

Saturday Night's Main Event #37: They've Still Got It

Saturday Night's Main Event #37

Date: December 14, 2024

Location: Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, New York

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Jesse Ventura, Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

This show is back after more than 18 years and in this case, the card might be the biggest of all time with basically a pay per view quality show. There are two World Title matches and the inaugural Women's United States Champion will be crowned. The show is also in prime time (well for a Saturday night) so this could be a big deal. Let's get to it.

After a quick opening to this year's show, we get a retro look at the show, with a bunch of clips from the 80s and 90s.

The opening video featured modern clips to classic commentary, which is quite the way to go. We even get the still shot of Cody Rhodes next to the logo.

Jesse Ventura joins Joe Tessitore (yes he has the feather boa and the snake skin jacket) and he isn't impressed with Cody Rhodes.

If that's not enough, Pat McAfee is back (as are the red, white and blue ropes).

Sami Zayn vs. Drew McIntyre

Zayn starts fast and hammers away in the corner before a clothesline sends him to the floor. The Arabian moonsault hits McIntyre and Zayn knocks him over the top again. A slingshot dive is pulled out of the air though and McIntyre tosses him

over the announcers' table. We take a break and come back with McIntyre tossing him by the neck but charging into a boot in the corner.

The Helluva Kick is blocked though and a spinebuster into a sitout powerbomb gives McIntyre two. A super White Noise is countered into a sunset bomb to give Zayn two and they're both down. Back up and the Claymore is blocked with Zayn hitting the Blue Thunder Bomb for two more. The threat of a Helluva Kick sends McIntyre outside but he comes back in to catch Zayn with the Claymore for the pin at 10:04.

Rating: B. They got going here and were having a hard hitting back and forth match, which shouldn't be a surprise given who was in there. McIntyre seems to be on a revenge quest and that should make for an interesting story. If nothing else, McIntyre might cross paths with Roman Reigns sooner than later and that could be a rather different way to go.

Tito Santana, Rich Hering (worked backstage) and Jimmy Hart are all here.

Raw Women's Title: Iyo Sky vs. Liv Morgan

Sky is challenging and flips away from her to start. A running dropkick puts Morgan down and a flapjack does it again for two. Sky sends her outside for a springboard moonsault and we take an early break. Back with Sky hitting a dive to the floor, followed by a missile dropkick for two.

Morgan is back with a Codebreaker for two of her own but Sky rolls some German suplexes for another near fall. Sky tries another springboard but slips, allowing Morgan to hit another Codebreaker for two. An enziguri staggers Morgan and Sky pulls her into a knee to the face for two more. Over The Moonsault hits raised knees though and Oblivion retains the title at 9:09.

Rating: C+. This could have been worse as they started to slip

a bit near the middle but got it together well enough. It's a bit weird to see Morgan beat Sky clean but it's not the biggest stretch in the world. For now though, good enough match here, even if it's weird to see a serious Women's Title match on this show.

Post match Morgan (with a rather banged up nose) is cut off by Rhea Ripley for a big staredown.

Raw World Title: Gunther vs. Finn Balor vs. Damian Priest

Gunther is defending. They start fast with Gunther going after Balor and then headbutting Priest. Balor rolls Gunther up to block a powerbomb attempt but gets punched out to the floor. Priest elbows Gunther out to the apron and then to the floor, with a big flip dive just barely clearing the ropes (Priest banged into them a bit) as we take an early break.

Back with Gunther booting both of them down and looking rather fired up. Priest is back up with chops and running elbows in the corner as McAfee randomly congratulates the Heisman Trophy winner, with Cole having to point out that people are talking about Saturday Night's Main Event. Something close to Old School hits Gunther and Priest's lifting Downward Spiral gets two on Balor. Priest knocks Balor outside but gets choked by Gunther, only to power out.

The South Of Heaven connects but Balor is in with the standing reverse DDT. Balor dropkicks Priest into the corner, only for Gunther to break up the Coup de Grace. A Razor's Edge out of the corner hits Gunther and the Coup de Grace makes it worse, with Priest having to make the save. Gunther rolls outside and Priest hits South Of Heaven, with Gunther making a save with a grab of the hair. The sleeper has Priest in trouble on the floor and a powerbomb onto the steps drops him again. Back in and Gunther dropkicks Balor into the powerbomb to retain at 11:18.

Rating: B. This got rolling by the end and Gunther gets a nice

win to look like the monster that he can be. The last few seconds with Gunther powering Priest down and running over Balor made him look that much better. Heck of a fight here and Gunther is looking like his old self, which is nice to see.

Jesse Ventura is impressed with Liv Morgan.

Women's US Title: Chelsea Green vs. Michin

For the inaugural title and Green has little pictures of herself attached to her gear (which has the half tights/half trunks for an old Zack Ryder look. Michin gets sent to the floor to start but cuts off a charge with a slap. Niven offers a distraction though and Green takes over again as we take a break.

Back with Michin hitting a tornado DDT for two but Green sends her outside. The big dive only hits Niven though, allowing Michin to flip dive off the apron. Eat Defeat drops Niven on the floor but Green kicks her in the face. Another Eat Defeat gives Michin two, with Green getting a boot on the rope. Back up and Niven offers a distraction, allowing Green to flip onto Michin for the Unprettier for the pin and the title at 8:08.

Rating: C. There were some rough parts in there (the Eat Defeat to Green didn't work at all) but that was a monster reaction to Green finally winning a singles title. She has put in the work and gotten the fans behind her, which is quite the sign of respect. I'm not sure how Green is going to do as champion, but she got the important win here and she earned the spot.

Greg Valentine and Koko B. Ware are both here.

Jesse Ventura joins commentary and says that his snake skin used to be Damien.

We recap Kevin Owens challenging Cody Rhodes for the WWE Title. Owens spent four years fighting the Bloodline but then

Rhodes teamed with them. That doesn't work with Owens, who thinks Rhodes turned his back on him. Now Owens has hurt Randy Orton and wants to do the same to Rhodes.

Smackdown World Title: Cody Rhodes vs. Kevin Owens

Rhodes is defending and has a bad ankle coming in. Owens drops to the floor to start as is his custom but Rhodes is right there after him. Back in and Rhodes sends him to the floor but comes up favoring his ankle, which has Ventura wondering how bright of an idea that really was. Owens is back up to knock him down and drops Rhodes onto the announcers' table as we take a break. Back with Owens hitting a Swanton for two (Jesse: "GET ON THE LEG!") but Rhodes snaps off the powerslam.

Rhodes stops to pose, with Jesse saying "feed off of them all you want, win the d*** match", because he's really good at commentary. The Disaster Kick gets two and they go outside, where Owens gets caught with an RKO onto the announcers' table. Back in and the Cody Cutter gets two on Owens but Rhodes takes him up, only to get caught with the swinging superplex for two. And yes, Ventura thinks there was a slow count, as is tradition.

Back up and the referee gets bumped so Owens's Stunner doesn't get a count. Ventura is losing it on commentary over the lack of a referee as another comes down to count two. Another Cody Cutter hits the second referee So Owens grabs a chair, only to get caught with the Cody Cutter. Cross Rhodes onto the chair gets the three (with the original referee counting from the floor) to retain at 12:03.

Rating: B. This was a good main event to close the show and while there was only a sliver of a reason to believe that Owens was going to win the title, they did some nice stuff with the ref bumps to make you wonder where it was going. That being said, Ventura absolutely stole the show here and I can't imagine people were expecting him to be THAT good. He's a

great example of someone who just gets wrestling (telling Cody to try and win the match is a perfectly logical point) and he was a lot more than just a special nostalgia act. Anyway, nice main event here, feeling like a solid house show finale.

Jesse says the pleasure was all his in a classy move to end the show.

Overall Rating: B+. For a free special on network television, this couldn't have gone much better. Even the worst match was watchable enough, but above all else, the show was fun. Everyone seemed fired up to be there and I can see this being a nice regular quarterly feature. It doesn't need to be something they do more often than that and odds are the novelty will wear off, but dang this was a heck of a way to start with a pay per view level card. Nice job here, and Ventura managed to steal the show.

Results

Drew McIntyre b. Sami Zayn – Claymore

Liv Morgan b. Iyo Sky – Oblivion

Gunther b. Damian Priest and Finn Balor – Powerbomb to Balor

Chelsea Green b. Michin – Unprettier

Cody Rhodes b. Kevin Owens – Cross Rhodes onto a chair

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Smackdown – December 13, 2024: It Gets Us Where We Need To Go

Smackdown

Date: December 13, 2024

Location: XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut

Commentators: Corey Graves, Michael Cole

We're a day away from Saturday Night's Main Event and that should make for an important night on the way there. One of the biggest stories coming out of last week was DIY winning the Tag Team Titles with Johnny Gargano going full on villain. Other than that, the Bloodline is still lurking around so let's get to it.

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

Here is a limping Jimmy Uso (thanks to a broken toe at Survivor Series) for a chat. Uso said WarGames didn't get him but it did get his toe. WarGames meant everything to him because even though he fights with his family, they'll fight together and throw up the one's. So that's behind them, so what is in front of them?

He and his family have been doing this for years and they have been pretty successful. He's even proud of Jey Uso and the YEET! Then there's Solo Sikoa, who he might not like but he's proud of him. So what's next for Jimmy? He's not sure. Maybe the Royal Rumble, the US Title or even the WWE Title. He may

have one big toe, but he's here...and so is Drew McIntyre with the Claymore.

A Christmas themed Tiffany Stratton is warming up when Candice LeRae and Nia Jax come in to give her a pep talk.

