

Battleground 2015 Preview

Maybe it's just where I've been away for a bit but it doesn't feel like it's time for a pay per view. To be fair though, WWE doesn't seem to know either, because it's the day before the show and we've got a five match card. While I'm sure there will be some fixes made and matches added, Battleground feels like a show that doesn't need to exist, but there's some stuff worth looking at. Let's get to it.

Starting with the preshow, we have King Barrett vs. R-Truth for the Crown. Now you may be asking, why is this match happening. Well that's because Vince has again fallen in love with a comedy character and thinks that it's just SO FREAKING FUNNY that it's worth putting Barrett through another mess for a story that no one cares about.

Barrett summed up the problems on Raw: why should I care if he beats Truth again when he already beat him in the King of the Ring tournament in the first place? These two have traded wins since then and the story just isn't working. Let's say Barrett wins Sunday. Where is he then? Right back where he was when he won the tournament: King, having beaten R-Truth to get there.

That is of course after all the weeks of having bad matches and stupid promos about R-Truth being KING WHAT'S UP because it's funny that Truth is crazy. This has been such a waste of Barrett and the entire tournament, but then again the whole thing was thrown together as a Network audience builder. This was a huge waste of time and I guess Barrett wins, because there's no point to putting it on Truth other than to make Vince lau....Truth is probably winning isn't he? I'll stick with Barrett but be ready to throw my remote at the TV.

I'll take Reigns and Wyatt going to a DQ to set up another Raw match. My guess is we eventually get Reigns vs. Ambrose at Summerslam, but at this point I'm thinking it's a double DQ or double countout, because Reigns hasn't failed in enough big matches yet. Wyatt needs the win, but he's needed a big win since.....December? I don't think you can count Ryback as a major win, not back then at least. I'll take the draw here, but my

goodness is there anything worse than seeing these two as such meaningless acts right now?

New Day gets the belts back. Word on the street is the Players got the belts because of Titus' dad of the year award and, shockingly enough, NO ONE CARED ABOUT THAT EITHER. New Day gets the titles back here and thankfully we're back to normal. The Players are a fine team and Titus is as professional as they get, but there's just no reason to care about them on top of the division.

It's taken me a while to write this out but I'll take Orton to win over Sheamus. Not that it's a complicated decision or anything, but it took me three or four tries to stay awake to write this out. There's no reason for this match to be happening aside from they both need something to do. Neither guy feels like anything more than an overgrown midcard act right now, even though they're both former World Champions and legitimate big stars. There's nothing to this story and the match has no heat, especially considering how many times these two have bored the fans to death. Orton wins as Sheamus has the MITB curse at the moment.

I'll go with the obvious and have Owens take the US Title. As strange as it would be to have the US Champion fighting for the NXT Title, it's clear that Owens thinks the NXT Title means something. If that's not where they go with it, there's always the option of Owens saying the US Title is more important and saying he'll do the rematch because he signed and a loss means nothing to him. Still though, Cena has nothing left to do with the title so put it on Owens, the best heel going today.

That leaves us with the main event and....just dang man. This should have been the easiest feud in the world ("You stole the Beast's title and now it is time to pay."). That's where they've kind of gone with it, but for the most part it's been about beating up the Stooges and a car for product placement. I certainly don't hate this one, but it hasn't made itself stand out.

At least there aren't currently any Authority members to bail Seth out, but whether he wins or loses, this is going to wind up being about the Authority one way or another. Why? Because that's how WWE works and

there's no way around it. I'll take Seth retaining through shenanigans to drag this out. Again.

And somehow that's it. We really don't have anything else on the card to talk about, though I'm pretty sure we're going to get something between Big Show vs. Miz and maybe Stardust vs. Neville. However, that leaves out Cesaro and Rusev, who both currently have rockets attached to their backs. I could easily see Cesaro added to the Intercontinental Title match for a vacated title, but I could also see him doing nothing more than a run-in during the US Title match.

Throw in a Divas match/segment, but there's something interesting here: yeah the NXT girls are here, but we're counting down the days until Nikki sets the record. This is where the problem: at some point she's going to have to fight one of them, and I'm not sure they can come up with two months of stalling before either A, the NXT girls lose or B, Nikki drags them down and no one cares. In other words, that whole record thing is going to threaten the entire story, but WWE would rather destroy their entire division to get rid of AJ Lee from the history books, unless they grow up and stop Nikki's reign early.

