

Smackdown – February 16, 2007: The Star Studded Commercial

Smackdown

Date: February 16, 2007

Location: KeyArena, Seattle, Washington

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield

It's the go home show for No Way Out, which really needs to wrap up already so we can move on to the stuff that matters. This show has been working pretty well as of late and a lot of that is due to focusing a bit more on wrestling than anything else. Now just make me care about the pay per view. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Commentary runs down the show, which will feature John Cena/Shawn Michaels and Rated-RKO as guest stars for some special tag matches. Dang I love it when the Brand Split is just ignored for the Road to Wrestlemania.

Finlay vs. Boogeyman

Finlay jumps him from behind to start fast and sends Boogeyman into various things on the floor. They get inside for the opening bell and Finlay pounds him down in the corner. The chinlock goes on, followed by a clothesline to drop Boogeyman again. Finlay finally gets sent outside though and the comeback is on.

Back in and a running shoulder in the corner...is about it for Boogeyman, as Finlay clotheslines him in the back of the head. Finlay goes for the Shillelagh so the referee yells at him,

allowing the Leprechaun to come in. As you might have guessed, the Little Boogeyman debuts to take the Leprechaun down. Finlay is a bit confused so Boogeyman hits him in the ribs with his staff for the pin.

Rating: D+. So now there's a Little Boogeyman as this is turning more and more into a Doink style deal. It does kind of fit in a way and I can go for something different, mainly because they are keeping this goofy stuff to one segment for the most part. I'm not sure how much more of it I can take, but at least it isn't spreading.

Last night on Raw, Vince McMahon meets Donald Trump face to face. And on and on too.

Brian Kendrick vs. Deuce

Of note: the previously announced four way ladder match for the titles has been changed to Deuce and Domino getting a solo title shot. So at least they've got the right idea. Paul London, Domino and Cherry are all here. Deuce drives him into the corner to start so Kendrick fights out, only to get dropped with a clothesline.

We're already in a seated abdominal stretch to keep Kendrick down, followed by a big boot and another seated abdominal stretch to keep things interesting. Kendrick fights up again and makes the comeback, including a bunch of kicks to put him down. The running shooting star gets two so Kendrick goes up, meaning it's time for the Cherry distraction. Domino shoves Kendrick off the top and Deuce kicks him in the face for the pin.

Rating: D+. I think WWE understands what they have with Deuce and Domino, as they have been treated as a big deal since they debuted. London and Kendrick's time seems to be over and that's ok after such a long and successful run with the titles. The title change should happen at the pay per view, but WWE has gotten screwy with things before.

It's time for a special feature as we have King Booker And Queen Sharmell At The Movies. This week they are looking at See No Evil on DVD, but Kane is not evil. No, he is someone who will be vanquished at No Way Out. They look at the clip of Kane attacking people and crack up, with Booker saying he would have been better in the role. We see King Booker wielding an ax against everyone, which is a lot funnier than it sounds.

Then the lights go red and Kane's voice says there will be no way out on Sunday. The curtain is torn back with Kane appearing to scare off Booker and Sharmell. See, this was a good idea, as they actually used something going on and turned it into a unique way to build a feud. Why is that so hard for everyone else?

Clips of the eight man tag from Raw.

John Cena needs to make sure that Shawn Michaels has his back tonight. Of course Michaels does, because nothing can happen to him until Wrestlemania. Now that's interesting.

John Cena/Shawn Michaels vs. Mr. Kennedy/MVP

Non-title. Kennedy takes Shawn into the corner for a clean break to start but gets pulled down into a headlock takeover. Cena comes in for a hiptoss into an elbow for two but it's off to MVP to take over. The villains start taking turns on Cena for all of about ten seconds before he gets over to Shawn for the hot tag. Cena saves Shawn from a cheap shot from MVP and there's Shawn's big dive to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Cena getting two off the release fisherman's suplex to Kennedy. Michaels comes back in to work on the arm as JBL goes on a rant about Teddy Long being anti-Smackdown. Kennedy low bridges Shawn out to the floor and now it's time for the real beating to begin. Shawn tries to fight out of the corner but gets sent into it instead.

That means Kennedy can kick him in the face a few times, followed by more of the same from MVP. It's already back to Kennedy for the chinlock, followed by the Regal Roll. The Kenton Bomb misses though and now it's back to Shawn to clean house. Kennedy tries to bring in a chair but gets superkicked down, leaving MVP to walk into the FU for the pin.

Rating: C. This was about setting up the new normal, or at least the new temporary normal, between Michaels and Cena. They are going to have to get used to being together as a team and that could make for something interesting. Kennedy and MVP are more guys who have lost so many times that one more is not going to really hurt them, so this was a fine use of about twenty minutes.

Things are cool post match.

Krystal is in Teddy Long's office where she isn't sure what to do for the talent show on Sunday (because a WWE pay per view is featuring a talent show). Jillian comes in to say she wants to rap on Sunday, which seems to give Krystal her idea for Sunday: stripping. We even get a demonstration.

Dusty Rhodes Hall of fame package. That's about as overdue as you can get.

Bobby Lashley comes in to see Teddy Long, though Krystal has to leave them alone first. Cue Mr. Kennedy to say he wants an ECW Title shot at No Way Out because he is a singles wrestler. Lashley tells Long to set it up.

Here is Ashley to recap her life (she went to college, then she became a WWE Diva). With that out of her way, she reveals the Playboy cover. This takes less than three minutes total, though JBL and Cole talking about how much they couldn't wait to get the magazine was pretty disturbing.

Long video on Vince McMahon vs. Donald Trump from Raw.

Scotty 2 Hotty vs. Gregory Helms

Non-title. Helms jumps him before the bell and the beatdown is on in a hurry, including some choking on the ropes. Scotty fights up and slugs away, setting up a backdrop. The bulldog sets up the Worm but here is Daivari to jump Scotty for the DQ (which isn't how you spell Worm).

Post match the rest of the cruiserweights run in for the brawl as Helms escapes with the title.

Maryse, in a tub with Big Dick Johnson, welcomes us back to the show.

No Way Out rundown.

Rated-RKO seems ready for the main event.

Video on Rey Mysterio, who is back next week.

