

Ring Of Honor TV – June 30, 2021: Survive If They Let You

Ring of Honor

Date: June 30, 2021

Location: UMBC Event Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

We are rapidly approaching Best In The World and a lot of the card has either already been made or is pretty obvious. That is not a bad thing either, but we also have to set up the rest of the Survival of the Fittest tournament. In other words, you can feel things getting interesting around here again and that is a very nice thing. Let's get to it.

[Click on the link below for the full review.](#)

Opening sequence.

Quinn McKay welcomes us to the show and runs down the card, which will be headlined by the Survival of the Fittest finals. Well that's big.

Here's how all six of the finalists qualified.

But first, this.

Matt Taven vs. Dutch

Dutch has Vita Von Starr and Bateman with him. Taven goes straight at the monster to start and gets shoved down without much effort. Some heavy forearms to the chest have Taven in trouble but Dutch's powerslam is broken up. A dropkick has no effect on Dutch, who runs Taven over to send us to a break. Back with Dutch taking it outside for a whip into the barricade.

Vita adds some choking but here is Maria Kanellis-Bennett to

order her to the back. With that out of the way, Taven spin kicks him to the floor for the big suicide dive. The Flight of the Conqueror takes Dutch down again, setting up Aurora Borealis...for one, with Taven being stunned. Taven flips out of what looks like a spinning Boss Man Slam, setting up the Climax. That's enough for Bateman to pull Taven outside and take him out for the DQ at 11:09.

Rating: C. The ending is annoying but I get why you don't want either of these guys taking a fall. The story worked well here as this was about making Dutch look like a monster, which worked out well. I'm not sure how much longer they can drag out this Taven vs. Righteous story, but that has been the case for months now.

Post match, Vincent comes out to dance as Bateman beats on Taven. Mike Bennett comes in for the brawl but the Righteous gets the better of things. Security breaks it up.

Post break, Vincent talks about how Matt Taven wants everyone to cheer for him but one day, he'll have nothing left. Dig what he's saying? Taven looks a bit crushed.

Jay Briscoe is ready to knock Mark Briscoe out in the Fight on the Farm. He let Mark have the win at the 500th episode and now it's time to knock him out like he always has.

Survival of the Fittest: Demonic Flamita vs. Brian Johnson vs. Eli Isom vs. Bandido vs. Rhett Titus vs. Chris Dickinson

Elimination rules and the winner gets a future World Title shot. During the entrances, everyone gets a quick promo about how they're going to win and what it means to them. Bandido and Flamita trade the kicks to start before falling outside, meaning Dickinson and Titus can come in. Dickinson headlock takeovers him down but Titus is back up with a suplex for two. Isom comes in and goes to the mat with Titus for some grappling. It's off to Johnson to come in and chop it out with Isom, who sends him into the corner with a backdrop.

Johnson sends Isom outside but gets dropped by Bandido. The big dive is loaded up but Bandido has to grab Flamita, meaning it's a huge backflip World's Strongest Slam onto the pile. Back in and Bandido kicks Johnson down, only to be rolled up by Bandido for the elimination at 4:48.

Flamita isn't done though as he jumps Bandido and puts him through the timekeeper's table. Some chair shots crush Bandido even worse, drawing out Rey Horus for the save. We take a break and come back with Isom armdragging Johnson into an armbar but his belly to belly is broken up. Johnson whips him hard into the corner and talks about how Isom has all of seven people in Indiana cheering for him.

That's enough to fire Isom up for a release northern lights suplex but the referee gets bumped, allowing Johnson to get in a poke to the eye. The hanging cutter out of the corner sets up the Process...but Isom rolls outside. Dickinson comes in but Johnson bails to the floor, allowing Titus to come in for the dropkick to Dickinson. Johnson comes back in (pretty fast at that) but gets suplexed by Titus for two. Another dropkick sets up a running boot in the corner to rock Johnson again and the top rope knee finishes Johnson at 12:55. Dickinson comes in to go after Titus' knee, setting up a kneebar for the fast tap at 13:28.

The rather banged up Bandido gets back in so Dickinson Saito suplexes him for two. Dickinson stays on the bad arm but Bandido pops back up with some shots of his own. The threat of a cross armbreaker has Bandido on the floor so here's Isom to win a slugout. That doesn't seem to hurt Dickinson for the most part until a superkick staggers him. That's enough for Bandido to come in with the 21 Plex to get rid of Dickinson at 18:55.

We're down to Isom vs. Bandido and after a break, the slugout is on. Isom gets two off a sidewinder suplex and the Rings of Saturn goes after the arms. Bandido grabs the rope and

frustration has set in. The Promise is blocked though and Bandido hits the X Knee but the arm gives out on the 21 Plex. Isom grabs an Air Raid Crash for two but the Promises is broken up again. Instead Isom settles for two off a tilt-a-whirl backbreaker. The Promise is broken up yet again and this time Bandido takes him down into something like a reverse cross armbreaker/Koji Clutch hybrid (Isom's arm is WRENCHED back) for the win at 23:51.

Rating: B-. This might not have been as epic as some of the previous editions of the match but they hit it full on with Isom's near upset and had the right winner. That's about all you can ask for in a huge match like this as Bandido vs. Rush sounds pretty awesome for a main event at Best In The World. Dickinson looked like a killer here too, so three of the six coming out looking good works well.

Respect is shown and Bandido celebrates to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. As usual, Ring of Honor knows how to put on a good show and keep you entertained for an hour. The tournament final was the big focal point of the show and it worked well, with the opener being fine enough of a way to keep things going. I'm looking forward to the pay per view and if it can be as good as their TV, everything is going to work out.

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Monday Night Raw – February 5, 2007: Tis The Season

Monday Night Raw

Date: February 5, 2007

Location: Tyson Events Center, Sioux City, Iowa

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

The Road To Wrestlemania continues as we still need to know what Undertaker is going to do with his Royal Rumble win. There are a few different choices and all three of them have been teased, which makes things a bit more interesting. Granted the chances of Undertaker picking the ECW World Title

are the same as me being named Miss Nevada 1978, so there are only two choices. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a long recap of Undertaker winning the Royal Rumble and teasing the Wrestlemania title match pick.

Here is Undertaker to make his decision. Since that takes quite a long time, here is an impatient John Cena before anything can be said. Bobby Lashley is here as well, with Batista rounding out the quartet. Undertaker stares at all three of them...and then gives Batista the throat slit so set up the match.

This immediately brings out Shawn Michaels to say John Cena needs a Wrestlemania opponent and he is here to help a brother out. Cue Randy Orton to say that he is facing Cena at Wrestlemania. Cue Edge as this is a rather large opening segment. Edge wants the title shot but now it's Vince McMahon to ask why we're in the middle of a cornfield in this horrible state.

Vince finds it interesting that no one is challenging Bobby Lashley, so he'll be defending the ECW World Title against someone from the Raw roster tonight. As for everyone else, let's have a triple threat between Orton, Michaels and Edge with the winner challenging Cena at Wrestlemania. Undertaker and Batista are left alone for the staredown and Undertaker plants him with a chokeslam (or powerslam as JR put it). This had a lot of people involved but it certainly set up a lot at once, so I think I can forgive it.

Charlie Haas/Shelton Benjamin/Chris Masters vs. Carlito/Cryme Tyme

Torrie Wilson is here with the latter. JR: "King can I give a shout out to my barbecue loving buddies in Oklahoma." Lawler: "I guess?" JR: "Well I just did." It's a big brawl to start

until we settle down to JTG Thesz pressing Benjamin to hammer away. Haas, now with cornrows, comes in for an overhead belly to belly to send JTG flying though and it's Masters coming in to hammer away. JTG slips out of another suplex attempt though and Carlito comes in to clean house. Everything breaks down and Carlito O'Connor rolls Masters, only to get caught with a springboard Blockbuster from Benjamin to steal the pin.

Rating: D+. Normally I'm a fan of merging a few feuds together but I never need to see Masters vs. Carlito in any form again. It has been done on and off for the better part of a year now and wasn't all that interesting in the first place. Cryme Tyme vs. Haas/Benjamin isn't exactly great either but at least it is something new.

We recap Fan Appreciation Night last week, with Donald Trump giving the fans money.

Vince McMahon is annoyed at Trump when Kenny Dykstra comes in to ask about the ECW World Title shot tonight. McMahon gives him the match to get rid of him but Coach has a letter from Trump. He's going to be here next week to up the ante with a business proposal. Vince wants Trump to join his special club.

Ric Flair hits on Maria a bit and says that he is excited by Undertaker vs. Batista. As for tonight, he gets to face Jeff Hardy and if he wins, he gets an Intercontinental Title shot at Wrestlemania.

Melina and Candice Michelle have one of those authentic talks about Candice's Super Bowl commercial. Candice leaves so here is John Morrison to say Melina looks great and he is ready for Super Crazy. Tonight, Melina is winning the Women's Title.

Balls Mahoney is in the ring for a match and here is Coach to introduce the special opponent.

