#### Funniest Promo Guy Ever

Someone brought this up on the forums last night and it's an interesting question. Who do you think is the funniest promo guy of all time? For me, it's Flair. When he would get rolling and ranting about making Nikita Koloff his gardener and that his shoes were more expensive than Dusty's house he would have me in stitches.

Your picks?

## Thought of the Day: The Victors Write The History

This came to me the other day when I was thinking about WCW. It's been about 12 years since WCW went out of business. In about eight more years, new wrestlers as well as fans aren't going to have any memories of WCW when it was around. All they're going to know is what WWE tells them to remember through DVDs. As someone who grew up with WCW, that's a rather saddening thought.

#### Thought of the Day: Why I

#### **Keep Watching**

Last night on the forums someone asked if I still enjoyed watching wrestling. My reply:

Absolutely. Yeah there's A LOT of stupid stuff and you get tired of sitting through it, and then one night Fandango comes out and the fans start singing his song. Or Brodus Clay debuts as the Funkasaurus instead of another monster. Or you're expecting some lame celebrity like Justin Bieber to be announced as host of Wrestlemania 27 and instead you hear "IF YA SMEEEEEEEEEEEEEEELLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL". Or the night after Rock dominates Wrestlemania 27 John Cena challenges The Rock to a match a year later and WWE basically says "Oh yeah. We're going there!." Or you see Joseph Park absolutely nailing the rookie lawyer character. Or you watch Raw one night in January and John Cena and CM Punk put on one of the greatest matches of all time on free TV for a spot int he main event of Wrestlemania and you can barely stay on your bed because you're trying not to scream at them to kick out because you don't want this to end. Yes wrestling is still fun. You never know when you're going to see something amazing.

# Thought of the Day: Gimmick Match Overload Isn't Anything New

I know people say that gimmick matches dominate wrestling today, but let's look back to the 80s. Looking at the first few Starrcades, here's what you have:

1983 - eight matches, two gimmicks

1984 — eleven matches, three gimmicks

1985 — eleven matches, six gimmicks

1986 - twelve matches, six gimmicks

1987 - seven matches, three gimmicks

In the old NWA days, there were two Starrcades with at least half of the matches being gimmick matches. This is hardly a new thing.

#### Thought of the Day: Roddy Piper As A Heel

He was indeed great but.... He wasn't a heel for all that long. Think about it: Piper hit the national scene in let's say 1982, was a heel until about 1986 and has been a face for all of about a year (on and off in WCW) since then. Piper has been a face for about 25 years after being a heel for roughly four, yet he's eternally remembered as a heel. That says either that heel run was amazing or that the fans have a very short attention span.

#### Thought of the Day: It's Too

#### **Easy Sometimes**

I saw this in a column and it got me to thinking. Back in 2007, Cena injured his pectoral muscle and said he would be out at least past Wrestlemania. Cut to MSG at the 2008 Royal Rumble. #30 is on the way and it's.....John Cena. The crowd LOSES IT and it's one of the most genuine surprises in wrestling history. This fooled marks, smarks and everyone in between. What was the great solution to this?

Cena lied. He had been posting on Twitter about how he was going to be gone for months and wanted to be in the Rumble....and then he was. Why isn't this tactic used more often? Why do so many stories and angles have to be based on what's really going on? Lie to us WWE. You would be amazed how much stronger people will react when they're genuinely surprised.

### Thought of the Day: Why No Little Towns?

This occurred to me while watching NXT today. How often do you hear wrestlers being billed from a mid sized to small town? The VAST majority of them are from large cities, even though there are far more small towns out there instead of big ones. Think of some of the biggest names ever in wrestling and where they're billed from:

Hogan — Venice Beach (part of Los Angeles)

The Rock — Miami

Flair - Charlotte

Sting - Venice Beach

Luger - Chicago

Michaels - San Antonio

Hart - Calgary

What big names aren't from big cities? Austin, Cena, HHH....anybody else? Midcarders are the same way.

Is there a reason for this that I'm not getting? Are people not going to care about someone because they're from a smaller town?

### Thought of the Day: The Death Of Finishers

I was watching the older Wrestlemanias a few weeks ago and Gorilla brought up something interesting. You would hear Gorilla talking about some wrestler and say that if they hit whatever their signature move was, the match would be over. This got me to thinking: are they any moves that are a guaranteed victory anymore? Back in the day, when someone kicked out of a big time finisher, it was a world changing event. Today if it doesn't happen three times in a match the match is considered subpar. At that point, a move isn't a

finisher anymore. It's a move you happen to do in a match.