Overall, Battleground could be fun if the matches overachieve, but at some point WWE needs to be running on more than just that. There isn't a lot going on here and the big draws are the third match of a trilogy and Lesnar, who probably doesn't get the title back. Then again, this show doesn't really mean much as we're gearing up for Summerslam, where the real fun takes place.

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Slammiversary 2015 Preview

It's another TNA pay per view and now, instead of being better than WWE's offerings, the question is can they be better than One Night Only. It's almost impossible to not beat Bound For Glory from last year, and at least there's something borderline important on this show. Let's get to it.

So this could be interesting as I'm not entirely sure what's on the card in the first place.

We'll start with the six man ladder match for the X-Division Title with new champion Tigre Uno defending against Rockstar Spud, Kenny King, Crazy Steve, Manik and Mandrews. This is another example of the title meaning nothing as there are no feuds to be seen and it's just throwing everyone out there for the sake of a big multi-man spot fest. It's also telling that less than a week after the title changed hands, it's already time for a fresh batch of opponents, despite Uno having no real connection to any of them. Tigre retains as he just got the belt earlier in the week.

I'll take Davey over Aries to pick the stipulation for the final title match, because for some reason TNA thinks faces should pick stipulations in matches instead of heels, as common sense would suggest.

Matt Morgan will likely beat Bram via DQ or just cleanly because Bram is one of the biggest wastes in all of the

company. This whole challenging anyone on the roster is really just a thing that he's doing with no real upside. What good does it do him or anyone for that matter to have a bunch of one off matches? At least Morgan was successful in TNA. Kind of. In tag teams. Some of the time.

Ethan Carter III/Tyrus should beat Lashley and Anderson because there is zero logical reason for Anderson and Lashley to win given Carter's upcoming title shot. Actually there's no real reason for them to be teaming together other than they're a pair of losers at the moment, but then again this is just another meaningless match.

Brooke and Kong over the Dollhouse in what should be another obvious ending. These are starting to worry me though as TNA is going to have to screw up something obvious sooner or later.

Jesse Godderz will beat Robbie E. because, again, there's no logical reason for Robbie to go over. Godderz is getting a nice push as the new self obsessed heel, and having him lose to Robbie would be about the dumbest thing they could do here. Godderz won't go very far with this character (his finisher is a Boston crab) but what they're doing so far is working well.

Jeff Jarrett wins the King of the Mountain title. Yeah it's now a title and the other participants are Matt Hardy, Eric Young, Drew Galloway and Bobby Roode. I love that they're setting up a midcard title again, but their track record with these things kind of sucks. Well there's no kind of to it actually. Maybe this will be different, assuming Jarrett actually sticks around.

Finally, James Storm over Magnus as this is probably continuing.

Overall, Slammiversary doesn't look that bad. The card is WAY better than Bound For Glory looked last year as A, stuff actually matters here and B, I've heard of everyone on the

card. I don't think the show is going to mean anything other than being a long episode of Impact, but at least it could be entertaining. The build for this has barely existed because TNA can't do something as simple as schedule things properly, but that's the least of their problems right now. This show could be good, but it's the most cautious optimism possible.

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Money in the Bank 2015 Preview

We're up to another show here and I'm not the most interested. However, this is more like the TLC and Extreme Rules shows: if you just let the gimmicks carry the show, everything should fall into place (and off the top of the ladders). Hopefully we get a cash in on the night of the show so we don't have to have the briefcase carried around all year. Let's get to it.

On the pre-show, I'll go with Barrett over Truth. I know Truth has been

doing some funny stuff lately, but I have to have faith in the wrestling world. I know they'll likely job Barrett again and chuckle at the idea that people believed in him for the dozenth time, but I have to believe that it can happen just one time. I mean....please?

Now for the matches that people actually care about, that might actually get more than five minutes, and won't involve a bag of rubber spiders.

I'll take Cena to win over Owens, but not by pin or submission. They seem to be taking care of Owens and the other rookies, so hopefully they just have him walk out or get disqualified this time. There's nowhere near enough heat for this rematch to take place so soon and it's really holding things back. This should have been at Summerslam to build up Owens even more and take away some of the awesome memories of the first match. Still though, this should be fun and something very interesting depending on the ending.