Batista/Undertaker vs. Rated-RKO

Undertaker and Edge start things off with Old School being countered in a hurry, but Undertaker armdrags him down to counter the counter. The second Old School connects and Batista comes in to clean house as we take a break. Back with Batista driving Edge into the apron but Orton grabs the backbreaker on the floor to cut him off. Edge adds a baseball slide and it's back inside so Orton can stomp away.

The chinlock goes on but Batista is back up with the swinging Boss Man Slam. It's a double tag to bring in Undertaker and Edge but the double chokeslam is broken up. Orton is sent outside again but the referee gets bumped. Snake Eyes into the big boot looks to set up the chokeslam as Orton posts Batista. Orton gets on the apron for a distraction though, allowing Edge to spear Undertaker down.

The Conchairto is loaded up but Undertaker grabs Edge by the throat, only to get hit low by Orton. A chair to the head

drops Undertaker and a new referee (who wasn't watching the cheating but was watching to know that it was time to come down) comes in to count two. Batista comes back in to wreck people as Undertaker sits up. The Batista Bomb drops Orton and a Tombstone finishes Edge.

Rating: C+. This was a pretty good main event, with two major teams making it feel that much bigger. The star power was more than enough to help push this one to another level and it worked well for what they were trying to do. Undertaker and Batista are going to explode in a month and a half so let them get something like this in first.

Post match here are John Cena and Shawn Michaels to take out Undertaker and Batista. The Smackdown guys pull themselves up and glare to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. As usual, star power carries the day here and that's all you could ask for from a show like this. No Way Out is one of the least important shows of the year and the main event is just a commercial for Wrestlemania anyway, but they are getting as much out of it as they can here. The two tag matches made the show feel a lot bigger and for a one off Smackdown, that's about as good as it is getting.

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ECW On Sci Fi – February 13, 2007: Draw Those Battle Lines

ECW on Sci Fi

Date: February 13, 2007

Location: KeyArena, Seattle, Washington

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

It's officially the Snitsky Era as he not only debuted but also attacked ECW World Champion Bobby Lashley last week. I'm not sure what that means for the future of the title, but if Snitsky is as good as they can get, it seems like there might be some trouble. Maybe the rest of the show...never mind. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Bobby Lashley beating Hardcore Holly last week, only to get jumped by Snitsky after the match.

Opening sequence.

Bobby Lashley vs. Hardcore Holly

Non-title but under Extreme Rules. They slug it out to start with Holly bailing to the floor to sucker Lashley in. That's fine with Lashley, who hammers away some more and hits a belly to belly to send Holly flying. It's already table time, but first Lashley needs to slam Holly on the floor. The table takes too long to set up though and Holly blasts Lashley with a clothesline. Holly gets creative (and hated) by putting the table back underneath the ring.

Lashley is fine enough to whip him into the barricade for...whatever the barricade equivalent of a Cactus Clothesline is called. They get back inside, where Holly counters a powerslam by snapping Lashley's neck across the top rope. We take a break and come back with Holly dropping him throat first across the top of an open chair. The chair is kicked into Lashley's face for two and we hit the chinlock.

With that not going anywhere, Holly wedges the chair into the corner...and is promptly sent face first into it. An exploder suplex sends Holly flying again and the torture rack dropped into a backbreaker gets two. Lashley grabs the table again but Holly baseball slides him down first. Back in and the Alabama Slam is countered, setting up the running powerslam in the general area of the chair to give Lashley the pin.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure if there was any serious drama to the result but they had Holly doing his thing by getting in enough violence. Lashley looked like he was in a bit of trouble a few times here and that's about all you could ask for her. They are going to need a new challenger for Lashley sooner rather than later though and that is becoming obvious.

Video on Snitsky.

Extreme Expose, which is cut off by Ariel and Kevin Thorn.

Kevin Thorn/Marquis Cor Von vs. Tommy Dreamer/Sandman

It's a brawl to start with Cor Von sending Sandman into the steps. That leaves Cor Von to hit the Pounds on Dreamer, sending him HARD into the ropes and out to the floor. Back in and we settle down to a regular tag match with Dreamer in trouble, including Cor Von slapping on the neck crank. Back up and Dreamer grabs a neckbreaker but Thorn is right there with an elbow to the back to cut off the tag attempt.

As usual, the tag goes through a few seconds later, allowing Sandman to come in and clean house. What is supposed to be the

Heinekenrana (egads) winds up being more like a super monkey flip to drop Thorn again. Sandman has to take out Cor Von though, allowing Thorn to get in a cane shot for the pin.

Rating: D. The match was nothing, but what mattered the most here was the debut of the New Breed moniker. Having the two sides be the ECW Originals and the New Breed makes the story feel that much bigger. I'm not sure how far it can go, but having two groups with that many people opens up some options. The problem is what kind of matches we might be getting with the Originals involved.

Video on CM Punk.

Bobby Lashley runs into Teddy Long in the back. After an exchange of pleasantries, Long invites him to Smackdown and Lashley says he's in.

CM Punk vs. Mike Knox

They fight over a lockup to start as the fans chant for Punk and commentary talks about Donald Trump vs. Mr. McMahon. Punk wins a battle of the strikes but Knox counters a jump out of the corner into a reverse sitout powerbomb. The cravate goes on for a bit until Punk fights up with a knee to the face. Knox busts out a decent looking dropkick of all things but Punk kicks/hits/punches him in the head. The running knee in the corner sets up the bulldog and the Rock Bottom plants Knox again. The Anaconda Vice makes Knox tap.

Rating: C-. Short and to the point here as Knox's time has come and gone. There isn't anything for this version of him to do around here and it would make sense for him to be little more than a jobber. Punk is on his way to bigger and better things and it was a good choice to have him win a somewhat competitive match here.

Post match Knox rolls out but here is Snitsky to run Punk over. The big boot leaves him laying.

We get the second part of the series on Bobby Lashley. He talks about smelling one of his workout shirts before every match because it takes him back to his training in college. Lashley used to climb a mountain at the US Olympic training center because it represented the struggle, with the scenery at the top as your reward. He wants to be a household name and keep climbing, because there is no limit. These videos are a really good idea because Lashley doesn't have any kind of a personality otherwise.

