

King of the Ring Network Special: Blink And You'll Miss It

King of the Ring Network Special

Date: April 28, 2015

Location: iWireless Center, Moline, Illinois

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield, Jerry Lawler

This is a one off special with the returning King of the Ring semi-finals and finals taking place tonight. It's just an hour long so the matches should have some time to build up instead of having to run through everything in just a few minutes. There's potential for some good matches tonight so let's get to it.

We open with a recap of the history of the tournament and some of the stars who have won before.

Jerry Lawler is brought out to introduce a package on how the final four advanced. It's a bad sign that they seem to be stalling for time four minutes in.

Here are the final four:

Neville

Sheamus

Bad News Barrett

R-Truth

Sheamus says he'll become the two time King and get rid of that little English guy to do so.

Neville was in NXT just a few months ago but now he could be King of the Ring. No one expects him to win tonight, but he's defied expectations all his life. He was fine on the mic here so I wouldn't mind hearing more

from him.

King of the Ring Semi-Finals: Sheamus vs. Neville

Cole mentions Sheamus potentially becoming a two time King, just like Bret Hart. That's a rare reference to the tournaments held when it was still just a house show feature. Sheamus makes fun of Neville's height to start and takes him into the corner with ease. Neville comes back with some right hands and does his front flips followed by a spin kick to the ribs. A quick Irish Curse stops Neville cold though and the big man takes over. It works so well that Sheamus hits a second Irish Curse as the fans are entirely behind Neville.

Sheamus gets a bit too cocky though, allowing Neville to come back with forearms tot he face. He fights out of the ten forearms as well but gets sent face first HARD into the announcers' table. Neville barely makes it back in time though, earning him another beating in the corner. Sheamus is starting to get cocky but here's Zigler to remind him what happened at Extreme Rules. The distraction lets Neville duck a Brogue Kick and kick Sheamus in the head. The Red Arrow gives Neville the pin and the BIG upset at 5:47.

Rating: C+. I believe in Neville. This is one of the first pushes in a LONG time where they're strapping a rocket to a newcomer's back and letting him ride it all the way, though there's a good chance Barrett winds up winning the crown tonight so they can have him lose his next ten matches. Still though, I'm digging the heck out of Neville right now as they're totally nailing his push.

Post match Zigler wants to get what he earned at Extreme Rules and the brawl is on. Security breaks it up, but not before Sheamus' eye is busted open badly.

Barrett says R-Truth shouldn't be worried about his arachnophobia because it's time for Bull Hammer-phobia. After he gets done with the has been Truth, he'll move on to the never was Neville.

Truth has a plan tonight: win the King of the Ring and then declare a ban on spiders. That includes all the spiders, even the kinfolks. They'll

build a castle with a drawbridges and a moat. He isn't sure about water in the moat because that might bring water spiders. Saxton: "What about your opponent, Bad News Barrett?" Truth: "Does he has experience killing spiders?"

King of the Ring Semi-Finals: R-Truth vs. Bad News Barrett

Truth grabs a quick rollup to start but takes a right hand to the ribs. Barrett puts him in the ropes for the big boot to the face and it's off to the chinlock as the announcers discuss Nero. Back up and Truth hits some clotheslines and the front suplex for two. The ax kick misses but the side kick is good for another near fall. Truth's Lie Detector gets two but the Winds of Change gets the same. Back up and the Bull Hammer sends Barrett to the finals at 4:40.

Rating: D+. What do you want me to say here? Truth had as much of a chance as I have of being Miss Nevada 1974 and everyone knew it. Barrett is a good option for the crown and there's a good dynamic considering what happened on Sunday. Dull match here but at least they kept it short.

Video on Verne Gagne who passed away yesterday.

Dolph Ziggler says he couldn't take Sheamus' bullying last night or tonight so he had to do something.

We look at Neville beating Barrett on Sunday.

Barrett says it's not fair that he has to fight so soon after beating Truth, but it's also unfair that Neville has to fight him period.

King of the Ring: Bad News Barrett vs. Neville

Barrett goes after the ribs to start but Neville flips forward and snaps off a headscissors, followed by a kick to the jaw. That's fine with Barrett as he clotheslines Neville to the floor to take the first real advantage. Barrett puts on something like an abdominal stretch on the mat but Neville fights up with more kicks to the ribs and legs.

A running kick to the side of the head and a German suplex get two on Barrett. Winds of Change gets the same and Wasteland is eventually good

for another near fall. The Bull Hammer is countered into a rollup for two and Neville kicks him in the head. Neville has to bail out of the Red Arrow and charges into the Bull Hammer for the pin and the crown at 6:10.

Rating: B-. Eh yeah that's probably the right move but man alive they could have pulled the trigger on something big here with Neville. At least there's a story ready for a third match between the two of them, which might work better if they can manage to give them more than six minutes next time.

Barrett crowns himself and promises to rule with an iron Bull Hammer.