Umaga vs. Balls Mahoney

Armando Alejandro Estrada is here with Umaga. Mahoney strikes away to start and is knocked into the corner without much effort. Some choking on the rope ensues and the Samoan drop crushes Mahoney. The running hip attack sets up the Samoan Spike for the easy win.

Johnny Nitro vs. Super Crazy

Melina and Mickie James are here as well. Nitro starts fast and sends him into the corner, with Crazy sunset flipping him for two. That earns him a shot to the face though and Nitro grabs a cravate. Crazy fights up but Melina's distraction lets Nitro roll him up for two. Mickie trips Nitro right back so Crazy can hit some dropkicks. A tilt-a-whirl backbreaker sets up the moonsault but Nitro catches him on top. That's broken up as well though and the moonsault gives Crazy the pretty big upset pin.

Women's Title: Melina vs. Mickie James

Melina is challenging and thankfully they didn't bother redoing the entrances (including for Nitro and Crazy, who are here as well). The catfight is on to start until Mickie James remembers that she's Mickie James and forearms away. A hammerlock has Mickie in trouble so the fans chant for her, which Lawler calls being "silently" behind her. Melina takes her down by the leg but gets kicked away, giving us a standoff.

Mickie cartwheels into a monkey flip to send Melina bailing over to Nitro. Melina gets in a shot to the face and sends her face first into the mat for two. Back up and they slug it out until Melina sends her into the corner. An elbow to the face staggers Melina so Nitro goes after her, only to get hurricanranaed by Crazy. Melina pulls her outside by the top (Lawler approves) but Mickie is right back with a sunset flip to retain.

Rating: D+. This was one that sounded better on paper than it

worked in reality as Melina wasn't quite ready for the big showdown. Then again, you're only going to be able to do so much in less than five minutes with two more people on the floor. Mickie was doing her thing well enough, but they didn't exactly make this work.

Post match Melina is rather annoyed at the paparazzi trying to take her picture.

John Cena wishes Shawn Michaels good luck tonight but he would rather Edge win. Cena knows he can beat Edge and reminds Shawn that they're Tag Team Champions. That sounded like a bit of a wink about how little they care about the titles.

Jeff Hardy vs. Ric Flair

Non-title but if Flair wins, he gets an Intercontinental Title shot at Wrestlemania. Hardy shoulders him down to start so Flair pops back up for a WOO. The chops have Hardy in the corner but he switches places to take Flair down. Hardy goes up but tweaks the knee on the landing, allowing Flair to chop block him down. Some leg cranking has Hardy in more trouble and the fans are behind Flair.

Hardy fights up and scores with an enziguri (breaking up a WOO in the process), setting up the sitout jawbreaker. The Whisper in the Wind connects and there's the Twist of Fate. The Swanton misses though and Flair is right back on the knee. Flair loads up the Figure Four but stops to strut, allowing Hardy to small package him for the pin.

Rating: C-. I'm going to assume that the ending was designed to make Flair look stupid and it certainly worked in that regard. There was no reason for Flair to start strutting around when he had Hardy in that much trouble. The match was good enough up to that point, but I would assume that it was setting things up for later, as otherwise that is pretty out of character for this version of Flair.

Post match Hardy praises Flair, who shakes his hand.

Wrestlemania is 55 days away.

We recap Undertaker's selection from earlier tonight.

Batista isn't intimidated and is ready for some payback. He's fine with teaming with Undertaker at No Way Out too. That's quite the calm champion.

ECW World Title: Bobby Lashley vs. Kenny Dykstra

Lashley is defending and scares Dykstra over to the apron to start. Back in and a single right hand sends Dykstra over the top and out to the floor for a great visual. Lashley knocks him off the apron for a bonus but Dykstra gets smart by dropkicking the knee out. Some stomping gives Dykstra two and we hit the chinlock.

That's broken up and Lashley hits some clotheslines, setting up a t-bone suplex. A dropkick puts Lashley on the floor though and we take a break. We come back with Dykstra holding a front facelock but Lashley powers up without much trouble. The delayed suplex sets up the gorilla press powerslam to retain.

Rating: D+. What else were you expecting here? Dykstra is a generic heel and Lashley doesn't know how to do much other than his power stuff. Lashley has all of the tools to be a major star but you need to give him a good bit more seasoning. That is showing in places like this, as he wasn't able to get anything out of Dykstra, who wasn't ready to do something like this on his own.

Edge comes up to Randy Orton, who doesn't want to talk. They aren't partners tonight because Orton wants the Wrestlemania title shot. That's fine with Edge, but he wants to make sure Shawn Michaels doesn't get the shot.

Carlito and Torrie Wilson are going out and say goodbye to Ric

Flair. They're going out, but Flair doesn't want to hear it after Carlito lost his match earlier tonight. Flair goes into a huge rant about how Carlito isn't in the main event because he's a lazy SOB. Guys like Carlito have no passion or guts but want to fly first class with someone like Torrie Wilson. Carlito hasn't bled, sweat or paid the price but he's taking Flair's spot.

Flair has been here forever but Vince McMahon has told him that if he wants to stay, he has to prove it. Now Flair is trying to prove himself but Carlito is going out before the main event. Flair walks off, leaving a stunned Carlito with something to think about. This felt like Flair being told to go and let loose and he made it work because that is the kind of emotion he can bring like almost no one else.

Shawn Michaels vs. Edge vs. Randy Orton

The winner gets the WWE Title shot at Wrestlemania. At least Shawn has his title here, which doesn't help him out as he gets double teamed down. Shawn comes back with a double clothesline and some atomic drops with Orton being tossed outside. Back up and Orton shoves Shawn off the top for a crash but only teases the RKO to Edge. We take a break and come back with Shawn tossing Orton and suplexing Edge. There's a baseball slide to knock Orton onto the announcers' table and a Thesz press to Edge as Shawn keeps the pace up.

Edge boots him in the face but gets caught going up top. A crotching puts Edge on the floor but Orton is back in with the backbreaker to Michaels. The RKO connects but Edge makes the save. Edge and Orton shake hands but then instantly turn on each other to start the fight. Stereo crossbodies put both of them down, allowing Shawn to drop the top rope elbow on Edge. Sweet Chin Music is blocked so Shawn sidesteps a spear, which hits Orton instead. A superkick drops Edge and Shawn pins Orton for the title shot.

Rating: C+. This is one of those matches where there wasn't a ton of drama to the ending but at least they did well on their way to the finish. Michaels getting the shot at Cena was pretty much locked up last week but they had to make it official here. The action was good as you would expect and it set up Wrestlemania, so there isn't much to complain about here.

Post match John Cena in for the staredown but here are Batista and Undertaker to stare at the top of them and then each other to end the show.

Overall Rating: C-. This show had a couple of positives, including setting up a pair of Wrestlemania title matches and not having Donald Trump. You can tell that things are getting important around here again and the energy is rising. Throw in Flair's great promo and there were parts of this show that worked very well. Unfortunately there were also parts that didn't work, which was most of the actual wrestling. That wasn't what mattered, but it did bring down a lot of the show.

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New Column – They Just Ran Out

The Breezango edition.

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Dynamite – July 7, 2021 (Road Rager): That Feels Right

Dynamite

Date: July 7, 2021

Location: James L. Knight Center, Miami, Florida

Commentators: Jim Ross, Tony Schiavone, Excalibur

We're officially back on the road and that means there are fresh fans in attendance. That is certainly a good thing and something that did not feel possible over the last year plus. First up we have Road Rager, featuring the Tag Team Titles on the line, a strap match and the debut of Andrade El Idolo. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Cody Rhodes vs. QT Marshall

South Beach Strap Match with the four corner version. Cody dives on him before the bell and the fight is on with Cody pulling Marshall into the ropes. We look at various UFC

fighters at ringside as Marshall gets in a shot to the ribs. A moonsault only designed to get knocked out of the air gets knocked out of the air and Cody hits a few buckles. Aaron Solow breaks it up but Dustin Rhodes fights him into the crowd to get rid of one goon.

Nick Comoroto follows and Cody gets three buckles, only to get German suplexed back down. They go outside with Cody posting him to draw some blood. Back in and the lights go out to reveal....that the lights just happened to go out (though Cody's surprised/confused face was amusing). Cody slaps a few more buckles but gets caught in a superbomb to put him in trouble for a change.

Marshall ties the strap around Cody and hits a hanging cutter out of the corner for three buckles. The fourth is cut off though and things are reset. Cody makes the comeback and strikes away, setting up the flying headscissors. There's the Cody Cutter to drop Marshall again and a low blow makes it even worse. Cody goes for the fourth buckle but Marshall spits at him. That earns Marshall three straight Cross Rhodes and Cody hits all four buckles to win at 10:38.

Rating: C. Hey Cody wins a big match over an opponent who was never close to his level. It's the right call but it doesn't exactly come off as a great moment as you got what you would have expected. Cody beating Marshall is good and it should end the match, but Cody having some long term adversity could be a bit better. AEW is back to touring again and where they're going, they might not need Rhodes (I watched Back To The Future earlier today).

