

On This Day – July 29, 1989: Saturday Night's Main Event #22: The End Of AN Era

Saturday Night's Main Event 22

Date: July 29, 1989

Location: Worcester Centrum, Worcester, Massachusetts

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Jesse Ventura

This show is kind of a mess on paper. It has Hogan vs. Honky and the Brain Busters vs. Demolition so the card isn't that bad, but at the same time there's nothing here that makes me want to watch the show. It doesn't look bad but this was a weird time for the company as there was no real challenger to Hogan so we were kind of just waiting around on something to happen, which would take about 6 more months. Let's get to it.

Savage invites us to a barbecue.

Beefcake says he'll cut Savage's hair.

Heenan says the Busters will win the titles.

Demolition says the Busters won't win the titles.

Honky says he'll win.

Hogan says he'll win. Epic promos here indeed.

Theme song is played at this point.

Somehow Honky is #1 contender. How in the world did that happen? We see his greatest hits which is of course a collection of guitar shots before they became clichéd.

Honky says he's great and that he'll win while using about 89 Elvis lyrics.

Hogan talks about keeping his priorities straight and how he's going to beat Honky here.

WWF Title: Hulk Hogan vs. Honky Tonk Man

Even Jesse admits that Hogan is the favorite. You know this is going to be one sided when even he admits to something like that. Honky goes for the guitar shot immediately and of course it doesn't work. Jimmy goes for Hogan of course and it doesn't work. That was a big problem I had with WCW Hogan. He and Hart were enemies for years and now they're best friends?

That just doesn't work in the slightest. I could watch Honky take atomic drops all day. Jimmy pops Hogan with a guitar to take over for the first time. I'd love to be the guy that made the guitars for wrestling companies. You would be a freaking millionaire.

A guitar and table shop would clean up next door to Titan Towers. Honky hooks a camel clutch that gets him nowhere and Honky is actually in control. The Shake Rattle and Roll connects and Honky dances. Hogan Hulks Up after two and you know the ending. Hogan even throws in a guitar shot and the referee doesn't seem to care. Hogan's posing actually goes through a commercial. Wow indeed.

Rating: D. This is your standard Hogan match from this era as Hogan completely dominated. Honky was about a year removed from meaning anything at all here though so it's not like this really meant much. To be fair though, this was just to get him on TV which worked fine. Match was horrible though.

Ronnie Garvin comes down to be referee for the next match so we see Garvin losing a retirement match to Valentine. This was a long angle that went nowhere and sucked completely. Ah never mind that was just Garvin in general. We get a long video of Garvin being a referee and beating people up. If Garvin does it again he gets suspended.

Greg Valentine vs. Jimmy Snuka

I smell and angle match. Actually I see it as there's no real smelling aspect to this match but you get the point. It's a bad sign when I have to explain my own jokes isn't it? Oh never mind they started. Snuka dominated early but Valentine hits him in the head with his shin guard somehow to take over.

tells me this isn't going to be very long. Valentine won't let Snuka back in so Garvin shoves Valentine like an idiot. Wait, he is an idiot so there's no like to it. He his Valentine and Snuka hits a cross body off the top for the pin. At least it was short so I didn't have to put up with much of him. Any is too much though so take that for what it's worth.

Rating: F-. Anything involving Ronnie Garvin is a failure and that's all there is to it.

We recap Savage vs. Beefcake which started when Savage jumped him on the Brother Love Show.

Savage says he was defending his woman and that he's doing this to get Hogan's attention. The main event of Summerslam was Savage and Zeus vs. Hogan and Beefcake so there's your noticing. Savage says he has a surprise which I'd bet on being tall, bald, black and horrible in the ring.

Brutus says something weird about hair which makes me want to get to the match.

Randy Savage vs. Brutus Beefcake

Was there ever any more awesome music for such a bad wrestler as Brutus'? Brutus has the big hedge clippers of course, which I've always wondered what kind of barber would use. OH! Hey I got a joke. Sweet and it only took me 21 years. Dang I feel old now. The bell rings while Savage is in the air after Brutus throws him over the top.

Beefcake hits a standing double axehandle to the head which

looked a lot better than it likely was I'm assuming. Ah there we go: Savage is...losing before I can finish typing that. Beefcake was actually becoming decent by this point which is weird to type. There's the high knee which was one of his finishers at the time but it gets two only.

