

# ECW On Sci Fi – October 23, 2007: Monsters A Go-Go

## ECW On Sci Fi

Date: October 23, 2007

Location: Sprint Center, Kansas City, Missouri

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

We're on the way to Cyber Sunday and ECW actually has something on the card. The fans get to pick CM Punk's challenger for the ECW World Title, but there is more going on this week. We also have some more issues between Miz and Balls Mahoney, as they are kind of fighting over Kelly Kelly. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Here is the Miz with Extreme Expose to get things going. Miz recaps the idea of the fans voting for CM Punk's challenger on Sunday and goes over his fellow options. Big Daddy V is a monster but John Morrison is a fruitcake. That leaves you with the man that the Mizfits will vote for in droves, but for now he needs to deal with Kelly Kelly.

Last week, she went on a date with Balls Mahoney, which Miz told her not to do. Since Miz owns her contract, she could be gone from ECW and her career would be over. The thing is though he is a nice guy so he is going to make her life miserable week after week. Cue John Morrison to interrupt and ask where the tool's hat is this week. Neither of them want Big Daddy V in the title match but Miz needs to face reality: no one is going to vote for him.

As for now though, Morrison would like to know why Kelly Kelly associates with a loser like Miz. Why not elevate yourself to

someone who has beaten CM Punk? He knows Kelly wants to spend the night in the Palace of Wisdom, which is enough to earn Morrison a slap to the face. Cue Balls Mahoney, who gets taken down by Miz and Morrison. Miz turns his back on Morrison though and gets knocked outside. Cue CM Punk to knock Morrison to the floor for a bonus.

Post break, Miz yells at Morrison but Armando Estrada comes in to make the two of them vs. Mahoney/Punk in tonight's main event.

Kane vs. Big Daddy V

Matt Striker is here with V. Kane wastes no time in striking away but V runs him over with a clothesline. The slam sets up some shouting before Kane gets pounded in the corner. A sidewalk slam plants Kane and V sends him outside to keep up the beating. There's a whip into the steps and we take a break. Back with V mounting Kane on the mat because this is WWE's best idea for a monster like him. Kane fights out of a chinlock and strikes away, setting up the running corner clothesline. There's the top rope clothesline but Mark Henry of all people comes in to go after Kane for the DQ.

**Rating:** D. What else were you expecting from these two having a match that involved V mounting Kane? There is only so much that Kane can do when he is the more mobile of the two and that was on display here. I could see a rather messy four way coming from this, which would certainly be a spectacle. Not good, but a spectacle.

Post match here is Great Khali as this feels like fan fiction. V and Khali fight off (oh dear), leaving Kane to kick Henry to the floor.

Smackdown Rebound.

CM Punk and Balls Mahoney are ready for their tag match later tonight. Punk asks how Mahoney's date with Kelly Kelly went

and gets a big grin. Punk: "Balls, that is disturbing." Mahoney: "Yeah, that's what she said too." I don't think Punk knows how to handle that one.

Next week: Kane vs. Great Khali vs. Big Daddy V vs. Mark Henry in a Monster Mash Battle Royal. There's your spectacle.

### Elijah Burke vs. Nunzio

Fallout from Burke walking out on Nunzio during a tag match last week. Burke starts fast by sending Nunzio into the post and pounding away at his chest. A running crotch attack to the back of Nunzio's neck gets two but Nunzio fights out of a chinlock. That doesn't last long as Burke knocks him back down and grabs the chinlock sequel. Nunzio fights up again and hits the Sicilian Slice for two, only to get caught in an STO. The Elijah Express finishes for Burke.

**Rating:** C-. This was just a squash for Burke, who continues to be something of a player around here. I would assume he probably gets some house show title shots so keeping him strong here makes sense. Nunzio is good for a match like this as you need someone to beat on and the fans still respond to him well enough.

Great Khali rants about something.

Big Daddy V is ready for a Monster Mash Battle Royal.

### CM Punk/Balls Mahoney vs. Miz/John Morrison

Punk and Miz get things going with Punk grabbing an early headlock. The middle rope spinning crossbody gives Punk two and it's off to Mahoney to start working on the arm. Punk is already back in for an armbar but Miz throws Mahoney down to take over. Morrison comes in and gets taken down by the hair to put him in some quick trouble. A shot to the face drops Morrison again but Mahoney misses the top rope legdrop.

Miz's legsweep gets two as commentary talks about Mahoney and

Kelly Kelly's date. Morrison can't get very far with a chinlock so he kicks Mahoney in the face for two instead. A Miz chinlock works a bit better but Mahoney fights out of it as well and brings in Punk to clean house. Everything breaks down and Miz clotheslines Morrison by mistake. Mahoney cuts Miz off and the GTS finishes Morrison.

**Rating:** C. Even with the lower level Mahoney in there, I don't think there was ever any real drama. Maybe Miz or Morrison could grab a fluke rollup to pin Punk and build themselves up for Sunday, but that was about the only option. ECW is basically telling you to vote for Miz here, as Morrison just got pinned (again) and Big Daddy V is busy with the other monsters. It's Miz's vote to win and that isn't a bad idea.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Much like Raw this week, there is only so much that can be done when you don't have a concrete match to build towards. Punk is trying to find a challenger but the candidates all have their own deals going on. The battle royal sounds like a fun match that I won't ever need to see again but for a big Halloween style deal, it should be a nice way to go. Having a clear cut program would be nicer though and we can get to that starting next week.

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# Monday Night Raw – October 22, 2007: The Voting Drive

## Monday Night Raw

Date: October 22, 2007

Location: Qwest Center, Omaha, Nebraska

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's the go home show for Cyber Sunday and...well to be fair I've missed a few weeks so I have almost no idea what is going on at the moment. The big story on the Raw side is Randy Orton defending the Raw World Title against Shawn Michaels, Jeff Hardy or Mr. Kennedy. Odds are this week is going to be about moving us closer to the inevitable so. Let's get to it.

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

Mr. Kennedy is in the ring to get things going. He knows there is a decision for the fans to make about this Sunday so let's look at the candidates. First up, you have Intercontinental Champion Jeff Hardy, who is like Hilary Clinton. They have the blond hair and the famous last name, but just like Clinton, Hardy won't be able to get the job done because he has no testicular fortitude. Then you have Shawn Michaels, who is like Rudy Giuliani. They both talk well and have a resume, but they both live in the past.

What has Shawn done for him lately? Whatever it is, it is nowhere near as impressive as what Kennedy has done. Kennedy lists off everything he has done in the last year or so and kind of quotes John F. Kennedy, asking what you can do for

him. Cue Jeff Hardy in the crowd though, where he has found out that Kennedy's approval rating sucks. Kennedy says Hardy doesn't want to get into this with him, but the fans seem to think otherwise.

Hardy lists off Kennedy's failures, which would include failing at Cyber Sunday too. Kennedy goes to leave but Hardy gets the vote to go beat him up right now. The fight is on but Randy Orton runs in as well, meaning the villains can take Jeff down. Shawn Michaels runs in and we probably have a tag match later tonight. Orton and Shawn fight off, leaving Jeff to clear Kennedy out.

Mickie James/Paul London/Brian Kendrick vs. Lance Cade/Trevor Murdoch/Melina

London headlock takeovers Cade down to start before going to an armbar. Mickie and Melina come in for a double hair takedown so it's quickly off to Kendrick to slug away on Murdoch. Cade drops Murdoch down into a legdrop on Kendrick but a kick to the head allows the hot tag to London. Everything breaks down and Cade clotheslines Murdoch by mistake. London adds a running shooting star press for the pin.

**Rating:** C. This didn't have the time to get very far but I can always go with tying two feuds together into one match. If nothing else, it was an excuse to have Melina vs. Mickie without actually having the two in a singles match, as Cade/Murdoch vs. London/Kendrick has kind of been done to death at this point. Way too short to be worth much though.

The Diva Search girls did an interrogation competition on the beach. Remember when wrestlers worked on this show?

Shawn Michaels comes in to see Jeff Hardy and talks about how much he needs to face Randy Orton at Cyber Sunday. Hardy suggests that the fans might want champion vs. champion though. Various threats seem to be made, even though they're

partners tonight.

Cody Rhodes is reading WWE Magazine when Shelton Benjamin and Charlie Haas come in to make fun of him for losing to Hardcore Holly. Rhodes says at least Holly looks good with blond hair, so Shelton is ready to face him tonight. Benjamin says after the match, he'll dye Cody's hair so he can be a thinner, less talented version of his old man. Haas: "Oh snap!"

Coach is with William Regal, who isn't sure about making Coach vs. Hornswoggle. After some recapping, Regal does make the match, but Coach has a better idea: Hornswoggle vs. Umaga. Sure.

#### Cody Rhodes vs. Shelton Benjamin

Charlie Haas is here with Benjamin. Cody gets taken down to start with Benjamin going right after the leg. The comeback is cut off with a shinbreaker but Cody grabs a bulldog out of the corner for two. Haas' distraction completely fails as Cody reverses a rollup into one of his own for the fast pin.