Here's what's coming tonight.

We look back at Shawn Spears jumping Sammy Guevara with a chair last week.

Spears says he got Guevara...and gets chaired down by Sammy, who sits in a chair to say he got Spears, b****.

Tony Schiavone brings out Don Callis and Kenny Omega for a chat. Callis gets rid of Tony but the fans remind Callis that he got fired (from Impact). That doesn't matter though as Callis goes over Omega's recent successes and brings up that there are no challengers left. That's a problem as Omega is supposed to defend the title at Fight For The Fallen...so the fans say they want Hangman.

Callis says he'll tell them what they want but here is the Dark Order to interrupt. Evil Uno gets into the ring alone and wants to know why Omega is scared of Uno's friend. Fans: "COWBOY S***!" Omega talks about how Uno is stupid and then kicks him low. Cue the rest of the Elite to take out the Dark Order but Hangman Page runs in to break up the belt shot. House is cleaned and the Buckshot Lariat is loaded up on Omega but Page stares at him instead. Another run-in is cut off but the distraction allows Omega to escape. I'd be surprised if they did this at Fight For The Fallen, but it's coming sooner or later.

Earlier today, Jim Ross sat down with Ethan Page and Darby Allin. JR is disturbed by the idea that these two are going to fight to injure the other's career and wants to know how we got here. Page takes his sunglasses off by Allin says hang on. Allin talks about how his success made Page jealous. Page never left his hometown and was content being the big fish in the small pond.

Page says that's all true, but he plucked Allin from obscurity and taught him the lessons that brought him to AEW. Ever since he was a kid, people have told him that he would be a star and now he has to see Allin paint his face and get to be on Dynamite. That's why Page is going to take him out in the Coffin Match. JR has a bad feeling about it, and Allin says he should.

Pinnacle vs. Inner Circle

FTR/Wardlow vs. Jake Hager/Santana/Ortiz here with Tully Blanchard and Konnan in the corners. Santana starts fast with a pair of Amigos into a German suplex to send Harwood into the corner. Ortiz comes in for a leg lariat but Wardlow comes in to plant him with a gutwrench powerbomb. It's back to Harwood who gets planted with a powerbomb, allowing the hot tag to Hager for the house cleaning.

We take a break and come back with Ortiz coming in to clean house (again) but gets taken into the corner. The step up cannonball plants Wheeler but Wardlow makes a save of his own. We settle back down to Ortiz countering Harwood's suplex into a brainbuster, allowing the hot tag back to Hager. The ankle lock makes Wheeler tap but Harwood was legal, meaning Hager has to kick him in the face. As usual, Hager wants Wardlow and the slugout is on. The rest of the Pinnacle comes in and a quick Big Rig plants Hager to give Wardlow the pin at 9:00.

Rating: C+. This felt like a big time Saturday Night main event with three members of one group against three members of the other, which is all it needed to be. It wasn't supposed to be anything huge or beyond that and it did its job. I can go for a match that is only supposed to keep a feud going and they made it work just fine.

Post match Konnan goes after the Pinnacle but gets taken down for a beating of his own.

Video on Karl Anderson vs. Jon Moxley for the IWGP United States Title next week.

It's time for a showdown/contract signing with MJF and Chris Jericho, with the latter soaking in a lengthy sing-a-long. A fan tries to run in and gets knocked down so we cut to a crowd shot for a bit. Jericho and MJF (after he challenges any other fan to come in and get beaten up) sit down at the long table with MJF talking about how everyone wants a rub from him. MJF makes the mistake of calling him Y2J, so Jericho says he

should have let the fat guy come in here and beat MJF up, but now he'll do whatever it takes to get a match with him. Jericho: "I'll even have sex with your mother."

That has MJF a little annoyed so he talks about following Jericho's career. We hear about Jericho's issues with Jon Moxley and what it took for Moxley to get a match. Jericho had Moxley face every member of the Inner Circle and karma is a b****. MJF wants to up the ante a bit and talks about how he loves mythology. The name Demo God comes from demagogue, even though Jericho isn't in the key demo anymore. MJF loved the labors of Hercules and thinks that Jericho needs to win a few matches.

We'll make that four matches, with MJF picking the opponents and stipulations. If Jericho wins those four matches, he'll get his match with MJF. Jericho is ready for the challenge so he can ruin MJF's life. Jericho signs but MJF isn't done yet because he comes from the greatest place in the world: Long Island, New York. They have to shake hands or the deal is off. The shake ensues, but Jericho pulls him into the Judas Effect to leave MJF laying. I'm a mythology fan so the theme was cool here and it probably gets them to All Out.

Britt Baker rants about being around the dangerous Nyla Rose. Look what happened when the innocent Reba got in the unsafe ring. Baker blames Tony Khan and now Vickie Guerrero brought in Andrade El Idolo. They got all of their money so maybe next week Dynamite can run in Saudi Arabia! Baker is ready to take out Nyla in Dallas at Fyter Fest and the town is going to be renamed the Big DMD.

Matt Sydal vs. Andrade El Idolo

Vickie Guerrero is here with Andrade, who comes out in a mask and suit, both of which go away. Andrade takes him down to start and hits the double moonsault for an early two. Sydal is back up with a shot to the face but gets knocked off the top

for a crash. We take a break and come back with Sydal scoring with some shots to the face and rolling him up for two.

The jumping knee misses though and Andrade blasts him with a clothesline. Sydal gets tied in the Tree of Woe but the Alberto double stomp misses. Instead Sydal comes off the top with a Meteora for two but Andrade sends him into the corner for the running knees. El Idolo (the hammerlock DDT) finishes Sydal at 7:37.

Rating: C. This was a fine enough debut for Andrade who just needed to come in with a win. He could be a pretty big player as time goes on around here and the match was competitive enough without going too far. I'm curious to see where things go for Andrade, though I'm really not sure how much good Vickie is going to do for him.

Video on Matt Hardy vs. Christian Cage, who face off next week. They have always been in the same place, with Hardy accusing Christian of following him. The match is 20 years in the making and it ends next week.

Here is Arn Anderson in the ring and he is rather happy to be in Miami. The lights go out...and this time it's the former Aleister Black in the ring to hit Black Mass on Anderson. Cody Rhodes runs in for the staredown, with Excalibur identifying Black as Tommy End. This is followed by the announcement of "THAT IS NOT TOMMY END!" Apparently his name is Malakai Black, and he hits Black Mass on Rhodes.

Earlier today, Ricky Starks came to the ring with security but Taz comes out to say this is nonsense. Starks says Brian Cage is the embarrassing one and if he has to do this to get ready for the FTW Title match next week. Where he comes from, the W stands for wife, and Starks means Cage's wife. Cue Cage to chase Starks off and beat up security. That was a great line from Starks.

Orange Cassidy/Kris Statlander vs. Bunny/Blade

Blade is checked for weapons before the match and the referee actually finds some brass knuckles. Bunny yells at Cassidy, who puts his hands in his pockets and hits the lazy kicks before the bell. Blade comes in for the bell and gets taken down at the bell but it's too early for the Beach Break. It's also too early for the tornado DDT, meaning Cassidy can get planted with a powerslam.

Stundog Millionaire takes Blade down and it's off to the women, with Bunny hitting a running knee. Statlander is back up for some chops in the corner, setting up a delayed vertical suplex. The flipping legdrop misses though and Bunny sends her throat first into the ropes. We take a break and come back with Statlander hitting a spinning fisherman's driver for two. Bunny catches her with a German suplex off the ropes though and it's off to Blade to face Statlander.

Cassidy comes in (as he has to) with a high crossbody and now the spinning DDT can connect for two. Bunny gets knocked off the apron and Statlander busts out a 450 (Area 451, and a good one at that) to give Cassidy two with Bunny making the save. Blade uses the distraction to pull out more knuckles and knock Cassidy silly....but Statlander tagged herself in, allowing her to hit the Big Bang Theory for the pin at 8:27.

Rating: C. That 450 alone made this work as Statlander nailed that thing. They played with the mixed tag stuff here and what we got worked well enough. I'm not exactly feeling the Hardy Family Office vs. Best Friends thing but it's fine for a midcard feud, as that's about where everyone involved should be.

Earlier today, Jungle Boy got a nice trophy for being the first AEW wrestler to fifty wins.

American Top Team's (MMA) Dan Lambert (a huge wrestling fan with an awesome belt collection) was glad to come to the show but he didn't agree to an interview, even with Jorge Masvidal

and Amanda Nunes here with him. He wasn't happy because AEW sucks and if he wanted to enjoy some wrestling, it would mean watching tapes from Championship Wrestling From Florida from the 70s and 80s.

The sad truth is that wrestling has gone downhill since the late 1990s and this product is unwatchable. Tony Khan said Lambert is wrong because AEW has something from every style and the fans make it even better. Well he was right, as this is awful. Cue Lance Archer to knock Lambert silly with the Black Out. This was good, as Lambert is a great heel who can make you want to punch him in the face.

