

Pick the Summerslam Redo

Usual stuff: I'll be redoing both the 2016 edition and one other of your choosing. Whichever one gets the most votes in whatever arbitrary space of time I decide on wins. 1998, 2002, 2011 and 2015 are ineligible as I've done them recently. You can vote in the comments.

KB

Great Balls of Fire Preview

Goodness gracious it's another pay per view weekend. This time around it's the "Monday Night Raw" side and that means a lot of stories are dragging on WAY beyond their expiration date. However, this time we have Brock Lesnar in town and that's not something you get to see every day. Or every week. Or every month. Or every three months actually. Anyway let's get to it.

Kickoff Show: Cruiserweight Title: Neville(c) vs. Akira Tozawa

We're starting off with a tricky one here. Neville has been outstanding as the Cruiserweight Champion and I'm not sure I can imagine Tozawa being the one to take the title away. That being said, Neville is starting to make me think of Jim Ross' call at the end of Undertaker vs. Kane at "Wrestlemania XIV" after the third Tombstone to Kane. Ross asked what it could possibly take to beat Kane if that didn't do it. If Tozawa doesn't win here, who in the world is going to take the belt from Neville?

We'll get to find out because I'm going with Neville to retain here. Tozawa is on a roll at the moment but this seems like the kind of place to set up a big name coming up from NXT (Johnny Gargano maybe? Or perhaps

Aleister Black, who Neville beat once and therefore has a history with the champ?) to take the title instead. Either way, Titus International doesn't get its first gold just yet (or ever most likely).

Tag Team Titles: Sheamus/Cesaro(c) vs. Hardy Boyz

This is a thirty minute Iron Man match because, AGAIN, WWE feels the need to stretch feuds out far beyond their expiration date. I know that's been a TNA problem for years but suddenly WWE is right there next to them. We've seen a ladder match, a 2/3 falls match, a cage match and a regular match (shocking I know) and now we get this, because we just needed more of the teams together.

I'll take the Hardys to win actually, if nothing else because there aren't many teams to challenge Sheamus and Cesaro otherwise. Think about it: aside from the Hardys and Heath Slater/Rhyno (When is the last time they had an important match?), there aren't any other face teams on "Monday Night Raw". I mean, unless you're counting Titus O'Neil and Apollo Crews, that's all you've got. Insert my weekly complaint about American Alpha not having a televised tag match since April 25. Too much of them being gone drives a man insane.

Intercontinental Title: The Miz(c) vs. Dean Ambrose

Speaking of feuds that need to go away for a long time (like ever), here's another one that just can't seem to die. These two have been feuding for what feels like ever and have traded the title multiple times. Save for a 37 day Dolph Ziggler reign, these two have held the title exclusively since the night after "Wrestlemania XXXII". I have no idea what's supposed to be so special about this feud but here we go again.

I'll take Miz to retain here as he has so many people in his corner and it's way too early to have the Miztourage fail him. Ambrose needs to move on to anyone else at this point and there's enough talent going around to feud with Miz and take the title from him down the line. Just get this feud over with already because while I like both guys, I'm completely sick of seeing them fight.

Women's Title: Alexa Bliss(c) vs. Sasha Banks

I'm not sure what to think of this one. Again I like them both and Bliss has been on absolute fire (not straight fire because that would be gimmick infringement but still fire) with the title. Banks needs a big win though as it feels like forever since she and Charlotte were having their great/historic feud.

I'll take Bliss, likely through some sort of shenanigans. All signs seem to point to Nia Jax going after the title (because it certainly won't be Bayley, who apparently just lucked her way into being the biggest star in NXT or something), likely at "Summerslam 2017" and it would make more sense for her to want to face Bliss, who she likely thinks she would squash, that someone who has beaten her multiple times now. Bliss retains, though it's in a tough defense.

Seth Rollins vs. Bray Wyatt

I'll buy you a ham sandwich if you can make coherent sense out of whatever Wyatt is talking about with this one. I know it's the usual stuff but that doesn't mean it's something that makes the most sense in the world. Basically Wyatt thinks Rollins deserves a beating for bragging about beating Triple H and Rollins is always ready for a fight. This feels like the biggest filler match for both of them that I could imagine and that's not a good thing for two people going through the motions at the moment.

I'll take Wyatt to win, as I tend to do in these things. The problem is he'll win these matches but then never go anywhere with them because his character never changes and he chokes when the real pressure is on. I still have no idea why they took the Smackdown World Title off of him so soon when Jinder Mahal was their big idea. Rollins doesn't have anything going on either but I'll take Wyatt on a glorified coin flip.

Enzo Amore vs. Big Cass

Now this one has me interested. The problem with the team was always simple: Amore was limited in the ring and there's only so much that Big Cass can do on his own. The thing is, Amore might be hot enough on the

mic to carry us past that. If he just throws everything he has at Big Cass, there's a real argument to be made for him getting close here.

I say getting close here because, of course, Big Cass should win here. He has the potential to be a very solid heel character and that would start by having him kick Amore's head off and plant him with whatever he's calling his spinning side slam these days. Let Big Cass win here and start moving Amore over to "205 Live" where he belongs and everything will be fine.

Roman Reigns vs. Braun Strowman

Ambulance match. This one ENTIRELY depends on if you think they might be changing the main event of "Summerslam 2017" by having Reigns face Lesnar there. If that's the case, of course Reigns goes over here and sets up the biggest match of the year to FINALLY makes Reigns the guy, because winning the last two Wrestlemania main events, including becoming World Champion again, just wasn't enough.

That being said, of course I'm taking Strowman because you know full well that no one is taking away Reigns' moment in the New Orleans sun. It doesn't matter if you like it or not but Reigns is likely winning the Royal Rumble (in Philadelphia again, because Philadelphia just hadn't had a Royal Rumble in three years and that's not fair to the city and its fans) and going on to take the title from Lesnar in New Orleans because...whatever Vince McMahon sees in him. But yeah Strowman wins here and gets F5'd at "Summerslam 2017".

Raw World Title: Brock Lesnar(c) vs. Samoa Joe

Now if you're rather slow, you might not get who I think is winning here. First of all, Samoa Joe has looked AWESOME in this buildup and that's a great thing. They've treated him like a legitimate threat to Lesnar and that's not something a lot of people can say. Win or lose he's going to come out of here looking like a much bigger deal than he went in as and that's a very good thing.

But yeah, Lesnar wins here and he does it in a heck of a fight. The key thing here though is Lesnar's motivation. If he's willing to work, this

could be one of the most entertaining brawls in a long time. If he's just being Lesnar, I feel sorry for Samoa Joe who has worked this hard to get here. Lesnar wins though, but it's going to take a fight that shakes his nerves and rattles his brain.

