

Elimination Chamber 2014 Preview

Wrestlemania is six weeks away and tomorrow will determine a lot of what we'll be seeing at the biggest show of them all. The kickoff match is a meaningless tag between Cody Rhodes/Goldust vs. Ryback/Curtis Axel. It's kind of amazing that the Brothers have fallen as far as they have in just a month. They were the hottest act the tag division has seen in months and then it's been thrown away for the sake of the New Age Outlaws. In 2014. Anyway there is zero reason for Ryback and Axel to win, which is why I think they will so we can get closer to Goldust vs. Cody which is allegedly a match everyone needs to see.

We'll start the main card with the most obvious win ever: Batista beats Del Rio and you really shouldn't need an explanation why. One thing though: We're supposed to cheer a guy who put Del Rio in a neck brace and then attacked him while he was still injured after Del Rio was angry that Batista hadn't earned any of his recent success. Why is WWE surprised people aren't interested in Batista?

I'm going with the Outlaws to keep the titles. I have a bad feeling they'll keep them on the old guys until Wrestlemania where they'll be in some multi team match where the Usos will get them, because a team like the Outlaws just couldn't lose a clean one on one match. Perish the thought. Sidebar on the Outlaws: I have no idea where the team is supposed to be going. The idea was supposed to be HHH pushing his friends, but the Outlaws won the match and rematch clean and have acted like faces the entire time. How does this benefit anyone but Gunn and Road Dogg?

Langston should beat Swagger, but I have a feeling he won't. The Real Americans should be splitting, but there has to be a

way to get Colter on Swagger's side and away from Cesaro. Having Jack win a title while Cesaro comes up short would be a decent enough way, but I don't want Cesaro being wasted on Swagger at Wrestlemania. We'll go with Langston retaining to keep things from getting too messy.

Titus over Darren. Young is a decent enough wrestler, but there's just nothing interesting about him. It's refreshing to get a basic heel turn and blowoff match as a result though.

The big match of the evening is inside the Chamber and the most anticipated could be as well if there was ever a rematch. The Wyatts vs. Shield has the potential to steal the first half of the year and the build has been excellent. Bray vs. Reigns could be an outstanding collision which goes to show you what happens when you take two guys and build them up to the point where neither could conceivably lose. I'll go with the Wyatts here in what should be more obvious than it is. One more note that I've been saying for the previous week: Bray vs. Reigns at Wrestlemania. Any takers?

That brings us to the big one. I think we can safely write off Sheamus, Cesaro and Christian (more on this later). Cena isn't a likely winner due to the Wyatts as Bray vs. Cena seems to be set in stone. That leaves us with Orton vs. Bryan and Daniel is coming in with a bad shoulder courtesy of the Authority. Couple that with Orton losing most of his matches leading up to it and Orton is almost a layup to win.

However there's one thing to remember: the Network launching on Monday. That leaves the door open for the very rare one night title reign or a surprise title change on Raw. I don't think it's going to happen, but if it does I'll go with Cesaro on a very long shot.

Overall Elimination Chamber has the chance to be a solid show with the six man tag looking to be as easy of a great match as you'll find. That being said, the show also has me worried

about where things are going. For the life of me I cannot imagine Batista getting a one on one title shot against Orton at Wrestlemania. There's a chance we might see that match on Monday instead, but something has to stop that match from happening. Bryan doesn't have to be in the title match and facing HHH would be fine, but man alive Orton vs. Batista is just not going to do it for the main event of Wrestlemania. We'll find out a lot tomorrow, but we'll find out even more on Monday.

Thoughts/predictions?

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Royal Rumble 2014 Preview

After Smackdown last night I'm actually excited for the show.

As always we'll start with the pre-show match. I can't imagine they'll take the belts off the Rhodes Brothers and give them to the Outlaws, especially not on a pre-show. The Brothers have been on fire as of late and come off like main event players, so the belts stay with them. The Outlaws have been impressive though as they're basically at the same level they were on fifteen years ago.