Nick Aldis yells at Drew McIntyre when Bianca Belair and Naomi come in. Aldis tells McIntyre to stay in his office and then tells Belair she is going to have to relinquish the Tag Team Titles. Naomi offers to step in and be her partner, with Aldis reluctantly agreeing, saying they have to be ready to defend the titles as soon as next week.

Women's US Title Tournament Semifinals: Tiffany Stratton vs. Michin

Stratton knocks her down to start but Michin grabs a double leg and hammers away. A hurricanrana out of the corner drops Stratton again but Stratton faceplants her on the apron. We take a break and come back with Michin rolling away before the Prettiest Moonsault Ever can launch.

Michin kicks her down and hits a springboard DDT for two. The Tarantula has Stratton in trouble but she flips away and grabs an Alabama Slam for two of her own. A Regal Roll sets up the Prettiest Moonsault Ever but Michin rolls away...and right into the moonsault, which doesn't count as she rolled away. Eat Defeat gives Michin the fast pin at 8:22.

Rating: C+. The ending didn't help things and commentary tried to cover it as well as they could but it looked pretty bad. Other than that, Michin beating Stratton is almost weird to see, as Stratton has been pushed fairly strong in recent months while Michin has only been building momentum in recent weeks. Michin should make for a good underdog in the finals though and that's always a nice role to have filled.

We look back at Johnny Gargano going evil to win the Tag Team Titles last week.

DIY (in black and white) talk about getting cheated in Gargano's hometown but he promised to do whatever it took to set things right. Then the Motor City Machine Guns were handed a path to the titles so last week, Gargano did what he needed to do to get the titles back. And it was fun.

We look at the Bloodline beating down LA Knight and Andrade last week.

Roman Reigns, with Paul Heyman, talks about how this has been a rough year. They were running everything not too long ago but then they lost everything. Four years ago, Solo Sikoa wasn't here when Reigns earned everything. That's why he wants Tribal Combat on January 6, where he can take everything back and everyone can acknowledge him.

There will be a Raw On Netflix Kickoff Show next week. Of note: Logan Paul is advertised despite saying he was retired earlier this week.

Legado del Fantasma complains to Nick Aldis about everyone being attacked so maybe they should go to Raw. Aldis says go call them so Carmelo Hayes comes in, where he is told he'll find out who he is facing in the ring.

Carmelo Hayes vs. ???

And the newest member of Smackdown is...Braun Strowman. Hayes panics and gets knocked down to make it even worse. The running powerslam is broken up and Hayes misses a charge into the post, allowing Hayes to get one, with the kickout sending him flying. Now the running powerslam can finish for Strowman at 1:28.

LA Knight is always ready to handle his business he didn't want to get involved in WarGames when he was asked. That wasn't his business, but now Solo Sikoa has gotten in his business and in the way of his US Title. That's why tonight, Sikoa's face is going to get in the way of Knight's fist.

Solo Sikoa vs. LA Knight

The Bloodline is here with Sikoa. Knight wins a slugout to start and hits a discus lariat, followed by a running clothesline to the floor. Sikoa is back up with some rams into various things but Knight manages a whip into the steps. Knight hammers away on the announcers' table but Sikoa Samoan drops him back inside.

A middle rope bulldog gets Knight out of trouble and his dropkick through the ropes hits Tonga, allowing Sikoa to hit Swinging Solo onto the announcers' table as we take a break. Back with Sikoa trying a Superman Punch and getting suplexed down for his efforts. Knight stomps away in the corner but stops to dive onto the rest of the Bloodline. Back in and a Side Effect drops Sikoa and the top rope elbow gets two. That's enough for Jacob Fatu, who grabs Knight for the DQ at 11:20.

Rating: B-. It was hard to imagine Sikoa being challenged to Tribal Combat next month and losing here, but at least Knight didn't get pinned. It's fine to fight against the top heel stable and get taken out by the numbers game so this could have been a lot worse for Knight. He might even get a tag match or something to follow this up so it's a bit of an upgrade for him, at least for the time being.

Post match the beatdown is on, with Apollo Crews and Andrade's save attempts not working.

Braun Strowman runs into Pretty Deadly, who offer him a spot in their musical (oh yeah that's a thing). With Pretty Deadly running off, A-Town Down Under come in and offer him a guest spot on the Grayson Waller Effect. Sure.

Women's US Title Tournament Semifinals: Bayley vs. Chelsea Green

Piper Niven is here with Green. Bayley plants her down to

start in a hurry and a rollup gets an early two. Green's rollup gets her own near fall but Bayley is back with a basement clothesline for two more. Niven sweeps the leg though and Green stomps on Bayley's back as we take a break. Back with Green hitting an enziguri and rolling Bayley up for two. We hit the chinlock and go split screen for a quick preview of the Mufasa movie.

Back to full screen and they go to the apron (nice timing on the chinlock for the break) where Bayley hits a Stunner over the middle rope. A hanging suplex to the floor has Green in more trouble, followed by a belly to back for two. Bayley hits a running knee into a sunset bomb into the corner for two but Green (who has lost the flowers in her hair, meaning she can't go to San Francisco) is back with a Rough Ryder. Niven pulls Green outside so Bayley dives onto her instead. That earns her a toss over the barricade, followed by the Unprettier to give Green the win at 12;12.

Rating: C. This was good enough but points for pushing Green forward. I'm not sure if she is going to win the title but it's nice to see her getting a chance to do something. She has more than earned the chance to do something on her own (or with Niven behind her) and it's not like Bayley is going to be hurt by losing to anyone.

The Motor City Machine Guns are not happy with DIY because they can't believe what Johnny Gargano did to them. Now it's a fight and Gargano will learn that next week.

Shinsuke Nakamura talks about how there has been a shift which will see the weak dragged into the light. LA Knight had something he never deserved and will never get it again. Nakamura is imminent.

Nia Jax consoles Tiffany Stratton but Candice LeRae comes in and says she and Nia have a Women's Tag Team Title shot next week. With Jax gone, LeRae says Stratton just might not be a

singles wrestler.

Saturday Night's Main Event rundown.

Michael Cole brings out Cody Rhodes for a chat with...Kevin Owens, who joins us from his car. Owens can't believe how Rhodes is willing to use his friends to finish his story. The reality is Rhodes is as bad of a friend as he is a son and brother. The other reality is that Rhodes was always more interesting as Stardust.

Rhodes knows Owens has more zingers up his sleeve but goes to the back to deal with him in person. Owens jumps him from behind and they fight into the arena and into the ring. Security tries to break it up and Owens gets in a belt shot to end the show. Of note: Owens was wearing a Stardust shirt, as that man's shirt closet must be amazing. Good brawl here, and it feels like a pay per view main event, which is quite the impressive feat for a television special.

Overall Rating: B-. The best thing I can say about this show is I want to see what happens tomorrow night. This show was designed to make Saturday Night's Main Event more interesting and it pulled that part off. The action itself here wasn't great, but it was good enough to move things forward. This show wasn't the one that mattered, but rather the show that set up the ones that matter. Nice job on that front, with tomorrow being the important night.

Results

Michin b. Tiffany Stratton – Eat Defeat

Braun Strowman b. Carmelo Hayes – Running powerslam

LA Knight b. Solo Sikoa via DQ when Jacob Fatu interfered

Chelsea Green b. Bayley – Unprettier

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Collision – December 7, 2024: Just One

Collision

Date: December 7, 2024

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Tony Schiavone

As has been the case for the last few shows, we're in for a big focus on the Continental Classic. That should be enough to carry a lot of the show, but we are also three weeks away from Worlds End and that show is going to need some build of its own. Odds are we get some of that here so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Continental Classic.

Continental Classic Gold League: Darby Allin (0 points) vs. Komander (0 points)

Komander armdrags him out of the corner to start but gets reversed into a headlock. A rollup gives Allin two and he

slows things down with a chinlock. Komander gets up and walks the ropes before springboarding off of them, only for his armdrag to be blocked. Allin gets sent to the floor though and a big dive takes him down. Back in and a phoenix splash gives Komander two, setting up a nice superkick to the floor. Allin fights back and puts him in a chair, only for the running flip dive to only hit said chair.

We take a break and come back with Allin hitting a Code Red for two and they're both down. Allin goes up but gets super Spanish Flied back down. With the high flying not working, Allin goes with a more violent back rake instead, setting up a Coffin Drop with Komander draped over the top. Komander is right back with a poisonrana on the apron but Cielito Lindo takes too long. That's enough for Allin to tie up the legs for a rollup and the pin at 13:11.

Rating: B-. Well, they ha to get Allin on the board and who better than Komander to take the loss? At the end of the day, Komander is mainly there to make others look good and he is doing a nice job of doing so. Allin needs to make a run in this thing, as once it's over, there is a good chance he is getting into the World Title picture again.

Gold League Standings

Claudio Castagnoli – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Will Ospreay – 3 points (4 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Ricochet – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Komander – 0 points (2 matches remaining)

Don Callis and Konosuke Takeshita are interrupted by Powerhouse Hobbs. He gets straight to the point by saying he wants an International Title match. Callis says Hobbs deserves a shot but he'll get back to him later.

International Women's Cup Qualifier Tournament Semifinals:

Willow Nightingale vs. Serena Deeb

Deeb goes after the arm to start and takes her down, only to get run over with a shoulder. They trade rollups for two each until Nightingale gets a fisherman's suplex for two. Deeb sends her outside in a heap though and we take a break. Back with Nightingale hitting some clotheslines but the Babe With The Powerbomb is blocked. A hammerlock lariat gives Deeb two but the Deebtox is blocked as well. Nightingale misses a Cannonball and the Deebtox connects to give two. That just earns Deeb the Pounce and the Babe With The Powerbomb finishes for Nightingale at 10:04.