Overall Thoughts

This show has surprised me a bit actually. When you hear the name Great Balls of Fire, how are you supposed to take it seriously? Even WWE has made fun of the thing because there's not much of a way to spin a Jerry Lee Lewis song as the name of a pay per view. You have SO many options to pick from (Great American Bash anyone?) and this is the best they can have?

The thing is though, they've managed to turn it into something interesting with a pretty solid card. I know the main event isn't likely to be the biggest surprise in the world but it could be one heck of a fight, especially if Lesnar is feeling motivated. Throw in what should be a good match between Reigns and Strowman and all they need is one other match to come through to make it a solid show. I'm actually coming into this one with a positive feeling, though again, PLEASE don't let Samoa Joe get squashed. Is that too much to ask?

Oh and in one last wrestling connection: Great Balls of Fire is where Ric Flair got WOO. Lewis says it different but Flair has said he took it from the song several times. So in case you're a fan or it makes you think "come on baby, you're driving me crazy", you have someone to blame for it.

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Smackdown – February 6, 2003: Ignore the Man and LOOK AT THE TONGUE!

Smackdown

Date: February 6, 2003

Location: First Union Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Commentators: Michael Cole, Tazz

No Way Out is creeping closer and it's pretty clear that Hulk Hogan vs. the Rock is the main event, even if the big match on the horizon is Hogan vs. Vince McMahon. Other than that though we have Team Angle gearing up to face Los Guerreros for the Tag Team Titles, which should be a lot of fun. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

There's a crane in the arena and a big gift from Big Show, which has Undertaker's name on it. Last time I remember seeing one of those things it was Cactus Jack so hopefully it's more of the same.

Rey Mysterio vs. Jamie Noble

Mysterio looks at the package on the way in. Is your name Undertaker Rey? Then why are you looking at it? Quit being greedy. Jamie does the same but that's more acceptable since he's a poor West Virginian and didn't get many presents growing up. They run the ropes before awkwardly

colliding with Jamie getting the better of it. A gutbuster gives Jamie two and we hit an early abdominal stretch.

Rey pops up and hits a spinning springboard crossbody for two of his own. Nidia pulls Rey off the apron but Rey is right back up for the 619 a few seconds later. That's broken up by Nidia as well but an enziguri sets up the double 619 on both villains. Tazz: "TWELVE THIRTY EIGHT!" The West Coast Pop puts Jamie away.

Rating: D+. Just a match here as Rey gets some momentum back after getting crushed by A-Train. It would seem that they're saving his Cruiserweight Title win for a major moment, though putting him in that nothing division would seem like a huge downgrade. The title can barely get five minutes a week and we're supposed to buy Rey, who was going toe to toe with Angle just a few weeks ago, not being able to beat some of the talent down there?

Rock joins us via satellite and rips on Philadelphia and its cheese steaks before saying it's because he's lactose intolerant. He'll take some Tampa Bay Tofu instead (Tampa recently eliminated the Philadelphia Eagles from the NFL Playoffs) but first let's hear them chanting his names. They boo instead, because Rock is one of the best heels in wrestling when he wants to be.

Rock is cool with being booed because he knows he can electrify like no other. After mentioning Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb, Rock says there's one person Philadelphia never turned on: Hulk Hogan. After talking about a phone number Hogan can call to get a whipping, Rock wraps it up. This is still tweener stuff but when Rock turns on the full on heel push, it's going to be amazing.

Rikishi vs. Nunzio

Nunzio goes straight after him to start and gets superkicked for his efforts. The running splash in the corner sets up the Rump Shaker for the fast pin. Squash.

Rikishi starts dancing but Nunzio says cut it out because he's got friends. As I've said time after time: stop trying to start angles with

people who just got beat in a minute and a half. It makes it really hard to care and I don't know why wrestling companies think it's a good idea.

Here's Heyman to order the gift brought to the ring. Post break Heyman says Big Show isn't here tonight but he'd like Undertaker to come out here and get his gift. Undertaker comes out and Heyman bails, leaving the gift to be opened to reveal...Brother Love. With the annoying voice sounding exactly the same, Love talks about a message of forgiveness to Big Show. Love brings up their history and says if Undertaker remembers anything from their original time together. Undertaker chokeslams and Tombstones him in short order. Good little cameo here and it didn't overstay its welcome as so many others do.

Hogan is here and runs into Brock Lesnar, who he's all cool with all of a sudden.

Matt Hardy vs. Billy Kidman

Non-title though Matt has a TV/DVD player in his car and usually exceeds the speed limit. Kidman goes after Shannon Moore and walks into an early Side Effect. A legdrop gets two but Kidman is back up with a dropkick and a Sky High for two of his own. Kidman heads up top but dives into a Twist of Fate attempt, only to counter it into a rollup for the pin on Hardy. Too short to rate but energetic while it lasted.

Matt promises to drop ten pounds and take Kidman's most cherished possession. Torrie Wilson?

Kurt Angle tells his team to fly like an eagle. Kurt: "A real eagle. Not the Philadelphia Eagles." We get the idea already.

Tag Team Titles: Los Guerreros vs. Team Angle

Eddie and Chavo are defending and it's just Heyman with Team Angle instead of Kurt. Chavo and Benjamin start things off with the former getting in way over his head in a technical sequence. It's off to Eddie instead and a dropkick knocks Haas down so Chavo can get two.

Benjamin comes back in and eats a clothesline before getting choked in the corner. Charlie gets drawn in so the champs can crotch Benjamin

against the post, bugging Shelton's eyes out of his head. Shelton finally fights out of a chinlock and takes Eddie into the corner, only to have Eddie whipped into Chavo for a double knockdown. Another collision sends Chavo outside in a heap and we take a break.

Back with Chavo in trouble and Haas dropping some rapid fire elbows for two. The jump over Haas onto Chavo's back gives Shelton two more but Eddie breaks up a second attempt. Everything breaks down and Chavo DDTs both champions, allowing the hot tag to Eddie. Three Amigos get two on Charlie and it's an old school Powerplex with Shelton making a save. Charlie German suplexes Eddie but gets caught in a sunset bomb for another near fall. Eddie shoves Shelton off the top and hits the frog splash but Benjamin isn't legal. The confusion lets Charlie roll Eddie up for the pin and the titles.

Rating: B. I rather like the fact that Team Angle won the belts clean. Yeah it was a bit of a confusing ending but it was completely within the rules as Eddie was the one covering the wrong man. Chavo and Eddie's antics alone will keep them over so Team Angle can get a lot more out of the titles, especially since they're so new.

Heyman seems more excited than the new champions.