Post match the double teaming is on until Hardcore Holly runs in for the save. Holly seems a bit impressed.

Here is the debuting DH Smith, the son of the British Bulldog, who is dedicating his first match to his father.

#### DH Smith vs. Carlito

Carlito goes after the arm to start but gets taken down into a jackknife cover for two. An overhead belly to belly gives Smith one but Carlito is back with a springboard dropkick for two of his own. The double arm crank goes on before a springboard elbow drops Smith again. That doesn't make much of a difference as Smith is back with a running powerslam for the pin.

**Rating:** C-. Another match that didn't get much time, but in this case that isn't a terrible thing. Smith got to go in,

beat up Carlito, and get out before anyone could see anything wrong with him. That's a nice way to debut, as Carlito still has a bit of value to him. Granted the name DH Smith isn't going to do him any favors, but he was good enough here.

Candice Michelle and Beth Phoenix have a weird staredown, with Phoenix promising to make her get on her knees and worship. Michelle promises to get the title back.

We recap Hornswoggle blowing up Coach last week, complete with comedic sound effects.

### Hornswoggle vs. Umaga

Hold on as Hornswoggle runs off, with HHH taking his place. The big brawl is on with referees having to break it up but not doing the best job. Eventually the two are separated, only to have HHH break through again. No match obviously.

Post break, Umaga is surrounded by agents and referees and yells a lot.

Todd Grisham is on the stage and introduces us to the three Diva Search finalists. Lena is eliminated, leaving us with Eve and Brooke. They both get thirty seconds to hype themselves up for next week's finals, which involves shouting about Omaha a lot.

Randy Orton comes in to see Mr. Kennedy, who can be his partner tonight but no one is going to vote for him because bad guys don't win. Kennedy agrees they can be partners but he might have to make a statement after the match. See you out there....partner.

### Santino Marella vs. Ron Simmons

Maria is here with Santino, who doesn't like not being mentioned in the 500th issue of WWE Magazine. MANTOUR is even mentioned....and we're cut off by the SAVE US video. Santino thinks that might have been Steve Austin, who must be



comfortable at home, watching himself in the Condemned. If Austin ever does show up, Santino will open a can of the a\*\* whip. Simmons comes in and hammers away but Santino gets in a shot of his own for two. The chinlock doesn't last long so Santino kicks him low for the DQ.

HHH doesn't care what kind of a match he has with Umaga on Sunday because tonight, he saw doubt in Umaga's eyes. On Sunday, he'll see fear, because no matter how the voting goes, it's time to play the game.

#### Women's Title: Candice Michelle vs. Beth Phoenix

Phoenix is defending in a 2/3 falls match. They lock up to start until Beth sends her out to the apron. A hurricanrana gets Candice out of trouble but Beth grabs her by the throat and drops her down for the first fall. We take a break and come back with Beth putting on something like a Liontamer.

Candice slips out and the slugout is on, setting up a discus lariat for two. A spinwheel kick gets the same so Candice goes up, only to get knocked down...where she lands on her face. You can hear the crowd go quiet as Beth drags her out of the corner (which is a REALLY STUPID IDEA) and pins her (with the referee audibly telling Candice not to kick out) to retain. Not enough shown to rate due to the injury and the break but I can't imagine this was going to be anything but Beth retaining. The injury looked horrible though and that is probably going to put Candice on the shelf for a long time.

Beth leaves and Candice gets treatment but can't stay sitting up. A stretcher takes her out, due to what would wind up being a broken collarbone.

#### Jeff Hardy/Shawn Michaels vs. Mr. Kennedy/Randy Orton

Shawn and Kennedy start things off with Shawn shrugging off some chops in the corner. It's quickly off to Jeff to work on Kennedy's arm, setting up a middle rope elbow to the back. The

charge in the corner misses though and Orton comes in to pound away with some right hands. A clothesline gives Orton two but Hardy kicks Kennedy in the face and dives over for the tag. Some of the house is cleaned but Shawn gets taken into the wrong corner so Orton can take over again.

Kennedy comes back in and grabs the seated abdominal stretch for a little longer than you might have expected. Back to back backbreakers give Kennedy two and an elbow to the face gets the same. It's back to Orton for the slow stomping and a knee to the back keeps Shawn down. Orton pulls him into a chinlock with a bodyscissors but Shawn fights up with an enziguri. The double tag brings in Hardy and Kennedy with the pace picking up. Everything breaks down and Shawn slingshots down onto Orton, leaving Hardy to Twist Kennedy's fate. The Swanton gives Hardy the pin.

**Rating:** B-. This was a bit above average main event style tag match and that shouldn't be a surprise. I don't think there's any secret to the fact that Shawn is getting the title shot on Sunday so the ending was little more than misdirection, but they had a good match on the way there. Kennedy just kind of exists to give Orton a partner, but they had worse options.

Post match Shawn superkicks Orton to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C-. Cyber Sunday is such a weird show to build towards as WWE doesn't really have matches to set up. Instead, you have a bunch of options to pick from, which makes for some odd final shows. The fact that this one included an injury and more Hornswoggle shenanigans and it wasn't exactly a great way to get me into the pay per view.

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# NXT – April 12, 2022: The British Are Coming And The British Are Here

## NXT

Date: April 12, 2022

Location: Capitol Sports Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators Vic Joseph, Wade Barrett

It's another huge week around here as we have a series of title matches. This includes a guaranteed new champion as the vacant Tag Team Titles are on the line in a gauntlet match. Other than that, there are two title matches as the North American and Women's Titles are on the line as well. Let's get to it.

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

The opening recap looks at Bron Breaker retaining the NXT Title over Gunther to send him to Smackdown, only to have Joe Gacy and Harland kidnap Breaker's father Rick Steiner. Because of course they did.

## North American Title: Cameron Grimes vs. Solo Sikoa

Grimes is defending and misses a running kick to the face to start. Sikoa's waistlock is countered into an armbar and Sikoa can't do much to get out of it. The hold is finally broken up so they shake hands, though Grimes says Sikoa's Bloodline can kiss his grits. An enziguri knocks Sikoa to the floor and the apron flip dive takes us to a break.

Back with Grimes hitting a bridging German suplex for two but the Cave In misses. Sikoa hits the running Umaga Attack in the corner for two and it's time to slug it out. Grimes' flipping powerslam gets two but Sikoa knocks him down again. The Superfly Splash is broken up by an invading Trick Williams, allowing Grimes (not sure if he saw Williams) to hit the Cave In to retain at 13:11.

**Rating:** C+. The ending should tell you where some stories are going, though Grimes retaining is a good sign. He finally won something and now setting up his title reign with a win gives me some hope. Grimes will have to beat Hayes in a regular match at some point so they might as well get there now.

Post match Williams and Carmelo Hayes beat Grimes down.

We go over the gauntlet match but Grayson Waller/Sanga interrupt so Waller can brag about how easy of a win it is going to be.

Video on Pretty Deadly attacking the Creed Brothers again last week. The Creeds demand revenge.

The Creeds draw their numbers and seem happy.

Here is Bron Breaker for a chat and he isn't happy with what Joe Gacy and Harland did to Rick Steiner. Gacy pops up on screen and says they beat up Steiner but then let him go, which started teaching them about Breaker himself. They still have Rick's Hall of Fame ring, which they throw in a fire,

leaving Breakker stunned/silent. Throw the feud in with it if you can.

We look at Toxic Attraction winning the Women's Tag Team Titles back last week.

Toxic Attraction brags about their win, with Mandy Rose promising to beat Dakota Kai tonight because the team is that good.

Von Wagner destroys Jacket Time in the back. That should take care of his match with Kushida

An angry Bron Breakker gets in his car and leaves.

Here are Robert Stone and Von Wagner to say Jacket Time is done. Hold on though as here is Ikemen Jiro to go after Wagner on his own.

#### Von Wagner vs. Ikemen Jiro

Jiro is banged up but slugs away on Wagner anyway. Wagner runs him over but Jiro is back up with the jacket punches. That's too much for Wagner, who hits him in the face and hits the Death Valley Driver for the pin at 2:57.

Post match the attractive yet still unnamed woman tells Wagner to do more, which sees Jiro tossed from the ring and into the crowd.

Nikkita Lyons is ready to step up around here but Lash Legend kicks her in the face.

Video on Pretty Deadly, who dominated the United Kingdom and can do it here too. They started with the Creed Brothers and it's time to win the Tag Team Titles.

Pretty Deadly draw their numbers and dance off.

#### Women's Title: Dakota Kai vs. Mandy Rose

Rose is defending and has the rest of Toxic Attraction with her. Kai goes straight at her to start but gets taken down, allowing Rose to pose. A crucifix gives Kai two and she hits a dropkick. Kai kicks Rose to the floor and there's a big dive to take out the team. We take a break and come back with Rose working on a bodyscissors before choking in the corner.