Rating: C+. I still have no idea why this needs to be a tournament but at least they're getting to the point fairly quickly. Nightingale getting a win here could help send her on to Japan but Jamie Hayter is a tough out in the finals. For now though, nice match, as Deeb can make anyone look good out there and it's not like Nightingale needs that much help.

Thunder Rosa wants the next Women's Title match and reads some insults about Mariah May off a piece of paper.

We look at Jay White, Orange Cassidy and Hangman Page beating up Jon Moxley with Christian Cage hovering around.

Here are the Death Riders for a chat. Jon Moxley talks about how no one in this building wants to be AEW World Champion. Some people might think they do, but the responsibilities would crush them. People like Jay White wants to be champion but doesn't get what it takes. Hangman Page will crush himself before he gets close to another title reign.

Then we have Orange Cassidy, who has already come up short. Cue Cassidy to say he can live without ever being champion but he can't live with Moxley being champion. The only way Moxley can stop him is to kill him and Cassidy takes his jacket off. The beatdown is quickly on and Cassidy is carried to the back as we take a break. Well at least they only beat up one person

this week.

FTR talks about how they're going to fight for hurricane relief in Asheville, North Carolina...but we cut over to the Death Riders attempting to spray some kind of cleaning fluid in Orange Cassidy's mouth. FTR makes the save but things don't get violent. FTR getting involved in this is at least something fresh so I can go for this.

Continental Classic Blue League: Kyle Fletcher (6 points) vs. Kazuchika Okada (4 points)

Non-title. Fletcher works on the arm to start and snapmares him into a chinlock. The fans aren't pleased, as we are somehow seeing Okada as the crowd favorite. Fletcher grinds away on a headlock, with McGuinness saying he's won a bunch of matches with a headlock. McGuinness: "One guy gave up during the instructions." Eh funnier when Bobby Heenan said it thirty five years ago.

Okada fights up and they head to the floor for a DDT to Fletcher. Back in and Fletcher hits a hanging DDT (as the Randy Orton comparisons continue) to send us to a break. We come back with Okada fighting out of a chinlock but Fletcher knees him down. Okada is back with a kick to the head and a quickly broken cobra clutch. Instead Okada settles for a flapjack and the air raid crash onto the knee.

The top rope elbow and the dropkick sends Fletcher to the floor. The Tombstone on the floor is countered into a half and half suplex, followed by a sitout powerbomb for two on Okada back inside. A non-wind up Rainmaker connects but the regular version is cut off by a superkick. The referee almost gets bumped in the corner and it's a low blow into the brainbuster to give Fletcher the win at 16:58.

Rating: B. The ending might seem a bit lame but you don't want Okada to lose a clean fall. At the same time, like him or not, they are trying with Fletcher and that is a good thing. AEW

needs some fresh stars and if they think Fletcher can be the guy, points for trying to push him as such. The best way to make that happen is with a string of wins and he's certainly putting those together.

Blue League Standings

Kyle Fletcher – 9 points (2 matches remaining)
Daniel Garcia – 4 points (3 matches remaining)
Kazuchika Okada – 4 points (2 matches remaining)
Shelton Benjamin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)
Mark Briscoe – 0 points (3 matches remaining)
The Beast Mortos – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

There will be a special on-sale event for All In Texas this Monday.

Winter Is Coming is coming.

The Beast Mortos vs. Aaron Solo

Mortos jumps him, shrugs off a kick to the head, hits a powerbomb backbreaker and finishes with a discus lariat at 58 seconds.

Top Flight, with Leila Grey, isn't happy with Lio Rush and Action Andretti in the tag team battle royal. Rush says it's time for he and Andretti to go after the Tag Team Titles because Top Flight keeps losing. It's time to settle this in the ring.

Mina Shirakawa vs. Emi Sakura

Sakura jumps her to start and hits some chops against the ropes. Shirakawa fights up and takes her down for some kicks but has to slip away. That means a bit of dancing, which only annoys Sakura. A bite to the hand has Shirakawa down and we take an early break. Back with Shirakawa fighting out of a chinlock and hitting a springboard kick to the face for two.

The Glamorous Driver is broken up so Sakura is back up with a rather delayed butterfly backbreaker as Thunder Rosa is watching from ringside. Sakura is back with a middle rope sling blade for two before diving over the referee to hit a splash. A top rope Sling Blade finishes Sakura at 9:51.

Rating: B-. That's all it should have been as Shirakawa is coming up on the Women's Title shot and needs a win to make her feel more important. That's exactly what she got here and it was a good enough match all around. I'm not sure if she wins the title, but Toni Storm is likely going to be back soon and that is going to be a problem for Mariah May, which could cost her said title.

Video on Mariah May vs. Mina Shirakawa, complete with a history of their time in Japan and the triangle involving Toni Storm.

Mark Briscoe says he's ready to beat Daniel Garcia "tomorrow" on Collision. Garcia wants Briscoe to bring it "tomorrow".

Continental Classic Blue League: Mark Briscoe (0 points) vs. Daniel Garcia (4 points)

Non-title. Feeling out process to start with Garcia mocking red neck kung fu and grabbing a rollup for an early two. Garcia powers him into the corner and a rub to the face doesn't sit well with Briscoe. A dropkick to the floor sets up a big flip dive through the ropes to take Garcia down for a change.

Back up and Garcia's choke over the ropes sends Briscoe back to the floor, where Briscoe kicks him up against the barricade. Garcia hammers away as well and, after a dance, hits a running dropkick as we take a break. Back with Briscoe hammering away but not being able to superplex him out to the floor. They forearm it out and seem to be rather pleased, just like the crowd.

Briscoe gets the better of things and sends him to the floor for the Bang Bang Elbow. A fisherman's buster gives Briscoe two but the Froggy Bow is reversed into a top rope superplex into a piledriver. Briscoe breaks up another superplex though and hits the Froggy Bow for two of his own. With nothing else working, Briscoe busts out the Cutthroat Driver (close to a Burning Hammer) for the pin at 17:04.

Rating: B. this is the problem with having a fellow champion in a tournament like this, as he just lost clean to Briscoe. In theory that should set Briscoe up as the #1 contender, but it might take a few weeks before we can get to that match. At the same time, Garcia probably shouldn't be losing so soon after he won the title in the first place and hopefully this doesn't damage him too much.

Blue League Standings

Kyle Fletcher – 9 points (2 matches remaining)
Daniel Garcia – 4 points (2 matches remaining)
Kazuchika Okada – 4 points (2 matches remaining)
Shelton Benjamin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)
Mark Briscoe – 3 points (2 matches remaining)
The Beast Mortos – 0 points (3 matches remaining)

Respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Another good week of Classic action, slightly annoying result in the main event aside. I like what they've been doing with the tournament, but at some point it's going to end and AEW needs to have something good to take up the slack. The rest of the show was ok enough, with the Death Riders stuff thankfully being limited to just one segment. As usual, AEW is at its best when the wrestling carries things and that was the case again here.

Results

Darby Allin b. Komander – Rollup
Willow Nightingale b. Serena Deeb – The Babe With The

Powerbomb

Kyle Fletcher b. Kazuchika Okada – Brainbuster

The Beast Mortos b. Aaron Solo – Discus lariat

Mina Shirakawa b. Emi Sakura – Top rope Sling Blade

Mark Briscoe b. Daniel Garcia – Cutthroat Driver

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NXT – November 13, 2014 (2024 Edition): What A Flashback/Forward

NXT

Date: November 13, 2014

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Jason Albert, Alex Riley, Rich Brennan

So the WWE Vault randomly added this and since I haven't

looked at this show since it aired, it's time to go back to go back to one of the best periods NXT ever had. We are coming up on Takeover: R-Evolution and Sami Zayn is chasing Adrian Neville and the NXT Title. Other than that, Hideo Itami needs some help dealing with the Ascension and has a new friend who debuted last week to help him out. That friend: Finn Balor. Let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the Ascension attacking Hideo Itami, who brought in Finn Balor to even the score. The Ascension was quickly dispatched.

Opening sequence, featuring The Roar Of The Crowd (or whatever it's called) and various stars with their names included. Dang I had forgotten how much fun this show was back in the day.

Here is Finn Balor, with the theme song but not the timed poses yet, which is quite bizarre after so many years of the same thing. He's here because he is the future but here are Tyson Kidd and Natalya to interrupt. Kidd says no one cares but gets drowned out by a NATTIE'S HUSBAND chant. The first thing the Harts are taught is respect but here is Justin Gabriel to interrupt. He's not impressed with Balor either and the brawl is teased but Hideo (Kenta) Itami comes in to even things out. A referee, as sent out by William Regal, says we're having a tag team match (insert English word for "playa" here).

Finn Balor/Hideo Itami vs. Tyson Kidd/Justin Gabriel

Natalya is here with Kidd and Gabriel. Itami works on Kidd's arm to start and it's quickly off to Balor to dropkick Gabriel. The villains head outside and Balor hits the big flip dive as we take an early break. Back with Itami hammering on Gabriel and grabbing a chinlock to keep him down. Balor comes in for a chop but gets distracted by Kidd, allowing Gabriel to get in a dropkick.

Back in and some double kicks have Balor down for two but the

chinlock doesn't last long. Balor Pele's his way out of trouble and hands it off to Itami for the harder kicks. Kidd gets a boot up in the corner to cut him off but Balor comes in for stereo basement dropkicks in the corner. The top rope double stomp gives Balor the pin on Gabriel at 10:34.

Rating: C+. Nice start for Balor here as he looked like a killer with some of the strikes, especially the yet to be named Coup de Grace. Bringing him in with someone like Itami is a good way to go and he got to smash some midcarders here. That's about all you could hope for here and it was a good start, with Balor coming off like a star.

