming-john-cena-set-appearances/>

He's Done: Miz Goes On Hilarious Rant After WrestleMania Troubles.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-done-miz-goes-hilarious-rant-wrestlemania-troubles/>

He Doesn't Do Sequels: Update On Roman Reigns' Status For Upcoming WWE Event.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/doesnt-sequels-update-roman-reigns-status-upcoming-wwe-event/>

It's Back: Triple H Announces Return Of The WWE Draft, Promises It Will Be Bigger Than Ever.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/back-wwe-bringing-back-major-event-weeks/>

OUCH: WWE Star Reveals Nasty Injury About Three Weeks Before Major WrestleMania Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ouch-wwe-star-reveals-nasty-injury-three-weeks-major-wrestlemania-match/>

One More Run: AEW Star Reportedly Interested In WWE Return For

Big Reunion.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/one-run-aww-star-reportedly-interested-wwe-return-big-reunion/>

Out For A Bit: WWE Star Misses This Week's SmackDown Due To Health Illness.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/bit-wwe-star-misses-weeks-smackdown-due-health-illness/>

He's #1: Cody Rhodes Get Some Very Good News From WrestleMania Weekend.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hes-1-cody-rhodes-get-good-news-wrestlemania-weekend/>

RK-No: Update On Randy Orton's Health Status (And It's Not Good).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rk-no-update-randy-ortons-health-status-not-good/>

That's Worth A Ticket: AEW's Darby Allin Hit By Car In New York City.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/thats-worth-ticket-aww-darby-allin-hit-car-new-york-city/>

As always, hit up the comments section to chat about what is going on and [get on the Wrestling Rumors Facebook page.](#)

Rampage – April 7, 2023: The Long Week

Rampage

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Ryan Center, Kingston, Rhode Island

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross

We're here for the first half of a double shot as it's a live Rampage and Battle of the Belts back to back. That should make for a packed night and we'll start here, including Hook vs. Ethan Page II, again for the FTW Title. Other than that, it's Rampage so expect quite the variety tonight. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

FTW Title: Hook vs. Ethan Page

Hook is defending and this is FTW Rules, meaning anything goes and falls count anywhere. Page isn't wasting time and knocks him off the apron but Hook fights back. A table is pulled out and Hook hammers away against the barricade. They fight into the crowd and through the fans and Page gets the better of things, only to have Hook pound away with forearms to the chest.

We take a break and come back with Page knocking Hook over the barricade but stopping to yell at someone. The distraction lets Hook hit an exploder suplex and whip out a chair (to go with the table inside). That table isn't good enough though as Hook would rather suplex Page through a table at ringside.

Page breaks that up and powerslams him through the ringside table instead. The powerslam gives Page two and Hook is thrown inside for the first time. Page chairs him down but another

swing hits the rope, sending the chair into his own head. The Twist of Fate onto a chair gives Hook two so Page tries to send him through another table. That takes too long though and Redrum retains the title at 9:14.

Rating: C-. I wasn't into this one as it was a bunch of brawling through the crowd and fighting on the floor. Hook can do better than this and I don't get the interest in slowly walking through the crowd for five minutes, a table spot and then Redrum. I'm not sure why we needed a rematch after Dynamite but this should wrap things up for good. It wasn't an awful match, but they didn't really do anything.

Post match Hook puts him through the table.

And now, QTV. After implying that Powerhouse Hobbs used Wardlow's stolen credit card to buy a car ("that huge sale this week"), QT Marshall is ready to win a title and mocks Dante Martin's injury.

Acclaimed/Jericho Appreciation Society vs. LSG/Bobby Orlando/The Infantry

Billy Gunn and Jake Hager are here too. Bowens strikes away at LSG to start and Scissor Me Timbers hits Orlando. That means a four way scissoring, but Acclaimed changes their mind and does it themselves. The Mic Drop finishes for Caster at 2:04.

Post match the Society jumps the Acclaimed and Billy Gunn.

Swerve Strickland talks about Trench and Parker Boudreaux being down and says that he's being involved in a merger. He's joining forces with....you'll find out later tonight. Note that Swerve said of course he got 51% of the ownership. There's your second jab at/reference to WWE's merger/buyout and the second that isn't exactly funny. Maybe that's not what they're doing, but otherwise, why make that specific of a reference?

Darby Allin vs. Lee Moriarty

Big Bill is here with Moriarty, who gets rolled up for a quick two. That leaves Moriarty a little aghast so he takes Allin down with a test of strength. They head outside where Allin gets in a shot of his own and sends Moriarty into the barricade. Big Bill boots him down though and we take a break. Back with Allin dropkicking him into the corner but having to glare Bill down. That's enough for Moriarty to pull Allin off the top and get two off a European Clutch. Back up and Code Red drops Moriarty, setting up a dive onto Bill. The Coffin Drop gives Allin the pin at 9:46.