The chinlock goes on but Kai fights out and hits a Russian legsweep for two. Rose misses a pump kick but manages a spinebuster for two of her own. Kai keeps up the pace with a small package for a knee fall, setting up the Kairopractor. Toxic Attraction offers a needed distraction though, allowing Rose to hit the running knee to retain at 10:48.

**Rating:** C. NXT has somehow managed to turn Rose into a dragon that needs to be slayed, though I don't need it to be anytime soon. Rose is starting to feel like a major player as champion and that could work for a pretty long while longer. Beating Kai might not be some huge game changer, but it is another win under Rose's belt before someone takes the title from her.

Post match Wendy Choo pops up to spray Toxic Attraction with water guns. Barrett: "How old is Wendy Choo?" Better question is how old is whoever wrote this.

Joe Gacy doesn't like social media and the court of public opinion. He is the only one who can carry NXT because Bron Breaker is too emotional. Now he is going to control Breaker's life and tear it all down, but he'll keep one thing. He pulls the Hall of Fame ring out of the fire and puts it on, because Gacy is a full on cult guy these days.

Tony D'Angelo comes up to Legado del Fantasma and offers an envelope to Santos Escobar as a peace offering. Escobar takes the envelope and puts it back in D'Angelo's pocket.

Here is Cora Jade for a chat. Wrestlemania weekend was big to her but the best part was having her parents in the second row (Jade: "Working on front row guys."). She held her own at

Stand & Deliver but now she NEEDS to win the Women's Title. When she was eight years old, she promised to be a champion and now she is going to work hard to be the best ever. Cue Natalya to interrupt and Jade is stunned.

Jade goes all fangirl as Natalya is happy to be back in the building. Jade talks about being ten years old and talking to Natalya on Twitter after a show in Indiana. Natalya remembers the night and knows she pointed to the right girl after that show. She dubs Jade as the future of the women's division....but the future is bleak. Natalya slaps her in the face and puts on the Sharpshooter, making Jade tap. Having Jade act like she is a five year old meeting Santa Claus and then getting beaten up isn't a good idea, though Natalya putting someone in NXT over is.

Josh Briggs and Brooks Jensen are fired up for the gauntlet match, with Fallon Henley yelling at them to go do it.

Nathan Frazer is coming.

#### Draco Anthony vs. Xyon Quinn

Anthony drives him into the corner to start but Quinn reverses for some shoulders to the ribs. Back up and Anthony blocks the Siva Tao, earning himself the running right hand to the face. Another punch knocks Anthony sillier and a third finishes at 2:56. Basically a squash.

Natalya comes in to see the women's roster and, after accepting a challenge from Tatum Paxley, tells them that they're all on notice. Noted.

Persia Pirotta and Indi Hartwell decide that Dexter Lumis and Duke Hudson should team up, though the guys aren't into it. I knew it. I knew it. I KNEW IT! They have to take the stupidest story they have and turn it into something even worse because they can't let ANYTHING ever go.

## Tag Team Titles: Gauntlet Match

The titles are vacant coming in and there are five teams entered. The Creed Brothers are in at #1 and Legado del Fantasma are in at #2. They start fast with Wilde hitting a big dive to the floor to drop both Creeds and the fans are behind Legado. We settle down to Mendoza hitting some running clotheslines on Julius, setting up a springboard flip dive to give Wilde two. Julius gets up for the tag though and everything breaks down with Legado getting caught in stereo ankle locks.

Those are broken up and Julius is sent face first into the middle buckle. There's a springboard missile dropkick to the back, setting up a 450 to give Wilde two. Brutus pulls Mendoza to the floor, leaving Julius to hit an Angle Slam. An assisted spinebuster sets up the basement lariat to give the Creeds the pin at 4:33.

Josh Briggs/Brooks Jensen (with Fallon Henley) are in at #3, though Henley and Elektra Lopez get in a shoving match during the entrances. The teams actually involved get in a brawl as we take a break. Back with Briggs and Jensen in control and taking apart the announcers' table. The double powerbomb sends Brutus through the table, leaving Julius to get punched in the face.

Brutus is back up (because powerbombs through tables are shrugged off) but gets knocked down again, leaving Julius to get sitout powerbombed for two. A top rope knee/Dominator (or close enough) combination gets two more with Brutus making the save. Julius brings Brutus back in, though Briggs and Jensen bring him over the top. The high/low is broken up though and Julius' sliding lariat is good for the pin at 13:23 (total).

Grayson Waller (still banged up) and Sanga are in at #4. Sanga gets an easy cover for two on Julius, who slips out of a chokeslam and starts swinging away. Waller comes in to dance a



bit and we take a break. Back again with Brutus finally throwing Waller down and making the tag off to Julius for a breather. Brutus starts cleaning house, including a suplex on Sanga. It's back to Julius for the basement lariat to finish Sanga at 19:49.

Pretty Deadly is in at #5 to complete the field and now I get to try to figure out their new names, because of course they have new names. Deadly starts dropping knees and Julius gets caught in the wrong corner. Some right hands set up a failed suplex attempt but it's Wilson coming back in for a double suplex.

Julius fights out of the corner and brings Brutus back in, only to get caught in the corner with a running elbow. A gutbuster drops Brutus and Julius is sent hard into the steps. Everything breaks down and a double headbutt puts Brutus and Wilson down. Prince gets in a cheap shot on Brutus though and Spilt Milk (Hart Attack with a running neckbreaker instead of a clothesline) gives Deadly the titles at 27:55.

**Rating:** C+. This is one of those formulas that WWE loves in gauntlet matches, as the Creeds basically beat most of the existing tag division before the new team beats them in the end. It was a very long match, but the Creeds surviving so much was getting to be a lot by the end. You can only have them take so much before it's hurting the teams they're beating and that took place here. At the same time, Pretty Deadly are fine choices for champions and I'm glad to see them getting their shot on the main NXT rather than just the UK version. It worked over there and it can over here too.

The Creeds are spent to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** B-. The main event helped this a lot and the three title matches felt like big deals, though the prospect of Bron Breaker vs. Joe Gacy for any length of time doesn't do much for me. I do like some of the new stars coming in, as

one of the best things about the old days of NXT was the rapid turnover of talent. You need to bring in new people and if that means taking away some of the longer running NXT UK stars, so be it. I liked this show for the most part and the ending makes me even more interesting going forward, so call it a success this week.

### Results

Cameron Grimes b. Solo Sikoa – Cave In

Von Wagner b. Ikemen Jiro – Death Valley Driver

Xyon Quinn b. Draco Anthony – Running punch

Mandy Rose b. Dakota Kai – Running knee

Pretty Deadly won a gauntlet match last eliminating Creed Brothers

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# Monday Night Raw – April 11, 2022: Keep It Going

## Monday Night Raw

Date: April 11, 2022

Location: Little Caesar's Arena, Detroit, Michigan

Commentators: Jimmy Smith, Jerry Lawler, Byron Saxton

We're back to normal this week as the Wrestlemania Weekend glow is gone. Now we get to see what the regular crowds are like and how they respond to what WWE is offering. At the same time, we get to see how things go when WWE doesn't have to try as hard. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Cody Rhodes' return at Wrestlemania and wanting to become the WWE Champion to honor his father.

Here is the Miz for MizTV. Miz wastes no time in introducing Cody Rhodes, though he does make sure to insult the fans a few times. Miz accuses Cody of taking too long to come out but Cody says it has been awhile since he was in front of a crowd like this one. Hang on as Cody gets to pose a bit more and the fans certainly like him. We hear about Cody being the grandson of a plumber but without the Rhodes name, he would just be a plumber. Cody says it would be nice to be a plumber right now because Miz is full of...and he stops himself.

Miz hasn't changed a bit in years and that makes him reliable. Cody is here to win the Undisputed Universal Heavyweight Championship belt, though Miz points out that it's a title because a belt holds up your pants. We hear about how Seth Rollins wants a rematch where Cody can't surprise him but the fans cut off Miz again.

Miz gets in Cody's face and says he knows where Cody has been

for six years but Cody says hold on. He respects Miz and all of his accomplishments but maybe Miz is threatened by him. Cody has enjoyed their chat but he's looking forward to their match, which will be his first on Raw in six years. Miz goes for the sneak attack and gets sent outside. Cody kept the reaction for another week so they might be on to something here.

#### Dominik Mysterio vs. Veer Mahaan

Veer runs him over to start but Dominik is up with a superkick. A missed charge sends Veer outside, where he sends Dominik into the barricade. The baseball clothesline drops Dominik on the floor and another does it again inside. The cervical clutch (camel clutch/Gargano Escape hybrid) finishes Dominik at 1:58.

Post match Mahaan puts the hold on again, then lets it go, then puts it on again, leaving Dominik to take a stretcher out.

Post break, Dominik is put into the stretcher.

Veer Mahaan says he strikes fear into the hearts of men.

We look back at Edge and Damian Priest taking out AJ Styles last week.

Styles is scared of what he is going to do to Priest tonight. Priest walks up so AJ gets in a fight with him, with agents having to break it up.