We look back at Sami Zayn vs. Adrian Neville (eventually known as Pac in AEW) in a #1 contenders match about a year ago, with Neville winning a good match.

Zayn says this feels different and his road to redemption continues. Destiny never makes mistakes and tonight will unfold like it's supposed to.

Sasha Banks vs. Alexa Bliss

Banks' new friend Becky Lynch is here with her while Bliss is still all about sparkling and blows glitter. The weirder thing is hearing them called Divas though, which feels like such an absolute relic of the past. Banks takes her into the corner for the double knees to the ribs to start as Bliss is compared to a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader. A surfboard has Bliss in more trouble but she flips out and fires off forearms. Bliss' sunset flip out of the corner gets two but Banks pulls her into the Bank Statement for the fast tap at 2:12. This was pretty much a squash and my goodness that's weird to see given what Bliss would become.

Post match Banks calls out Charlotte, saying she has what Banks wants, meaning the Women's Title. The challenge for the title match is on (again).

NXT Champion Adrian Neville knows Sami Zayn is going to bring everything he has but the reality is Zayn can't win the big one.

Lucha Dragons vs. Wesley Blake/Buddy Murphy

The Dragons' Tag Team Titles aren't on the line. Blake powers Kalisto down to start and hands it off to Murphy, who pulls a springboard crossbody out of the air. Blake's knee drop gets two and we hit the seated armbar. Kalisto fights up and grabs a sunset flip before rolling over into a kick to the head. That's enough for the tag off to Cara as the pace picks way up. Kalisto's step up flip dive to the floor takes out Murphy and Cara Swantons Blake for the pin at 5:05.

Rating: C+. I had forgotten about Blake and Murphy as a team but there were worse options out there for a pair of muscular guys with nothing else to do. On the other hand you have the Dragons, who were a good high flying team who took the titles from the monster Ascension. That doesn't make them sound like long term champions, but they're doing well with what they have.

The Vaudevillains promise to take the Tag Team Titles from the Dragons. Not quite, but they were in line.

NXT Title: Sami Zayn vs. Adrian Neville

Zayn is challenging and twists the arm to start, sending Neville bailing into the corner. Neville's headlock is countered and he misses a dropkick, allowing Zayn to dropkick him to the floor. The springboard flip back into the middle of the ring lets Zayn pose and he even holds the ropes open so Neville can get back in. Back in and Neville strikes away, with a running boot to the face sending us to a break.

We come back with Neville grabbing a chinlock before a running elbow in the corner connects for two. The chinlock goes on but Zayn fights up with some clotheslines and knocks Neville

outside. The big dive connects and we hit those NXT chants. Back in and Neville blocks a high crossbody (though I'm not entirely sure how), setting up a standing shooting star press for two.

A spinning powerbomb gives Zayn two of his own and he rolls some German suplexes for another near fall. The exploder is blocked and Neville goes up, only to miss the Red Arrow. Neville comes up holding his knee and falls down before Zayn can fire off the Helluva Kick. Zayn goes to check on him...and gets rolled up to retain Neville's title at 15:33.

Rating: B. These two worked very well together, which would be shown again during their classic at R-Evolution. This was more about Zayn screwing up at the last second though, as he was too compassionate about Neville's injury to go for the title. That's a good storytelling beat for him at the end of a rather solid TV match, with a reason to believe that Zayn could get the title if he just focuses that much more.

Neville is checked on by medics as Zayn is crushed to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. Sweet goodness I had forgotten how much fun this show really was. The action is good, the stories make sense and you can see where things should be going. What made NXT special was that they didn't go in some weird direction out of nowhere and it made for a much more enjoyable show. From a flashback perspective, it is fascinating to see the next generation coming up, with Balor only having been there a week. This was a lot of fun and it's still a good show so hopefully they pop up a few more of these as it's one of the best runs any wrestling TV show ever had.

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Dynamite – December 11, 2024: It Had To Slow Down

Dynamite

Date: December 11, 2024

Location: T-Mobile Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Commentators: Tony Schiavone, Excalibur, Nigel McGuinness

It's Winter Is Coming and that means we should be in for a bigger than usual show. This show has had some moments over the years and if they keep the tradition going, this should make for a nice addition to the series. It's also another week in the Continental Classic so we should have some good action. Let's get to it. Death Riders vs. Jay White/Orange Cassidy

White and Cassidy jump them before the bell and the fight goes outside, with Cassidy giving a young fan a fist bump (I love that kind of thing as it makes fans for life). Cassidy gets sent into the announcers' table though and they head inside for the opening bell. The brawl heads back outside as the Patriarchy is shown watching in a sky box. Cassidy fights up and kicks Moxley in the chest, allowing the tag off to White. A pair of DDTs sends the Riders out to the floor and we take

an early break.

Back with Moxley holding White in a chinlock as Christian Cage sends the Patriarchy to do something. White gets out of a chinlock but Pac kicks him in the chest to keep him in trouble. A quick knockdown gives White a breather though and it's Cassidy coming back in to slug away. Cassidy drops Moxley but gets pulled into a rear naked choke. That's broken up and Cassidy hits a spinning DDT on Moxley. White suplexes Pac and the Beach Break to Moxley gets two more. Wheeler Yuta's distraction doesn't work so Cassidy loads up the Orange Punch...but Hangman Page runs in to jump Moxley for the DQ at 13:34.

Rating: B-. Nice match to start the show here, though the ending feels like it's designed to set up a four way match or a triple threat #1 contenders match. In theory they didn't want Cassidy or White to get an upper hand on their way to World's End, but that's still quite the disappointing ending. You can't have Yuta in there to take a fall instead of Pac?

Post match Page hammers on Moxley but Cassidy pulls him off. The two of them start fighting with White accidentally taking a shot and getting caught in the brawl. The Death Riders beat all of them down and leave.

We get another old west style vignette for the returning Bandido, this time with him riding in on a horse, with a posse waiting on him. Bandido beats all of them up without much trouble. These things have been rather cool.

Jon Moxley talks about being a marked man and that means living with a knife to your throat. He wouldn't have it any other way and now there are a bunch of people saying they want the title shot. The challenge is on for the four way title shot at Worlds End. That doesn't exactly make me want to boo him.

Christian Cage, still in the sky box, doesn't like this four

way because he doesn't like anyone involved. He promises to jump anyone, including Jon Moxley, who he will send back to rehab. As Cage goes to leave, Hook breaks into the box and chokes Cage out. Cage fights out of being thrown out of a balcony. The fight is on and some glass is broken (make your own jokes) until the Patriarchy makes the save.

Continental Classic Gold League: Claudio Castagnoli (6 points) vs. Will Ospreay (3 points)

Ospreay hits him in the face for two ten seconds in and Castagnoli is sent outside for a big running flip dive. A Phenomenal Forearm looks to set up the Oscutter but Castagnoli uppercuts him out of the air. Ospreay kicks him in the face and they're both down. They go outside with Ospreay dropkicking the steps into Castagnoli's legs. Castagnoli pulls him out of the air though and swings Ospreay into the steps for a big crash. Ospreay's arm is stomped in the steps and we take a break.

Back with Ospreay grabbing a springboard hurricanrana and kicking Castagnoli in the face for a double down. Castagnoli goes to the arm to block a suplex attempt but Ospreay gets him up anyway. The standing sky twister press gets two but the Hidden Blade is blocked. The Riccola Bomb is countered into Ospreay's octopus hold, only for Castagnoli to go back to the arm.

Castagnoli gutwrench suplexes him down and catches Ospreay up top but gets knocked back down. A regular sky twister press misses so Castagnoli kicks him in the face. The slugout sets up the Oscutter but Ospreay's arm is banged up. A pop up uppercut and a big clothesline give Castagnoli two...but Ospreay rolls him up for the fluke pin at 13:28.

Rating: B. This was a lot of Ospreay fighting from underneath and that is where he often shines. Castagnoli overpowered him for most of the match but got caught in the end. It's weird to

see the Death Riders lose, but how else are we going to get Will Ospreay vs. Kyle Fletcher II? That has to happen of course because Ospreay is eternally tied to the Don Callis Family and therefore it has to happen again. Good match here, which shouldn't surprise you.

Gold League Standings

Will Ospreay – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 6 points (2 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Ricochet – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Komander – 0 points (2 matches remaining)

Post match Castagnoli jumps Ospreay again but Darby Allin makes the save.

Ricochet says he's here for matches like the one he has tonight against Brody King. Even though King is a monster, he's not Ricochet. He pulls out MVP's business card and says he's holding all of the cards.

MJF is back.

Matt Cardona is ready to face Chris Jericho at Final Battle but he'll face Bryan Keith at Rampage.

Kyle O'Reilly is ready to face Adam Cole but the Kingdom comes in to say they're still family. O'Reilly says they should have remembered that before one of them got hurt.

Kyle O'Reilly vs. Adam Cole

For the shot at MJF at World's End. Feeling out process to start with Cole trying an early rollup for two. The threat of a kick to the face sends him to the floor, where O'Reilly strikes away again to take over. We take a break and come back with O'Reilly striking away but missing a top rope knee drop.

Cole knees him in the face and they're both down. O'Reilly grabs a brainbuster into an ankle lock, sending Cole over to the ropes. Cole is back up with the Panama Sunrise but he takes too long to follow up and gets his ankle locked. That's broken up and Cole drops O'Reilly on the floor. Cue MJF for a distraction but Cole superkicks him down and small packages O'Reilly for the pin at 11:04.

Rating: C+. The story continues and that pre-match promo makes me wonder if the Kingdom won't be joining MJF at World's End to screw over Cole. This feud hasn't done much for me and I'm not sure how many people have been interested in it either. It's gone on too long and there is a good chance that it is going to continue into the new year. The match wasn't exactly great either, which isn't making the bigger problem any better.