Here's Hogan to respond to Rock but before his music even quits playing though, Rock comes on screen to interrupt again. Hogan calls Rock out for not being here in Philadelphia but Rock tells him to get to the WELL LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING BROTHER because everything else is just meaningless.

Hogan talks about Rock being lucky that he's nowhere near Philadelphia but hang on again. It turns out that Rock has to leave because the tofu is ready. Hogan needs to get to the point already but Rock wants Hulk to remind him to give him a beating at No Way Out, if you smell (Rock: "LOOK AT THE TONGUE! LOOK AT THE TONGUE!") what he's cooking.

Rock leaves so Hogan goes on a rant about Vince thinking Hulkamania is on life support because he's scared to face Hulk one on one. He dubs Rock as the Rock-a-Jabroni (egads) and promises that the millions and millions of Hulkamaniacs are going to run wild on Rock at No Way Out. As you might

have guessed, Rock was entertaining because he was mixing things up while Hogan was one of the two same promos he's cut for about five years at this point.

The locker room is watching Hogan talk in the back when Sean O'Haire comes in to talk to Brian Kendrick. O'Haire thinks Kendrick should streak to get attention and Brian thinks it's a good idea. He puts on a scarf (reference to a commercial at the time) and thankfully we go to a break.

A-Train vs. Shannon Moore

Kendrick runs in without anything on, dances around, runs away from the referee and sprints through the crowd. A-Train wins in about forty five seconds with the Train Wreck.

Kendrick comes back until referees corner him, only to have Brian dive underneath the ring and escape to the back.

During the break, Kendrick ran into Stephanie's office so size jokes can be made. As usual, there was no reason to have Stephanie here other than for the sake of her getting screen time.

Here's John Cena to call out Lesnar for no logical reason. Cena insults Lesnar's intelligence and says Brock can have the next big thing if Cena takes his pants off.

Benoit talks about how amazing the ovation he received in Boston was, only to have Angle come in. Angle says the title and gold medal are his wife and children so no one is taking them away.

Chris Benoit vs. Kurt Angle

Angle's wife isn't on the line. Benoit armdrags him into an armbar and gets two off a snap suplex. Angle sends Chris outside and Heyman actually runs him over in a rare sight. Back in and we hit a chinlock with a bodyscissors. A belly to back suplex gets two but Benoit makes a quick comeback with a clothesline and backdrop. The Crossface goes on but Angle reverses into a cradle to escape.

The Angle Slam is countered into a Crossface on the other arm as the

crowd is really not reacting to any of this. Angle can't use an ankle lock to escape but he gets to the ropes for a break. Kurt is back up with a buckle bomb of all things, only to get thrown down with a release German suplex. A bloody Benoit gets two but misses the Swan Dive to get us back to even. Benoit's headlock is countered into the Angle Slam for the VERY sudden pin. Maybe they went home fast because of the cut?

Rating: B. Well that was quick. The match ran about ten minutes and felt like it needed another five when it just ended. Benoit certainly didn't have the same fire out there but you're only going to get so much with a limited time on a run of the mill TV show. Even on a bad night these two are going to be good though, so it's hard to complain much.

Post match Team Angle comes in, only to have Edge and Lesnar make the save to end the show. Sounds like a six man.

Overall Rating: C+. The two matches involving Kurt/Team Angle were both good but it's a barren wasteland outside of them. The only things coming into my mind are Kendrick streaking, Matt needing to lose weight and Rock shouting LOOK AT THE TONGUE. As has been mentioned many times, this show (and its counterpart) really need something for the midcard to do and it's becoming clear that there was no need to get rid of the Intercontinental and US Titles. Just bring them back already and let the show improve because of it. The good matches carry this but good night it would have been bad without them.

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Ring of Honor TV – July 5, 2017: Back on Track

Ring of Honor

Date: July 5, 2017

Location: Frontier Fieldhouse, Chicago Ridge, Illinois

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Colt Cabana

We're still in Chicago and still getting ready to deal with the fallout from Best in the World, which should start in another two weeks if we're lucky. I'm really running out of ways to complain about how messed up the schedule is and I still don't understand why we have to wait so long. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Here's new World Champion Cody in the ring so apparently we're already on the new taping cycle. THEN WHY DIDN'T WE HAVE THIS LAST WEEK??? Anyway before he can say much of anything, Christopher Daniels shows up and beats the heck out of the new champ. A referee gets tossed and the brawl continues with Cody hitting a Disaster Kick. Daniels gets in a moonsault to the floor though and security breaks it up. The fans want to see them fight and didn't seem to favor one over the other. Good opener here and I have no idea why this didn't follow the pay per view last week if it was already filmed.

Jay Briscoe says this is different than the Top Prospect Tournament and Josh Woods is in way over his head.

Jay Briscoe vs. Josh Woods

They adhere to the Code of Honor in a bit of a surprise. Feeling out

process to start with Josh tripping him to the mat and chuckling a bit. A cross armbreaker doesn't last long so it's another trip to take Briscoe down. Josh knees him in the head and this is one sided in the first few minutes.

Jay comes right back with a big boot to knock Josh outside and there's a suicide dive. Well done there with having Josh get the better of it when there are rules and structure but Briscoe takes over when things get a little more violent and intense. Back with Jay throwing him outside for a whip into the barricade as the brawling continues to go Briscoe's way.

There's a ton of room on the floor too, which makes me think they could have easily fit another row or even two of fans in there. I can't imagine sales were that weak in Chicago of all places. Back in and Josh blocks a suplex for one of his own, followed by the TKO into a knee to the face. A springboard spinning knee/kick to the face gets two on Jay, who shrugs it off and lariats Woods for the pin at 10:50.

Rating: B-. I had a good time with this match as Briscoe continues to give the younger guys a rub, just like he did with Jay White. It's not like he has anything else going on right now so give these guys something that they're not going to be able to get from anyone else. Good match too with Woods showing off because he found out he was in over his head.

We look at Will Ferrara splitting with Cheeseburger because he's sick of dealing with a charity case like Cheeseburger. Haven't these guys split like three times now?

Tempura Boyz vs. Coast to Coast

Actually hang on as here are the Young Bucks who offer to add themselves to the match with the titles on the line under tornado rules.

Tag Team Titles: Young Bucks vs. Tempura Boyz vs. Coast to Coast

The Bucks are defending under tornado rules and the champs waste no time cleaning house. It's immediately time to fire off the kicks to send all four challengers outside, followed by the Rise of the Terminators. The double dives are broken up though with the Boyz hitting stereo German

suplexes on the floor.

Coast to Coast dives on everyone and we take a break. Back with Nick firing off running knees in the corner to both Boyz, only to get caught in something like a 3D with a Flatliner instead of a cutter. There's the big flip dive to the floor to take out Coast to Coast but the Meltzer Diver is broken up.

