

Five By Five: KB's Favorite Feuds/Programs

I was going to do promos for one of these but this is a lot more in depth, meaning I can have a lot more fun with it. This will be a mixture of short and long term feuds, as in a feud that has a clear beginning and end along with feuds that went on for years with breaks in between.

Honorable Mention: Trish Stratus vs. Lita. This might be a weird one given my borderline hatred of women's wrestling, but with these two it worked incredibly well. There was a natural rivalry between the two of them with Trish being the well groomed and gorgeous blonde model while Lita was the streetwise fighter who flew all over the place and was covered in tattoos. It's a natural dichotomy which works incredibly well.

Honorable Mention: The Rock vs. Mick Foley. Speaking of natural dichotomies, here's another great one for you. You have Rock as a natural athlete and a blue chipper who has dominated every athletic field he's ever touched, and on the other hand you have a guy who looks like he escaped from a mental hospital. The difference though is Foley has the heart and drive to never give up no matter what is thrown at him and Rocky can't handle having this kind of resistance. It made for some amazing promos and even better matches between two of the best ever who cleared respected each other very deeply.

5. Steve Austin vs. Vince McMahon. It's the mother of all feuds and the cornerstone of the Attitude Era. Vince went so far as to terrorize his own family while gaining the help of a demon lord in order to get the title off of Steve Austin. If that doesn't sum up how awesome this feud was, I don't know what does.

4. CM Punk vs. John Cena. If there is a pairing with flat out better matches and chemistry together, I can't think of them. When you can actually rival the quality of Steve Austin vs. the Rock with how awesome your matches are, it's hard to not put them on this list. It's pretty easily the best rivalry of the modern era with absolutely no bad matches between the two of them.

3. Steve Austin vs. The Rock. As great as Cena vs. Punk is, this one is just slightly better. The chemistry these two had was off the charts and when they were together, you could feel the electricity. It could be anything from singing Jimmy Buffet songs to throwing title belts into a river to having one of the best main events in Wrestlemania history in front of 67,000 people at the best show of all time to just running into each other backstage at Wrestlemania 27, but these two just feel amazing when they're together and the chemistry was unbelievable.

2. Hulk Hogan vs. Bobby Heenan. Now we're getting into more personal favorites than pure quality. Heenan rarely got in the ring himself, but he was constantly throwing his latest protege at Hogan. Be it Big John Studd, King Kong Bundy, Paul Orndorff or Andre the Giant, this feud DOMINATED the 1980s and produced some of the most entertaining television you'll ever see. When you can top the list of Hulk Hogan's biggest rivals, it's clear you're doing something right.

1. Sting vs. Vader. If there has ever been a better story of a warrior fighting the evil dragon, I don't know what it is. These two were as much of a layup for a great match as you could get in WCW, and yes that includes Flair vs. Sting. The key aspect to this feud that made it great was that Sting would regularly lose to Vader. Every time they fought there was always a chance that Vader could destroy Sting and on more than one occasion he did. The fans were WAY into these matches too and the feud continued on and off for over three years. It's excellent stuff and I can't recommend their 1992

Starrcade match enough.

We'll wrap this up with my favorite matches either tonight or tomorrow.

Five By Five: KB's Five Favorite Moments In Wrestling

Part of a double shot today due to me being busy yesterday. Honorable Mention: Edge Cashes In (New Year's Revolution 2006). A girl I knew was a Cena fan and bragged about him winning the Chamber. She went to bed and then Edge came out. Oh the great time I had the next day over that. This is still the gold standard for MITB cash-ins.

Honorable Mention: Goldberg Wins WCW Title (Monday Nitro – July 6, 1998). When I was ten years old, Goldberg was AWESOME. I wasn't the biggest fan of his in the world, but a monster vs. Hogan for free on Nitro? You know I was going to be all over that. Goldberg destroyed Hogan, in one of the biggest jobs Hogan ever did.

