

Rampage – July 26, 2024: They Have Something With This

Rampage

Date: July 26, 2024

Location: Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Excalibur, Matt Menard

It's the Rampage after Dynamite, meaning we are in for the traditional Royal Rampage followup. That means a double ring battle royal with the winner getting a World Title shot at Grand Slam. In this case it means we have a different enough kind of show and that is often nice to see. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Royal Rampage

There are two rings with ten total entrants, last man standing gets a World Title shot at Grand Slam. Ring #1 starts with Orange Cassidy in at #1 and Brody King in at #2 while Ring #2 starts with Claudio Castagnoli in at #1 and Komander in at #2. Cassidy and Komander grab an arm each to start and walk the ropes but the wristdrags are both blocked. Tomohiro Ishii is in at #3 (Ring #1) and goes after King, with Cassidy offering a low bridge. Brian Cage is in at #3 (Ring #2) and plants Komander with a half nelson slam as Cassidy and King slug it out.

The Butcher is in at #4 (Ring #1) and teams up with Cage for a double elbow to Cassidy. Matt Menard jumps off commentary to be in at #4 (Ring #2) and that goes nowhere until Roderick Strong is in at #5 (Ring #1). Strong and Butcher beat up King and it's Kip Sabian in at #5 (Ring #2). Sabian gets to clean house, including a gordbuster to Komander. Brandon Cutler is

in at #6 (Ring #1) because when Excalibur said "TEN TOTAL ENTRANTS" he meant "TEN TOTAL ENTRANTS PER RING", further proving that Excalibur is not very good at his job.

Cutler talks a lot and is immediately eliminated by Ishii. Nick Wayne is in at #6 (Ring #2) and Menard is eliminated to make room for him. Kyle O'Reilly is in at #7 (Ring #1) and starts striking away, as is his custom. Jeff Jarrett is in at #7 (Ring #2) as Menard is back on commentary. We take a break and come back with Butcher being eliminated and Matt Taven in at #8 (Ring #1). A DDT plants Cassidy and Komander is knocked out as well. Jay Lethal is in at #8 (Ring #2) and teams up with Jarrett to go after Wayne, who is tossed by Sabian.

Mike Bennett is in at #9 (Ring #1) and it's a Backpack Stunner to Cassidy. The Beast Mortos is in at #9 (Ring #2) and gets to clean house until Jarrett clotheslines him down. Sabian is knocked out and it's Darby All in at #10 (Ring #1), only to be knocked outside (not eliminated) by King. Lethal and Jarrett stop to strut as Lio Rush is in at #10 (Ring #2) to complete the field.

King and Allin fight up into the crowd despite not being eliminated. We take another break and come back with Mortos having been eliminated as King and Allin come back to ringside. Ishii and Bennett are both out, with Cassidy, Taven and O'Reilly following them out in short order. That leaves Strong, King and Allin in Ring #1 as Rush and Castagnoli fight in Ring #2.

They both wind up on the apron and Castagnoli swings Rush out. Strong is tossed out as well and Castagnoli eliminates Lethal to keep clearing the ring. King chokes Allin on the apron as he did in a previous edition but this time Allin slips out and hits a running body block to get rid of King and win Ring #1. Jarrett fights back on Cage and hammers away in the corner but here is Hangman Page to jump Jarrett and yell a lot.

That leaves Castagnoli and Cage in Ring #2 as we take another break. Back again with Castagnoli slugging at Cage, who pulls him out to the apron as well. A Neutralizer on the apron gets rid of Cage to win #Ring 2. Castagnoli goes after Allin and sends him to the floor (not out) before swinging him into the steps (geez). Back in and a nasty German suplex drops Allin again as Menard wants Allin to give up. They go to the apron with Castagnoli stomping away but Allin drapes him over the top and hits the Coffin Drop for the win at 36:44.

Rating: B. This is one of the more unique matches that AEW runs every year and it worked again here. Allin winning should make for a good World Title match when they get back to New York for Grand Slam and that is something they should have set up this far in advance. They've got a cool concept here and kept it moving to get all of the entrants in. Nice job and a good bit of fun.

Post match Castagnoli won't shake hands.

Following an attack at the hands of Kris Statlander, Willow Nightingale agrees to give Statlander a match in South Carolina. No word on which show that will be.

Kris Statlander vs. Leila Grey

Statlander backdrops her down to start and hits a kick to the face, setting up Friday Night Fever for the pin at 54 seconds.

Lance Archer vs. Alejandro

Archer has jumped Alejandro in the back and carries him to the ring for the opening bell. Two chokeslams and the Blackout finish Alejandro at 1:06.

Saraya is ready to show what she can do on Dynamite.

Outrunners vs. Private Party vs. Righteous vs. Don Callis Family

Vincent headlocks Floyd to start but it's quickly off to Magnum for the big pose. That's broken up as well and it's Dutch coming in to clean house. Floyd is sent hard into the corner and we take a break. Back with Quen busting out a big running flip dive but Floyd dives him a Stunner over the ropes. Fletcher comes in to hammer on Floyd in the corner and Rush adds the running slap. Fletcher's piledriver finishes at 8:50.

Rating: C+. This didn't have time to get going and they had to rush to the end. It was going to be tricky to make this work with the amount of time they had and they had a break to make it worse. The Family getting the win is a fine way to go, though winning a match like this is only going to have so much value.

Overall Rating: B. This was a unique show as most of it was spent on one match, which went well. The rest of the show was made up of a pair of squashes and a rather quick four way. I can go for a Rampage where the majority goes to a fun match as that's about all you can ask for here. Nice stuff this week, though it's not something you'll see again for a good while.

Results

Darby Allin won Royal Rampage last eliminating Claudio Castagnoli

Kris Statlander b. Leila Grey – Friday Night Fever

Lance Archer b. Alejandro – Blackout

Don Callis Family b. Outrunners, Private Party and Righteous – Piledriver to Floyd

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Smackdown – July 26, 2024: Taped For Success

Smackdown

Date: July 26, 2024

Location: CHI Health Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Commentators: Corey Graves, Wade Barrett

We're taped with one of the last shows before heading to Cleveland for Summerslam weekend. In this case we have a pretty big match with a gauntlet match to crown new #1 contenders to the Tag Team Titles. In addition, we are probably going to be finding out which one of Cody Rhodes' friends is massacred by the Bloodline. Let's get to it.

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

We look back at the Bloodline wrecking Kevin Owens last week, just as they had done to Randy Orton the previous week.

Nick Aldis talks to the Bloodline, saying that since Tonga Loa suffered an eye injury last week, the Bloodline is out of the gauntlet match. That doesn't work for Solo Sikoa, so the Bloodline will be represented with Jacob Fatu in Loa's place.

Works for Aldis, who should have figured that out in the first place.

LA Knight is walking through the back and is ready to drop Santos Escobar on his head before going to Summerslam to win the US Title.

LA Knight vs. Santos Escobar

Elektra Lopez is here with Escobar. Knight gets shouldered down to start but pops back up with a hiptoss. Back up and Escobar stomps away in the corner before grabbing something like a Sharpshooter to send Knight to the ropes. A 619 drops Knight again and we take a break. Back with Escobar grabbing a chinlock but Knight fights up and grabs a running neckbreaker.

A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker plants Knight right back down but Escobar gets stomped into the corner. Knight's running knee has Escobar down again, only to have Lopez's distraction break up a torture rack. Cue Logan Paul for a distraction, allowing Escobar to load up the Phantom Driver. That's broken up and Knight grabs the BFT for the pin at 9:40.

Rating: C+. Nice use of Escobar to boost Knight up towards the title match next weekend. That's all this needed to be, with Paul's interference tying things in to Summerslam. Knight getting a nice win is a good way to get him up the ladder a bit, but he's going to need to win the title already. He's had too many big losses and needs to actually win something.

Post match Paul jumps Knight but gets beaten up, only for Escobar to jump Knight from behind. Paul hits his frog splash.

We look at Blair Davenport attacking Naomi last week.

Naomi isn't sure why that happened but wishes Jade Cargill and Bianca Belair luck.

Logan Paul calls that the first taste of a five course meal. LA Knight better be ready.

Here are Jade Cargill and Bianca Belair to all out Isla Dawn and Alba Fyre. Belair accuses them of ducking herself and Cargill so here are Dawn and Fyre to jump them. Cargill and Belair clear the ring with no trouble.

We look at the Japan tour.

Terence Crawford meets B Fab and the Street Profits.

Nia Jax gives Tiffany Stratton a new Money In The Bank briefcase, knowing Stratton would never cash it in on her.

Tag Team Gauntlet Match

For a future Tag Team Title shot. Apollo Crews/Baron Corbin are in at #1 and Legado del Fantasma are in at #2. Legado jumps them to start but Corbin plants Angel for a fast two. Berto comes in and hits a big suicide dive as we take a break. Back with Berto kicking Corbin in the head but getting tossed into the corner for his efforts. Crews comes in for the rolling German suplexes until Angel knees him out of the air. The Wing Clipper is loaded up but Corbin comes in with the End Of Days for the pin at 5:55.

The Street Profits are in at #3 with Ford flipping away from Crews. Ford slips out of a vertical suplex and drops Crews on the back of his head for two. It's off to Corbin, who punches Ford's springboard away. Crews throws Corbin over the top and onto the Profits for the crash as we take a break. Back with Corbin hitting a middle rope clothesline into a powerbomb but Ford pops back to his feet. An enziguri staggers Corbin and it's off to Dawkins as everything breaks down. Crews and Ford both hit stereo dives, only for Dawkins to come back in with the Revelation to finish Crews at 14:44 total.

Pretty Deadly is in at #4 and Ford wastes no time in taking Prince down for a standing moonsault. Ford gets taken into the corner to start in on the beating, including a half crab that lasts all of three seconds before Ford makes the rope. Ford

kicks Prince away and dives over to Dawkins for the big tag so house can be cleaned. Pretty Deadly is back up with the running elbows in the corner, setting up a gutbuster to give Prince two. Dawkins is right back up though and a Doomsday Blockbuster finishes 20:32 total.