Rating: C+. AEW is setting up the Four Pillars match and they're doing it the old fashioned way: by having the people involved (or at least the challengers) win match after match. These guys are suddenly on rolls and want the World Title. Just keep it up on the way to Double Or Nothing and include some bigger names, and you have a hot main event.

Post match Allin goes to leave but here is Swerve Strickland to offer a handshake....and then Brian Cage jumps Allin, because Swerve has merged with the freaking Embassy.

We get a sitdown interview between Taya Valkyrie and Jade Cargill/Mark Sterling over ownership of Jaded/Road To Valhalla.

Video on Julia Hart vs. Julia Hart.

Anna Jay vs. Julia Hart

Anna jumps her to start and they fight to the floor, with Hart whipping her into the barricade. Back in and Anna kicks Hart in the face and snaps her throat across the top rope to take over again. Hart gets whipped into the barricade and we take a break. Back with Hart hitting a standing moonsault for two on Anna but getting caught in the Queenslayer. That's broken up so Hart hits a top rope moonsault press. The Queenslayer goes on again but they fall out to the floor for a crash. Anna gets back in but Hart throws in a chair for a distraction, allowing

Hart to spray the black mist. A small package gives Hart the pin at 9:43.

Rating: C. These two are certainly trying and you can see some improvements, but it still doesn't feel like the most natural match when either of them are in the ring. Both feel like they're going through a list of things they decided to do rather than flowing naturally and that doesn't help much. It was far from a bad match and they didn't mess up anything horribly, but there is a limit to what these two are capable of doing right now.

Post match Hart goes to leave and runs into Orange Cassidy on the way to the ring for the opener of Battle of the Belts.

Overall Rating: C. This wasn't much as the biggest story coming out of it was the JAS attacking the Acclaimed, which took place two days after the Acclaimed rapped about how stupid the team was. Other than that, the Embassy now has a story and Hook beat Ethan Page again. This show continues to feel like they just throw whatever doesn't make it onto Dynamite on there (or in some cases something very similar) and that doesn't make for the most interesting hour.

Results

Hook b. Ethan Page – Redrum

Acclaimed/Jericho Appreciation Society b. LSG/Bobby Orlando/The Infantry – Mic Drop to Orlando

Darby Allin b. Lee Moriarty – Coffin Drop

Julia Hart b. Anna Jay – Small package

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Smackdown – April 7, 2023: Pretty Good Has Never Looked So Great

Smackdown

Date: April 7, 2023

Location: Moda Center, Portland, Oregon

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

We're done with Wrestlemania and based on Raw, may be done with a way of life in WWE. The question now becomes if Raw was a one off or if it is the new normal. Triple H is apparently here for some kind of announcement and that could go in a variety of directions. Let's get to it.

Here is Wrestlemania ([Night One](#) and [Night Two](#)) if you need a recap.

We open with a long recap of Wrestlemania.

Imperium vs. Brawling Brutes

Butch starts fast and chases people off before handing it off to Holland to bring in the power on Kaiser. It's right back to Butch, who works on Vinci's finger and stomps on the arm.

Kaiser shoves Butch off the middle rope into a suplex from Vinci (who catches him in the air in a scary power display) as we take a break.

Back with Butch fighting out of a chinlock and bringing Holland in to clean house. Imperium isn't having that and catches him with a triple boot in the corner. Gunther comes in to chop Holland down, setting up the running dropkick into the corner. A powerbomb gets two with Butch having to make the save. The Boston crab goes on but the crawl lets Holland get the tag to Sheamus. The ten forearms have Gunther in trouble and White Noise gets two. Vinci and Kaiser are back in with a high/low to Butch but Sheamus knees Vinci out of the air. The Brogue Kick finishes Vinci at 11:41.

Rating: B-. These guys work well together and there is nothing wrong with letting them beat on each other for awhile. It's nice to see Sheamus getting some momentum back after the loss at Wrestlemania and I can go for having all of the Brutes together again for a change. Good opener here and it's nice to see that on WWE TV again.

Long recap of the Cody Rhodes/Brock Lesnar saga from Raw.

Paul Heyman, with Solo Sikoa, says he will pass over a question about Lesnar and thank Roman Reigns for the amazing Wrestlemania. Jey Uso comes in to say he hasn't seen Jimmy Uso all night. Heyman says Jimmy isn't here, because Reigns wanted Jey to face Sami Zayn on his own tonight. Jey leaves, and Heyman tells Solo to solve the Sami Zayn problem tonight, or solve the Bloodline's problems tonight. Well that's ominous.

