

It's Wrestlemania Sunday

We have arrived. This is the biggest night of the year and is going to be one of the biggest shows of all time. I know the card isn't the strongest in the world but the atmosphere and crowd size alone are going to carry this several levels further. This is the night of the year that we all wait for and it's our Super Bowl. Wrestlemania is something special and there's always something great on the show. I know a lot of people aren't happy with what we're getting this year but I can almost promise you that you'll enjoy something. Take off the smart glasses this year and just enjoy the spectacle that this show is going to be.

Went To Axxess

And it was an absolute disaster.

Let me put it this way: we left over an hour early because it was so boring and we were so sick of being there. Never in my life have I seen such a disaster in one place and it can be summed up in a few major issues.

1. TOO MANY PEOPLE. This was the most packed Axxess session of the week and a lot of that is due to them cutting it down to three sessions on Saturday to make room for an hour in between. If that's the case, they need to add the fourth back immediately as there were too many people in this mess to possibly have any real fun.

2. Find a better way to organize it. The problem here is there's no way of knowing who is where because the only schedule you get is on the WWE about three minutes before the session starts. The lineups change (more on that in a second) at the halfway point, or at 4pm in our case. The new schedule was unveiled at 3:57pm. How in the world is that the best they can do?

3. Bad lineup. Here's the list of people advertised for the four hour session:

Sheamus

Sasha Banks

Dolph Ziggler

AJ Styles

Jim Duggan

Kane

Cesaro

Jake Roberts

Michelle McCool

There were a few other names, including Ted DiBiase inside the Elimination Chamber. Now here's the list of people who were actually in the second half.

Ascension

Becky Lynch

Summer Rae

Sgt. Slaughter

Cody Rhodes

Mandy

Tyler Breeze

Cesaro

Darren Young (inside the Chamber replacing DiBiase)

King Barrett

David Otunga (replacing AJ Styles)

Jim Duggan

Look at that second list and tell me who you would stand in line for two hours to see. Cesaro maybe? Perhaps King Barrett? There were actually people who were walking out of lines when they found out about the switch because, simply put, would you stand in line to meet David Otunga?

What this show needed was some groups of wrestlers to meet. Like say the League of Nations (Or at least three of them as Alberto Del Rio was a VIP guest. New Day and Edge are regular guests tomorrow, but ALBERTO DEL RIO is a VIP guest?) or the Social Outcasts or three or four NXT stars (yes stars, as the NXT people we had were Mandy (hasn't debuted yet), Peyton Royce and Billie Kaye. Yeah there was an NXT show going on (which you couldn't get near unless you were there at the beginning) and apparently wrestling a few minutes kept you from being able to sign autographs.

The whole thing felt like a job we had to get through instead of something we got to do. I get the idea that you need to make as much money as you can, but I have a major issue with what you're getting at an event like this. I shouldn't only be able to meet one person in that span of time. There is no way that should happen and it's really not acceptable.

Like I said, put a group of people at the end of a line or something like that or have some better names (I'm sorry but I don't care to sit around waiting to meet Michelle McCool, Darren Young or Candace Michelle.) available. WWE has an army of talent and that's really the best they can get out there?

Two years ago the legends booth was the Wild Samoans/Lanny Poffo and then Ricky Steamboat/Paul Orndorff. This year I believe one booth (the NXT booth) had more than one person as a guest. Yeah these people might be at multiple sessions but so what? Oh no: they have to sit there and sign autographs for more than two hours at a time. I think they'll survive.

Now that all being said, there were a few fun moments.

I met Jake Roberts. Uh yeah that's about it for that. He was very quiet and seemed to want to move the line along quickly. Not rude or anything but really quick.

Linda McMahon of all people was walking around and I got a quick handshake, even though she really seemed to want to get out of there.

I got a hello from Dolph Ziggler as he was on his way to his booth.

There was a cool memorabilia section with all of the statues (Andre, Dusty Rhodes, Bruno Sammartino and Ultimate Warrior) and A LOT of stuff from the Hall of Fame class. Other than that there was some random stuff like a Goldust bodysuit, the Ultimate Warrior's ring gear from the 1991 Royal Rumble, the Million Dollar Title, an Undertaker costume and Seth Rollins' white outfit from last year. There was also a collection of really cool posters from each Wrestlemania, along with Brock's ring gear from the Undertaker match, Eddie's boots from 2005, Harley Race's robe from Wrestlemania III and the tights Edge wore at Wrestlemania XVII, along with a bunch of other stuff.