Post match the Kingdom comes out but O'Reilly leaves without shaking hands with Cole.

FTR is ready to help rebuild Asheville, North Carolina with Fight For The Fallen on January 1. They want to be in a big match and they've had some issues with the Death Riders, so come talk to them.

Chris Jericho has a New York Minute and accepts the challenge for Matt Cardona vs. Bryan Keith on Rampage. Tomorrow on Ring Of Honor, there will be a contract signing for Jericho vs. Cardona at Final Battle.

We recap the Continental Classic matches from Rampage and Collision.

Earlier today, Darby Allin talked about how he wanted to stop the Death Riders after they attacked Bryan Danielson. He is fighting for people who are here because they are getting a chance in AEW. Allin hits himself in the mouth to draw some blood and talks about how he has to win the Continental Classic to prove himself, even if there will be collateral

damage along the way.

Continental Classic Gold League: Ricochet (3 points) vs. Brody King (3 points)

Ricochet begs off a bit to start and gets powered out to the floor without much trouble. A spring off the barricade lets Ricochet kick him in the face but King hits a powerbomb onto the apron. Ricochet misses a crossbody into the barricade and we take a break. Back with King winning a strike off but getting knocked out to the floor.

Ricochet hits a springboard 450 for a short one count but King blasts him with a clothesline for two. The Ganso Bomb is broken up and Ricochet knees him in the face a few times. King knocks him into the corner for a Cannonball but Ricochet turns a superplex attempt into a sunset bomb (with the turnbuckle pad being ripped off in the process).

The shooting star press connects...and King grabs him by the throat before the cover. Ricochet has to climb out of a choke and is promptly chopped down onto the apron. Back up and Ricochet manages a DDT onto the exposed buckle and Ricochet kicks him down onto the steel again. The Spirit Gun finishes for Ricochet at 12:51.

Rating: B-. Now this has me curious because Ricochet was definitely acting more heelish for a change. He's someone who could use a change of pace because he hasn't evolved much at all in the last several years. Maybe this is the chance that he needs, but at least it seems that they are trying something new with him. Seeing King lose is annoying, but Ricochet could get a nice boost out of a fresh style.

Gold League Standings

Will Ospreay – 6 points (3 matches remaining)

Claudio Castagnoli – 6 points (2 matches remaining)

Ricochet – 6 points (2 matches remaining)

Darby Allin – 3 points (3 matches remaining)

Brody King – 3 points (2 matches remaining)

Komander – 0 points (2 matches remaining)

Lio Rush and Action Andretti interrupt Private Party. Rush and Andretti want a title shot but Top Flight come in to ask how many matches Rush and Andretti have won. Private Party suggests a #1 contenders match and it seems to be on.

Mercedes Mone and Anna Jay have a staredown but we need to talk about Mone defending her New Japan Strong Women's Title this weekend. Mone shifts over to Jay, who is 26 years old and just getting started. That makes Mone chuckle because when she was 26, she was already a five time champion. Jay cuts her off from leaving and says that all she needs is one mistake from Mone to become champion. Yeah I'm not quite buying her chances.

We recap Mariah May defending the Women's Title against Mina Shirakawa. They were friends and partners in Japan but May has attacked her for the sake of bringing out Shirakawa's best side. Shirakawa wants things to be back to normal and now we have the title match.

Women's Title: Mariah May vs. Mina Shirakawa

Shirakawa is challenging. They slug it out to start with Shirakawa slapping her in the face to take over and kick away at the leg. A figure four sends May rolling over to the ropes but they roll outside with the hold still on. Thunder Rosa pops up in the crowd with a sign shouting about how May is NOT HER CHAMPION as May sends Shirakawa into the barricade. Shirakawa is back on the leg though and grabs a Figure Four around the post as we take a break.

Back with Shirakawa fighting out of a chinlock and starting an exchange of forearms. A hanging neckbreaker gives Shirakawa two but May kicks her in the face. May Day gets an arrogant cover for two but another May Day is broken up. The Glamorous

Driver gives Shirakawa two, only for a quick Storm Zero to retain the title at 11:49

Rating: C+. The match was ok, but it showcases the bigger issue with May's title reign: the whole thing is built around waiting for Toni Storm to return. She ties into this feud and May is still using Storm's finisher. You can only get so far with that kind of specter hanging over them and that was the issue here. Not a terrible match, but it felt like something else that had to be done before we get to the big match.

Post match Toni Storm (no longer Timeless) is back. May is stunned (Rosa has a "WTF!" sign) and Storm stares her down to end the show. Well there's the answer to the big question about May's reign and it should make for a solid rematch, thankfully with enough of a twist to keep it interesting.

Overall Rating: B-. I wasn't feeling this one as much as some previous Continental Classic shows. There was more of a focus on getting things ready for World's End and while that helped, it wasn't as engaging as some of the tournament focused events. You can see a lot of what is coming at the pay per view and it's only so interesting, but they still have time to boost that up well enough.

Results

Death Riders b. Orange Cassidy/Jay White via DQ when Hangman Page interfered

Will Ospreay b. Claudio Castagnoli – Rollup

Adam Cole b. Kyle O'Reilly – Small package

Ricochet b. Brody King – Spirit Gun

Mariah May b. Mina Shirakawa – Storm Zero

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Daily News Update – December 11, 2024

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[Rampage – December 6, 2024](#)

[Impact Wrestling – December 5, 2024](#)

[Ring Of Honor – December 5, 2024](#)

[NXT LVL Up – November 15, 2024](#)

[Monday Night Raw – December 9, 2024](#)

[Survivor Series Showdown 1993](#)

[NXT LVL Up – November 22, 2024](#)

[NXT – December 10, 2024](#)

Another One: Details On Likely Next Member Of The Anoa'i Family To Make WWE Debut.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/another-one-details-on-likely-next-member-of-the-anoai-family-to-make-wwe-debut/>

VIDEO: Former Champion Makes Surprise Return At NXT Deadline, Jumps Into NXT Title Picture.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-former-champion-makes-surprise-return-at-nxt-deadline-jumps-into-nxt-title-picture/>

Oh Dear: AEW Star Seemingly Claims "Inhumane Treatment" From Company.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/oh-dear-aew-star-seemingly-claims-inhumane-treatment-from-company/>

LOOK: 38 Year Old Former WWE Superstar Welcomes First Child.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/look-38-year-old-former-wwe-superstar-welcomes-first-child/>

The Big One: WWE Is Doing Rather Well With One Of Its Signature Events.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/the-big-one-wwe-is-doing-rather-well-with-one-of-its-signature-events/>

One More Time? Someone Wants The Nexus To Return To WWE.

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WATCH: Recently Departed AEW Star Makes Surprise Return.

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[aew-star-makes-surprise-return/](#)

Yes Him: Triple H Reportedly Impressed With Up And Coming WWE Star.

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Keep Up The Tradition? WWE Considering Bringing Back Major Event To Shake Up Television Shows.

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Well Done: WWE Internally Impressed With Recent Unique Segment.

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LOOK: Charlotte Teases Return To The Ring, Update On Her Status.

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Back At It: Interesting Update On Jesse Ventura's WWE Role, Calling More Than One Show.

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To The Top: Surprising Team Top Annual PWI Tag Team 100 List.

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On The Card: Grudge Match Officially Set For WWE Saturday Night's Main Event.

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One More: Title Match At WWE Saturday Night's Main Event Changed, Now A Triple Threat.

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Down Time: Injury Update On Bronson Reed (And It's Not Good).

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WRESTLING RUMORS: WWE Planning Major Grudge Match For Monday Night Raw Debut On Netflix.

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WRESTLING RUMORS: Netflix Wants Some Stars To Move Over During WWE Transfer Window.

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NXT – December 10, 2024: They're In A Weird Spot

NXT

Date: December 10, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We're done with Deadline and the big story is the Iron Survivor Challenges, with Oba Femi and Giulia winning the competitions to earn title shots at New Year's Evil. That gives us something to build towards over the next few weeks and we should have some more fallout from the weekend to deal with as well. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a long Deadline recap.

Here is Giulia to get things going with a promise to win the Women's Title at New Year's Evil. Roxanne Perez comes out to suggest that Giulia was the weakest entrant of the match. While the women's division is great, none of the women are at her level. Giulia wants to fight right now but cue Cora Jade with a baseball bat. Sure Giulia thinks Stephanie Vaquer is going to come out here for the save, but there is no question about who did it. We cut to the back where Vaquer is down so Giulia tries to fight, with Kelani Jordan running in for the save.

We look at Ethan Page being devastated after losing at Deadline.

The D'Angelo Family feels sorry for Page so Tony D'Angelo offers him a North American Title shot. Page calls that a step down for him so D'Angelo offers everyone in the room a shot. Everyone jumps up and NOW Page is willing to accept, saying that if he can't win, he doesn't have a career around here.

Lexis King talks to Charlie Dempsey and asks about another Heritage Cup shot. Dempsey says he'll think about it, which is enough for King to leave. Dempsey praises the rest of the team but OTM comes in to bicker a lot.

Je'Von Evans vs. Wes Lee

They slug it out to start with Lee hammering him down on the ropes but getting sent to the floor for the big dive. Back in and Lee dropkicks him out of the air before sending things back outside. Evans shrugs off a whip into the barricade, setting up another dive to take Lee out again. Lee is smart enough to go after the knee and hits a dive of his own as we take a break.