The OC is in at #5 Ford in trouble in the corner, with Anderson ripping away at his face. The chinlock goes on before it's back to Gallows for a running clothesline. Gallows' up and down elbows set up a chinlock but Ford fights up and DDTs his way to freedom. Dawkins comes back in and gets caught in the spinebuster, setting up the fireman's carry. Ford cuts off the big boot though and Dawkins gets a rollup for the pin on Gallows at 28:26.

That leaves the Bloodline as the final team and this is going to hurt. We take another break and come back with Tonga hammering Dawkins down in the corner. Fatu comes in for a running splash and it's time for the choking on the ropes. Dawkins finally slips away and gets it back to Ford to pick up the pace in a hurry. A jumping enziguri gets two on Tonga, who throws Ford off the top for two of his own. Everything breaks down and Ford hits the big flip dive over the post onto everyone else. A DDT just annoys Fatu and it's the pop up Samoan drop into the triple jump moonsault to give Fatu the final pin at 38:23.

Rating: B-. This was better than I was expecting as gauntlet matches tend to be a big mess a lot of the time. Some of the falls were given more time here and it made things that much more interesting. The last fall was by far the best as the Bloodline beat an established team and looked like killers in the process. That's how they should be presented and it wouldn't shock me to see them smash DIY to win the titles.

Commentary is cut off by A-Town Down Under, who do not like Terence Crawford, either in the crowd or in the back. They call him out so here is Crawford in person. The villains

demand an apology, with Waller promising that Theory will knock Crawford out. Crawford drops Theory and Waller bails.

We get a sitdown interview with Cody Rhodes, who is in Japan on tour. He won the greatest fight of his life against Roman Reigns at Wrestlemania and the Bloodline was no more. Or so he thought. Now there is this new version running around with his friends and allies having been taken out. He is going into Summerslam on his own, but also the champion. Rhodes needs to look into Solo Sikoa's eyes so he wants to see him face to face next week.

Andrade talks about wanting the United States Title but Carmelo Hayes interrupts to say this isn't over. Hayes compares himself to LeBron James but Andrade says he's more like LeBron's son. Works for Hayes, who gets a rematch.

Nia Jax/Tiffany Stratton vs. Bayley/Michin

Michin gets jumped before Bayley shows up so Bayley has to make a save, but Bayley has to start alone. Bayley jumps Stratton to officially start and the sliding lariat gets two. Back up and Stratton sends her into the corner but Bayley grabs the Stunner over the middle rope for two more. The rather damaged Michin gets up, only to get pulled back down by Jax.

We take a break and come back with Stratton hitting the handspring elbow in the corner for two on Bayley. We hit the chinlock for a bit, followed by a spinebuster for two. Jax's powerslam gets two more and another chinlock goes on. Back up and Bayley counters another handspring into a suplex and it's off to Michin to pick up the pace.

A flapjack drops Stratton and there's a dive to take Jax down as well. It's back to Bayley with a running knee to Jax and the top rope elbow gets two, with Stratton making the save. Everything breaks down and a briefcase shot to the head rocks Bayley, setting up the Annihilator to give Jax the pin at

12:48.

Rating: C+. This was about telling a story of Jax and Stratton having their alliance to take out Bayley before the Summerslam title match. That went well enough, even with it being a handicap match for the most part. It wasn't exactly a great match, but it did what it was supposed to do and moved us that much closer to Summerslam.

Solo Sikoa is fine with meeting Cody Rhodes next week, on the same night the Bloodline is getting the Tag Team Titles back. Then Sikoa will win the WWE Title back, and if Roman Reigns has a problem with that, he knows where to come, and it won't go well. That's a big shift from "Reigns isn't coming back" to "this is what happens if Reigns comes back."

Overall Rating: B-. This definitely felt like a taped show, with the gauntlet match eating up about a third of it and a fair bit of pre-taped stuff in there as well. That being said, the show didn't feel like a waste of time at all, with stories either being advanced or new stuff being set up for later. Nice show here, but it was more about getting things ready for later.

Results

LA Knight b. Santos Escobar – BFT

The Bloodline won a tag team gauntlet match

Nia Jax/Tiffany Stratton b. Bayley/Michin – Annihilator to Bayley

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Death Before Dishonor 2024: This Is Ring Of Honor

Death Before Dishonor 2024

Date: July 26, 2024

Location: Esports Stadium, Arlington, Arlington, Texas

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

It's the second of three pay per views from Ring Of Honor and the show has quite the variety. First up, the World Title will be on the line as Mark Briscoe defends against Roderick Strong. Other than that we have Athena defending the Women's Title against Queen Aminata and the Undisputed Kingdom defending the Tag Team Titles against Tomohiro Ishii and Kyle O'Reilly. Let's get to it.

Zero Hour: MxM Collection vs. Spanish Announce Project

That would be Mason and Mansoor, formerly known as the Maximum Male Models in WWE. Mansoor shoulders Serpentico down to start and it's time to strike a pose. A finger tip tag brings Mason in as we keep hearing audio from the production team. Serpentico can't do much so it's off to the bigger Angelico, who gets caught in the corner.

A standing legdrop gives Mason two and it's back to Mansoor for a spinebuster. Mason's running hip attack sends Angelico

outside and more pose striking ensues. Back up and Serpentico takes over on Mansoor's arm, with Angelico adding a middle rope elbow to the shoulder. Serpentico mocks the posing, allowing Mansoor to bring Mason back in. Mason gets low bridged to the floor but is fine enough to come back in with a spinebuster.

Everything breaks down and Mansoor is dropped back first onto the turnbuckle. Serpentico hits a big suicide dive for two but Mansoor flips back over to Mason for the tag. House is cleaned in a hurry and an assisted double underhook implant DDT (the Centerfold) finishes Serpentico at 9:08.

Rating: C+. This was all about the Collection's charisma and it was on full display, as it should have been. They were a lot of fun and had the crowd loving what they were doing, which is a great sign for their future. At the same time, the match went longer than it should have and they could have cut out of the heat segments from the Project, as it felt like they just did the same thing twice.

Post match Maria Kanellis comes out to applaud, with the Collection seeming intrigued.

Zero Hour: Angelica Risk vs. Marina Shafir

Mother's Milk ends Risk at 58 seconds.

Zero Hour: Infantry vs. Griff Garrison/Anthony Henry

Maria is here with Garrison and Henry, the latter of whom is a substitute for Cole Karter. Henry gets knocked into the corner to start and it's ff to Garrison. Bravo gets sent into the wrong corner so Henry can stomp away, setting up a leg crank. The posing STF goes on for a bit, followed by the running knees in the corner for two.

Garrison chops away so Henry can get in a kick to the back. Bravo gets in a quick knockdown though and the diving tag

brings in Dean to clean house. Book Camp is broken up though and a superplex into a double stomp gets two on Dean. The screaming Maria gets on the apron but gets knocked into Garrison's arm, allowing Boot Camp to finish Henry at 9:08.

Rating: C. The problem here is it felt like a match that we've seen before, even if it wasn't a regular team. The Infantry has been bouncing around the tag division for the better part of ever and never feel like they're getting anywhere. The match was completely run of the mill as well and could have easily been dropped without adding even more content to the needlessly packed pre-show.

Zero Hour: Top Flight vs. Outrunners

Erica Lee is here with the Outrunners. Darius gets knocked into the corner to start and Floyd gets to pose a bit. Magnum comes in and gets dropkicked down, meaning it's off to Dante for a headlock. The fans are split as Floyd gets double legtripped down but Erica grabs the foot so the Outrunners can take over.

Alternating beatings have Darius in trouble and a clothesline gets two. The sleeper is broken up though and it's Dante coming in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Floyd is kneed to the floor, setting up stereo running shots to Magnum in the corner. Dante dives onto Floyd and what looked to be an F5 (the camera missed the setup) finishes Magnum at 8:33.

Rating: C. This was pretty boring for the most part with Top Flight's comeback being the highlight. The Outrunners work best in short spurts or the joke starts to wear thin in a hurry. That was the case here, as you can only watch so much of the same beatdown before it stops being interesting. At least the right team won.

The opening video takes a pretty standard look at the main matches.

Komander vs. Beast Mortos

Mortos wastes no time in knocking knocking him down but Komander is back up with the kicks to the legs. A dropkick sends Mortos outside but the big running flip dive is pulled out of the air. Komander gets powerbombed into Alex Abrahantes against the barricade and they head back inside. Mortos chops the spit out of him but Komander grabs a quick rollup for two. Back up and Mortos drops him again, meaning it's time to pull off a turnbuckle cover.

Komander gets in a quick shot for a breather but gets caught on top to cut him off again. A step up hurricanrana off the apron sends Mortos to the floor and a tornado DDT off the apron makes it worse. Komander walks the ropes to set up a big flip dive, followed by a poisonrana for two back inside. A dive hits raised feet though and one heck of a pop up Samoan drop gives Mortos two.

Komander reverses a backbreaker into a crucifix driver and then spins into a Canadian Destroyer. Mortos shrugs that off and hits a spear to leave them both down. They slowly get up and head to the same corner, where Mortos hits the super gorilla press slam. Komander is back with another Destroyer, only to miss the Cielito Lindo. The spinning piledriver gives Mortos the pin at 13:30.

Rating: B-. It was a good speed vs. power match and that made for a nice opener, though it never quite hit that next level. What mattered here was giving the fans something to get them going. Komander is a fun high flier, but there are a lo of them running around and it makes it difficult to really stand out. Mortos on the other hand always stands out, but his lack of success holds him back a bit. That being said, nice job of getting things going here.

The MxM Collection calls out FTR for Collision. These guys are great but that's probably a loss.

We recap the Tag Team Title match, which is pretty much just an announcement.

Tag Team Titles: Kingdom vs. Tomohiro Ishii/Kyle O'Reilly

Ishii and O'Reilly, in their second match ever as a team, are challenging. Bennett and Ishii start things off and chop it out, with Ishii getting the better of things to take over. O'Reilly comes in to crank on Taven's arm but Taven is back up with a nice dropkick. Back up and O'Reilly takes over on the arm and Ishii comes in for some cranking of his own. O'Reilly adds the abdominal stretch with the knuckles to the ribs, followed by strikes to both champions.

Bennett manages to knock Ishii into the corner, including a slap. The fans know he screwed up and Ishii fights over to O'Reilly to take over. Everything breaks down and Ishii is sent outside for a suicide dive, only to have O'Reilly hit a running knee off the apron. Back in and Bennett cuts off O'Reilly's Rebound lariat, allowing Taven to crush him back to the floor. The champs take turns with the beating back inside and Taven adds an elbow for two.