There's another one so you can tell he's running out of offense already. Sherri blasts him in the head with her shoe as he's in trouble already but she likes hurting people I guess. If that's the case why not just look at him? This is about as standard of an 80s match as you can ask for.

She takes her stocking off to choke Brutus as Jesse says Liz wouldn't disrobe at ringside to help, which is odd since Jesse was the referee for that match. Sherri interferes for about the 9th time in 5 minutes and finally gets knocked out by a miscue from Savage. I love the bump Savage takes when he goes over the top to the floor. It's downright elegant.

Savage sends Sherri to the back to get Zeus. Even Jesse knows what's going on so you know it's not that hard to figure out. Beefcake gets the sleeper but Zeus comes in for the DQ. Hogan pounds on Zeus and it doesn't work. Hogan can't hurt him and the heels are winning. This might be the end of civilization. Beefcake rakes his eyes and we have a weak spot. Hogan cracks Zeus with a chair and it does nothing. The heels leave but don't run if that makes sense.

Rating: D+. Not much here as this was all about the angle rather than the match. This was built as more or less the main event of the show if that tells you anything. It wasn't bad or anything but it's certainly just them going through the motions to set up the angle where Hogan can't hurt him at all. This is really basic booking but it works quite well.

Savage, Sherri and Zeus gloat.

Tag Titles: Brainbusters vs. Demolition

So last SNME there was a solid match where the Busters had Demolition in trouble but Demolition got disqualified, intentionally or not is up for debate. Demolition says they'll demolish them. They've held the belts since Mania 4 so it's been a LONG time, actually the longest reign with the belts ever. This is 2/3 falls mind you. Tully and Axe start us off. I never felt comfortable with the Horsemen in WWF. It just didn't feel right at all.

It's ALL Demolition to start which should tell you something. Smash grabs a boot coming down at him which is something straight out of an 80s action movie. Smash apparently has an injured knee. Uh, sure. They just kind of said it was injured and then it isn't anymore. Ok then. Anderson hits the spinebuster which doesn't have a name yet. Smash gets a hot shot on Arn for a pin to get the first fall. That came a bit out of nowhere.

After a break it's time for the second fall. There was no rest though as the perk of SNME was that since it was taped there was no wrestling during the break. As in it would pick up right where it was left off. We get a lot of double teaming on both sides and it gives the heels the advantage. A horrible camel clutch does nothing of note. In the middle of the insanity, Andre comes down and does nothing and Demolition is disqualified for double teaming to tie us up. This is a mess to put it mildly.

Now if Demolition is DQ'ed or counted out here, the titles don't change hands. The heels do the old British Bulldogs move of ramming one guy's head into his own partners' which works well here. Axe takes over again but in a stupid looking moment he hits an atomic drop and rams his head into Arn's. Both get hot tags though and this needs to end. It's ANOTHER big mess but Andre throws in a chair for Tully which gets the pin and the titles to end the nearly year and a half reign with the titles for Demolition.

Rating: D. WOW this was a mess. It's not particularly bad, but we get it: THEY CAN BRAWL. There's far more brawling in this than wrestling which is rare for this era. The match could have worked as it's not like the Brainbusters couldn't wrestle or something like that. This was just a mess the whole time and it didn't do it for me.

The Heenan Family celebrates and Arn cuts a (of course) great promo saying how they were told they couldn't do it.

Brutus and Hogan say Zeus is awesome but they'll be fine. Oh and they want to protect Liz.

And that's it.

Overall Rating: D. This was just not working for me at all. It's mainly about Summerslam 89's main event, but I didn't like that match so there we are. This didn't do it for me as it was just a mess all night. There was no direction for the company at the time and they were actually in real financial trouble to the point where they were on the verge of going under. Then Vince had this idea of Hogan vs. Warrior. They weren't in trouble for long after that. Anyway, the show sucked, avoid it.

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Thought of the Day: What Makes Edge So Special?