Tag Team Titles: Penta El Zero Miedo/Eddie Kingston vs. Young Bucks

The Bucks, in jean shorts, are defending and this is a street fight. The streamers fly and Don Callis is on commentary as the fight is on fast. They head outside early on the stereo superkicks hit Michael Nakazawa by mistake, allowing Kingston and Penta to take over. Back in and Brandon Cutler threatens them with cold spray, allowing the Bucks to come in with some chair shots.

The Bucks are sent into the open chair though and some kicks take them down again. The modified What's Up has Nick down and it's time for a pair of tables. Matt goes after Penta and gets Canadian Destroyed through the table. We take a break and come back with Nick hitting a Swanton onto a trashcan onto Kingston for two. A running Cannonball into an enziguri rocks Kingston in the corner but he's back up with a half and half suplex to Nick.

There's a rear naked choke on Matt but Nick makes the save with a 450 to the ref. Matt taps with no one to see it so Nick breaks it up. Cue the Good Brothers (who could have come out at any time given that it was a street fight) and Cutler is back up on the apron with the cold spray. Penta keeps shaking

his head so Cutler misses as Frankie Kazarian comes in to powerbomb Cutler through a table. The Fear Factor into the spinning backfist drops Matt and another referee runs in to count the two with Nick making the save.

Kazarian drops Nick but gets taken down by the Good Brothers. Kingston busts out some thumbtacks but Matt picks them up to throw in Kingston's face. Penta breaks up a powerbomb onto the tacks with a trashcan to the head before going up top with Nick. A super hurricanrana sends Penta into the tacks but Eddie shoves Matt into the cover for the save. There's a double superkick to Kingston and some tacks are thrown into Penta's face. Matt shoves tacks into Kingston's mouth and another superkick retains the titles at 14:18.

Rating: B. It was a good brawl with the weapons feeling (mostly) in place, though I'm not sure how much drama there was. That being said, this wasn't exactly supposed to feel like some big, epic match where the titles could change hands. Kingston and Penta were given a bit of a build last week and they paid it off here. That's all it needed to be and the match was certainly energetic, so I'll take it for a solid main event.

Overall Rating: B. This was a big show and it felt like one, which is all you can ask for out of AEW. It felt special to have the fans back and they got a pretty stacked card, with things being set up for the future as well. For a free two hour weekly show, this was rather good and felt like one of the AEW shows of old. Nice job and welcome back to touring, which really does make a difference.

Results

Cody Rhodes b. QT Marshall – Rhodes touched all four turnbuckles

Pinnacle b. Inner Circle – Big Rig to Hager

Andrade El Idolo b. Matt Sydal – El Idolo

Kris Statlander/Eddie Kingston b. Blade/Bunny – Big Bang

Theory to Bunny

Young Bucks b. Eddie Kingston/Penta El Zero Miedo – Superkick to Kingston

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Bash At The Beach 1996 (2021 Redo): Nothing Else Matters

Bash at the Beach 1996

Date: July 7, 1996

Location: Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, Florida

Attendance: 8,300

Commentators: Bobby Heenan, Tony Schiavone, Dusty Rhodes

This is one of the first non-WWE reviews I ever did so it is LONG overdue for a second try. I'm pretty sure you know this one, as it is built around the question of who is the third man. The Outsiders arrived about a month and a half ago and are now ready for their first match, but they need a partner. Now who is that going to be? Let's get to it.

I do miss the WCW Home Video "And now, our feature presentation" graphic like it's a Disney movie.

The opening video looks at the Hostile Takeover, which is the only thing that matters whatsoever.

Commentary welcomes us to the show with Dusty wanting the six man tag on first. Fair enough idea actually.

Psychosis vs. Rey Mysterio Jr.

Mike Tenay joins commentary, thank goodness. Rey's offer of a handshake earns him a slap in the face as Tenay talks about these two training at the same camp and hating each other as a result. They go to the mat with Psychosis slipping out of a cross armbreaker attempt but getting pulled into a leglock. That's broken up as well as Tenay talks about how big lucha libre is in Mexico.

The pace picks up a bit with Rey getting headscissored to the floor, setting up the big suicide dive. Back in and a legdrop gives Psychosis two and the chinlock goes on. With that being a bit too boring, Psychosis hits a guillotine legdrop (his future finisher) for two and a running clothesline drops Rey again, setting up a fire four necklock. That's broken up so they head to the apron with Rey launching him into the post. A running flying headscissors (Tenay: "They call it a hurricanrana!") has Psychosis in more trouble and it's back inside for Rey to work on the leg.

A kneebar sends Psychosis to the rope but he is fine enough to send Rey throat first onto the top. They head outside with Rey getting dropped onto the barricade, setting up a top rope backplash to the floor (dang). Back in and an enziguri gives Psychosis two as Heenan wants to know where Tenay learns all of these names. Rey cartwheels up into a hurricanrana to the apron, setting up the top rope hurricanrana out to the floor in a huge crash.

Back in and a springboard moonsault gives Rey two more and a springboard missile dropkick sends Psychosis head first to the floor. The springboard spinning moonsault hits Psychosis again, but Rey's knee bangs into the barricade. Back in and Rey's springboard hurricanrana is countered into a sitout powerbomb for two more. Rey gets sent stomach first into the buckle and Psychosis loads up a super Razor's Edge, which is countered into a super hurricanrana (Splash Mountain) for the pin at 14:22.

Rating: B. This took some time to get going but then it was all action with these two flying around like crazy. Rey snapping off hurricanranas all over the place to the point where only Tenay could keep up with them was great stuff. The other thing to remember is that this is 1996, when this kind of thing was unheard of on this kind of stage outside of about three people. Awesome opener and a heck of a match.

After explaining what we just saw, Konnan says he isn't worried about facing Ric Flair tonight. Konnan hasn't had time to develop any allies but he'll take out all of Flair's friends, including the women, to keep his US Title.

Big Bubba vs. John Tenta

This would be Big Boss Man (with Jimmy Hart) vs. Earthquake (who has had half of his head shaved to set this up) in a bag of silver dollars on a pole match, because that's how WCW worked at this point. Bubba runs away to start but runs back in to get elbowed in the face. Tenta goes up but gets belly to back superplexed down for the huge crash. Now it's Bubba's turn to climb, earning himself a crotching. Tenta gets smart by trying to take the pole down, only to get whipped by Bubba's belt.

Bubba tapes him to the middle rope and unloads with the belt to keep him down. For some reason Bubba only tapes one arm before going to cut more of the hair. That means a low blow to

Bubba so Tenta can steal the scissors and cut himself free. Bubba is right back up with a spinebuster as Hart climbs the pole to get the bag (which is REALLY high). Tenta gets in a powerslam though and is right there to take the bag from Hart. One good shot to Bubba gives Tenta the win at 9:00.

Rating: D. Well this wasn't exactly the same as the opener. I'm not sure why WCW would think that fans would want to cheer for an over the hill Earthquake just after he was the Shark, but I'll assume "because WCW". The match tried to have a few different things going on at once and most of them didn't work, which you probably could have guessed.

Lex Luger, Sting and Randy Savage, all in face paint, are ready for the Outsiders and are all ready because they all have goosebumps.

Lord Of The Ring: Diamond Dallas Page vs. Jim Duggan

Page, defending in a taped fist match, has undergone a career renaissance in recent months, going from rich to poor to winning Battlebowl to losing the title shot which came with it to a lot closer to what you remember him as being. Duggan sends him outside in a hurry but gets shouldered in the ribs for his efforts. A neck snap across the top takes Duggan down again and Page tapes his legs around the post.

Referee Nick Patrick unhooks it though, making that a bit of a waste of time. Duggan is right back to knock Page into the ropes and out to the floor, setting up a suplex back in. Another suplex is blocked though and Page takes him down by the arm. Page goes up top but gets crotched (Dusty: "SOMEBODY CALL THE FAMILY!!!") and Duggan starts hammering away again. They go outside but Page kicks the ropes on the way back in, setting up the Diamond Cutter for the pin at 5:57.

Rating: D. This didn't work in the slightest and I'm not at all surprised. Page was on his way up but he still had a long way to go before he meant anything. You could see the effort

there though and that is a great thing to see. Duggan....dang it he can be hard to like in WCW at this point, but it's hard to not like someone who could be that goofy.

Post match Duggan is right up to wrap tape around his fist and knock Page silly.

The Dungeon of Doom is ready for the Horsemen, with Kevin Sullivan being ready to show that he is not the weak link. Giant, the World Champion, is ready to crush everyone in front of him. Gene Okerlund thinks Jimmy Hart needs to brush his teeth.

Arn Anderson wants to see what happens to the Outsiders, even though he is not a fan of Sting/Lex Luger/Randy Savage. As for tonight, he is ready to win the tag match and get a World Title shot to bring it back to the Horsemen. Chris Benoit is ready to leave Kevin Sullivan for dead.

