

Impact Wrestling – October 7, 2015: It's A Carter Thing

Impact Wrestling

Date: October 7, 2015

Location: Impact Zone, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: D'Angelo Dinero, Josh Matthews

Bound For Glory has come and gone and not a lot has changed because the World Title is now vacant. Matt Hardy won the title by pinning Drew Galloway, but Ethan Carter III fired an injunction against him for reasons that aren't entirely clear. Therefore, tonight we're starting a 32 person series to crown a new champion at some point in the future. In other words, we'll be seeing a lot of matches taped a few months ago cobbled together into a competition. Let's get to it.

We open with a stills package of Sunday's main event, which means nothing now.

Dinero and Matthews are in the studio and throw us into a package of everything that has happened since Sunday. Ethan Carter III has gotten an injunction from a judge to prevent Matt Hardy from appearing on Impact. Why? Not important enough to explain but we'll go with "reasons".

Therefore, since Matt can't appear on TNA TV, we see a video of Matt vacating the title. So yeah, we still don't get any new details and the story is still all muddled and a way to get to the ends they need because just having Carter retain was too complicated. Matt kept talking about a controversy but there's still no explanation of what exactly happened.

Dixie Carter talks about how the 72 hours since Bound For Glory ended have been insane. It really is insane since 72 hours ago (remember that this was recorded earlier today) would have been since Sunday afternoon, not Sunday night but we'll just chalk that up to another reason why Dixie isn't that bright. Dixie and Billy Corgan (who the fans are just supposed to know works for TNA) announce the 32 person series to determine the new champion. Its name: the World Title Series. Dig that creativity!

The men and women will both be involved in the series with eight groups of four each. The groups will compete against each other in round robin style matches with three points for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss. There are fifteen minute time limits and the top two from each group advance to the round of sixteen, which is a single elimination tournament with no time limits.

Here's the first group (Group UK):

Bram

Rockstar Spud

Grado

Drew Galloway

Group #2 (Group Wild Card):

Aiden O'Shea

Crazzy Steve

Kenny King

Mahabali Shera

Group #3 (Group Knockouts)

Awesome Kong

Madison Rayne

Brooke

Gail Kim

Group #4 (Group Champions)

Lashley

Austin Aries

Mr. Anderson

Ethan Carter III

Dinero and Josh make their predictions on the first four groups.

Drew Galloway talks about Sunday being the hardest night of his life. He'll be back though.

Group UK: Drew Galloway vs. Bram

Josh says the injunction might be about Jeff Hardy hitting Carter on Sunday. That really should have been mentioned earlier as it almost kind of makes sense, but we're 20 minutes into the show and FINALLY hearing about that theory. As usual, TNA comes off as disorganized and doesn't bother to explain something that really should be covered earlier, assuming that's what's going on.

They fight into the corner to start and Bram bails to the floor. Back in and Bram bails again as we go split screen to see some clips of a roundtable group discussion from earlier in the day. I can't stand it when this happens as it's very distraction. Just do the audio or something as it's not like they're hard to tell apart.

As Bram talks about being better than the rest of the group, Drew suplexes Bram to the floor again but this time Bram sends him into the steps to take over. Back in and Bram grabs a chinlock until Galloway gets to his feet and wins a slugout. They head outside again so Galloway can send him face first into the steps over and over. Back inside and Drew's running big boot is good for the pin and three points at 7:59.

Rating: C. Not bad here but it's clear that we're going to see a lot of decent to average matches with no drama until they get to the single elimination stuff. The match was fine enough and it's a good thing that they didn't push Bram before he went all crazy. I'm hoping we get Galloway as the new champion too, if nothing else so I can laugh at TNA for making this whole tournament when they could have just put the title on him in the first place.

Group UK Standings

Drew Galloway – 3 points (2 matches left)

Rockstar Spud – 0 points (3 matches left)

Grado – 0 points (3 matches left)

Bram – 0 points (2 matches left)

Gail Kim is thankful for the chance to be in the tournament.

Drew Galloway says Bram's mistake was going to the floor. They're treating this like a traditional sports event with analysis and the pre and post match interviews.

Group Knockouts: Brooke vs. Gail Kim

No title with Gail because of the taping schedule which Josh attributes to Gail being focused on the World Title. They keep the split screen stuff to a minimum here and come back to Gail monkey flipping her over, only to get caught in a pinfall reversal sequence for some near falls. Brooke grabs something like a reverse Cattle Mutilation but can't keep the hold on.

Eat Defeat is broken up and they slug it out until Brooke grabs the Butterface Maker (in case you didn't get the theme of Brooke's character). She misses a top rope elbow though and Gail bends Brooke's ribs around the post. Eat Defeat is countered again so Gail tries a leg lock, only to get rolled up for the pin at 6:25.

Rating: C. This was fine again but I'm scared of what's going to happen if Brooke advances to the next round and someone who is supposed to be serious has to sell for her. I get what they're going for by putting the Knockouts in but it feels way out of place at the same time. Kong and Kim would be one thing, but the other two feel like complete outliers. Then again they probably aren't making it to the tournament so it's not the worst thing in the world.

Group Knockouts

Brooke – 3 points (2 matches left)

Awesome Kong – 0 points (3 matches left)

Madison Rayne – 0 points (3 matches left)

Gail Kim – 0 points (2 matches left)

EC3 wants this to be called the Memorial Screwjob Series. He should be the champion because he got ripped off but it's motivated him to win this thing. Carter promises to defeat Austin Aries tonight in record time. This series isn't over until he wins.

The announcers talk about the first two matches.

Group UK: Rockstar Spud vs. Grado

In the split screen discussion, Grado and Spud argue over who the real underdog is. In the ring, Grado sits on Spud's chest for two and drops a backplash for good measure. A Cannonball misses though and Spud scores with a dropkick in the corner. Grado comes back with a Pedigree (not a good one either) for two. There go the straps but Grado's ankle lock is quickly broken up.

Spud hits an overly complicated Worm for two but Grado tops him with a People's Elbow. The running the ropes (multiple times across the ring) makes him tired though and Pope thinks this is the funniest thing he's ever seen. Spud hits a decent chokeslam and the Undertaker cover gets two. Matthews calls this a slobberknocker as Grado escapes an AA but walks into a Stunner and the Underdog to give Spud the pin at 5:57.

Rating: D. Thanks for giving us this six minute ad that made me want to turn this show off and go watch the WWE Network. I get the idea they were going for here but I still don't get the appeal of Grado. As Josh said in the Knockouts match, the idea here is supposed to be everyone is serious about the World Title. Instead though, we had a comedy match which was only funny at times. Pick an idea.

Group UK

Drew Galloway – 3 points (2 matches left)

Rockstar Spud – 3 points (2 matches left)

Grado – 0 points (2 matches left)

Bram – 0 points (2 matches left)

Pope picks EC3 to lose all of his matches.

Tyrus, with headphones around the side of his head to make him look even angrier, says he's going to sit back and see who wins the Series because he's up next. It would be interesting if EC3 wins.

Group Champions: Ethan Carter III vs. Austin Aries

Aries has Thea Trinidad with him for no apparent reason. Josh says the internet nerds are asking why Aries is here after he lost a career match. No Josh, actually we're wrestling fans who sit around and listen to your mindless drivel as you try to be the cool announcer while coming off as the biggest tool this side of your local hardware store.

Heaven forbid we listen to the rules and stories your company presents and then expect them to follow their own ideas. No instead we're nerds for trying to make sense of a business that you couldn't even get into because you couldn't beat freaking Maven and then no major company wanted to see you get in the ring so you're stuck with this sinking ship of a company because WWE realized they could get any hack to replace you.

So after the explanation of "HAHA we don't have to explain why Aries is back" we're ready to go. Pope starts talking about Jeff Hardy getting involved on Sunday so I guess that's the official reason for the injunction. Again, not that Ethan ever actually mentioned that but why waste time on something like that? Ethan cranks on a wristlock and then runs Aries over with a shoulder. Aries pops back up and forearm Carter outside, followed by a slingshot hilo to send Carter to the floor again.

Some elbows to the head (am I a nerd for knowing what an elbow is Josh? Or do I need to be a professional like you?) knock Ethan back inside but Aries dives on Tyrus when he gets too close to Thea. We take a break and come back with Aries fighting out of a chinlock until Ethan pulls him back to the mat for the same hold. We've got less than five minutes to go

and this was the only match to have the time limit announced during the entrances. Aries fights back and gets a neckbreaker across the middle rope, followed by a suicide dive into the barricade.