O'Reilly finally kicks his way to freedom and it's back to Ishii to clean house. A pair of suplexes gets two on Taven but Bennett is back in with the Hail Mary...but Ishii pops back up. Everything breaks down again and Ishii's brainbuster sets up a top rope knee to Bennett's back. Taven makes the save and hits the frog splash before all four are knocked down.

They all get up for the slugout with the champs getting the better of the exchange of strikes. O'Reilly is back up with some kicks of his own, setting up Ishii's super brainbuster. Chasing The Dragon gets two with Taven having to make the save. O'Reilly and Bennett fight over a suplex but here are Kyle Fletcher and Don Callis to interrupt. The distraction lets Bennett hit a low blow to retain the titles at 19:41.

Rating: B. The biggest problem here was the lack of drama, as

it was really hard to buy the idea that a new team was going to take the titles here. The Undisputed Kingdom isn't a great team but they've been champions for a long time and it is going to take some time to get the titles off of them. Ishii and O'Reilly did well, but they aren't a regular team and probably shouldn't have gotten the shot here, as it made all of the other tag matches coming into the show feel worthless.

We recap Leyla Hirsch vs. Diamante. They hate each other, they've had a bunch of matches, tonight it's a Texas Death Match.

Diamante vs. Leyla Hirsch

Texas Death Match, meaning submission or Last Man Standing rules to win (again, not a Texas Death Match but it's what Tony Khan calls it). Diamante jumps her on the ramp to start fast and throws her off the stage and through a table for nine. They go to the ring where Diamante sends in a bunch of chairs. Hirsch is tied in the Tree of Woe and one of the chairs is dropkicked into her face.

The bloody Hirsch comes back with a chair shot of her own to take get a breather and the now bleeding Diamante is sent into a chair in the corner as well. The thumbtacks are poured out and a sunset German superplex sends Diamante crashing into them for the nasty landing. Hirsch's moonsault only hits tacks though (geez), allowing Diamante to grab some duct tape to attach Hirsch to the rope. Diamante whips out a shoe to keep up the beating and then grabs a shoe with tacks embedded.

The tacks go into Hirsch's head and, since she's tied up, Diamante can set up a bunch of chairs and a barbed wire board. Diamante has to loosen her up to do anything though, allowing Hirsch to hit a Samoan drop through the board. It's ladder time and let's throw in a table as well. That takes WAY too long to set up but Hirsch manages to tape Diamante to the table and go up for a huge moonsault off the top of the ladder

through said table for the win at 15:39.

Rating: B-. Maybe it was the fact that we just saw them have a hardcore match a few weeks ago or how long it took to set up a bunch of the spots but I couldn't get into this one. The bleeding made things more interesting and it was certainly intense, but this missed that high level for some reason. It kind of felt like violence for violence's sake, and when I just saw the thumbtacks and bleeding in Blood & Guts on Wednesday, this didn't have the same impact.

We recap the Pure Rules Title match, with Lee Moriarty surviving a Proving Ground match to earn the shot. This is Wheeler Yuta's first title defense since January.

Pure Rules Title: Wheeler Yuta vs. Lee Moriarty

Yuta is defending and they waste no time in going to the grappling. Moriarty takes him down and cranks on the arm, even throwing in a bicep pose. Yuta reverses into a leglock and Moriarty has to use his first break. A headscissors slows Moriarty down even more and Yuta switches over to a hammerlock. Moriarty reverses into a hold of his own and Yuta uses his own break to even things up.

Yuta backs him into the corner and tries to sneak in a right hand but gets caught, earning his official warning. Moriarty uses the distraction to get in a right hand of his own and since this is a Pure Rules match, it's absolutely devastating. Yuta is back up with an armbar to make Moriarty use his second break. Back up and they slug it out with Moriarty grabbing a suplex to take over.

Moriarty catches him on top again and grabs a top rope superplex for the big crash and a double down. Back up and Moriarty punches him (official warning) into the Border City Stretch, with Yuta using his second rope break. They fight to the apron and crash out to the floor for another double breather. Back in and Moriarty faceplants him down, with

Yuta's shoulder giving him trouble.

A neck and arm crank makes Yuta use his last rope break. Yuta puts on a quick Cattle Mutilation and Moriarty burns his last break as well. Moriarty muscles him up for a crash down onto the apron and out to the floor, only to have Yuta come back in with a Fujiwara armbar. That's reverses into a rollup with Moriarty using the ropes (legal, as they were out of rope breaks) to steal the pin and the title at 19:57.

Rating: B. They were going back and forth and it was a technical showcase, but it's kind of hard to suddenly get interested in a title that hasn't been defended in almost seven months. It doesn't help that neither guy is all that interesting in the first place and it added up to a match where I was interested in some of the things that we being done but not the people doing them.

We recap Billie Starkz defending the Women's TV Title against Red Velvet. Starkz cheated to win the title and Velvet doesn't like it, so it's time to come after the belt herself.

Women's TV Title: Billie Starkz vs. Red Velvet

Starkz is defending. Velvet starts by hammering on the ribs, only to have Starkz grab her by the hair to take over. An electric chair drop onto the top turnbuckle rocks Velvet and Starkz ties her in the Tree Of Woe. After Velvet crashes back down, Starkz chops away in the corner and gets in some choking. A suplex out of the corner gives Velvet two and her belly to back gets two.

Velvet grabs a DDT for two more and there's a running knee to the back of the head against the ropes. Starkz gets in a quick shot and goes up but a super victory roll gives Velvet two. Another knockdown lets Starkz grab a choke, followed by a brainbuster onto the knee for two more. Starkz: "I'm gonna kill you!" Riccaboni: "You'll go to jail if you do that." Velvet slips out and hits the Mix for two.

They go up top and Starkz is knocked to the floor, where she injures her neck again. Commentary doesn't buy it and since it's a real, legitimate injury, the medics put her back inside. Starkz is of course fine and hits a knee to the head to drop Velvet again. Velvet pops up and then plays dead, setting up a slam off the middle rope. The flipping faceplant (basically Natural Selection) gives Velvet the pin and the title at 14:53.

Rating: B. Thankfully they didn't go too far with the faked injury as it would have been terrible to see Velvet fall for the obvious ruse. Velvet winning is a nice moment, though it's hard to get around the idea of thinking of her as the woman obsessed with cooking. Athena and her Minions had to lose something though and this works as well as anything else.

We recap the Dark Order vs. Dustin Rhodes/the Von Erichs. This is for a spot in the Six Man Tag Team Title match at tomorrow's Battle Of The Belts, which has so much wrong with it that I don't know where to start. Other than that, it's an established team vs. three Texans.

Dark Order vs. Dustin Rhodes/Von Erichs

The Order jumps them to start and the fight heads to the floor, with none of the six in the ring as the opening bell rings. We settle down to Ross Sling Blading Uno and it's off to Marshall for a slam on Silver. Everything breaks down and Dustin clotheslines Reynolds to the floor. Uno uses the distraction to get in a cowbell shot to Ross and the slow beating begins.

Ross manages to flip out of a double belly to back suplex though and it's Marshall coming back in to clean house. The villains cut him off and knocks him to the floor though, with Uno's suplex into a front facelock keeping him in trouble. Rhodes tries to make a save but gets sent into the steps, allowing the Order to mock the cowboy hat. Back in and a

piledriver gets two on Marshall but Reynolds misses a moonsault.

Marshall powerslams his way out of trouble and it's back to Rhodes to clean house. Cross Rhodes gets two on Reynolds with Uno making the save. Everything breaks down and Marshall is sent over the barricade, leaving Dustin to get enzigured into a Stunner into a bridging German suplex for two. Rhodes slips out of a Shattered Dreams attempt and hits a Canadian Destroyer into his own Shattered Dreams. Well the attempt at least as Silver breaks it up, only to get clawed by Marshall. The Claw goes on as Rhodes hits Shattered Dreams into the Final Reckoning to finish Reynolds at 14:22.

Rating: C. Remember how I said it was hard to get interested in a hardcore match when I saw Diamante and Leyla Hirsch have a street fight a few weeks ago? Well it was even harder when I saw the Von Erichs and the Order have a match this week on the regular Ring Of Honor show. It also doesn't help that the Von Erichs are still not that interesting and that was on full display here.

Post match Katsuyori Shibata comes out to praise the Von Erichs.

We recap the TV Title match, which is a six way elimination match without much in the way of a setup.

TV Title: Atlantis Jr. vs. Johnny TV vs. Lio Rush vs. Shane Taylor vs. Brian Cage vs. Lee Johnson

Atlantis Jr. is defending and this is under elimination rules. Rush knocks Atlantis to the floor to start and hits a big slingshot dive to take him down fast. The villains consider an alliance but it winds up with Cage and Taylor trading clotheslines and neither going down. Atlantis is back in to take over on Cage and send him outside. Rush gets caught in an inverted Gory Special but Rush slips out and hits a Stunner for two.

Johnson is back in with a neckbreaker and kick to the chest for two but TV is in to rake Johnson's eyes. TV is back in for a superkick to Taylor, who chokebombs him for two. Back in and Rush dodges Taylor until Taylor hits a running shooting star press for two of his own. Atlantis gets back up and hits a suicide dive onto Taylor, setting up Johnson's big running flip dive. TV adds his own big flip dive and Cage hits one of his own. Taylor's dive is cut off and everyone goes after him for the big beatdown. Taylor cleans house but gets knocked down, setting up Rush's frog splash to get rid of Taylor at 9:52.

Johnson avoids another frog splash and grabs the Big Shot Drop for the elimination of Rush at 11:24. TV and Cage stomp Johnson down in the corner and a double suplex gets two, despite the referee's hand hitting the mat a third time. The beating is on in the corner again until Johnson sends TV out to the floor. Back in and a powerbomb/Flying Chuck combination gets rid of Johnson at 15:01.

TV sends Cage to the floor but Atlantis is back up with the chops. Cage grabs the apron superplex to plant Atlantis but Taya Valkyrie comes in for a distraction. The low blow staggers Cage, who is right back with the Drill Claw to get rid of TV at 18:24. We're down to Cage vs. Atlantis for the title and Cage nails a discus lariat. The Drill Claw is loaded up but Atlantis reverses into a cradle to retain at 19:00.