Lesnar over Big Show. There's a chance they'll do a double DQ, but Big Show doesn't get hurt by losing as he'll get at

least two world title shots on PPV this year.

Orton keeps the title in a match I think people forget exists. The booking of this feud has been completely backwards with the title match being booked and then making it personal and the gimmick match leading off the feud. I don't believe for a second that there won't be interference of some sort and Orton keeps the title. I have very little desire to see this match.

I have a feeling we get a no contest/unclean ending to Bray vs. Bryan. The Wyatts losing kills most of the mystique but Bryan is so hot right now that you can't have him lose at a big PPV. I think they drag this out to another show which isn't the worst thing in the world.

Now for the real main event with the Rumble itself. Until #30 enters and it's not Bryan, I'll take Daniel Bryan as the favorite to win. He's the hottest thing in years and there are only twenty entrants accounted for so far. Yeah there are a lot of rumors out there about what might be coming for him at Wrestlemania but I'll believe the card when it's announced on Raw. If Bryan isn't in there, this is going to Batista, which it likely is anyway. Punk will make a good run but Kane will screw him over, setting up Punk vs. Kane at Elimination Chamber which sets up Punk vs. HHH at Wrestlemania.

If AJ vs. Naomi is added, the champion keeps the title.

Overall the show definitely has me interested because the Rumble is a match that can go several ways. Yeah Batista is the big favorite at this point, but there are other options to winning it. The other matches should be fun though I have less of a desire to see them. The good thing about the Rumble is that a third of the show is spent on one match, so the entire show hinges on that alone.

Thoughts/predictions?

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TLC 2013 Preview

We're getting closer to the Road to Wrestlemania, which means I need to start packing for the biggest show of the year. The major story for the show is the world title unification which has been thrown together in less than three weeks for reasons that aren't quite clear. Let's get to it. We'll start with the pre-show as always. In case you missed the throwaway line on Raw, the match is Ziggler vs. Fandango in a match of who has fallen further since the summer. I'll take Ziggler to win in a match that will likely make people cancel their PPV orders instead of buying the show.

As for matches people might actually care about, I'm going with Orton to get both titles. The seeds for a Cena heel turn are so obvious that they feel like they're fakes and the Authority will screw him over. These two in a TLC match should be a great brawl but everyone is waiting for the big story stuff at the end of the match. Orton wins in an entertaining match.

I'll take Bryan over the Wyatts due to Bray sitting at ringside and Bryan somehow hitting the knee on Rowan for a fast pin. The key to the Wyatts has always been in their

talking so even losing here isn't the worst result in the world. Bray will probably sit on the floor for most of the match anyway.

Shield over Punk as CM fights off Ambrose and Rollins but gets speared down for the pin. Ambrose of course takes the credit, furthering the split.

Langston keeps the Intercontinental Title in the obvious result of the night.

Natalya has to win the title eventually right? AJ has held the thing for months now and since it's WWE, having a challenger lose most of the early title shots to win in the end is the norm, even though they look worthless leading up to the match. Total Divas has wrapped up too, so I have no idea why they'd change the title now, making it all the more likely.

In the bonus match I'll take Mysterio and Big Show to win the tag titles. Why? Because the tag division is getting really good so the solution is to put the belts on a thrown together team with I believe one match together at all.

If Miz vs. Kofi is added as it should be, I'll take Miz with another freaking rollup.

Overall TLC is a one match show but it's one heck of a match. The idea of unifying the titles is something that needed to

happen a long time ago and thankfully will get rid of a lot of the annoying problems WWE has, such as four people having 50 title reigns between the two of them in less than twelve years. It's far more about the big story to end the show and get us rolling down the road to Wrestlemania, The show should be entertaining enough, though adding in a ladder, chairs or tables match might have helped a bit. Still though, it should be fun.