Ricochet vs. Ivar

Both partners have been banned from ringside but Valhalla is here with Ivar. Ricochet starts fast by sending Ivar outside, where Ivar crushes him against the apron. Back in and Ricochet flips out of a suplex and hits a running knee. Ivar knocks him down again and for some reason Ricochet tries a fireman's

carry. That level of brilliance earns him a spinning kick to the face but Ricochet knocks him out of the corner. The shooting star press finishes Ivar off at 4:05.

Rating: C+. I can go with Ricochet fighting a monster and getting a nice boost out of it as a result. More Ricochet is a good thing and it would be great to see him being elevated again. I'm not sure what is next for any of the teams from the showcase match but at least Ricochet is getting a little momentum.

Kevin Owens is looking at the titles but insists that he is LEERING at them. Sami Zayn is happy to be here and Owens talks about how big Sami vs. Jey Uso is going to be tonight. They can put the Bloodline behind them but Sami thinks something about this feels off. He can't shake the feeling that he has to talk to Jey about...something. Everything Owens has said is true but Sami feels obligated to talk to him. Owens wants to know what Sami thinks is going to happen but knows he can't talk him out of this. Sami knows he's right but is going to do it anyway. I don't see this going well at all.

Raquel Rodriguez/Liv Morgan vs. Natalya/Shotzi

Natalya and Shotzi send Rodriguez outside with Shotzi hitting a dive so hard that Rodriguez kind of belly to belly suplexes her. Back in and Shotzi hits a knee but a springboard hurricanrana is countered. It's off to Morgan, who trades rollups with Natalya to limited avail. A release German suplex into a discus clothesline drops Morgan and Shotzi is back in for an assisted Sliced Bread. Rodriguez breaks up a Hart Attack and Oblivion finishes Shotzi at 2:50. This was very fast paced and gives Morgan and Rodriguez a bit of a boot on the way to their title match.

Madcap Moss and Xavier Woods are playing WWE2K23 when LA Knight comes in to complain about all the gaming. Why was Woods on Wrestlemania for video games and not him? Woods is

tired of this and says he'll beat Knight again if he has to.

Here is HHH for a chat. After saying there is nothing like that kind of a reaction, HHH brags about Wrestlemania and all of the successes it has had. Now though, Wrestlemania is behind us and we look to the future. Are you ready? In just a few weeks, it is time for the WWE Draft. This year's will be bigger than ever with every single superstar eligible. When it is time, this year's Draft will truly change the game. Speaking of that, here is someone who is doing just that: Rhea Ripley (with the rest of the Judgment Day.

Ripley says that everything changed at Wrestlemania when she did the impossible. She's the star now and it is time to rise for Mami. Finn Balor talks about how Edge hurt him but he is still standing (PLEASE tell me that story isn't continuing). Dominik...has to pause for the fans booing him before talking about how he couldn't bring himself to really hurt his father at Wrestlemania. He can't stand Bad Bunny though and we see the big brawl with Bad Bunny on Monday. Damian Priest can forgive Bunny for what he did, but hopes Bunny can forgive Priest for what he had to do. Cue Rey Mysterio and the LWO as we're ready to go.

Rey Mysterio/Santos Escobar vs. Judgment Day

It's Dominik Mysterio/Damian Priest for the team here and Dominik tags out rather than face his dad to start. With Priest knocked down, Dominik comes in to hammer away and gets one off a suplex. Rey manages to flip out bring in Escobar to pick up the pace. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker drops Dominik and stereo dives take the villains down.

We take a break and come back with Dominik grabbing a front facelock on Escobar. A backdrop gets Escobar out of trouble and it's Rey coming back in. Rey starts firing off some dropkicks but Rhea Ripley has to chase Zelina Vega. The 619 hits Dominik but Priest breaks up the Phantom Driver. South of

Heaven finishes Escobar at 10:06.

Rating: C+. This was a fast paced match that you would expect from Escobar and company, but unfortunately there was no real way to end this other than Escobar getting pinned. Since you can more or less pencil in Rey/Bunny vs. Priest/Dominik at Backlash, how else could they have gone? For now, it's nice to see Priest getting a win as it doesn't happen very often.

Shinsuke Nakamura is back next week.