Rating: B. The action was good and there were some cool spots, but I'm still having trouble getting into Atlantis. He's still just kind of there but happens to have a title. I could still go for Johnson to win the title and finally get somewhere, but that doesn't seem to be happening anytime soon. Odds are someone wins it back in Mexico, but for now, just another long match on a long show full of them.

We recap Athena vs. Queen Aminata for the Women's Title. Athena has been champion for the better part of ever but has

been faking a knee injury. Aminata doesn't like this and is coming for the title.

Women's Title: Athena vs. Queen Aminata

Athena is defending and gets a big intro from Lexi Nair, telling a story about a legendary warrior's destiny. They go to the mat with Aminata not being able to break Athena's bridge. Athena sends her outside and hits the running dive and adds a ram into the barricade. The running knees only hit steps but so does Aminata's running hip attack.

A gordbuster plants Aminata on the floor but she chops away back inside. Aminata strikes her down and hits a running boot in the ropes. A double stomp gets two on Athena, who is back up with the big right hand for two. Aminata is back up with a German suplex into the corner but a springboard spinning...I think stomp misses.

They forearm it out until Athena pulls her into a half crab, which she swaps out for a crossface. That's broken up too so Athena throws her over the top and onto the steps. Back in and the O Face retains the title at 20:03 as the seemingly never ending reign is going to continue.

Rating: B-. I can go with Athena retaining the title over Aminata but Athena has to lose that thing sooner or later. That being said, Aminata winning the title wouldn't have been the best fit. She is only starting to get over her pretty lame start in AEW/Ring Of Honor and having her get the huge win would seem weird. Someone is going to have to beat Athena at some point but Aminata didn't feel like the right choice.

We recap the World Title match, with Roderick Strong winning a #1 contenders match and then attacking Mark Briscoe.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Mark Briscoe vs. Roderick Strong

Briscoe is defending and they take their time to start. Strong

takes over on the mat but Briscoe slips out and it's an early standoff. They head to the floor with Briscoe sending him into the barricade but the Froggy Bow hits raised knees back inside. Back up and Strong strikes away in the corner, only for Briscoe to fire off some chops.

A running big boot staggers Strong again and he goes outside, where Briscoe hits a running dropkick through the ropes. They fight back to the apron where Briscoe is rammed into the steel to give us some blood. Strong grabs a backbreaker into an Angle Slam into another backbreaker. The Stronghold sends the rather bloody Briscoe over to the ropes. Briscoe makes the clothesline comeback and goes up, only to get super Angle Slammed back down for two more.

We get the required exchange of strikes with Briscoe getting the better of things. The Jay Driller is broken up and cue the Kingdom, with Mike Bennett getting in a belt shot for two. The Sick Kick gives Strong two so here is the Conglomeration to chase the Kingdom off. Briscoe fights up again and they head up top, where Strong gets knocked hard. The Froggy Bow retains the title at 19:30.

Rating: B. This felt as big as it could have on such short notice. There was almost no build to the match and that wasn't going to help anything going in. While Briscoe doesn't need to be champion and it doesn't really add anything to him, it wouldn't have felt right to give Strong the title either. I'm not sure if it was good enough to headline a pay per view, but it was a perfectly fine World Title match, albeit with a ton of blood.

Overall Rating: B. The theme that I kept coming back to here is the same thing that has been a problem with Ring Of Honor since its inception: so many things on here felt thrown together at the last minute. The majority of the matches either had no story or very little story (TV Title, Tag Team Titles, World Title and so on).

As is always the case: the wrestling is good because the wrestlers work hard to make the biggest shows feel important, but if you've watched week after week, this show felt like it was from another promotion. I would hope there was a reason to believe that is going to change, but there is nothing to indicate that is going to happen. Solid show, but not exactly the norm week to week around here.

Results

MxM Collection b. Spanish Announce Project – Centerfold to Serpentico

Marina Shafir b. Angelica Risk – Mother's Milk

Infantry b. Griff Garrison/Anthony Henry – Boot Camp to Henry

Top Flight b. Outrunners – Faceplant to Magnum

Beast Mortos b. Komander – Spinning piledriver

Undisputed Kingdom b. Kyle O'Reilly/Tomohiro Ishii – Low blow to Ishii

Leyla Hirsch b. Diamante – Moonsault through a table

Lee Moriarty b. Wheeler Yuta – Rollup with ropes

Red Velvet b. Billie Starkz – Flipping faceplant

Dustin Rhodes/Von Erichs b. Dark Order- final Reckoning to Reynolds

Atlantis Jr. b. Shane Taylor, Johnny TV, Brian Cage, Lee Johnson and Lio Rush – Rollup to Taylor

Athena b. Queen Aminata – 0 Face

Mark Briscoe b. Roderick Strong – Froggy Bow

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NXT LVL Up – July 12, 2024: As All Over The Place As It Can Be

NXT LVL Up

Date: July 12, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

It's another one of these shows and I've again given up trying to figure out what to expect on here. Odds are we'll be seeing a bunch of the same stuff from most of the same people, but there is still the chance of getting a new face in there somewhere. That at least opens up some doors, though I'm not sure I'll get my hopes up. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Malik Blade vs. Cutler James

Brinley Reece and Edris Enofe are here with Blade, whose early drop toehold attempt is blocked. A monkey flip is blocked as well and James hits a rather nice backdrop. Back up and Blade's rollup is countered into a faceplant as he can't get anything going here. An elbow in the corner sets up a clothesline to put James down though and a middle rope

Blockbuster does it again. A frog splash finishes James off at 3:45.

Rating: C-. This was actually a bit disappointing as they were setting up something with James cutting him off over and over but then it just went nowhere as Blade won. I was thinking they might be trying something new here but never mind instead. It's still weird to see Blade on his own, though it's not like the team is going anywhere.

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger use football talk to prep for their tag match.

Layla Diggs vs. Tatum Paxley

This is Diggs' singles debut and she takes Paxley down into an early armbar. Paxley can't nip up her way to freedom as Diggs keeps taking her back down into the armbar. Back up and a Code Red out of the corner gets two but Paxley starts in on the leg to take over. A running crossbody in the corner gives Paxley two and she grabs something like a Stump Puller, albeit with all four limbs tied up (it's a weird one). Diggs fights up but her knee is hurt...so badly that she cartwheels into a moonsault for two. Possibly offended by the lack of selling, Paxley is back up with the Psycho Trap for the pin at 4:48.

Rating: C. Diggs showed some promise but there are all kinds of women around here with some kind of gymnastics background who are in great shape. That is only going to get her so far and you're only going to get so much out of that in a four minute match. Paxley is starting to get some more ring time too and if she gets elevated a bit as a result, cool.

Dion Lennox and Uriah Connors are ready for the main event, even against better competition. You usually only get one of the main event's participants commenting so this is a nice change of pace.

Uriah Connors/Dion Lennox vs. Hank Walker/Tank Ledger

Walker and Lennox start things off with the former hitting a running shoulder and grabbing a quickly broken chinlock. Back up and Lennox shoulders him down, setting up a backsplash from Connors. Ledger comes in to run Connors over for two and a double running body block crushes him again.

Lennox knocks Walker outside to take over, setting up a belly to back suplex for two back inside. Connors stomps away before Walker hits Lennox, which just annoys him. Walker fights out of the corner though and hands it back to Ledger to pick up the pace. A spinebuster gives Lennox two but Walker and Ledger are right back with the Collision Course for the pin on Lennox at 7:27.

Rating: C+. Lennox and Connors got more in here than I would have expected and that was nice to see. This could have been little more than a squash but they put in some more effort to make it better. Walker and Ledger are treated as a much bigger deal than most acts around here so having them in the main event made the show feel better.

Overall Rating: C. This was as all over the place as LVL Up is going to be as you had a lame opener, a mediocre middle match and a good enough main event. You can only break a show like this down so much as it isn't like there is anything worth seeing most of the time. I could go for more development of personalities and talking segments though, with the second interview being nice to see.

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Dynamite – July 24, 2024 (Blood & Guts): Well That's How It Goes

Dynamite

Date: July 24, 2024

Location: Bridgestone Arena, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

It's time for a special show with Blood & Guts as the Elite faces Team AEW in what is likely going to be a rather long fight. We also have Minoru Suzuki challenging Chris Jericho for the FTW Title in what could be quite the train wreck. We are about a month away from All In and the show could use some more stuff, some of which might be announced this week. Let's get to it.

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

Will Ospreay is trying to drive to the arena but someone has punctured his tire. He makes Alex Marvez give him the keys to Marvez's car and speeds off, mentioning that he hasn't driven in America.

Here is MJF, with cheerleaders, to brag about how easy it was to beat Ospreay last week. Some people would say Ospreay needs to go wait for a title shot, but since his grandmother just died, so he should dig a grave next to her. Just make it a long

way off because the woman was large. We'll move on to the International Title, which is supposed to be the Workhorse Title. The fans like it because international stars fought for it and ans of those wrestlers should be deported.

MJF calls the title garbage and throws it in a trashcan. He unveils a new title, dubbed the America's Title, and brags about Long Island. Streamers fly and an MJF flag is unrolled, but here is Will Ospreay to chase him off. Ospreay talks about how MJF had to cheat to win rather than admit that Ospreay could beat him. He's spoke to Tony Khan and the rematch is officially on For All In. MJF isn't pleased.

The Elite has attacked Christopher Daniels and then does the coin toss for tonight's advantage, with the Elite winning. They aren't worried about Hangman Page but also reveal it was a two sided coin. Now, I know Tony Khan isn't going to do anything about this and I have no idea why.

FTW Title: Minoru Suzuki vs. Chris Jericho

Jericho is defending and the fans are behind Suzuki. They chop it out...and keep chopping...and continue chopping...before chopping some more in between the rings. Jericho's chest is bleeding as we are almost five minutes in and they have literally not done a move other than a chop. Jericho finally falls down and we take a break, coming back with even more chopping (and more blood on Jericho's chest).