5. Jeff Hardy Wins WWE Championship (Armageddon 2008). I'm not a big Jeff Hardy fan, but I TOTALLY bought into the Hardy Chases the Brass Ring story from 2008. I fell asleep earlier in the night and missed most of the show but turned it on just in time to see Hardy dive off the top and hit the Swanton on HHH before pinning Edge, FINALLY winning the championship he had spent all year chasing. We'll get back to a similar story

in a bit.

4. Backlash 2006. I was there. Not much else to say about this one.

3. Hogan Slams Andre (Wrestlemania 3). It's the most famous scene from the biggest match ever at the biggest show ever. Hogan slamming Andre is the moment that made him immortal and cemented him as the biggest star of all time. You can hear the crowd gasp when Hogan picks him up and then explode when Andre hits the mat. There's a reason this makes every highlight reel ever in the history of WWE. It's never going to be topped no matter what happens in the future, period.

2. Randy Savage and Miss Elizabeth Reunite (Wrestlemania 7). This is the only moment ever in wrestling that actually brings a tear to my eye. Savage had turned monster heel on February 3, 1989 and dumped Liz in the process. He hooked up with Sensational Sherri somewhere along the line while becoming the Macho Man. Liz had barely been seen since but was spotted in the crowd for Savage's career ending match at Wrestlemania 7.

After Savage lost an amazing match where he gave it everything he had, Sherri turned on him, screaming about how he had cost her her career too. This prompted Liz to come out of the crowd and save Randy, who was shocked to see her there. With nothing left to lose, Savage realized the error of his ways and embraced Liz, finally going back to where he belonged. He then opened the ropes for her as opposed to her doing it for him as she had for years, showing that he was a changed man. If you're an old fan, this will still work wonders.

1. Mick Foley Wins WWF Title (Monday Night Raw – January 4, 1999). This is the ultimate feel good moment for me as a fan. As someone who was overweight for a good portion of my teenage years (I walked into 6th grade standing 5'11 and weighing 230lbs), seeing someone else who was told he wasn't the right size or didn't have the right look win the world title and

become the top man in the company always makes me smile. He spent his entire career scrapping and clawing and FINALLY he got what he had earned. That's a perfect story and the moment never gets old.

Thought of the Day: King Of The Big Shows

Do you know who has never lost on the biggest PPV of the year for whatever company he was in? Rob Van Dam:

3-0 at November to Remember

4-0 at Wrestlemania

3-0 at Bound For Glory

Is anyone else undefeated at all the major shows they've wrestled at other than the MMA Cowboy of Death?

Five By Five: KB's Five Favorite Wrestlers

Kind of a big deal but it's the easiest to write.

Honorable Mention: Edge. Before he became the ridiculous character that he was in the Rated R days, Edge was AWESOME,

tearing Smackdown apart in 2002 and being on the verge of the world title until a neck injury put him on the shelf for over a year. I was a huge Edgehead back in the day as the look and the music got me totally into his stuff. There's a fourway on Smackdown with him facing Angle, Guerrero and Benoit which is as good a TV match as you'll see in a long time.

Honorable Mention: Rey Mysterio. Back in the mid to late 90s, Mysterio was like nothing else I had ever seen before. When you go from the big brawling guys of the 80s to Bret and Owen on the mat earlier in the decade to Mysterio jumping all over the place and doing flips that no one in America had ever seen before, how in the world can you not be impressed? Some guys would probably wind up doing it better, but Mysterio was doing it first and did it best back in the 90s.

Honorable Mention: Tito Santana. Santana is a guy where the more I see of him the more I like him. The guy was incredibly talented and had some very solid charisma, as he could get a crowd going no matter what he was doing. Santana is the original Kofi Kingston, as he won various other titles and got a once in a blue moon world title shot. He never was a threat to win the title, but it was next to impossible to have a bad match with him. That's very valuable and it allows for a lot of help on a card.