#### **Bully or Bubba**

This could make for an interesting debate. In short, which means more: the time of Bubba Ray or the time as Bully Ray? By that, I mean what means more: the TNA world title or all the tag titles and success he had with his brother? Does beating Jeff Hardy mean more than all the TLC matches and ladder matches and main event spots as a tag wrestler that Bubba had?

For me it's Bubba. At the end of the day, Ray still hasn't accomplished much on his own. Yes he's world champion, but that doesn't mean he's going to be a success as one, not with those nitwit bikers working for him. He and D-Von own the record for most tag titles by so much that it's unthinkable. They main evented PPVs, they stole a lot of shows, and they were some of the biggest stars in ECW. That trumps being champion of a glorified regional promotion.

### Five By Five: KB's Favorite Matches

We close out the series with this. Click on the link for the review of the show the match is on if applicable. Also

remember: favorite does NOT equal best.

Honorable Mention: Undertaker vs. Shawn Michaels (Wrestlemania 25). Any match that hadm e on the edge of my seat like this one did has to be on this list.

Honorable Mention: Doomsday Cage (<u>Uncensored 1996</u>). This is the kind of match that is so bad it's hilarious. It looks cool, but if you think about it for more than 8 seconds, the match goes out the window into the land of WOW THIS IS STUPID. That can be endlessly entertaining and this one is. Check it out, and read my review at the same time to see how many head scratchers you can find in it.

Honorable Mention: TLC II (<u>Wrestlemania X7</u>). Take six guys, have them beat the tar out of each other for fifteen minutes, throw in Lita taking her top off. What more do you need to know here?

Honorable Mention: Cactus Jack vs. HHH (Royal Rumble 2000). This is one of those matches where you didn't know who was going to win until the very end because HHH was in so far over his head. Everything was on Cactus' side and the match is one of the bloodiest affairs you'll ever see in wrestling. this is the match that made HHH into a killer and he stayed there for years.

- 5. AJ Styles vs. Abyss (Lockdown 2005). I love the David vs. Goliath story and this is a great example of that idea. The opening segment of this match with the two of them outside of the cage is as entertaining a two or three minute stretch as TNA has ever produced, bar none. AJ is all over the place, sliding and diving and jumping to try to slow the monster down but Abyss stops him every time. AJ finally goes straight up Superman and dives over about four rows to take Abyss down. I get into this every time and it's a brawl all the way through.
- 4. Hart Foundation vs. Demolition (<u>Summerslam 1990</u>). A friend of mine from WrestleZone has called this the best tag team

match ever and I'm not sure he's that far off. This is insanely entertaining as Demolition has held the belts for months now and the Harts have about as much of a chance as I do at winning Miss Nevada 1982. The champions cheat like there's no tomorrow with switches and beating up the referee and whatever else they can pull off. LOD comes out to even things up and stop the cheating and the Harts use the one opening they have to steal the titles. It's great and if you watch it you'll get into it too.

- 3. Sting vs. Cactus Jack (<u>Beach Blast 1992</u>). Two of my three favorite wrestlers in a match that Foley said was his best ever for a long time. I think you can figure this one out.
- 2. Shawn Michaels vs. Shelton Benjamin (Monday Night Raw 5/2/2005). For years and years I had this as my favorite match and it's still very hard to dop. The idea of Shawn fighting himself from ten years ago is brilliant and the match is so incredibly crisp. On top of that the ending is one of the best looking knockouts you'll ever see anywhere. From a personal standpoint, this was a turning point for me as a fan as for the first time ever I could see a story being told in a match and got way into that aspect of it instead of cheering for my favorites.
- 1. Sting vs. Vader (Starrcade 1992). This was always one of my favorites but the more I thought about it the more I realized how much I love it. If I'm ever in the mood to watch something fun, this is what I throw on. It's the David vs. Goliath formula again....if David was 6'3 and 240lbs. The idea here is simple: Vader DESTROYED Sting to win the world title in July but this is about revenge and some stupid tournament. Sting had always been able to charge head first into whomever he was facing before this and beat them through pure talent, but when he tried to charge at Vader he got his block knocked off. Instead he needs to use his brain, but since Sting is kind of stupid he tries rope a dope instead. Sting lets Vader pound him down until Vader has nothing left and then Sting

goes in for the kill. The visuals of Sting getting beaten down more and more before FINALLY making his superhuman comeback are awesome if you can get behind an underdog, which is what Sting was coming into this. Check this one out for sure.