Back in and another Tyrus distraction lets Carter get two off a TKO. Carter's superplex is broken up and Aries gets two off the 450 in a surprising kickout. Even Tyrus was freaked out. Aries wins a slugout but Tyrus trips him up, allowing Ethan to grab a sitout powerbomb for another near fall. The Last Chancery goes on with a minute left but since that move never gets a submission, Carter gets to the ropes. Both finishers are countered three times each and Aries can't get the Last Chancery as time runs out at 15:00.

Rating: B. I had a really good time with this one and it was cool to see Carter kick out of a big move instead of having to be saved as usual. The ending sequence with the counters was really good, but I had a hard time trying to shake off Josh's lines at the beginning. Aries being back is a good thing, even if he's just filling in a spot.

Aries gives Carter a brainbuster after the match.

Group Champions

Austin Aries – 1 point (2 matches left)

Ethan Carter III – 1 point (2 matches left)

Mr. Anderson – 0 points (3 matches left)

Lashley – 0 points (3 matches left)

Pope says getting a draw and one point is like getting zero points.

Mr. Anderson is glad that he's in the toughest group. He's all in against Lashley tonight.

Aries says Carter knows what the brainbuster feels like and it's his first loss if he ever feels it again.

Group Knockouts: Madison Rayne vs. Awesome Kong

An early Implant Buster doesn't work for Kong so she throws Madison across the ring. As the split screen gives us some rare talking from Kong (the seas will boil with her rage it seems), Kong throws Madison in a Torture Rack before just dropping her. Madison comes back with a missile dropkick for two but the Implant Buster ends Rayne at 4:12.

Rating: D. Total squash here with Kong looking dominant like she should have. Madison is still good in the ring but it takes a different kind of opponent to give Kong a threat. They were smart to keep this short here and it made Kong look like a real threat, assuming she can stay healthy.

Group Knockouts

Brooke – 3 points (2 matches left)

Awesome Kong – 3 points (2 matches left)

Madison Rayne – 0 points (2 matches left)

Gail Kim – 0 points (2 matches left)

Lashley is glad to be in a tournament because he's gotten here in tournament style competition. Mr. Anderson is victim #1 tonight.

Matt Hardy talks about what a great moment Sunday night was but now it's all gone. He's entered into the Series and will start competing next week. So....Carter's injunction didn't get rid of Matt and now he has to go through a bunch of people instead of someone he's already beaten twice to get the belt back. Bad business sense is a bad family trait for the Carters.

Group Champions: Mr. Anderson vs. Lashley

Lashley takes him to the mat to start and we're in a break just a few seconds after the bell. Back with Lashley suplexing Anderson with ease but the spear can't connect yet. The split screen has Lashley and Anderson saying that they should both move on and then fight in the round of sixteen. Lashley charges into the post to give Anderson two and it's time to work on the arm.

Anderson dropkicks Lashley's leapfrog out of the air and it's time to go back to the arm. A single arm DDT gets two and it's back to the armbar. Back up and Lashley fires off some clotheslines with the good arm, including a big one in the corner. There's a spinebuster as we have less than five minutes to go. The spear still can't connect though and Anderson hits a pair of Regal Rolls. Anderson tries a third but Lashley rolls out and hits the spear for the win at 12:16.

Rating: C+. Not a bad main event style match here and I'm glad to see Lashley get a win for a change. He's been falling further and further down the card in recent weeks and it's nice to see that switch, even for one night. You have to think he and Carter are the two moving on from this group as Anderson is little more than a main event jobber.

Group Champions

Lashley – 3 points (2 matches left)

Austin Aries – 1 point (2 matches left)

Ethan Carter III – 1 point (2 matches left)

Mr. Anderson – 0 points (2 matches left)

Overall Rating: C+. You know I didn't hate this. They've actually got a good idea going here and the presentation worked well. I could go for them jumping back and forth between the two sets of groups from week to week, as there are going to be six matches per group for eight groups or forty eight matches. That should cover them for seven or eight weeks as there won't be a twelve minute intro and a full time limit draw every week.

TNA did a good job of presenting this and it should get a lot better once they get down to the final sixteen and a more traditional tournament. This felt like a bigger version of the Bound For Glory Series but more structured and that's not a bad thing. It could be far worse and I can live with the idea of this getting us to a new champion. Of course that's assuming you ignore all the flaws in Ethan's plan and the fact that TNA got themselves into this trouble in the first place. Good show and a good

way to get started on the latest tournament they have to run to fix their latest gaffe.

Results

Drew Galloway b. Bram – Running boot

Brooke b. Gail Kim – Small package

Rockstar Spud b. Grado – Underdog

Austin Aries vs. Ethan Carter III went to a time limit draw

Awesome Kong b. Madison Rayne – Implant Buster

Lashley b. Mr. Anderson – Spear

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NXT Takeover: Respect: B-A-Y-L-E-Y V-S. S-A-S-H-A B-A-N-K-

S

NXT Takeover: Respect

Date: October 7, 2015

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Byron Saxton, Corey Graves, Rich Brennan

This is one of the weaker looking Takeovers on paper as it's only been about six weeks since the last special. However, there are four major matches taking place tonight with a thirty minute women's Iron Man match for the Women's Title and the final three matches in the inaugural Dusty Classic Tag Team Tournament. Let's get to it.

The opening video talks about Bayley having the title but now it's about earning respect.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Semi-Finals: Finn Balor/Samoa Joe vs. Mechanics

There's no stage this time but just the screen and a flat aisle. Balor gets knocked outside to start so Joe pounds on Wilder. Dawson pulls his partner out of the way of a corner charge though and the villains take over. Balor finally gets back on the apron as his partner is getting beaten down but an enziguri allows for the tag to the champ. A pair of kicks put the Mechanics on the floor and Balor unleashes the big flip dive to get the crowd even more fired up.

Wilder saves Dawson from the Coup de Grace and Dawson chop blocks Balor to put the champ in trouble. The Mechanics start taking turns working on the knee, including wrapping it around the post and a half crab from Dawson. Balor avoids an elbow drop but Wilder takes Joe off the apron to keep Balor in trouble. This is classic tag team formula stuff so far and it still works. Wilder doesn't have as much luck though as Balor dives over and makes the tag to Joe for some house cleaning. There's the Muscle Buster to Wilder and Balor adds the Coup de Grace for the pin at 9:08 but Balor wrenched his knee again.

Rating: B. This is what NXT does best: simple, basic storytelling that

accomplishes everything they needed to take care of. Balor's knee is messed up going into the finals and you had a good match to get to the point. They didn't just do a three minute match to set up the long final but rather took their time and gave us something entertaining in the less important match. Well done, as usual.

Clips of NXT at the Louder than Life festival in Louisville.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic: Semi-Finals: Chad Gable/Jason Jordan vs. Baron Corbin/Rhyno

Corbin throws Jordan around with ease so for some reason Baron tags out to Rhyno. A quick suplex gets two on Rhyno and Gable gets the same off a slingshot sunset flip. The fans are entirely behind Gable here (complete with a Gable chant to the tune of Kurt Angle's old music) as he starts on Rhyno's arm. Jordan comes in to do the same and a double northern lights suplex gets two on Rhyno.

Rhyno tries to throw Gable over the top but Chad grabs the armbar over the ropes to put him in even more trouble. Corbin gets in a few shots on the floor so Rhyno can take over with a chinlock. It's off to Corbin for a chinlock of his own (fans: "SAVE THE GABLES!") before Rhyno misses a top rope splash.

Gable crawls over and makes the tag and it's Jordan coming in to speed things up. Everything breaks down with Jordan cleaning house but he has to save Gable after the End of Days knocks him silly. Gable O'Connor rolls Corbin out of the corner into a German suplex (awesome) but Rhyno makes the save. There's a Gore to Jordan and the second End of Days puts Gable away at 10:27.

Rating: B. I liked this one a lot with all the insanity at the end but the ending is a big surprise. I really would have bet on Gable/Jordan winning the whole thing and then they don't even make it to the finals? It's not the worst idea in the world but it was the last thing I was expecting. Maybe they don't want to see Gable getting cheered on the same level as Balor but I'm still surprised at the ending.

Kevin Nash is here.

Video of Asuka.

Asuka vs. Dana Brooke

Brooke has Emma with her. Asuka comes to the ring with a long robe and a white mask for a cool visual. Dana has no interest in a handshake and they fight over a wristlock with Asuka moving at twice Dana's speed. A slap to the face takes the taste out of Asuka's mouth but she just smiles at Dana. Asuka comes back with a quick striking rush and Dana's pose followed by a Fujiwara Armbar.

Emma finally helps her partner with a distraction and the handstand choke has Asuka in some trouble. Asuka comes right back with a snap German suplex and a cross armbreaker followed by a cross face chickenwing. There's a spinning elbow to knock Emma off the apron. Fans: "ASUKA CITY!" Dana is almost done and gets caught in another cross face chickenwing with a bodyscissors (the Asuka Lock) for the tap at 5:30.