#### AJ Styles vs. Damian Priest

During his entrance, Priest says he is here to prove that he is worthy of working with Edge. Styles slugs away to start and hits a clothesline to put Priest on the floor. There's the forearm off the apron to send Priest over the barricade. A whip into another barricade has Priest in more trouble and we take a break.

Back with AJ bleeding from the head but still managing to hammer away. The Downward Spiral plants Styles though but the Reckoning is countered into a Pele. Styles tries the Phenomenal Forearm, which is countered with a kick to the head. Hold on though as Priest drops to a knee and the lights go out. The purple spotlight comes on Priest...and we take another break. Back again with...the match being over, we'll say at 13:05.

**Rating:** C. That's WWE for you. They set up a match but then realize that they don't want either of them to lose so they get creative and give us whatever this was. I'm sure there is some internal WWE logic behind what happened, but since WWE can't bother to explain any of this stuff, we're left sitting here wondering what the heck just happened. More importantly though, I'm left sitting around wondering why I should care if they're just going to end a match like that.

AJ isn't happy and says Edge is his no matter what.

### Cody Rhodes vs. The Miz

Hold on as here is Seth Rollins at the bell to conduct the crowd in his entrance theme. Miz gets in an early kick to the face but Cody snaps off the powerslam to send Miz outside. Back in and we hit the cravate to hold Miz in place before Cody sends him face first into the buckle. Miz gets in a shot to the face though and the chinlock goes on. Jimmy calls it a beautiful one and Cody is sent outside as we take a break.

Back with Cody hitting a suplex for two, with Miz being sent outside for a suicide dive. They get back in and Cody misses something off the top to damage his knee. The Figure Four goes on and stays on for a good while, but Cody finally turns it over for the break. Back up and the Cody Cutter sets up the Cross Rhodes at 11:50.

**Rating:** C+. This is the kind of win that can boost Cody a bit: he beats an established name clean in the middle of the ring

and starts looking like a force. That makes two matches for Cody and two wins over former World Champions. He has a long way to go, but they are starting off well and that's more than I would have bet on in this case.

Post match Rollins (who didn't do anything during the match) grabs the mic and says he heard Cody mention the word REMATCH. Rollins could go for that and Cody accepts the challenge, date to be announced.

We recap the debut of Ezekiel from last week, much to Kevin Owens' annoyance.

We meet the newest member of the Raw roster: Tommaso Ciampa (thankfully not renamed to Steve Lewis), but Ezekiel comes up to introduce himself. Ciampa is glad to meet him but Owens comes in to say that's Elias. Ezekiel and Ciampa say not quite and Owens thinks he is the only sane person left around here.

#### Liv Morgan vs. Naomi

Naomi rolls her down to start and hits a quick kick to the face for an early two. A double jumping kick to the face drops Liv again but she's back with a rollup. That means a pinfall reversal sequence until Naomi gets a rollup pin at 2:18.

Here is Bobby Lashley in the VIP Lounge despite not being a guest. He barely beat Omos so now it is time for him to wreck this set. Cue MVP and Omos, with the former threatening lawsuits if Lashley breaks anything. Lashley wants Omos right now but MVP says Omos is learning to be a businessman so he's waiting until the money is right. That's fine with Lashley, who still wants an explanation from MVP.

Believe it or not, MVP actually gives him one, saying that when he returned to WWE, Lashley was floundering. Lashley had talent but he wasn't going anywhere so MVP had to save him. Lashley accuses MVP of being on a farewell tour and a lot of yelling ensues. MVP says Omos is going to destroy Lashley, who

promises to take Omos down again and then take MVP out. With that taken care of, Lashley throws a bunch of the set out of the ring.

We recap the double engagements in the 24/7 Title shenanigans.

R-Truth, Akira Tozawa and some others have a bachelor party with Reggie, but aren't happy that Dana Brooke and the 24/7 Title are at a bachelorette party. It's time to break it up.

Austin Theory asks the bosses for a US Title shot next week. Deal, and you can just call him Theory. Oh screw off. Kevin Owens comes in to take Theory's place and demands proof that Ezekiel and Elias are different people. That information is confidential (Owens: "HIS LIBRARY CARD IS CONFIDENTIAL????") so next week, Owens will make him take a lie detector test. With Owens gone, Sonya Deville says she has a deal in place for Bianca Belair's first title defense.

### Bianca Belair vs. Queen Zelina

Non-title. Belair blocks a rollup to start and runs her over but Zelina takes her down for a Last Chancery. That's broken up with straight power and Belair hits a gorilla press drop. The KOD connects to finish Zelina at 2:08.

Post break, Sonya Deville is in the ring to announce Belair's first challenger. It wasn't an easy pick as she had a lot of options, but Belair is ready for anyone. Deville has an open contract and Belair signs without a second thought. The opponent is.....Deville herself, who takes out Belair's knee and hits a running knee to the face.

We go to the bachelorette party, where Tamina agrees to keep the truce with Dana Brooke tonight. After their honeymoons though, it's open season for the 24/7 Title. Los Lotharios come in for the Kiss Cam but Nikki Ash has a surprise: a pair of strippers, but one of them is a referee. Tamina breaks up the cover and slides Nikki down the bar as R-Truth, Akira

Tozawa and Reggie come in. R-Truth gives them a speech about how the love of the title is all that matters. He's a certified marriage guy (and has a certificate to prove it) and bans all attacks on Dana until after next week's double wedding. And now, dancing.

Adam Pearce isn't happy with Sonya Deville but she asks what he can do about it.

### Alpha Academy vs. RKBro

Non-title and before the match, Chad Gable brags about his intelligence, his degree, and everything about himself in general. Orton takes Gable down to start and hands it off to Riddle for some kicks to the chest. Otis comes in to run Riddle over though and we take a break. Back with Gable working on Riddle's arm but Riddle fights up and brings Orton back in to clean house. A rollup gives Gable two but Orton grabs the RK0 for the pin at 8:08.

**Rating:** C+. This was pretty good stuff while it lasted and that shouldn't be much of a surprise. These teams have done well in their previous matches, though it is pretty clear that the Academy is on their way down. RKBro vs. the Usos is going to be a big deal and they don't need the Academy there for that kind of a match.

We cut to the back where the Usos arrive. After a break, here are the Usos, with Orton saying the Big Dog let his b\*\*\*\*\* off the leash. The Usos laugh it off and get straight to the point: they want the title unification match. Riddle thinks that sounds like something out of Avengers with Thanos trying to get all of the crystals together. Cue the Street Profits to interrupt, because they should be at the front of the line. Jimmy: "There's only one line and it's the BLOODLINE!" The Profits and the Usos are ready to go and Orton makes the match.

We recap Veer Mahaan taking out Dominik Mysterio earlier in



the night.

### Street Profits vs. Usos

Non-title and RKBro is at ringside. Ford dropkicks Jimmy down to start and hands it off to Dawkins, who suplexes him onto Jimmy for one. Jey comes in and gets elbowed down for two, only to have Jimmy come back in off a blind tag. A double spinebuster drops Dawkins and a top rope forearm to the chest gets two.

Dawkins tries to fight out of the corner but gets caught with a jumping enziguri. The Usos head outside to glare at RKBro, only to have Ford flip dive onto them. Ford dances a bit as we take a break. Back with Dawkins fighting out of a chinlock, allowing the double tag off to Ford for the house cleaning.

A running Blockbuster gets two on Jey and Dawkins pulls Jimmy to the floor for a right back. Back in and the Doomsday Blockbuster gets two more on Jey. Jimmy cuts off Dawkins' dive and superkicks him down, only to have the Superfly Splash hit knees. Ford adds the frog splash for two with Jey making the save. Dawkins is sent into the post and it's the 1D to finish Ford at 15:11.

**Rating:** B-. This match got the time that it needed to be better and that is what made it work. Again, I don't think the Profits are going to matter all that much in the picture so it was a good idea to get rid of them here. Go with the Usos vs. RKBro on the big(ish) stage and leave the other teams out of the picture for the time being.

Post match the champs stare each other down and hold up the titles. The Usos leave but RKBro has to take out the Profits. That's enough for the Usos to superkick Orton down to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. It wasn't quite last week, but they did keep some momentum going after the post Wrestlemania Raw.

That's more than I would have bet on with this show as WWE has a tendency to drop down a good bit with Wrestlemania season over. You can see a lot of Backlash being set up and now they have another few weeks to really set things up. I'm cautiously optimistic for the next few weeks though and that is a nice feeling.