Thoughts/predictions?

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Survivor Series 2013 Preview

It's the fourth biggest show of the year and there's actually a card for it now! As usual we'll start on the pre-show. I see absolutely no reason for Miz to lose here. He's coming off a heel turn and he's against the jobber to end all jobbers in Kofi, so we'll take what should be obvious here and say Miz wins.

Continuing the trend of easy picks, Big Show loses to Orton. It's obvious they're setting up HHH vs. Big Show at TLC because if there's one thing this company needs, it's more Big Show. Orton will be in trouble but come back somehow and cheat to win. I could see a scenario where Big Show wins and HHH goes to take the title from him but I don't think they'll go there.

Cena over Del Rio of course, which will likely set up a third match between them at TLC. Why WWE thinks anyone wants to see that is beyond me, but they make some very strange decisions in the main event scene at times.

Langston retains the title in the rematch. I don't think this really needs an explanation.

I'm going to go with what seems like the logical move and say Punk and Bryan beat the Wyatts. The money to this feud is in Bray vs. the stars and it wouldn't make sense having the Family get the win. That being said, I wouldn't be complaining if they did because those two could easily be a nice fixture in the tag division. Punk and Bryan win but it's a struggle.

Total Divas win because WWE thinks that's what the people want to see. Then again I've said that for months now and haven't been right yet.

That leaves us with the traditional Survivor Series match which is a hard one to pick. I'm going to go with the good guys here in a tossup. The problem here is Roman Reigns, who just does not lose in WWE. Unless he gets DQ'd or counted out, I can't imagine him being eliminated. On the other hand, I just can't see the Real Americans and Shield winning overall. I'll take the tag champions, Usos and Rey but I wouldn't be surprised if I'm wrong.

Overall the show looks better than it did a week ago but it doesn't come off as important. Usually, and as is the case here, a show is only as good as its top match. Big Show vs. Orton is one of the weakest main events I can remember in a long time and that's a bad sign for the rest of the show. Survivor Series can work as a major show but WWE seems inept at making it one. The show should be decent but it's not going to wow anyone.

Hell in a Cell 2013 Preview

More commonly known as Battleground II. Starting with the preshow match as usual, I'll take and hope for Langston to take the title. Axel has done nothing with it because WWE has decided to have him job to Punk and R-Truth every few weeks. Langston needs to take it and not lose a match at all until say February.

Orton vs. Bryan should FINALLY end the feud and I think they go with Randy. I don't think Shawn turns heel, but I think somehow Big Show knocks Bryan out by mistake and Shawn has to

live up to his word by counting the pin on Bryan to end the show.

Punk has to win the match and end the feud. This is another one where the promos are still good, but there's just nowhere else for the story to go. Punk somehow incapacitates Ryback by locking him out of the Cell or handcuffing him to the wall and destroying Heyman once and for all.

I think Cena takes the title but there's no cash in. Cena winning the belt is the best course of action as it gives the title a breath of life and keeps Cena away from the main story. Sandow being absent from TV this week makes me think they hope we forget about him though, because WWE thinks people forget a character in a week.

Brie beats AJ, the fans don't react at all for her big moment, meaning it's time to push her in the main event scene with Bryan and Cena.

I hope the Usos take the belts. They're WAY overdue for a title reign, but Goldust and Cody are on fire right now. I'd be fine either way but I hope the twins take it.

Los Matadores over the Real Americans because it makes sense to job a former world champion and a guy who should be a world champion for the sake of pushing a mascot.

Overall the show doesn't feel very interesting but it does

feel like the end for this way too long cycle. The extra PPV earlier in the month really dragged things down and made the stories even longer. A lot of the stories just need to end before they drag on far too long. Things can finally change up for a set of two month programs before we hit the Rumble and the push for Wrestlemania. The show will be better than Battleground but won't light the world on fire.

Thoughts/predictions?