Public Enemy vs. Nasty Boys

Double Dog Collar match and dang it I forgot how annoyingly catchy Public Enemy's theme is. During the Boys' entrance, Tony points out that they have a large variety of matches on this show and he is absolutely right. That's something a lot of other promotions could learn from, even if they won't. Johnny Grunge and Brian Knobbs are chained together and fight to the floor, with Jerry Sags and Rocco Rock following in a hurry.

It's time for a trashcan (complete with trash for some bonus points) and thankfully we go split screen. Knobbs and Grunge fight up to the beach set, featuring Grunge being beaten with a rubber shark. Sags hits Rock with a surfboard (Tony: "You can do much more with a surfboard than with a rubber shark.") but Rock climbs a lifeguard stand to flip down onto him. Rock sends Sags through the stand but he is back up to grab a table. Said table is thrown at Rock as we go single screen since they are all together.

A piledriver in the aisle gives Sags two with Grunge making the save. Grunge fights off of the table but gets hit in the head for his efforts. Sags is put through the table for two and it is time for everyone to head back to the ring. Rock sets up another table and goes up but Sags pulls him onto the table, which does not break as Rock bounces off. Sags wraps the chain around his arm and drops an elbow on Rock onto the table...which still doesn't break. Grunge gets hung with the chain and Rock is sent into the stretched chain for the pin at 11:37.

Rating: D+. Your individual tastes may vary here but my goodness I miss those themed sets. There was sand, a lifeguard chair, a boardwalk and of course the rubber shark. Those things add so much to a show like this and that was certainly the case here. Do something like that and make the show feel special, as it isn't like you see this very often anywhere these days.

Post match the brawl stays on with Sags being knocked off the apron and through the toughest table of all time.

We aren't sure where Eric Bischoff is (he didn't show up for the pre-show) and Gene Okerlund talks about all of the tension backstage. Ignore the Cruiserweight Title match graphic popping up as he talks.

Cruiserweight Title: Disco Inferno vs. Dean Malenko

Disco, in a lot of orange and carrying a gold record, is challenging and promises to dance after he wins the title. Malenko starts fast and knocks him to the floor for a whip into the barricade. A posting puts Disco down again and the leg lariat gives Malenko two back inside. We're already off to the Figure Four necklock as this is one sided so far. A belly to back suplex drops Disco again and we hit the kneebar.

Malenko lets that go and dropkicks him in the back of the head, setting up an STF. With that broken up, Malenko grabs a

sunset flip out of the corner for two. Disco manages to slug away in the corner though and grabs a Stroke for two of his own. They go outside again though and Disco is sent hard into the barricade. Back in and a double armbars goes on as Tony has to explain what it means to "thwart" something.

Disco stretches rather far with his feet to escape again and elbows Malenko down in the corner. The middle rope ax handle sets up a neckbreaker for a slightly delayed two. A swinging neckbreaker lets Disco dance for a second before covering for two more. Malenko catches him with a springboard dropkick but the Texas Cloverleaf is countered into a small package for another near fall. A backslide doesn't work and Malenko has had it, meaning it's a tiger bomb into the Cloverleaf to retain at 12:08.

Rating: C+. I think you can call this one a shocking near miracle as Disco was a complete goon most of the time but he was working here and almost pulled off a miracle. He was a good bit away from meaning anything, but at least he put in a heck of a performance here. Malenko was his usual good self and the perfect person to help make Disco look better.

Joe Gomez vs. Steve McMichael

McMichael (Mongo, with Debra, with her dog) is still new to the wrestling thing but this is a weird choice for a pay per view match. Some chops have Gomez in trouble but a backslide gives him two. Gomez manages to send him into the corner but Mongo gets the most obvious low blow imaginable (there was no way the referee didn't see that). The beating is on with Mongo ramming him into the buckle and grabbing a reverse chinlock (Mongo: "NOW I GOT HIM!").

The sleeper goes on but Gomez jawbreaks his way to freedom. A neckbreaker gives Mongo two but the Figure Four is countered into a small package for the same. Mongo's powerbomb is countered with a backdrop and they screw up a sunset flip to

give Gomez two more. Mongo has finally had it with this and hits his Tombstone (the one move he could do well) for the pin at 6:37 (ignore Gomez's foot under the rope).

Rating: D. It's only that high because of Mongo's lack of experience but there were more problems than just that. The match was WAY more competitive than it should have been and made Gomez look like a bigger deal than Mongo. Throw in how sloppy it was (again, understandable) and the fact that this was actually on pay per view instead of on Nitro (with half the time) and this was a near disaster.

Ric Flair, with Woman and Elizabeth, says you can never have enough trophies in your career and it's time to win the US Title. Then the Horsemen can win the tag match so Flair can win the World Title tomorrow and you know what that means: LA CUCARACHA! Then they can have a private party, with Woman being rather interested in having Gene Okerlund there. That was always a weird deal, but Woman made it work.

US Title: Konnan vs. Ric Flair

Flair, with Woman and Elizabeth, is challenging. We actually get a handshake to start until Flair takes him into the corner for a WOO. Konnan headlocks him down but they're right back up, with Konnan hitting a dropkick. A slap to the face rocks Flair and another headlock takeover has him in trouble. Of note: Dusty says he has been in the ring with Konnan, which is something I need to see.

The surfboard goes on to make Flair scream again and Konnan kicks him in the back to make it even worse. There's a gorilla press and it's time for Flair to take a breather on the floor. Konnan clotheslines him off the apron but a Woman distraction lets Flair take over for the first time. Back in and Flair pokes him in the eye so the referee yells, allowing Woman to come in for a low blow. Now it's Elizabeth offering a distraction so Flair can throw Konnan over the top (with Woman

pulling the rope down).

Back in and the chinlock goes on but Konnan fights up and hammers away in the corner. A triangle dropkick puts Flair on the floor and it's time to beg off back inside. Flair punches his way out of a sunset flip but the Figure Four is countered into a small package. Now Konnan gets his own Figure Four, drawing more Flair screaming. Flair grabs the rope and scores with a suplex, only to get slammed off the top (the classics never die).

The rolling clothesline gives Konnan two and there's the abdominal stretch rollup for the same. That's enough to draw Elizabeth onto the apron for a distraction, allowing Woman to hit Konnan in the head with the high heel. Flair covers (with feet on the ropes because he's a villain) to win the title (for the first time since 1980 and the sixth time overall, still a record) at 15:35.

Rating: B-. I was expecting a styles clash here but they had a pretty good match with Flair knowing how to get the most out of just about anyone. The women cheating to make it easier for Flair is a classic story that will always work and Konnan looks strong in defeat. Rather nice surprise here and that's always a good thing to see.

The third man has gone into the Outsiders' dressing room but Gene can't make out his voice. He knows he has heard it before but he just can't place it. For some reason he doesn't ask any of the four security guards, instead asking Tony Schiavone who he thinks it might be. Bobby Heenan suggests asking the guards (or even bribing them) but Gene stops himself because he doesn't want to get caught up in one of Heenan's schemes. This has been your latest example of WCW announcers being REALLY STUPID.

Chris Benoit/Arn Anderson vs. Giant/Kevin Sullivan

If Benoit/Anderson win in any way, a Horseman gets a World

Title shot tomorrow. The fight is on in the aisle and here is Mongo with his briefcase to jump Giant. The chase is on, leaving Sullivan here on his own...for about three seconds. Sullivan punches his way out of Anderson's wristlock and it's time to scrap with Benoit, as tends to be their nature. Anderson comes back in for a knee that looked a bit low, allowing Benoit to take Sullivan outside for a ram into the barricade.

Back in and the double teaming continues, as the Horsemen know they're done if Giant gets the tag. Anderson misses a charge into the post but Benoit makes the save and hits a running elbow in the corner. Giant makes the save but Anderson grabs the abdominal stretch to keep Sullivan in trouble.

It's time to work on Sullivan's leg as I try to get my mind around the idea of Sullivan fighting for a hot tag. Sullivan manages to catapult Anderson into the corner to crotch Benoit and there's the tag to Giant. Benoit and Sullivan fight into the aisle and then the announcers' area, leaving Anderson to get chokeslammed for the pin at 7:50.

Rating: C. It was much more of an angle than a match but there was certainly a good story being told. The idea that the Horsemen knew they were in trouble against the Giant meant that they had to keep Sullivan down made sense, as did Giant wrecking things as soon as he came in. Giant was rapidly improving at this point and you could see that he was getting the hang of things in a hurry.

Post match Benoit dives off of the set onto Sullivan as the beating continues. They had back to the ring (after Giant made a rather fast exit) with Benoit wrecking Sullivan. Cue Woman to call him off but the Giant makes the real save. Giant carries the out cold Sullivan off.