Sami Zayn comes up to Jey Uso and says it's fine if Jey doesn't want to talk. Zayn says it's the same as it has been for the last few months: everything Zayn has said would happen has happened. Jimmy Uso isn't here and Roman Reigns isn't here, while Solo Sikoa is looking like he is ready to drop the hammer. Now Sami will beat as much sense into Jey as he has to, but he'd rather not. Jey doesn't say anything but we hear some kind of a fracas. Kevin Owens has been attacked by Solo Sikoa, who has dropped an anvil case on Owens' leg.

Jey Uso vs. Sami Zayn

Before the match, Sami says Kevin Owens was right but he's about to show Uso that he isn't the only one with a problem. Jey shoulders him down to start but gets sent to the floor. Cue Solo Sikoa for a distraction as we take a break. Back with Sami hitting a superplex and hammering away. Sami gets superkicked out of the air but exploder suplexes Jey into the corner. The Blue Thunder Bomb gets two and they go up top, where Sami gets headbutted to the apron. Sikoa gets in a cheap shot and Jey superkicks him for the pin at 9:54.

Rating: B-. If the Bloodline is continuing for the time being (or beyond), Uso needed to win here as the non-Reigns members needed the boost. If nothing else, this keeps up the idea of Sami/Owens needing each other to deal with the Bloodline, though Owens is not going to be happy here. In other words, the saga continues, despite a huge step being taken at

Wrestlemania.

Post match the beatdown is on but Jey breaks up the Samoan Spike. Then he superkicks Sami himself and has Sikoa get a chair. Cue Matt Riddle for the save (remember that Sikoa put him on the shelf in December) to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Maybe it was just the comparison to Raw, but this was a rather good show and felt like everything before this Monday's debacle. There were good matches and storylines advanced so it was a totally useful two hours of TV. That is better than I would have expected and we'll it a huge relief. On top of that there is the Draft announcement so something big is on the horizon.

Results

Brawling Brutes b. Imperium – Brogue Kick to Vinci

Ricochet b. Ivar – Shooting star press

Raquel Rodriguez/Liv Morgan b. Natalya/Shotzi – Oblivion to Shotzi

Judgment Day b. Rey Mysterio/Santos Escobar – South of Heaven to Escobar

Jey Uso b. Sami Zayn – Superkick

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Impact Wrestling – April 6, 2023: It's The Best They Can Do

Impact Wrestling

Date: April 6, 2023

Location: St. Clair College, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Matthew Rehwoldt, Tom Hannifan

We're done with Multiverse United and that means we are on the way to Rebellion. However, this time we are going to have to stop for the sake of Josh Alexander vacating the World Title due to injury. There is a new main event of Kushida vs. Steve Maclin for the vacant title at Rebellion, which should be good but won't feel as special. Let's get to it.

[Here is Multiverse United if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a recap of Josh Alexander's World Title reign and his injury, which may have been exacerbated by Kushida's Hoverboard Lock in a recent match.

Motor City Machine Guns vs. TMDK

That would be Shane Haste/Bad Dude Tito for TMDK. Everything breaks down fast and the Guns send them to the floor, setting up the stereo dives. Back in and Skull & Bones is broken up, allowing Hates to take over on Shelley. Tito comes in to chop away for two and it's right back to Haste for the neck crank.

A Downward Spiral into the corner gets Shelley out of trouble

and Sabin comes in to clean house. Everything breaks down and the Guns take over, including a dive and a bunch of kicks. Back in and a toss Blue Thunder Bomb is broken up and it's the Dream Sequence to Tito. A crucifix from Shelley into a rollup from Sabin finishes Haste at 7:46.

Rating: C+. These teams work well together, which shouldn't be a surprise as the Guns can work with just about anyone. Haste and Tito have been around a little bit more frequently and what I've seen has worked. That being said, it's a rather little bit so they have a ways to go before they really get anywhere.

Post match the Guns go to the back where they run into the Bullet Club, who can work their way up to another title shot. The Guns say they've already got a title match at Rebellion so let's make it an Ultimate X match. If the Guns can make it happen, the Club is in.

Eddie Edwards makes sure Kenny King has his back against PCO tonight. King wants to know where Edwards was when he was fighting PCO, so no he doesn't have Edwards' back. He also makes it clear that he wasn't the one driving the car that ran over PCO.

Tommy Dreamer comes up to see Scott D'Amore about being on his team at Rebellion. Dreamer sucks up to him but D'Amore says his job is back here.

Mike Bailey vs. Jonathan Gresham

The winner gets a shot at X-Division Champion Trey Miguel, on commentary, at Rebellion. They stare each other down to start and we get a handshake. They fight over a wristlock with neither getting very far. Instead Bailey backs him into the corner before a double collision puts them both down. We take a break and come back with Bailey missing a running shooting star press, setting up a pinfall reversal sequence. They go head to head and then chop it out until Gresham knocks him to

the floor.