As weak as it is, I'll take Reigns for the Money in the Bank briefcase. It's such a simple idea that you would think they might mix things up, but there's really no reason to have anyone but Reigns take it down. Kingston and New Day would be awesome for a moment before you remember they're the Tag Team Champions. Neville isn't ready. Orton doesn't need it. Ziggler, Sheamus and Kane are Ziggler, Sheamus and Kane. Reigns is tied in and the logical move, which is why it probably doesn't happen if WWE tries to get cute. I'll go safe here though and hope that Reigns cashes in very soon.

I've already gone into the World Title scene but I think Rollins retains and brags about it tomorrow night on Raw, only to have Brock come back as the biggest monster face in the history of monster faces to chase the belt. I know a lot of people have been wanting to see Ambrose win the title and that's still a possibility, but the Lesnar factor changes so many things.

You combine that with the possibilities of something interesting happening with a Shield reunion and there's almost no way of telling where this goes. Well I mean between the two people who are possible winners so it's really 50/50, but saying there's no way of telling sounds

better, despite it not really being that hard to tell. I'll take Rollins retaining and Ambrose turning heel as a result, because why listen to the crowd cheering for someone they love when you can turn Reigns heel and let him build himself up for a year or so down the line.

New Day retains the belts. I've been chuckling at the Prime Time Players and Darren is actually showing some potential, but I don't see them being the team to beat New Day for the titles. New Day is getting even stronger as kind of associates of the Authority, which is even further of a miracle than they were expecting.

Ryback keeps the Intercontinental Title. As easy as a Big Show joke would be here, let Ryback retain and build himself up a bit more with a Shell Shock on the giant. You remember that move. They did it on Raw because why save it for the pay per view when you can show 18 replays of it on Raw. Odds are Ryback moves on to feud with Miz after this, or maybe back to Wyatt, who beat him so recently.

Oh and Nikki retains as the march to 295 continues, meaning she can pass AJ Lee as the longest reigning Divas Champion ever so WWE can put her in montages with Trish and Lita, because it's totally the same thing.

This is a show that is going to be based entirely on the strength of the ladder matches and little more. Cena vs. Owens is a big match, but it's going to be dealing with the big expectations that the previous match built up. Other than that though, the Money in the Bank ladder match should be a big fun mess and Ambrose vs. Rollins could be great. The interesting thing is going to come the following night though as an angry Lesnar is going to be back to go a Rollins hunting.

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Elimination Chamber 2015 Preview

It's time for a "let's get people to watch the Network and hope they don't remember to cancel their free month in the hour they have after the show goes off the air" show that they're calling a pay per view. This is going to be an interesting show as they only have two weeks before Elimination Chamber, which means we might get something interesting short term to set up for a change down the road. Let's get to it.

There's no pre-show match this time but Daniel Bryan will be on MizTV. There's nothing to see here other than Miz returning and Bryan plugging the book/DVD/whatever else he has coming out. I can't imagine he's coming back to the ring already and he probably shouldn't yet either. I'll be glad to see Miz back as yes, I still like the guy.

Now we'll go with the bigger matches as we start with the Tag Team Title Elimination Chamber match. Given that it's under elimination rules, we'll look at each team and eliminate them one by one.

Los Matadores – Just no.

Ascension – I'd love to see these guys just massacre everyone in this thing and win the belts like they should have when they debuted before....I'm going to stop myself there because I'll rant all day on them all over again. Ascension won't win, even though they should be a force in this match.

Prime Time Players – They're funny and I dig the team, but I don't picture them winning the titles in one of their first matches back together.

Lucha Dragons – They're the dark horses to win here as they've been pushed strong since debuting and clearly have the offense to get the fans into any of their matches. Why Los Matadores still exist with these guys around is beyond me.

Cesaro/Tyson Kidd – You would think these guys would have a good shot but I just don't see it happening again.

New Day – I've loved the team and it's hard not to, but there's only so long you can keep the joke going. These guys work well together to steal pins, but having them survive five other teams might be a bit too much to ask.

So who do I have winning? This might come as a surprise, but I'm going with the Dragons. I don't see New Day surviving that many teams without someone catching them and Cesaro/Kidd don't feel right. The other teams are filler so yeah, I'm actually picking the Dragons.

Off to the other Chamber for the vacant Intercontinental Title so let's do the same format.

R-Truth – I think I have a better chance of winning the title than he does.

Dolph Ziggler – He has Lana. Don't get greedy. Also there's nothing for him to win here as he's held the title a bunch of times before and doesn't gain anything by winning it again.