The Wrestlemania edition. So for those of you that remember, Wrestlemania 27 featured Edge successfully defending the World Heavyweight Championship against Alberto Del Rio. This would mark his last match due to a previously known neck injury. Soon after this on Raw, Edge retired and vacated the world title. Here's what I wonder:

What makes Edge so special? Why does he get to win his last match at Wrestlemania? Let's look at some others who had their last (or presumably their last) match at Wrestlemania:

Steve Austin at Wrestlemania 19 – Pinned by Rock

Rock at Wrestlemania 20 (last match for eight years) – On the losing team

Ric Flair at Wrestlemania 24 – Pinned by Shawn Michaels

Shawn Michaels at Wrestlemania 26 – Pinned by Undertaker

What makes Edge so special that he gets to win? His career was over and he knew it, but they gave him the win anyway. Del Rio took months if not years to recover (arguably he never did) and it was all about Edge for the next several weeks.

Why does Edge get this special treatment?

On This Day: July 28, 1984 – Championship Wrestling: The Raw Of Its Day

Championship Wrestling

Date: July 28, 1984

Location: Mid-Houston Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, New York

Commentators: Vince McMahon, Tony Garea

This is one of those shows that I haven't touched much but it was a big deal in its time. Championship Wrestling was probably the top syndicated show for the company in the early 80s so these will be the top stories at the time. Hogan has been world champion for about six months now and is the hottest thing in the world. We're five days past the Brawl to End it All which is the grandfather of Wrestlemania but this would have been taped weeks earlier. Let's get to it.

The opening theme is an instrumental version of Michael Jackson's Thriller. Now how's that for embracing pop culture? The video is literally all Hogan so they know where their money is coming from.

Rene Goulet vs. Tito Santana

Tito is IC Champion but this is non-title. Santana quickly takes over with some flying headscissors to keep Rene on the mat. Back up and Rene has his hiptoss countered into an armdrag and a headlock to keep the champion in control. Goulet finally gets up and drives a knee into Tito's ribs to gain control. A double stomp keeps Santana in trouble as Goulet

stays on the stomach. Goulet suplexes him down for two and it's off to a claw hold for some two counts. Tito gets kicked down again for two more and it's back to the claw, only to have Tito fight up and hit the forearm for the pin.

Rating: D. This was long and dull with most of the match spent in rest holds. At the same time, this was a long match for television at the time, going nearly six minutes. Tito was having an off night here as he was usually in a groove at this point and would be feuding with Greg Valentine again very soon.

Now, ARM WRESTLING! It's Jesse Ventura vs. Ivan Putski which was one of Jesse's biggest singles feuds while in the WWF. This is every arm wrestling contest you've ever seen: Jesse stalls, is about to lose once it gets going, and then blasts Ivan when he's about to lose. Ventura beats Putski down with a chair. This segment is actually on three or four tapes.

Iron Sheik vs. Ron Hutcherson

This match was also on the WWF debut of World Championship Wrestling, more famous as Black Saturday. The fans are all over Sheik with an Iran Sucks chant. Sheik hits a quick backdrop followed by a gutbuster and the camel clutch for the win. Total squash.

Time for WWF Review, which is a music video set to some rock/pop song. Further research shows that the song is Message of Love by the Pretenders. That's an odd song for a wrestling highlight video.

We go to Vince in studio to talk about the show last Monday night, which is the Brawl to End it All. He shows us a clip of Cyndi Lauper beating up Lou Albano in Piper's Pit, which eventually started the Rock and Wrestling Connection, which begat Wrestlemania.

Time for Piper's Pit but Roddy is sitting by himself. Piper offers to show the full Wendi Richter vs. Fabulous Moolah match on his show next week in addition to having the winner as his guest. Now it's time for a fan letter, begging Piper to not beat up Jimmy Snuka, signed Jimmy Snuka's son (that would be Sim Snuka, who wrestled in the Legacy in WWE for about five minutes. He's also the guy that kept Undertaker from dying in the botched Taker Dive at Wrestlemania 25). Roddy shouts at Jimmy to fight his own battles and you can see the fire in his eyes.

Jimmy Snuka vs. Tiger Chung Lee

Lee swings a kendo stick to keep Snuka on the floor. Jimmy finally gets in and they both take martial arts poses. Lee snaps off a shot to the throat and bails to the floor to avoid retaliation. Back in and they circle each other even more until Lee gets in a kick to the chest to put Snuka down. He pounds on Jimmy's head like an idiot would and the comeback is on. Jimmy does his double leapfrog but gets chopped down to stop the momentum cold. Lee goes up but gets slammed off, setting up the Superfly headbutt for the pin.