Coast to Coast comes back in and breaks up the Superkick Party (Colt: "Everybody knows they're just going to do superkicks so it's not that hard to figure out."). A double Indytaker sets up double superkicks to retain the titles at 8:27. That's the EXACT same ending as the match in Long Beach.

Rating: C+. I can't believe I'm saying this but thank goodness for the Bucks here. Coast to Coast and the Tempura Boyz are completely worthless tag teams so throw the Bucks in there and turn it into a glorified squashed. The match wasn't great but this could have been very boring so the Bucks really did help things out.

Highlights of Adam Cole vs. Marty Scurll in an anything goes match.

Mark Briscoe vs. Beer City Bruiser vs. Kenny King vs. Chris Sabin

One fall to a finish and the winner gets a TV Title shot. Mark says he has to win because he has four kids. I wonder if he has an above ground pool. Mark and Kenny start things off and apparently this is under lucha rules, meaning Bruiser can come in and toss people to the floor.

Sabin dives into a side slam and for some reason Bruiser tags out. Why would you do that in a one fall match where you have to be legal to win? King's Muta Lock is broken up and it's Mark coming in to clean house. A moonsault to the floor takes out Bruiser and King, followed by Sabin firing off the kicks from the apron.

We take a break and come back with Bruiser running Mark over as the tags have been completely abandoned, as is the custom in these matches. Mark gets crushed against Sabin in the corner for a good looking crash, followed by a running flip dive to the floor to take out Mark and Chris.

Kenny dives onto everyone but Mark is smart enough to walk away. Back in and Mark hits the brainbuster on Kenny, setting up the Froggy Bow at the same time the Bruiser splashes Chris. Both guys get up to avoid leaving is as a three way but King actually manages a Royal Flush on the Bruiser for the pin and the title shot at 10:59.

Rating: C. Pretty standard chaos match here with everyone flying all over the place and little in the way of storytelling, though that's kind of the point to something like this. King winning is an interesting way to go as the Rebellion was such a waste of time but King's natural athleticism should be more than enough to give him a good match with Kushida.

Overall Rating: C+. I had a good time with this show as there were three solid matches and a strong angle to open things up. They should be fine head into the next few weeks but above all else I'm VERY happy that we're already on the pay per view fallout and don't have to sit around waiting through weeks of one off filler shows. Good show this week and one of the more entertaining editions in a long time.

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Impact Wrestling – July 6, 2017: Let's Just Call It "The Company That's Going To Screw Stuff Up"

Impact Wrestling

Date: July 6, 2017

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Josh Matthews, Jeremy Borash, D'Angelo Dinero

We're back stateside and past Slammiversary which saw Alberto El Patron become the new Impact Wrestling World Champion. However, it's also a new era as the company has rebranded as Global Force Wrestling. In theory the show is still called Impact Wrestling how in depth the changes go remains to be seen. Let's get to it.

LAX is in the clubhouse and Konnan says they're bringing the newest member tonight. It's going to be Alberto isn't it?

Recap of Slammiversary, making sure to get in that freaking owl.

Opening sequence.

Here's Alberto with his brother and father to open things up with a celebration. Apparently his brother is going to be in the ring soon and we'll get to see how talented this family really is. Alberto praises his father and talks about what it means to be World Champion. If anyone, even if they work for a different company, wants a shot, come get one. Cue Lashley to say the win meant nothing and to promise to build a wall around the family. Dos Caras slaps Lashley in the face but Alberto gets between them. The fight is scheduled for later.

Earlier today, Bruce Prichard yelled at the announcers, telling them to chill out and drop all the drama. Thanks for doing this THREE MONTHS AGO.

Two very large, muscular men known as the Swoll Mates, will be debuting

in two weeks.

Caleb Konley vs. Sonjay Dutt

Non-title. Konley takes him into the corner and grabs an early cravate as they don't seem to have much time. A bodyscissors into a rollup gives Konley two and he smacks Dutt in the jaw for good measure. Konley charges into a pendulum kick in the corner and it's the tornado DDT to plant him hard. Dutt drops the top rope splash for the pin at 4:47.

Rating: D+. Just a match here with Dutt getting a win to further establish himself as champion. I'm also glad they didn't make this a title match as Konley hasn't won a match in the better part of ever and it wouldn't make a lot of sense to have him get a title shot so soon. Now we need an opponent not named Low Ki to go after the title.

Post match Trevor Lee comes in and drops Dutt before running away with the title. Lee declares himself the new champion.

Grado is back with an American flag and flanked by the Veterans of War and Eddie Edwards. They want to celebrate the Fourth of July in an eight man tag tonight because they're proud to be Americans. The four of them leave and a rather rotund man is doing Hindu squats.

Eli Drake/Chris Adonis/Fallah Bahh/Mario Bokara vs. Veterans of War/Eddie Edwards/Grado

Adonis poses at the Swoll Mates on the way to the ring. Drake gets taken into the corner and thrown around by the Veterans of War. Adonis can't do much with Mayweather so here's Grado to get beaten into the corner. It's off to Eddie to kick Bahh off the apron but Mario escapes the Backpack Stunner. Everything breaks down and Grado elbows Bahh out to the floor. The MOAB drops Drake and there's the middle rope Codebreaker to Adonis. A quick Boston Knee Party ends Adonis at 4:36.

Rating: C-. So that happened. This felt like a way to get as many people into a match as possible in a match with little interest or drama. Eddie getting the win makes sense but I really could have gone for Drake getting put into a feud instead of just toiling in the midcard even more.

Use that guy's talents instead of just letting him flounder.

Post match here's Joseph Park to give Grado a letter, which really upsets him. Grado leaves with park and isn't happy.

Braxton Sutter vs. Matt Sydal

Josh says Allie looks like an Easter Bunny and Braxton dresses like that guy from the 90s with three H's in his name. Super Heavyweight Hardcore Holly? Sutter chops him into the corner and fires off some knees. Something like a reverse Fameasser drops Sutter, followed by a kick to the head. Sydal drops the shooting star press for the pin at 3:17.

Rating: D+. Speaking of wasted talents, the fall (from not that high in the first place) of Sutter and Allie continues. What in the world is the point in having them lose this often when we're just a few months removed from one of the company's best moments in years? At least Sydal's push seems solid enough though and that's a good thing.

Sutter is frustrated after the loss and doesn't want Allie around him.

LAX doesn't say anything new.

JB is in the ring for the announcement of the Super X Cup, an eight person X Division tournament for a big trophy. The eight participants come out and we get the first round matches:

Sammy Guevara

Drago

ACH

Andrew Everett

Taiji Ishimori

Davey Richards

Dezmond Xavier

Idris Abraham

Video on Abraham.