Rating: B-. Well that worked. Asuka picked Dana apart and destroyed her in very short order with every bit of offense you could want to see in five minutes. This was a great debut for Asuka who looks like a killer and blows away everyone else in the division at the moment. Now as long as they keep it going this way instead of going with Eva Marie, everything will be fine.

Asuka takes Dana down again and stares at Emma post match.

Breast cancer is bad.

We look at Balor injuring his knee again.

Nia Jax finally arrives next week.

Apollo Crews vs. Tyler Breeze

Crews powers him up against the ropes to start and knocks Tyler to the floor like he's nothing. A delayed vertical suplex gets two for Crews but Breeze leverages him out to the floor to take over again. Back in and Breeze starts in on the back with some knees and a chinlock with a knee in the spine. A sideways Backstabber gets two and sets up a Sharpshooter

of all things from Breeze.

Apollo makes the ropes and nails a jumping clothesline, followed by a BIG kick to the face to knock Tyler silly. The back gives out though and Breeze Supermodel Kicks him for two. Tyler dives into a powerslam for two and there's the gorilla press but Breeze gets the knees up to block the standing moonsault. Breeze gets all fired up with forearms but Apollo kicks him square in the jaw. Crews loads up a belly to back suplex but spins him around into a powerbomb for the pin at 9:47.

Rating: C+. I like the idea of having Crews do something other than the standing moonsault for a finisher as that's only going to take him so far. It's also really nice to see him face some adversity and overcome it for a change because it makes him easier to get behind instead of just someone to marvel over.

Hideo Itami is here.

We look back at tonight's first two tournament matches.

Dusty Rhodes Tag Team Classic Finals: Finn Balor/Samoa Joe vs. Baron Corbin/Rhyno

Balor is limping to the ring. Finn and Rhyno get things going and Corey immediately declares this as a dumb idea. Rhyno shoves the champ around with ease and it's off to Corbin for some feeling out. The knee starts to go out though so it's off to Joe for the rapid fire strikes in the corner. Off to Rhyno who has some more luck with a knee to the ribs before Corbin comes in again to a chorus of booing.

A big boot gets two on Joe but he comes back with the enziguri in the corner. Joe tags off to Balor who uses Corbin as a launching pad into a dropkick to Rhyno. The knee seems fine at first but it gives out again when he charges into the corner. That's fine with Balor though as he nails an enziguri, only to have Rhyno drill him in the knee again to take over. Balor's comeback is stopped with a Boss Man Slam for two but he comes back again with a Sling Blade out of nowhere.

The second hot tag brings in Joe to take over on Rhyno with the Rock

Bottom out of the corner and an STO to Corbin. A Gore gets two on Rhyno with Balor making the save, only to damage the knee again in the process. Another Gore is countered by a kick to the face and it's the Muscle Buster into the Coup de Grace for the pin and the tournament at 11:09.

Rating: B-. No Dusty Finish? Other than that disappointment, I can't find much to complain about here. The first two matches were better and the knee didn't really play into the finish, but I'm sure this leads to Joe vs. Balor in some way. Rhyno and Corbin weren't an option for winning the whole thing save for Balor and Joe imploding but at least they were an impressive looking opponent in the final. Also well done to have Rhyno take the fall instead of Corbin.

The Rhodes Family (with Stardust out of character) present Balor and Joe with the trophy. Cody talks about his dad being the oak of NXT and how his dad was beamed into homes around the world for over forty years. Tonight, we are all part of the Rhodes family. Dusty's theme music plays with nothing from Joe or Balor.

Stephanie (of course), Charlotte, Becky Lynch and Lita are in the front row.

We recap Bayley taking the title in Brooklyn and Sasha wanting a rematch. The result is tonight's 30 minute Iron Man match for the title. We also see some more of Bayley training in an awesome montage.

Women's Title: Bayley vs. Sasha Banks

Bayley is defending and this is an Iron Man match, meaning the most falls (pin, submission, countout or disqualification) in thirty minutes wins. We get the entrances following the girls to the ring, thankfully with no talking from the announcers. Bayley has a cape and Iron Man colors, meaning my life is complete. Fans: "WOMEN'S WRESTLING!"

They stare each other down and there's no contact until a little over a minute in. A lockup gets us to Sasha holding a headlock, followed by some rollups for two. Bayley gets some rollups of her own for two each and a pinfall reversal sequence gives us even more near falls. Sasha gets in the first big move with a dropkick to knock the champ into the corner but

Bayley comes back with a Japanese armdrag to drop Sasha on her head for two. That looked bad but Sasha seems to be ok.

We're five minutes in and Sasha sends her into the corner with a top rope wristdrag. Both finishers are blocked and Sasha chills in the corner. Sasha suckers her in and pulls the hair to get a quick two but it ticks Bayley off. Some hard elbows and a clothesline put Sasha on the floor. Bayley keeps the pressure on with a dropkick under the bottom rope (ala Sami Zayn) and a bulldog back inside for two. Both of them nearly crush the referee in the corner but Sasha uses this to her advantage and pokes Bayley in the eye for the first fall at 8:32.

Bayley rams her face first into the buckle over and over but gets sent into them herself. Both of them are banged up as we're ten minutes in. The double knees in the corner are countered into something like Snake Eyes and the Bayley to Belly ties it up at 10:55. Sasha bails to the floor so Bayley tries the sliding kick again. Banks catches her coming in this time though (I love psychology) and slams Bayley into the steps, right in front of her family and Izzy in a nice touch. Sasha throws her into the steps two more times and makes sure to talk trash to the family. Bayley kicks out at two and the fans are chanting for Izzy.

The champ is thrown to the floor and bangs her knee on the landing. Sasha whips her into the video board and it's a countout to give Sasha a 2-1 lead at 14:12. Banks steals Izzy's headband and throws it at her, making Izzy cry to get the fans entirely on Bayley's side. Bayley beats the count back in at fifteen minutes to go but Banks starts right in on her back. Sasha is brimming with confidence as she slaps on a Liontamer and stomps on the bad hand for old times' sake. Bayley makes the rope and grabs a fluke rollup to tie us up at 2-2 with 12:38 to go.

The double knees in the corner miss again and Bayley makes the comeback with ax handles to the face followed by an awkward looking spinning facebuster for two. The middle rope back elbow gets the same and Bayley's hair is almost down. Bayley puts her in the Tree of Woe for a running springboard elbow as we have ten minutes left.

Banks crotches her on top and now the double knees hit (great job of

building that move up) for two. Bayley kicks her to the floor as the fans think it's better than Raw (time for Vince and Dunn to crush this show then). Now Bayley starts working on Sasha's hand and the fans want Izzy to slap Banks. The arm gets snapped across the middle rope and Sasha falls out to the floor again.

Bayley starts setting up the steps and Izzy looks like she's about to cry again. Sasha's hand is slammed into the steps again and a clothesline off the steps puts her on the floor. She's still able to kick Bayley into the steps though and the champ is in trouble again. Sasha's suicide dive is caught and a Bayley to Belly on the floor knocks her silly. Somehow that only gets two back inside and we've got five minutes to go.

Bayley puts her on the middle rope and a running super Bayley to Belly gets....two as the cover sent Sasha's feet into the ropes. Three minutes left and they're both spent. Bayley loads up the reverse hurricanrana but Sasha lands on her feet and hits a Bayley to Belly of her own. There's the Bank Statement and Sasha spins her away from the ropes. She can't get the full hold on though due to the hand injury from earlier.

Sasha kicks away from the ropes and gets a better version on with a minute left. Bayley reaches up and bends the hand back for the break before slamming the bad hand into the mat to get out. Sasha hooks the backbreaker to set up another Bank Statement but Bayley rolls through into an armbar while cranking on the hand with ten seconds left. Bayley KICKS HER IN THE HEAD until Sasha taps with three seconds left to retain Bayley's title at 30:00 by a score of 3-2.

Rating: A. It's not as good as the Brooklyn match (I underrated that one horribly. If that wasn't an A+, nothing is.) but my goodness they were feeling the drama and storytelling here. The back work from Banks worked perfectly but it made sense that Bayley didn't give up because of Sasha's hand injury. Bayley got WAY more aggressive than she ever has before here and it felt like a battle instead of just a match. Really good stuff here and I had a blast with it.

Bayley looks drained as the roster comes out to the entrance to help Sasha up. HHH presents Bayley with a bouquet and she soaks in the cheers.

Bayley and Sasha smile at each other to end the show.