Rating: D. The match was nothing special but the pop for Jimmy going up top was awesome. I've heard that he was going to be one of the other options if Hogan never happened and given how popular he was, it's not that hard to believe. The man could fly like no other and was way ahead of his time at this point. Dull match but a good ending.

Overall Rating: D. This was a pretty lame show but the Pit was entertaining as always. The schedule screwed this show up because they were just past the biggest show of the year but we couldn't see any of it because the show was taped weeks in advance. This was an exciting time for the WWF but this wasn't a good example of that excitement.

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Total Divas Is GLORIOUS

If you can, make sure to catch the replay of this. It's one of the funniest shows I've seen in years and is far more of a train wreck than the previews made it out to be. Find a copy of it and kick back for an hour because it's the funniest thing a wrestling fan has seen in a long time.

Thought of the Day: The World Heavyweight Championship Dartboard

This contains a spoiler for this week's Smackdown and next week's Raw. At the moment, the WHC picture is a mess with no sign of any structure or semblance of a story. Del Rio lost clean to Orton last week, beat Sheamus this week, and is going to beat Van Dam and lose to Christian on the next two TV shows. So far these matches are totally random and seem to have no build to anything. Odds are we'll get a multi man match for the title at Summerslam, but with the matches just happening with no consequences, it makes the title look worthless. Del Rio is just thrown out there and loses most of the time, but we're supposed to still care about his title defenses.

Short version: quit having your champion wrestle random

matches and lose most of them.

Match Listing For New HHH DVD

This is the problem with doing so many DVDs of one guy. Disc 1

Documentary

The Game

Growing Up

WCW

Hunter Hearst Helmsley

Ninth Wonder of the World

Mick Foley

D-Generation X

Leader

DX vs. The Nation

Champion

McMahon-Helmsley

The Rock

Injury

Evolution

DX Returns

Torn and Rebuilt

Randy Orton

Actor

The Undertaker

Chief Operating Officer

A Unique Breed

Disc 2

Jean-Paul Levesque vs. Ricky Steamboat

WCW Saturday Night – 3rd September, 1994

Hunter Hearst Helmsley vs. Dude Love
One Night Only – September 1997

Iron Man Match for the WWE Championship
The Rock vs. Triple H
Judgment Day – 21st May, 2000

No Disqualification Match
Triple H vs. Kurt Angle
Unforgiven – 24th September, 2000

Disc 3

All Championships on the Line
Triple H & Stone Cold vs. The Undertaker & Kane
Backlash – 29th April, 2001

World Heavyweight Championship
Triple H vs. Rob Van Dam
RAW – 30th June, 2003

Last Man Standing Match for the World Heavyweight Championship
Shawn Michaels vs. Triple H
Royal Rumble – 25th January, 2004

Road to WrestleMania Tournament Match
Ric Flair vs. Triple H
RAW – 6th February, 2006

Return from Injury
Triple H vs. King Booker
SummerSlam – 26th August, 2007

Last Man Standing Match for the WWE Championship
Triple H vs. Randy Orton
No Mercy – 7th October, 2007

Non-Title Match
Jeff Hardy vs. Triple H
SmackDown – 21st November, 2008

Triple H vs. Chris Jericho

RAW – 30th November, 2009

Blu-ray Exclusives

No Disqualification / Career on the Line

Triple H vs. Brock Lesnar

WrestleMania 29 – 7th April, 2013

Stories

Motivation in High School

Hard Way In

Paul Scream

Resume

Sherri

Diamond Cutter

Hunter Hearst Helmsley – The Name

Wild 'n Crazy Guys

Evolution's Fifth Member ??

Shawn's Comeback

WrestleMania 26

Two Movies at Once

Commemorating the End

Worst Gas on the Planet

Candy Bar

Praising the Boss

Behind the Scenes – Photo Shoot

Behind the Scenes – WrestleMania 29 Weekend

Taping Wrists

The Levesque Game

King of Signs

There's some decent stuff here such as the Iron Man match but there's nothing great on here other than that. I'd just watch the Iron Man match on Youtube and leave the rest.

On This Day: July 15, 2006 – Saturday Night's Main Event #33: Edge vs. Cena. Imagine That.