5. Kane. Kane is a guy who constantly goes from being dull to entertaining at the drop of a hat. His debut back in 1997 is still one of the most awesome moments I can remember, as you had heard about Kane for months and months until he FINALLY debuted in the first Hell in a Cell match. It was clear from that moment that Undertaker was in for a fight and that's what he got. Think about it like this: Steve Austin was the hottest thing in the world for well over a year but Kane took the title from him two months after he won it. That says a lot about him, even if it was for just one day. Throw in the

HILARIOUS anger management stuff and Kane is one of the most entertaining guys I've ever seen.

4. Randy Savage. Again, the more I watch this guy the more I appreciate him. Savage is so smooth in the ring it's unreal, as he can go from high flying to mat wrestling to brawling and back again like it's no problem at all. On top of that, Savage was NUTS and had some of the most over the top and insane promos you'll ever hear. Wait why am I bothering to explain this? If you don't know who Randy Savage is, why are you reading this? The man is awesome and in a few years he'll probably be higher on this list.

3. Hulk Hogan. Dude, it's Hulk Hogan. He got me into wrestling as a kid and he kept me in it for years. It's a simple idea: he's a hero and he fought off the bad guys. It's amazing how simple of a concept that is yet so many people over the years have tried to/insisted on overthinking it. While Hogan has done a lot of bad things over the years, without him there wouldn't be a modern wrestling for him to do bad things in. That pretty easily makes up for all of it and there's not much of an argument against it.

2. Sting. As much as I liked Hogan, there's something about Sting that I like that much more. Sting is one of those guys that is indeed timeless and has done it all in wrestling. Yes I said did it all, because he doesn't need to go to WWE. He's one of the biggest stars of all time (get over yourself WON HOF. To suggest that Sting isn't a main event star is ridiculous) and had one of the most intriguing stories in the history of wrestling, which just happened to draw a fortune. I love the guy and he's always awesome.

1. Mick Foley. Foley on the other hand is awesome on a completely different level. One of my favorite movies is Rocky, which clearly had a lot of influence on the Mick Foley character. The night he won his first world title is still perfect and makes me smile every time I see it. On top of

that though, Foley really is a brilliant character. Many people see him as three different interchangeable characters, but in reality it's one who has multiple personalities that manifest themselves at the appropriate time. That's a really interesting and deep idea which has never been done other than this that I can think of. On top of THAT, a few years ago I got to meet Foley at a book signing and he couldn't have been a nicer guy, which made him all the more awesome. Go read his books as they're certainly worth it, even Countdown to Lockdown.

Five By Five: KB's Five Favorite Pay Per Views

As I mentioned last week, I'm going to be listing off my five favorites of various things every day this week. Today, we're starting off with Pay Per Views. You can click on the name of the show for my review. Let's get to it. Honorable Mention: [Money in the Bank 2011](#). If there's a better recent PPV out there from top to bottom, I don't know what it is. This ran away with show of the year for 2011 and never looked back. The main event is one of the best matches I have ever seen and I was literally sitting on the edge of my bed watching it. The match still holds up today (granted that's not saying much) but it's still great. The other stuff on the card is excellent too.

Honorable Mention: [Uncensored 1996](#). This show is the epitome of "how bad can this possibly get". It's hilariously entertaining and Heenan reaches Mystery Science Theater levels of riffing on the main event. It's also by far and away the funniest review I've ever written and probably the one I'm

most proud of. If you're ever in a mood to laugh at wrestling, check out the Doomsday Cage match and I guarantee the more you think about it, the more you'll laugh at it.

5. [Wrestlemania 28](#). As great as the main event of MITB 11 was, Rock vs. Cena reached a point that I've never reached as a wrestling fan: I had to see the match. I didn't care if it was good or bad or anywhere in between, but I had to see it. That's the point of building up a show and for a fan as jaded as I am, it says a lot that it actually worked. Again, the rest of the card is very solid stuff on top of the main event.