We come back with Evans hitting a superkick, followed by a spinning kick to the head. A top rope clothesline gives Evans two but Lee grabs the referee to block a sunset flip. Lee snaps off a hurricanrana but charges into a Spanish Fly. Evans' Pearl River Plunge gets two, as does Lee's tornado DDT. Back up and Evans kicks him down again, setting up the spinning top rope splash for the pin at 12:24.

Rating: B-. This was the match built around fast spots and dives, which is where these two end to shine. Evans getting a nice win makes sense for him and another loss is going to get on Lee's nerves. They're certainly trying with Evans and that is a good sign for his future. He still has a long way to go, but at least they've started.

Axiom and Nathan Frazer patch things up (again), with Frazer wanting to make things right after Axiom did so much work at Deadline.

Video on Josh Briggs going to Japan and meeting Yoshiki Inamura, who is here with him as his partner. They both like the hard hitting style.

Kelani Jordan and Giulia are mad about Stephanie Vaquer being attacked. Vengeance is sworn in the main event.

Sol Ruca and Zaria liked the Iron Survivor Challenge when Meta Four come in to say they would have won if they were involved. Trash talking ensues.

Hank Walker/Tank Ledger vs. Tyriek Igwe/Tyson DuPont

Fallout from last week's tag team battle royal. Hank and Tank drop DuPont to start but Igwe comes in for a double clothesline. Igwe gets dropped with a double standing splash, earning the coveted SHUCKY DUCKY QUACK QUACK. A spinning belly to back suplex gets Igwe out of trouble and he drops Ledger with a jumping elbow. The chinlock doesn't last long as Ledger fights up and drops Igwe, allowing the tag back to Walker. There's a spinning Boss Man Slam to DuPont and the powerslam/neckbreaker combination finishes him off at 5:24.

Rating: C. This was pretty to the point with Walker and Ledger continuing to win a decent amount of their matches. I still don't get their appeal but the fans like them and that's good enough to keep them around. Igwe and DuPont feel like a team with some potential as well, but losing in a five minute match isn't a great sign for their future.

Post match DuPont shakes hands but Igwe walks away.

Here is Oba Femi for a chat. He brags about his win at Deadline and now it's time for him to win the NXT Title. That brings him to Trick Williams, whose path he has yet to cross.

Cue Williams...but Eddy Thorpe comes out to cut Williams off. Thorpe says his people have been through enough and says Femi took him out last week. Femi suggests that he didn't attack Thorpe (though he never flat out denies it) but Williams says it's time for he and Femi to clash in Los Angeles.

Femi says Williams is only the #1 guy around here because Femi allowed it. Now he is ready to take the title and the Trick era is ending. With Femi gone, Thorpe says Williams didn't do anything about Femi attacking him. He accuses Williams of being a manufactured sports entertainer but Williams is sick of the doubters. The challenge is on for next week, with Williams telling Ava to make the match.

Fatal Influence is worried about Gigi Dolin.

Gigi Dolin and Tatum Paxley run into Izzi Dame, who threatens Dolin as well. Cue Shawn Spears, Brooks Jensen and Niko Vance but Dame isn't interested.

Fatal Influence vs. Gigi Dolin/Tatum Paxley

Fallon Henley is here as well. Paxley kicks her way out of trouble to start and Dolin hiptosses Nyx into a dropkick. Nyx and Dolin go to the floor with the latter being posted but Paxley comes back in to clean house. Henley shoves Paxley off the top though and Jayne hits a discus forearm for the pin at 3:08.

Rating: C. This didn't have time to go anywhere and was more about showing that Paxley and Dolin need someone to even up the numbers. There are more than a few options for that and I'm curious to see who they get. For now though, Fatal Influence gets a win to show they're capable of beating someone, which is something they need every so often.

Post match the beatdown is on but Shotzi returns for the save and the villains are cleaned out.

Nathan Frazer and Axiom are both trying to thank the other so Axiom has gotten a match with Oba Femi to avenge Frazer next week. That's all well and good...but Frazer has gotten them a Tag Team Title defense for next week too. Axiom isn't pleased, but Frazer says he can't see his face.

North American Title: Tony D'Angelo vs. Ethan Page

D'Angelo, with the Family, is defending. Page takes him to the mat for an early headscissors but D'Angelo is back up with a running shot to the face. They crash out to the floor in a heap though and we take an early break. Back with D'Angelo hitting a facebuster into a jumping knee to the face (always good to suck up to the boss) but Page kicks him in the face. Page kicks him out of the corner and hits a Twist of Fate for two. The Ego's Edge is escaped and D'Angelo plants him with the spinebuster to retain at 8:38.

Rating: C+. This was more about Page losing and not knowing where to go next, but D'Angelo getting a win over a former NXT Champion should only help him. As is often the case around here, they only had so much time with the break in the middle, but it wasn't bad by any means. I'm not sure what's next for Page and that is a nice feeling to have.

Lexis King meets Ryan Leaf (former NFL player and current CW broadcaster), who was impressed by King going to Minneapolis to close that chapter in his life. Charlie Dempsey comes in to say that King can have his title shot in two weeks, but first he has to get through a workout. Works for King.

Ethan Page is all depressed and isn't sure if he's good enough. He's lost and ashamed and leaves, still in his gear.

Roxanne Perez/Cora Jade vs. Giulia/Kelani Jordan

Perez and Jade jump Giulia on the stage so Jordan is here for the save. They get inside with the villains being dropkicked out to the floor, with Perez being thrown back in for the

opening bell. A basement crossbody gives Jordan two and it's off to Jade, who armdrags her way out of trouble. Jordan sens Perez hard into the corner as we take a break.

Back with Perez knocking Jordan to the floor for a suicide dive. Jordan fights out of trouble in a hurry and it's off to Giulia to pick up the pace. A northern lights suplex gets two on Perez and a belly to back cuts Perez off again. Jordan's top rope splash gets two with Jade making the save. Perez dropkicks Jordan but Giulia's distraction lets Jordan hit a spinwheel kick. Perez hits Pop Rox on Jordan on the floor and brawls with Giulia, leaving Jade to DDT Jordan for the pin at 10:56.

Rating: B-. Jade needed to get a win, even if it was in a tag match, as she was the weak link of the four here. Jade vs. Jordan could be a nice feud on its own and I'll take the idea of developing more non-title feuds in any division. I'm glad they didn't go with what felt like the obvious result of Giulia pinning Perez to set up the title match, as the story is already there without having the champ get pinned.

Post match Stephanie Vaquer comes in to jump Jade and breaks the baseball bat over her leg. Jade is chased out of the arena.

Eddy Thorpe signs a contract for an NXT Title shot. Ava says they're still looking for who attacked him...but Thorpe says she's looking at the attacker. He just got his title shot and didn't have to go through five people to do it. That's a nice swerve and a clever heel move.

Overall Rating: B-. NXT is in a bit of a weird place here as the two title matches are set for their big show in January and that is what got the focus here. Those two matches alone are going to be enough to carry New Year's Evil so it's ok to wait a bit to focus on everything else. It made for a show that was centered around those two matches, but that didn't

leave much else that felt important.

I liked the swerve at the end as Thorpe came off as smart, but he feels like a speed bump for Williams more than anything else. Good enough show this week with the big matches getting the focus, though they're going to need something else to bridge the gap in the coming weeks.

Results

Je'Von Evans b. Wes Lee – Spinning top rope splash

Hank Walker/Tank Ledger b. Tyriek Igwe/Tyson DuPont – Powerslam/neckbreaker combination to DuPont

Fatal Influence b. Gigi Dolin/Tatum Paxley – Discus forearm to Paxley

Tony D'Angelo b. Ethan Page – Spinebuster

Cora Jade/Roxanne Perez b. Kelani Jordan/Giulia – DDT to Jordan

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NXT LVL Up – November 22, 2024: It Is A Step

NXT LVL Up

Date: November 22, 2024

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Byron Saxton

I'm getting more curious about what this show is going to be doing as they've been making some nice adjustments over the last few months. The show is still nothing exactly worth seeing but I'll take a bit more effort over the same stuff week after week. Hopefully they can keep something going this time so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Joe Coffey vs. Harlem Lewis

Coffey grabs a headlock to start and takes Lewis down for some grinding. That's broken up and Lewis runs him over but Coffey is back up with some whips into the corner. Some kicks to the chest have Lewis in more trouble and we hit something like a seated abdominal stretch. Lewis fights out and pulls Coffey out of the air (dang) for a Jackhammer and a near fall. That's enough for Coffey, who hits the Glasgow Sendoff into All The Best For The Bells and the pin at 4:31.

Rating: C+. Lewis pulling Coffey out of the air like that was worth at least something of an upgrade as that is impressive for anyone. Coffey actually needed the win after losing that six man a few weeks ago and this got him back on track. Odds are this story isn't over though and for once, I can go for something like that.

Lainey Reid isn't happy with being asked if she can beat Tyra Mae Steele. She also seems a bit nervous about Layla Diggs.

Lainey Reid vs. Tyra Mae Steele

Reid spins out of a foot grab to start but Steele takes her down by the leg without much effort. An armbar keeps Reid down but she sends Steele into the corner for a running elbow. A seated abdominal stretch is broken up in a hurry and Reid misses a charge into the post. Steele's bridging German suplex gets two and she pulls Reid out of the air. After pausing for a second (that was weird), Steele rolls backwards into a Snake Eyes attempt but gets sent into the buckle. Reid rolls her up and grabs the trunks for the pin at 4:25.

Rating: C. Steele's very early learning curve continues as there is only so much you can get out of these four minute matches. That being said, she's getting her feet wet at this point and that should do her some good, though putting her in there with someone with some more experience might help. This wasn't a particularly impressive match, but Steele is certainly a long term project.

Post match Layla Diggs chases Reid back into the ring for a Pounce from Steele.