Overall Rating: A. I'm still trying to catch my breath about five minutes after the show ended. This was AWESOME with the main event stealing the show all over again. Those two are something special and they know they are. The rest of the show was all really good stuff too with the worst match probably being Asuka putting on a show against Brooke. I had a blast tonight and it blew away my expectations, as these things almost always do.

Results

Finn Balor/Samoa Joe b. Mechanics – Coup de Grace to Wilder

Rhyno/Baron Corbin b. Chad Gable/Jason Jorda – End of Days to Gable

Asuka b. Dana Brooke – Asuka Lock

Apollo Crews b. Tyler Breeze – Spinning powerbomb

Finn Balor/Samoa Joe b. Baron Corbin/Rhyno – Coup de Grace to Rhyno

Bayley b. Sasha Banks 3-2

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New Column: They Can't Help It

Quick one this week as we look at why TNA screwing up Bound For Glory shouldn't surprise you.

<http://www.wrestlingrumors.net/kbs-review-they-cant-help-it/42428/>

Monday Nitro – May 15, 2000: Russo Is Right

Monday Nitro #240

Date: May 15, 2000

Location: Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi, Mississippi

Attendance: 8,550

Commentators: Mark Madden, Tony Schiavone, Scott Hudson

The shows had been picking up for a bit until this past Thunder was another disaster with everything being all screwy and focused on Russo. It's not clear what we're getting for a main event at the Great American Bash but in theory it's going to be Flair vs. Jarrett for the title. Then again the most logical option at this point would be Russo vs. Terry Funk as those two have been some of the most featured names on the roster in recent weeks. Let's get to it.

Vampiro vs. Sting

We're opening with a match. Of course it's not a wrestling match though because why do that when you can have a GIMMICK MATCH? This is the House

of Pain, which is a cage match but you have to handcuff all four of your opponent's limbs to the ropes to win. At least the cage has a roof on it to make it a bit cooler. Sting climbs to the top of the cage to start and pounds a hole through the roof to get in. Well that's different. Vampiro grabs a Saito Suplex to take over as I try to figure out why he didn't grab the BASEBALL BAT that Sting dropped as he was climbing into the cage.

Vampiro stomps him down and screams a lot before kneeling Sting low. A nice spinning kick to the face drops Sting again but he pops back up with a bunch of clotheslines (Hudson: "POWERBOMB AFTER POWERBOMB!") and a whip into the cage. Vampiro gets shackled face first against the cage but Sting would rather hit a bunch of Stinger Splashes to Vampiro's back. The match just ends with no bell as Sting walks out.

Rating: D. Normally I would ask why this wasn't the pay per view match but there's no mystery here. This has Russo written all over it as he took a match which didn't need to take place yet and put a big gimmick on top of it to open a show with no warning. I like the idea of opening with a match, but as usual it's one step forward after fourteen steps back while stopping for a swerve along the way.

The cage starts rising up with Vampiro attached. The lights go out and Vampiro is gone when they come back up.

Shane Douglas attacks Brian Clark in the parking lot. The Goldberg truck is seen in the background.

Captain Rection gives the Misfits a pep talk and gives them their new names: Chavo Guerrero Jr. is now Lieutenant Loco and Van Hammer is Major Stash. They have a new recruit named Major Gunns, who used to be one of the NWO girls.

Kronik comes out with the Tag Team Titles and they're introduced as champions. Wait when did they win the belts? I thought Bag...never mind as I don't want to hear the explanation. They want Douglas and Bagwell out here right now. Shane comes out and says Bagwell has been suspended for thirty days but he has backup for this title match.

Tag Team Titles; Shane Douglas/The Wall vs. Kronik

It's a brawl to start (of course) with Clark chasing Douglas to the back. Wall chokeslams Adams but Clark takes him to the floor for some clubberin. A belly to back suplex puts Clark through a table and splashes Adams through another one. Kronik pops back up and chokeslams Wall onto (not through) the announcers' table for a pin back inside.

Rating: D. That was a match? I still have no idea if Kronik are really the champions or not but to be fair I don't think WCW really knows either. Wall looked good and there's no shame in getting beaten up by two monsters like Kronik. Whatever gets the belts off the dead team of Douglas and Bagwell is a good idea though so why not Kronik.

Wall beats up the paramedics.

Disco tries to join the New Blood but Bischoff blows him off. Terry Funk comes in and still won't hand over the Hardcore Title. Ernest Miller jumps him and Bischoff goes on about his business as the beating ensues in the back.

Norman Smiley and Ralphus are in the parking lot and in need of a job. The Goldberg truck looms.

Hardcore Title: Terry Funk vs. Filthy Animals

Funk is defending of course and it's Juvy/Mysterio/Konnor here. Miller attacks Funk on the way to the ring because just three on one isn't enough of a challenge for him. The trio starts fast and thankfully Miller leaves so it's not as one sided. A bunch of weapon shots put Funk down and Rey takes a chair to the top for Sabu's Atomic Arabian Facebuster. Cue the Misfits in Action to attack the Animals but Disco Inferno runs in to help the Animals. Booker T. runs in and cleans house before draping Funk's arm over Juvy for the pin to retain. Funk hadn't moved for the last minute and a half.

Rating: F. STOP WITH THE TERRY FUNK STUFF! At this point, Funk is arguably the strongest pushed face on the roster as he keeps winning over these impossible odds and is one of Bischoff's main targets. That's

really the best thing they can come up with? This wasn't a match of course but that's how it goes around here anymore.

Post match Major Gunns bounces to the ring to take off her top and give Funk mouth to mouth.

Ric Flair arrives.

Norman and Ralphus get jobs selling popcorn.

Ric charges into the New Blood's office to find Russo but Bischoff says he doesn't know where Russo is. Flair leaves and Bischoff sends Miller to warn Russo.

Chris Candido and Tammy come out and issue an open challenge to any other couple for a mixed tag for the Cruiserweight Title.

Cruiserweight Title: Chris Candido/Tammy vs. Daffney/Crowbar

The guys slug it out to start as Tony acts like this is a perfectly logical decision on all sides. Cue Miss Hancock to watch and continue a story that has somehow gone backwards after all these months. Candido superplexes Crowbar down and drops the top rope headbutt for two with Daffney making the save. Everything breaks down and Crowbar tries to suplex Tammy as Candido holds Daffney back. Yes that's backwards and no, the announcers don't mention that it's backwards.

Tammy actually counters into a small package for two before taking Crowbar down with a swinging neckbreaker. Crowbar doesn't seem to mind as he slingshots into a splash on Candido for two before taking him outside for a Vader Bomb off the barricade. Tammy baseball slides a chair into Crowbar's face and everything breaks down again.

Daffney gives Tammy a Bronco Buster but it's time for Hancock to dance, which she says is for Tony. In the distraction, Crowbar gives Candido a sitout gordbuster on the ramp, allowing Daffney to roll Tammy up for the pin and the title. It's not clear who champion is now, meaning the Cruiserweight Title is in the same place as the Tag Team Titles.

Rating: D-. This is the definition of Russo having fun instead of doing

something that makes sense. Let's look at this for a second. Candido came up with this match on the fly and we just happen to have a couple (as in one of what, three on the roster?) come out and fight for the Cruiserweight Title. Then, after stupid stuff like Candido holding Daffney back from saving Tammy for reasons that make no sense, Crowbar and Daffney win the title (I guess?) in a WACKY moment. Russo gets to laugh and another title gets to be treated like a joke.

Daffney and Crowbar both hold the title and seem to argue over who is the real champion.

We don't have time to figure out what's going on here though as Ric Flair comes out and beats up Crowbar, just in case the Cruiserweight Title was going to seem important for a few moments. Apparently this is over something that happened in Flair's house over the weekend which we'll get to see later. At least there's a story to it.

Flair demands that Russo get out here right now but Russo is in the truck telling someone to play the tape when he tells them to. After a break, Russo is still demanding that Russo get out here.

Now we cut to Sting, who is going to his car but finds it on fire.

Back to Flair (that Sting bit was interjected with no intro or exit and it was right back to the arena) and the tape airs. It's David driving a nice car up to Ric's house with Daffney in the trunk and Russo in the front seat. David says the limo out front is for when his stepmother goes to get the groceries. They go inside and David looks at a portrait of him with his brother Reid and sister Ashley (now known as Charlotte), who he says put unfair expectations on him.

They go into Ric's bedroom so Daffney can bounce on the bed before looking at the pool. David says his pool is a muddy creek, which Russo says is shark infested. Russo steals a robe out of the closet and then takes him into Reid's room to complain about Ric never coming to David's games. David claims that he had to sleep in an unfinished basement but Beth, Ashley (who looks like a blonde Stephanie McMahon) and Reid show up. Russo yells at all of them and leaves wearing the robe.