4. [Beach Blast 1992](#). This is probably my favorite WCW card ever. It has two classics that aren't remembered like they should be in Sting vs. Cactus Jack in a falls count anywhere match that Foley called his favorite/best match ever for years. You also get a thirty minute Iron Man match with Rude vs. Steamboat which is fast paced for almost the entire time. There's also a really good tag title match to close the show. This is definitely worth checking out, but watch it out of order. Watch Sting vs. Jack last and you'll enjoy the show a lot more.

3. [One Night Stand 2005](#). This is one of the most entertaining shows you'll ever see. Anyone that has followed me over the years knows that I LOATHE ECW and everything that it stood for. That being said, this show is a blast to watch and still entertains me to this day. The WWE allowed it to be run like an ECW show with ECW talent and a big ECW spectacle to end the show. The big ECW beer bash with Bischoff getting destroyed is endlessly entertaining and the rest of the show is just as good. If you're a wrestling fan, you should see this show.

2. [Summerslam 1990](#). Pure personal nostalgia here as this was the first PPV I ever got at my house and I went through at least two copies of the tape. That being said, it's still a pretty entertaining show with Hogan returning for revenge against Earthquake for injuring him, Ultimate Warrior

defending the title against Rude in a cage, a show long angle of Sapphire disappearing, and a wicked tag match with the Hart Foundation shocking the world and beating Demolition for the tag titles. It's worth checking out.

1. [Wrestlemania X7](#). This is the greatest show of all time, period. Seriously, that's all you need to know about it. The main event feels like the main event of the biggest show of the year, this incarnation of the tag division reached its apex with TLC 2, HHH vs. Undertaker have a forgotten classic, Angle vs. Benoit is Angle vs. Benoit, and it has the FREAKING GIMMICK BATTLE ROYAL. All this in front of 68,000 people a week after the WWF has officially conquered the wrestling world. It's the peak of the company's history and absolutely required viewing for wrestling fans.

Thought of the Day: Wrestler Audio Commentaries

Everyone else does them.... Why doesn't WWE or TNA or whoever have wrestlers record audio commentaries for their DVDs? It takes barely any time at all and would be a nice bonus feature to have. You could easily keep it kayfabe or break it even further and it wouldn't cost much of anything. It's been done before (at least on the WM 2000 DVD and a few others) so why not make this a regular thing?

Thought of the Day: Statute of Limitations

I'm watching Wrestlemania 14 and this question occurs to me: Shamrock keeps beating up referees after he wins the Intercontinental Title so the referee reverses his decision. Even though the match ended three minutes earlier. What is the statute of limitations for changing an ending to a match? Could Shamrock have cut Hebner off in the parking lot six months later and have the decision reversed there? Wouldn't the thirty day title defense requirement be up for whomever the title is returned to? I can feel the walls of the wrestling time continuum crumbling as I think about this.

Thought of the Day: The Other Kind Of Wrestling Fans

So as you may know, I was at the Smackdown house show two days ago. I saw something there that made me smile. A few rows behind me there was a teenager (I think. He seemed to be somewhere between 12 and 15 or so) in a red shirt. He was with a friend of his who clearly was new to wrestling as the guy in the red shirt was explaining everything to him, like who characters were and the stories that were going on. I started thinking about how fans like me and the so called "smart" fans really do have less fun. I watched the show with a notebook and with an analytical mind rather than just having a good time.

The guy behind me was cheering for all his heroes, booing the villains, and clearly was an expert on what was going on. He

didn't need to know that Barrett had no chance of winning, he didn't need to know what spots were coming, he didn't need to rate the match. He was having fun with what he was doing and had paid his money to see a show. There's not a thing wrong with that and I felt kind of jealous actually.

WWE Poaching TNA's Territory

This is an interesting story that I only see one side to for the most part. As you've likely heard (at least you have if you follow this site, which you should), TNA is taking their TV tapings national, meaning they'll be going around the country. WWE has started going to mid-sized areas around the same areas for house shows to try to sabotage TNA. Some TNA fans are crying foul over this, but I have absolutely no problem with TNA doing this.