Back in and Gresham rolls him up for two but a flipping slam gives Bailey two more. Gresham grabs a not great looking Figure Four and they roll around until they fall under the bottom rope to break it up. After being in a Figure Four for over a minute, Bailey is fine enough to hit a top rope springboard moonsault to the floor. Bailey yells at Miguel, which is enough to draw him in for a springboard double dropkick for the double DQ at 13:09.

Rating: B-. Miguel came in just before Bailey could go insane with the no selling of the leg and that is fine enough. You can pencil in the triple threat for Rebellion from here and that isn't the worst idea. Gresham and Bailey have had a rivalry going on and there is no reason to have one of them go over the other for a title shot. If nothing else, we continue the tradition of a champion not getting the problem of a double DQ in a #1 contenders match, so at least something is consistent.

Post match Miguel indicates he's smart. I'm sure.

Deaner is impressed Callihan has made it this far and talks about Callihan doing well in step six. Then Callihan cost them a match against Time Machine, which Callihan finds ridiculous. It's time for step seven, which involves getting rid of all other authority in Callihan's life except for the Design. He can figure out how to do that. This remains one of the worst things in wrestling today.

Santino Marella makes the triple threat match for the X-Division Title at Rebellion. We'll even make it elimination style.

Jody Threat vs. Tara Rising

The fact that Rising has hair ala mid 1990s HHH is just a coincidence I assure you. Threat grabs a headlock to start as

we see Santino Marella down in the back. A running clothesline and uppercut stagger Rising before some standing clotheslines rock Rising again. Some more clotheslines set up the double knees to the back and a German suplex drops Rising again. An F5 (the F416, the local area code) finishes Rising at 3:08.

Rating: C-. This didn't work very well as Threat wasn't exactly impressive. She felt like almost anyone who would fit in with almost any low level indy promotion who needs a stereotypical intense woman. Maybe this was just a tryout or something but Threat didn't really stand out in any good way here.

In the back, Scott D'Amore checks on Santino Marella, with Dirty Dango saying the Design did this. Dango thinks that since Marella is out of action (as he sits there wide awake), he should be in charge. Instead, D'Amore says that Dango and Joe Hendry should face the Design. Marella says this is a chance to show his son how to stand up for himself, so he'll fight the Design at Rebellion. Because of course he will.

Gisele Shaw, Jai Vidal and Savannah Evans interrupt Tasha Steelz. Shaw isn't happy with Steelz interrupting her and a match is set for next week.

Bully Ray/Good Hands vs. Tommy Dreamer/Yuya Uemura/Darren McCarty

McCarty is a former NHL player who got in a fight with Ray at Sacrifice. Skyler slugs away at Dreamer to start to no avail, so Uemura comes in for a double hiptoss. The jumping elbow drop gives Uemura two before it's off to Hotch, who gets armbarred down. A cheap shot takes Dreamer down though and the double villain choking ensues. Dreamer finally DDTs his way out of trouble and it's McCarty coming in to clean house. McCarty clears the ring before hitting a Stunner on Hotch for the pin at 5:47.

Rating: C. The match was nothing to see but rather a way to

have McCarty in there for something a bit special. That's all it needed to be and McCarty didn't take up too much time. If nothing else, it meant we didn't have to hear Dreamer and Ray talk again for a week so I'll call that one a success.

Post match Kenny King runs in to go after Dreamer, drawing in Frankie Kazarian, Masha Slamovich and Killer Kelly in a row. Dreamer, Kelly, Uemura and Kazarian clear the ring as we seem to have a Team Dreamer for Rebellion.

Video on Josh Alexander's World Title reign.

Jordynne Grace did well in a bodybuilding competition.

We look at Deonna Purrazzo qualifying for the Knockouts Title match at Rebellion.

Purrazzo talks about how rough of a time she has had in the last year but now she has a chance to get back to the top.

Eddie Edwards vs. PCO

PCO puts him on the top rope to start and snaps off a super hurricanrana as we take a break. Back with Edwards not being able to hit a tiger driver on the floor but settling for a superplex instead. A chop out goes to PCO and he choke shoves Edwards to the floor. The suicide cannonball plants Edwards again and a chokeslam onto the apron sends us to another break.

Back again with PCO hitting the Deanimator but Edwards pulls the referee in front of a charge. PCO goes up top but here is Alisha Edwards to beg him no on the PCOsault. Then she kendo sticks him in the head so Eddie can hit a buckle bomb. The Boston Knee Party finishes PCO at 16:45.

