

Lots Of Talent Gone From TNA

Some through releases, some through contracts not being renewed. Here's what we have so far:

Taeler Hendrix – Released

Madison Rayne – Contract not renewed

Christian York – Released

Joey Ryan – Released

Crimson – Not sure, likely released

Odds are more are coming, but it sounds like a big cost cutting move. Other than Crimson, do any of these really surprise anyone?

Edit: Sam Shaw was originally listed but apparently he's still around.

I Want To Talk A Little Bit About Bobby Roode

You'll often hear about how Bobby Roode is the best thing in TNA right now and has been for the last few years. I see talent in him, but he's not quite superstar that everyone thinks he is. There's just something missing about him and today we're going to look at what that may be, although it's not as hard to find as you may think. The thing holding him back can be found in two men: Booker T and Bret Hart. Let's get to it.

Let's start back in 1991.

The Hart Foundation loses the tag belts at Wrestlemania VII and quietly split so Bret can move on to his long awaited singles push. He wins the Intercontinental Title at Summerslam and moves on to the world title about 15 months later. his first world title reign doesn't go all that well and he loses the belt about four months later at Wrestlemania IX. he wins the title back at Wrestlemania X and goes on to become the guy in the WWF for the next few years.

Now let's look at Booker T. Harlem Heat goes on sabbatical in late 1997 due to Stevie Ray's injury and Booker wins the TV Title the night after Starrcade. Over the next few years he dominates the midcard and wins the world title in the summer of 2000. While WCW would be out of business in less than a year, Booker's ascension to the main event was handled quite well with Booker going from a solid midcarder to the top star the company had. He transitioned to the WWF main event scene and eventually won a world title there after rising through their ranks.

On the third hand you have Bobby Roode, who also went from a successful tag team to the world title and being one of the top stars in the company. Roode held the world title longer than anyone in company history, yet I don't think there's much of a case to be made for his title reign meaning all that much. Bobby turned heel after a match with James Storm and held the title for about nine months, yet he never became all that big a deal. Now why is that the case?

What we have here are three cases of guys going from a successful tag team and becoming the world champion later in their career. Of these three, Booker's first title win and reign might have made the most sense.

Bret's title win came out of nowhere at a house show in Canada that was released on a Coliseum Video called Smack Em Whack Em (check that tape out. It's one of the best home videos ever released). Roode's win came on Impact a few weeks after the biggest show of the year. Booker's came on PPV (albeit as a substitute for Hogan).

So what was holding Roode back? There are several instances and all can be compared to the other two title reigns.

First of all, there's the look of change. This one really is simpler than it sounds: when Roode became a singles guy, he looked just like he did when he was in Beer Money. Think back to Booker T winning the world title. He was wearing black trunks and boots in a very simple look, which was different than what he had worn earlier in his career. When he was in Harlem Heat he had worn a singlet and when he had been in the midcard it was a pair of long tights.

It doesn't sound like much, but the attire a person wears to the ring can mean a lot. Think back to Hulk Hogan. He's by far the biggest hero of all time and when he turned heel, the look started to change. He was wearing black, he had a beard, and started wearing sunglasses. Jericho switched to trunks when he turned heel and Undertaker is always altering his look, even a little bit at a time. Bret and Roode had the same look they had had for years before winning the title: a singlet for Bret and trunks for Roode.

Another thing that slows Roode down is his name: Bobby. I know he's had that name for years, but it sounds like the name of a nine year old paper boy, not the world heavyweight champion. Look at some of the biggest names ever: Hulk, Savage, Stone Cold, Rock. Then we have Bobby, which sounds like it belongs on the Mickey Mouse Club. I know it's minor but I

have no idea why he changed it from Robert, which at least sounds more serious.

Back to the big things, let's take a look at the finishing move. What is Roode's finisher? The exact answer doesn't exist, as Roode has several of them. I've seen him get wins with a Crossface, a fisherman's suplex and the spinebuster. The Crossface doesn't work for him as a heel due to wrestling law #84: top faces shall not submit. The fisherman's suplex is ok at best and the spinebuster is so common that it's barely a finishing move at all.

On the other hand look at someone like Hart. He had one and only one move and it was OVER when he hooked it on someone. Booker started using the Bookend around the time of his main event push as well and there are others who changed finishers upon getting a big push. Roode's matches always felt like he was looking for a way to get a fast win instead of having some big move to knock someone out cold.