Video on Xavier.

Super X Cup First Round: Idris Abraham vs. Dezmond Xavier

Feeling out process to start with Xavier grabbing a headlock. Xavier starts flipping around until a running boot to the ribs cuts him off. Back from a break with Abraham still in control but a quick cutter takes him down. Xavier sends him face first into the turnbuckle and Abraham is stunned.

Back up and a deadlift German suplex drops Abraham but he kicks Desmond in the head. Not that it really matters as Xavier gets in a kick to the head of his own and Abraham is stunned even more. In a flash back to days of X-Division old, Spiral Tap puts Abraham away at 11:15.

Rating: C+. Fun match here between two guys we haven't seen around too often. Xavier was entertaining and it was nice to have someone fresh out there. The division is DYING for more talent and these two could be a decent place to start. Do more of this and give them some more time for a change.

Gail Kim has an announcement next week.

Video on Naomichi Marufuji.

Xavier says that finisher was the Final Flash. You'll see it again. For some reason the interviewer sounded like he was shouting from a long way off.

Moose is ready to defend against Marufuji next week but Ethan Carter III comes in to say he deserves a shot. Moose tells him to go to the back of the line.

Rebel vs. Sienna

Non-title. Sienna throws her against the ropes to start and starts in with some hard kicks to the head. A charge misses in the corner but Sienna easily counters a handspring elbow into a German suplex. Sienna

gets two off a Samoan drop but Rebel knocks her into the corner for some running knees and elbows. The handspring splash staggers Sienna but Rebel dives onto KM. Back in and Sienna rolls her into the guillotine choke for the tap at 3:16.

Rating: D. Rebel may be rather fetching at times but she's not all that great in the ring. To be fair though this was only designed to be a squash so there's not much to get out of it. Sienna needs challengers and odds are that's going to be Gail before her retirement later in the year. Not a good match with time working against it.

The announcers run down next week's card.

GFW/Impact Wrestling World Title Alberto El Patron vs. Bobby Lashley

Lashley is challenging and strikes away to start, knocking Alberto outside in the process. The champ gets sent into the steps and another hard whip sends him into the steps. We hit the chinlock for a bit before Alberto is backdropped to the floor, nearly hitting the post as we take a break.

Back with Alberto fighting out of another chinlock and firing off the kicks to the legs and a shot to the head. A big powerbomb plants the champ for two and Lashley is already starting to get frustrated. There's the Codebreaker to the arm but Lashley cuts him off with a spinebuster.

Alberto kicks him in the face though and gets two off a middle rope double stomp to the back. Lashley shrugs it off and sends the champ into the corner for a double stomp of his own, followed by the spear for no cover. Instead it's the Dominator but Lashley still won't cover. Not that it matters as LAX comes in to go after Lashley for the DQ at 15:03.

Rating: B-. This was as good as it was going to get though I'm not sure on having the new champ get beaten down this much. Also, Lashley needs to wrap up this feud and go on to do anything else for awhile. He's been in the title picture for too long and they need to bring in some fresh blood for a change.

Konnan says Alberto is the newest member of the team, though he's out of

it and doesn't acknowledge the announcement. They hold up his arm to end the show. Alberto didn't agree or pose with them or anything that would make this official.

Overall Rating: C-. If this was supposed to be the big new beginning, it really didn't come off as such. This felt like any given episode of the show with the GFW name barely being mentioned. Then again I'm not entirely sure even they know what the company is called at this point so you take what you can get.

The wrestling was hit and miss and the big angle at the end didn't do much for me, though at least it feels new. The X-Division getting more attention is nice, but it doesn't matter if it goes as it has so many times in the past (starts hot, fizzles in a hurry). It's not a bad show but they already seem to have lost the momentum and good energy that they had from the pay per view, which might be a record even for them.

Results

Sonjay Dutt b. Caleb Konley – Top rope splash

Eddie Edwards/Grado/Veterans of War b. Fallah Bahh/Mario Bokara/Chris Adonis/Eli Drake – Boston Knee Party to Adonis

Matt Sydal b. Braxton Sutter – Shooting Star Press

Dezmond Xavier b. Idris Abraham – Final Flash

Sienna b. Rebel – Guillotine choke

Lashley b. Alberto El Patron via DQ when LAX interfered

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205 Live – July 4, 2017: Bad Old American Timing

205 Live

Date: July 4, 2017

Location: Talking Stick Resort Arena, Phoenix, Arizona

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Corey Graves

We're in the desert this week as the build towards Neville vs. Akira Tozawa for the Cruiserweight Title continues. It's hard to say what else we might be getting on this show, but there's a good chance that it's going to be more of Cedric Alexander vs. Noam Dar in the feud that won't die. Let's get to it.

Titus O'Neil is in the back talking to Akira Tozawa, who is over in Japan training. O'Neil runs into Ariya Daivari and Mustafa Ali, who he recruits and promises not to hit. Titus certainly has some great energy and he's a better fit as a manager than a horrible manager.

Opening sequence.

Announcers chat for a bit.

Here's Titus for a chat, including a clear podium and pictures of both Tozawa and Neville. Titus praises Neville but knows he'll be no match for the Power of Tozawa. This brings Neville out and we see the ending to last night's show with Braun Strowman destroying both Titus and Apollo Crews. Neville is cut off by a YOU'RE NOT STROWMAN chant but suggests

that Titus take a seat and watch what happens when he's mad at someone.

Neville vs. Lince Dorado

Non-title and Titus sits in on commentary. There's something amusing about Dorado making his entrance while the ring crew takes the big carpet to the back. Neville powers him down to the mat to start but Dorado starts to flip around, including escaping a German suplex. A monkey flip drops Neville again as Joseph is now wearing Titus' sunglasses and hat. Neville gets pulled out to the floor in a heap for a hurricanrana off the apron but Dorado is sent knees first into the steps. Back in and Neville powerbombs him into the Rings of Saturn for the tap at 3:59.

Rating: C-. Just a squash here but I get one heck of a kick out of watching Neville just mauling people. Dorado isn't going to lose anything by getting beaten down by Neville, who basically does this to everyone. Whenever someone finally takes the title off of Neville, it's going to be a huge deal and it's because of matches like this one where Neville looks great.

TJP has requested a match with Rich Swann to get back on track with some friendly competition. He seems to be turning back to the good side.

Jack Gallagher vs. Tony Nese

Nese poses at him to start and Gallagher makes the questionable choice to accept a test of strength. With that going nowhere, Jack takes him down for about five straight rolling crucifixes for the same number of near falls. Nese finally sends him hard into the ropes and hammers away to really take over. Jack gets tied in the Tree of Woe so Nese lays on his back and kicks away while doing situps at the same time. Sounds like the evolution of Scott Steiner.