Back in the arena, David and Daffney come to the stage. Ric tells David to come to the ring and David actually does it. Tonight, David is going to grow up. Ric talks about watching David yell at Arn Anderson on Wednesday but David erupts about having to be Ric's son for all these years. Daffney sticks her tongue out at Ric as he talks about earning a World Title shot at the Great American Bash. Instead, he's having that match tonight and wants to face David at the pay per view.

Ric says we're not going to talk about family business on TV because they'll fight at the Bash. David wants Ric to be ready but Ric gives is standard promo about Dusty Rhodes, Sting and Lex Luger trying to take him out over the years. Ric says he'll retire if he loses at the Bash and calls David an embarrassment to the family. Jeff Jarrett sneaks in and hits Ric with the guitar. He slaps on the Figure Four and David beats on Ric for a bit.

I get the idea of the story here, but Ric is looking like the most self centered jerk of all time. His son is clearly having a breakdown right in front of him over all the pressure his dad has put on him but Ric is too busy talking about having a World Title shot and blaming David for being manipulated by all the people in wrestling. Remember about a year ago when Ric brought David into this business and made him US Champion? Well neither does Ric because he's too busy looking out for himself than for his son. For once, I actually get the idea Russo is presenting here, even though I doubt it's what he had in mind.

Russo yells at Liz in the back and has some tough love for her. She gets to go inside a cage tonight.

Back from a break with the cage lowered and Russo and Liz coming to the ring. They're fixing the roof of the cage as Russo yells at Liz for humiliating him over the last few weeks. Tonight she's going to learn in a House of Pain match against Madusa, who Liz hit with a chair last week.

Madusa vs. Miss Elizabeth

Palumbo is watching the door so just get Luger out here already. Russo is in the cage as the bell rings and keeps yelling at Liz. He yells about Liz being from Kentucky and wants her to slap him now. Dude, we get it.

You're doing this because you've wanted Liz for like fifteen years now and you'll be thinking of every single detail of this during your private time later because you got to be a big dominant man over a woman. I really don't need to see your fantasies coming to life.

So anyway, Luger is the technician on the roof and comes in to clean house and rack Madusa. Ask your own questions about how Luger got up there in that uniform in the three minutes between Russo announcing the match and coming to the ring. Luger cleans house until security breaks the door open and maces him. It's 12-1 until Kevin Nash makes the save. Funk and Nash need to team up as the Overcomers after they regularly beat these ridiculous odds week after week.

Security leaves Nash alone with Madusa but Mike Awesome comes in to lay Nash out. This of course means it's time for MORE RUSSO as he comes out, only to leave with Awesome. Nash grabs the mic and wants Awesome in an ambulance match tonight. Awesome says it's on. That would be the fifth gimmick match of the night.

Scott Steiner and his women arrive and rip up the format. Wait....this was the structured version??? He'll be waiting out back for Tank and Rick Steiner because there are too many rules in wrestling.

Norman and Ralphus give out popcorn. There's no story advancement here but I'll take what I can get.

Rick and Tank go outside to fight Scott, including Rick breaking a 2x4 over his back. The Goldberg truck shows up and crushes about six cars to chase them off.

Nash is backing an ambulance into the arena.

Kevin Nash vs. Mike Awesome

Ambulance match just because. Nash hammers away as you would expect him to but Awesome comes back with a flying clothesline. It's chair time though and Nash blasts him in the back as Tony talks about relaxed rules. That's fine in theory but it's a gimmick match (as is way too common anymore) with no rules. Try to keep up Schiavone.

They fight up the stage with Awesome hitting him low and setting up a table next to the ambulance. Cue Diamond Dallas Page with a Diamond Cutter to Mike on the ramp. A double powerbomb off the stage puts Awesome through the table (ugly bump as Nash couldn't get him up and Page had to help Awesome down or he would have broken his neck) and the match is over without the ambulance being involved.

Rating: F. When you have this many gimmicks in one night, at least use the gimmicks. After the non-finish in the previous match (can you really even call it one?) they do this because Nash can't just put him in the ambulance? There's a chance Awesome was injured, but that could be because Nash shouldn't be trying to do spots like that on someone as big as Awesome.

Bischoff is watching on a monitor and says he'll do it himself.

Hogan arrives.

Ralphus has popcorn stuck in his teeth. Crack jokes ensue and Norman thinks they should expand into selling drinks. Ralphus reaches down his pants and then goes into the popcorn so they're both fired with no pay.

Here are Bischoff/Miller/Kimberly with something to say. Bischoff brags about Page's impending divorce and says he wants to beat up Page himself. Page better bring some backup with him too. Cue Page to call Miller a pussycat before cleaning house. Kimberly hits Page in the face with a chair and Miller adds a spinning kick but here's Sid for the first time in a month to stand on the apron. He makes Page tag him (so fitting from Sid) before he'll come in and....chokeslam Page. Does this really surprise anyone?

Just in case that angle is about to set in on anyone, Hogan comes out and clears the ring in about three seconds. Bischoff says Hogan is a dead man.

Kidman vs. Horace Hogan vs. Hulk Hogan

Wait didn't the New Blood destroy Horace on Thunder? Ah yes we get a clip of that but Horace is back here and on the New Blood's side. Well of

course he is. Hudson brings up the fact that Bischoff is doing the same thing to the Hogans that Russo is doing to the Flairs. Before that can sink in though, Tony says this is a three way dance. Why would Bischoff book it as anything but a handicap match? Bischoff jumps in on commentary of course.

Horace stands in the corner as Hulk beats Kidman up. Kidman's forearms to the back have no effect and Hulk catapults him out to the ramp. It's time for the weightlifting belt and Bischoff wants a DQ. Back in and Kidman begs Horace for help but Hulk suplexes Kidman for two. They head outside with Hulk posting Kidman, only to come back with a low blow. Eric: "Tremendous uppercut by the Kidster!"

Back in and Hulk no sells the low shot so Kidman does it again. Horace throws Kidman at Hulk, drawing Bischoff to the apron for some yelling. Horace knocks Eric out to the floor so here are the Filthy Animals. The Hogans get chairs and clean house but cue Torrie in a leopard print dress to wink at Horace, who then blasts Hulk with a chair for the pin.

Rating: D. As usual, take fifteen angles and pile it into a five minute match. This was way too much at once and Russo and Bischoff probably thought it needed more. The Hogan feud isn't doing anything for Kidman as he doesn't actually win any of the big matches, but why would Hulk be interested in making someone new who could draw more money for the company and ultimately Hulk himself?

Tony doesn't understand what's going on between Torrie and Horace. Tony Schiavone can be really, really stupid at times.

Torrie and Horace leave together and Kidman isn't happy. Eric comes up and says they'll talk about this. Tony STILL doesn't get it.

WCW World Title: Ric Flair vs. Jeff Jarrett

Jeff is defending. Nash is watching in the back and Russo is wearing Ric's robe, plus what appear to be some of Reid's medals. We're even graced with Russo on commentary for more of that New Yawk accent. Of course it's a brawl to start and Ric takes it to the announcers' table early on. They get inside for the first time with Jeff pulling up the

bottom rope for a low blow.

It's back to the floor with Jeff driving a chair into Ric's ribs and leg as Tony wants David to think for himself. Jeff puts on the Figure Four as Russo reminds us that Ric quit last week. That's the first mention of that forgotten angle tonight so they almost got away with it. Ric makes the rope for the break and comes back with a low blow. Jarrett slams him off the top but Ric grabs a small package for World Title #15.

Rating: C-. He did it with a wrestling move. How about that? This is one of the few moments that makes sense as you have to give Flair SOMETHING after having him get destroyed so many times. That being said, if you want Jarrett to look like a serious main eventer, stop giving him eight day title reigns.

Russo and David beat Ric down again after the match. Vince leaves with the title but Nash comes out to take it away from him. Nash powerbombs Jarrett through the ring and stands tall because the new World Champion is just a guy. At least he hands the title to Flair.

Bischoff tells someone that they have a plan that they'll start Wednesday morning. Shane Douglas is placed in charge at Thunder. Of all the people, you pick SHANE DOUGLAS?

Flair holds up the title to end the show.

Overall Rating: D-. This was every Russo idea stuffed into one show and cranked up to about seventeen. All night long it was cramming all kinds of stuff into a single segment, followed by people turning on each other and of course Russo. Russo here, Russo there and Russo in the background of other scenes.

Now at least they have something resembling stories going on, but the problem is there are so many ideas going on that you can't keep up with them. Take the Liz vs. Madusa stuff for instance. They do the match, Luger making the save, Awesome coming out and then Nash coming out in the span of five minutes. There's so much going on that I have no idea if any of them had an impact on me or not.