Overall though, this was a VERY bad event because of how much they tried to cram in there without having the first thought of how to organize it. The biggest problem though was probably the lineup. At the end of the day, I need some better options than what I was given and I really shouldn't have Cesaro and King Barrett as my top choices to wait an hour and a half to see. Just a disorganized mess that felt like a major cash grab instead of anything worth seeing.

Pictures of all the memorabilia and some cool stuff coming later.

Met Bray Wyatt

At FYE in Texas. And he couldn't have been nicer. It's a horrible breach of kayfabe but it was a really nice time as he talked to my wife about her hometown and how messy the roads are there and said meeting me was his pleasure. It was almost jarring how nice the guy was and how he really seemed to like being there.

Sting Reportedly Retiring From Wrestling

<http://wrestlingrumors.net/sting-officially-retiring-due-to-neck-issues/>

Possibly during his Hall of Fame speech. This really shouldn't come as a surprise as he's 57 years old on Sunday and has a bad neck. Is it really worth coming back to the ring and going through all that effort and work for maybe one more big match? Sting had his career resume established over fifteen years ago so there's no need for him to come back again. I'm a huge fan and I'm glad to see him get one run in WWE after all those years. This is the best move for him though and it's good to see him get a big sendoff on a big stage.

Roadblock 2016: Are We There Yet?

Roadblock 2016

Date: March 12, 2016

Location: Ricoh Coliseum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: John Bradshaw Layfield, Michael Cole, Byron Saxton

This is a special live show between Fastlane and Wrestlemania with a big main event in Dean Ambrose challenging HHH for the WWE World Title. It's not often that the Wrestlemania main event could be changed this soon before the date of the show but stranger things have happened. Let's get to it.

The opening video focuses on the World Title match and pitches the idea that Dean is blocking the road to Wrestlemania. Well they never have been too subtle so why start now?

Tag Team Titles: New Day vs. King Barrett/Sheamus

New Day is defending. Before the match, Woods says that when you look at them, you see hips that don't lie, which of course means it's time for a little dancing. They actually have a box of Booty0's cereal and Big E. drops to his knees to speak like a child for some insults about the League. Unfortunately they couldn't come up with any insults for Rusev so Big E. promises to eat his cereal to grow big and strong. That box actually looks real so well done for whoever made that.

Kofi headscissors Sheamus down to start and it's already time for some posing. If New Day hasn't turned face yet, they might not even need to at this point. Sheamus pulls Kofi out of the corner and brings Barrett in for his assortment of punches. Big E. comes in for his backbreaker and some dancing before the Unicorn Stampede takes off.

Winds of Change puts Kofi down and Sheamus adds the Irish Curse as the heels (well the stronger heels) take over. A top rope shoulder gets two for Sheamus and the fans tell Barrett that he can't wrestle. Seriously? I

know Barrett isn't as sharp as he used to be but he's getting the Khali chant now?

Kofi comes back with a dropkick and the hot tag brings in Big E. for a string of suplexes. Everything breaks down and Kofi cleans house, only to have Trouble in Paradise countered into the Cloverleaf. Barrett pulls Big E. off the apron but Kofi counters into a rollup for two. The SOS doesn't get a count despite only existing to get near falls. Kofi goes up top but kind of crashes into Sheamus as he tries to dive over, giving us a bad looking botch. Barrett kicks Big E. in the head but Woods offers a distraction, allowing Kofi to get in a cheap shot so the Big Ending can put Barrett away at 8:38. Big E. seems to be favoring his arm.

Rating: C. Hopefully that's it for this feud as I'm not really sure why they're fighting other than New Day started talking about the League one day. New Day is going to be a great act as faces but I'm not sure what kind of a shelf life they'll have before they'll told how to be funny and outgoing and the act dies as a result. At least they're on fire now and it's fun to watch.

Paul Heyman talks about making Toronto the capital of Suplex City and promises that Bray will be conquered by the Beast.