Overall Rating: C. Well they made good time. WWE does realize that they have all the time they need on their own network and don't have to have this wrapped up with seven minutes to go in the hour right? They were flying through this match and the entire tournament when you think about it. It's like they needed to get this whole thing wrapped up as fast as they could to get to the end result. It wasn't bad but my goodness, slow down a bit.

Results

Neville b. Sheamus – Red Arrow

Bad News Barrett b. R-Truth – Bull Hammer

Bad News Barrett b. Neville – Bull Hammer

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<http://www.amazon.com/Thomas-Hall/e/B00E6282W6>

Watched Jerry Springer's Too Hot For TV (Kind Of)

It's Hail To The Attitude Era time! This is a big waste of time with yet another montage of clips from the Attitude Era, which is basically all the Network exists for during the day. Basically it's a few long packages on Sable/Marc Mero, Chyna/Mark Henry/Mae Young/Sammi and OF COURSE a history of Stephanie's love issues. That would be fine for like ten minutes, but this goes on for over half an hour with a few montages of clips thrown in to fill in the time.

Jerry Springer could be any person in the world on this show and sounds like he's reading off a teleprompter (which he probably was). It's designed to be like a highlight reel of something he'd host, which is fine in theory but the run time just cripples this thing. Cut this up into thirds and it's tolerable, but at half an hour I was skipping through it every few seconds. This doesn't need to exist and I'd be stunned if it survives, at least in this form, until July.

Watched Unfiltered With Renee Young

And it's about what you would expect. It runs less than seven minutes and shows Young eating breakfast with Seth Rollins. There's nothing interesting here other than it being out of character. Rollins talks about a band he likes, his dog, what

he wants to do when he retires and that's about it. It's quick, it's unoffensive and you're not likely to think about it ever again.

The only note here: there's a shot where Renee turns her head and her hair falls over her face with her eyes looking at Seth and good night is that woman beautiful. Not hot like Trish or Lita but just stunningly pretty. Dean Ambrose is a lucky man.

Thought of the Day: It's Been A While

You know what we haven't had in a long time in WWE? A good mystery. Like a masked man, someone attacking others in the back but not getting caught, a mystery opponent (that was properly built up), finding out who was behind something, figuring out what something meant (like a logo/symbol being left backstage) etc. Everything is revealed in like a week at most and there's no waiting on anything. Remember the search for Vince's child, or who ran over Austin, or finding out what the Taz logo was? Mix it up a little and let us wait every now and then.

WWE Survey On New DVDs

WWE does this from time to time. They've sent out a survey

asking about potential DVD topics. Here they are with my thoughts on each.

* **20 Years Later: Best of 1996** – Matches and discussion from the best WWE and WCW PPVs as well as historic Nitro, Raw and ECW matches and moments.

Eh I could go for that, as at least it's not yet another rehash of the Monday Night Wars period.

* **Booker T** – Extended WWE Network documentary plus matches, interviews and memories.

The documentary was good so sure why not. Booker deserves a 6 hour set or so.

* **Bruno Sammartino** – Bruno documentary with exclusive material filmed at his home as well as Bruno backstage at Wrestlemanias, plus archival footage and matches.

Take my money now. If they're going to do this they need to do it soon as Bruno is going to be 80 this year. Get this while you still can.

* **Dudley Boyz** – Documentary and match collection.

Fine, though it could easily be expanded to include Edge and Christian and the Hardys.

* **Eric Bischoff** – Similar in vein to the Paul Heyman release, a documentary on the only man who came close to taking WWE down with matches and interviews as well as a documentary on his time in pro wrestling.

I've had my fill of Eric Bischoff in my life and his story is really well documented already.

* **Greatest Rivalries: Eric Bischoff vs. Vince McMahon** – Sitdown interview discussing the Monday Night War interspersed with footage from that era.

LET

IT

DIE!

* **Greatest Rivalries: Tommy Dreamer vs. Raven** – Dreamer and Raven discuss their feud with Joey Styles, interspersed with complete matches, clips and interviews.

I could see this one but it's not my cup of hot chocolate.

* **How to Become a Self-Made Millionaire with JBL** – Following a day in the life of JBL, focusing on his life and how he made his fortune, including personal wealth tips.

That's a bit outlier and I'm not sure how big the audience would be, especially given how big a market there are of these things already. This sounds more like a book.

* **Hulk Hogan: Immortal** – Hulk Hogan documentary and matches presented, built around the story of a Hogan bronze statue being created and released.

How many Hogan documentaries do we need? That statue thing sounds like a 20 minute special, not a feature attraction.

* **Lex Luger** – documentary on life and career of former WCW World champion.

Zero issue here as Luger actually has some good stuff and doesn't get a lot of attention.

* **OMG! ECW's Top 50 Craziest Moments** – A countdown of the craziest moments in Extreme Championship Wrestling and WWE ECW's collective history.

Again, not my thing but there's certainly a market for it.

* **Roman Reigns** – Documentary and match collection, built around Reigns heading into his first Wrestlemania.