Now we get to the most important thing of all: the way Roode won the title. As I mentioned before, Roode's title win came a few weeks after the biggest show of the year. The details of his title win make it even less impressive. Over the course of the summer, Roode had competed in and won the Bound For Glory Series, a points based competition to earn himself a world title shot. Roode had literally spent four months building himself up for the title showdown against Kurt Angle.

The match was built up, Roode was ready, it was the main event of the biggest show of the year...and Roode lost. Angle cheated to retain the title, but at the end of the day it was Roode getting pinned in his big moment. Roode would go on to win the title about two and a half weeks later, but his fans didn't know that at the time. Instead they saw four

months of hope and buildup wasted on another Kurt Angle win, because goodness knows he doesn't have enough of them in his career.

The idea was supposed to be that Roode wouldn't know when he would get another title shot and would do anything to win in his second try. That's all well and good, but the same result (Roode using the beer bottle to beat his longtime partner James Storm) could have been accomplished with Roode defending the title instead of capturing it from Storm. Have him say something like "Yeah I hit James Storm with a beer bottle. I'm the World Heavyweight Champion and I'll do ANYTHING to hold onto my title." Same result, Roode wins the match at BFG, and there's no failure.

For comparison's sake, look at the first title wins of the other two guys I've been talking about: Hart and Booker T. Bret won his first major shot at the title in a 30 minute war against Ric Flair by making him give up in the Sharpshooter. Booker T won his first world title match on PPV by pinning Jeff Jarrett with the Book End. Wouldn't you agree that both of those results sound better than "won the title in his second attempt after botching his big chance?"

Let's take a quick look at Roode's title reign with the focus just on the PPV title defenses. We have: a cheating win over an injured AJ Styles, a draw against AJ Styles, a DQ loss to Jeff Hardy, a win after Sting hit Hardy with the title belt, a win over Sting after Sting knocked himself out, a win over Storm when Storm knocked Roode out of the cage, a win in a ladder match, a win after hitting Sting with a beer bottle but Sting winds up standing tall to end the show, and the loss to Austin Aries.

In other words, Roode defended the title nine times on PPV and won a total of one match either on his own or without cheating. I understand the idea of a heel cheating to win, but once in awhile he needs to do

more than escape with the title. It made his reign look weak and made him look like a guy who was lucky rather than good. The same thing was said for the Honky Tonk Man during his Intercontinental Title reign and that's not something you want for the world champion.

So does all that mean that Roode's career is hopeless and he can never be a top guy? Of course not, as Bret went on to be the top guy in the company for years to come. It was a bad world title win and a pretty bad reign after he got his hands on the belt, but it doesn't mean he isn't talented. Roode is comparable to guys like Booker T and Bret Hart and both of them wound up in the Hall of Fame. Roode's first title reign didn't work all that well but the potential is there, which is a very important point. You might even call it the "It Factor."

KB Goes To A TNA House Show

So as you may have heard, Becca and I took in the TNA house show tonight in Lexington at the baseball stadium. More details to come, but the conclusion: I don't think I've ever had more fun at a wrestling show and that includes going to a WWE pay per view. Let's get to it.

First of all, the stadium is less than 15 minutes from my house so driving was no issue. The tickets were \$15 each and include a voucher each to any Lexington Legends baseball game this season. The seats were along the third base line with a view of the ring at home plate. For you non baseball fans, we had good seats and were looking down on the ring. The ring is clearly smaller than a WWE ring but it doesn't look bad at all.

We got there at about 7:00 for a 7:30 show. At about 7:25, JB announced that you could purchase a VIP pass and meet James Storm, Gunner (tag champions as of this writing), AJ Styles, Jeff Hardy, Bully Ray (world champion) and D-Von at intermission plus get a photo in the ring with a TNA superstar to be named at the end of the show. All this was \$50 for two people so we were down there cash in hand and got the first pass handed out. This was instantly more fun than the WWE house show we took in a few months ago. Can you imagine WWE offering a chance like that to its fans?

More on that later. On with the matches.