We recap Y2AJ splitting and Jericho burning one of their shirts on Smackdown.

Here's Jericho for his match but he has to insult the fans for cheering for AJ instead of him. Canadian fans are always behind the times eh? Jericho calls himself the greatest icon in the history of this country, drawing a WE WANT BRET chant. After telling the fans that they'll never get Bret again, Jericho talks about being embarrassed to be Canadian. Moving away from Canada was the smartest thing he ever did because Canadian fans chant for the flavor of the month. That includes when they cheered for Jack Swagger when he beat Jericho for the World Title years ago. Jericho insults WE THE PEOPLE and it's time for a match.

Chris Jericho vs. Jack Swagger

Jericho slaps him in the face to start and bails to the floor in a smart

move. The chase doesn't go well for Chris as Swagger catches him back inside and hammers away in the corner. The announcers run down Jericho's career, talking about Baba and Tenryu in Japan because saying he's a ten time Intercontinental Champion and main evented Wrestlemania would be going over most fans heads.

Jericho comes back by sending Swagger into the barricade for two and we hit the chinlock. Jack fights up and we get a CM PUNK chant for no logical reason. Some clotheslines have Jericho in trouble and the Vader Bomb gets two. Jericho can't get the Walls so it's the enziguri instead. The Codebreaker is broken up with a powerslam but the gutwrench powerbomb is countered into the Walls for the tap out at 7:55.

Rating: C+. Better match than I was expecting here as Swagger continues to be fine when he isn't talking or trying to be anything bigger than a power guy who can do some submission stuff. This was fine for a way to keep Jericho's awesome heel run going, but the fans still chanting for him after that heel promo isn't the best sign.

JBL shouts YOU STILL GOT IT as Jericho goes up the ramp, making him even more annoying than usual.

We recap the NXT Tag Team Title match with Cole saying the Revival are the new Tag Team Champions. As in the Revival who won the belts nearly five months ago. The Revival thinks Enzo and Cass aren't serious enough and took out Colin Cassady's knee so the challengers are coming for revenge and the titles.

NXT Tag Team Titles: Enzo Amore/Colin Cassady vs. Revival

Revival (Scott Dawson/Dash Wilder) are defending and the challengers have Carmella with them. Enzo and Dash get things going with Amore nailing a dropkick before it's off to Cass for the big side slam. Wilder dives into a right hand to the ribs, followed by Cass picking up Enzo and throwing him at Dawson to keep control. They do the same thing again with Enzo flying over the top to take both of them out, drawing a loud NXT chant.

Back in and Dawson gets a blind tag to send Enzo shoulder first into the post, giving the champs a target. Dawson cranks on an armbar as JBL tries

to say the Revival are a throwback to the late 90s tag teams. Add tag team history to the list of things JBL doesn't know much about. Enzo gets sent into the buckle again and stomped in the Tree of Woe, only to do a situp to send Dawson into the post.

Cass comes in to clean house with a big boot and the East River Crossing to Wilder but the Rocket Launcher is broken up. Carmella slaps Dawson but the distraction lets the champs hit the Shatter Machine (picture a 3D into a Codebreaker) on the floor. Back in and Enzo hits a top rope DDT on Wilder and grabs a rollup for a close near fall on Dawson. The champs get back up though and a Shatter Machine out of the corner gets the pin on Amore at 10:15.

Rating: B+. Please send them up to the main roster already as it's pretty clear that we're not getting the title change anytime soon. Enzo and Cass are an awesome act but if they're not getting the titles then there's no point in keeping them down in NXT. It's clear that they're ready for the main roster so let them go and do the fun feud with New Day before they're turned into the tag team Santino.

Earlier today, Natalya dedicated her match tonight to Bret Hart and thinks it could get her a step closer to the Divas Title. Charlotte came in and laughed at her but refused to put the title on the line. Natalya said Bret must have been right about the Flairs being cowards and Charlotte made it a title match, which I guess she can just do because contracts work in a weird way in WWE.

Divas Title: Charlotte vs. Natalya

Charlotte is defending. Natalya works on an arm to start but gets caught in a bodyscissors. They trade some holds on the amt with Natalya getting in a leg lock, followed by a surfboard. Back up and Charlotte pulls her to the floor for a crash and takes over with the stomps in the corner. Cole, who already used the term "Divas Wrestler" in this match, compares Charlotte to Mildred Burke. Did Matt Striker take over the commentary division this week?