Are you kidding? Win a title first.

* **The Sheamus Experience** – Sheamus interview as he tours Ireland plus matches, interviews and memories.

I could go for this but it wouldn't be on the top of my pile.

* **Stone Cold** – One Man Show with Steve Austin.

This exists?

* **True Story of Tribute to the Troops** – Documentary on creation and execution of the annual WWE event for the United States military plus matches and memories from different events.

If it's the original stuff the fine but the new glorified house shows need to just end already.

* **WWE Divas** – documentary looking at the past, present and future of women's wrestling in WWE.

There's some good stuff in there, but I don't need to hear about Sunny, Sable, Trish and Lita again.

Dana White Says Ronda Rousey Will Not Have A Match In WWE

Wow that's.....pretty much the least surprising thing I've heard in a long time. I'd have loved to see Rousey in a WWE ring (or anywhere for that matter), but this was a long shot at best so I'm not at all surprised.

John Cena's "Gimmick Infringement" of Steve Austin

Are we really this bored these days?

So let me get this straight: Cena started using a springboard Stunner (allegedly due to Austin filming Broken Skull Challenge instead of Tough Enough and Vince being a vindictive old man that was annoyed at Austin for having a career outside of WWE, though that's still pretty much speculation) and the response is that it's gimmick infringement. I for one certainly agree.

It's the same as Randy Orton and Diamond Dallas Page, Dean Ambrose and Mick Foley, Fandango and John Cena (who cares which way the guy is facing? It's still a top rope legdrop) and the probably dozen guys who have used a superkick over the years and Shawn Michaels. I mean, Tyler Breeze and Alberto Del Rio are clearly ripping off Shawn Michaels.

Calling this gimmick infringement shows that wrestling fans continue to type before they think for ten seconds, as for one thing it's not gimmick infringement but move somewhat, kind of, almost, maybe, sort of move borrowing. On the other hand, it's not even the same move. The moves are the same as the RKO and Diamond Cutter or Drew McIntyre's Future Shock and Jake Roberts' DDT. If you want to talk about gimmick infringement, talk about Orton being named after a snake and posing with two arms in the air on the ropes a few years back.

This is a non-story but for some reason people are bored and trying to make it into a thing because they're not thinking, as is so often the case. It's on par with the dust up of Michelle McCool using the Styles Clash a few years ago when TNA fans complained about it and then McCool said something along the lines of "Uh, it's not a big deal" and that was the end of it. This isn't a big deal and the fact that it was talked about so much makes my head hurt.

Thought of the Day: It's Deja Vu All Over Again

Let's see if this one makes your skin crawl.

So I got to thinking about Seth Rollins tonight and the path he took to the World Title. In case you've forgotten, here's a flashback.

He starts by winning a developmental title. That's nice people say, but what can he do with the big boys? Well he makes it to the main roster and

gets in a team. That's nice too, but he's being outshined by his partner. The other guy has the look, the skills, and the charisma and is going to be the star.

Well then they win the Tag Team Titles and it's time for the guys to shine. The title reign goes well enough and they put on some good performances, but once they lost the titles, it was time to move on up. They started fighting bigger names and it all went well, but, as happens with every team, they split. As is the obvious move, they started feuding and the heel won, despite the fans thinking the other guy was the natural. Somewhere along the way the heel also won the Money in the Bank briefcase.

Then he got his big break and became captain of an elimination tag team. Despite looking like the guy that was going to be forgotten, he was suddenly the star and someone you could see as the future, even though his old partner seemed like the better option in some fans' eyes.

Then he cashed in Money in the Bank, won the World Title and walked out of Wrestlemania in one of the biggest shocks of all time, despite one of the hottest stars in the world and the guy fans were sure was going to take the title (his former Tag Team Championship partner) were in the same ring. Some people were scared, some people were stunned, some people were pleased, but he walked out with the title and is going to brag about it for the rest of time.

Oh wait I've gotten my notes crossed. I meant to be talking about [THIS GUY](#).

But I was talking about [THIS GUY](#).

All 1998 Monday Night Raws Added To The WWE Network

That's quite the update and quite a lot of new material at once. As you may have heard of, I've released a complete collection of reviews for the entire year of Raw as an e-books. It's available from Amazon for cheap right [here](#). Check it out if you'd like to have a better idea of what was going on that year or maybe have a better idea of what shows and matches to check out.

Finally Caught The Paul Heyman Documentary

Yeah I'm a bit behind on these things. There's not much to say here but I have three notes.

1. Yeah it really is as good as people say it is. It's interesting that two of the best documentaries they've ever had have focused on something related to ECW. Heyman may not be the most popular guy in the history of wrestling, but he's one of the most fascinating stories the business has ever seen.

2. I'll go conservative and estimate about 75% of what he said was a lie.

3. "He does everything Vince hates. He yells too much, he keeps going forever and he never lets the story breathe."

– Stephanie McMahon, who may in fact be the most delusional, clueless and least self-aware person to ever appear on a WWE television show.