Post break Diggs says she is tired of playing Reid's games and revenge is coming.

Shiloh Hill vs. Dante Chen

They fight over wrist control to start as commentary talks about Chen's desire to help rookies because people helped him when he got here. Hill's cravate has Chen in some trouble but he avoids a charge to send Hill into the post. Chen stays on the arm with a DDT into an armbar, followed by an armdrag into another armbar. Hill fights up and they trade near falls until the Gentle Touch finishes Hill off at 6:03.

Rating: C. As usual, Chen is treated as nothing short of a superhero around here and it's still a weird thing to see. I still don't know if I get the appeal, but the fans around here seem to like him enough. Other than that, Hill goes from a promising star to losing to Chen, which tends to be the opposite of how things work. Kind of a weird way to go, but who am I to question Chen?

Overall Rating: C. The interesting thing here is the Reid/Diggs story, which is getting some time and actually building. It's not exactly something I want to see, but I'll take an attempt at something around here rather than just doing the same thing over and over. We'll call this show a fairly boring step in the right direction, but a step nonetheless.

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Survivor Series Showdown 1993: I Don't Want To Watch That Show

Survivor Series Showdown 1993

Date: November 21, 1993

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Bobby Heenan, Jim Ross, Gorilla Monsoon

So this is a special that was more or less a big buildup to Survivor Series, which will include some singles matches before the team versions at the pay per view. In other words, expect a healthy dose of Bret Hart and Lex Luger, which could be rather hit or miss. It's not the best time for the WWF but maybe it can work. Let's get to it.

Sidenote: I have no idea why Bret has the title in the image. That's just inaccurate.

We open with a look back at Superstars, with Bret Hart having to fight off Yokozuna, setting up a WWF Title match.

We're in two different locations (read as it was taped on two nights) and we actually hear from two sets of commentary teams. That's more than you usually get out of the WWF.

Bastion Booger vs. Doink The Clown

Bastion brings out some leftover pizza, because he's huge you see. Before the match, Booger teases stealing Doink's scooter but falls down for the opening bell. Back in and Booger grabs him by the sleeve, which extends rather far. Bastion powers him into the corner to start but misses a charge and gets tripped out to the floor. Doink makes the mistake of following him and gets splashed up against the post.

Back in and Bastion elbows him in the face, setting up the

reverse chinlock. Some shoulders in the corner have Doink in more trouble as commentary talks about the Boston Celtics. A clothesline gives Bastion two...but he lets go when Doink taps him on the shoulder. The distracted Bastion gets rolled up for the pin at 7:38.

Rating: D. Oh no this didn't work, as it was really slow paced and then had a bunch of stupid comedy moments, including the rollup pin. There was only so much that Doink could do with someone of Bastion's size, which is one of the reasons Bastion didn't work. Rather horrible match here, and that shouldn't be a big surprise.

Post match Doink puts hot sauce on Bastion's pizza to make things worse.

We look back at Ludvig Borga pinning an unconscious Tatanka for his first ever loss.

Here are the All Americans (Lex Luger, the Steiner Brothers and the Undertaker) for a chat. Tatanka is out but so is Quebecer Pierre, who is being replaced by Crush. Luger says the match has already begun and the Foreign Fanatics will be officially eliminated on Wednesday (yeah pay per views were occasionally on week nights). The Undertaker promises to eliminate all of the foreigners, because that's kind of his thing.

Todd Pettengill explains how to order pay per view. Yes this used to be a thing and yes it could be complicated enough to need something like this.

We look back at Crush attacking Randy Savage, allowing Yokozuna to crush his ribs. Savage swore revenge and lost his broadcasting job as a result.

Crush vs. Virgil

Crush, with Mr. Fuji, wastes no time in headbutting him down.

Some more kicks put Virgil down as Vince talks about the individuality of the Foreign Fanatics. Virgil manages to fight up and knock Crush out to the floor but Crush kicks him in the face. Crush drops him again and fires off some shoulders in the corner, followed by another kick down. Back up and Virgil manages some shots of his own and a middle rope clothesline puts Crush down. Virgil's big dive is pulled out of the air and Crush plants him again. The head vice finishes Virgil off at 7:57.

Rating: C-. Well, it was better than the opener, though that's not much of a bar to clear. It was mostly an extended squash as there was no reason to believe that Virgil was going to do anything around this time. Crush was a nice midcard villain, but you're only going to get so far with a match this long against Virgil.

The two commentary teams bicker a bit.

We look at Razor Ramon defeating Rick Martel on Superstars thanks to some botched interference from Harvey Wippleman. Martel's Survivor Series team almost came to blows as a result.

Shawn Michaels and Reo Rodgers (Bruce Prichard doing a really bad Dusty Rhodes impression) go to the Hart House (or a close replica) and meet Helen (or a close replica). There is a big poster of Bret on the wall, with a much smaller picture of Owen next to it (screw the rest of the kids). Then they mess with Stu, which is so bad that Vince just says we're done.

IRS vs. Marty Jannetty

IRS knocks him down to start and then does it again, making sure to fix the tie both times. A hiptoss into a dropkick sends IRS outside as we hear about his college wrestling background. Back in and Marty works on the arm as commentary previews the Survivor Series match these two have coming up, which is kind of the entire point of the show. IRS goes to the

ropes to escape an armbars before getting taken down by a rope walk headlock takeover back inside.

That's broken up and IRS sends him flying outside, with Marty coming up favoring his knee. A ram into the steps bangs Marty up even worse and we hit the chinlock. Monsoon threatens us with this kind of action times four at Survivor Series before complaining about Danny Davis' not so great refereeing job of checking for a choke. The abdominal stretch goes on and of course Monsoon isn't happy, with even JR getting on him a bit for being so technical. Marty fights out and hits a running knee into a jumping back elbow, only for IRS to hit the Write Off (a clothesline, because that was his finishing move) and the win at 12:35.

Rating: C. IRS is a good example of someone who is technically skilled but so dull in the ring most of the time that it's hard to care. Jannetty was good at making the comebacks and he was trying here, but that's a lot of chinlocks and abdominal stretching. Even Monsoon's complaining about technical stuff couldn't make this one overly interesting.

IRS' suspenders are broken so thank goodness they went home when they did.

Here are the Foreign Fanatics for a chat. Jim Cornette brags about getting rid of "Tatanto" and then the All Americans came back with a foreign fanatics to get rid of Pierre. That's why the Foreign Fanatics has brought Crush onto the team. It's time for revenge, with Johnny Polo promising pain, agony and suffering. He even blows up a brown paper bag and pops it as a preview for what is going to happen to Lex Luger's head. Ludvig Borga and Crush promise pain, before Cornette says he's following the American tradition of joining the winning team.

The Survivor Series Report recaps various changes to the lineup and we run down the card. The one match that gets a recap is the Four Doinks against Bam Bam Bigelow's team, a

match that was so bad that I stopped watching halfway through at one point.

WWF Title: Bret Hart vs. Yokozuna

Hart is challenging and slugs away to start, even managing to knock Yokozuna to the floor. This lets Bobby Heenan tease a reveal of Shawn Michaels' Knights but he's sworn to secrecy. Back in and Yokozuna runs him over with a clothesline to slow things down a bit, including a big headbutt to drop Hart again. Hart is sent to the floor and we take a break, coming back with Yokozuna grabbing a nerve hold to keep things slow.

The comeback doesn't work in the slightest as Hart bounces off Yokozuna and gets sent outside, where he manages to send Yokozuna into the steps. That doesn't work in the slightest as Mr. Fuji distracts the referee and a chair shot rocks Hart again. We take another break and come back with Yokozuna dropping the big leg, with Vince more or less saying it's done. The running splash misses in the corner though and a trio of clotheslines gives Hart two. Fuji's interference doesn't work and Hart bites his way out of a bearhug.

The middle rope bulldog gets two as the fans are getting into this one. There's the middle rope elbow for two more but Yokozuna grabs a belly to belly. The big splash takes too long and Hart gets away, somehow getting the Sharpshooter. Cue Owen Hart, allegedly for the celebration but slapping hands with the fans like a schnook. The referee goes to yell at him, allowing Fuji to hit Bret with the salt bucket. Owen comes in and hits Yokozuna with it for the DQ at 22:50.

Rating: B-. Leave it to Bret to be able to figure out something to do with a monster like Yokozuna and make it work. Unfortunately, also leave it to 1993 WWF to have that dumb of a finish. Owen looked like a moron here and Bret would be entirely justified to yell at him for costing him the title. There is only so much that can be done with someone Yokozuna's

size but Bret got a good match out of it, certainly better than their Wrestlemania match earlier in the year.

Naturally Vince is STUNNED that Bret is disqualified.

All four commentators talks about the Survivor Series, with Monsoon doing a nice pitch of the idea. Then he threatens Heenan, as is his custom.

Men On A Mission and Oscar come out for a Survivor Series rap. Vince: "Get down! Come on Bobby, get down!"

Overall Rating: D+. Oh this was boring and there's no way around it. The whole thing is a big commercial for Survivor Series and after watching this, I definitely do not want to see it again. The main event was by far the best thing about the show and even that was only so good. Everything else was a bunch of talking and not very good wrestling, with a boring Jannetty vs. IRS match as the second strongest part. Big skip on this one, unless you want to see Bret vs. Yokozuna again for some reason.

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Monday Night Raw – December 9, 2024: This Show Is Rather Good

Monday Night Raw

Date: December 9, 2024

Location: Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kansas

Commentators: Joe Tessitore, Wade Barrett

We are closing in on the end of the year and that means we should be in for some interesting things. This is also the last Raw before Saturday Night's Main Event and the show could use a bit more build. The big story coming out of last week was the New Day's split, with Kofi Kingston and Xavier Woods turning their backs on Big E., meaning fallout will ensue. Let's get to it.