Jericho finally kicks him in the chest (the fans disapprove) and puts him on the apron, where the triangle dropkick has to be pulled up short as Suzuki isn't ready to knock him out of the air. They fight outside with Suzuki hitting him with a chair and then Pillmanizing the hand. The hand is bent backwards both on the floor and back inside but Jericho hits a quick Codebreaker for one. Some forearms have Suzuki staggered but he blocks the Walls and grabs a sleeper. That's broken up with a low blow and the Judas Effect retains the title at

13:57.

Rating: C. I get that the chop thing was supposed to be some test of wills or whatever but it was going on for about seven minutes with nothing else but chops. At the same time, Suzuki may be a legend but his matches are getting harder and harder to watch as he isn't exactly doing anything great. I wasn't feeling this at all and they easily could have cut five minutes out.

Post match Suzuki chokes Jericho and hits the Gotch Style Piledriver but the Learning Tree runs in to beat him down. Katsuyori Shibata runs in for the save.

Willow Nightingale is the new CMLL Women's champion but gets jumped by Kris Statlander. Stokely Hathaway pops in to suggest an eliminator match for next week. Not a title match mind you, but at eliminator match.

Earlier today, Bryan Danielson was talking to Renee Paquette, where he said that he had a bad neck but his doctors have said it's fixable. They just need to make sure it stays that way. Jeff Jarrett comes in to say Danielson was the right man to win the Owen Hart Tournament, but Jarrett thinks Danielson needs to heal up mentally. He doesn't want Danielson to have an excuse, because if he's going to go all in, he needs to go all in. Jarrett is at the top of a list of people who believe in him. Danielson seems touched and says he has a lot of work to do. Jarrett was rally good here and you could feel the emotion.

Britt Baker vs. Hikaru Shida

Feeling out process to start and Baker gets a rollup for an early two. Lockjaw is blocked and they trade rollup for two each. They fight outside with Shida hammering away against the barricade. We take a break and come back with Baker grabbing a neckbreaker into a Sling Blade for the knockdown.

The Lockjaw glove is loaded up but Shida pulls her into a triangle choke. That's broken up so they trade rollups for two more but Shida teases going for the kendo stick. That takes too long though and Baker grabs a fisherman's neckbreaker for two. Shida hits the Falcon Arrow but the Katana is countered, setting up the Lockjaw to give Baker the win at 10:18.

Rating: C+. This was Baker's first match in nearly a year and you could definitely see some ring rust out there. Some of her timing was off and there were parts where it felt like they weren't on the same page. That being said, Baker's attitude and personality have always been what matter more than her in-ring work and if it is passable enough, which it was here, she'll be fine.

Post match Mercedes Mone comes out to say she knows Baker wants a TBS Title shot but that isn't happening. Cue the debuting Kamille (a rather tall monster) to jump Baker from behind. A torture rack leaves Baker laying.

The Patriarchy brags about winning the Trios Titles and Christian Cage promises that Nick Wayne is going to win the Royal Rumble on Rampage...but he gets distracted by Kip Sabian. Wayne says he'll beat him in the Royal Rumble and no one cares that Sabian's dad is dead.

Pac vs. Boulder

Pac kicks him into the corner to start but gets knocked down. A moonsault misses for Boulder though and Pac chokes away in the corner. Pac manages a brainbuster for the win at 1:50.

Team AEW is ready for Blood & Guts, even if they're never going to get along. Mark Briscoe calms things down and rallies the troops.

Mariah May vs. Kaitlyn Alexis

May knocks her into the corner at the bell and hammers away,

setting up May Day for...no cover. Instead it's a running hip attack into Storm Zero for the pin at 1:36.

Post match Toni Storm's music plays but she doesn't come out, leaving May pleased. Then Storm pops up in disguise for the fight, with security breaking it up. Storm shouts that May better be prepared to die because she already is.

We get a long video on Blood & Guts, as narrated by Dean Malenko, noted cage match specialist.

The rules:

- Two men start for five minutes.
- After five minutes, the Elite will get a one man advantage for a "regularly scheduled interval" (usually 2-3 minutes).
- After that time, Team AEW will add another man to tie it up. The teams will alternate until all ten are in.
- When everyone is in, first submission wins.

Blood & Guts

Team AEW: Darby Allin, Swerve Strickland, Max Caster, Anthony Bowens, Mark Briscoe

Elite: Jack Perry, Nick Jackson, Matt Jackson, Hangman Page, Kazuchika Okada

Perry is in at #1 for the Elite with Allin coming in at #1 for Team AEW, only for Perry to jump him before he can get inside. The beating starts on the floor, with Allin being sent into the cage and steps. They fight into the crowd and brawl around the arena before coming back to ringside. Allin is sent inside and goes face first into a trashcan in the corner, allowing Perry to pose.

Nick Jackson is in at #2 and brings a chair and a case of some kind. A guillotine legdrop hits Allin and he gets sent into the cage as we take a break. Back with Mark Briscoe coming in at #2 to even things up and slug away. A running step up dive

hits Perry and there's a suplex to put Nick down as well. Briscoe brings in a ladder to beat on Nick and then crushes it onto Nick in the corner. A trashcan to the head has Nick in more trouble but it's Matt Jackson in at #3 to put the Elite back up.

The case to the head busts Briscoe open and Allin gets DDTed onto said case as well. Allin gets catapulted into a case to the head and a Dominator/top rope double stomp combination puts him down again. Anthony Bowens is in at #3 to even things up and cleans some house. Allin gets clotheslined down but comes back with a Scorpion Death Drop. Back up and Allin hits a top rope double stomp with the skateboard to Nick's back as Bowens whips out the scissors or some stabbing.

Kazuchika Okada is in at #4 with a street sign to knock the good guys back down. A Tombstone onto the sign sets up a dropkick into a chair into Briscoe's face as we take another break. Back again with Max Caster coming in at #4 to even things up. Caster whips out a barbed wire board but a suplex to Okada onto said board is broken up. Instead Bowens is sent onto the board and another such board is placed on top of him, with Nick adding a Swanton to crush Bowens between them. We get the bag of tacks, some of which are put into Caster's mouth for a superkick.

Hangman Page is...supposed to be in at #5 but he's not here. The good guys use the delay to fight back, with Bowens tying barbed wire around his leg for Scissor Me Timbers to Nick. Swerve Strickland is in at #5 and NOW Page comes running down with a chair to jump Swerve from behind before he can get in. Swerve gets handcuffed to the cage on the outside as Briscoe is dropkicked into the barbed wire board in the corner.

A hard belt shot to the head has Swerve mostly out of it but Page keeps hitting him/yelling about it. The Bucks grab the mic and ask what Page is doing before threatening to fire him if he doesn't get in. Page gets in and the cage is locked,

with the match officially beginning, meaning first submission wins. The Bucks and Page keep arguing, allowing the rest of the good guys to fight back as we take another break.

Back again with Jeff Jarrett coming out to do something but Brandon Cutler cuts him off. Billy Gunn cuts off Cutler and Jarrett gives him a guitar shot, leaving Jarrett to set Swerve free. Prince Nana cuts the cage open so Swerve can get in to wreck most of the Elite, leaving Page as the last man standing. They slug it out between the rings until the Buckshot Lariat is blocked. Page tries to hit him with a barbed wire board but Allin makes the save. Okada takes Allin down but Swerve is back up with a staple gun.

Nick breaks that up with a low blow and we finally see what is in the case from earlier: a bunch of staple guns! Well that was anticlimactic. Swerve gets stapled by four people at once but shrugs it off to beat up everyone, including stapling Okada's finger. The Buckshot Lariat hits Okada by mistake and we take another break. Back again with four tables set up on the floor and Matt and Bowens climbing up the cage.

Swerve and Page have apparently crashed off the stage to get rid of both of them, with Bowens crashing off the cage and through the four tables to likely join them. Briscoe hits a bunch of Jay Drillers and some of the Elite are put through tables. Allin climbs the cage and drops off the top to put Perry through a table for a huge crash. Perry gets cuffed to the cage so Briscoe can kendo stick him in the ribs.

Allin goes underneath the ring and pulls out a metal spike as Briscoe uses a SCAPEGOAT chair to smash Perry in the head (unprotected). Allin isn't done and finds some gasoline to douse Perry. He threatens to light Perry on fire but Mat says Allin can have the TNT Title match at All In if he doesn't do it. Allin says deal and Matt quits to save Perry at 48:55.

Rating: C+. It wasn't a bad match, but it was every Blood &

Guts you've seen before: long, more about the weapons and big spots than the hatred (save for Page vs. Swerve). In addition, the ending wasn't so much about the Elite getting defeated, meaning this is going to keep going for a long time. The match definitely felt important and that is what matters most, but as usual, it felt like about twenty minutes could have been chopped off without missing much. There was enough good stuff here to keep it entertaining, but there was too much going on overall and it felt like we were having the match because it's July.

Overall Rating: C+. The main event felt big and the Kamille debut was nice, but there was a lot of stuff here that I couldn't get into at all. Between Jericho and Suzuki doing their thing and the really long main event, this felt like a mostly two match show, with Storm and May boosting things up a bit. They were focused on one match for the most part here and it was good enough to get by. Now we can get on towards All In though, which is the show that really matters, so the real work starts next week.

Results

Chris Jericho b. Minoru Suzuki – Judas Effect

Britt Baker b. Hikaru Shida – Lockjaw

Pac b. Boulder – Brainbuster

Mariah May b. Kaitlyn Alexis – Storm Zero

Team AEW b. Elite when Matt Jackson quit

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ECW On Sci Fi – August 12, 2008: I'll Take Average

ECW On Sci Fi

Date: August 12, 2008

Location: Scope, Norfolk, Virginia

Commentators: Todd Phillips, Matt Striker

We're closing in on Summerslam and the ECW Title match between Mark Henry and Matt Hardy. Unfortunately that's about the only important thing going on around here and that has made for some very dry shows in recent weeks. Hopefully it can change this week as we have Tommy Dreamer vs. Colin Delaney in an Extreme Rules match. Uh, joy. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Commentary hypes up the main event (Matt Hardy/Mark Henry vs. Miz/John Morrison), with Striker saying Summerslam is "less than one work week away". It's also less than a normal week away, but Striker has to try to sound smarter than he really is.