Bound For Glory 2013 Preview

Somehow there are only six matches for this thing so either each match is getting twenty minutes or some stuff is being added in. Let's get to it. We'll start with the main event which was made No DQ via Twitter after Impact, because saying it's No DQ ON THE FREAKING TV SHOW would have been a waste of time. I'll go with what should be obvious and have AJ get the title here, but I have a bad feeling we'll see some screwjob that sees AJ lose when he's supposed to win. Yes it would be stupid, but that's how TNA rolls anymore.

Jeff Hardy to win the X Title. Hardy doesn't lose at BFG. Bobby Roode better beat Angle, or the lesson apparently is work hard to help the company and you get to lose to a guy who can't stop drinking at work and gets arrested once a year or so. This feud is going to continue though.

I'll go with Hernandez and Chavo to win the title shot because

these two are the charmed team in TNA for whatever ridiculous reason TNA has. I have no idea what they see in the pairing because they bore everyone to death. They'll win the gauntlet but lose the title match.

Magnus over Sting with him turning heel because if there's one thing TNA is lacking, it's a 58th heel in the upper midcard.

Gail wins the Knockouts Title because she has to have it once every few months or the Knockouts Gods will destroy the earth.

Overall, Bound For Glory feels like a very flat show. There's nothing on here that sounds like a big match and the entire thing feels like a launching pad into the TNA vs. Dixie story. I'm convinced Hogan appears at the end to screw over Dixie after she screws over AJ and get the title on Styles, because that's what the promotion clearly needs: more HOGAN. I'm not looking forward to this show and it feels like it's the biggest show of the year because TNA calls it the biggest show of the year. I was WAY more excited for Slammiversary with its lame main event. The wrestling should be good but the build has been awful.

Thoughts/predictions?

Battleground Preview

It's the latest filler show that no one really wants to see before we have another filler PPV that maybe a few more people want to see in three weeks. Let's get to it.

As usual we'll start with the pre-show match. I'll take Ziggler to win. The guy has fallen, but come on: it's Damien Sandow. Even Ziggler hasn't fallen that far. I have a feeling this might lead to more later though.

Give me Bryan in the main event, presumably setting up the final showdown inside the Cell next time where Orton will stand tall by embracing the CRAZY. It's a sad day when a three week title reign will completely blow away his other two reigns, but that's the WWE we live in.

I'm going to take RVD to win the title and say there's an immediate cash-in. RVD's contract is up and it would be a nice way to transition the title to Sandow. The question though is is Sandow worse than Del Rio as champion? Somehow I think so, meaning WWE will likely give Damien the title just to mess with us even more. The match should be nothing of note though.

Punk over Ryback, setting up a handicap match of some sort next show where he FINALLY destroys Heyman once and for all.

Unfortunately Brie over AJ because we're supposed to love Brie because she's sleeping with Daniel Bryan and hate AJ because reality TV is AWESOME.

The Rhodes Family wins, but by nefarious means. I heard an idea that says Big Show is told to destroy the Rhodes, but accidentally gets caught, giving them the win via DQ. That's a good way to protect everyone and get the desired result.

Axel over Truth of course.

Bray beats Kofi in an entertaining match. If this is turned into the rumored six man, the Wyatts destroy Kofi and the Usos in an even more entertaining match.

Overall, I'm really not interested in Battleground. It's clearly just a pit stop before we get to the Cell in a mere three weeks, which somehow is an improvement from past schedules. The show should be entertaining on some levels, but it's coming in with almost no hype and a main event that we've seen before. Nothing special about this show, which is the case with so much in WWE at the moment.

Thoughts/predictions?

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Night of Champions 2013 Preview

It's time for the first PPV after the big angle started and things aren't really looking all that promising. The show just doesn't have the big event feel that it should. The card is pretty weak but it isn't entirely without promise. Let's get to it. As usual we'll start with the pre-show match: tag team turmoil for a shot at the Shield for the belts later in the night. I'll go with the Prime Time Players to get the shot as they've been pushed pretty strong lately. The Real Americans and 3MB aren't getting a title shot and no one would care about Tons of Funk. The only other option would be the Usos but I can't see them getting a chance after losing so many times. The Players won't win the belts, but it has potential to be a decent match.

