

CM Punk Teaches You Grammar

It's exactly what it sounds like and it is GLORIOUS.

This is great stuff.

Total Divas Viewers Rise 14%

The show is a hit. Let the Did You Knows begin!

WWE Posts Second Quarter Financials

There's a lot of data here. First up is the always important PPV data:

WrestleMania 29 – 1,039,000 buys

Extreme Rules – 231,000 buys

Payback – 186,000 buys

These numbers are all slightly down a bit from last year, but Wrestlemania was more expensive this year and there were more HD buys which make up the difference. Overall the quarter is

down from last year, but there was a fourth PPV in the second quarter last year as well which explains the loss.

Television revenue, another huge money market for the company, was up \$5.6 million (17%) from last year due to the extra hour of Raw and Main Event.

Live event/merchandise revenue were up as well.

Digital media (WWE.com) was up 27%.

Even WWE Studios made a profit.

All in all, this is an excellent report for WWE as the company continues to rake in money hand over fist.

On This Day: July 31, 1988 – Wrestlefest 1988: Hogan vs. Andre IV

Wrestlefest 1988

Date: July 31, 1988

Location: County Stadium, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Attendance: 25,866

Commentators: Alfred Hayes, Billy Graham, Sean Mooney

This is another show a lot of you likely have never heard of. It's in essence a HUGE house show in a baseball stadium that was filmed and released on home video. That being said, the card had fifteen matches and I think the home video has 10 of them. I'll try to fill you in on what you missed, but there's hardly anything of note. This is more or less the follow-up to Mania 4 and not quite a preview for the first Summerslam. The main event is Hogan vs. Andre in a cage which is a decent match. Let's get to it.

Alfred Hayes, Sean Mooney and Billy Graham welcome us to the show. This is going to be painful isn't it?

The official attendance is listed at under 26,000 but there's no way I'm buying this. It's probably closer to double that.

Rougeau Brothers vs. Killer Bees

This was the third match on the card after Big Boss Man beat Scott Casey and Brutus Beefcake pinned Hercules. At least they know how to edit a tape down. Bees are in long tights and they look horrible. Hayes points out that they look fat. Graham talks about zombies and I know this is going to be a very long show. Hayes is kind of a tweener announcer but not really.

The Bees are horrible here and completely out of shape. Then again they were promised the tag titles like 4 times and never got them so it's no wonder that they stopped caring. The crowd is kind of buzzing but it's rapidly dying here. In a moment that we would consider funny, Jacques hooks Brunzell's foot in a hold and tags in his brother and they double team. When the referee gets on him, Jacques informs the referee that they have a five count. I knew Danielson was a tape watcher but come on.

This match is painfully generic but it's not horrible. Ray gets his leg hurt so Jacques tries to fix it. That was odd.

Blair taps but that means nothing yet. Oh yeah there's at least 40,000 people there. That 26k is a joke. To further get the crowd into it we get a Boston Crab on Blair. This thing is just moving very slowly. We get a full nelson to really crank it up and down goes Blair again.

The Rougeaus were decent comedy heels when they wanted to be. It helped that they could wrestle fairly well too. The Bees used to be something like a bad version of the Hardys but now they're just old and fat. Is there anything funnier than a heel selling an atomic drop? Brunzell gets the hot tag and cleans a bit of house. His finishing move is now a Figure Four when it used to be a dropkick. The dropkick does hit to a nice reaction but it only gets two. Brunzell goes for a slam on Raymond and Jacques punches him, allowing Raymond to fall on him for the pin. Off a punch? Really?

Rating: D. This was pretty bad. The crowd died a few times in there which is never a good sign for an opener or any match for that matter. The Bees were the tag team jobbers at this point and this went nowhere at all. To be fair though this wasn't the opening match so that makes up for a bit of it. Could have been worse I suppose, but not by much.

Bad News Brownvs. Bret Hart

This is fallout from the Mania battle royal and Bret is officially a face now. Brown would get a short feud with Randy Savage soon after this which was very interesting although it never went anywhere really. The referee gets on Brown for being too evil and Brown tells him not to worry about it. That's a nice line actually.

Brown goes up and Bret is, say it with me, PLAYING POSSUM. Why would anyone buy Bret selling anything ever? It's what he does and he does it better than anyone. Bret can't get anything of note going here. Brown yells out for the Ghetto Blaster, his running enziguri finisher. Here comes the Hitman who might not

have that name yet. He hits a sweet dive over the top and Brown is in trouble now.