The discus forearm is broken up and Charlotte starts in on the knee. There's a chop block to make Natalya scream a lot but she's still able to

kick the champ out to the floor. Now the discus forearm connects and but Charlotte counters the Sharpshooter into the Figure Four. Natalya gets Charlotte under the ropes for a weird counter and Natural Selection gets two.

Charlotte goes up for something but gets countered into a Batista Bomb for a very close near fall. You could tell the fans bought into that one. The Figure Four is countered into the Sharpshooter but Ric helps pull Charlotte to the ropes. Natalya swings at Ric and gets rolled up with Charlotte's feet on the ropes to retain at 13:35.

Rating: B. What is up with this show being so awesome? Natalya is one of those women that you can put in there with anyone and get a passable match but this felt like she was actually getting close to the title instead of just being there to put Charlotte over. I liked this one a lot more than I was expecting and that's always a good thing.

We recap Brock Lesnar vs. Bray Wyatt, which is mainly over the Wyatt Family eliminating Brock from the Royal Rumble. Lesnar is out for revenge tonight.

Brock Lesnar vs. Bray Wyatt

Bray talks about all the people Brock has conquered but tonight there's a deal with the devil, which has changed this match into a handicap match.

Brock Lesnar vs. Bray Wyatt/Luke Harper

Heyman says that Brock is FIGHTING out of the conqueror's corner for a cool sounding intro. Bray bails to the apron to start so Harper takes the first suplex, sending him out to the floor. Brock stares at Wyatt, allowing Harper to get back inside for a suicide dive. Two boots to the face stagger Brock and the discus clothesline gets a nearer fall than you would expect.

We hit a crossface but Brock gets to his feet and slips between Harper's legs for a German suplex. Is there anything this guy can't do? A superkick doesn't do much so Brock throws him down with two more German suplexes. Harper gets tossed around even more as the fans keep count for

Brock. The F5 puts Harper away at 4:01. Brock and Bray never made contact.

Rating: C. This was fine and they did a good job of protecting Bray here. Harper got in some strong looking offense too so everyone comes out looking fine. I'm not sure where they're going with Bray vs. Brock but maybe they'll head there in a few months instead of doing it at Payback or whatever they're calling the show after Wrestlemania.

Sami Zayn vs. Stardust

Another bonus match. An early CODY chant gets on Stardust's nerves as the announcers talk about the Missing Link for no logical reason. Sami grabs an armbar and some armdrags for a nice start. There go the OLE chants, which Cole calls an ode to Sami's former persona, just in case you didn't think Cole knew everything about wrestling ever. Stardust sends him back first into the apron to take over, setting up a cartwheel.

Some knees to the back followed by a waistlock have Sami in trouble and Stardust tries a reverse Boston crab (Colt Cabana's Billy Goat's Curse). A Matt Hardy Side Effect gets two on Sami and a top rope superplex is good for the same as this has been one sided for a long time. Sami pops back up with clotheslines and right hands in the corner before low bridging Stardust out to the floor. There's the big flip dive over the ropes and the Blue Thunder Bomb gets two. Stardust comes right back with a Disaster Kick for the same but gets suplexed into the corner, setting up the Helluva Kick for the pin at 12:43.

Rating: C-. I wasn't feeling this one as much as some of the other matches tonight but it was still fun enough. The problem here was they were clearly setting up the comeback all match and then the back work didn't go anywhere as Sami just popped up and did his big stuff. At least the right guy won though and a lot of Sami's strength comes from when he's beaten down and has to fight against all odds. Good enough stuff here though and that's all it needed to be.

We recap HHH vs. Dean Ambrose which is all about Dean rebelling against the Authority and doing a much better job of it than Roman Reigns ever could.

WWE World Title: Dean Ambrose vs. HHH

Dean is challenging. Feeling out process to start as the announcers give out even more stats and figures (HHH hasn't had a singles match since Wrestlemania XXXI or a title defense since 2009). Dean headlocks him down and some armdrags keep HHH in trouble. Back up and Ambrose lays across the top rope ala Shawn Michaels and HHH isn't happy. The CM Punk chants start again and Dean grabs HHH's nose as he armdrags the champ down a second time.