On to the two main events, starting with the title match. I know it's up in the air, but I can't picture Bryan winning the title back, not yet at least. This feels like it ends either in someone like Big Show turning heel or a DQ with Bryan getting the win. It's still too early for the title change though and Orton walks out with the gold.

Punk vs. Heyman/Axel is an interesting match. Heyman has made it so clear that if Punk gets his hands on him, Heyman is

gone. For weeks now this match has felt like we're waiting on Heyman to bring in someone else for Punk to feud with until Lesnar has some dates opened up but unless Ryback decides he's a Heyman Guy, I don't think we're going to see anything but Axel. I think Curtis gets eliminated but Punk doesn't get his hands on Heyman for some reason, setting up the ultimate revenge inside the Cell in some form next month.

It's probably a bad hunch but I think Del Rio walks out with the gold tomorrow night. RVD is back in WWE to put people over and I think he does it for Alberto tomorrow night. The interesting thing is who takes the title from Del Rio eventually, but I don't think it's Van Dam.

Unfortunately Brie Bella wins the Divas Title because being an evil woman on a badly scripted reality show is all you need to become a wrestling champion anymore.

My random hunch sure to go wrong; Ziggler takes the US Title.

Overall the show doesn't look very good. It comes off like a filler show and that's not a good thing most of the time. The main event feels like it's a tool for setting up another match down the line. The other problem is we have a two match show, but I don't know how many people are interested in the second main event. They're definitely not going to get any help from the Smackdown title but it's been that way for years. The show should be ok and odds are they'll add a Miz vs. Fandango match to pad out the card, but there's just not enough here to make me want to see the show.

Thoughts/predictions?

Summerslam 2013 Preview

This show feels like it could be big which is rare for Summerslam anymore. Starting on the pre-show, Shield causes the DQ, triggering Show and Henry to come in to make it a tag match, perhaps for the titles. Shield leaves with all the gold either way.

As for the main stuff we'll start with the obvious: Bryan wins the title. There is zero reason to not put it on him other than to advance the HHH vs. Vince story. If they go that way, fans are going to be MAD. Cena is taking time off for his elbow soon so there is no reason for him to walk out with the title. Bryan wins by countering the AA into a small package for the title.

My biggest worry is that this turns into an Attitude Era style brawl with HHH in there, but if that's what they have to do for Cena's injury so be it. HHH flat out does not need to be there otherwise and this match doesn't deserve to be a stop on the road to HHH vs. Vince at Wrestlemania. Unfortunately that's what it's likely to be and we'll have to spend a few months hearing about the screwjob that cost Bryan the title, because that's what fans want to see.

Now for the big question: will there be a cash in by Orton. All signs point to yes, but I think they'll pull the trigger on something brilliant: have Bryan retain the title. Can you imagine how big a deal Bryan will be if he beats Cena and Orton in the same night? The Attitude Era version gave Jericho something to talk about for twelve years. I doubt it happens due to me being terrible at stuff like that, but it's

almost too obvious that Orton cashes in and wins the title.

Brock vs. Punk is the real wildcard on this show. I could easily see this going either way but I can't pick which one. You have Punk needing a big win to get momentum back but you need Brock to win so he doesn't start looking like some monster who can't finish the job. I'll take Punk but there will definitely be a rematch.

Del Rio retains. It's WWE 101: the challenger dominates leading up to the match and beats the champion multiple times, the champion retains at the PPV and WWE doesn't understand why no one is impressed.

Sandow over Cody, though it doesn't help him as there's nothing to Cody after all the damage to his character over the last year.