Sabu/Rob Van Dam vs. Matt Striker/Elijah Burke

Striker hits Sabu in the face to start, earning himself a tornado...and then a stop, followed by a regular DDT. It's off to Van Dam vs. Burke with the fans being WAY into the initials guy. Burke's headlock doesn't get him very far and Van Dam kicks him down. Some finger pointing lets Burke slam him down so it's back to Striker...who is quickly kicked in the face. Sabu comes back in for some shots of his own but a blind tag brings in Burke to take over.

A few knees in the corner set up a chinlock, followed by Striker coming in, slipping, and then hitting a running boot in the corner. Sabu fights out of another Burke chinlock in a hurry and it's back to Van Dam to clean house. Everything breaks down and Sabu is dropped face first onto the apron. Van Dam hits a big running flip dive onto Striker, leaving Sabu to miss...something, but he lands on Burke anyway. Not that it matters as Burke rolls him up for the pin with feet on the ropes.

Rating: D+. This was a pretty flat match and the ending wasn't exactly smooth. There is something to be said about having the New Breed win again though as it looks like they are a threat, even if it was a bit more about capitalizing on Sabu screwing up. Van Dam was trying, but there is only so much that one person can do in a pretty short match like this one.

The New Breed comes out to celebrate to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. This show started off well with the Lashley vs. Holly match but then it started to fall down in a hurry. The Originals vs. New Breed story should help, but Lashley still needs an opponent and the rest of the show needs a few more angles up and down. Overall the show isn't the worst, but it needs a good deal of work to bring it up a few notches.

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Slammiversary 2021 Preview

There is something cool about the idea of an anniversary show. If nothing else, it reminds you just how long a promotion has been around, which can often be lost when you don't think about it very often. Impact Wrestling has somehow been around nineteen years this month and it very well may be around for a lot longer to come. They tend to make the most of their

anniversary shows so maybe there is some optimism here. The fans are back in person too so let's get to it.

Pre-Show: Knockouts Tag Team Titles: Fire N Flava(c) vs. Rosemary/Havok

It's another thrown together team challenging for the titles but at least there is a theme this time. Fire N Flava have been together for a good while now and feel like they have held the titles for the better part of ever, so it is certainly time for some fresh blood in there. Granted that has been the case several times before as Impact has yet to pull a trigger that lasts.

We'll go with a title change to start things off hot. The pre-show is often where you put a change like this so maybe they have something here. It's an idea that has worked before and Rosemary/Havok winning the titles would be a nice moment. Just go with something fun to energize the crowd in their first match back. It has worked before and it can work here too.

Matt Cardona/??? vs. Tenille Dashwood/Brian Myers

We might as well start with this one as it is going to be the underlying theme of the show: a bunch of people coming over from WWE. The idea here is a mixed tag and the tease is that Cardona's partner is a "hot mess". Assuming no shenanigans, you should know what that means and it could make for a fun moment, though I'm not sure how long such a change would last.

Since this should be an easy one, I'll take Cardona and Chelsea Green/Laurel Van Ness. They're engaged to be married so putting them together in a mixed tag match should be pretty much a layup. Green never got a chance in WWE and it would make sense to have her go back to the place where she had her greatest success. I'm not sure if she is going to stick around, but for a one off moment, it should work out well.

Eddie Edwards vs. W. Morrissey

Awful name aside, Impact has done a heck of a job with Morrissey, who has gone from a cross between a joke and a cautionary tale to a pretty good power monster. That is hard to do but they have managed to pull it off, so well done with the career rehab. Morrissey has done his part as well and I'm curious to see what is going to happen when he has his first major match.

When I say curious, I mean how well will his first win go, as Morrissey should win here in pretty dominant fashion. Edwards knows how to make a comeback and get the fans behind him, but ultimately this is going to be Morrissey dominating and then winning in the end with Edwards getting in a few flurries. That's how it should be, as Edwards has been a made man in Impact for years now.

Knockouts Title: Deonna Purrazzo(c) vs. ???

This is one of those where it is hard to make a pick because I don't even know what to expect. It could be just about anyone who used to be in WWE, or someone we haven't seen before, or someone from Impact's past. That leaves you with quite a few options and it could go in a bunch of directions. I'm not sure what to do with this because it isn't an easy pick to make, so a guessing we will go.

I'll take.....oh why not Mickie James to return and win the title. James is certainly a legend and she was teased for a return a few weeks ago. It isn't like there are that many big names available for Impact, and it would be weird to have someone come in as a mystery opponent for a title shot and lose. The new reign might not last long, but it would be a good spot for James to return and put Purrazzo over down the line.

Chris Sabin vs. Moose

Here we have a grudge match as Impact squeezes everything they can out of the Motor City Machine Guns. Sabin is indeed a

former World Champion and a tag team legend, but this feels like a heck of a downgrade for Moose, who was challenging for the World Title last month. Moose seems ready to be at the top of the company, but that has been the case for years now so it isn't like anything changes.

Of course I'll take Moose here because why in the world would you take Sabin? Moose needs a rebound win and it isn't like Sabin has been a singles star in the better part of ever anyway. Much like Morrissey vs. Edwards earlier, Sabin gets in some offense before losing to the monster with the (maybe) brighter future. It's an easy match and story to set up and the people are talented enough to make the execution work.

X-Division Title: Josh Alexander(c) vs. Petey Williams vs. Chris Bey vs. Trey Miguel vs. Ace Austin vs. Rohit Raju

We'll continue the theme of matches where you cannot begin to guess who is going to win with any certainty as this is the Ultimate X mess. It is a great way to get the title off of someone who is ready to be rocketed up the card, but at the same time, a champion retaining here is considered a huge feather in their cap (or headgear in Alexander's case). It could go in a lot of ways and that is good....I think.

That being said, I'll throw in a bit of a curve here and say Bey wins. He has been featured multiple times in the build to the match and other than Alexander has stood out more than anyone else in recent weeks. I'm not sure about this whatsoever, but at least there is something here to get the crowd hyped. Alexander may very well retain, but he seems ready to move on to the main event scene.

Tag Team Titles: Violent By Design(c) vs. Good Brothers vs. Rich Swann/Willie Mack vs. Fallah Bahh/???