Tommy Dreamer vs. Colin Delaney

Extreme Rules. Delaney tries to run away to start but can't even do that right, meaning Dreamer can catch him in the aisle and hammer away. Dreamer's punch hits the post though and Delaney sends him into the steps to take over. Delaney's trashcan lid shot is kendo sticked out of the air and a pumphandle throw with the stick has Delaney in even more trouble. The running dropkick against the trashcan in the Tree of Woe rocks Delaney even more but a middle rope trashcan lid shot only hits mat. Delaney misses a middle rope legdrop though and a DDT onto a stop sign gives Dreamer the pin.

Rating: C. Not much to this one, but that's kind of the point. Delaney was never presented as any kind of a threat and was little more than a nuisance to Dreamer, who beat him up without much trouble. It's kind of nice to see them go with the straightforward approach here, as there was no reason to do anything else.

Miz and John Morrison look back at last week's debut of the Dirt Sheet, and brag about their comedy chops. They're the Pineapple Express of WWE.

Smackdown Rebound.

Bam Neely vs. Evan Bourne

Neely has a concussion but is ordered to fight at Chavo Guerrero's (at ringside) insistence. Bourne kicks away in the corner to start but Chavo's distraction lets Neely knock him to the floor. Back in and a clothesline gives Neely two and we hit the neck crank. Bourne fights up and strikes away, setting up a DDT. Air Bourne finishes Neely off.

Rating: C. Again: Bourne is being treated as something different and it's working. Just having him win so often is a totally different presentation and it's helping a lot. There is always room for a high flier with an awesome looking finish and if Bourne can go beyond that, he'll have quite the bright future.

Tiffany is in Teddy Long's office when Armando Estrada comes in to have Long sign his new contract. Long signs the contract and says we're going to celebrate, with Tiffany bringing over some champagne for a toast. Estrada is in action tonight, and it's up next. Against Finlay.

Finlay vs. Armando Estrada

Hornswoggle is here with Finlay. They fight over a lockup to start until Finlay knocks him down and grabs an early chinlock. Finlay takes him outside for a ram into the apron as Mike Knox comes out to watch. The distraction doesn't really work as Finlay comes back in to work on an armbar before going after the ribs. Another attempt at the distraction does work though and Estrada drops him onto the rope. Estrada's chinlock goes on for a bit before Finlay fights up...and it knocked right back into the chinlock. Finlay isn't having that and hits the Celtic Cross (not Emerald Fusion Striker) for the pin.

Rating: C. Another fairly slow paced match here but that was kind of the point. You're only going to get so much out of a match from Estrada and this was about setting up more from Knox vs. Finlay anyway. Finlay is getting a nice push around here and he's certainly better than some of the other options.

Post match Finlay brings a fan in to dance with him for the nice moment.

Ricky Ortiz comes in to see Teddy Long and Tiffany and debuts his new merchandising idea: a rally towel. Long doesn't quite get it but Ortiz wants Long to pay for 50,000 of them. We'll see about that if he can prove his worth going forward, including a new Superstar next week. Tiffany likes the towel.

Summerslam rundown.

Matt Hardy and Mark Henry don't trust each other before the main event.

Mark Henry/Matt Hardy vs. Miz/John Morrison

Tony Atlas is here with Henry and Hardy. The rather annoyed Henry clears the other villains out without much trouble to start and Hardy approves. We take a break and come back with Henry slowly pounding Morrison down as Striker says Miz and Morrison should still be Tag Team Champions because they weren't pinned in a triple threat title match. Hardy's running bulldog out of the corner gets two on Miz, who bails out to the floor.

Hardy follows him but gets driven into the steps to let the villains take over. Back in and Morrison hammers on Hardy in the corner, setting up the Russian legsweep for two. Morrison works on the back and ribs as Striker talks about chess and yoga. Hardy gets in a cheap shot and goes up, where he gets caught but hits a middle rope Side Effect...for the delayed pin. Oh something went VERY wrong there as that was either mistimed or Morrison was hurt.

Rating: C. The match was nothing special but I'm curious what happened with the ending. I would bet on Morrison getting hurt as the match just stopped cold and there was nothing to indicate it was planned to go that way. Odds are they didn't have much time left, but something was absolutely off from what they had planned.

Post match Miz checks on Morrison before Henry kicks Miz to the floor (never touching Morrison). Henry insists his hand is raised and then raises Hardy's hand. Then gives him the World's Strongest Slam.

Overall Rating: C+. It's not a good sign when all four matches have the same middle of the road rating but it oddly made for a better show than we've gotten in recent weeks. There was nothing that really stood out, but they've done a decent enough job of making me want to see Hardy vs. Henry. Now they still need to make it work, but I'll take a start over nothing

at all.

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Monday Night Raw – August 11, 2008: It's Those Two

Monday Night Raw

Date: August 11, 2008

Location: Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Virginia

Commentators: Michael Cole, Jerry Lawler

It's the last Raw before Summerslam and we have new Raw Tag Team Champion as Batista and John Cena won the belts last week. Odds are their reign won't last long but they already have a match set for Summerslam anyway. Other than that, JBL is the new #1 contender to CM Punk's World Title so let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of John Cena and Batista winning the Tag Team Titles last week, despite not being able to stand each other.

Here is Cena to get things going. Cena talks about how Mike Adamle made a match between himself and Batista at Summerslam for the first time ever. The two of them have never had an issue before, but now they are the Tag Team Champions. Earlier today, Adamle was looking for ideas for Cena and Batista, ranging from a broken glass arm wrestling match to a chili cook off but all you need is the two of them in the ring together.

Cue Batista, with Cena saying they won the titles last week, but tonight they have a rematch against Cody Rhodes and Ted DiBiase. They have to work together or they'll both lose, but that isn't happening at Summerslam. Cena has never admitted this to anyone, but he has spent six years watching Batista be groomed to be the to star and Cena never had that.

Instead, he has spent years going to war to turn critics into believers. They both have impressive resumes, but they have never answered the question of who is better. We'll answer that question at Summerslam and it's going to be Cena. Batista says he's been watching Cena as well and compares their resume. He has watched Cena get booed out of the building but Cena never changed a thing.

Batista would never do some of those things, but there are a bunch of people over the age of 15 who want to see him beat Cena senseless. On Sunday, he's going to prove he's the better man. A rather intense handshake wraps it up. This is a match that writes itself but they've done a great job of making it more interesting.

[Kelly Kelly vs. Beth Phoenix](#)

Santino Marella is on commentary. Beth powers her into the corner to start but gets slapped in the face. That doesn't go well for Kelly, who gets taken down and then faceplanted for her efforts. As Santino drops the name "Glamarella" for his relationship with Beth, Kelly slips out of a gorilla press and gets two off a rollup. Not that it matters as the Glam Slam finishes for Beth in a hurry.

Post match Santino comes in to say he wants to send a message to Mickie James and Kofi Kingston by having Beth beat Kelly up again. Kingston and James run in for the save to clear the villains out...but Santino wants to face James right now. See, he needs practice on figuring out where he can put his hands while facing a woman. Kingston says he'll do it, but Santino says "don't be a girl". It turns out those are fighting words so James is in. Santino promises to put her back in the kitchen where she belongs.

Santino Marella vs. Mickie James

We're joined in progress after a break, apparently with Santino having insulted James' parents during the break. James' headlock doesn't work very well but she's able to headscissor her way out of Santino's version. James trips him down and rides him a bit (spanking included of course) but Santino gets in a slam. The knee drop misses but Santino distracts the referee, allowing Beth Phoenix to get in a cheap shot. Kofi Kingston protests, only for Santino to grab a rollup with tights for the pin.

Mike Adamle is talking to Todd Phillips when Kane comes in. Adamle has an idea for him tonight: a match with Chris Jericho. Works for Kane, but Adamle also wants the bag that Kane has been holding. Kane says Adamle doesn't want to do that, but Adamle says we don't want kids going back to school and carrying a bag like his. Kane calls this a huge mistake before leaving. Fair enough, but the mistake was made by having Adamle talk this much in the first place.

We look at a classic clip of the Valiant Brothers losing the World Tag Team Titles to Ivan Putski and Tito Santana.

Cody Rhodes and Ted DiBiase talk about Batista and John Cena not being a team, meaning they'll lose the titles back tonight. They're young, but they're further along than any Hall Of Famer was at this point. Maybe next year they'll be facing off in the main event of Summerslam, but the difference is they really respect each other.

Cryme Tyme vs. Highlanders

Cole calls this a very important match, showing that Cole is either a liar or a moron. Gaspard powers Rory around to start but a cheap shot lets the Highlanders take over on JTG. Rory starts in on JTG's arm but a hammerlock is broken up. It's back to Shad to clothesline Robbie and a delayed suplex sets up an STO for the fast pin. Cryme Tyme moving into the title picture wouldn't be a bad idea.

Randy Orton has been involved in a motorcycle accident and is hurt all over again. And the delays continue. Maybe we can get some RNN Breaking News about him going forward though.

Here is JBL with a special challenge for CM Punk, who comes out before anything can be said. JBL goes into his usual insults about Punk, who finally cuts him off to say he's tired of hearing the same things since he's won this title. No he isn't your traditional champion but he's watched every Summerslam since he was a kid and it's going to be a dream come true to beat JBL at that show.

Punk says that with all due respect to Batista and John Cena, this is the real main event. JBL is incensed that Punk would compare himself to stars like Cena and Batista. He asks how Punk has earned his place and calls him Cinderella. Midnight strikes on Sunday though because fairy tales aren't real. Punk has talent, but he also has six days left as champion. JBL rolls up his sleeves (JBL: "Settle down Cinderella.") and

pulls back a sheet revealing a bottle of whiskey. He wants a drinking contest with Mr. Straightedge, which JBL finds boring.

JBL pours Punk a drink, saying he'll have a chance to win if he takes that one drink. If Punk won't do it, he won't be able to win against JBL on Sunday. Punk says JBL doesn't get it because they're not the same person. Doing things his way has gotten Punk this far so he'll pass on the drink. JBL says he didn't realize Punk brought his soapbox so he'll toast to Punk instead.

Hold on though as Punk says JBL changed his mind so he'll do the toast. And the drink is thrown into JBL's face, setting up the running knee in the corner. I'm not sure what the point of the drinking thing was supposed to be here, but they did a nice job of presenting the differences between them. JBL's old school stuff is fine, but geez he makes everything he says sound so dull and it's not helping.