X-Division Title: Chris Sabin vs. Kenny King

The first interesting thing was the way the wrestlers came to the ring. They came out of the right field wall and rode golf carts to the ring. There's something amusing about that and it made me chuckle every time. Also, you have to love TNA breaking its own rules as this was a one on one X Title match instead of a triple threat. The fans didn't care about King but gave Sabin some polite applause. The champion (Sabin) stomped his foot to get the fans to clap. King tried the same thing and got silence in a funny bit.

The match was fine and about what you would expect from these two. Sabin worked on the arm to start but the most notable thing to start was how loud the ring was. Every time they hit the mat it sounded like cymbals crashing together. The ring mic was turned way down for the rest of the night and it was an improvement. King snapped Sabin's neck across the top rope to take over and swung a bat like a home run. Kenny missed something off the top, Sabin hit some kicks, and Hail Sabin ended it in about 8:00. It was a good fast paced opener and the crowd was into Sabin.

Before the next match, Earl Hebner got his own entrance. He took off his regular referee shirt to reveal his YES I DID (screw Bret) shirt. He even pulled out some Bret glasses and did Hart's poses in the ring.

Knockouts Title: Mickie James vs. Velvet Sky

Velvet limped to the ring to sell the knee injury from Impact. Mickie is fully heel, but you would have no idea that was the case tonight. Surprisingly enough, if you have a gorgeous brunette in Daisy Duke shorts and a sports bra with theme music talking about being a southern girl in Kentucky, the fans are going to cheer her a lot. This match didn't do much for me although the view was very nice.

Mickie worked on the knee and took the tape off of it and the fans booed her. Yes, she attacked an injury and people booed without some complicated backstory, long winded story, or any heavy handed explanation. A heel did heelish things and the fans booed her. Mickie won with the MickieDT in about 5:30. Not much to see here.

AJ Styles vs. Garrett Bischoff

This was long and all about AJ Styles. Bischoff got no reaction from the crowd, but AJ got a standing ovation. There wasn't much to see here but Garrett didn't completely embarrass himself, meaning he's improving. AJ worked on the arm and Garrett shouted OW in a funny bit. Garrett took over with a spear and beat on AJ for a long bit but AJ came back with a dive to the floor and the springboard forearm. They rolled out of the corner and AJ got the Calf Killer for the tap out at 11:45. It was a

better match than expected but AJ completely carried it.

Tag Titles: James Storm/Gunner vs. Bobby Roode/Austin Aries

As you may have heard, Storm is wrestling hurt and it's very clear if you watch him for a few seconds. Storm was introduced as the Cowboy instead of the Tennessee Cowboy to keep the Kentucky fans from booing him. Just before the bell the challengers (Aries/Roode) went to the pitcher's mound with Aries pretending to pitch as Storm caught and Gunner took a batter's stance in the ring. Storm got bored and picked up some cotton candy from a vendor to give to fans.

Roode and Aries wanted quiet from the crowd but Brian Hebner couldn't get the fans to be quiet. It was a comedy match to start with the champions sending Roode into Aries' groin. The challengers went to the floor with Roode shaking his head and Aries doing squats to stretch things out. Everything spilled onto the floor with Storm throwing a bunch of beers into Roode's face while Gunner and Aries spent a good 45 seconds trying to suplex each other next to the pitcher's mound (Gunner won with a front suplex).

They finally got back inside and Storm played Ricky Morton. It was clear that he was moving in slow motion and doing basic stuff while the other guys did the heavy lifting. Gunner finally got the hot tag and everything broke down. Roode got a beer but walked into Closing Time to spit the beer everywhere. Aries took the Last Call (more beer everywhere) followed by a torture rack from Gunner for the win at about 20:00. This was the best and by far the most entertaining match of the night. Aries was very impressive and Becca was very entertained by him.

Next was intermission and we got to go meet the previously mentioned wrestlers. Before we got to the wrestlers, Austin Aries popped up in street clothes and waved over some people he knew. I got a fist bump and said hi to him and got a polite hello. Aries is shorter than he looks on television but seemed to be a nice guy.

There were two sets of tables set up with Bully Ray and D-Von on one side and everyone else on the other. I told D-Von that I loved the TLC matches and he gave a quiet but distinct thank you and gave me a fist bump (no handshakes for him apparently). Ray signed his name with WHC underneath it and basically punched my fist when I reached it out to him for a fist bump. He's either playing a great heel or a huge jerk in real life but it fit very well.