Thankfully the chants turn into the standard LET'S GO AMBROSE/HHH as Dean gets kneed in the ribs. They head outside with Dean getting in a clothesline before wrapping the leg around the post. HHH actually tries a Pedigree on the floor but gets his legs swept out, only to kick Dean into the steps to change momentum. HHH starts in on the back and puts on a Crossface, followed by a Rings of Saturn of all things.

JBL talks about the Toronto fans seeing their hero Whipper Billy Watson win back in 1956. A spinebuster gets two but Dean pops back up and gets the same off a bulldog. Dirty Deeds is broken up but the facebuster sets up a rebound lariat for two on the champ. I still don't like the idea of someone taking a hard shot to the face and hitting an offensive move a second later. That never works for me.

HHH's leg starts giving out on him again, allowing Dean to counter a Pedigree attempt into a Figure Four. Cole: "He's going to tap HHH for the title!" Dean switches over to a Sharpshooter but HHH makes the ropes for the save. Dirty Deeds connects but Dean's foot is under the ropes for a good false finish.

A hard whip sends HHH over the ropes and out to the floor, setting up the suicide dive. Dean hits the top rope elbow and even throws in a Suck It. HHH gets knocked onto the announcers' table but avoids the elbow off the barricade for a huge crash. It's only good for a nine count so HHH hits a quick Pedigree to retain at 24:33.

Rating: A-. Awesome match here and I'm sure that three count is going to be Dean's consolation prize. There wasn't much of a chance that they were going to change the title here but giving us the false hope was a nice

feeling. HHH winning the match (mostly) clean is fine enough but I could go for Dean actually winning something big every now and then.

Overall Rating: A-. I had a great time with this show even though it doesn't change much of anything. Sometimes all you need is a good night of wrestling and that's what we had here. The worst thing all night was Stardust vs. Sami in a match that certainly wasn't bad. This show worked out really well and hopefully will give WWE some of the positive momentum they've been lacking so much lately.

Results

New Day b. King Barrett/Sheamus – Big Ending to Barrett

Chris Jericho b. Jack Swagger – Walls of Jericho

Revival b. Enzo Amore/Colin Cassady – Shatter Machine to Amore

Charlotte b. Natalya – Rollup with feet on the ropes

Brock Lesnar b. Luke Harper/Bray Wyatt – F5 to Harper

Sami Zayn b. Stardust – Helluva Kick

HHH b. Dean Ambrose – Pedigree

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Big Boss Man Announced For WWE Hall of Fame

LONG overdue for me, even though he wasn't the biggest star. He and Hogan made a fortune back in 1989 and he was one of those guys who was always around. I'm very happy with this one.

Wrestlemania XXXIII To Be Held In Orlando

Officially announced today in a pretty big non-shock.

Happy Birthday WWE Network

It's two years old today. It feels like it's been around forever.

King Barrett Reportedly Leaving WWE In June

<http://wrestlingrumors.net/king-barrett-is-leaving-wwe-this-summer/>

And....I'm not sure why people would care. Barrett has been floating around the midcard for years now, picking up the Intercontinental Title here and there before dropping it for another injury. Ever since he didn't win the World Title back in 2010. After that he was just a guy who didn't win the big one and was another face in the crowd after that. I like the guy but he's really not someone who is going to be a huge loss.

The Titus O'Neil Situation

So this is something that's happening. Basically O'Neil hugged Vince on Monday in something done with nothing in mind but Vince, on his latest kick, felt it was inappropriate in this setting (read as: on camera) and as a result, Titus has been suspended for 60 days (lowered from 90).

As usual, this comes off as WWE wanting to control every single thing they can. Sure WWE wants them to be having fun and interacting with people like they're all one big happy family, but it's controlled, perfectly planned out fun. Also, if you defy whatever Vince's latest whim is that day, you can be punished for whatever happens. Now assuming Vince says it's ok, you can have various objects pulled out of various

orifices, have Vince run away riding an invisible horse with his pants around his ankles or have dream sequences filmed, but giving Vince a hug is off limits.

Dang Bayley might be screwed.