We look at Shawn Michaels' eye injury, with a decision about his career set for Summerslam.

Kane vs. Chris Jericho

Lance Cade is here with Jericho, who is ran over and dropkicked to start. Kane powers him out of the corner but misses an elbow. Not that it matters as Kane takes it outside and knocks Jericho around again before heading back inside. Cade's distraction lets Jericho hit the triangle dropkick and he gets to hammer away a bit.

The chinlock doesn't last long as Kane is back up again with a spinning toss (looked like the side slam to start but he just tossed Jericho instead). Kane misses a charge into the corner but it's too early for the Walls. Now the side slam can connect, followed by the top rope clothesline...and here is Mike Adamle with a bunch of security. Kane goes over to get the bag though, allowing Jericho to hit the Codebreaker for the pin.

Rating: C+. These two often worked pretty well against each other but it was weird to see a heel vs. heel match between them. Kane losing here is a bit strange as he's the current monster, but at least he was distracted. That being said, putting Kane in a story with Adamle doesn't seem like the best idea. Then again, Kane has a history of being in bad stories and he tends to...well sometimes he makes them better.

Post match Adamle says he knows what Kane is talking about, because the "he" Kane has been asking about is Kane himself. Adamle knows Kane has been struggling to find those answers but Kane can lead a normal life by giving Adamle that bag. The fans need to know what is in the bag and, after comparing himself to Ronald Reagan's "tear down this wall", Adamle says "give me that bag".

Kane says there is a mask in the bag and the man who wore it has been scarred and tortured beyond all human recognition. The problem is that it's not Kane's mask. Kane opens the bag and pulls out...Rey Mysterio's mask. Adamle is confused, but that might just be how he normally looks.

William Regal vs. Jamie Noble

Regal pounds away to start and they're quickly on the floor for a ram into the apron. Back in and Noble knocks him into the corner for a Cannonball. A high crossbody gives Noble two but Regal snaps off a suplex. The running knee finishes Noble quick.

Smackdown Rebound.

Summerslam rundown.

We get the results of the poll from earlier, with John Cena being named the bigger star over Batista 73%-27%. Dang that's a squash.

Raw Tag Team Titles: John Cena/Batista vs. Cody Rhodes/Ted

DiBiase Jr.

Rhodes and DiBiase are challenging and don't even get an entrance. Batista insists he start but Cena slaps him from the apron to come in instead. Rhodes and DiBiase jump Cena to take over, which lasts all of a few seconds before Cena shoulders his way to freedom. Cena tells Batista that he can't see him and we take a break. Back with DiBiase holding Cena in a chinlock, which doesn't last long either as Cena powers up.

DiBiase misses a charge into the corner and it's off to Batista to clean house. The spinebuster hits DiBiase but Batista stops to taunt Cena, who breaks up the Batista Bomb. A cheap shot to the knee cuts Batista off and Rhodes cranks away on the leg. Batista powers up and slaps Cena in the face for a tag, which has Cena glaring at him. The glaring Cena gets rolled up to give DiBiase the pin and the titles back.

Rating: C. The match was pretty slow paced and much like last week was much more about the story than the wrestling. That's how something like this should have gone as there was no reason for Batista and Cena to keep the titles long term. Cena and Batista want to fight and they have nothing else to worry about, which is the way this should go.

Post match Cena and Batista are ready to fight but have to dispatch Rhodes and DiBiase again. With the villains gone, Cena teases walking out without a fight but that's just not his nature. Security comes in, gets knocked down, and then cuts off the fight to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. In case it isn't clear, John Cena vs. Batista is by far the best thing going on with this show. It feels big and it comes off as the most important thing you're going to be able to see right now. The Kane stuff is more weird than anything else (but it took a good turn here), the mixed tag stuff could be worse, and the Punk vs. JBL stuff is just dull. That leaves Cena and Batista miles ahead of

everything else and I want to see those two fight on Sunday. I don't quite want to see the rest of the show, which is about as hit or miss as you can get.

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Daily News Update – July 24, 2024

Make sure you check out some recent reviews:

[Monday Night Raw – July 22, 2024](#)

[Impact Wrestling – July 18, 2024](#)

[Ring Of Honor – July 18, 2024](#)

[NXT – July 24, 2024](#)

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-killer-on-wwe-superstar-being-done-with-the-company/>

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/remember-them-the-hardys-talk-potential-nxt-run-want-tag-team-titles/>

On The Card: Grudge Match And Title Match Officially Set For WWE Summerslam.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE Superstar Receiving Backstage Praise, To Be Rewarded.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-wwe-superstar-receiving-backstage-praise-to-be-rewarded/>

Ouch: Reigning AEW Champion Suffers Injury, His Current Status.

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NXT – July 24, 2024: Starting To Feel Bashy

NXT

Date: July 23, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We are a week away from the first half of the Great American Bash and we don't have much on the card thus far. The good thing is that the show has two nights so we can get something set up and still have a week to get it ready for night two. Hopefully this week works as well though so let's get to it.

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

Here is Trick Williams, coming from the parking lot and passing by Cedric Alexander and Ashante Thee Adonis to talk about how he wants his NXT Title back. Cue Alexander to say Williams is being blinded by his passion, so here is Adonis to say he is here to pick up the ball Williams dropped. Williams says Adonis couldn't pick up the ball even if he had a whole group. Williams: "HIT ROW!" Alexander tries to calm things down but Williams doesn't want to hear it. A match is set but Adonis isn't impressed, earning himself a quick beating.

Ethan Page doesn't like Tyriek Igwe and Tyson DuPont suggesting he almost lost last week. They aren't worth his

time.

Josh Briggs vs. Brooks Jensen

No DQ and Jensen jumps him in the back to start this fast. They fight into the arena with Briggs knocking him over the top. Briggs sends him through the announcers' table and we take an early break. Back with a bunch of weapons in the ring and Jensen catapulting him face first into the top of the announcers' table draped over the ropes.

A piledriver onto the steps is blocked and Briggs suplexes him onto the same steps. They slug it out for a double knockdown until Briggs knocks a chair away from him. Cue Shawn Spears for a distraction so Jensen can unload with a chair (on Briggs' back, which has some NASTY welts). A DDT onto the chair finishes Briggs at 10:10.

Rating: B-. This was what Jensen has been needing, as you can only be so interesting, even as a wild recluse, if you keep losing. Beating his former partner has a personal touch to it and maybe this can give him a good step forward. If nothing else, those welts on Briggs' back made Jensen look all the more violent as those things looked terrible.

The Rascalz interrupt Nathan Frazier and Axiom, with the former saying they never lost the Tag Team Titles. A match seems to be made, but we'll make it a six man instead. Axiom mentions being in the next Speed tournament and Frazier isn't happy. Or maybe he's kidding.

Sol Ruca/Karmen Petrovic/Lola Vice and the women of Meta Four have one of those arguments in the back that is only designed to set up a match later to set up a match later.

Lexis King vs. Eddy Thorpe

Thorpe strikes away to start and fires off chops in various corners. A backbreaker into a running kick to the chest has

King in more trouble but he's back up with a superkick. The Coronation is countered into an implant DDT to give Thorpe the pin at 2:30.

Post match King jumps him, including a stomping of Thorpe's hand on the steps. So this isn't done.

Trick Williams says he'll fight anyone to get his title back. Pete Dunne asks if that is so.

Oro Mensah vs. Ashante Thee Adonis

The rest of Meta Four is here too. Mensah starts fast and hammers away in the corner but gets draped over the top rope. Mensah's comeback is cut off by an elbow to the face for two but Mensah strikes away. An ax kick connects, only for Adonis to grab a spinebuster for two more. Back up and the running spinwheel kick finishes for Mensah at 4:34.

Rating: C. Not much time here but this felt like a way to get Mensah ready for what might be a title shot against Ethan Page. Adonis isn't much of a main roster star but it's better than beating up another low level NXT name. Mensah is probably not going much higher on the card than this, but he'll work in a quick spot.

Post match Mensah says he wants Ethan Page.

Wren Sinclair threatens to tell what she saw if the No Quarter Catch Crew doesn't help her win tonight. The D'Angelo Family approves.

Carlee Bright vs. Wren Sinclair

The No Quarter Catch Crew, the D'Angelo Family and Kendal Grey are all here too. They trade headlocks to start until Sinclair takes her down. A bow and arrow is broken up and Sinclair hits a running shoulder, only to get dropkicked for two. Myles Borne's interference doesn't work so Sinclair tries a rollup, with Charlie Dempsey helping out for the pin on Bright at

3:29.

Rating: C. Another short one here but again it was all about the Catch Crew trying to make Sinclair happy. This would work so much better if there was some kind of mystery to it, but there is no reason that we shouldn't know what she saw. Otherwise, it's just making the Crew look like they're wrapped around her finger, which seems to be the point.

Hank Walker and Tank Ledger have Halloween Havoc ideas.

Je'Von Evans will be Axiom and Nathan Frazier's partner tonight.

Chase U is regrouping and Ridge Holland even has new shirts for them.

We get a sitdown interview with Thea Hail, who is ready to get the NXT Women's Title. She praises Ridge Holland for helping her get here and wants to win the title for all of Chase U and her fans.

Trick Williams vs. Cedric Alexander

Williams powers him into the corner to start but gets taken into an armbar for his efforts. Back up and Williams slams his way out of trouble before elbowing Alexander in the face. A nice dropkick staggers Alexander again but he knocks Williams to the apron for a clothesline.

We take a break and come back with an exchange of kicks to the face leaving them both down. They strike it out again until a flapjack puts Alexander down. The Michinoku Driver gives Alexander two but he can't get a cross armbreaker. Instead Williams escapes and hits the Trick Shot for the pin at 10:43.

Rating: B-. The more matches that Williams can have like this, the better he is going to get. Wrestling for ten minutes with an established name like Alexander, who can work well with anyone, is going to be a good thing for him. Williams still

isn't the most polished worker, but if he can keep improving, his natural charisma will be enough to carry him the rest of the way.

Post match, respect is shown but Pete Dunne runs in to jump Williams.

Ethan Page talks to the under bosses and is told to go deal with Oro Mensah.

Wendy Choo stalks Kelani Jordan and Ashante Thee Adonis comes in to ask some of the women for medical help. Then he smiles.