TNA is the company that tried to start the second Monday Night Wars (remember that pitiful attempt?). Now they're trying to go national to compete with WWE. Look at what WWE has done both times: they've fought back. How can TNA fans claim that this is unfair? It's like picking on someone and then getting annoyed when they punch you in the jaw.

TNA is the company trying to move up the ladder. If the people at the top of the ladder don't want them there, they can fight back. You can't try to move up and then complain that a larger company is playing unfair. In the words of Scott Hall, TNA wanted a war and now they've got one. The problem is WWE has a lot more bullets and much bigger tanks.

I really don't see how WWE has done anything wrong here or why TNA and/or its fans have any reason to complain. If WWE is viewing them as an annoyance (saying WWE views them as a threat at this point is laughable at best) and wants to crush them, I'd think of that more of a good sign for TNA than anything else.

2012 Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards Announced

Oh boy you know I look forward to these. I'll give my thoughts on most of them but I'll be omitting the MMA stuff because, unlike Meltzer's site, I actually talk about **wrestling** and only **wrestling**. Second and third place listed in order in parentheses. Let's get to it.

Wrestler of the Year – Hiroshi Tanahashi (CM Punk, Kazuchika Okada)

CM Punk was WWE Champion for the entire year. I think that sums up the case against Tanahashi pretty well.

Most Outstanding Wrestler – Hiroshi Tanahashi (Kazuchika Okada, CM Punk)

I'm still not sure what the difference between this and wrestler of the year is.

Best Box Office Draw – The Rock (John Cena, Brock Lesnar)

I had a feeling he'd beat out Edge for Bending the Rules. Lesnar at 3 though is kind of a headscratcher. I guess it's because of not enough appearances.

Feud of the Year – Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Katsuchika Okada (Anderson Silva vs. Chael Sonnen, John Cena vs. The Rock)

Hey look: more Japanese guys. Punk vs. everyone? Bryan vs. the crowd? Punk vs. Jericho? Rock vs. Cena? Maybe? No wait they're American. Never mind.

Tag Team of the Year – Bad Influence (Kane and Daniel Bryan, Young Bucks)

This was a toss up between them and HELL NO. I would have gone with the WWE guys but I can live with this.

Most Improved – Katsuchika Okada (Michael Elgin, Rush)

This would be Samoa Joe's friend who was in TNA for like five minutes. Eh I guess this is fine. No one jumped out for me in this category. Oh wait: BULLY FREAKING RAY ANYONE???

Best on Interviews – CM Punk (Chael Sonnen, Rock)

No problem there, but I could see HELL NO getting this. They were hysterical.

Most Charismatic – The Rock (Hiroshi Tanahashi, John Cena)

Fine again here.

Best Technical Wrestler – Daniel Bryan (Prince Devitt, Davey Richards)

That's 8 years in a row. Just name the thing after him already. Oh and unless Davey Richards has COMPLETELY changed his style, that's absolutely absurd. Brodus Clay is more technical than Richards.

Best Brawler – Kevin Steen (Togi Makabe, Bully Ray)

Not many people brawl anymore so this is no surprise.

Best High Flier – Kota Ibushi (Ricochet, Pac)

No surprise there either as he's won three out of four years in a row and was injured the year he didn't win.

Most Overrated – Ryback (The Miz, Garrett Bischoff)

You mean the guy who caused HIAC to get its highest amount of buys in two years? Yeah there's no value there. Who actually rates Garrett Bischoff as anything?

Most Underrated – Tyson Kidd (Dolph Ziggler, Daniel Bryan)

Eh he's good but the day people buy a ticket to see Tyson Kidd is the day I learn to do the Charleston. The runners up here blow my mind. Dolph Ziggler is apparently the second coming and Bryan has been a champion forever, yet he's UNDERrated?