Next up was Jeff Hardy. A girl in front of me was one of the biggest Jeff fans in the world and was crying her eyes out from getting to meet him. Jeff took a quick picture with her despite the security guard asking us to take pictures as Jeff signed. His match was first up after the intermission so the rush is understandable. I told him I went nuts when he won the world title and he gave a very curt thank you and shook my hand. He was very quiet but not rude or anything.

James Storm and Gunner were next and both were very nice. I told Storm I had been a big fan of AMW and he smiled and thanked me. Gunner will almost crush your hand when he shakes it so the intensity thing really suits him. I said I enjoyed his match and he said he was really enjoying teaming with James. He sounded professional for lack of a better word, but it was an odd visual to see him still in his trunks and a t-shirt. As I was talking to him, a kid in a New Orleans Saints jersey was talking to Storm and Storm asked who the Saints QB and coach were. The kid said something I couldn't hear and Gunner asked Storm what the kid said. Storm said he had no idea and didn't know the answers either and laughed.

Last up was AJ Styles who was in a hat and looking down a bit. He signed my paper and I told him I had been a fan since TNA started. He looked up and gave a polite thank you and shook my hand. That Georgia accent comes through on every word he says just like it does on TV.

After this we literally ran back to catch Earl and Brian Hebner signing pictures and Hebner's shirt for \$20 total. Earl asked if we liked the VIP signing and was happy we enjoyed it. Becca is a huge Earl Hebner fan (I don't get it either) and freaked out when he shook her hand. He asked if we had a camera so I got a quick picture of them. Earl was a nice guy and I got to ask him which referee was the evil one when Andre and DiBiase cheated Hogan out of the title in 1988 (Earl said he was the evil one, like always).



Jeff Hardy vs. Mr. Anderson

Hardy got a big pop once people realized it was his music playing. Jeff went around the front row and high fived fans while Anderson did what looked like a Nazi goose step and salute. I didn't get a good view of it but he was definitely doing the high step. There wasn't much to this at all but Anderson did Hardy's dance in a funny moment. Anderson controlled most of the match but Hardy came back with his usual stuff. The Mic Check was countered into the Twist of Fate for the pin at about 7:30. I had never seen Jeff wrestle live so this was a bit of a treat. It looked like he had an ice pack on his elbow after the match but it didn't look serious.

Bully Ray/D-Von vs. Sting/Kurt Angle

The world title belt is very shiny as you could see the reflection from across the field. Sting and Angle came out to Sting's music and both were introduced as Hall of Famers. The fans were WAY into both guys so the star power was rolling here. Angle got beaten down to start and the Dudleys hit a kind of botched reverse 3D (the one where Bully does a belly to back suplex into a D-Von neckbreaker. For some reason D-Von was doing Bully's part and then they seemed to realize they had it backwards).

Angle clotheslined D-Von down and D-Von did a Spinarooni to get back up. Sting got the hot tag and everything broke down with Angle and D-Von going outside. Sting hit Stinger Splashes on everyone but the referee was bumped just before Sting gave Ray the Death Drop. Ray hit Sting with the chain for two and the Angle Slam set up the Scorpion Deathlock for the tap out from Ray at about 7:00. The match was nothing special but I had never seen Sting or Angle wrestle live (Becca is a lifelong WWE fan and had never seen a Sting match period, which blew my mind).

After the main event JB talked about Angle being inducted in the Hall of Fame and Kurt was cheered to the back. JB told us that for \$30 (or for free to those that bought the VIP pass) your entire group could get a picture with Sting with no limit on the amount of people. For a large group of people that's a great deal. The line took a bit to get through but it was an amazing feeling to walk through the ropes and get inside a ring. The fact that Sting is one of my favorite wrestlers ever made it even better.

The mat is a lot softer than I expected and actually has some give to it. I was surprised at how hard a turnbuckle felt too. I got my picture taken

with Sting and was surprised at how tall he was. I'm 6'0 tall and I was looking up at him. As I was leaving I told Sting I had been watching for 25 years and he was the first thing I remembered (Black Scorpion). He said wow that's awesome and said thanks for being a fan.

We were given a copy of our photo as we left and a card telling us how we can get digital copies of them in a few days. That's really efficient for such a short amount of time.