Back up and Nese grabs a fireman's carry but bends Jack around his neck to grasp his hands, kind of like a reverse torture rack. Jack slips down and tries a cross armbreaker but Nese powers out again. Nese tries something like a Lionsault but tweaks his knee on the landing (Is anyone else getting tired of that?), setting up the headbutt and running dropkick to give Gallagher the pin at 6:09.

Rating: C. They had a story here with Nese getting a bit too flashy for the sake of showing off, allowing Gallagher to catch him in the end. All Gallagher needed was a single opening to get the win, which should help keep him strong in the feud with Brian Kendrick. That has some potential, especially after how good the feud with Tozawa was.

Post match here's Kendrick on screen, this time dressed like a stereotypical Revolutionary War Era Englishman. Kendrick lists off some dates in the American Revolution, all of which involve the English losing. Brian promises to rid 205 Live of the British scourge. Was this really the right idea on THE FOURTH OF JULY? The USA chants while the good guy, from England, is in the ring would suggest otherwise.

We look back at Cedric Alexander beating Noam Dar (yet AGAIN) last night on Raw.

Dar is getting his neck looked at and is told to keep icing it. Alicia Fox comes in and Dar talks about wanting the Cruiserweight Title. That is NOT cool with Fox who wants Dar to deal with Cedric. This better get some votes for Worst Feud of the Year because it's lasting longer and is more unpleasant than a bad fungus.

TJP vs. Rich Swann

They grapple to start with TJP grabbing a wristlock but getting taken down into an armbar. That's countered into a headscissors on the mat, only to have Swann pop up and flip over TJP for a running dropkick. The threat of a dive to the floor sends TJP running and Swann dabs a bit.

Swann misses a charge though and crashes out to the floor for a nine count, followed by an armbar back inside. Rich gets kicked down for trying a comeback as Joseph keeps calling TJP Perkins. If that's allowed, why not just call him TJ Perkins? I'm going to assume it's something stupid and move on. We hit a Muta Lock on Swann until a rope is grabbed, meaning it's time for the real comeback.

Rolling Thunder and a modified Michinoku Driver get two each but TJP is right back with a springboard forearm into a nipup. That just earns him a spinning kick to the head (Swann's former finisher) but TJP pops right

back up with the double chickenwing gutbuster for a near fall of his own. The kneebar is broken up so it's a double kick to the head to drop both guys. TJP's Detonation Kick is countered and we hit a pinfall reversal sequence with Swann reversing a sunset flip into a cradle for the pin at 12:17.

Rating: B. This was the kind of longer wrestling match you don't get often enough. They were playing up the idea that they knew each other so well and Swann just caught him in the end instead of really beating him. It's nice to see Swann getting a win here to get himself back on track, even if it's just in the short term.

They shake hands to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Sometimes you need an episode that barely focuses on the title, which is what happened here. Neville had a squash but Tozawa wasn't around and the champion's match was by far the shortest match of the night. There was also a good main event and that makes for an entertaining hour, though the Cedric vs. Dar stuff needs to crawl in a fire somewhere soon.

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Monday Night Raw – February 3, 2003 (2017 Redo): I Waited Thirteen Years For This?

Monday Night Raw

Date: February 3, 2003

Location: MCI Center, Washington D.C.

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

It's always cool to have a show from my birthday. We're coming up on No Way Out and that means HHH needs a challenger for the World Title. That will be set up tonight as Scott Steiner faces Chris Jericho in a #1 contenders match. Given that Steiner won at the Royal Rumble and JR immediately talked about there being NO WAY OUT, this shouldn't be too complicated. Let's get to it.

Eric Bischoff is in his limo in San Antonio to sign Steve Austin. Chief Morley is in charge tonight but they can't hear each other. I have no idea if this was supposed to be funny but egads we're in trouble if that's what passes for comedy. This was aired properly on the Network version but the Spanish audio bled over and drowned Bischoff out in the original broadcast.

Opening sequence.

Here are Stacy Keibler and Test, the former of whom is back from nearly being hit in the head by a chair. She says being hit was just an accident but she needs to be more careful. An apology from Chris Jericho would have made things better but Test wants Jericho out here right now.

This brings out Jericho to say he has more important things to worry about tonight. Test, showing the best acting skills of his career, says Jericho has five seconds to apologize or he's coming up the ramp. The

time passes but Christian comes in from behind to shove Test into Stacy. Test gets back up and beats the heck out of Christian before tending to Stacy.

Rob Van Dam and Kane nearly get into an argument over Kane leaving Van Dam last week. Kane goes into a rant about how Van Dam doesn't know what it's like to be him. Van Dam: "So all your power is in your mask?" Morley comes in and makes a match between the two of them for later.

Test and Stacy leave.

Dudley Boyz vs. 3 Minute Warning

Hang on as Morley makes Rico guest referee. The Samoan Bucks hit double superkicks to start but Rosey misses a split legged moonsault. The Doomsday Device drops Jamal for the slow two so they loads up 3D on Rosey. Not that it matters as Jamal grabs a rollup for the fastest count in recorded history and the pin.

With Spike's help, Rico gets put through a table.

Bischoff is trying to find Austin but doesn't have his address. He does however have a dumb limo driver who says he'll get Bischoff to Austin's house if he has the right address.

Back from a break with a countdown clock to Bischoff getting fired as they've entirely given up on the 30 days thing. They would have known that 30 days were up on a Wednesday so why not just say four weeks? Is a calendar too complicated of an idea?

Tommy Dreamer comes out for a match but HHH and company come out to destroy him instead. HHH says everything evolves and calls this group the greatest example of evolution in wrestling history. He brags about how awesome the whole team is and declares himself the one true diamond in the business. After introducing Batista, he describes Orton as the diamond. He really can't go three minutes without using the same terms to describe someone? They hammer in the evolution name again and wrap things up. Evolution is a good enough name and "Evolution has just passed you by" was a pretty solid catchphrase.

Steiner is ready to deal with Evolution the only way he knows how.
Riddling them with math problems?

Evolution is in a private box.

Bischoff goes to a house and finds....someone named Buford, who tells him that Austin is at a bar in nearby Bandera. Somehow this takes three minutes.

Victoria vs. Molly Holly

Non-title. Victoria goes for a full nelson to start but gets shouldered down without too much effort. The spinning side slam gives Victoria two but Molly slips out of the Widow's Peak. Molly can't hit the handspring elbow so the second attempt at the Widow's Peak puts her away in a hurry. Not bad while it lasted actually.