The one thing I'm sure of is I'm sick of Russo on camera. It's the same I'M FROM NEW YORK stuff over and over again as the women keep getting beaten up by men or yelled at by Russo because he needs to validate his masculinity eighteen times a night. I'm tired of seeing Russo all the time because there's no payoff for him. It's all "I'm Vince Russo and I hate tradition but there's nothing you can do about it because I'm from New York and smart and stuff." Just picture that for three hours plus four or five gimmick matches a night and you have this episode of Nitro. Oh and Russo because he hasn't been mentioned enough lately.

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Reviewing the Review: Bound For Glory 2015

Let's get this out of the way before they get to Impact tonight and screw it up even worse. I'll be covering Takeover at first so I don't get to see how bad things are really going to get, but I can't wait to see how far down things really go. This is TNA's biggest show of the year and it amazed me how they managed to screw it up all over again. Let's get to it.

As usual, they opened with the Ultimate X match for the X-Division Title.

This was another match with no story, no reason for the challengers to be in the match other than "we need a bunch of challengers" and no story to the match because it was all about high spots. Tigre Uno successfully defended the title against newcomer Andrew Everett, DJZ and Manik and only separated his shoulder in the process. This was every Ultimate X match you've seen before and there was almost nothing setting it apart from the rest of them. I want to like this division but, just like everything else, TNA gives me no reason to and therefore I don't.

In your first pointless moment of the night, Gregory Helms came out to shake Tigre's hand. He didn't say anything about the title, he didn't attack Tigre, and there's no indication he's going to be around anytime in the future. This really could have been saved for Impact...assuming there actually was an Impact taping for Helms to show up on in the future.

In your second pointless moment of the night, Ethan Carter III came out to talk about how awesome he is. This was just a basic promo that accomplished nothing other than killing off a few minutes.

Speaking of killing stuff off, the second match of the night killed off the crowd. It was a 12 man gauntlet match with the winner getting a shot at any title he wanted in the future. Of course this was changed with about two minutes left in the match to being able to challenge for ANY title, because only TNA would think all of its titles are worth anything.

Aside from throwing more people into this match, they decided to give Tyrus the win here. Yes Tyrus, the bodyguard who is most famous as a dancing dinosaur. Tyrus could be played by any given big man but for some reason this is what we're getting. Not someone interesting. Not someone the fans are going to want to see. Not someone exceptional in the ring. No we're getting Tyrus, the monster with a cool beard and almost no character whatsoever. The fact that this match was nearly half an hour long made things even worse. There was no way the fans were going to recover from this one and they never did.

It got even better though as Ethan came out and said Tyrus could be the X-Division Champion but Tyrus said he was coming for the World Title. So

yes, we're supposed to care about Tyrus as the next big thing in the main event scene. Let that sink in for a few minutes.

In the match of the night, the Wolves retained the Tag Team Titles over Trevor Lee and Brian Meyers. This was a match with an academic ending but they made sure to keep going with the story instead. I know there's a logic behind having a rematch for the titles, but the more I think about it the more I wonder if they just did this because they didn't have anyone else to put in this spot. How bad is it that they actually don't have anyone else to put into a title match at the biggest show of the year? Who else was going to get this spot? The fact that I can't answer that is far too telling.

Bobby Roode and Bobby Lashley had a totally decent but totally forgettable match for Roode's King of the Mountain Title. First of all, they really need to change the name of that belt. The name made sense when there was a King of the Mountain match for the title but now it's just long and sounds stupid. Lashley lost to Roode again in a feud that isn't as epic as TNA would like you to believe. I like the idea of Roode as champion but can we get Lashley something? They're wasting one of the best acts they have and as usual it's a shame.

Gail Kim retained the Knockouts Title over Awesome Kong and I'm really not sure why. Kong hasn't had the belt in years and Kim feels like she's had the belt for years, but for some reason they kept it on Gail. Unless it's Kong being injured or something, which she allegedly is, I see no reason to not give it to Kong here. Who else is left to fight Gail at this point that she hasn't already beaten at least once?

Eric Young kept injuring Kurt Angle's neck but Angle won again because he's Kurt Angle and therefore he must be pushed at all costs. Angle is indeed a legend but at some point it would be nice to see him put someone over on his back, even if it is Eric Young.

And then there's the main event. Here's the thing: I get the idea they were going for but at the end of the day it's a bad one. Matt Hardy is one of the worst options I can think of to actually put the title on. I read a line Sunday night that summed this up perfectly: "Just because

someone deserves something (and Matt does deserve it, it doesn't mean it's a good idea." That's exactly what happened here and it wasn't even a great match to get there.

The stuff with Jeff Hardy didn't go anywhere and it really felt like they were just catering to the few hundred people in the live audience. It's a really bad sign when that's the best you can do for the biggest show of the year but it's all they could manage. Matt won the title and is added to the list of the 40+ year old champions who made their name in WWE and are way past their prime in TNA. As usual, some things never change in TNA.

Much like what happened after the show when Matt vacated the title, possibly due to needing to use footage of Ethan as champion from other shows to make slap together Impacts. If that's the case, let this company die already because it's never going to get any better. Why they didn't just have Ethan retain in that case is beyond me, but I'm sure it makes sense to TNA.

Overall, Bound For Glory was another example of everything wrong with this company. Nonsensical booking, so-so wrestling and a big stupid ending to the whole thing that appeals to the minority instead of the masses that they need to cater towards. Impact is going to be REALLY interesting this week, but we're likely stuck with a bunch of pre-taped stuff that isn't time sensitive and that no one is really interested in seeing. But hey, everything is ok because ANYTHING from TNA is worth watching right?

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NXT Takeover: Respect Preview

For some reason I don't think I've ever done one of these for a Takeover. These things are the NXT pay per views though so it's definitely worth looking at a little bit closer. This one does feel like it's slapped together and really not necessary, but at least you have a series of big matches that should eat up a lot of time. Let's get to it.

Let's get the smaller matches out of the way first.

I'll take Asuka over Dana Brooke. Brooke has been built up as a threat but Asuka feels like something special. I'm not saying Asuka is going to be the next top challenger, but I'll take her over Eva Marie's comedy show any day.

Apollo Crews over Tyler Breeze, though Breeze really needs a big win at some point.

As for the main event, of course Bayley wins though Sasha is likely getting a fall here or there. I'm sure the ending will have a bunch of drama, likely with Bayley locked in the Bank Statement with time running out and wondering if she'll give up or not. There's no way they're taking the belt off of her yet though. There has never been a repeat champion in NXT and I can't picture it happening now with Sasha looking like she's going after the Divas Title.

Now for the tournament, which could go more than one way. We'll start with the only easy match in the field: Jordan/Gable beat Rhyno/Corbin. They've got something special with Gable and I think they know it. There's no way they're going to put Rhyno and Corbin over them and into a final they have no chance of winning.

That brings us to the more complicated match as Finn Balor/Samoa Joe face the Mechanics. It's no secret that Balor and Joe are going to be feuding at some point in the future. However, the question becomes do they lose

and argue over whose fault it was or do they win the whole thing and then fight over who was the more important member of the team? Or do they win the whole thing and then Joe gets a shot as a sign of respect? I'm not sure if they win the whole thing or not, but I do think they advance to the finals.

So that leaves Joe/Balor vs. Gable/Jordan for the title. I think I'm going with Gable/Jordan here as they're a good choice for the next challengers to the titles and you can have Balor vs. Joe at the next Takeover. Or, they go with Gable/Jordan but a DUSTY FINISH gives it back to Joe/Balor. Seriously if they don't go with a Dusty Finish at some point, I'm going to be disappointed.

Overall this show feels....unnecessary. This feels like they're giving Full Sail a Takeover to make up for Brooklyn because they're afraid Full Sail will be offended. I have confidence in NXT to pull something off though and they're guaranteed to have some entertaining matches along the way, but I'm hoping we don't have another one of these for a good while. Like until London in late December.

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Matt Hardy Vacates The TNA World Title

Yes seriously.

The story goes that Ethan Carter III got an injunction saying that Matt didn't win the title fairly and would be barred from appearing on Impact for a month. Therefore the fans aren't going to be treated fairly and Matt isn't cool with that, so he's vacated the title so he can appear on the show.

I know TNA has a history of making Bound For Glory mean nothing but now they're not even making it to their next TV show. This is the show people want around so much???

Obtuse Wrestling Angles Podcast Part 2

I'm on the show again and this was recorded back in late July. Again these are NOT safe for work.

<http://obtuseangles.libsyn.com/the-obtuse-angles-podcast-episode-21-tommy-hall-pt-2>

Here's the first show if you missed it.