Promotion of the Year – New Japan (UFC, WWE)

Well it certainly wasn't anything in America. I'll let this one go.

Best Weekly Television Show – Impact Wrestling (Ring of Honor, NXT)

VIVA LOS ACES AND 8'S! First time it's ever won this. If they're counting the end of the fifth season of NXT in there, I can certainly understand this.

Match of the Year – Hiroshi Tanahashi vs. Minoru Suzuki (John Cena vs. Brock Lesnar, Davey Richards vs. Michael Elgin)

Having not seen this, I'm going to go on a limb and say HHH vs. Undertaker inside the Cell at Wrestlemania was about ten times better.

Rookie of the Year – Dinastia (Mr. Touchdown, Eita Kobayashi)

Anyone from Mexico that can help me out here? This depends on your definition of rookie so I can live with this one going another way.

Best Non-Wrestler – Paul Heyman (Ricardo Rodriguez, Vickie Guerrero)

He could sit in the back reading the newspaper and earn an award from an internet wrestling writer. He was fine but as usual, I don't get the massive appeal of him. Ricardo

continues to crack me up though.

Best Television Announcer – Jim Ross, Nigel McGuinness, William Regal)

He's on TV enough to qualify for this?

Worst Television Announcer – Michael Cole (Taz, Booker T)

Oh come on. King had a heart attack and nearly died on Raw. That has to make him worse.

Best Major Show – King of Pro Wrestling – New Japan (Extreme Rules, Wrestlemania)

Is anyone surprised at this point?

Worst Major Wrestling Show – No Surrender

Final Resolution was worse but whatever. Actually I'm getting two reports for who won this so after the UFC (IT ISN'T A FREAKING MMA AWARD) show, the worst WRESTLING show might have been Extreme Reunion

Best Wrestling Manuever – Rainmaker: Kazuchika Okada (Neutralizer, NO Lock)

It's an arm thing apparently. Sure why not.

Most Disgusting Promotional Tactic – WWE broadcasting a dead

Jerry Lawler being revived after a heart attack, and then having CM Punk and Paul Heyman mock the heart attack in front of Lawler (Extreme Rising using a photo of Sabu passing out from an overdose to promote, some UFC thing)

Someone answer this for me: does Meltzer EVER complain about the show being PG? If he does, he's a hypocrite for this one.

Worst Television Show – Raw (Impact, Ultimate Fighter)

Eh yeah probably. Also, Impact WINS best and comes second in worst? These are some fickle voters.

Worst Match of the Year – John Cena vs. John Laurinitis (Santino Marella vs. Ricardo Rodriguez, some UFC fight)

No. Aksana vs. Kaitlyn was literally a four minute headlock. No way this was worse.

Worst Feud of the Year – John Cena vs. Kane (TNA vs. Aces and 8's, John Cena vs. John Laurinitis)

It was bad yeah but I don't think it was even around long enough to qualify as bad. Seriously, Aces and 8's? Clair Lynch? They're better than Cena vs. Kane? I don't think so.

Worst Promotion of the Year – TNA (ROH, WWE)

Their only US TV show is the best show but they're the worst company? How do these awards work anyway?

Best Booker – Jado and Gedo (UFC guy, Mike Quackenbush)

New Japan, duh.

Best Gimmick – Joseph Park (Damien Sandow, Daniel Bryan)

If this didn't win, the awards are a joke.

Worst Gimmick – Aces and 8's (Tensai, Natalya)

You knew they were winning SOMETHING. But hey, the show they're ALWAYS ON is still the best show right?

Best Wrestling Book – Shooters by Jonathan Snowden (Heroes and Icons by Oliver/Johnson/Mooneyham, From Prison to Promise by Booker T)

Never heard of it but sure why not.

Best Wrestling DVD – CM Punk: Best in the World (Last of McGuinness, some UFC thing)

If you didn't see this coming, go watch PBS as it's more your speed.

So yeah, Japan rules the internet wrestling world again, and no I don't want to watch puro.