Now this has some possibilities, as they have a few different ways to go. Violent By Design is getting a big push, but I could easily see then non-Bahh teams walking out with the

titles. That makes things all the more interesting and hopefully Impact goes with something that keeps the interest going. That does not necessarily mean a title change, but I don't think I would be complaining about one.

As much as I want to take Swann and Mack to win here, ultimately I think the titles go back to the Good Brothers because...well because they need to do something to validate their existence on two shows. The team is going to be every bit as annoying as they were before, but they are treated as the biggest team in Impact today and it would make sense to put the gold back on them. Oh and since TJP is out, we'll go with Hernandez as Bahh's partner. Why Hernandez? Eh why not?

Impact Wrestling World Title: Kenny Omega(c) vs. Sami Callihan

That leaves us with this as the Omega Saga continues. Omega is the World Champion of what feels like everything outside of WWE these days and now he gets to defend his second most well known title. Callihan has been treated as the big threat to the title in the last few weeks and Omega seems a bit shaken by what is waiting on him. Your tastes on Callihan may vary, but they have made him feel like a real threat to the title.

I'm still going to take Omega to retain though, as I think it's too soon for Omega to start dropping titles. He is coming up on the title defense against Hangman Page (unofficially but come on) and I can't imagine him taking a loss before we get to that one. Omega needs to be seen as invincible heading into that match and AEW has done a good job of making that the case so far. Dropping this title to Callihan isn't what is best for AEW and ultimately, that is what is going to matter.

Overall Thoughts

While nothing really jumps off the page here, I'm interested enough by what they are offering to make this show intriguing. It is ultimately going to come down to how well the matches are executed and who they have coming in as a surprise, but

this could wind up being another quality Slammiversary. If they can avoid the post-Slammiversary decline from last year, we could be in for the start of something good around here.

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Daily News Update – July 17, 2021

The Busy Weekend Is Here.

Not So Fast: WWE Changes Upcoming SmackDown. July 16, 2021.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-changes-upcoming-smackdown/>

Former WWE World Champion Makes Surprise SmackDown Return. July 16, 2021.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/former-world-champion-makes-surprise-smackdown-return/>

Two Surprising Names Take Part In SmackDown Dark Match. July

17, 2021.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/two-surprising-names-take-part-smackdown-dark-match/>

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New Title Match Added To WWE Money In The Bank. July 17, 2021.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/new-title-match-added-money-bank/>

VIDEO: Vince McMahon's Special SmackDown Opening. July 17, 2021.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-vince-mcmahons-special-smackdown-opening/>

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-alberto-del-rios-explosive-allegations-paige/>

WATCH: Emotional Moment After This Week's SmackDown. July 17, 2021.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-emotional-moment-weeks-smackdown/>

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Smackdown – July 16, 2021: We're Back (A Smackdown Story)

Smackdown

Date: July 16, 2021

Location: Toyota Center, Houston, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Pat McAfee

They're back. In something that I've been waiting to say for well over a year now, we are FINALLY back on the road with a show outside of Florida for the first time since last March. It's also the go home show for Money in the Bank, meaning we might be in for some last minute surprises. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a special video showing great crowd reactions throughout WWE history, ranging from Hogan slamming Andre to Austin to the modern era. Since this is a WWE history package, it is quite awesome and worth seeing just for the feel of it all.

There are PEOPLE here!

The new set seems to be little more than just a big screen.

We start big with Vince McMahon himself coming out for a chat. Vince: "WHERE THE H*** HAVE YOU BEEN???" End of appearance.

Edge/Rey Mysterio/Dominik Mysterio vs. Usos/Roman Reigns

Reigns gets a rather high pitched pop while Edge gets a MONSTER pop. Jey jumps Edge from behind to start but gets

caught with a flapjack. Jimmy comes in and gets armdragged by Rey, setting up a double springboard moonsault from Dominik. That's about it for Dominik as Jimmy sends him into the corner and hands it off to Reigns, who pulls Dominik outside.

Back in and Reigns gets two with a hand on Dominik's face. They head outside again and this time it's a powerbomb onto the announcers' table to send us to a break. Back with Dominik hitting a DDT on Jey and bringing Edge back in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Edge spears Reigns on the floor. The 619 connects but a rollup only gives Rey two. Instead, Jey gets in a cheap shot and Jimmy grabs his own rollup for the pin at 8:45.

Rating: B-. I'm kind of torn on this one as it boosts up the Tag Team Title match, but having the heels go over in the first match back with fans is quite the strange choice. It wasn't Edge losing to Reigns so it isn't the worst idea or anything, but they might have wanted to go in a different direction.

Post match the Usos jump the Mysterios but Edge is back in with a chair. Reigns Superman Punches him and grabs the chair but takes too long breaking the bar off. Edge is back up with a spear and the Crossface with the bar makes Reigns tap (as Cole reads his copy about how Reigns might tap on Sunday).

Post break, Edge talks about how he made Reigns tap and how he is going to need to do everything he can to take the title. Seth Rollins pops up behind him to laugh, saying he is going to be Edge's biggest fan on Sunday. Rollins is going to finish what he started years ago when he had his boot on Edge's neck and crush him once and for all.

Here is Sami Zayn to say the lights and new set are all just a distraction from the conspiracy against him. For over a year, WWE has tried to hold him down with a conspiracy but now he will have the people in his corner. Sami can't get a JUSTICE

FOR SAMI chant going for him but he isn't surprised by a bunch of Texas fans. If there was justice, he would be handed the Money In The Bank briefcase right now. This show is not going anywhere until he gets his justice...but here is the returning Finn Balor to cut him off. Sami welcomes him back to the show and is promptly beaten down. The Coup de Grace lets Balor pose after a nice surprise.

Video on Apollo Crews.

Nox/Shotzi vs. Tamina/Natalya

Non-title with Zelina Vega/Liv Morgan on commentary. Nox gets knocked off the apron to start, leaving Shotzi to get beaten down in the corner. The beating continues as Vega and Morgan won't stop bickering. Shotzi gets over for the tag off to Nox to clean house as Vega and Morgan get in a fight. The Shiniest Wizard gets two on Natalya as Vega is thrown inside. Natalya can't get the Sharpshooter as Nox small packages her for the pin at 3:23.