They crank it up and the match starts getting good. Bret doesn't have the Sharpshooter yet so he's going for whatever he can get to get a pin. He hits some of the five moves of doom but after a rollup Brown reverses into one of his own and uses the tights for a win. Neidhart comes out and they both beat down Brown to an extent. I'd love to see them in a real fight as Brown would massacre them.

Rating: B-. Solid little match here as neither guy meant anything yet. Hart was supposed to be showcasing himself here and he did that quite well. He looked like this fast guy that could brawl and have solid matches to go with it. Then they put him back with Neidhart a few weeks/months later and this was completely forgotten about of course.

Honky Tonk Man goes to the interview area to talk to Gene. He says absolutely nothing of note and says he'll keep the title.

Intercontinental Title: Honky Tonk Man vs. Jim Duggan

Something tells me to expect a screwy finish. Graham enjoys the H0 chant far too much. Duggan was a fairly big deal at the moment, sort of about the level of Morrison. Honky was a guy that kept holding the title through nefarious means and the fans were drooling for him to lose the belt to anybody. He's one of the few occasions in wrestling where people would pay to see him get beaten up.

Duggan pounds away as you would expect him to. It amazes me to think that these two would manage to get into WCW a few years later with Duggan squashing Steve Austin in like 40 seconds for the US Title. It's starting to get dark around this time and it's ALL Hacksaw. Honky comes back with some heel offense but it lasts like a minute.

Duggan wants the Three Point Clothesline but Hart grabs his

leg for the DQ. This was the standard Honky match and it worked just fine. We had Duggan moments from winning the belt for sure but Honky cheats to keep it. That would only last about a month longer. Duggan gets Jimmy afterwards but the heels mess up and nothing goes well for them. Crowd loves it of course. Duggan destroys the guitar after Honky leaves.

Rating: C. I went with a C because this is the epitome of an average match for this time period. Honky gets the tar beaten out of him and then here comes the interference or other nefarious means to keep the title. It's as basic of a heel psychology as you could ask for but it drew crazy money since people wanted to see him lose finally. That's why the pop was so insane at Summerslam when he finally lost.

Power of Pain vs. Bolsheviks

Seriously we don't skip this? The Powers of Pain came in as faces but were well on the way to being heels as they and Demolition would do the double switch at Survivor Series. The Powers of Pain have the worst music I can remember in a long time for a team like them. The faces, which feels weird to use to describe the POP, clear the ring very quickly.

Volkoff and Barbarian start us off. Was there ever a time from the early 80s to the late 90s where Barbarian wasn't employed by one of the big two? He gets a sweet powerslam on Zhukov where he jumps in the air and gets extra momentum. To say this match is slow and plodding is a huge understatement. It's all power stuff which isn't something you want to see for a long time.

Warlord gets blasted in the back off the top by Zhukov and STILL manages to win a test of strength. Now THAT is how you no sell something. Barbarian gets beaten down as something more interesting happens to the right of the ring as you see everyone get up to look at it. No clue what it was but I'd rather watch it instead. The stadium is starting to get dark

now and after a 30 second comeback which is a stretch also, a powerslam and top rope headbutt on Boris ends it.

Rating: D. I know I've been saying that a lot but dang this was boring. They just kind of beat on each other for a bit and then did the finish. These four just didn't flow well together at all. For the life of me I have no idea why the company thought the POP were a good choice as faces but they eventually got it and switched them and Demolition. Getting there was a long wait though.

Jim Neidhart vs. Lanny Poffo

This was when Poffo was still a leaper and threw out Frisbees with his poetry on them. He was the king of jobbers at this point though so if nothing else he's not bad. I think his brother would be up next. He uses a moonsault which misses but was a big spot back then as he was the first WWF guy to use it I believe. I think Jim is a heel here but it's not entirely clear. The crowd is totally dead here. After just beating the tar out of Poffo a powerslam ends it.

Rating: N/A. Total squash here. I think they were toying with splitting up the Harts but that wouldn't happen for nearly three more years, resulting in Bret breaking out on his own and then Neidhart kind of fading away, although doing so in a positive way.

So next up on the card we were supposed to get an epic Savage vs. DiBiase match for the title. We don't get that on the tape though. HOWEVER, thanks to the joys of the internet, we get it anyway! This is more or less a bonus match so enjoy.

WWF World Title: Randy Savage vs. Ted DiBiase

Yeah they cut this off for no apparent reason. This is one of about the million rematches these guys had, each one totally awesome. This is from a Savage tape released by WWF back in I think 89 so they didn't have a ton to work with. This doesn't

have Graham on it so maybe the commentary was recorded later on instead of like the rest of the show. It's all Savage to start and the fans are WAY into this.