King Barrett – He's already jobbing to R-Truth clean in less than three minutes. Heaven help him if he wins the title back and is getting rolled up by El Torito next. Pass here and that's the best for everyone involved.

Ryback – I just can't see it. They're playing up that he hasn't won a title yet so maybe he chases the belt, but I can't see him winning it here.

Rusev/Bray Wyatt – This is in case Rusev can't go due to his leg injury, and it certainly seems that he can't. Wyatt would be a very good option here but again I don't see it. He'll take a Shell Shock to even the

“feud” with Ryback and no one will care.

Sheamus – This has been the odds on pick for a while now and he probably does make the most sense. Sheamus has been doing well since he got back and throwing another title on him isn’t the worst idea in the world. I’ll take him.

Neville defeats Dallas because there’s really no reason for him not to.

I’m really tempted to go with Ambrose over Rollins for a two week title reign but I don’t see it happening. I think they’ll just go with the safe story of having the interference be too much for Dean to overcome and keep the title on Seth, even though Reigns has nothing to do and probably should come out and help his buddy.

Uh....Naomi takes the Divas Title and feuds with Paige for a bit, even though Tamina pinned Paige on Raw in another really dumb booking decision.

Now we get to the match I’m looking forward to the most and the match with the best build: John Cena vs. Kevin Owens in a non-title match. These two have been trading shots for two weeks now and it’s going to be a huge moment if Owens somehow pulls off the win. Notice that I said somehow, as there’s no need for him to win the match clean. All he has to do is survive it and hang on long enough to win by countout, DQ or maybe a fluke pin.

This is one of the very rare situations where I’m thrilled by the possibilities and really looking forward to the match for a change. Owens is a great bully character and having him win will instantly make everyone more credible. If Owens is sticking around on the main roster, give him the win here and let him become a star. Cena is going to be fine about ten seconds after the match so does it really matter? Just let Owens win and be done with it. Look at Mick Foley winning his first World Title: everyone remembers the win and no one remembers that he dropped it less than three weeks later because only the win matters.

Overall, I’m looking forward to this show, but there’s a good chance it’s going to be a massive disappointment. There’s only so much you can expect

from WWE without them rounding back into form, just like they did this past Monday on Raw. There's bound to be something good on the show though and if there's more than a few good things, Sunday could be really, really special.

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Payback 2015 Preview

I know I'm not the biggest fan of the current product, but this show actually gives me hope. I didn't expect anything the first two years they ran this show and they were both excellent surprises. It's way too soon after Extreme Rules and way too close to Elimination Chamber, but maybe they can pull off something good for a good show. Let's get to it.

We'll start with the preshow and the match that makes me want to go on a hatchet rampage: the Meta Powers (yes seriously) vs. Ascension. Now let's pause for a second here. I like to consider myself a patient man. I've sat through some of the dumbest ideas I've ever seen and managed to survive. I got through every original episode of Monday Nitro and Thunder (and now I'm doing it AGAIN). I even made it through the Ruthless Aggression Era on Monday Night Raw.

But now I think I've reached my breaking point (which may or may not include Randy Orton torture material). After a year of the Ascension

being one of the coolest tag teams of the year in NXT and seeing them debut as a pretty cool throwback idea, I'm going to have to watch Curtis Axel and Damien Sandow imitate great wrestlers beat them in an unfunny comedy match because Vince and Dunn will laugh at it.

Ascension may be the greatest travesty in wrestling in years and now it's time to put this thrown together team over them for the sake of a lame comedy act. Remember when Charlie Haas did this and it got old in like two months? This isn't even getting two months, at least not from me. It's two guys with nothing better to do than imitate legends because WWE decided to have Miz win the blowoff and then run off to go make a movie, leaving Sandow around to flounder because they don't think more than an hour ahead at any given time. I can't stand this idea and it's going to make me want to hurt someone. Maybe Repo Man.

Oh yeah there's a full pay per view to go.

Cena over Rusev, even though Rusev somehow getting the title back would be more interesting. However, I'll take Cena retaining as we can get more of the Open Challenges, which are pretty easily what I look forward to the most on Raw every single week. Even the fans in the arena are catching on. Notice how strong a reaction Cena has been getting lately. Let a good wrestler have good matches and people will cheer. Yes, it really is that simple. What isn't simple is HOW HAVE THESE TWO NEVER HAD A FLAG MATCH? If there has ever been an easier layup for a gimmick I don't know what it is, but we've never seen one.