Rating: C-. We continue to wait on what should be an obvious title change, which makes me wonder what the point was in having NXT Women's Tag Team Titles in the first place. Other than that, Vega and Morgan dragged this WAY down by not shutting up for the entire match. That was the focus here instead of the new team and it was really distracting.

Post match Nox and Shotzi leave as everyone else brawls at ringside, with Morgan standing tall.

Women's Title: Bianca Belair vs. Carmella

Belair is defending and gets a rather strong reaction. A running shoulder puts Carmella down to start but she sends Belair hard into the corner for two. That earns Carmella a running shoulder into the ribs but she manages to post Bianca and we take a break. Back with Belair grabbing a suplex for two and going up, only to have to block what looked like a

Stratusphere attempt.

A super hurricanrana brings Belair down for two instead and we hit the pinfall reversal sequence. Carmella grabs a guillotine choke but Belair powers her up for another suplex for two more. With nothing else working, Carmella grabs the hair and takes Belair outside for a whipping. Back in again and Carmella misses the superkick, setting up the hair whip. The KOD retains the title at 11:04.

Rating: C. This was a good way to get Belair in front of a crowd and the reaction was worth the wait. Carmella wasn't going to be a huge challenger and it was fine to have her out there in a completely acceptable match. Now Smackdown can build up someone else for Belair, though I'm really not sure who that can be outside of bringing someone back in.

Chad Gable talks about how the Alpha Academy is getting used to having everyone be scared of Otis. Tonight he is going to beat Cesaro and they can smell the fear. Cue Cesaro, to say that all he smells is bull from Otis, who beat shim down as a result.

Toni Storm is here next week.

Otis vs. Cesaro

Chad Gable is here with Otis and both guys get quick highlight packages during their entrances. Otis hammers away to start and slugs at the ribs that were banged up before the break. Cesaro slugs back but Gable comes in for the DQ at 1:07.

Post match Cesaro hits the pop up uppercut but Otis breaks up the Swing. The Vader Bomb crushes Cesaro again.

We look at Edge taking out Roman Reigns earlier.

Paul Heyman talks about how Roman Reigns is going to destroy Edge but Big E. comes in

Here is King Corbin for a video on how everything has fallen apart for him. Things have gotten so bad that he might have to give up his house and move in with his wife's parents. His daughter has to eat spaghetti in a can instead of Ragu beef! He has opened a crowd funding website and all he needs is \$100,000. Cue Kevin Owens, with Corbin saying he knows Owens has money and can help him. It's not like Owens spends money on his wardrobe or anything. That means a Stunner and it's time for the main event. Corbin FINALLY having the tables turned on him is a nice change of pace and long overdue.

Kevin Owens vs. Shinsuke Nakamura vs. Big E. vs. Seth Rollins

The ring is surrounded by ladders. They start fast with the parade of dives and it's off to an early break. Back with Big E. hitting the Big Ending on Nakamura with Rollins making the save. The ladder is brought in but Rollins heads to the floor. Owens puts Nakamura onto the announcers' table for a HUGE elbow, leaving them both down (and taking out a cameraman as well). Back in and Big E. runs Rollins over but a rake to the eyes breaks up the Big Ending. The Stomp onto the ladder finishes Big E. at 8:01.

Rating: C+. What the heck was that? I'm going to assume they ran out of time here as this was an eight minute match with a commercial in the middle. The match itself was very energized and I'd rather they didn't have some big fifteen minute match which has no bearing on Sunday at all. Let Rollins win and build momentum so we can get to the ladder match and move on.

Rollins pulls down the briefcase to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. This show gave me a bit of an NXT vibe, as they didn't try to do anything huge and just covered what they needed to cover. That is a good formula for something like this as I would much, much rather have them put on a nice, solid show than shoot for the moon and blow up on launch. Nothing on here was terribly bad, there were enough things to

keep me interested, and Balor was a cool moment. Throw in the fans losing their minds and this was a good Friday night.

Results

Roman Reigns/Usos b. Rey Mysterio/Dominik Mysterio/Edge – Rollup to Rey

Nox/Shotzi b. Natalya/Tamina – Small package to Natalya

Bianca Belair b. Carmella – KOD

Cesaro b. Otis via DQ when Chad Gable interfered

Seth Rollins b. Kevin Owens, Shinsuke Nakamura and Big E. – Stomp onto a ladder to Big E.

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NXT UK – July 15, 2021: The Disappointing Part

NXT UK

Date: July 15, 2021

Location: BT Studios, London, England

Commentators: Andy Shepherd, Nigel McGuinness

It's a double title week as both the Heritage Cup and Women's Title are on the line. That alone should be enough for a huge show, but it is also time to hype up the United Kingdom Title match for next week, which should be a candidate for match of the year. This show has a tendency to be good lately so maybe they can keep that up here. Let's get to it.

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

In Memory Of Paul Orndorff.

Opening sequence.

HHH joins us to hype up Walter vs. Ilja Dragunov II for the United Kingdom Title next week. Walter has been champion for over 800 days but Dragunov is an enigma. NXT UK is proud to present it and it is going to be amazing.

We go to the ring, with Walter and Dragunov set up for a press conference. First up is Alex McCarthy from talkSport, who asks if Walter thinks his title reign is under threat. That's a no, because Walter is here for the long term. It's true that Dragunov is an amazing athlete but he doesn't have the mental capacity to reach his level. Ace from BBC1 Radio asks what Dragunov has learned since his defeat in their first match.

Dragunov talks about how the loss was tough and has hurt him mentally. He lost control because he wasn't ready to be at this level, but now he is prepared. Aleister McGeorge from Metro asks what we can expect next week. Dragunov promises violence and calls Walter violent, which is too far for the champ. Walter talks about how he redefines wrestling every time he gets in the ring and calls Dragunov a fraud. Yes Dragunov is fantastic, but he isn't on Walter's level.