Monday Night Raw – October 5, 2015: Yes It Is

Monday Night Raw

Date: October 5, 2015

Location: TD Garden, Boston, Massachusetts

Commentators: Michael Cole, John Bradshaw Layfield, Byron Saxton

We're past the first big show of the month and now it's time to start setting up Hell in a Cell. It's going to be interesting to see how they get ready for the show as there's nothing for Cena to do at the moment and Undertaker vs. Lesnar has just been mentioned in name only. Lesnar is in the house tonight though so let's get to it.

The opening recap focuses on Rollins vs. both Kanes from last week.

Opening sequence.

Here are Lesnar and Heyman to open things up. Now that Big Show is out of the way, all focus is now on Undertaker. Since November 1990, Undertaker has destroyed every single man who has dared to cross him but this is different. They're about to step inside the devil's playground and Undertaker thinks it's his match. Just like Wrestlemania was his match right?

After a video of the Streak being broken, Heyman shows us Undertaker tapping out and being forced to cheat to defeat Lesnar at Summerslam. Heyman gets serious to say that only one of them is going to walk out of that Cell as a winner. Only one of them is going to walk out of that Cell at all and that's a spoiler. Heyman's eyes have seen the glory of the

coming of his beast....and here's Big Show.

Lesnar leans against the ropes and smiles as Big Show talks about what a fight that was in Madison Square Garden. Show offers him a handshake but Brock walks past him. Show wishes him bad luck against Undertaker and hopes that Brock loses again. That gets Brock back in the ring and it's a belly to belly and F5 to leave Show laying. Again.

Rollins is worried because Big Show was supposed to be his partner. Stephanie tells him to figure it out since he's the man.

Randy Orton/Roman Reigns/Dean Ambrose vs. Wyatt Family

So they're getting this one out of the way early. Roman and Harper get things going but Reigns goes after Wyatt on the floor. Strowman makes the save but the good guys knock him and his family out to the floor for a break less than 90 seconds in. Back with Ambrose laying down and telling Harper to come get him. Luke does just that and gets small packaged for two.

It's off to Strowman but Dean knocks him off the apron and tries a dive, only to get caught in a slam onto the floor. The Wyatts start taking turns back inside and a big shoulder from Strowman takes us to another break. We come back with Bray getting two of his own off a big clothesline but missing the backsplash.

Strowman's save attempt fails as well as he goes shoulder first into the post. The hot tag (with some real heat this time) brings in Orton to clean house but Strowman pulls him to the floor and sends him into the announcers' table. Another tag brings in Reigns as everything breaks down. No one can put Strowman down so Roman powerbombs Harper. The spear takes too long though and Harper scores with a superkick. Orton RK0's Harper and it's the spear from Reigns for the pin at 15:54.

Rating: C. This was fine but I wish they wouldn't have Bray in the ring unless they had to. Bray worked best when he was built up as a mystical creature but here he's just a guy in a six man tag. I'm glad they didn't have him take the fall though and there's still a lot of potential in Strowman. Good enough match here but nothing we haven't seen before.

Reigns says he and Wyatt are done at Hell in a Cell and he's the one ending it.

Neville vs. Sheamus

King Barrett is on commentary. Before the match, Sheamus talks about how this is supposed to be a real Irish town but they have some lame leprechaun as a mascot. Sheamus talks down to Neville about what it means to be tough so Neville kicks him in the ribs to start fast. Barrett isn't pleased and gets up for a distraction, allowing the Brogue Kick to end Neville at 32 seconds.

Here's Corporate Kane with something to say. He knows Rollins is in need of a partner tonight against the Dudleyz and offers his services to the champ. Here's Rollins to say no way because Kane is just trying to get his way into a title shot. Kane says his coffee cup says "World's Best Director of Operations" and that's not just a cheap slogan. It's his job to bring out the best in Seth, but Rollins holds up the title and says it brings out the best in him.

Kane thinks Rollins doesn't like what he sees when he looks in the mirror and Kane wants to change that. Rollins gets right in Seth's face but here's Stephanie to suck up to the fans by talking about how great Tom Brady is. She gets to the point (thank God) and says Kane can fight with Rollins tonight. She also makes the title match for the pay per view. However, if the demon doesn't win, Corporate Kane is fired. No word on if this is a Cell match or not.

Post break Rollins is appealing to HHH, who tells him to turn things around on Kane. Rollins likes this idea.

Natalya vs. Paige

They trade rollups to start and Paige is sent to the floor for a THIS IS MY HOUSE (take a shot). Natalya gets superkicked to put her down and Paige slaps on a bodyscissors back inside. That and an abdominal stretch don't go anywhere so Natalya reverses into an abdominal stretch of her own. The discus lariat gets two on Paige but she comes back with the Paige Turner (I miss that move) for two of her own. A basement dropkick

from Natalya sets up the Sharpshooter but Paige is right next to the ropes for the break. The second attempt works better though as Paige taps out at 6:08.

Rating: C. Nice match here but it's just filling time until they can get back to the cattiness about who started the Revolution while the title is left behind somewhere else. Paige is really falling fast out there and it's kind of sad to see. At least Natalya offers a bit of fresh blood and the teams are starting to split, but they're crawling forward instead of sprinting.

Quick recap of Ryback losing the Intercontinental Title to Kevin Owens at Night of Champions and Owens walking out of their recap on Smackdown. Yeah stuff actually happens on Smackdown. Not important stuff mind you but stuff.

Ryback says he's the lion and Owens is his prey. It's feeding time.

Sin Cara vs. Kevin Owens

Non-title and this was actually set up on the pre-show where Cara interrupted Owens' interview. A chinlock slows Owens down but Kalisto's cheering distracts him, allowing Cara to fight up. The Pop Up Powerbomb is countered into a sunset flip for two. Owens will have none of that though (Owens: "That was a good try!") and the Pop Up Powerbomb ends Cara at 2:36. This is exactly the kind of thing I like to see: a lower card guy being used to make a bigger name look good. You save the big showdowns for later and Owens gets to be a bully. Everyone wins.

Owens loads up the apron bomb on Kalisto but Ryback runs out for the save, sending Owens bailing to the crowds.

The New Day comes up to Stephanie in the back and threatens to send them somewhere that makes Suplex City look like Disneyland if they play one note on the trombone. She saw the show on Saturday and it's New Day vs. the Dudleyz at Hell in a Cell. Stephanie adds three more sets of balls to her collection. There was zero need for this to be on TV.

The roster is on the stage for a big breast cancer presentation. There

are a bunch of breast cancer survivors in the ring and Cena talks about how important it is to help in the fight against cancer. Reigns talks about how instead of one vs. all it's all vs. one and plugs their breast cancer awareness stuff on WWEshop.com. I know Komen is a very questionable organization but there's nothing wrong with something like this.

Kane/Seth Rollins vs. Dudley Boyz

Kane limps to the ring and has on a shirt and tie. Well pants too but I figured that was a given. Bubba and Kane start but the ankle flares up almost immediately. Rollins tags himself in and tells Kane to stay on the apron. Bubba shouts about being the best tag team in the world before running Seth over with a shoulder. A double elbow gets two on the champ and it's off to Kane vs. D-Von.

Some kicks to the leg send Kane back over for a tag so D-Von elbows Seth in the face for two. Kane tags himself back in though as Seth puts D-Von in trouble. The bad guys start working together and Seth drops an ax handle to D-Von's back as we take a break. Back with Kane's leg giving out again and the doctor looking at him on the apron.

The doctor thinks they need to take him to the back so Rollins DIVES over and handcuffs Kane to the post. I liked that. D-Von catapults Rollins into the corner though, knocking Kane off the apron and breaking the cuffs. Kane is taken away but looks back with a smile. Seth is left alone and it's What's Up. The Dudleyz go for a table but Seth baseball slides it into their faces for the DQ at 13:45.

Rating: C. I liked this for one reason: Seth didn't get pinned. It shows that they know how to get around someone getting pinned while still having them lose and that's a major step for the writing lately. There's nothing wrong with losing by DQ in a glorified handicap match that advanced the story. Just like the Owens match earlier: it's smart booking.

Post match Kane comes after Rollins but eats a 3D (payback from Smackdown when Kane laid them out). Seth goes to leave but looks at the table. I think you can fill in the details between Rollins looking back and the

chokeslam through the table.

Earlier today, Team Bella arrived but were met by Team BAD with hometown girl Sasha ripping off Nikki's New York Yankees hat.