Rollins to reta....I'm sure about this aren't I? WWE has actually made me think about this one more than once and I can't believe I'm saying that. The key here is Elimination Chamber, because there's the slightest chance they'll pull the trigger on a two week title reign for someone and then get it back on Rollins. Unfortunately I think they'll keep the title on Rollins here and set up his defense against Kane at the nothing pay per view. At least that keeps it quick I guess. Yeah Rollins to retain and no one turns.

I think they'll go with Barrett over Neville. Despite winning King of the Ring earlier this month, somehow he needs the win more. It's very sad to

say but that's actually the truth. Neville is going to be over because of his awesome flips and the fact that he busts out a different move every now and then to keep things going. The fact that this guy debuted like six weeks ago and is basically a coin toss against the King of the Ring is astounding.

Sheamus beats Ziggler to even the series, setting up a blowoff at Money in the Bank because they'll both be inside the Chamber for the Intercontinental Title because WWE keeps the same people in the same spots on the card for like ever.

And now.....wait....I think I.....I THINK I CAN FEEL THE POWAH! Yeah I still love that intro. If this isn't the match of the night by about 18,000 miles, I'm going to be shocked. I think New Day holds the titles in the 2/3 falls match over Kidd/Cesaro and then drops them inside the chamber, which might be best as you don't want them to lose their heat. This is going to be amazing and I can't wait to see how they handle the Elimination Chamber match. I can't believe it but dang this is the best thing going today.

Ryback vs. Wyatt is happening too. That's about the extent of my thoughts about it at this point even though I think about it more than any feud going on right now. It's such a weird feud as they really don't have a reason to be fighting. Bray just picked Ryback and is feuding with him, but the match has the potential to be very entertaining with two guys beating the tar out of each other for about fifteen minutes. I'm actually not sure if this needs more development or not. Bray isn't the kind of guy that needs a reason to do anything and if the matches are good, who cares?

Tamina and Naomi to beat the Bella Twins so Naomi can get into the title hunt, whatever that means. You have like eight activeish Divas (Bellas, Naomi, Tamina, Fox, Cameron, Natalya and Summer. Yes I left off Rosa and if you can't figure out why, I've failed at educating you) including the champion and her partner. Who isn't in the title hunt?

Overall, I'm actually looking forward to this show. This has the potential to be a really, really strong card (when is the last time I

didn't say that actually?) with only the Divas doing nothing for me. Yeah there's another show in two weeks, but this could be a really fun outing, especially with such low expectations.

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Extreme Rules 2015 Preview

This isn't going to be the longest one in the world as NorCal and I already did the full podcast preview for this show. In case you didn't listen to that show for some reason (and you should. Check it and the other episodes here <http://mightynorcal.podbean.com/>), here's a shorter than normal version.

On the pre-show, I'll take Cesaro and Kidd to retain the Tag Team Titles. Cesaro and Kidd have been on fire with the belts and there's no real need to give the belts to New Day, who can stay over as heels for six months on that clap alone. I like New Day, but they don't need the belts yet.

Rollins over Orton in the Kane Show with Orton and Rollins as the backup players. I'm almost sure Orton will hit an RKO or two but Kane will somehow screw him over, because NO ONE would see a swerve like that coming because the Authority is just so much smarter than we all are. My interest in this match fell through the floor when Kane became involved and that's not how you want your first title defense to go.

Cena retains of course in probably the most brutal match on the show.

Those two are going to beat the fire out of each other and probably go on to have yet another match, which will only make Rusev look all the lamer. It's a shame too as the guy has shown he can hang in there with the top guys, but since we NEED a tetralogy instead of just the regular trilogy. Also, can we please find a different way to end the match instead of Cena following him around?

I don't think Bryan is going to be able to go, meaning it should be Neville getting the shot. Who will it be though? Probably Truth or Ryder or one of the other designated losers. Barrett walks out with the belt either way, but my goodness do they really have to wait until the day of the show to announce that Bryan is hurt? Barring a shocker, they've known for a week and should just announce it instead of jerking the fans around with their "well he MIGHT be there!"

Sheamus beats Ziggler in the stupidest gimmick of the night that I'd assume only Vince and Dunn find funny.

Nikki retains the Divas Title. All hail the Bellas and forever praise be their names, even if it defeats the purpose of turning Naomi heel, which defeats the purpose of common sense as she wrestles the natural face style but they decided to turn all the Divas heel for some reason.