Post match Jazz comes in to take Molly out. Victoria gets in Jazz's face and Richards is shoved away but nothing happens.

Goldust tells Booker that if they don't win the Tag Team Titles back tonight, Booker needs to go his own way because the team is holding them back. Booker is all fired up to win the titles.

Tag Team Titles: Booker T./Goldust vs. William Regal/Lance Storm

Regal and Storm are defending. Goldust and Storm get things going and the drop down into the right hand puts Lance down. Booker comes in to stay on the arm as the announcers talk about the bar Bischoff is heading for. It's off to Regal who eats a forearm and kick to the face for two, followed by Goldust armdragging Storm down again.

Regal forearms Goldust in the back though and the evil champions take over. We hit the cravate to slow down an already slow match but Goldust fights up and cleans house on his own. The powerslam gets two as everything breaks down. Storm shoves Goldust into Booker though and a leg lariat gives Storm the clean pin to retain.

Rating: D. Goldust and Booker might be an entertaining team but they've gone ice cold in recent weeks. It doesn't help when Goldust is losing in

less than six minutes to a standard leg lariat. It's clear that the team is done at this point, save for a long form story to build them back up. The match wasn't very good but at least Booker doesn't lose any face at the end of the match.

Booker tells Goldust he has nothing to feel sorry about and agrees to go their separate ways. They hug and raise hands, despite the team really not needing to split up so soon.

Bischoff goes into the bar and gets laughed out of the room for ordering a martini. Naturally Austin has come and gone already, heading for another bar down the street. Given that, as of 2010, Bandera had a population of 827, I can't imagine that's a very long street so this shouldn't take the 15-20 minutes that it's likely going to take. I also can't imagine why a place with a smaller population than my neighborhood needs at least two bars.

Rob Van Dam vs. Kane

Kane clotheslines him during the finger poke for two and it's an early standoff. A spinning kick drops Kane but it's way too early for Rolling Thunder. Instead it's a no hands dive over the top to put them both down on the floor. Back in and Kane grabs a side slam for two but the chokeslam is broken up by a kick to the head. Now is the right time for Rolling Thunder with Kane sitting up and kicking Rob in the face. The top rope clothesline knocks Van Dam silly but it's just goldbricking so he can fire off more kicks. Not that they matter as here's Jeff Hardy to go after Rob for the DQ.

Rating: D+. They didn't have time to go anywhere (a common theme tonight) and the ending was awful. Kane vs. Van Dam could be a good match/feud if they're given more than four minutes and something more of a story. They seemed to have some chemistry out there for a little while but Jeff coming in was a really lame idea.

Jeff gets demolished with the usual.

Booker can't find Goldust. Did Booker stop off for a taco and fish plate when they both left the arena earlier?

Post break, Jeff is still out in the ring when Shawn Michaels joins him. Since Chris Jericho already has something going on, Shawn is going to give Jeff some free advice. Jeff is frustrated and angry at the world. Shawn has been there before, like fifteen years ago (it was just over eleven) when he put Marty Jannetty through the barbershop window. Hardy is at the point where he needs to make a decision.

Shawn wants to know who Jeff Hardy is. Jeff needs to find out in a hurry, which doesn't seem to please him. Hardy promises to start taking people out, starting with Shawn. One Sweet Chin Music later and Jeff is out again. I have no idea how this is supposed to help Jeff and I don't think WWE does either.

Sean O'Haire doesn't think you should pay taxes.

Maven vs. D'Lo Brown

Feeling out process to start with Brown getting headlocked to the mat. Brown fights up for a bit but gets sent hard into the corner, allowing Maven to come back with the kind of offense you would expect from someone of his ability level. When your high spots are a dropkick and a backslide, you might not be ready for Raw. D'Lo avoids a missile dropkick and finishes with the Sky High.

Rating: D-. If they think this is the way to elevate Brown, they're better off with having Jeff Hardy take three finishers over two segments. The match was exactly what you would have expected here and that's not a good sign, especially with how boring a lot of this show has been so far.

Long tries to get a DOWN WITH THE BROWN chant going and gets....nothing, with JR pointing that out for us.

HHH sends Orton and Batista to deal with Steiner.

Bischoff goes into another bar, doesn't find Austin, gets insulted by a redneck and hits said redneck with a beer glass. Eric gives up trying to find Austin, making this whole thing completely pointless.

Orton and Batista find Goldust (Why couldn't Booker find him earlier?) and after making fun of him, beat him into the arena and toss him into

electrical equipment. Goldust is electrocuted and we get the serious voices as he does a stretcher job.

Scott Steiner vs. Chris Jericho

Winner gets HHH at No Way Out. Jericho hides to start (probably his best idea) and gets one off an early rollup. They take turns hammering away in the corner with Steiner firing off the chops. A clothesline into the push-up elbow gets two but Chris grabs the referee to block an early belly to belly. They head outside with Steiner going into the steps (Steiner: "OW!") and Jericho cranks on both arms back inside.

Something like a powerslam drops Jericho though and there's the first belly to belly. A powerbomb gets two (with Steiner nearly dropping him) and Jericho rolls him up with his feet on the ropes for the same. The Walls don't last long (well duh) so Jericho snaps him throat first across the top. Steiner catches him on the top though and a super Samoan drop sends Steiner to the pay per view.

Rating: D. The match could have been much worse had Steiner been on offense any more than he was. This was as much of Jericho doing his thing and trying to hold things together as he could and that was their best option. They were also smart to keep this especially short as Steiner has proven to be untrustworthy in longer matches as of late. That being said, WHY IN THE WORLD ARE WE SEEING HHH VS. STEINER AGAIN????? How could anyone watch that mess and then expect it to be anything good the second time around? I know I say this company makes no sense but egads this is a really bad idea.

Vince comes in to see Morely and says if he's not impressed next week, Bischoff and Morely are fired.

Overall Rating: F. Between the horrible matches, the completely unnecessary splitting up of Goldust and Booker T., the wasting of any good feeling from the split for the sake of electrocuting Goldust and Hardy looking like a goof, I have no idea what positives happened on this show. The midcard is a disaster and we're looking at more HHH vs. Steiner, leaving me with one heck of a headache as we officially move into the Evolution era.

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KB's Review: Don't Break What You Won't Rebuild

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-dont-break-wont-rebuild/>

Looking at WWE's rather stupid handling of characters when they change their minds in a hurry.

NXT – July 5, 2017: Strong

vs. Style

NXT

Date: July 5, 2017

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Mauro Ranallo, Percy Watson

The title shows continue as we have the NXT Title on the line tonight. Bobby Roode has gotten far underneath the skin of Roderick Strong, including talking about Strong's wife. The title is up for grabs tonight with a ticked off Strong wanting both the title and a measure of revenge. Let's get to it.