### Results

Veer Mahan b. Dominik Mysterio – Cervical Clutch

AJ Styles vs. Damian Priest went to a no contest

Cody Rhodes b. Miz – Cross Rhodes

Naomi b. Liv Morgan – Rollup

Bianca Belair b. Queen Zelina – KOD

RKBro b. Alpha Academy – RK0 to Gable

Usos b. Street Profits – 1D to Ford

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# Rampage – April 1, 2022: The Rampage Way

## Rampage

Date: April 1, 2022

Location: Colonial Life Arena, Columbia, South Carolina

Commentators: Excalibur, Chris Jericho, Ricky Starks, Taz, Chris Jericho

Wrestlemania weekend caused me to miss this one so now it's time to catch up. I'm kind of curious to see how this show works without the timing issues and watching it as a stand alone event. The big draw this week is Powerhouse Hobbs vs. Keith Lee, which certainly sounds good on paper. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

## Young Bucks vs. Top Flight

Nick shoulders Dante down to start so Dante nips up. They head to the floor and hit stereo dropkicks, setting up a staredown. Matt comes in and gets sent into the corner, setting up a slingshot hilo. A double dropkick takes the illegal Nick down and Darius pulls Matt into something like the Rings of Saturn.

That's broken up so Nick comes back in, only to have his springboard countered into an atomic drop. Back to back dives take the Bucks down but a Cutler distraction lets Matt hit a superkick to drop Darius on the floor. A Cannonball/running kick in the corner has Darius in more trouble and we take a break.

We come back with Dante coming in off the hot tag to clean house, including a superkick to Nick. There's a missile

dropkick to Matt and Darius gets to stare at the crowd a bit. A slingshot Flatliner sets up the Broken Arrow (that jumping over your partner to land on someone's back for two on Nick. Darius gets knocked off the top and down into the barricade though and it's Nick vs. Darius in a slugout. Matt comes back in for the save though and it's the BTE Trigger for the pin at 10:48.

**Rating:** B-. It was the entertaining spectacle style match and that is all it needed to do. You have the Bucks against Top Flight in there to do their big choreographed routine and it did exactly what it needed to do. I'm not probably not going to remember it because I've seen the Bucks do this a dozen times, but while it's still in the short term memory, they were doing it pretty well here.

Video on the OTHER SIDE of Kris Statlander, meaning the paint on her face changes side.

Here are the Men of the Year to complain about Tay Conti and Sammy Guevara. Above all else, they don't like the photo shoot with the TNT Title, but they also want to know who was behind the camera. After some jokes about Orange Cassidy, Dan Lambert makes it clear that they will never give Guevara the match. Guevara pops up on screen from the parking lot, where he and Conti destroy Lambert's car with sledgehammers. This company REALLY likes wrecking cars.

Hook is ready for an interview when Danhausen comes in to curse him. Again, Hook just walks away, leaving Danhausen to panic.

### House of Black vs. Dark Order/Fuego del Sol

Matthews shoulders Grayson down but he's back up with a running forearm. The Order is sent outside, leaving Fuego to get lawn darted into the middle buckle. King tosses Fuego onto the Order on the floor and we take a break. Back with Fuego kicking Buddy away and making the hot tag off to Grayson to

clean house.

Everything breaks down and a toss powerbomb gives Uno two. The Order is sent outside for a running flip dive from King, leaving Black vs. Fuego inside. The rest of the House gets back in but the Order makes the save. Fuego manages a poisonrana on Black, who Black Masses Fuego out of the air for the pin at 7:14.

**Rating:** C. This was a bit longer than it needed to be for the House, as they should have smashed people like the Order and Fuego. It wasn't exactly a competitive match but the House has stalled a bit in recent weeks, as we are seemingly STILL waiting on their showdown with Death Triangle. I'm sure the match will be great when it happens, but has Death Triangle ever been together in the first place?

The Young Bucks brag about themselves and are ready for FTR on Dynamite.

#### Owen Hart Foundation Qualifying Match: Skye Blue vs. Jamie Hayter

Hayter powers her up against the ropes to start and then hits an elbow in the face. Blue grabs an armdrag into an armbar and Hayter looks more surprised than anything else. A suplex sends Blue into the corner though and Hayter does it again for a bonus. Blue is back up with some rollups for two each, only to walk into a backbreaker to cut her off. A spinning kick to the head drops Hayter for two but she grabs a backdrop driver. Hayter charges into a superkick but is fine enough to hit a superplex. There's a brainbuster to drop Blue again and a ripcord lariat finishes for Hayter at 5:36.

**Rating:** C-. This tournament feels like it is going to take a long time to set up as we are still waiting to see all of the qualifying matches. Hayter is someone who could be a nice monster to slay in the field without being a favorite and that's a good enough idea. They didn't waste a lot of time

here on a match that isn't going to matter so I'll take that as a quick match.

Penta Obscuro and Alex Abrahantes warn the House of Black to be worried about Death Triangle.

Powerhouse Hobbs and Keith Lee are ready to wreck each other, albeit while using a reading/book motif. Well, as much wrecking as Lee can do in his odd way of speaking.

### Keith Lee vs. Powerhouse Hobbs

The fans are behind Lee as he takes his vest off and they stare each other down a bit. The big lockup doesn't go anywhere as they shake the other off. Hobbs hits some running shoulders to no avail but Lee's running shoulder puts Hobbs out on the floor. We take a break and come back with Lee in trouble, allowing Hobbs to hit a running clothesline for two. Back up and a beal is blocked and Hobbs knows he's in trouble.

A hard clothesline gives Lee two but Hobbs backdrops his way out of a Spirit Bomb attempt. Lee hits a running splash in the corner and there's the Uncle Phil Beal. Cue Ricky Starks with a chair but Lee punches it away. Swerve Strickland runs in and takes out Starks, leaving Hobbs to hit a spinebuster. There's no count because of the distracted referee though, allowing Lee to hit the Big Bang Catastrophe for the pin at 10:45.

**Rating:** C+. There is something fun about a hoss battle, but this hit a certain level and never got past it. They were big men hitting each other with power moves for about ten minutes and then Lee won. It was a fun showdown, but when you have people who wrestle a similar style, there is only so much that you can get out of the thing.

Starks beats down Strickland and puts him through the table at ringside. Hobbs chairs Lee in the back and another table is set up in the corner. Lee goes through said table to wrap it up.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Rampage continues to be a weird show as you have a bunch of matches but they rarely feel like they matter. You're not going to get much of anything significant on this show but it is still fun to watch for about an hour a week. That was certainly the case this week, as I had a good time with the show but it didn't exactly blow the doors off.

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## Daily News Update – April 11, 2022

Make sure you check out some recent reviews.

[NXT UK – March 31, 2022](#)

[Main Event – April 7, 2022](#)

[NXT UK – April 7, 2022](#)

[Ring Of Honor TV – March 30, 2022](#)

[Impact Wrestling – March 24, 2022](#)

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VIDEO: World Champion Releases Album, Jams To His Own Music.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-world-champion-releases-album-jams-music/>

Wrestling Legend Suffers Serious Injury, Stretchered Away From Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-legend-suffers-serious-injury-stretchered-away-ring/>

Bandido No Shows Prominent Independent Show, Not Answering Calls.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/bandido-no-shows-prominent-independent-show-not-answering-calls/>

AEW Star Shares Look At His New Horror Movie.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/aew-star-shares-look-new-horror-movie/>

WRESTLING RUMORS: Update On Missing WWE SmackDown Star's Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wrestling-rumors-update-missing-smackdown-stars-status/>

AEW Accused Of Editing Fan Reactions During Rampage Segment.



<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/aew-accused-editing-fan-reactions-rampage-segment/>

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## Impact Wrestling – March 24, 2022: Needs More Violence

### Impact Wrestling

Date: March 24, 2022

Location: 2300 Arena, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Matthew Rehwoldt, Tom Hannifan

We're on the way to the Multiverse of Matches and the interesting twist is that Josh Alexander is now dealing with Honor No More. That opens up some doors, but all roads lead to Moose vs. Alexander for the title at Rebellion in about a month. There are some other things to cover as well so let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Here is a ticked off Josh Alexander to address Moose invading his home last week. Moose intimidated his wife and came through his door and that is too far. He isn't here just as a professional wrestler but as a husband and a father who is

ready to take the World Title from Moose. Since Moose has no problem coming to his home, how about he comes to his home in Impact Wrestling.

Cue Moose, who says Alexander failed to protect his family and at Rebellion, he is going to fail to win the title. Moose offers to show Alexander's son how to be a man and that's too far, meaning the fight is on. They fight backstage and into the set until security breaks it up, much to Alexander's annoyance.

Post break Scott D'Amore tries to calm Alexander down and actually pulls it off.

We run down the Multiverse of Matches card.

X-Division Title Match Qualifying Match: Willie Mack vs. Laredo Kid vs. Mike Bailey

We start with a three way lockup before back to back to back hurricanranas leave Bailey and Kid on the floor. Mack hits a big running flip dive and we take a break. Back with Mack chopping Bailey down but he's right back up with the rapid fire kicks. A right hand puts Bailey on the floor though, only to have Kid hit a springboard corkscrew dive.

Back in and Kid's frog splash gets two on Bailey but Mack hits Kid with a pop up right hand. The Samoan drop into the standing moonsault hits Bailey for two so Mack hits a Razor's Edge (with pose) on Kid. Bailey makes the save and a double cover gets a double two. Kid is sent outside though and the Ultimate Weapon finishes Mack at 10:06.