Dragunov won't look at Walter, which is enough to draw him to his feet for a long rant. With Walter yelling, Dragunov says he thought it was enough last time but, while holding back tears, he admits it wasn't. All Dragunov feels is hate and now

they both stand up. Dragunov hates Walter for turning him into this and wants to take it out on him. Next week, Dragunov will break him and walk out with the title or not walk out at all. Heavy breathing ensues to wrap up an awesome segment, though the questions and stuff didn't need to be there. Dragunov was awesome here and I want to see the match a lot more now.

Subculture is ready to win the Tag Team Titles again and spray paint about it.

Here's what's coming tonight.

Ashton Carter/Oliver Smith vs. Teoman/Rohan Raja

Fallout from Teoman hurting Smith, who jumps Teoman to start. A jumping knee drops Teoman and Smith muscles him up into a suplex. Raja and Carter come in, with Carter hitting a jumping sidekick to the face. Carter gets taken into the corner for the stomping though and the kicks to the chest have him in trouble for a change. We hit the seated abdominal stretch but Carter fights up, only to get stomped back into the corner.

The Crossface goes on but Teoman lets it go and hands it off to Raja...who gives up the hot tag without much trouble. Smith comes in and starts cleaning house until he gets sent face first into the buckle. It's back to Carter for a German suplex into a low superkick for two on Raja, who is pulled outside. Smith hits a big running flip dive and the referee finally decides to restore some order. The distraction lets Teoman break up a Lionsault and Raja hits a jumping Downward Spiral. Teoman adds the Crossface for the tap at 8:54.

Rating: C+. They kept things moving here and while I'm not sure how much Teoman really needs Raja, they do make a nice enough pairing. Teoman is making the Crossface into a fairly successful hold and moving him up the card a bit could be a nice move. Smith continues to look good in limited quantities so

A-Kid's leg is in a huge cast and wants Jordan Devlin as soon as possible. We should make it a thirty minute Iron Man match too.

Video on Aoife Valkyrie.

Pretty Deadly isn't sweating Subculture because they run this division.

Women's Title: Meiko Satomura vs. Amele

Satomura is defending and we get the Big Match Intros. A kick to the leg staggers Amele to start and the headlock grinds her down even more. Make that a leg crank on the mat but Amele gets up and hammers away to take over for the first time. Satomura is back up with a flying shoulder and the seated abdominal stretch goes on. That's broken up as well and Amele stomps her down in the corner.

You don't do that to Satomura, who kicks Amele down and drops a pair of knees. More kicks to the chest get two on Amele, who gets in a cheap shot for a breather. A fisherman's neckbreaker gets two but Satomura kicks her in the head again. Amele grabs a quick spinebuster for two and screams a lot at the kickout. Satomura's DDT plants Amele and Scorpion Rising retains the title at 7:16.

Rating: C. This was a rather kicky match but you need to give Satomura a good, mostly dominant win like this to show that she can beat up a challenger. There was no real drama here but there didn't need to be either. Satomura is going to get pretty far on reputation alone and she did well enough here.

After the press conference, Walter injured his hand in a backstage altercation with Ilja Dragunov, so the title match is off. More next week.

Heritage Cup: Mark Coffey vs. Tyler Bate

Coffey is challenging and Wolfgang/Trent Seven are the

seconds. After the Big Match Intros, round one begins with Coffey driving him up against the ropes to start. Coffey works on the arm and Bate can't even armdrag his way to freedom. Bate can however spin around into a wristlock of his own as they're firmly in first gear so far. The arm work switches over to chain wrestling and no one gets anywhere as the round ends.

Round two begins with Bate having to get out of a hammerlock, only to be reversed back into a hammerlock. Coffey takes him down to the mat but Bate gets up and wheels him through the ropes. Back in and Coffey sweeps the legs but Bate flips him into a cradle for the first fall at 1:35 of the round (5:18 total).

Round three begins with Coffey grinding away on a headlock and countering a rebound lariat with a backdrop. Bate dives into a kick to the face and a running basement elbow ties it up at 1:43 of the round (7:32 total). Round four begins with Bate striking away and grabbing a rollup for two. A belly to back suplex gives Coffey two so Bate comes back with a crucifix.

An exploder suplex sends Coffey flying but Bate is favoring his back. He's fine enough to bust out the airplane spin but the dizziness allows Coffey to grab a half nelson slam. Back up and they ram heads for a double knockdown to end the round. Round Five begins with Bate going for the legs but getting send into the post for two. Bate manages the rebound lariat though and the rolling Liger kick sets up the Tyler Driver 97 to retain at 0:58 of the round (16:47 total).

Rating: B-. These matches work well and it helps when you have someone like Coffey who can keep up with Bate. I'm not sure how long Bate is going to hold the title, but he is helping to make all of his opponents look good before moving on to something else. Bate is certainly a star around here and this is doing a nice job of reestablishing that.

Respect is shown and Bate holds up the cup to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Another pretty good show from the UK and I'm running out of ways to say that is normal. The opening segment was very good and I was disappointed by the title match being canceled. I'm sure we'll get there eventually but dang it sounds like a lot of fun. The rest of the show was the usual nice stuff with the main event as the second highlight so as usual, I don't have much to complain about.

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and head over to my Amazon author page with 30 different cheap wrestling books at:

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Pick A Summerslam For Me To Redo

It's time to start the count-up again. Starting on Monday, I will be posting one review from Summerslam every day until this year's edition on August 21. As usual, I will be redoing last year's show, but I will also redo a bonus that you pick. All are eligible except for the following (ones I've done recently or several times before):

1992

1998

2005

2006

2019

Vote in the comments and I'll do the one that comes up the most.

KB

Oh and for a cheap plug: I wrote a book on the History of Summerslam a few weeks ago. [Check it out right here on Amazon.](#)

Daily News Update – July 15, 2021

Something July Thursday.

WWE RUMOR: Monday Night Raw And NXT Make Trade.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwerumor-monday-night-raw-nxt-make-trade/>

NXT Being Moved Around Later This Month.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/nxt-moved-around-later-month/>

Title Change Takes Place During AEW Dynamite.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/title-change-takes-place-aew-dynamite-2/>

VIDEO: WWE's Moving Tribute To Paul Orndorff.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-wwes-moving-tribute-paul-orndorff/>

WATCH: CM Punk In New Horror Movie.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-cm-punk-new-horror-movie/>

Virgil Invented The NWO And The Spinarooni (Allegedly).