Team BAD vs. Team Bella

Naturally BAD comes out to Naomi's song instead of Sasha's music. Sasha says she put the Boss in Boston but here are the Bellas to interrupt. Nikki gets the cheap heat with the Yankees stuff (nothing wrong with cheap) and says they're going all the way. Naomi: "That's something you're used to." Nikki says she's winning the title back but Sasha says whoever wins is just keeping it warm for her. Cattiness ensues and it's time for the actual match.

Naomi and Nikki start things off with Naomi doing her eternally stupid shaking in the corner spot. Off to Banks who gets to sell Brie's kicks in the corner. Thankfully she comes back with the double knees to send Brie outside as we take a break. Back with Cole talking about how the Divas Revolution was this perfect storm that led us to Takeover this Wednesday. They do realize people can actually watch these shows right?

Nikki knocks Banks to the floor and puts Naomi in a front facelock. Fox comes in and chinlocks Naomi while trying to remember if she turned off the bedside lamp before she left this morning. Naomi finally shrugs off some more kicks in the corner and brings in Sasha as everything breaks down. The Bank Statement makes Fox tap at 11:48.

Rating: C-. As usual, Banks brings energy and charisma to the match but we have to make sure to slow everything down so Team Bella can keep up with their generic offense. The fans are dying to cheer Banks and once she drops Naomi (screw her and her stupid offense. It's not funny, it's not entertaining, and it's making you look stupid) and Tamina, the sky's the limit for her.

Charlotte and Becky are watching in the back. The champ isn't worried about Paige.

Here's Summer Rae to introduce Rusev. She has a tribute for him and we

see a video of the two of them together and Rusev destroying various people (namely Ziggler). Summer talks about how much Rusev means to him and how he's changed her life for the better. Back in the arena, Rusev is stunned and says he didn't like Summer to start. Things have changed over the last few weeks though and now he cares about her very much.

Summer is thrilled because she has a question to ask him. She gets down on one knee and pulls out a ring to pop the question. Rusev takes his time and says yes....but not yet. They need to prove how awesome they are, and that means Rusev winning some gold before Summer gets to wear gold.

It's Open Challenge time in Cena's hometown. Cena gets right to the point and says come get some.

US Title: John Cena vs. Dolph Ziggler

Well in theory at least as there's no Ziggler. Instead it's the New Day dragging an unconscious Ziggler to the stage. Woods asks if this is serious enough for Cena and Kofi asks who might take the challenge now. Kofi says this is a big moment in a big city in a big match in big challenge from a big star on a big network in a big ring. As luck would have it, New Day has a big man.

US Title: John Cena vs. Big E.

A shoulder puts Cena down and we take a break less than 40 seconds in. Back with Cena in trouble after taking a hard belly to bell and spear through the ropes during the break. E. hits the splash on the apron for two but Cena gets in a backdrop to send E. out to the floor. A hard whip puts Cena into the steps though and he's in trouble again. The straps come down and Cena slugs away, followed by the ProtoBomb. New Day breaks up the AA though and gets ejected. The distraction lets E. try a trombone shot but Cena counters into the AA for the pin at 9:52.

Rating: D+. This was fine but there was no way E. was winning here. At least they did the right thing by having New Day come out there and get a main event spot because there's no reason to go with Ziggler vs. Cena with no real reason in a big match. Well that and I have no desire to see that match, which is why we'll probably get that at the pay per view.

Good enough match here but E. never had a chance.

Post match New Day comes in but Ziggler hobbles out for the save. Dolph superkicks Cena by mistake though and New Day is in control again. This brings out the Dudleyz but they both eat Trouble in Paradise, setting up the Midnight Hour to D-Von to end the show.

Overall Rating: C. This was a bit better than last week but it's still not the most interesting time in the world. It's clear that they're hoping the Cell matches are going to sell the show because the stories aren't the most interesting in the world. Still though, this has the potential to be a good enough pay per view. As for tonight though, it's so in the middle that average is the perfect rating. Some of the stuff was good but some of it felt like they were just trying to get through three hours. At least the pay per view is taking shape though and that's the most important thing after a long build to the MSG show. The ending helped a lot too.

Results

Roman Reigns/Dean Ambrose/Randy Orton b. Wyatt Family – Spear to Harper
Neville b. Sheamus – Brogue Kick

Natalya b. Paige – Sharpshooter

Kevin Owens b. Sin Cara – Pop Up Powerbomb

Dudley Boyz b. Kane/Seth Rollins via DQ when Rollins kicked a table into the Dudleyz

Team BAD b. Team Bella – Bank Statement to Fox

John Cena b. Big E. – Attitude Adjustment

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Reviewing the Review: Monday Night Raw – September 28, 2015

This is a weird spot for WWE as they're building up to a house show before they start building up to Hell in a Cell. Unfortunately that means we're going to be in for a lot of Big Show, though fortunately it means we're in for a lot more of the New Day and there's nothing wrong with that. Let's get to it.

They got right to the point with the US Open Challenge. Cena said anyone could come get some and it's Xavier Woods taking the challenge. Of course this led to some hilarious shenanigans from all three members of New Day which I can't do justice by just typing them up here. Cena no sold most of this and looked more like a villain who was being all serious. That being said, I really like the idea of Cena treating the title like the most important thing in the world and not something worthy of joking about.

As you might expect, Cena gave Woods the best match of his career before New Day came in for the DQ. That brought out the Dudleyz for a six man, which New Day actually won when Cena was knocked to the floor. This was entertaining and a good way to kill some time. Just like last week, it's a better idea to start a show with action rather than spending twenty minutes setting up the night's action.

Here's the big story of the first half of the night: Kane gets a performance evaluation despite being creepy. Thankfully this was mostly done off screen so we didn't have to go through a bunch of lame and unfunny comedy. The closest thing was Kane giving Seth the head of his statue back in a good bit. Kane was eventually declared competent and Rollins whined a lot, eventually Pillmanizing Kane's injured ankle.

Corporate Kane would be taken to an ambulance but Demon Kane came back out and destroyed Rollins. I'm not loving this idea but at least it's something different. Also, they have to do Kane vs. Rollins at some point so why not do it on a show where they know the main event is going to carry everything else?

Big Show squashed Mark Henry to set up Saturday. Short and harmless. Well except to Henry.

One of the big segments of the night was Team PCB on MizTV. This is where I really started losing interest in the show. Paige came out and it turned into this big whining fest between the three of them plus Team Bella about who started the Divas Revolution. This felt like WWE was copying the Kardashians or some Real Housewives show with all the whining and cattiness.

Aside from trying to find a reason to care about who started this Revolution, this made every person involved in this story look like they were about 17 years old. It's a bunch of whining and people sounding stupid as the title is forgotten again. I don't want to see the division going in this direction, but unfortunately this is the kind of "entertainment" that dominates pop culture these days and it's likely going to be more prominent in this division going forward.

Oh and Team PCB reformed for a match but Paige walked out, allowing Nikki to pin Charlotte for the title. Charlotte's reign as champion is making Rollins look great by comparison.

The Wyatts squashed the Prime Time Players. This was fine.

King Barrett beat up Neville and Stardust. I'm glad he's back but I don't buy for a second that Barrett is going anywhere.

Bray Wyatt babbled a lot.

Randy Orton squashed Bo Dallas.

Ryback started a fight to break up Rusev vs. Kevin Owens in less than a minute. Dolph Ziggler ran out to superkick Ryback.

Let's look at this set of segments for a bit. There was maybe ten minutes spent on these, but I'm not sure if I like that or not. The matches being short helps as there's no reason to have something like Orton vs. Dallas go anywhere, but it's kind of hard to care about matches that don't get any time and everything goes flying by. It felt like they were trying to fill time and I can't stand it when a show feels like it's there for no reason. I can see both sides of this, but I'd really like something with more depth to it than what we got here.

Heyman came out to talk about Big Show vs. Brock so Big Show came out and scared him. No one with a brain who has seen five minutes of WWE believes Show has a chance here and it's really annoying to have to sit through all these promos and matches building up what is going to be one sided.

The main event was a big brawl between Bray Wyatt vs. Roman Reigns. This was barely a match and that's exactly what it should have been. They fought into the crowd and the highlight was the aftermath with Bray picking up a PERSON and throwing him at Reigns. Reigns speared Wyatt through a table to end the show in a brawl clearly designed to set up a match inside the Cell. Nothing wrong with that. Again though, Bray threw a PERSON at Reigns. That's awesome on a whole different level.

Raw was.....yeah this week. It feels like they're spending more time setting up the house show on Saturday than the pay per view, which made for some uneven moments tonight. There are parts of it that I liked but at the same time it still feels like they're searching for their next idea instead of knowing where they want to go and that's never a good thing. Things should change a lot next week with the MSG show out of the way, but they should have already started some more of the build towards the pay per view.

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