Long video on the Hostile Takeover, which really did feel like the biggest thing to happen in a VERY long time. The Outsiders

kept appearing and even powerbombed Eric Bischoff off the stage at the Great American Bash. The idea was to present the team as...well as outsiders, and they made you believe that these guys were here to wreck things. I didn't know what exactly was going on, but I knew it was great. They set this up to perfection and even at eight years old, I needed to know who the third man was going to be.

Outsiders/??? vs. Sting/Lex Luger/Randy Savage

The Outsiders, coming to the ring to some generic music (probably for the only time ever in a bit of trivia that no one ever wondered about), have no third man to crank the drama up even higher. Before Team WCW comes out, here is Gene Okerlund to ask the Outsiders what is up. They confirm that the third man is here but they can handle it themselves for now. Tony: "THEN COME OUT HERE AND KICK THEIR TEETH IN RIGHT NOW!!!" Team WCW is all painted up together for a nice touch.

Luger starts with...the yet to be named Scott Hall ("This Outsider" according to Tony) and takes him into the corner where Sting tries a Stinger Splash. That crushes Luger in the corner and he's out cold, meaning he is being stretchered out (Now THAT is a great red herring!). Hall goes extra evil by stomping away while Luger is on the stretcher and Tony bothers to name (at least last name) the Outsiders. Sting hammers Hall down in the corner and the fans are WAY into this.

Savage comes in but gets punched out of the air, allowing Nash to get in a shot of his own. Hall gets knocked into the corner though and Nash comes in legally for the first time. Savage unloads in the corner but gets knocked down without much effort. The jumping elbow...I think misses, even though it made contact. Sting comes in and gets elbowed in the corner, setting up the boot choke. Tony brings up the question of why no one has come out to take Luger's place, which I believe qualifies for a "because WCW".

It's back to Hall for the fall away slam and Nash adds the big boot. Sting gets in a shot to Nash's ribs and a small package gets one on Hall. That's not enough to bring Savage back in though and Hall grabs the abdominal stretch (and Nash's hand to make it worse). Nash comes in for his own abdominal stretch, setting up Hall's sleeper. With that not working, the big side slam gives Nash two but Sting strikes away. The diving tag brings Savage back in and commentary/the crowd is right back into it.

Everything breaks down and Nash gets in a low blow on Savage. Things are looking bleak...and here is Hulk Hogan. Heenan gets in the famous "BUT WHOSE SIDE IS HE ON", which is still perfect for Heenan and not a spoiler like some have suggested. Hogan clears the ring, turns around, and drops the leg on Savage, revealing himself as the third man. We'll call it a no contest at 16:52.

Rating: C-. This is just for the match and ignoring the ending. They had to take someone out of the match for the sake of keeping it 2-2, as putting the Outsiders at a disadvantage would mess everything up. The best thing about this is that Hall and Nash can wrestle a good match with anyone and it isn't like the two of them vs. Sting/Savage was going to be bad. It was a bit dull at parts, but this is a case where 95% of the match means absolutely nothing and that is perfectly fine. The ending was all that mattered here and it worked better than anyone could have dreamed.

Post match we get some more legdrops, allowing Hall to count a pin on Savage. Hulk N Pals clear the ring, including kicking Sting to the floor. Commentary freaks out with some great lines, including Tony thinking this was all planned back in 1994 when Hogan debuted (not true of course, but absolutely something that would fit if they wanted to go that way).

Gene Okerlund gets in the ring for the famous interview, with Hogan telling the fans they need to shut up if they want to

hear what he has to say. Hogan talks about how these two came from an organization up north and no one knows more about it than him. He became bigger than the organization and then Ted Turner promised him everything he could want. Well now Hogan is bored, so he wants these two as his friends because they are the new blood of wrestling.

They are going to destroy everything in their path and all the trash in the ring represents the fans. For two years, Hogan did everything for the charities and the kids, but then the fans booed him. Well those fans can stick it, because they wouldn't be here without him and Eric Bischoff would still be selling meat from a truck in Minneapolis. Hogan: "I was selling out the world while they were bumming gas to put in their car to go to high school." The New World Organization is running wrestling and whatcha gonna do? Tony signs off, saying Hogan can "Go to h***. Straight to h***."

Where do you even begin? The first thing is that they actually did it. They actually turned Hulk Hogan, the biggest face in his generation heel. That's hard to fathom but they did it. Not only did they do it, but they absolutely nailed it, as the fans were stunned by what they saw and responded accordingly. This absolutely holds up and it did exactly what it needed to do, as Hogan is completely fresh and WCW has their hottest angle....ever.

As for what Hogan said, I don't think you can argue with it hitting the right chords. Hogan acknowledging that he was booed by the fans and not really knowing how to handle it fits the whole thing perfectly as Hogan always was an egomaniac but could get away with it because the people loved him so much. Much like Austin joining the Alliance in 2001, I'm not sure I get the idea of turning on WCW and thereby fighting the same people you've been fighting before as a change of pace, I'd call that minor at best.

This is one of those moments in wrestling and it has

absolutely deserved that right. You can't praise it enough and you certainly can't argue with how it went immediately thereafter. Hogan absolutely needed this turn to save his career, because the last year and a half had been so bad with him being pushed so hard. It opened up a new world, it was a great promo and it took me a few weeks to comprehend what happened as a kid. To say this holds up would be an understatement and it deserves all the praise that it gets.

Overall Rating: C-. Ignoring the huge main event angle, this was the usual up and down WCW show. You had the talented people turning in good matches but the lower half was its usual drek. That being said, WCW absolutely needed this show and it was absolutely the turning point for the company. As Vince McMahon said after Austin won the title, nothing that happened before tonight matters anymore and everything starts now. Not a great show, but the one point that matters worked very, very well.

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Daily News Update – July 7, 2021

Happy 25th Birthday To The New World Organization.

WWE RUMOR: Backstage Reaction To Jimmy Uso's Arrest.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/ww-e-rumor-backstage-reaction-jimmy-usos-arrest/>

Former WWE Star Reveals Scrapped Plans For New Championships.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/former-ww-e-star-reveals-plans-unreleased-championships/>

Hand It Over: Title Change Takes Place On NXT.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/hand-title-change-takes-place-nxt/>

VIDEO: Surprise Return Takes Place As NXT Battery Is Fully Charged.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-surprise-return-takes-place-nxt-battery-fully-charged/>

Sad News Regarding Terry Funk's Health.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/sad-news-regarding-terry-funks-health/>

Title Match Set For Next Week With Special Stipulation.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/title-match-set-next-week-special-stipulation/>

WATCH: Charlotte And Andrade Train Together In The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/watch-charlotte-andrade-train-together-ring/>

WWE Has Plans To Push This Re-Signed Star.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-plans-push-re-signed-star/>

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NXT – July 6, 2021 (Great American Bash): I've Missed You

NXT

Date: July 6, 2021

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Beth Phoenix, Wade Barrett, Vic Joseph

It's the Great American Bash due to reasons of...I'm not sure why we needed a special show this week but that's what we have here. The card is stacked as you might expect, with a main event of Kyle O'Reilly vs. Adam Cole II. Other than that, the biggest deal is Johnny Gargano and Karrion Kross talking, as I'm a bit surprised the title match isn't taking place here. Let's get to it.

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

The opening video looks at the card, of course featuring comments from Dusty Rhodes.

Tag Team Titles: MSK vs. Timothy Thatcher/Tommaso Ciampa

Thatcher and Ciampa are challenging. Ciampa shoulders Carter over to start but a headscissors sends Ciampa into the corner. It's off to Thatcher for a chinlock/ripping at Lee's face before Ciampa grabs his own chinlock. Lee fights up and gets over to Carter to kick Ciampa out to the floor. That means a middle rope moonsault but Thatcher shoves Ciampa out of the way to take the shot himself. Ciampa runs Carter over and applauds himself as we take a break.

Back with Carter getting taken into the wrong corner so the beating can continue. Ciampa slaps him in the face and hits a jumping knee to put Carter down again. Carter fires himself back up and gets over for the hot tag to Lee, who ducks a shot from Thatcher to take Ciampa out. Ciampa tags himself back in though and Project Ciampa gets two on Lee. The Fairy Tale Ending is blocked and the now legal Thatcher gets knocked around again, including into the corner for another tag to Ciampa.

The super Air Raid Crash is broken up and some running shots in the corner put Ciampa down. Carter hits a near fall into the Final Flash from Lee but Thatcher breaks up the pin. The spike Fairy Tale Ending sets up the ankle lock on Lee but Carter shoves Ciampa into them to break it up. Lee small packages Thatcher to retain the titles at 15:25.

Rating: B. I would not have bet on that result so well done on a nice surprise. Thatcher and Ciampa are a rather good old school hard hitting team and a win over them is a big deal for MSK. They worked a good match here and the ending got me so well done on a heck of an opener. Thatcher and Ciampa aren't done as a team either so you might even get a sequel.

The battery is at 91%.