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

Here is Gunther (looking almost weird in a sweater and jeans instead of a suit) to say he isn't happy with Finn Balor for attacking him last week. Now Balor has his undivided attention so here are Balor and the Judgment Day to interrupt. Balor again takes credit for Gunther being the World heavyweight Champion and promises to win the title on Saturday. Gunther says Balor's audacity got him a title shot and yes, when Balor won the Universal Title eight years ago, Gunther looked up to him.

Now things are different though, as Balor is now hanging out with weirdos in the clubhouse and taking shortcuts. Eight years ago, Balor was the best in the world for one night. Gunther is the best in the world for a long time to come and the reality is Balor is not on his level. The team is ready to fight but Damian Priest interrupts for the save...but Gunther beats him up as well. Gunther loads up the powerbomb through

the announcers' table, only to get Sling Bladed by Balor.

The Coup de Grace connects off the apron and Judgment Day beats Priest down. A trio of Coup de Graces leave Priest laying and Judgment Day stands tall. I'm glad Gunther jumped Priest as having them be some kind of weird friends so quickly would have been a stretch. Gunther is leaning towards the good side but he's not ready to go full blast yet.

Post break Adam Pearce isn't happy with Judgment Day and adds Priest to the title match on Saturday. Balor isn't happy but says it'll be more satisfying when he wins the title. That's fine with Pearce, who makes Balor/McDonagh vs. the War Raiders next week with the Judgment Day barred from ringside. Balor needs a minute. That makes sense as it would have been weird to do that big brawl with Priest and then just not have him on Saturday's show.

Wyatt Sicks vs. Final Testament/The Miz

The Wyatts clear the ring to start and Miz has to save Kross from an early Sister Abigail. We take a break and come back with Rezar beating on Gacy, who hits his handspring clothesline for a breather. Miz comes in to get beaten down by Rowan, with a suplex into a cutter getting two.

Everything breaks down and Gacy and Lumis both hit dives to the floor. Howdy gets the tag and gets to clean house but Scarlett trips him up. Cue Nikki Cross to jump on her, leaving Howdy to get the Mandible Claw. Paul Ellering returns though and throws powder in his face, meaning it's the Final Prayer to give Kross the pin on Howdy at 9:01.

Rating: B-. It was a nice brawl but it's a bit of a surprise to see the Wyatts lose. They couldn't stay undefeated forever but I'm surprised to see them lose so soon. This feud seems likely to continue though, with Howdy probably getting a singles match with Kross next. That's not a bad idea either, as Kross has been doing some of the best work of his career in

recent weeks.

We get a sitdown interview with CM Punk from earlier today. Punk is immediately asked about the favor with Paul Heyman but he's going to keep that to himself. As for Seth Rollins, he is willing to fight but more confused by the hatred the two have. Rollins asked Punk to train him as a wrestler for free.

At one point, Rollins was on the list to be fired from this company but Punk shielded (nice choice of word) him from that. If he had to live in his own shadow, he would hate himself too. Punk is better than him in every way and now that the starter is back, the second string has to sit on the bench. That's a nice insult to get us closer to the match, which should be good.

We recap Raquel Rodriguez and Liv Morgan attacking Rhea Ripley.

Dakota Kai vs. Liv Morgan

Non-title. Kai takes her down to start for an early Hennig necksnap but Morgan gets in a toss over the top for a nasty crash as we take a break. Back with Pure Fusion Collective coming to the ring as Kai sends her into the corner for a running knee. A scorpion kick staggers Morgan but the Collective's distraction gives her a breather. Morgan gets powerbombed out of the corner but avoids the big running boot. Oblivion finishes Kai at 7:22.

Rating: C+. They didn't have much time to do anything here with the break in the middle of a match which wasn't that long in the first place. You can only get so much out of that short of a match but Kai was showing more energy than usual. She's had a nice comeback since her injury and if she can keep that up, it could be the start of a nice run. Morgan is already on the run of a lifetime for her and that very well may continue on Saturday.

Post match the Collective comes in but Damage CTRL makes the save. Morgan gets in an Oblivion to drop Iyo Sky before leaving.

Drew McIntyre talks about being gone due to injuries and having to be with his family in Scotland. Then he saw CM Punk, Sami Zayn and the Usos standing tall with Roman Reigns. At least Punk took a bribe, but the other three just did what Reigns told them. That's why he took out Jey and Sami last week and now he's coming for more revenge. Jey is not medically cleared to be in the ring just yet.

We look back at last week's heartbreaking New Day's split, with Big E. looking crushed.

Cody Rhodes leaves Adam Pearce's office (remember the transfer window) and runs into New Day, who should be ashamed of themselves.

Here is Seth Rollins for a chat (with a nice graphic showing the titles he's won in WWE). Rollins talks about how CM Punk loves to play the victim because he is a con man. Yes he did go to Punk for his initial training and Punk helped him get a foot in the door around here. If that was the end of the story, Rollins' actions wouldn't make any sense. Ten years ago, Punk walked out of WWE and he cut Rollins off.

If you weren't on team Punk, he didn't have time for you. For ten years, Punk took shots at WWE and then failed at everything else. Now though, he's back because the money was right. At one point, Rollins wanted to be just like Punk, but now he wants to be better. Rollins brings up getting to main event Wrestlemania, which Punk never did, but here is Sami Zayn, in a YEET shirt, to interrupt.

Rollins says if Zayn is here to defend Punk again, they're going to be fighting again. Zayn apologizes for assuming that Rollins jumped Jey Uso last week but Rollins wants to know why Zayn thought it was him. Zayn talks about how Rollins was

going nuts last week, even sounding like Drew McIntyre.

This thing with Punk brings out the worst with Rollins and Zayn is going to stay out of it. That's what Rollins wanted and yes, they're good, but Rollins thinks Zayn needs to deal with McIntyre. Rollins leaves and Zayn says he's going to face McIntyre at Saturday Night's Main Event, with the match already being made. As Zayn goes to leave, McIntyre jumps him with referees having to break it up. Good stuff here, with people having (mostly) normal emotions about situations going on around them.

Women's Intercontinental Title Tournament First Round: Zelina Vega vs. Ivy Nile vs. Lyra Valkyria

Nile wastes no time in planting Valkyria for an early two and we take a break. Back with Valkyria hitting a tornado DDT for two with Nile having to make the save. Nile's cross armbreaker is broken up but Vega flip dives onto both of them for two each. Vega's Meteora gets two and Valkyria has to make the save this time. Everyone is down until Nile rolls some German suplexes on Valkyria before German suplexing both of them at the same time (because she can do that). Vega is back up with a Code Red for two on Nile but Valkyria breaks it up and hits Nightwing to pin Nile at 7:44.

Rating: B-. I can go for having Valkyria getting a better run around here as she is talented enough to do some good things around here. I'm not sure if she is going to win the title but at least she did something here for a change. Other than that, Vega was her usual energetic self and Nile was showing off the power, making for a nice showing from all three.

Damian Priest tells Rhea Ripley to eradicate Raquel Rodriguez.

New Day doesn't like being asked about turning on Big E. because it's a biased interview. They're going to go talk to the people...and Xavier Woods steals the camera as Kofi Kingston walks into the arena. They get in the ring and Woods gives the

camera back and Kingston can barely get in a word out. Kingston is annoyed that after ten years, the people have turned on them after what they did for one day. The fans want Big E. and won't let the two of them say much of anything. That's enough for New Day and they leave after some of the best heat anything has drawn in WWE in a LONG time.

Rhea Ripley vs. Raquel Rodriguez

Anything goes. It's a brawl to start with Ripley running up the ramp to start fast. They fight around ringside and then go inside (which Ripley filled with weapons while waiting on Rodriguez) for a missile dropkick to Rodriguez. A dropkick through the ropes staggers Rodriguez again but she sends Ripley over the announcers' table as we take a break.

Back with stereo big boots putting both of them down. Ripley gets back up with a chair shot for two but here is Liv Morgan before Riptide can connect. The distraction lets Rodriguez plant Ripley onto a chair for two but the Tejana Bomb is escaped. Morgan breaks up another Riptide attempt and Oblivion connects. Cue Iyo Sky to take Morgan out and Rodriguez gets two. The table is set up but Ripley slips out of the Tejana Bomb again. Rodriguez goes into the chair in the corner and Riptide through the table gives Ripley the pin at 8:09.

Rating: B. I love a match where the interference is timed well and makes perfect sense. That was the case here, as it tied into both this match as well as the Women's Title match on Saturday. This was a match where two women got to beat the fire out of each other for a bit and Ripley gets some momentum back after a hit and miss series of singles matches lately. She'll get back to the title picture sooner than later, but I'm not sure how much there is left in her feud with Morgan.

Ripley and Sky both pick up the title to end the show. That's interesting.

Overall Rating: B. Raw has a lot of good things going on right

now, with New Day's rather incredible heat leading the way. You also have Gunther/Balor/Priest for the title, which has potential, and everything with Punk/Rollins and McIntyre/Zayn. Raw is rolling right now and I want to see where they go, which is the best thing that can be said about a wrestling show. If their half of Saturday Night's Main Event can live up to the hype, we could be in for a heck of a start to the Road To Wrestlemania and that is great to see.

Results

Final Testament/Miz b. Wyatt Sicks – Final Prayer to Howdy

Liv Morgan b. Dakota Kai – Oblivion

Lyra Valkyria b. Zelina Vega and Ivy Nile – Nightwing to Nile

Rhea Ripley b. Raquel Rodriguez – Riptide through a table

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