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/virgil-invented-nwo-spinarooni-allegedly/>

WATCH: Edge Teases Huge Summerslam Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-edge-teases-huge-summerslam-match/>

WATCH: Brock Lesnar Looks VERY Different While Carving Meat.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-brock-lesnar-looks-different-carving-meat/>

As always, please check out all of the videos if you can, hit up the comments section and [get on the Wrestling Rumors Facebook page.](#)

Dynamite – July 14, 2021 (Fyter Fest Night 1): Fyter For Awhile

Dynamite

Date: July 14, 2021

Location: H-E-B Center, Cedar Park, Texas

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross

It's another special show this week with Fyter Fest Night 1 as they're out of Florida for the first time in over a year. The big story this week is the return of Jon Moxley to defend the IWGP United States Title against Karl Anderson, as we have an AEW wrestler defending a New Japan Title against an Impact wrestler. I for one can't wait on the recreation of Taz vs. Mike Awesome so let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

IWGP United States Title: Jon Moxley vs. Karl Anderson

Moxley is defending and here's Eddie Kingston with a pipe to jump Doc Gallows before the bell. They slug it out to start and then proceed to slug it out some more, this time with Moxley winning a battle of the forearms. Back up and Anderson knocks him to the floor for a ram into the barricade. Moxley comes back with some microphone choking but Anderson kicks him off the apron for a crash. Anderson grabs a spinebuster for two and goes up, with Moxley biting his head to cut that off.

The superplex plants Anderson but Moxley can't cover. Instead

he has to block the Gun Stun and it's a double clothesline for a double knockdown. Anderson is back up and tries an Owen Hart piledriver but stumbles and nearly drops Moxley on his head for two. A middle rope neckbreaker gives Anderson two and a quick Gun Stun is good for the same. Anderson's TKO gets two more but Moxley grabs a short arm clothesline. The Paradigm Shift retains the title at 9:40.

Rating: C+. It was hard hitting and back and forth, with Kingston getting rid of Gallows being a nice plus. Moxley is a great choice to open the show as he is one of the most popular wrestlers around here tonight. If nothing else, maybe the Good Brothers will be gone from the rest of the show, or at least we can only hope.

Here's what's coming tonight.

Lance Archer wants the IWGP US Title back. Jon Moxley took the title from him in a Texas Death Match in Japan, so let's have another one next week in Dallas.

Andrade El Idolo asks where the Death Triangle has gone because he is looking for them.

FTW World Title: Brian Cage vs. Ricky Starks

Starks is challenging in his first match back from a broken neck and the rest of Team Taz is in a neutral corner. Taz is on commentary and offers some insight of how these two were backstage today (Starks was more serious, Cage was more outgoing). Cage can't quite get some kind of slam to start so he goes with a gorilla press instead. Some whips into the corner put Starks on the top rope and the kicks to the ribs crotch Starks on the top.

Cage misses a charge into the corner though and Starks kicks away at the arm. Said arm is snapped across the middle rope and a middle rope dropkick gives Starks two. We take a break and come back with Starks getting two off a crucifix bomb as

Excalibur calls the FTW Title an outlaw championship. Cage heads outside so Starks slides to the floor for a clothesline. Back in and Starks grabs a choke, only to get driven into the corner.

Cage kicks him in the head and nails a pumphandle faceplant for two. Starks' springboard tornado DDT is blocked and Cage hits a superkick for two more. Starks slips out of the apron superplex and hits a sitout powerbomb for his own near fall. With nothing else working, Starks goes for the title belt but Powerhouse Hobbs won't let him. That allows Cage to hit the F5 for two so Hook distracts the referee. Hobbs blasts Cage with the title and Starks' spear connects for the pin and the title at 9:23.

Rating: C. Starks looked a bit rusty here but that's quite understandable given the injury and time off. Cage losing the title is fine and he can probably go off on his own after the loss. It could be interesting to see Starks as the star of the team for once as he has all of the skills you could need to go somewhere.

We look at Malakai Black debuting last week and kicking Cody Rhodes' head off.

Here is an annoyed Cody (in a white suit) to the announcers' table to call out Tommy End/Malakai Black. All Black needed to do was make a phone call and he could have been here. We don't kick a 62 year old man in the face around here though so please bring him a mic so he can head to the ring. Cody doesn't win every fight he's in but he has a better chance when he knows it's coming. This is Fyter Fest and he feels like fighting.

Black appears on screen to ask if Cody heard the fans cheer when Black kicked him in the face last week. Black talks about a man having a horse who took him everywhere but one day that horse was done. The man took him to a nice field, put a bag

over the horse's head and finished him. Cody calls Black out again so the lights go out and here he is in the ring. Referees break it up in a hurry.

Tully Blanchard talks about attacking Konnan last week when he runs into Santana and Ortiz, who bust out a tire iron. The shot to the head is teased, but they say next time won't be so nice. Tully promises to get his boys.

Here is Hangman Page, who is feeling weird, for a chat. Page talks about how he wanted to be World Champion from day one, but he failed. He tried to hide from his failure but he still needs that championship. That's why he is here to challenge...and here are Don Callis and the Elite to cut him off. They insist that Page is not that guy, with Matt Jackson going to the ring to say something to Page's face.

Matt knows there is only one person to blame for Page's issues and he is one step away from being the next great wrestling tragedy. The fight is on with the Elite coming in but the Dark Order runs in for the save. Page issues the challenge to Omega but we'll make that a ten man elimination tag instead. That's fine with Page, who says if they win, he gets the World Title and the Dark Order gets a Tag Team Title shot against the Bucks. Omega: "YOU DIDN'T EARN IT!!! NONE OF YOU EARNED IT!!!"

Omega thinks Page is making a lot of demands so he'll make one of his own: if Page's team loses, there are no title shots and Page is done. He can't wait for the COWBOY S*** chant to turn into BELT COLLEC-TOR. Page gets in Omega's face and says yes, which freaks Omega out a bit. They had a lot of people here, but it got the job done.