Savage hits an atomic drop and we get to see DiBiase's picture perfect selling to send him to the floor. It's so weird to think that Virgil would be in the company over 22 years later and working with Ted DiBiase still. A handful of tights get DiBiase in control as we hit the floor for a bit. DiBiase is just fun to watch. Everything he does just comes off as so perfectly smooth and crisp.

They slug it out on their knees and Sean says it looked like a midget boxing match. Someone make a Half-Pint Brawlers joke. DiBiase busts out a Spinning Toe Hold of all things. Savage is limping a good bit as I'm having trouble coming up with jokes for this as it's a very good match.

Savage tries to get his knee to work again after the lethal toe hold. Hayes points out that he's favoring his knee. I love high level analysis like that. Virgil interferes and it lets Savage get a rollup for two. Hayes goes on to point out that Savage messes up and sells the wrong knee. Wow this guy is getting on my nerves. Is there a point to the way DiBiase does that falling punch?

Out of NOWHERE Savage hooks a small package to retain. Post match the heels beat on him some more as the fans boo loudly. DiBiase puts on the belt but Savage stops him with a chair. The crowd is oddly dead for the post match stuff.

Rating: B. Solid stuff here but were you expecting something else? They got about fifteen minutes and just beat each other up. I'm sure they did this match about a dozen times but that doesn't mean it's not good. Savage was in a zone at this point but DiBiase might be a step better. That's saying a lot and it resulted in matches like these. Very solid stuff and fitting for a main event match. Now why was this cut off the tape?

Speaking of being cut off, Curt Hennig and Terry Taylor had a match here which I believe was their debut for the company in both cases.

Jake Roberts vs. Rick Rude

This is more fallout over the Cheryl Roberts kiss that didn't happen thing which was a big time angle back in the day and was incredibly well received. Naturally the fans pop very well for this so they got that part right for sure. Jake comes running out and beats up Rude to start us off very fast. Why do we keep getting shots of Rude's tights going down? Is there a strange fetish thing going on there?

Something tells me this is going to be long. They had a 15 minute draw at Mania so they'll likely do something similar this time around. We hit the chinlock and something tells me we're going to be here for a good while. I'm glad I was wrong there. Rude kicks him in the balls and no one seems to care. We hit the chinlock again to kill more time. This is going to last awhile.

How can someone live for that long with an arm around their neck like that? I just ask because Jake has been in this for about three minutes so far and is still alive. The announcers try as hard as they can to make this interesting and just can't do it. The hold is broken and Jake gets knocked to the floor just to continue this torture. Rude gets crotched on the top rope and Jake makes his comeback.

The camera work in this match is making my head hurt. They're doing FAR too many closeups. Jake goes for the DDT but Rude shoves the referee down so that he lands on him, cushioning the blow. I keep forgetting how tall Jake is. The referee is back up and Rude is leaving. Jake follows and say it with me: DOUBLE COUNT OUT. I watched 17 minutes for that finish. I hate my life. The snake gets on Rude post match and wraps around his throat in a cool visual.

Rating: D. This was just BORING. They fought that long and nothing of note happened. It was just bland filler that never went anywhere at all. These two had a white hot feud and yet nothing ever came of it. Also Rude pulling the referee down isn't a DQ? This was just bad and really brings the show down.

Haku vs. Sam Houston would be here. I'm glad they left it out.

Ultimate Warrior vs. Bobby Heenan

This is kind of a famous match. The loser wears a weasel suit. You figure out who wins this one. I'll give you a hint: he's crazy. Neither gets an entrance which is weird. We get some of Warrior's music but that's it. Heenan runs for his life multiple times but Warrior drops to the floor so Heenan can't see him and surprises him. Yes, Warrior used his brain and it worked.

Heenan gets a foreign object and pops him with it after calling Warrior a son of a gun. Wouldn't an object like that be fine to a guy from Parts Unknown? Heenan hits him with it like five times and can't drop Warrior. He more or less just jabs it in Warrior's throat over and over but it doesn't work at all. Warrior bangs on his chest and I think you can figure the rest out from there.

Warrior puts him out with a sleeper which makes sense here and puts the suit on him. Where does one get a weasel suit? Was there a furry convention in town? You know for being in a sleeper for about 30 seconds, he's WAY out of it. Warrior bangs on his chest once he gets it done like someone standing over his fallen prey. Ooh that was a good one. Bobby wakes up and realizes he has claws and a tail. This is like Kafka's worst nightmare.

Rating: N/A. This was for comedy more than anything else. They tried to make the match into nothing at all and that's what the best answer was. Heenan was always a good sport though and could do just about any kind of comedy so this was perfect for

him.