William Regal and Samoa Joe are in the ring with Regal telling Johnny Gargano and Karrion Kross to get to the ring. Both come out and Gargano gets to the point by telling Kross (sans Scarlett or big entrance) that he sucks. Gargano knows he is in Kross' head and there is a lot of room in there. Regal isn't wasting time and says this has to be settled, so the title match is on for next week. Kross says he is bigger than Gargano, but he has bigger convictions too. When he wakes up, he thinks of three things: never lose the NXT Title, main event Wrestlemania and win the WWE Title.

What does Gargano do when he wakes up? Put on a pair of his wife's jeans? Kross says this isn't a comic book or a cartoon and people like him beat people like Gargano. Regal isn't done, as Samoa Joe is going to be the guest referee next week. Gargano says it's funny that Kross mentioned his wife, because Kross couldn't lace her boots. Kross goes after him but Samoa Joe gets in their way. This wasn't the best promo exchange but it didn't sound quite as scripted as usual.

Video on LA Knight vs. Cameron Grimes.

Million Dollar Title: LA Knight vs. Cameron Grimes

Grimes is challenging but he becomes Knight's butler if he loses. Grimes wastes no time in sending Knight outside for the big penalty kick from the apron. Back in and a heck of a high crossbody gets two on Knight, followed by a hard headlock. Knight gets away and heads to the apron for the slingshot shoulder but Grimes forearm him out of the air. The standing moonsault gives Grimes two and we hit the chinlock, complete with some knuckles to Knight's nose. Back up and Knight almost drops him off a powerslam but gets two anyway as we take a break.

We come back with Grimes fighting out of a chinlock and hitting the flipping belly to belly for two. Something like a very nasty Side Effect gives Grimes two more but Knight is

right back with a Burning Hammer for two of his own. Frustration is setting in so Knight grabs the title and is caught almost immediately.

Grimes rolls him up but Knight reverses into a rollup of his own with trunks for two. A poisonrana gives Grimes two but the threat of the Cave In sends Knight outside. Knight sweeps the leg to send Grimes onto the apron and a DDT onto the title knocks Grimes silly. That's good for a VERY close nine and Knight, already celebrating on the middle rope, is stunned. The BFT finishes Grimes at 13:13.

Rating: B-. They got on a roll here but the ending was kind of a kick to the ribs. The fans are dying to cheer for Grimes and for some reason he isn't allowed to get the big win. The butler deal should make for some good stuff as the feud can continue, but Grimes really needs to win an important match sooner or later.

Dakota Kai and Raquel Gonzalez are sick of Shotzi Blackheart and Ember Moon. It is time to get rid of those two for good.

Here are the Breakout Tournament participants:

Trey Baxter
Carmelo Hayes
Andre Chase
Josh Briggs
Ikemen Jiro
Joe Gacy
Odyssey Jones
Duke Hudson

No brackets are revealed but the tournament begins next week.

Zoey Stark/Io Shirai vs. The Way

The Way is defending. Shirai hits a running dropkick to take out Indi Hartwell's knee, followed by a running dropkick to

the ribs. A missile dropkick gives Shirai two and it's off to Stark, who is sent hard into the corner as we take a break. Back with Stark fighting up and kicking Hartwell in the head, setting up the double tag. A flapjack plants LeRae and there's the 619 to knock her silly again.

Shirai gets two off a springboard missile dropkick and it's back to Stark for a running knee to the head. The Moon Over Moonsault misses though and we go to double submissions from the champs. Those are both escaped and LeRae is knocked down again, only to break up Moon Over Moonsault.

A German suplex gets two on Shirai and it's back to Hartwell for a spinning belly to back slam. Frustration is setting in so it's back to LeRae, who gets small packaged for two. The lights go out though and the battery finishes charging revealing....TEGAN NOX. The distraction is enough for Shirai to dropkick LeRae outside, leaving Stark to hit the K360 for the pin and the titles at 12:14.

Rating: C. This was all about the big return as it isn't like the Women's Tag Team Titles mean anything around here. What matters here is the fact that Nox is back and hopefully this means she can stick around for a bit. Shirai and Stark winning the titles is fine, but it isn't like there is going to be any major future for the things.

Toni Storm isn't happy that Sarray is challenging her. Storm has had more matches in Japan than Sarray has had hot dinners so of course Sarray wants the match. But no, it isn't happening.

During the break, Dexter Lumis helped Indi Hartwell out.

It's time for Hit Row's big celebration of Isaiah Scott winning the North American Title last week. With Ashante Adonis playing the music, B-Fab raps about how awesome the team is with Top Dolla following up by saying it is time for them to get their gold. Finally, Isaiah Scott speaks so fast

that I can't quite follow what he is saying.

Speaking at a more normal speed, Scott says that he worked hard to get here and now he is champion. They head to the ring to keep rapping and say their name a lot until we cut away. This isn't my thing, but it is clearly something they have put the work into. I'm not the audience for it, but it is by no means bad.

William Regal and Samoa Joe recap the night, with Samoa Joe saying he'll be impartial next week if he is not physically provoked.

Adam Cole vs. Kyle O'Reilly

Cole takes him down to start but O'Reilly takes over without much trouble. That's enough to send Cole outside and we take an early break. Back with Cole having to block an armbar so O'Reilly grabs an ankle lock instead. That sends Cole bailing to the ropes in a hurry and this time he knocks O'Reilly outside in a hurry. Back in and Cole grabs a neckbreaker for two and the Figure Four necklock goes on.

Cole's fireman's carry is broken up with some elbows to the face and a knee to the ribs cuts him down. The rolling butterfly suplex into the double arm DDT give O'Reilly two but Cole is right back with a Backstabber for the same. Cole: "I'm better than you O'Reilly. Always have been and I always will be." That's enough to make O'Reilly snap and he hammers away on Cole in the corner.

Cole slips out though and a superkick to the leg takes O'Reilly down again. The leg is wrapped around the post and we take a break. Back with a double clothesline putting both of them down for a breather, but Cole is up first with a half crab over the ropes. O'Reilly gets in a shot to the leg of his own but neither can hit a suplex. Cole's running knee to the face gets two and the frustration is turned up.

The Panama Sunrise is blocked and Cole's knee is banged up again. O'Reilly kicks away again and they're both down. Back up and O'Reilly kicks away to set up the cross armbreaker. That's broken up so O'Reilly grabs a small package for two. The heel hook is blocked though and Cole reverses into a Figure Four. That's reversed as well and this time it's O'Reilly getting in a weird heel hook.

Cole grabs a role of his own for the break and the fans declare this awesome. O'Reilly knees him in the face and kicks him in the head, only to get enzigured. That's not enough to put Cole down though and O'Reilly hits a running knee, only to fall outside off the momentum. Panama Sunrise on the floor knocks O'Reilly silly for two back inside.

O'Reilly is back up with a kick to the face into the brainbuster but the top rope knee only hits mat. Cole hits the Last Shot for two (I bought that), giving us the kickout shocked face. A superkick to the knee looks to set up another Panama Sunrise but O'Reilly kicks his way out. The next Panama Sunrise attempt connects though and the Last Shot finishes O'Reilly at 24:04.

Rating: B+. This was another hard hitting match and I liked it a heck of a lot better than their Takeover match. Cole picking apart the knee to slow O'Reilly down and then finishing him off was great, and above all else they didn't go a crazy long time. I'm not sure what is next for either of them, but a rubber match at the next Takeover wouldn't stun me. Take that how you will.

Overall Rating: A-. Yeah this worked, with three good to very good matches and a surprise return to go with the title match. This felt like an unofficial Takeover and NXT knows how to do the big stuff as well as anyone. I had a great time with this show and for a regular TV show instead of a Takeover, that is a heck of an accomplishment. I'm sure we'll see another Takeover for Summerslam season and this gives me some renewed

hope for the show. Pretty outstanding just over two hours here and worth checking out.

Results

MSK b. Tommaso Ciampa/Timothy Thatcher – Small package to Thatcher

LA Knight b. Cameron Grimes – BFT

Io Shirai/Zoey Stark b. The Way – K360 to Hartwell

Adam Cole b. Kyle O'Reilly – Last Shot

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Impact Wrestling – July 1, 2021: Get Thee To A Laddery

Impact Wrestling

Date: July 1, 2021

Location: Skyway Studios, Nashville, Tennessee

Commentators: D'Lo Brown, Josh Matthews

We are less than three weeks away from Slammiversary and

things are starting to pick up. The main event is already set with Sami Callihan vs. Kenny Omega, but there is still time to change things up. That is still a possibility this time around as Callihan faces Moose, with the chance to make the match a triple threat. Let's get to it.

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

Opening recap.

Opening sequence.

Eddie Edwards vs. Satoshi Kojima

They're cool with each other but Edwards wanted to face Kojima before he went back to Japan. Hold on though as here is W. Morrissey to say that Kojima is alone, just like Edwards was when Morrissey jumped him in the parking lot. Cue Brian Myers with Sam Beale, who Myers refers to as his young boy. Myers says Beale can't learn anything from Kojima and calls out Jake something, but Kojima doesn't care for that. The beatdown is on with Something running out for the save. The tag match is on.