Chris Jericho recaps the Five Labors of Jericho that MJF has set up for him, but points out that Hercules won in the end. MJF can send Superman or the Black Panther out after him because Jericho will walk across broken glass to get MJF again. Jericho is the god of thunder and the god of war...and

here is Shawn Spears to hit him in the throat with a chair. MJF pops in to make the match against Spears next week, where Spears can use a chair but Jericho can't. Spears gets in a bonus chair shot to the arm.

Matt Hardy vs. Christian Cage

They grab a lockup to start and fall out to the floor with the lockup continuing. Christian slides back in and tells Matt to bring it, only to slide outside and send Hardy face first into the apron. A big dive takes Hardy down again and a reverse DDT gives Christian two back inside. The right hands in the corner keep Matt in trouble until he sends Christian shoulder first into the post to take over for the first time. Choking on the ropes sets up the catapult to send Christian throat first into the rope and we take a break.

Back with Christian countering the Twist of Fate and hitting a spear for two. The frog splash gets the same but the tornado DDT is countered. Instead Matt takes him up top for a superplex into the near fall and extra breathing is required. Back up and Matt grabs the referee to block a Killswitch. The low blow into the Twist of Fate gets two and it's back to the floor for the Leech (double underhook neck crank) but Christian makes it back in at nine. The Killswitch finishes Hardy out of nowhere at 12:59.

Rating: C. This was your nostalgia match of the week and that is about all it was going to be good for here. Neither of them are what they were in the ring before but at least they did their thing without getting bad. The ending was out of nowhere but the whole thing worked out well enough.

Post match the Hardy Family Office comes in but Jungle Boy and Luchasaurus run in for the save.

Miro talks about a man who had to figure out what he was and then went on to destroy everyone. He holds up the TNT Title (which appeared to have been redesigned) and says this is his

reward, which he will defend anywhere.

Tony Schiavone brings in Britt Baker to talk about facing Nyla Rose next week. Baker has been through tables, ladders and chairs and nothing has scared here, just like Rose won't next week. Rose might be at the top of the food chain but Baker is off the menu. Baker knocks Vickie Guerrero is listening and she has the name to keep her relevant in wrestling. Rose doesn't have that and needs the title to be mean something. She isn't getting it back next week, because with the title, Baker is the hottest thing in wrestling. Without it though, she is still Britt Baker DMD. Baker continues to be feeling it on the mic.

Nyla Rose and Vickie Guerrero promise to take the title next week.

Sammy Guevara vs. Wheeler Yuta

Sammy gets the big hometown pop as Bunny and Blade are watching from ringside. Yuta runs the ropes to start so Sammy flips over him and loads up a dive, only to flip back inside. The posing brings Yuta back in and charges into a powerslam, setting up the running shooting star press to give Sammy two. The shooting star press hits knees and Yuta walks the ropes for a middle rope dropkick. A German suplex drops Guevara and a huge top rope splash gets one. Guevara is back up with a backdrop into an enziguri out of the corner. The double springboard cutter into the GTH finishes Yuta at 3:43.

Rating: C+. This was just a step beneath a squash and it gave Guevara the nice hometown win. That's all it was supposed to be and Yuta looking good in defeat was a nice bonus. You don't need much more than that and they had a pretty good spectacle here. Guevara still seems ready to explode and getting a win here was the right call.

Earlier today, QT Marshall poured coffee onto Tony Schiavone's head.

Penelope Ford vs. Yuka Sakazaki

This is Sakazaki's first match in AEW in 16 months. They start fast with Ford being sent outside for a middle rope flip dive. Back in and Ford chokes on the ropes as we take a break. We come back with Sakazaki muscling her up for a suplex, setting up a rolling kick to the face. A middle rope elbow to the face gets two but Ford is back with some pump kicks for two. Sakazaki throws Ford on her shoulder for a spinning faceplant, setting up a spinning splash for the pin at 7:30.

Rating: C-. Just a match here as Sakazaki is back. I'm not sure if she was exactly a big deal around here in the first place but the division could use some extra blood at this point. The match itself wasn't anything of note, but Ford is hardly the one that you bring in for a great in-ring performance.

Here's what's coming next week.

Darby Allin vs. Ethan Page

Coffin (casket) match with Allin jumping him to start. Allin pulls off his jacket to reveal a metal plate attached to his back. A springboard body block drops Page and it's time to go to the casket...with Scorpio Sky inside. Cue Sting to take care of Sky and the two of them fight into the crowd, with Sky getting crotched on a barricade. Back to the actual match, with Page being thrown over the barricade as we take a break.

Back with Page throwing he steps in, along with the unhooked bottom turnbuckle. Page uses the actual hook to pull Allin down by the neck...so Allin hooks his Page's mouth. Point to Allin. They fight outside into the coffin to slug it out until Allin gets launched out. Back inside and Allin hits his flipping Stunner off the steps but the bleeding Page catches him on top. The super Ego's Edge onto the steps leaves Allin down but he busts out the skateboard for a shot to the back, sending Page into the coffin for the win at 11:40.

Rating: B. Much like Kingston taking out Doc Gallows, it was nice to have Sting get rid of Sky here. This was a big grudge match and in theory it should wrap everything up between the two of them. There isn't much left for them to do as it wasn't exactly a huge feud in the first place. Allin is ready to move on to something else, though I'm not sure what that is going to be.

Post match, Allin hits the Coffin Drop through the coffin and...well pretty close to Page. That man's poor spine.

Overall Rating: B-. Pretty good show here with a bunch of mostly fine matches. It wasn't quite last week, but they set up enough going forward and the main event was fun. I'm curious to see where AEW is going with some of these things and that is one of the best things that you can say about a wrestling show. Not their best stuff tonight, but it was more than enough to get by. Also, thankfully they dropped the Fyre Fest deals this time as the idea was played out when it first aired.

Results

Jon Moxley b. Karl Anderson – Paradigm Shift

Ricky Starks b. Brian Cage – Spear

Christian Cage b. Matt Hardy – Killswitch

Sammy Guevara b. Wheeler Yuta – GTH

Yuka Sakazaki b. Penelope Ford – Spinning splash

Darby Allin b. Ethan Page – Allin put Page in the coffin

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New Column: Wonderful One

I'd say he earned it.

https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/kbs-review-wonderful-one
[/](#)