Tag Titles: Demolition vs. British Bulldogs

The Bulldogs are more or less done at this point as they would be gone very soon. Yeah their last appearance as a team was at Survivor Series, about four months after this. They had one televised match in between: a draw at Summerslam. Demolition is getting more and more popular at this point, having won the titles at Mania. They would hold them for over a year, setting the record that still stands for longest tag title reign.

If nothing else the music here is great. Davey vs. Smash starts us off which is probably the best combination given how broken down Billington was at this point. Dynamite comes in and gets the tar beaten out of him which makes something close to sense I guess. Graham suggests Hayes manages the Bulldogs. Thankfully that never happened. He says they should be more malicious.

Graham needs to shut up now. When Mooney is your most competent announcer you can tell this isn't going to go well. Dynamite comes back in maybe 30 seconds after getting beaten down for far too long. The snap suplex hits Axe and they do the launch headbutt. Dynamite busts out the Octopus Hold but Axe gets a cane shot for the pin.

Rating: C-. Nothing really great here but this was just to give us a tag title match against a competent team so that certainly worked. The Bulldogs were done at this point but they were still good for stuff like this. It's no classic or anything but it'll do just fine for what it's supposed to be here.

Ken Patera vs. Dino Bravo

Commentators were actually suggesting that Patera retire at this point due to a lack of skill. He only had two moves: a full nelson and a bearhug at this point. Hopefully this is

short. Bravo is a “world title contender” allegedly. That’s very funny. Patera was finally back after being put in jail for beating up a cop back in the day and no one cared.

He was this era’s Mark Henry: he used to be in the Olympics and then left for a long time before coming back to no one caring. Patera keeps going for rollups and such but gets caught in the side suplex to end it. At least it was short.

Rating: D-. Again this just wasn’t any good. There was nothing to Patera at this or most any other point in his career so it’s not like this meant anything. At least it was short, and when that’s the best thing you can say about a show, it’s not good.

Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant

This is obviously the main reason to see this show as these two were still a pretty big draw at this point. Andre is almost as tall as the cage, which makes the whole 15 feet thing a bit of a stretch. Hogan of course gets a huge pop. Normally I would complain about Hogan getting the main event over the champion, but here it makes sense. Hogan is now the greatest sportsman of all time. Oh dear.

This is escape only. This doesn’t quite have the appeal of Mania 3 for some reason. Andre is aging very badly at this point, not even able to stand up straight anymore. Sean listed the rules at the beginning of the match and then Hayes spends a minute and a half asking how you win. It’s not comical like when Heenan did it. Hayes just doesn’t get it. They punch and choke each other a lot. Andre ties Hogan to the cage with his t-shirt and Hayes thinks Andre should go up top and jump to the floor.

For some reason Andre thinks a t-shirt is going to hold Hogan. Has he not watched ANY of Hogan’s entrances over the years? Andre is on his knees and uses a bearhug on Hogan. That’s just a weird visual. He switches up his offense and uses an elbow

drop. Andre takes a turnbuckle pad off which even Graham sees the problem with: YOU'RE IN A STEEL CAGE.

It busts Hogan open though and you can clearly see him blade. Andre bites the cut, clearly being influenced by Twilight and wanting to be a sparkly giant. Hogan makes his comeback and drops the leg. No slam or anything but just clotheslines. Heenan comes in and gets beaten up too. Andre tries to climb out but gets caught and tied up in the ropes. After another shot to Heenan, Hogan wins over the top. He doesn't even pose.

Rating: D+. Pretty bad match here and nothing of note at all. Hogan was clearly winning the whole time and with just 10 minutes of punching etc, there isn't much good going on here. Then again it's Hogan in his prime doing what the fans wanted to see so it's a bit difficult to trash it. This was a house show though, so Hogan winning to send them home happy is what matters most.

After the show ends we see the three hosts standing in front of the "stadium". The green screen effect might not be so obvious if the fans in the picture actually you know, moved?

Overall Rating: D. This show is BAD. Keep in mind that the Savage/DiBiase match wasn't on the tape so you really can't count that one. Other than that there just isn't anything of note here. Then again like I said this was just a filmed house show so it wasn't supposed to be anything classic. It's boring beyond belief, but it wasn't supposed to be a PPV quality card. There are far worse shows but the two big ones aren't bad for checking out for historical sake. Also, including the extra match, all this was done in two hours and fifteen minutes. That's not bad for like 12 matches. Anyway, check out the main two and that's about it, but only one is actually good.

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just \$5 at:

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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 hits 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.