Reigns over Big Show to FINALLY END THIS STUPID STUPID FEUD THAT WAS DEAD FIVE MONTHS AGO BUT LET'S JUST KEEP THEM FIGHTING BECAUSE BIG SHOW IS BIG AND THAT MEANS FANS WANT TO SEE REIGNS BEAT HIM UP EVEN THOUGH SHOW BEAT HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WWE BECAUSE HE'S BIG AND THEREFORE INTERESTING!

And Ambrose over Harper in what should be a hot opener.

Overall this show doesn't have me all that fired up, but it's usually a sleeper hit. If they let the violence get cranked up, they can overcome the lame build but it's going to take some work. As usual, this is the Wrestlemania rematch show and you almost have to have the gimmicks to keep it from being Wrestlemania Part II.

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Wrestlemania XXXI Preview: General Thoughts

What else is left?

Overall, I'm not wild on this show but I think it has the potential to be a great show. The other night on the radio show, the host said this would be a great card if you just looked at the card and didn't see the rest of the buildup. The more I think of this, the more I think he's on to something. It's been a disaster of a buildup to Wrestlemania, but the wrestling has potential to have some good results.

For best match, I'll go with Rollins vs. Orton. These two could steal the show if they're given time to do the stadium style match. It doesn't need to be a big long showdown, but give them fifteen minutes or so and a few RK0's to the Stooges. Throw in Orton getting to beat Rollins down before taking the fall and the whole thing should be great.

For worst match, I'm not sure but I'll take Sting vs. HHH due to how broken down Sting has looked at times. This is the opposite of the rest of the show as the build has been good (if you cut out Stephanie and pick a story) but I'm not sure how they're going to be able to do in the ring. HHH should be fine, but Sting isn't quite the same guy he was fifteen or even ten years ago.

There's going to be at least one musical performance and my goodness I really do not care. They bumped the battle royal for the sake of some rap

singer that most fans probably haven't heard of and most people don't care for. I can't put into words how annoying it would have been last year if they had cut out a match for the sake of Kid Rock (who I like to a degree) performing Celebrate.

As usual, the interesting stuff is going to be the next night on Raw, but the re-signing of Lesnar has turned the whole main event upside down and makes me care about it a lot more than I thought I ever could. At the end of the day I still don't really care for the show as a whole, but it's nice to see the main event matter to me again. The wrestling quality could be hit or miss, but there are FAR worse shows out there. I'll put it in the bottom quarter of the shows based on the view from here, but hopefully I'm wrong.

Anything else I left out that you all want to hear about?

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Wrestlemania XXXI Preview: WWE World Heavyweight Title: Brock Lesnar vs. Roman Reigns

And then there's this.

This is one of those matches where there are so many different ways it could go that it makes me want to see it. I'm not entirely sure that's how they meant to get there, but it makes me want to see the main event more than I did otherwise. I'm not even sure where to start with this one.

So Reigns won the Rumble after everyone knew he would for like a year, then beat Bryan to defend his title shot at Fast Lane. Much like HHH vs. Sting, it all started coming off the rails after that because they had no idea where to go with it after that. They've tried things like Roman wanting to be the monster that slays the bigger monster or Reigns living up to his family's history of being all dominant and such, but it seems like they really don't know where they're going.

That of course leaves the problem of people not caring about Roman Reigns. They've done a horrible job at making him a guy that we're going to connect with because he doesn't have much of a personality. Look back at the two stories they've tried. Not many people are going to be able to connect with the idea of being a Superman who can beat up anyone in the world and is going off to fight the big dragon. At the same time, most of them can't connect with the idea of being part of a legendary family with a huge reputation to live up to.

On the other hand, there's a major risk of having Reigns booed out of the stadium because Brock Lesnar is the easiest guy in the world to cheer for because fans like seeing Brock destroy people like Godzilla crushing buildings in the abandoned warehouse district of Tokyo. He's a guy people are ready to cheer for (because they can forgive the Streak being broken that quickly) but instead we're supposed to cheer for Reigns because of....hey isn't that Reverend Slick over there?

They just haven't done a good job of setting this match up because there's no reason to want to see the showdown. Reigns is pretty much the same guy he was a year ago but now he has the stupid promos on his resume. He's been SO much better when he's the Batista type who lets his fighting do the talking and spears people in half after punching them in the face. But instead, for some reason WWE decides that he needs to be a guy with a personality because that's how WWE thinks people are supposed

to be.