**Rating:** C+. They know the formula that works here and it was on display here too. What matters here is getting the audience warmed up and they did rather well with this one. Bailey seems to be the next big project for the X-Division and it wouldn't shock me to see him leave Rebellion with the title. Mack and Kid will be fine with the loss, though it would be nice to see

them both win something.

Bullet Club isn't happy with the referee's decision last week so next week they'll face the Motor City Machine Guns again. As for tonight, the Good Brothers are winning the Tag Team Titles, which belong to them.

Mahabali Shera b. Crazy Steve on BTI.

Raj Singh is happy with Shera and pain is promised.

### Steve Maclin vs. Heath

Rhino is here with Heath. Maclin takes him up against the ropes for a shot to the face before going after the eye. That leaves Maclin open to go outside, where he shakes the steps, goes down and grabs his knee. That's enough for Rhino to get ejected, leaving Heath to get caught with a backbreaker. Heath gets tied in the Tree of Woe for the running shoulder and two but Heath gets in some boots to the face. The comeback is on, including an inverted DDT for two. The Wake Up Call is blocked though and Maclin grabs a rollup with feet on the ropes for the pin at 4:51.

**Rating:** D+. The Maclin push continues and while I like that, there wasn't much to be seen here. This was just a step above a squash and there was no way that Heath was going to beat him. I was worried that Maclin would be dropped after his big Team Impact swerve but they have found something else for him here and that is nice to see.

Post match Rhino comes back in to Gore Maclin.

We get the return of All About Me with Tenille Dashwood, complete with Kaleb With A K. To make it more interesting though, he's the host this week! Kaleb With A K asks how she's doing but Dashwood wants to know about his loyalty. He's totally with the Influence but his neck starts hurting and he has to leave.

And now, Locker Room Talk, featuring Kaleb With A K! Dashwood follows him in and again he is asked about his loyalty. He again says he's with the Influence...who want a lie detector test. Show over.

Tomohiro Ishii is at Multiverse of Matches.

Jonah is ready for Ishii and will be his personal kaiju.

Tag Team Titles: Good Brothers vs. Violent By Design

The Brothers are challenging in a lumberjack match, with Joe Doering and Eric Young for the champs. Doering and Gallows get things going because Impact really likes this pairing. Everything breaks down in a hurry with the champs being knocked to the floor. That doesn't last long so it's off to Anderson for the spinebuster to Young and a near fall. Young is back with a neckbreaker for two, allowing Doering to come back in for some choking.

Anderson fights out of a neck crank and a jawbreaker allows the hot tag back to Gallows. The reverse 3D gets two on Young but Doering comes back in to cut things off. A powerslam sets up Young's top rope elbow for two but Gallows comes in for the Magic Killer. Doering offers a distraction though and everything breaks down again. Mike Bennett sneaks in with a low blow and Matt Taven hits the Climax, allowing Young to pin Gallows at 7:26.

**Rating:** C. This feud has been going on long enough now and it makes sense to move on to the Good Brothers vs. Honor No More. The Brothers still aren't interesting but the loss of the titles helps makes things a bit better. I like Honor No More getting something fresh here, as like them or not, the Good Brothers are an upgrade over what the group has been doing.

Tasha Steelz isn't worried about Mickie James and doesn't know why she would leave Savannah Evans in the back for their street fight tonight.

## Eddie Edwards vs. Rocky Romero

The fans are behind Rocky here (shocking) as they grapple up against the ropes. Romero takes him down by the arm but Edwards pops back up for a waistlock. A headlock takeover sends us to a technical off on the mat before some shoulders don't get Romero anywhere. Instead Edwards wins a chop off (not fair as he's wearing a shirt) and they head outside, only to have Romero hit a running hurricanrana off the steps.

We take a break and come back with Romero starting up the Forever Clotheslines. As usual it's false advertising as Edwards breaks it up, only to get pulled into the Diablo armbar. That's broken up so they head outside again, this time with Edwards sending him into the apron over and over. Back in and Romero hits a middle rope tornado DDT before taking him down by the arm. Eddie is tied in the middle rope for a kick to the head but he's able to counter the Sliced bread. A Blue Thunder Bomb gives Eddie two but the running knee is countered into a cross armbreaker. That's countered into a rollup to give Eddie the pin at 12:45.

**Rating:** C+. This was the wrestling style match on the card and they had two guys capable of making it work. Romero is hit and miss for me most of the time but he was on well enough here. At the same time, Edwards needed the win to boost him back up as he is heading in to face Ishii in Dallas. Pretty nice TV match here.

Post match Eddie offers a handshake but then goes after Romero again. Cue Jonathan Gresham for the save and Eddie is cleared out. Romero doesn't seem thrilled but shakes Gresham's hand.

Zicky Dice leaves Swinger's Dungeon, which doesn't seem to be the kind of dungeon Swinger thinks it is. Anyway, next week, it's a Chump Chump Challenge.

Here's what's coming at the Multiverse of Matches and next week.

## Knockouts Title: Mickie James vs. Tasha Steelz

Mickie is challenging in a street fight. They go straight for the slugout to start and go to the floor almost immediately. Mickie gets in a trashcan lid shot to the back to take over and drags Steelz up to the stage. Steelz is tied in a trashcan and rolled down the ramp but Savannah Evans comes in for a cheap shot to drop Mickie.

We take a break and come back with Steelz loading up a bunch of weapons and then throwing a trashcan at Mickie to keep her down. Mickie gets sent face first into a chair in the corner but manages to grab a chair of her own for stereo chair shots. Evans gets up on the apron again and gets powerbombed onto (not through) a table at ringside. That takes too long though and Steelz knocks Mickie onto the table too for the big crash.

Steelz doesn't follow up though and gets hit with a trashcan to cut her off as well. James has to go after Evans again though and Steelz grabs a quick cutter for two. A flapjack onto an open chair drops Steelz, allowing James to go up top for the super Thesz press and another near fall. The MickieDT connects but Evans pulls the referee out at two. Evans gets in to beat on Mickie but here is Chelsea Green with a chair of her own. Green...sits down in the chair and tells them to beat on Mickie. That doesn't take much convincing and Steelz hits a frog splash for the pin to retain at 16:03.

**Rating:** B-. This started good and then kind of fell off by the end. They stopped caring about the weapons and went towards the drama, especially with Green getting involved. That being said, you knew that the Green vs. James explosion was coming sooner or later and Steelz vs. James has been covered. I could have gone with more violence here as they were going at it early but it didn't last in the end.

Post match Chelsea yells at Mickie, who goes after her to start the brawl. Green bails but here is Matt Cardona to hit

Mickie with Radio Silence to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C+. Other than the short Heath vs. Maclin match, I liked this one well enough and they have me wanting to see both of their big upcoming shows. That's the sign of a good show and I'd like to see how much more they can set up Rebellion. Throw in some pretty fine wrestling and this worked out nicely for two hours. Or an hour and twenty fiveish minutes if you're being accurate but close enough.

### Results

Mike Bailey b. Laredo Kid and Willie Mack – Ultimate Weapon to Mack

Steve Maclin b. Heath – Rollup with feet on the ropes

Violent By Design b. Good Brothers – Climax to Gallows

Eddie Edwards b. Rocky Romero – Rollup

Tasha Steelz b Mickie James – Top rope splash

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# Ring Of Honor TV – March 30, 2022 (Best Of Jonathan Gresham Part 2): The World Tour Continues

## Ring Of Honor

Date: March 30, 2022

It's the final show before the relaunch but we might not be seeing anything from the new era for a bit. Until then, we'll have to settle for this second look at World Champion Jonathan Gresham. The first part featured a bunch of stuff from outside of Ring of Honor so maybe we can have some more fun this week. Let's get to it.

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

We pick up where we left off, with Jonathan Gresham introducing us to our next match.

From Defy Wrestling's 5th Anniversary Show on February 12, 2022.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Cody Chhun

Gresham is defending. They shake hands to start and Chhun grabs the wristlock, setting off a chain of reversals. Gresham takes him down but Chhun gets him into a wristlock. That's reversed into a hammerlock on the mat as Gresham is perfectly fine with going technical. Chhun escapes as well and Gresham is impressed and we're clipped to Gresham staying on the arm.

Chhun's arms are wrapped around Gresham's leg for some cranking but Chhun fights up with an armdrag. We're clipped to a fight over some standing armbars before being clipped to Chhun rolling him up for two, setting up a rather rolling



pinfall reversal sequence. They fight over some standing armbars until Chhun gets two off a big forearm. Back up and they run the ropes, only to have Gresham grab a headscissors...and trap the leg for the pin at 8:32 shown.

**Rating:** C+. This was a nice technical display and that's why a promotion brings in Gresham. He has a reputation of being able to go technical with anyone and he did just that here, as Chhun was able to hang in there until Gresham got a clever fall. Gresham seems to be going around the world making overs look good and that was on full display here.