Rating: C+. PCO can still do some crazy things in the ring but at least the ending seems to explain who was driving the car. If nothing else, this ties up the on again/off again deal with Alisha and Eddie, which does at least offer something

different for Eddie. You know there's going to be some wacky match at Rebellion and that could at least be a lot of fun.

Post match PCO gives chase but Edwards and Edwards escape in their car.

Here's what's coming on various shows.

Here is Scott D'Amore, with Kushida and Steve Maclin here as well, to accept Josh Alexander's World Title. D'Amore talks about how great Alexander has been as champion and hypes up a new champion being crowned at Rebellion. Here's Alexander, with his wife and son, to talk about opportunities. He toiled on the Canadian independent scene to get a chance and then D'Amore offered him a contract.

Alexander has worked so hard in and out of the ring to pay people like D'Amore back. His work ethic has brought him this far and he stands here the longest reigning World Champion in Impact's history. At Rebellion, there will be a new champion crowned and we'll find out if Maclin has what it takes. Alexander promises to get the title back and goes to hand it over...and then his son takes the title.

After a NEW CHAMP chant, the title is handed over to D'Amore but Maclin says just hand it to him because he was going to win it at Rebellion. D'Amore goes off on Maclin for going after an injured Alexander, because if Maclin was a real man, he would have accepted the open challenge like Mike Bailey did. Maclin isn't a real man and a few weeks ago, Kushida made him tap out. Maclin calls out Kushida, who pulls him into the Hoverboard Lock and sends him running before holding up the title. Kushida hands the title back to D'Amore to end the show. They did what they could with what they had here so this could have been worse.

Overall Rating: C+. This was another standard Impact show with enough good action and building towards the future. The Alexander segment was doing as well as could be expected given

some horrible circumstances that aren't Impact's fault so I'll take what I can get. Other than that, they're getting Rebellion ready and we might even be seeing less from Santino Marella week to week. I'll call that a win so it's another nice week around here.

Results

Motor City Machine Guns b. TMDK – Rollup to Haste

Mike Bailey vs. Jonathan Gresham went to a double DQ when Trey Miguel interfered

Jody Threat b. Tara Rising – F416

Darren McCarty/Tommy Dreamer/Yuya Uemura b. Bully Ray/Good Hands – Stunner to Hotch

Eddie Edwards b. PCO – Boston Knee Party

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Ring Of Honor TV – April 6, 2023: They're Here...Again

Ring Of Honor

Date: April 6, 2023

Location: UBS Arena, Long Island, New York

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We're done with Supercard Of Honor and that means it is time to get to whatever this show is going to be without a pay per view coming up. I'm not sure what that is going to mean, but I'm assuming that the Trustbusters/Varsity Athletes are going to be involved. We should be in for a fun show here as is tradition, but it might be a bit before we have another major show. Let's get to it.

[Here is Supercard Of Honor if you need a recap.](#)

Christopher Daniels is ready to take the Pure Title from Katsuyori Shibata because championships are on his agenda. Daniels has beaten him before but Shibata has gone through a lot since then. Now Shibata is one of the toughest men in the world but Daniels wants him anyway. I do like these promos for some of the feature matches. Do some more of them throughout the show.

Opening sequence.

Shane Taylor/Workhorsemen vs. Mark Briscoe/Lucha Bros

Shane shoves Mark around to start before running him over with a shoulder. It's off to Anthony Henry, who walks into a big boot to cut him down. Fenix comes in for the top rope low stomp and the good guys clear the ring without much trouble. For some reason Penta tries a package piledriver on Taylor, which is blocked just as fast. JD Drake comes in to strike it off with Penta against the ropes and it's back to Henry for a

quickly broken chinlock.

The reverse Sling Blade gets Penta out of trouble though and it's Briscoe coming back in to clean house. The Bang Bang Elbow hits Taylor on the floor as everything breaks down. Back in and Taylor hits Welcome To The Land (over the shoulder piledriver) for two on Briscoe as the Bros have to make a save. A quick Jay Driller finishes Henry at 8:48.

Rating: C+. This was a fast paced match and it was the kind of effort that can help turn Briscoe and the Bros into a more serious team. There are only so many worthwhile trios in AEW/ROH so making someone new is a good idea. Now just let them actually be built up with some bigger wins and it could work well.

Pure Wrestling Title: Katsuyori Shibata vs. Christopher Daniels

Daniels is challenging and gets taken to the mat rather quickly. Shibata takes over with the grappling so Daniels bails away, which seems like a smart move. Back up and Daniels starts in on the arm but gets pulled into a quick Figure Four. The rope is grabbed and Shibata misses a Penalty Kick, allowing Daniels to start in on the neck.