Opening sequence.

Strong and his family arrived earlier today.

Sanity vs. Kassius Ohno/Hideo Itami

Alexander Wolfe and Killian Dain for Sanity here. Ohno blasts Wolfe into the corner to start and it's off to Itami for the kicks in the corner. Dain offers a distraction though and it's Wolfe snapping Itami across the top to take over as we take a break. Back with Itami still in trouble as Dain easily cuts the ring off to keep him down. Itami comes back with kicks and Ohno is ready for the tag but Itami doesn't even go near him. Instead it's a Falcon Arrow to Wolfe but Ohno gets knocked outside by Dain. The GTS knocks Wolfe silly, only to have Dain crossbody Itami for the pin at 9:44.

Rating: C+. Fine storyline advancement here with Itami wanting to prove himself to continue making up for his loss to Roode. I can go for the long form story like this, though I'm not sure where it's going to end. Itami might get a future title shot but a heel turn seems to be in his way first. Well, after a match with Ohno of course.

Ember Moon is training for her comeback at the Performance Center when Ruby Riot interrupts the mini press conference (in the Performance Center mind you) to say she should get the title shot instead. Moon doesn't seem

to mind.

We look back at the awesome Last Woman Standing match.

Video on Drew McIntyre.

Drew wants the winner of tonight's title match.

We look at DIY splitting.

Johnny Gargano is back next week.

Billie Kay and Peyton Royce were annoyed that Peyton was the only one to remember Billie's birthday when Andrade Cien Almas got into an argument with his unnamed female associate (Thea Trinidad).

Last week in an untelevised match, Bianca BelAir defeated Aliyah to qualify for the Mae Young Classic.

Video on Bobby Roode vs. Roderick Strong, which is the wealthy/powerful one vs. the family man who has worked to get here.

Strong has victory on his mind.

Roode says Strong is about to face reality.

NXT Title: Roderick Strong vs. Bobby Roode

Strong is challenging. Roode gets the better of an amateur exchange and does his GLORIOUS pose, earning himself a pair of dropkicks. A half nelson backbreaker drops the champ and we take an early break. Back with Roode grabbing a Blockbuster and stomping away, only to take another backbreaker.

Roode bails to the floor again but sends Strong's knee into the steps to take over. It's time to really work on the knee in the Ric Flair style, including a kick to the knee to cut off a comeback. We come back from a second break and come back with Strong kicking out of a leglock and sending Roode into the buckle.

The Angle Slam and another backbreaker give Strong two but Roode is right

back with a chop block to take over again. The knee is wrapped around the post but Strong catches him on the top and shoves the champ out to the floor in a crash. A quick Glorious DDT gets two on Roderick and you can feel the crowd getting into things again, mainly because they knew better than to buy one finisher as the pin.

Now it's Strong popping back up with knees to the face and a backbreaker for the pin....with Roode's foot underneath the ropes. That was a heck of a false finish with Strong all the way outside hugging his wife when he was told it wasn't over. Roode knocks him off the apron and hits a Glorious DDT on the floor (with a sneer at Strong's wife), followed by another inside to retain at 25:34.

Rating: B+. I've said this before and it's still true: Roode doesn't do anything flashy but he does everything so smoothly and simply that the style works. The leg work took away from Strong's backbreakers and the Sick Kick, throwing off his entire offense. Couple that with a false finish and Roode being the kind of jerk that glares at a man's wife before dumping him on his head and there's very little to complain about here. It seems that Drew is waiting for the title and that sounds like a great main event in Brooklyn. Strong is similar to Ohno back in May: a one off challenger who will go back into the midcard after a nice rub in the title scene.

Strong hugs his wife to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This was a lot of setting things up for later and that's all fine considering we already have the Authors of Pain vs. Heavy Machinery next week. The main event was over half of the show and that meant it had the time that it deserved. That's much better than the main shows where no matter what the main event is, it's rarely going to get more than fifteen minutes. Good show here with a really solid main event.

Results

Sanity b. Kassius Ohno/Hideo Itami – Crossbody to Itami

Bobby Roode b. Roderick Strong – Glorious DDT

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Watched GLOW and Read a Book

So as you've probably heard, the latest hot show on Netflix is GLOW (Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling), a dramatized story about the backstage workings of the comedy wrestling show of the same name from back in the 80s. The original was actually a hot show in syndication, though it was one of the dumbest things you'll find related to wrestling. I checked out the new series though and it's actually quite good.

The show is a drama built around how the show is put together and how the girls were brought in. It's certainly entertaining and goes by very fast (ten episodes, the longest of which doesn't even break forty minutes, meaning you can knock out the season in just a day), which helps fix a major flaw in a lot of these online originals: episodes basically being short movies instead of TV shows.

There are a bunch of wrestling cameos, with John Morrison, Brodus Clay, Carlito, Christopher Daniels and Kazarian as the most notable. That's the best wrestling stuff on the show though, as GLOW certainly wasn't known

for its in-ring product. They do a pretty entertaining job of showing how the training portion works though and that's always cool to see from an outsider's perspective.

Check the show out if you have the chance, but keep in mind that it is NOT PG. There's a bit of nudity, a lot of swearing and some rather adult plotlines. It's going to be around for at least another season and that's a good sign as it's one of the best depictions of wrestling I've seen in a very long time. It's worth seeing and given how fast you can go through the season, it's an easy watch.

On the other front, I recently received a rather nice Amazon gift card and spent a good chunk of it on a pile of wrestling books. The first one I finished off was Tim Hornbaker's Capitol Revolution, the story of the New York territory which of course became the WWE of today. This is a good choice if you want a look at the older days (it goes back to the 1920s and carries forward), which is a period that isn't often covered.

The book is rather detailed to start and covers a lot of the backstage nature of the territory. There are a lot of names that you might be familiar with (Toots Mondt, Strangler Lewis, Jess McMahon) and several you won't (who I won't list because, you know, they won't mean much to you). You get a good look at how the structure worked back then, which goes to show you how things tend to stay the same over the years. It's a very interesting look back at how the system used to work, which isn't something you get to see very often.

Now the problem is how fast the pace picks up. The book is less than 300 pages and the first two thirds or so cover the origins up until the rise of Bruno Sammartino. Then the speeds picks WAY up and we're suddenly at the Rock N Wrestling Connection era, which is where things wrap up. It feels like they hit a deadline and had to wrap things up instead of letting it build like they wanted it to. The majority of the book is very entertaining though and worth checking out, though I could have gone for a much longer edition. Still though, check it out if you like the historical aspect of wrestling.