Jake Something/Satoshi Kojima vs. Sam Beale/Brian Myers

Jake runs Something over to start and sends him flying off a toss suplex. Myers comes in and gets hit with a jumping knee to the face. A knee puts Something down as well and it's back to Beale for some driving shoulders in the corner. The chinlock doesn't last long so Beale hits a short clothesline for two. That means another chinlock for a bit, followed by Myers hitting a suplex for two of his own.

With that out of the way, the chinlock goes on again, setting up some forearms to the face. Something flips out of a belly to back suplex and hits a double clothesline, allowing the hot tag off to Kojima. House is cleaned in a hurry, including the top rope elbow for two on Beale. A DDT connects but Myers

breaks up the Koji Cutter. Something takes care of Myers though and the Koji Cutter into the lariat finishes Beale at 9:25.

Rating: D+. The chinlocks didn't make this better, much like the Kojima/Something pairing feeling like a Battlebowl reject. Beale taking the fall to a legend like Kojima isn't going to hurt him and Myers has actually done a nice job of establishing himself as a midcard villain. Not a great one mind you, but he's there.

Scott D'Amore can't talk about Tommy Dreamer because he has to go answer a phone call. Decay pops in to say they should get a Knockouts Tag Team Title shot. D'Amore is too busy for that right now and says to talk to him normally next time.

Tenille Dashwood vs. Rachael Ellering

Kaleb With A K and Jazz are the seconds. Dashwood jumps her at the bell but gets taken down by a running shoulder. A backplash gives Ellering two but she has to kick Kaleb With A K off the apron. We take a break and come back with Dashwood choking on the ropes and getting two off a suplex.

A clothesline gets the same and Dashwood is already getting frustrated. Hair pulling around the ropes ensues and a butterfly suplex gives Dashwood two. Ellering comes back with a Sling Blade but a neckbreaker over the ropes cuts her off again. Dashwood goes up for a middle rope sunset flip but Ellering sits down on it for the pin at 10:23.

Rating: C-. Another match that was just kind of there, but neither of these two have had the greatest spark in most of their matches. It was a good example of a match that was just kind of there without really doing anything different. Certainly not awful, but they didn't do anything that is going to leave much of an, pun intended, impact.

Post match the beatdown is on with Jazz running in for the

save. Jordynne Grace makes the real save though and we get a big reunion, as this team has now formed, split and reunited in less than ten weeks.

Chris Bey is sick of hearing about the X-Division war when the villains come in to suggest he join up.

TJP/Fallah Bahh vs. Willie Mack/Rich Swann

A lot of dancing ensues before the match until Swann and TJP start things off. Everything breaks down in a hurry and we get a four way staredown and it's off to Mack vs. Bahh. The big slugout is on with neither being able to hit their finisher. Swann and TJP come back in with Swann clearing the ring but here is Violent By Design for the double DQ at 1:50.

The big beatdown is on with Violent By Design standing tall.

Fire N Flava want Rosemary and Havok to earn their shot and are off to talk to Scott D'Amore again. D'Amore agrees so they can have a #1 contenders match next week. This isn't what the champs want.

Tommy Dreamer talks about how he and Raven worked well together despite hating each other. That's how Team Dreamer will be tonight against the Elite.

Chris Bey vs. Petey Williams

Williams snaps off a headscissors to start and there's a running dropkick to the back for an early two. Bey gets tied in the Tree of Woe for 0 Canada but comes back with a kick to the face. A clothesline gives Bey two and it's off to the Figure Four necklock. Williams is back with a snap German suplex into a running knee to the face. That's fine with Bey, who grabs a torture rack neckbreaker for two of his own.

The Art of Finesse is countered into the spinning Russian legsweep but it's too early for the Canadian Destroyer. Williams settles for the Sharpshooter, with Bey making it over

to the rope in a hurry. They go to a pinfall reversal sequence with the Canadian Destroyer being countered again. Bey grabs a cutter though and the Art of Finesse is good for the pin at 7:43.

Rating: C+. Williams is fine as a nostalgia act who can still go well enough and he put Bey over rather well here. That's all a match like this is supposed to do, though it is all going to be thrown out the window for the sake of Ultimate X at Slammiversary. Bey would seem to be the likely winner, but you never can tell with that kind of a match.

Post match here are the X-Division villains and Williams gets beaten down in the corner. Bey walks off but Trey Miguel and Josh Alexander run in for the save. Bey finally comes in to help the good guys clean house.

Deonna Purrazzo beat Kimber Lee on Before The Impact.

Susan is freaking out over Purrazzo beating her and Kimber Lee but Lee has two ideas: the Tag Team Titles and Su Yung.

Jake Something doesn't like Brian Myers making fun of his name but it's worse to make fun of him. The challenge is on and the loser admits the winner is a professional.

Steve Maclin vs. Manny Smith

Maclin takes him down with a front facelock, followed by a quick facebuster. Smith gets tied in the Tree of Woe for a running spear. Some right hands in the corner set up some heavy elbows to the chest. The sitout reverse implant DDT finishes Smith at 3:43.

Rating: C-. Total and complete squash here as Maclin continues to look like quite the force. He has a long way to go to get anywhere, but it is nice to have someone getting a chance in a new place after WWE didn't do anything with him. He'll need to go somewhere eventually, but it is working well enough for

now.

Brian Myers accepts Jake Something's challenge so Sam Beale can see success up close.

Slammiversary rundown.

Kenny Omega/Good Brothers vs. Chris Sabin/Moose/Sami Callihan

That would be Team Tommy Dreamer, because of course it's Tommy Dreamer. Don Callis handles Omega's entrance as he validates his paycheck. Sabin crucifixes Anderson to start and it's a very early standoff. An annoyed tag brings Moose in but Callihan comes in to scare Omega off as we take a break.

Back with the good guys working on Anderson's arm but Moose and Sabin stop to jaw at each other again. The distraction lets Anderson send Sabin outside to start the stomping and now Omega is willing to come in and hammer away. It's already off to Gallows for those weird punches to the ribs in the corner and the triple splash gets two on Sabin. Anderson grabs a chinlock, followed by another from Gallows.

Sabin gets away and rolls over to Moose, who isn't interested in a tag. Instead it's off to Callihan to clean house but Anderson punches him low. Sabin tags himself in and avoids some charges in the corner. A Shining Wizard connects with Omega but NOW Moose will tag himself in...and pulls Sabin back in, which counts as another tag. Sabin and Moose brawl on the ramp before Sabin comes in again, earning himself a snapdragon. The Magic Killer finishes Sabin at 15:12.

Rating: C. This was following a formula we've seen for years and that is not the best thing. Above all else, the action was just kind of there as we waited around for the ending. I wasn't wild on what we got here for the most part, though I'm curious about where they go for Slammiversary with these guys. Moose vs. Sabin would seem likely, but I'm sure Tommy Dreamer, who added nothing here, winds up getting a match of some kind.

Overall Rating: C-. The show had its moments but it still wasn't exactly what I would consider a very good one. Slammiversary is coming up and there are only a handful of matches set. I'm sure you can guess a few more of them, but it would be nice to have some of them actually announced. What we got here was decent, but so much of it still feels like a low level promotion. Even though that is pretty much the case for Impact, it would be nice to find some way around it.

Results

Jake Something/Satoshi Kojima b. Sam Beale/Brian Myers – Lariat to Beale

Rachael Ellering b. Tenille Dashwood – Cradle

TJP/Fallah Bahh vs. Willie Mack/Rich Swann went to a double DQ when Violent By Design interfered

Chris Bey b. Petey Williams – Art of Finesse

Steve Maclin b. Manny Smith – Reverse sitout implant DDT

Kenny Omega/Good Brothers b. Chris Sabin/Moose/Sami Callihan – Magic Killer to Sabin

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Daily News Update – July 6, 2021

The Way To Start The Week.

Vince McMahon Impressed With New Monday Night Raw Story.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/vince-mcmahon-impressed-new-monday-night-raw-story/>

AJ Styles Had A Really Cool Exchange With Undertaker.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/aj-styles-really-cool-exchange-undertaker/>

WWE Announces Two Upcoming Title Matches.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-announces-two-upcoming-title-matches/>

Longtime Injured NXT Star Wrestles Dark Match Before Monday Night Raw.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/longtime-injured-nxt-star-wrestles-dark-match-monday-night-raw/>

WWE Loses Tens Of Millions Of Dollars In Lawsuit Settlement.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/wwe-loses-tens-millions-dollars-lawsuit-settlement/>

VIDEO: Hollywood Steve Austin Is Ready For NWO Week.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/video-hollywood-steve-austin-ready-nwo-week/>

RUMOR KILLER On SmackDown Contract Status.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/rumor-killer-smackdown-c>

[ontract-status/](#)

Major Update On NXT's Battery Charge Reveal *POSSIBLE SPOILER*.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/major-update-nxts-battery-charge-reveal-possible-spoiler/>

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