The Downward Spiral into the Koji Clutch has Shibata in more trouble but he's fine enough to knock Daniels into the corner. The chops just annoy Shibata and there's a running dropkick in the corner to rock Daniels hard. A rear naked choke makes Daniels bail to the rope for the second break. Back up and they trade STO's before Shibata strikes him down. The Penalty Kick retains the title at 10:07.

Rating: B-. This is why Daniels is around, as he can still wrestle a nice match and look good in the process. Shibata gets his first title defense under his belt and that is exactly what he needs to do. If nothing else, it's nice to see the champion establishing himself and Daniels is as good as

you can get for a first challenger.

Claudio Castagnoli is ready for anyone.

Brian Cage vs. Ortiz

Prince Nana is here with Cage. Ortiz slips out of an early suplex attempt and gets knocked into the corner for his efforts. Back up and Ortiz sends him to the floor for the first dive but Cage is fine enough for the apron superplex. Cage does the reps before tossing him with a standing fall away slam but Ortiz grabs a DDT.

A Death valley Driver gives Ortiz two and Cage's GMSI gets the same. Some headbutts stagger Cage in the corner, at least until he comes out with a superkick. Another apron superplex is countered into a powerbomb but Cage is right back with the Drill Claw to finally put Ortiz away at 8:24.

Rating: C+. This went a bit longer than it needed to but Cage winning was the way to go in the end. Ortiz hasn't had much to do as of late and Cage is still a champion, so giving him the pin made sense. It was a pretty nice power vs. speed match, even if Cage is capable of doing just about anything in the ring at the same time.

Darius Martin vs. Jay Lethal

Satnam Singh and Sonjay Dutt are here too as Maria Kanellis, with the Kingdom, is on commentary. Darius wastes no time in sending him outside for the dive and a near fall back inside. Lethal crotches him inside and hits a dive of his own, setting up a strut on the floor. Darius is right back with a few shots of his own but has to stop and look up at Singh.

Back in and a springboard Downward Spiral gets two on Lethal. They slug it out as Maria and her husband Mike Bennett make "getting lucky" jokes. Matt Taven thinks he sees an untied shoe and heads to ringside as Darius accidentally dropkicks

Singh to no avail. Taven superkicks Darius so Lethal (with a "sure, why not" shrug) hits Lethal Injection for the pin at 5:29.

Rating: C+. This didn't have a ton of time and there was more than enough interference but the action that we got was good enough. Martin is going to have a long way to go to set himself up as a singles star without Dante around but putting him in the ring with someone like Lethal can be a nice boost. Now just win a few times.

Post match Singh gives the Kingdom his jacket and both guys fit inside (that's not normal).

La Faccion Ingovernable b. The Infantry

Preston Vance and Jose The Assistant are here too. Dean and Dralistico start things off and they trade leg trips for a quick standoff. We pause for a Code Of Honor, allowing Dralistico to kick him in the head. Bravo comes in and chops it out with Dralistico until Rush gets in a cheap shot to the back to take over. Rush adds a face wash in the corner and the Tranquilo pose gives La Faccion a break. Dralistico double underhooks Bravo and flips him into a knee to the face for the pin at 3:41.

Rating: C. Total and complete squash here, which is what should happen to a team like the Infantry. Rush and Dralistico still don't do much for me but it is nice to see the two of them getting to dominate like this for a change. Let them get built up as a bigger team and let them go after the champs, as there are certainly worse ideas.

Post match La Faccion poses over the Infantry.

Tracy Williams vs. Daniel Garcia

They go to the mat to start with Williams slipping out, earning some applause from Garcia. Some chops into a

hammerlock suplex drop Garcia but he's right back with a cheap shot to take over. Garcia teases grabbing a weapon but opts to flip off the fans instead. We pause for some Garcia dancing, allowing Williams to come back up for a slugout. Williams catches him in the corner and gives him a DDT onto the top rope, sending them into a series of standing switches. Garcia lifts him up and hits a gutbuster for the pin at 6:11.

Rating: C+. They had a nice technical match here but neither is exactly the most interesting star at the moment. Garcia got beaten up by Tanahashi at Supercard Of Honor and Williams has been here to put people over since he came back. I've never been overly interested in Garcia and giving him just a slightly above ok TV win isn't helping that.

Notorious Mimi vs. Willow Nightingale

Mimi is formerly known as Sloane Jacobs in NXT. Nightingale takes her down to start and drops a quick backsplash. An open hand shot gives Mimi a breather but the Pounce takes her down. The Doctor Bomb finishes Mimi at 2:02.