You know who works as a powerhouse who doesn't say much and shows off with his physical abilities? Brock Lesnar. He's actually a really good standard for someone who doesn't need to do much talking and can be a huge success by just letting his power and dominance do all the talking he needs. Let Reigns be something like a Batista instead of trying to make him the new John Cena.

I don't even see why Reigns needs to win the title at Wrestlemania. Why does Reigns, age 29, NEED to get his first World Title here? Most wrestlers don't win their first title at Wrestlemania and they wind up being fine. Let him win it somewhere else first and then come back and get his really big win later on? Why have him win here and throw him out in deep water? It's like asking him to win a gold medal in the Olympics and not even giving him a broken freaking neck. It doesn't work that way.

All these issues aside, it seems very obvious that it's going to be Reigns taking the title from Lesnar because the story seems to be that Cena couldn't do it so let's get someone even bigger and stronger to take the title from Lesnar. That's a pretty lame story to tell because it's just going and getting the next guy up instead of finding someone we might be interested in seeing.

Then Lesnar re-signed and everything changed.

That signing turned this match on its head and made it a completely different story. The idea was that Lesnar was going to lose the title because he might have been on his way out of the promotion to MMA so Reigns had to be the guy to take it from him. However, now that he's staying and there's a chance Bryan and Cena will be winning the midcard titles to headline the house shows, why not leave the belt on Brock?

There are a million ways to go with Lesnar if he sticks around as champion, including turning him face. Like, for instance, Reigns sees that he can't win the title on his own and needs some help. Maybe two guys in black? One of whom says Reigns is his brother? Or you have him fight the Authority and finally clear them out. There are a million options.

Then there's one more option: the cash-in. I'll keep this short: if Lesnar retains, I think there's a cash-in tomorrow on Raw. Otherwise, nothing.

So for the official prediction, I'll take Lesnar retaining because he's sticking around. At the end of the day, I think WWE is going to throw the brakes on at the last minute and let Reigns lose here to build him up again for later. I know Vince wants to pull the trigger on him, but hopefully HHH can talk him out of the itchy trigger finger for now. No cash-in at Wrestlemania if Lesnar retains.

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Wrestlemania XXXI Preview: Sting vs. HHH

Let's get something out of the way first.

For some reason there are people thinking this is going to close out the show. I know Sting is a big deal and I'm looking forward to seeing one of my all time favorites finally getting inside a WWE ring, but don't kid yourself: this match isn't closing the show and there's no logical reason that it should.

This is another match where they really needed to pick a story and stick with it a long time ago but for some reason they can't decide what to go

with. At first it was being presented as WCW vs. WWE in one final round of the Monday Night Wars. I thought that was really stupid but was ready to go with it, even though they're ignoring the totally logical story (we'll come back to that in a minute).

But anyway, they seemed to be going with the WCW vs. WWE story, but then Sting said the most logical thing I've heard all year: "Of course I'm not fighting for WCW. That would be pretty ridiculous fourteen years after it closed." Makes perfect sense, so of course Stephanie came out, cut off Sting's balls, turned it right back into WWE vs. WCW and didn't let Sting get in any rebuttal because this company is all about making sure Stephanie never looks bad.

See, this is where the story goes off the rails because they had the perfect story when Sting made his debut. After all the months of the Authority using their power to abuse and intimidate everyone, Sting shows up as the Dark Knight: the one man with the power and stature to be immune to the Authority and the only man willing to stand against them because, simply put, THAT'S WHAT STING DOES. He did it in WCW against the NWO and he did it in TNA against their 184 different heel factions. Sting is the guy that stands up to the corrupt bosses and fights the good fight.

But for some reason that's not what we're getting. Well, at least not the full on version of it. Instead they're building it up as a dream match, which you could go with if you've run out of other dreams to have I guess. I'll give them this though: the image of HHH pulling out the hammer but Sting countering with the ball bat is the most naturally perfect image this feud could have had and they nailed it as well as they could have.

Now the match itself is a completely different story. We've seen that HHH can still go in the ring with anyone and give a good to very good performance. I have no doubt he'll be ready to go for Wrestlemania. On the other hand, I haven't seen Sting look good in a match in a very, very long time. The guy is just getting up there in years and can barely sit back on the Scorpion anymore. However, this is Wrestlemania and I think Sting has one more decent to good match in him.