Saturday Night's Main Event 33

Date: July 15, 2006

Location: American Airlines Arena, Dallas, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, JBL, Jerry Lawler, Jim Ross, Joey Styles, Tazz

We're back four months later for another SNME. There's really nothing being built up to here although I guess you could say Great American Bash, even though it was only a Smackdown PPV. This is really the last chance for SNME before it becomes just a throwaway show as we have Cena vs. Edge for the world title. There's also an elimination match with DX vs. the Spirit Squad. I was at a fair when this show happened I think and watched it when I got home. Oh and ECW is here now. Let's get to it.

We open with Hogan and Brooke as I have visions of TNA dancing in my head. Oh sorry I have a bad connection. That's T&A dancing. I had a future vision of Brooke becoming the stripper she was born to be. Brooke says this is a dream of hers. I thought that was Hulk getting lost one day and not embarrassing her anymore. Hogan says Hulkamania is alive. Orton comes out and gives Brooke a rose and challenges him for Summerslam, which is on. Match sucked of course. Brooke stares at Orton as they leave.

Finlay/Booker T./Mark Henry vs. Rey Mysterio/Bobby

Lashley/Batista

It's Booker and Rey who is world champion at the moment, Lashley and Finlay who just won the US Title and Batista and Henry who have a number one contender's match at the Bash. Batista of course gets a bigger pop than the world champion. Rey would lose it at the Bash in case you were wondering. They start this out just like you would expect it to before we have Batista and Henry with their big showdown.

Horny, not known as that yet, hits Rey to give the forces of evil the advantage. Cole asking how much more of him are we going to put up with amuses me. Rey has issues fighting Henry and we see how they screwed up his reign. No one bought him as anything because until he got Booker he was only against monsters which is freaking DUMB. Patrick throws up an X for some reason as someone is hurt I guess.

I think it was Henry if I remember correctly. Yeah it was as he whispers something to the referee before the X goes up. Yeah he didn't have the match with Batista as I think Kennedy got it instead. Yeah he ripped his knee to shreds and split it in two. Batista gets the hot tag and ends Booker. Was Lashley ever even in the match? I'm actually not sure. That's rather pathetic.

Rating: D+. Well if nothing else the feuds lined up. The match was complete and utter crap but that shouldn't surprise anyone that's been paying attention. There wasn't much here as it was all the WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION getting beaten on and Batista, NOT THE WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION making the save. Seriously I can't get over how badly they messed him up as champion. It could have worked with bookers not muscle crazed writing it.

Vince tries to fire up the Spirit Squad while DX interrupts. Hijinks ensue. DX more or less do commentary on his promo which we can't hear. They imply Vince likes being spanked.

We get a clip from the first round of Bikini Bull Riding and it's Michelle vs. Victoria in the finals.

Johnny Nitro/Melina vs. Carlito/Trish Stratus

Morrison is the IC Champion here and has Carlito soon and the same is true with the humans with vaginas. The girls start. Carlito was actually working hard at this point and actually caring so this is at least entertaining. And as soon as they come in Trish hits a Thesz Press to the floor and the Back Cracker ends it. Wow that was fast.

Rating: N/A. What was the point of this again? At least give them four minutes or so. Oh that's right: we need bull riding.

Kevin Von Erich is here. Good to know.

DX vs. Spirit Squad

DX cuts a generic promo first. This is elimination rules with the eliminate people being put into a cage. The cage thing was added just before the match but they just happened to have them laying around I guess. Ok then. It amazes me that one of those people is Dolph freaking Ziggler. Shawn and Mikey start us out. Shawn hits all five guys in the head with the plastic megaphone and they huddle up.

HHH and an air horn break that up pretty quickly though. Mitch meets a boot and it's 4-2 as we go to commercial. A spinebuster puts out Johnny. Kenny tries to leave and that goes badly for him. Apparently it's a no holds barred match. Vince pops Shawn with a chair for general evil purposes I guess. On the DX DVD they air the stuff that happened in the commercials.

That's actually interesting as if nothing else for extreme collectors it's something that you might want for some reason. It's different if nothing else. HHH more or less beats up all three guys by himself which makes sense here for a change. See

you Nick. Ok make it 2-1 now. And you know the rest. Shawn superkicks Vince into the cage and we go to commercial.

Rating: D-. Way to make the champions look legit there guys. Seriously, HOW DID DX NEVER WIN THE TAG TITLES??? That makes less than no sense. They beat these guys about 10 times and they never won the stupid belts. That's where they lost what little credibility they had. Actually that's because of male cheerleaders having them. Never mind.