Steve Somerset/Stephen Azure vs. The Righteous

The Righteous returned to ROH at Supercard Of Honor. Somerset and Azure (in matching sweater vests and apparently called Even Stevens, making them rather awesome) get jumped to start and the beatdown is on. Azure (with his Vest In The World pants) gets chopped and beaten down, setting up an exploder suplex. A swinging Boss Man Slam into a Swanton sets up Autumn Sunshine (assisted Dudley Dog) to finish Azure at 1:55. Total squash and a nice debut/return.

Tony Nese vs. Konosuke Takeshita

The rest of the Varsity Athletes and Mark Sterling are here with Nese. They start fast with Nese kicking him down and striking a bicep pose. Takeshita even offers a handshake but gets hit in the face. That's fine with Takeshita, who knocks

him away and does a bicep pose of his own. A distraction lets Nese send him into the steps and we hit the bodyscissors back inside. The running Nese is cut off by a clothesline and Takeshita gets in a series of shots to the face, setting up a top rope backplash for two.

The Blue Thunder Bomb connects but Sterling pulls Nese outside. That means the big flip dive and Nese goes into the steps this time. Back in and Takeshita gets tied in the ropes for a springboard moonsault. They slug it out until Takeshita pulls him into a leg trap Tombstone for two. Nese hits a pumphandle piledriver for two but the running Nese is countered into a rolling German suplex to give Takeshita the pin at 10:25.

Rating: B-. Good match, but why in the world did Takeshita, who feels like a breakout star in the making, going back and forth for ten minutes against TONY NESE? I'm not sure if Nese has ever won a meaningful match on AEW/ROH TV so why is he not the next person getting squashed on this show? Takeshita hasn't won much around here, but he's way better than Nese and I do not get the thinking here. Put him in there with someone you're willing to squash or don't have the match as we just saw Takeshita win a bigger match at Supercard Of Honor.

Ring Of Honor Women's Title: Athena vs. Miyu Yamashita

Yamashita is challenging and was all over Wrestlemania weekend. Athena armdrags her down to start but Miyu misses a Skull Kick. Both of them miss some kicks until Miyu hits a spinning kick to the head out of the corner. Athena manages a trip to send Miyu throat first into the top rope.

A DDT on the leg on the floor slows Miyu down and Athena grabs a leglock back inside. Miyu kicks her away and hits a kick from the apron, only to have Athena block another one. A ram into the post doesn't do much to Miyu, who is back with a knee. Back in and a super Attitude Adjustment gives Miyu two

and there's a big kick to Athena's head. Athena is back with a half crab to stay on the leg, followed by an ankle lock.

With that broken up, Miyu kicks her away and tries another spinning heel kick, with the ducking Athena going to the floor. They slug it out on the stage with Miyu hitting another AA as commentary says the referee has relaxed the rules so the match can continue. Back in and Athena sends her off the stage, setting up a Cannonball to take Miyu down again. They get back in the ring and Athena ducks another kick, setting up the crossface to knock Miyu out at 13:34.

Rating: B-. There's your Athena match of the week, as she has now been on four out of the six episodes of the show. It was a longer match and Miyu has looked good in everything I've seen her do. The problem though is Miyu hasn't exactly done much in AEW/ROH. She's had two matches in AEW (most recently last summer) and wrestled on last week's ROH in her only appearances. The match was good, but it's hard to care about a challenger who is basically a newcomer/stranger.

Post match Athena teases more violence but leaves instead.

Overall Rating: B-. Another nice show but there's still nothing on here that really feels important. Whenever I watch this show, I get one of two thoughts to most wrestlers: "I just saw you on Dynamite" or "hey, it's this person...again", as there are more than a few people who pop up here fairly often. I really don't need to see Nese or Athena or Cage or Garcia or Nightingale as often as they're around and having them in so many matches makes them feel less and less special. If this show just has to be as long as it is every week, they need to find a way to keep things fresher, because the charm is going to be lost fast.

Results

Mark Briscoe/Lucha Bros b. Shane Taylor/Workhorsesmen – Jay Driller to Henry

Katsuyori Shibata b. Christopher Daniels – Penalty Kick
Brian Cage b. Ortiz – Drill Claw
Jay Lethal b. Darius Martin – Lethal Injection
La Faccion Ingobernable b. The Infantry – Spinning knee to the
face to Bravo
Daniel Garcia b. Tracy Williams – Gutbuster
Willow Nightingale b. Notorious Mimi – Doctor Bomb
The Righteous b. Steve Somerset/Stephen Azure – Autumn
Sunshine to Azure
Konosuke Takeshita b. Tony Nese – Rolling German suplex
Athena b. Miyu Yamashita – Crossface

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