The question now is who wins. My instinct and every bit of wrestling logic I have says Sting goes over. Why in the world would you bring Sting in and have him lose his WWE debut match? That being said, this is WWE in 2015 where logic and common sense is thrown out the window for the sake of "well why don't we do this?" and ignoring the response of "because it's really stupid." HHH doesn't need to win another match as long as he lives though, so I'll go with Sting since HHH does seem to have mellowed a bit in recent years as his last win was at Wrestlemania XXIX. The one before that? TLC 2011.

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Wrestlemania XXXI Preview: Intercontinental Title

Reach for the sky.

I'm not a fan of these matches. They take away the entire idea of having a wrestling match and throw everything together into one big mess for the title. Yeah it's going to be a lot of fun and has the potential to steal the show, but I really would have preferred a straight match or even a multiman match to this big mess.

Second complaint: I know I've ranted on this already, but I really didn't like having the title being passed around. What was that supposed to accomplish? It's better than having the champion lose every week, but why

am I supposed to care that someone keeps taking the belt itself away? As Barrett kept saying, that's his title and he shouldn't have to keep taking it back from people. It's like when Hogan thought he had won the Tag Team Titles at Wrestlemania IX when Jimmy Hart counted the pin: he REALLY should know better than that.

Just like in the Tag Team Title match, let's take an individual look at each guy before I get to my pick.

Stardust – Why is he in this? He lost last month and now he's in a big time title match because the belt is his precious? This is a name you could have easily left out of things and no one would have noticed a difference. If nothing else just cut his spot and let the match have fewer people in it so things can breathe a bit more.

R-Truth – He's here for the comedy and nothing more. No one buys him as having a chance at winning the belt and I can't really see why he needed to be in here. He's the guy you throw out there to give the champion a fluke loss (which happens WAY too often) and not someone you put in a title match at Wrestlemania.

Luke Harper – Former champion, had a great ladder match with Dolph Ziggler and deserves a push where he DOESN'T LOSE EVERY MATCH AS CHAMPION. I don't see him as having much of a chance, but you always need someone in there as a power guy to throw the small guys around and make them look good.

Dean Ambrose – He's finally finding a niche for himself in the midcard and is the one that started this whole thing in the first place. I really liked what he said when he talked about wanting to be the Intercontinental Champion because it meant something back in the day. Then he started walking off with the belt like it was a ball on the playground because that's how you make a title legitimate right? I'd love to see Dean win and become the midcard star, but given his track record, he probably gets lost coming to ringside and winds up fighting Torito or something.

Daniel Bryan – Boy what a difference a year makes doesn't it? It really is amazing what a simple broken neck (or whatever it was) can do to mess

up your career. Bryan would be the most logical pick to win here but for some reason I don't see him doing it. For one thing, he's a bit too popular to give a win in back to back years because the WWE knows who we should be cheering for. Side note about Bryan: this is the fifth different title he's fought for in five Wrestlemanias.

Wrestlemania XXVII: US Title

Wrestlemania XXVIII: World Heavyweight Title

Wrestlemania XXIX: Tag Team Titles

Wrestlemania XXX: WWE World Heavyweight Title

Wrestlemania XXXI: Intercontinental Title

He might be the only guy to ever do that.

Dolph Ziggler – You have to have a guy like Ziggler in a match like this and there's nothing wrong with being that guy. He'll have some big spots, get close to winning the title, get the second biggest reaction of the match and come up just a bit short, because WWE is totally cool with having him get nowhere after making him the star of the Survivor Series main event.

Bad News Barrett – My goodness what is their problem with this guy? It seems like every time he gets the title he goes on the biggest losing streak ever but gets to hold his head high and win the big match at the end, meaning we're supposed to forget about all those losses. That would be fine in theory if Cole wasn't reminding us of the losses every 18 seconds, but that's too much logic for them to follow.

Overall though, I don't think Barrett gets the big win this time. It's probably what we're getting from the whole thing, but I'm going on a limb and picking Ambrose. He's over with the fans, could be made into a main event guy one day and started this whole thing. WWE owes him a big win anyway after all the stupid endings with the Rollins and Wyatt matches. They'll probably go with Barrett to make me want to drive my head through a wall, but I want to see Ambrose take it.

Oh and Sheamus could be added as the eighth guy. If he does, I'll go with him again.

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