From Bodyslam! Scandi Foundation in Denmark on February 26, 2022.

#### Ring of Honor World Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Emeritus

Gresham is defending and I had to look up his opponent's name. Either way he's a masked man and offers a handshake after slipping out of Gresham's wristlock. We're clipped to Emeritus hitting Diamond Dust but Gresham is back with a German suplex. Emeritus is back with a clothesline for two and we're clipped to Gresham grabbing some rollups for two each. A knee to the face drops Gresham though and Emeritus hits a sliding tornado DDT on the floor.

Back in and an over the back kneeling piledriver drops Gresham for three, though his leg is underneath the rope. We're clipped again to Gresham winning a slugout and grabbing a bunch of rolling cradles for two each. Emeritus tries another rollup but Gresham reverses into a bridging cradle for a VERY close two. Gresham is done with this and grabs an abdominal stretch, setting up some rapid fire elbows to the head for the referee stoppage at 5:19.

**Rating:** C. I wasn't feeling this one as much as Emeritus didn't stand out that much here. What mattered was having Gresham making someone else look good, though there is only so much that you can get out of a character without any kind of a

backstory and not much time to be seen. Not bad, but they did this better in the previous match.

Gresham flipping off the crowd (I think) is blurred out.

From ROH TV, November 4, 2022.

### Pure Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Tracy Williams

For the vacant title. They shake hands to start and Williams towers over him. It's straight to the grappling early on but neither can get a hiptoss. Instead they head outside for a staredown until Williams gets back in and holds the rope open for Gresham. Back in and Williams starts working on the arm but Gresham slips out and we take a break. We come back with no time having elapsed (sweet) and Gresham starting in on Williams' arm to take over for the first time. Williams goes to the ropes to get a breather and then chops Gresham right back down.

A cravate of all things gives Williams two and Gresham has to go to the ropes as well. There's a spear to Williams but he's right back up with a clothesline in the corner. Gresham hits a suplex with Williams popping up again for another chop. A bridging German suplex gets two on Williams and a collision in the corner puts them both on the floor in a heap.

Back in and Williams gets two off a brainbuster, setting up the Crossface to stay on the neck/shoulder. That means a second rope break from Gresham, who is back with a bridging German suplex of his own. Gresham forearms him down for two more but he can't get a Kimura in full. Williams is back up with a piledriver for two, with Gresham using the final rope break. They both need a breather and Gresham pulls him into the Octopus for the sudden tap at 14:37.

**Rating:** B. Well that was sudden. I was expecting this to go closer to half an hour and it didn't even make it to fifteen minutes. That's quite the out of nowhere ending but Gresham

seemed to be the favorite to win the title from the beginning of the tournament so it's hardly a bad idea. It was a setup for a match, but the lack of time brought it down from where it could have been.

And from Final Battle 2021 to wrap it up.

### Ring of Honor World Title: Jonathan Gresham vs. Jay Lethal

For the vacant title, as Bandido is out with Coronavirus. The fans are rather happy with this one as they trade wristlocks to start with no one getting anywhere. A headlock takeover doesn't do much for Lethal either as they're certainly starting technical. Gresham manages to send him outside and catches Lethal with a kick in the arm on the way back in. A headlock takeover with an armtrap keeps Lethal down but Lethal cartwheels into the basement dropkick to get a breather.

Lethal slams him down to work over the back a bit more but Gresham small packages him for two. A slap to the face drops Gresham and a flapjack does it again. It's too early for the Lethal Injection and the Figure Four, as Gresham rolls him up for two more. Another kick to the arm cuts Lethal back down and Gresham needs a breather. They chop it out with Lethal getting the better of things but telling Gresham to chop him again.

A ripcord powerslam plants Gresham again but he catches Lethal on top. What looked to be a superplex is broken up so Lethal tries Hail to the King. Lethal is ready for Gresham's raised knees but can't get the Figure Four either. Instead it's a reverse Regal Roll to set up Hail to the King to give Lethal two more.

Gresham is right back on the arm and grabs a crossface chickenwing. Lethal flips forward for a cutter and they're both down again. That means it's time for the locker room to come out and watch as Gresham hits some running forearms for two each. The arm gives out and Gresham hits another forearm

for two. The Lethal Injection is countered into a rollup for two, setting up the Octopus to make Lethal tap at 15:35.

**Rating:** B. Gresham absolutely had to win here as that is the story that has been set up for months. I can imagine that this would have been the ending whether Bandido had been around or not and that is the right way to go. Gresham has been the workhorse of the company since its return and going with the Pure Rules wrestler as the final shot at the final show is a smart move.

The celebration is on, including Gresham's wife, Jordynne Grace, getting in the ring. Commentary thanks the fans, with Coleman saying "see you in April" to end the night.

Gresham talks about how he will not let honor die. He is tired of people saying he isn't the real World Champion and now he is going to prove it against Bandido at Supercard of Honor.

**Overall Rating:** B-. More good stuff here, but I'm not sure how much more I need to see from Gresham at the moment. We've covered a lot of him already and there isn't much left in the modern era. Still a solid show here, but now they need to move on and open up the vault a bit. Having Gresham around a bit is a very good idea though and that was on display in the last two weeks.

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# NXT UK – April 7, 2022: Again. As Always.

## NXT UK

Date: April 7, 2022

Location: BT Sports Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

It's time for the big title fight as United Kingdom Champion Ilja Dragunov is defending the championship against Roderick Strong. It says a bit that NXT UK has to import challengers for Dragunov, but it isn't like there is anyone around to give Dragunov a run for his money at the moment. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at the title match and makes it feel like a big deal.

Opening sequence.

## Primate vs. Wild Boar

The rest of Symbiosis is here and if Boar wins, he gets to face Eddie Dennis. They go straight to the slugout with Primate getting the better of things for all of a few seconds. Boar takes him down and stomps away before going after Dennis. T-Bone gets in the way and the distraction lets Primate take Boar down. That doesn't last long either though as Boar knocks him into the corner and hits the big reverse Cannonball. T-Bone offers another distraction though and Dennis gets in a chain shot to give Primate the pin at 3:36.

**Rating:** C. This was a storyline advancement match as Boar is going to need some help to fight off Symbiosis and get his hands on Dennis eventually. You don't have these two in there

for a technical match so they didn't bother trying, which is how something like this should go. Not exactly a classic, but it did its thing well enough.

Post match Dennis wraps a collar around Boar's neck and whips him with the chain. Mark Andrews returns from injury though and runs in for the save with a chair.

This week, Sam Gradwell arrived at the Performance Center but found maggots in his bag. Gradwell blames Kenny Williams but has he checked with Bray Wyatt?

Die Familie is at their apartment and Charlie Dempsey is ready to make Wolfgang tap. Dempsey warns Teoman to be ready for his match with A-Kid but Teoman doesn't seem scared.

Dave Mastiff and Jack Starz are training together when Gallus comes in to get in their faces. A match seems to be set.

### Wolfgang vs. Charlie Dempsey

Rohan Raja is here with Dempsey. Feeling out process to start with Dempsey grabbing a cravate. Wolfgang suplexes his way to freedom and starts working on an armbar to keep Dempsey down. That's countered with a choke and they slug it out with Dempsey's running shoulders not really working. Instead he goes after Wolfgang's leg to put Wolfgang back in trouble, setting up an armbar.

Make that an armbar with a leg crank, at least until Wolfgang punches his way to freedom. Back up and the uppercut it out until Wolfgang hits a top rope ax handle. Dempsey knees him down and goes for the leg again, setting up a knee to the back of the knee. That doesn't last long either as Wolfgang fights up and grabs a suplex. The spear is loaded up but the Eye of Teoman appears on the screen. That's enough of a distraction for Dempsey to grab a bridging butterfly suplex for the pin at 7:20.

**Rating:** C+. There is something so fun about seeing Dempsey tie people up and that is what he did again here. Wolfgang has come a good way too as I didn't think much of him when he started and now he is a perfectly competent singles guy here. Gallus' issues continue, but the question is if they go heel again as a result. I'm not sure if one is better than the other, but I wouldn't be surprised.

Meiko Satomura is a champion without a championship but she'll remedy that next week.

Kenny Williams knows nothing about the maggots in Sam Gradwell's bag. Then he finds a note saying keep watching your back. Williams yells at whoever left the note, saying come out and they can do this right now.

Xia Brookside is happy to have won her match against Amale with a little help from her daddy and her new friend Eliza Alexander. Eliza is debuting next week and promises to batter someone.

Sid Scala has Moustache Mountain and Ashton Smith/Oliver Carter in his office and promises to settle things. In two weeks, it's a 2/3 falls match and the teams are down.

Wolfgang wants to know where the Coffey Brothers were. They say it won't happen again but Wolfgang is still annoyed.