Meta Four vs. Sol Ruca/Karmen Petrovic

Petrovic kicks Jackson into the corner to start and hands it off to Ruca, who gets taken down with a reverse X Factor. Legend comes in and gets caught with a quick hurricanrana for two. Ruca's slingshot X Factor gets two but Legend kicks her down to take over. Everything breaks down and stereo superkicks get two on Legend. Jackson gets kicked to the floor but Legend punches Petrovic in the face. An over the back faceplant finishes Petrovic at 4:39.

Rating: C+. It's kind of amazing to see how far Legend has come in the last few months. She went from one of the worst things in NXT to someone who knows how to use her size and athleticism to make it work. This was another nice match and Meta Four looked good enough in there, even over a bigger star like Ruca.

Post match Meta Four issues a challenge for the Women's Tag Team Titles.

Trick Williams asks Shawn Michaels for an NXT Title shot. Shawn will work on it. Roxanne Perez comes in to yell about not getting an interview like Thea Hail, with Shawn trying to calm her down.

Video on Joe Hendry's rise to prominence and the work he has

put in. Next week, he'll be having a concert. Can WWE just buy his contract out from TNA already?

Gallus wants Hendry next week and then freaks out when they find fliers for his concert.

Ethan Page says Oro Mensah pinning him last week doesn't count and a referee agrees, which is what he wanted to here.

Here is Page, with the referee, in the ring to say that while this does NOT bother him, he wants the referee to reiterate that it doesn't matter. Then Oro Mensah comes in and rolls him up for another pin.

The D'Angelo Family mocks the No Quarter Catch Crew, but in honor of the Olympics, Olympian Tavion Heights can have a Heritage Cup shot next week.

Here's what's coming next week.

Je'Von Evans/Axiom/Nathan Frazier vs. Rascalz

Axiom and Miguel start things off by going to the mat until Axiom snaps off a dropkick. Frazier is in for a fast shot of his own, only to have Miguel kick him in the face. The Rascalz come in for a triple team on Frazier but it's off to Evans for a dropkick. Evans and Lee slug it out and everything breaks down and the Rascalz hit some dives as we take a break.

Back with Frazier hitting a running shooting star press for two on Wentz, allowing Axiom to grab a chinlock. A triple superkick gets two on Wentz and Evans puts on the cross arm choke. Wentz fights out and knees Frazier out of the air, allowing the tag to Lee to pick up the pace.

The alternating kicks put Axiom down and a triple dropkick gets two on Frazier. Evans is back in with his top rope cutter to Miguel and the super Spanish Fly into the frog splash gets two, with the rest of the Rascalz making the save. A backbreaker/double stomp combination hits Axiom and Hot Fire

Flame (an assisted standing moonsault) gives Wentz the pin at 15:24.

Rating: B+. This was six guys being told to go out there and go nuts with flips and athleticism and it worked as expected. The Rascalz work so well together and the other three can more than mesh with that style. I had a blast with this and they knew exactly what they were trying to do.

Respect is shown post match.

Ethan Page comes up to Ava and wants to get rid of Oro Mensah. He'll even make it a title match. Ava says the contract signing can be next week and the title match can be the week after. Works for Page.

Overall Rating: B-. The main event is by far the best part and they set up some stuff for the Bash, but the show isn't feeling that special. Granted it's only a TV thing, but they've hyped it up as big and I don't know that the card is backing that up. Maybe they'll surprise me, but the main event and a few other things were enough to carry this week.

Results

Brooks Jensen b. Josh Briggs – DDT onto a chair

Eddy Thorpe b. Lexis King – Implant DDT

Oro Mensah b. Ashante Thee Adonis – Running spinwheel kick

Wren Sinclair b. Carlee Bright – Rollup with assist from Charlie Dempsey

Trick Williams b. Cedric Alexander – Trick Shot

Meta Four b. Sol Ruca/Karmen Petrovic – Over the back faceplant to Petrovic

Rascalz b. Je'Von Evans/Axiom/Nathan Frazier – Hot Fire Flame to Axiom

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Ring Of Honor – July 18, 2024: Anyone Want To Have A Pay Per View?

Ring Of Honor

Date: July 18, 2024

Location: Simmons Bank Arena, North Little Rock, Arkansas

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We are just over a week away from Death Before Dishonor and we have three matches set, with the third being announced last week on Collision. There is a good chance that we get something announced this week, but there is always the chance that everything else is announced at the very last minute. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Roderick Strong beating Dalton Castle to become the #1 contender to the Ring Of Honor World Title.

On an AEW show.

Ring Of Honor World Champion Mark Briscoe is fired up to face Strong. As he said on an AEW show.

Here are Athena, on crutches, and Billie Starkz, for a chat. Athena says she isn't medically cleared with Starkz saying the same. Starkz outsmarted everyone to become the first Women's TV Champion. Athena is injured but knows she can beat Queen Aminata on one foot. Next week, Lexi Nair will give Aminata five minutes of uninterrupted time. This was weird as it only seemed to announce that Aminata would have an interview next week.

Dalton Castle has a six man tag tonight but has no partners. The Outrunners come in and say they'll be his partners, even if Castle doesn't remember meeting them before. Some posing convinces him to say yes.

Outrunners/Dalton Castle vs. Lance Archer/Righteous

Castle powers Vincent into the corner to start and they go with some grappling. It's off to Dutch vs. Floyd, with Dutch breaking up the posing. Magnum comes in to stat on the arm but Archer breaks that up without much trouble. Some clotheslines keep Magnum in trouble and Vincent's backsplash gets two.

Archer comes in to stomp away before Vincent adds a basement Downward Spiral. Magnum suplexes his way out of a chinlock though and it's back to Castle to clean house. A delayed German suplex gets two on Vincent but Archer comes in to break up the Bang A Rang. Floyd breaks out of a chokeslam, only to have Archer hit the Blackout for the win at 9:41.

Rating: C+. Perfectly fine six man here and thankfully they had one of the comedy goofs take the fall over Castle. The Outrunners and Castle are not a bad pairing and probably the best that can be done with Castle now that the Boys are gone. If nothing else, it gives three charismatic people something

to do and that is always fun to see.

The MxM Collection is all about the three F's: fashion, fitness and philanthropy.

Red Velvet vs. Maya World

World is Athena's student. Velvet takes her down with a headlock to start but World is back up to work on the arm. World sends her into the corner to strike away but Velvet is back with a Japanese armdrag. A flapjack into a not great nip up sets up something like Natural Selection to finish World at 2:54.

Here is Evil Uno in street clothes to issue an open challenge to anyone from any promotion.

Evil Uno vs. Katsuyori Shibata

They lock up to start and Uno bails to the floor early on. Shibata pulls him into a quickly broken chinlock and Uno manages to knock him outside. A whip into the barricade has Shibata in trouble for a change but some chops just annoy him back inside. Shibata kicks him in the face and, after some stomping in the corner, the running corner dropkick makes it even worse. A cross armbreaker sends Uno over to the ropes...but Uno is hurt and the match is stopped at 5:01.

Rating: C. This wasn't exactly a great match before the sudden ending, as Shibata more or less squashed him for about four minutes. That's all this was ever going to be as Shibata is that much of a bigger star and I can't imagine this was going to get much more time. It felt more like a way to get Shibata back in the ring after the Learning Tree stuff and this was...well I won't say good but it could have been worse.

Cage Of Agony vs. Rustin Mulitalo/Cappuccino Jones/Carson Hutcheson

Mulitalo tries to jump Liona from behind to start and is

promptly destroyed for his efforts. Kaun comes in to hammer away and Cage adds his standing fall away slam. Hutcheson comes in and gets suplexed, setting up some running splashes in the corner. A toss jackknife gives Kaun the pin at 2:35. Total decimation.

Shane Taylor talks about sitting out a hurricane and not getting a single call from AEW or ROH. If it was one of the bigger stars, they would have gotten a call, so he's coming for those bigger stars. Like Mark Briscoe.

We run down the Death Before Dishonor card with nothing new added.

Queen Aminata vs. Mackenzie Morgan

Aminata wastes no time in snapping off some suplexes and then drives her hard into the corner. A running Air Raid Crash finishes Morgan off at 1:43.

Diamante vs. Leyla Hirsch

Lights Out, meaning No Holds Barred. Hirsch snaps off some throws to start and they head outside. Diamante puts a trashcan over Hirsch's head and hammers away but Hirsch is right back up and takes it into the crowd. Hirsch is sent into the barricade and crushed against it for two back inside. To mix it up a bit, Hirsch whips out a plunger and puts it onto Diamante's face, much to the fans' approval.

A running dropkick sends a chair into Diamante's face in the corner and it's time for the thumbtacks. That takes too long so Diamante gets in a suplex to put Hirsch into the tacks. They go to the apron, with Hirsch swinging away with a kendo stick. Diamante is laid on the table for a top rope moonsault through it, meaning it's time for another table. Hirsch loads up a superplex through the table but Diamante reverses into a Code Blue to put Hirsch through the table for the pin at 12:23.

Rating: B-. It was a heck of a fight and while it might not have been as epic of a feud as Ring Of Honor seemed to present it as being, it did just fine for what they were trying to do. These two beat each other up, though Hirsch dominated such a long stretch that it was weird to see her get caught with pretty much one big move at the end. That being said, why in the world was this not at Death Before Dishonor? It was a hard hitting fight with an actual story. Why put it on this nothing show when your PPV card barely exists?

Overall Rating: C. Just like last week, this added pretty much nothing to the pay per view and gave me no reason to want to watch it. As usual, they'll add in probably another eight or so matches with just a few days to go and then act like it's some major event, which does not work in the slightest but it's all you're going to get around here. This week's show was slightly better than last week, but other than maybe the main event, there is nothing worth seeing here.

Results

Lance Archer/Righteous b. Dalton Castle/Outrunners – Blackout to Floyd

Red Velvet b. Maya World – Flipping cutter

Katsuyori Shibata b. Evil Uno via referee stoppage

Cage Of Agony b. Rustin Mulitalo/Cappuccino Jones/Carson Hutcheson – Toss jackknife to Hutcheson

Queen Aminata b. Mackenzie Morgan – Running Air Raid Crash

Diamante b. Leyla Hirsch – Code Red through a table

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