Bray Wyatt beats Kane. The question here isn't who wins, but what creepy thing does Bray do. I've heard ideas ranging from he controls the fire and Kane sees it as a miracle and follows Wyatt to Bray lights himself on fire because it's fun to Rowan jumps through the flames to save his master. Either way it's a good start for Bray, but they should keep his wrestling to a minimum. If he wrestles all the time he'll become watered down. Save him for important stuff and let his monsters do the work for him.

Langston and AJ beat Kaitlyn and Ziggler. Dolph has cooled WAY off lately as this feud has been all about AJ.

Brie beats Natalya. Is it Brie or Nikki wrestling? If you think I actually care about the answer, you get extra homework.

Overall Summerslam looks good but it's a two match show. That's definitely not a bad thing though as those two matches

are both huge. The show should be fun and the Ring of Fire has potential to be a nice boost. They might add another match to the card to flesh it out a bit, but overall it should be good. Just don't expect much outside of the main events.

Thoughts/predictions?

Money in the Bank 2013 Preview

We've arrived at one of the biggest shows of the year and for once I'm excited. The card is STACKED and the feuds have all been well built. Let's get to it. We'll start with the pre-show. I'll take the Shield to retain. I'm a fan of the Usos but come on. It's been two months since Shield won the belts and they're not about to lose them to a team who was release fodder for the majority of last year.

Cena to retain of course. This is the WWE's bread and butter: take a superhero and put him against a big old monster, enjoy the crowd reactions. Well in most cities but you get the idea. Cena wins here and I don't think there's a cash-in yet.

Del Rio keeps his belt but it likely sets up another match in this feud. Ziggler is popular and will be a god in Philadelphia, but WWE seems obsessed with keeping the title on Del Rio for some reason. The match should be good but I have zero interest in Del Rio whatsoever.

In the surprise of the show, AJ keeps the belt via interference from Layla. It's not a surprise that AJ wins, but that I actually care about the match. They've done a great job at actually setting up the feud and giving us a

reason to care about Kaitlyn getting her revenge on the evil AJ. Those INSANE spears that AJ sells so well help a lot too. This should be entertaining though, which I can't believe I'm saying.

Axel beats Miz. I don't think this needs an explanation.

Ryback over Jericho. Ryback hasn't won a PPV match since last year's MITB, yet WWE still wonders why no one is interested in him. It appears that Ryback is going to hook up with Vickie which might make people care about him a little bit so at least he has some hope. The match should be good and there's no need for Jericho to win. This is a classic case of putting two guys in a match because they have nothing else to do and there's nothing wrong with that thinking at all.

Now for the important matches.

I'll go with the seemingly obvious choice and say Bryan wins the Raw MITB match. RVD will be RVD, Sheamus and Orton would seem to cancel each other out, Christian just isn't winning this match, and Punk will likely be taken out by Brock or Heyman to set up the Summerslam match. There are rumors that Bray Wyatt will be replacing Kane but for the life of me I can't see that happening.

That leaves us with the BIG wildcard of the show: the Smackdown MITB match. However we do have a major clue: Ambrose hasn't interacted with the other participants for the majority of the buildup, and in WWE terms that's the cue for him to win. Looking at the other contestants, we can immediately eliminate the Scholars for obvious reasons. Fandango simply isn't ready and has cooled WAY down since his concussion. The Real Americans intrigue me but I could only put Cesaro at a distant second best option. Barrett is interesting as well as WWE has been ready to pull the trigger on him for years now and it's normal for them to job a guy to death before giving him something like MITB. That leaves

Ambrose which would be the right move.

Overall MITB looks very good for the most part. There isn't a match I'm not interested in other than the IC Title, the crowd is going to be white hot all night and the ladder matches are always entertaining. WWE has turned it way up in the last few weeks and the shows have been the most fun they've been all year. This should be a solid way to keep the summer rolling before we get to the important stuff at Summerslam.

Thoughts/predictions?