United Kingdom Title: Roderick Strong vs. Ilja Dragunov

Dragunov is defending. They fight over a lockup to start until Strong takes him down into an armbar. With that broken up, Strong has to duck a spinning backfist to the head but Dragunov avoids a jumping knee. An exchange of chops fire each of them up even more, with Dragunov getting the better of things. Dragunov misses a running headbutt though and falls outside, allowing Strong to stomp away.

We hit the armbar back inside and Dragunov can't roll out of

it. A shoulder breaker sets up another armbar but Dragunov is back up with some hard chops. Dragunov's charge is countered into a backbreaker (you knew that was coming) for two and the armbar goes on again. That's broken up as well and Dragunov hits a running kick to the head. Strong has to kick his way out of a kneebar so Dragunov switches to a Brock Lock.

Another kick to the bad arm breaks that up though and they're both down. With the grappling not working, Dragunov rolls some German suplexes but the bad arm gives out, leaving them both down again. Back up and the threat of Torpedo Moscow sends Strong outside but he pulls Dragunov out with him.

The half nelson slam sends Dragunov into the steps for two back inside. A backbreaker onto the top turnbuckle rocks Dragunov again but he kicks out anyway. Some more forearms stagger Dragunov but he manages some jumping enziguris. Dragunov strikes away but Strong hits the jumping knee...which Dragunov shrugs off and hits Torpedo Moscow to retain at 14:39.

**Rating:** B. Of course this was good, as Dragunov is one of the most consistently interesting people around, but I could go for him having a match without focusing on his arm. I don't think Strong was meant to be a serious threat to the title here but they did a nice job of making you believe that Dragunov was in some trouble. At least until he shrugged off the jumping knee and hit his finisher for the win.

Replays and celebrations wrap us up.

**Overall Rating:** B-. Strong main event to go with some stuff being set up for the future. This was a slightly better than usual NXT UK, which continues to be nice and steady. That's all it needed to be and it worked out just fine again. They already have the next two title matches set up and I want to see how both matches go. Nice job. Again. As always.



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# Main Event – April 7, 2022: By The Textbook

## Main Event

Date: April 7, 2022

Location: American Airlines Center, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Kevin Patrick, Byron Saxton

It's the final show of Wrestlemania weekend and since I was in the house, I might as well take a quick look. Main Event has never meant much of anything but it can do a decent job of warming the crowd up. Granted I don't know how much the post Wrestlemania crowd needs firing up but it's kind of a tradition. Let's get to it.

Note that I was in the arena for this show, sitting in the upper deck and looking down at the edge of the stage, with the ring to my left and the Titantron to my right.

We open with a long recap of Wrestlemania.

Opening sequence.

Apollo Crews vs. Craig Leslie

Of note: Crews, who has Commander Azeez with him, has a line in his theme song talking about how he did all this on his own and had no one in his corner. Crews starts fast with a clothesline and we're already off to the neck crank. The slingshot hilo gets two and we're already off to the chinlock. Back up and a dropkick lets Crews pose, setting up another chinlock. Leslie fights up and hits a right hand, setting up a monkey flip for two. Crews has had it and hits a Samoan drop for the pin at 3:49.

Rating: C-. Pretty much just a squash here and that is fine enough. They didn't waste time and had Crews run over the local jobber without much trouble. Granted it means absolutely nothing because it is the opening match on Main Event, but Crews getting to showcase his power and athleticism is a good thing.

Post match Azeez beats up Leslie.

From Raw.

Here is Cody Rhodes, rising through the stage again and walking down a short ramp, to get things going. Cody takes his time getting to the ring and the fans seem happy to see him, though it doesn't come across as well as it did in the arena. Cody: "So...what do you guys want to talk about?" Forty seven days ago, he became a free agent and has kept silent since then. Rhodes made the decision to return to WWE and it was never a hard choice. It's a great story of the returning star and he is glad to be back.

He is an avid reader and he stumbled upon this quote: "Sometimes a man finds his destiny upon the path to avoid it."

Rhodes puts up a photo of his dad holding the WWF Title in Madison Square Garden from September 26, 1977. That is the same title that Hulk Hogan (boo), Undertaker (yay), Shawn Michaels (yay) and HHH (also yay) among others have held over the years. Rhodes talks about how this photo was on the mantle in his parents' bedroom until his father's last day.

One day when he was a kid, he asked his dad about being a champion like Hulk Hogan. His dad got serious and explained the championship advantage, meaning that since he won by countout, he didn't take the belt (yes belt) home with him. That made eight year old Cody decide he was going to win the title for his father.

That hasn't happened yet and that Dream died right in front of him. Now though, he wants to claim his dream again and his intentions are clear. Rhodes is going to do it for his friends, his fans, and for the American Dream. Cue Seth Rollins to interrupt and they shake hands, with Rollins being very happy and mouthing what commentary says is "welcome home".

This was a big moment for Cody, but the important point here is that it made sense. Cody didn't go onto any weird tangent and got his point across (with some impressive sounding words). I can go with the idea, though a Rollins rematch might be on tap first. Good stuff here, and the fans were into Cody. I'm not sure if that lasts beyond Wrestlemania weekend, but it's a good start.

From Raw.

Here is Edge for a big chat. Edge says he is an honest man. He knew he would beat AJ Styles but he didn't know Damian Priest would come out to help him. Edge knew that these people would be sheep just like he said they would. Fans: "WE ARE SHEEP!" Edge: "Very telling idiots." The fans need to rise for the man who respects Edge's message and the punishment for the guilty:

Damian Priest.

After a handshake, Edge asks what got through to Priest over the last few weeks. The fans say they don't care, but Priest says that doesn't bother him anymore. Priest says he spent a long time trying to please everyone else, but that made it so easy to pledge his loyalty to Edge. They came to their new reality at the same time, which leads Edge to AJ Styles. He wanted the pitbull AJ Styles and that's what he got. The thing with pitbulls is that they pick fight over flight, but AJ needs to think of his family.

Cue Styles for the brawl, including taking out Priest and sending Edge into the post. Styles grabs some chairs but Priest gets up, allowing Edge to take Styles down. The Conchairto is loaded up but referees and agents make the save. I can go with the feud continuing, especially if Priest and Edge bring in some friends to uneven the odds even further.

From Raw.

### Dominik Mysterio vs. Miz

Rey Mysterio is here with Dominik, who gets hit with the Skull Crushing Finale for the pin at 26 seconds. Ok then.

Post match here is Veer Mahaan to lay out the Mysterios, including a cross between the Gargano Escape and a camel clutch to Dominik as Rey crawled over to try and save him.

We look at the Steve Austin/Vince McMahon/Austin Theory/Pat McAfee deal from Wrestlemania.

### T-Bar vs. Shelton Benjamin

Cedric Alexander is here with Shelton. They fight over a lockup to start with T-Bar powering him into the corner. Benjamin's headlock doesn't work very well but a jumping elbow to the face certainly does. T-Bar gets knocked to the floor where Shelton jumps him off a Cedric distraction. Back in and

a top rope clothesline gives Shelton two but T-Bar kicks him to the floor.

We take a break and come back with T-Bar holding a chinlock and elbowing Benjamin in the face. T-bar stomps in the corner and we're right back to the chinlock. Benjamin fights up again and we get a double knockdown. A backdrop has T-Bar in trouble and a suplex is countered into a neckbreaker. T-bar grabs a Death Valley Driver but Benjamin is back with a knee. Paydirt gives Benjamin the pin at 10:39.

**Rating:** C+. That's on the Main Event sliding scale of course and that is a great thing to see. What matters most is they had some people out there who can wrestle a fun match and leave you wondering who was going to win. Even if it is just a little drama, I'll take it over another squash where you're just waiting on the inevitable.

From Raw.

Here is MVP for a chat. MVP praises Bobby Lashley for beating Omos on his own and brings out Lashley for his celebration. Lashley brags about beating the biggest and strongest opponent he has ever faced. He knew he had to wait for Omos to make a mistake and that is exactly what happened. Cue Omos to shout that he wants a rematch...and MVP turns on Lashley to help Omos beat him down. There's a twist and it makes sense, as Lashley is a face anyway and doesn't need someone to talk for him.

From Raw to wrap it up.

Here is the Bloodline for the big show closing as they take their time getting to the ring. Roman Reigns says he knows why the people are here but wants Paul Heyman to explain the Bloodline's success. Heyman lists off the team's accomplishments, with a focus on Reigns' box office successes of course. Reigns calls himself the last needle mover because he is always operating at the highest level. He isn't hanging his hat on this weekend because he is constantly moving

forward. This Friday on Smackdown, you'll find out the next step. Until then, acknowledge him. End of show.

That's an interesting way to go, as they didn't really say anything. Maybe they have something planned for Smackdown, but this was ten minutes to say "Reigns won, he's great, see you Friday." I'm not sure if that means anything, but it's quite the wait for nothing substantial.

**Overall Rating:** C. Yep it's still Main Event and there isn't much of a reason to stick around with it. This was just a one off show and there is nothing wrong with that. There is nothing wrong with taping the preshow matches and it worked out well enough, but it's the definition of completely skippable.

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