As we were leaving a guy from TNA asked us if we had a good time and seemed very pleased that we enjoyed ourselves. He jokingly asked us to tell people about it on the dirt sheets and smiled when I said I ran a wrestling website.

Overall, this was VERY fun and probably the most entertaining wrestling show I've been to, which covers a lot of ground. The show felt like it was very personal and focused on making sure the fans have a good time. The \$80 combined for all the autographs, meeting the wrestlers and tickets was more than worth it as we were back home in just over four hours.

We were at a WWE Smackdown show a few months ago and it's a very different feeling. WWE feels like a big spectacle and was certainly fun and affordable (tickets were the same price and about the same distance from the ring) but the star power was nothing compared to this show. The biggest stars I saw at the WWE show were Orton, Sheamus and Del Rio. Tonight I saw Angle, Sting and Jeff Hardy which pretty much crushes the WWE roster.

The other main difference is how accessible things were tonight. At the WWE show it felt like there was a huge divide between the fans and the wrestlers. Tonight they made us feel welcome (not to say WWE didn't) and like we were in a much more intimate setting. The vibe is completely different here too. With WWE it felt like you were getting an entertainment show whereas tonight was about kicking back and enjoying two and a half hours of wrestling. There were no Twitter polls, promos to hype up matches, or pointless filler matches. Tonight was entertaining, fast paced, and above all else: FUN.

If you ever have the chance to go to a TNA show, make sure you take the opportunity and spring for the VIP package. The show feels so less polished (in a good way) than a WWE show and doesn't walk you through everything. The WWE show had a better quality to the matches (Barrett vs. Del Rio and Sheamus/Orton vs Shield) but tonight was so basic (one heel wins in six matches) and focused on the fans that it was a blast.

If Impact was like this every week, WWE would be in trouble. It made Becca want to watch Impact for the first time in years which is the right idea for these shows. The difference between the live events and Impact (read as no Hogan and WAY less stupid stuff) is remarkable and the show was definitely worth the time and money. Check them out if you get the chance and want a completely different wrestling experience from a WWE show.

Second TNA Hall of Fame Inductee Announced

Makes sense.....BROTHER. Nah just messing with you. It's Kurt Angle.

James Storm Out 6-8 Weeks

Due to an abdominal injury, according to his Twitter.

You know, it's almost like TNA knew this was a possibility and booked him into a tag title match anyway. Now some people would call that short sighted and stupid. I'm sure the response to that would be "give TNA more time" or "WWE does stupid stuff too!"

To be fair though it's not like TNA is doing anything of note with Storm anyway.

Impact Draws Lowest Audience In Seven Months

This past Thursday's show saw the worst audience of the year. The numbers have been going down since Bully won the title but are falling even faster now that it's all about

Sting and Hogan.

Imagine that: people don't care about Bubba Ray Dudley vs. two old guys in the year 2013. I for one am shocked.

On This Day: March 20, 2012 – Xplosion: I See Why They Don't Talk About This Show

Xplosion

Date: March 20, 2012

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Jeremy Borash, Eric Bischoff

This is another show I've never looked at before but I need something for this date. Xplosion is TNA's secondary show which you hardly ever hear about for no apparent reason. For a company that has so many issues related to the lack of TV time they have, not talking about an extra hour a week they have to use isn't the smartest idea in the world. I have no idea what to expect here but we're just after Victory Road where pretty much nothing happened. Let's get to it.

Bischoff is introduced as a surprise commentator but he has to tweet something on the way to the ring. This was TNA's REALLY big thing at the time and it made WWE's obsession with it pale in comparison.

Eric Young vs. Kazarian

Young and ODB recently won the Knockouts Tag Titles which they still hold as of this writing. There are blue lights in the arena for some reason, making it look like a more laid back Sin Cara match. Eric locks up with

the referee to start before things speed up. It's a crisscross but Kaz rolls out of the ring. Young keeps running until Kaz gets on the mic and calls him a buffoon. Kaz wants none of this tomfoolery so he heads back inside, only to be caught in an armbar.

Young gets thrown to the floor as the fans loudly cheer for the bizarre one. We take a break and come back with Kaz holding a chinlock. Young fights up with some shots to the ribs, only to get caught by a spin kick to the face. Off to a front facelock for a bit until Eric comes back with a jawbreaker. For no apparent reason Young takes his pants off and comes back with a belly to belly suplex. A slam puts Kaz down again and there's a top rope elbow for two. Kaz comes back by putting Eric's pants on his face (just go with it) but Eric hits a missile dropkick for two. A low blow and rollup with feet on the ropes gives Kaz the pin.