Sabu is in the WWE. Good to know.

Khali and Daivari are in the ring and say they'll beat Taker. Show comes out and says he's the real giant. Taker comes out and you know the rest. Taker goes through a table. The Khali Taker match never happened mind you.

Show hypes up his match with taker on Tuesday on ECW which is actually a cool idea that they need to go back to: a guest competitor on the show to fight the champion once a week. It would give us a reason to watch or something I guess, even though the show is already cool.

Sabu vs. Stevie Richards

And here's your token ECW match that no one will care about. This is an extreme rules match thank goodness. Richards is talented if nothing else. He doesn't get an entrance though so there we are. Sabu kind of hits a triple jump moonsault but kind of doesn't which is a good result for him. It's table time and an Arabian Facebuster later we're done.

Rating: N/A. Sabu would be gone in a few weeks as Van Dam and he had gotten caught in the car with the pot and the kettle and the dinette set.

Orton hits on Brooke more and then RKOs Hulk on a car which didn't actually connect but whatever.

After another commercial it's time for the bull riding thing.

The fans aren't exactly thrilled. McCool, the teacher here, is first. Not a bikini but whatever. Ross is ticked off at Orton so he won't talk. I really don't like him at times. She lasts 12 seconds. Victoria is a half cowboy and half Indian. We get a nice back shot if nothing else. She's off in 7 seconds so McCool wins. I don't care either. This took less than 2 minutes total.

Lita and good night how is she staying in that top? Wow. Anyway she and Edge are on the way.

Raw World Title: Edge vs. John Cena

Anyone think this is going to work at all? We get the big match intros which I always love. And we're at a commercial a minute in. This is going to suck isn't it? Edge is more or less dominating here and keeps putting Cena down at every turn. Edge needs that one big win in his career and he's never really gotten it.

It's nice having a title match here. It makes the show feel important if nothing else. The BOO YAY thing gets going with the fans being on Edge's side. Cena CENAS UP but Lita pulls the referee out for the FU for the cheap DQ. Cena responds by FUing Edge from the stairs through the table to end this and the show.

Rating: C-. Not bad but way too short to be good. These two have fought about a thousand times as you know from the thread in the wrestling sections a few days/weeks ago. This was fine and it was a title match on SNME so I can't complain on that front. Nothing great at all but I've seen far worse.

Overall Rating: D. There's very little here but at least the first and last matches made sense. Again though you could really feel that there was no point at all to this and it was just a total mess of a show. No one really cared about it from a fans' perspective but there's some watchable stuff so that's fine I guess. Take a look at this one maybe as it's the 2nd

best of the revived shows.

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In the words of someone funnier than I am, it finally froze over in Parts Unknown.

ECW on Sci-Fi – November 28, 2006: Oh They Knew It Was Going To Suck

ECW on Sci-Fi

Date: November 28, 2006

Location: HSBC Arena, Buffalo, New York

Commentators: Joey Styles, Tazz

It's finally the go home show for December to Dismember which means this is the end of an era in ECW. After this, the last of the terrible ECW stuff ends and we get into the real WWECW, meaning the quality goes way up. The main event tonight is Lashley vs. Big Show, which you would think would have gotten more of a build. Let's get to it.

We open with Heyman, flanked by his security, in the ring to talk about the Chamber. He explains the rules of the match to us including telling us that each pod will contain a weapon. The new information for us tonight is what those weapons will be. The weapons will include a chair, a crowbar, a table, and a barbed wire ball bat and we get a demonstration of each. Oh man they knew this was going to SUCK.

Theme song.

RVD knows he might not walk out of the Chamber but the chance of being ECW Champion again makes the risk worth it.

Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam

Sabu says that he'll sacrifice anything to be ECW Champion. Yeah he talks here, why do you ask? Feeling out process to start until Van Dam takes him down with a monkey flip for two. Sabu wisely grabs a leg but Van Dam arm drags him down for two more. Sabu's top rope rana doesn't work as Rob hangs onto the top rope before scooting down the rope to sit in the middle of it. Sabu tries a springboard dive but Van Dam jumps off the ropes into a cross body in a great midair collision.