Rating: D-. I do not like Eric Young. His "comedy" isn't funny and it only has been once or twice in his entire run in TNA. Seeing a man put his pants on his head and seeing him enjoy it doesn't make me care about this guy and I have no desire to see his schtick anymore. Hopefully he stops it now that he's come back to TNA.

Something is strange here because we're getting a preview of Victory Road which would have already happened when this show aired. Maybe the date on the video I have is wrong but it's the best I can go with.

We get a preview of the main event of the PPV, which is a non title fight between Sting and world champion Bobby Roode. It's not about the title but rather respect you see.

Robbie T isn't sure that the cameraman is on the List. Oh wait apparently they are and it's ok for Robbie to be asked about his Open Challenge at the PPV. D-Von would accept the challenge and win the title in a moment I still don't understand.

Sting talks about suggesting he's quitting, which of course he's incapable of doing. Roode bragged about being the guy that managed to get rid of Sting after all the wars Sting has been through. This is a long video that is basically the two of them saying they'll win on Sunday in their no holds barred match.

It's time for Spin Cycle which is a panel discussion show. The guests are So Cal Val, Knockouts Champion Gail Kim (this is previously recorded so she's half of the tag champions too) and the Robbies. We talk about Robbie E's sweater before the first topic is given as best and worst dressed on the TNA roster. Robbie E says he's best dressed, T says Flair, So Cal Val says Flair also with Bully Ray as worst dressed, Gail picks Christy Hemme and ODB respectfully. Is there a point to this coming anytime soon? Jeremy picks the girls here for best because he's a suck up.

Now we talk about what phones you have. Both Rob's have iPhone 4s, Gail has Android but wants a Blackberry again. Val wants a Blackberry as well. Now it's time for The List, which is the top three people blowing up Robbie E's phone this week. At #3 it's Mike Tenay asking for wrestling knowledge, #2 is Hogan who apparently calls Big Rob's phone for arm workout advice, and #1 is Dixie Carter.

We look at a clip from an earlier Spin Cycle with Joey Fatone (who now appears to be a fat one indeed) who talks about rumors of an affair with ODB. Eric Young freaked out and ran away before locking up with Fatone. They roll around on the floor a bit and that's it.

Back to this week's Spin Cycle which is now talking about celebrities they have dated. E says he dated Kelly from Saved By the Bell, T won't answer, Gail says her real life husband Robert Irvine and Val says her first date ever was with Chris Masters. That's it for the Spin Cycle, thank goodness.

We close things out with the Ultimate X match for the X Title at Victory Road 2011.

X-Division Title: Kazarian vs. Max Buck vs. Jeremy Buck vs. Robbie E

Kaz is defending coming in. The idea here is the title is hung over the ring on cables that cross to form an X. You have to climb across to grab the title and can't use a ladder. It's supposed to be all about Kaz remember. This is the 24th Ultimate X match in history apparently and

Kaz's, who is defending fifth. This is kind of a weird triple that with Gen Me vs. Robbie vs. Kaz. The team beats up both guys to start us off.

Kaz fights them off for a bit and manages a springboard up to the X in a cool spot. That gets him nowhere as Robbie comes in and stomps away. Max goes up but it's Robbie stopping him. Cookie is hot but the voice is annoying. Gen Me gets everyone down and goes for the belt until Robbie stops them again. Kaz is back in now and faces off with Jersey Boy.

Robbie escapes the Fade to Black (that reverse Piledriver) and gets backdropped to the floor, hitting his ankle on the steps. Gen Me wakes up again and takes down both guys one more time. Jeremy gets a sweet assisted moonsault to take Robbie and Kaz down. Max is all alone but wants Jeremy to help him up instead. Jeremy holds off Kaz and Max makes a run at it. Kaz of course saves as Robbie has a bad ankle still.

Double dropkick puts down Kaz and a baseball slide does the same to Robbie. Jeremy does this weird reverse jump to get up and holds off Kaz. This again fails and Maz, who also was trying to get the belt, is swung backwards and gets knocked off and caught in a cutter to put him down. Robbie gets up and goes for the title, only to get pulled down by Max. And never mind as Max is sent into the structure by Kaz and gets stuck. That's different if nothing else.

Everyone is down now and Max is unhooked for a change. Kaz hits Fade to Black on Robbie but gets kicked by Jeremy. Jeremy tries to go up only to take an enziguri from the champion to put him down. Flux Capacitor (suplex/rock bottom) off the top by Kaz puts Jeremy down again. Robbie and Kaz both go across at the same time. Gen Me kicks Robbie down and swing the champion down too in a nice bump.

Jeremy goes up and Max is ticked. Max pulls him down which is the point of the match. They both go from opposite corners and both are hung by their legs upside down in the middle. They slug it out up there until Robbie grabs a ladder to take them down. Kaz goes above the X and grabs the title at the same time as Robbie. Kaz pulls it up but there's no bell. Oh there it is.

Rating: C+. It's ok but this is a match that has been done so many times that there wasn't much here. It's definitely one of the weaker matches they've had with this gimmick but it's still good. Fun match but they kept trying to play up the Bucks only for them to break up and not play a factor in the end. Fun, but definitely not great.

Overall Rating: D+. Um...yeah. I can see why this show isn't mentioned by Impact. What in the world was the point of this thing? We had a worthless feature match, a twelve minute talk show segment which wasn't even up to date, and a LONG match which was better than almost anything on the upcoming PPV. This is one of those shows that you should only watch if you REALLY love TNA, which is stupid when it could be so much more.

Here's Victory Road if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2012/03/18/victory-road-2012-i-want-to-punch-twitter-in-the-face/>

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Thought of the Day: Let's Do The Time Warp Again

So now they're taking ideas from WWF and WCW. In addition to stealing the Vince/HHH/Stephanie story, now we have the

following from WCW in 1997:

Bully Ray as Hogan

Sting as Lex Luger

AJ Styles as Sting

Bound For Glory as Starrcade

It's been sixteen years so why not?

Rob Van Dam's Contract Expires, Currently A Free Agent

Apparently RVD's contract is up and therefore he's a free agent, meaning he could sign with WWE if he wants, or he could go anywhere else he would like. This would be another high profile TNA star that has had his contract expire in recent days and the first to actually be remembered on time.

I wouldn't mind if he left TNA. He hasn't had anything of note to do in months as he spent five months as X Champion and spent the entire time fighting Kenny King and Zema Ion in throwaway matches. Why stick around when you're just there to fill in a spot on the card?

More On Bully Ray/Aces and 8's

This was a big story last night and deserves a bit more attention. First and foremost, I did like the end result of last night's show. Having Ray be revealed as the President of Aces and 8's was the right move and was one of the few places they could go to extend the life of the whole stupid angle. Ray screwing over the Hogans for the sake of winning the world title with it being a plan all along was perfectly logical as it's Ray's nature to be a self serving jerk. The lines of "I used you and I screwed you" and "D-Von let her cry" were straight MONEY. Also, IT ISN'T BISCHOFF.

However this doesn't solve everything. At the end of the day, Aces and 8's have still been the most inept stable of the last like....ever. They never win anything of note and they lost again last night in their other big match. Also, Ray is now basically the leader of the Eight Stooges. They're still a bunch of losers and you can't use the logic of "now that they have a leader" because Ray has clearly been the leader for months. Oh and one more thing: why did Ray give Hardy a chain? I know he had everything in hand, but it was still an unneeded risk.

As for where this is going now, it appears that we're headed for either Hogan or Sting vs. Ray at Slammiversary before we get to presumably AJ or Storm taking the title at Bound For Glory. If we have to get one of those matches, Sting is BY FAR the better option, as he can at least, you know, move. There are some other downsides to this development also.

Above all else, it means Brooke talking. The story continues to be mainly about them rather than ANYONE else and Brooke just isn't interesting at all. She's annoying, she's whiny, she's not talented, and she's on TV more than any other female

in the company. Also I don't really want to spend the next few months hearing about how Aces and 8's are taking over and all that jazz. The last thing we need is another corporate takeover angle. Having them be the dominant faction is fine, but we don't need another takeover. It's been done WAY too many times.

Overall, it's good but it doesn't solve all of Aces and 8's problems, nor does it make up for the months and months of terrible stuff.