We take a break and come back with Van Dam landing on the apron but not being able to suplex Sabu to the apron. Sabu tries a sunset bomb but Van Dam holds the ropes, sending Sabu crashing to the floor. A moonsault over the ropes mostly misses Sabu but Van Dam still gets two off a German suplex. Sabu takes the knee out and hits a springboard legdrop tot he back of Van Dan's head. A slingshot legdrop misses though and Rob connects with Rolling Thunder. Back up and Sabu hits some springboard

shots to the face for two but Van Dam blocks a springboard tornado DDT, setting up the Five Star for the pin.

Rating: D. The chemistry was really lacking here for two guys who have worked together as much as these two have. Sabu didn't botch that much stuff so this would be considered a good performance for him. He's so much better when he keeps the crazy stuff to a minimum but the match never clicked here.

Video on Big Show vs. Lashley.

Hardy Boys vs. Elijah Burke/Sylvester Terkay

Terkay is a big MMA style guy who never did much in America. Jeff and Burke get things going with Hardy taking Elijah down with a headscissors. Off to Matt for a top wristlock won by Matt before Jeff comes back in with a dropkick for two. Terkay comes in and drills Jeff with a slam but misses a hard charge into the post. Matt comes in with a Side Effect for Burke and some clotheslines for Terkay. The Hardys double team Terkay down and hit Poetry in Motion, followed by the Twist/Swanton for the pin.

Rating: D+. Not much to see here but it wasn't terrible. At the end of the day the Hardys were slumming it in ECW until they were ready for their real reunion tour on Raw and Smackdown. The match wasn't anything of note but then again neither were Burke or Terkay in WWE at all.

Post match MNM, the Hardys' opponents on Sunday, run in and lay out the brothers.

Some fans in Augusta (PPV site) are ready for the PPV. There was a press conference which is pathetic given how laughable the PPV has been. Note that there are a total of two matches announced and we're five days from the show.

CM Punk vs. Test

Test pounds him down in the corner to start but Punk fires off forearms of his own. They head to the floor where Test is sent into the post before going back inside for a springboard clothesline from Punk. Test comes back with a tilt-a-whirl slam and a chinlock but Punk sends him to the floor for a suicide dive. Punk sends him into the steps and they fight into the crowd for the double countout.

Rating: D+. If this sounded like it had no transitions and was just move after move, that's exactly what it was. Test was such a generic heel at this point that there wasn't much you could do with him. He reminds me of TNA's Gunner during the period where Gunner was Mr. Intensity. There's nothing to that and it's really hard to get invested in a character like him.

Heyman tries to talk Big Show out of the match with Lashley but Show keeps walking.

We recap the Hardys' match and beatdown by MNM. MNM says that was just a sample of how baller they are. Nitro's words, not mine.

Another video on the Chamber.

Bobby Lashley vs. Big Show

Non-title of course. Lashley pounds away to start but Show comes back with a quick clothesline to take him down. A suplex does the same and Show follows it up with a superkick for no cover. Show continues his slow lumbering offense before going to the middle rope, allowing Lashley to suplex him down. The spear puts Show down but Heyman calls in his security for the DQ.

Rating: D. Big Show was such a disaster at this point and he was in

desperate need of some time off to heal up and lose weight. The match was slow and dull with the majority being spent on Big Show walking around and waiting to do anything of note. The match just sucked as a result, much like a lot of ECW stuff around this time.

Test comes in to join in on the beatdown as Big Show hits a chokeslam. Heyman slaps Lashley over and over and Big Show knocks him out with the belt. Show covers him and Heyman counts a pin to end the show.

Overall Rating: F+. Oh man they knew December to Dismember was going to be terrible. Literally there are two matches announced and the rest of the show isn't going to be announced until the show itself. As I said, the show is going to be a turning point for the brand and things won't be the same afterwards. This show was terrible with everything being about the Chamber which did nothing to make me interested in the show at all. Absolutely awful all around with nothing of value at all.

Here's December to Dismember if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2010/12/25/merry-christmas-have-some-december-to-dismember/>

Remember to follow me on Twitter @kbreviews and pick up my book on the History of Starrcade from Amazon for just \$4 at:

Thought of the Day: The

Refreshing Thing About The Shield

You've probably overlooked it. They have reasonable objectives. They're not here to take over WWE, they're not here to try to shut the company down, and they're not here to take out a certain person. Shield is in WWE to win titles and be the best around. It's SO much better than hearing about whatever group is here to get power or take over. Sometimes it's ok to just want titles instead of some huge goal.