

The Best Title Defenses of Romain Reigns' Record-Breaking Title Reign

There can be no denying that Roman Reigns' 1,166+ day reign as the Undisputed WWE Universal Champion has been nothing short of epic. It may very well be the greatest title reign in professional wrestling history. Yes, Hulk Hogan had one, and Bruno Sammartino had two reigns longer than the one the Tribal Chief is currently in the midst of. But as a certain [Voice of the Voiceless](#) once said, "Wrestling at Madison Square Garden once a month is easy."

Indeed, you never saw Hulk Hogan go one-on-one with a superstar like Brock Lesnar in a Last Man Standing match. But Reigns has done exactly that and more since dethroning the late Bray Wyatt in a triple-threat match back at Payback in August 2020. Back then, Donald Trump was still president of the United States, WWE events were still taking place behind closed doors and the UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament had been postponed until the summer of 2021.

Indeed the world was a much different place back then. But one thing that has remained constant to this day is Roman Reigns. He remains the Universal Champion and he added the WWE Championship to his collection at last year's WrestleMania when he defeated Brock Lesnar in a winner-take-all unification matchup.

But what have been the best title defenses throughout this scintillating 3+ year reign? Let's take a look.

Roman Reigns def. Brock Lesnar –

SummerSlam 2022

Roman Reigns and Brock Lesnar had met countless times before. One of them far surpassed expectations – namely their first-ever encounter in the main event of [WrestleMania 31](#). The rest had been duds, to say the least.

Lesnar has been no stranger to being the betting underdog. He was made a +230 underdog by a popular [UFC MMA sportsbook](#) for his clash against Mark Hunt at UFC 200. He was once again the underdog on this night, but when he brought a forklift – yes, you read that right – to the ring for this Last Man Standing match, it gave fans the opportunity to forget that the former UFC Heavyweight Champion was almost certainly losing at the end of the night.

The Beast Incarnate battered the Undisputed Champion from pillar to post. He smashed him with suplexes, chairs, stars, F5s and just about anything else he could get his hands on inside Nashville's Nissan Stadium. But he was unable to put Reigns down for the count of 10.

With all the chaos ensuing, both the fans in attendance and those at home had almost forgotten the no-disqualification rules. Naturally, interference from Reigns' Bloodline posse should have been expected, and it duly arrived. The Usos were flattened by Lesnar, as was Paul Heyman and strangely Austin Theory.

But that gave Reigns the distraction he needed and he proceeded to spear his challenger through a barricade. Then, repeated title shots to the skull were [enough to get the job done](#), and Reigns' reign of terror had no end in sight. 18 months on, it still doesn't.

Roman Reigns def. Cody Rhodes – WrestleMania 39

The stars had aligned, hadn't they? The prodigal son had returned home, won the Royal Rumble match, and embarked on a mission to finish his story—the story of winning the WWE Championship, the one title that his legendary father had never won. The fans certainly seemed to think the reign of terror was over, as did the experts, as did the bookmakers. When Cody Rhodes made his way to the ring to main event his first-ever WrestleMania at the awe-inspiring SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, he would surely be ending the night as the new Undisputed WWE Universal Champion. Wouldn't he?

Well, unfortunately for the American Nightmare, no he would not. With a 1,000-day title reign on the horizon, Triple H and the powers that be within the writing room decided that the Head of the Table's title reign was simply raking in too much cash and ultimately opted not to pull the trigger on crowning a new champion. Whether that decision was the right one or not differs depending on who you ask. However, one thing that isn't up for debate is the fact that the match itself was the greatest of Roman's title reign and one of the greatest WrestleMania main events of all time.

The 83,000 fans in attendance were all certain that the night would end with a new champion and that added an interesting subplot to the contest. Throughout the reign, it was rare for fans to actually believe that Reigns may well lose. That wasn't the case on this night, but the writing was on the wall.

Interference from the Usos and Solo Sikoa couldn't keep the challenger down. Interference from Sami Zayn and Kevin Owens couldn't keep the champ down. Something had to give. Unfortunately for Rhodes, one final distraction from Paul Heyman, a Samoan Spike from Solo, and a second devastating

Spear was enough for the 1, 2, 3. The fans at SoFi's collective jaws dropped but once more, Roman Reigns had successfully retained his championship. And he had done so following one of the few matches that actually lived up to expectations.

Dynamite – November 15, 2023: Don't Rock The Boat

Dynamite

Date: November 15, 2023

Location: Toyota Arena, Ontario, California

Commentators: Excalibur, Tony Schiavone, Taz

It's the final Dynamite before Full Gear and the pay per view seems to be all set up. Therefore this week is likely going to be the big final push towards the matches that are already set, as it should be. At the same time, we have a huge street fight, which is sponsored by a video game. Let's get to it.

[Here is Collision if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

We open with a recap of the beatdown on the Acclaimed and Billy Gunn, with Samoa Joe popping in to say MJF is running out of friends.

Jon Moxley/Wheeler Yuta vs. Orange Cassidy/Hook

Moxley and Yuta do their entrance through the crowd so Cassidy and Hook jump them out there to start fast. The fights split off with Yuta and Hook going to the ring to officially start.

Hook throws Yuta a few times but Yuta gets in a few shots to take over. With Cassidy down on the floor, Moxley comes in with a release suplex but has to escape Redrum. Cassidy offers a distraction though and Hook grabs a suplex, allowing the tag to Cassidy. Kicking abounds but Moxley pulls him into the corner as we take a break.

Back with Cassidy still in trouble and Moxley mocking the lazy kicks. Cassidy tells him to bring it and hits a dropkick, meaning it's back to Hook vs. Yuta for the slugout. A double clothesline puts them both down but Moxley pulls Cassidy outside. The brawl is on with Cassidy getting the better of things but Moxley is back in to go after Hook. Cassidy is in as well...and the Orange Punch has no effect on Moxley. Redrum works a bit better for Hook but Yuta gets in a cheap shot. The Death Rider into Yuta's seatbelt finishes Hook at 11:27.

Rating: B-. Good, hard hitting brawl here with the Orange Punch failing Cassidy for the first time. That should set up the story for the title match on Saturday, though I'm not sure I can imagine Cassidy losing again. For now though, this was a nice opener, and Yuta could get an FTW Title shot as a result.

Post match Moxley promises to take Cassidy's title on Saturday and Cassidy looks worried.

Here are Hangman Page and Swerve Strickland (with Prince Nana) for a face to face showdown, but if they touch, they're suspended for the rest of the year and Saturday's match is off. Swerve is asked about breaking into Page's house but Page cuts emcee Schiavone off and calls Swerve dumber than the day he got fired. It's why Swerve's fiance left him and his kids won't talk to him.

If he wasn't so dumb, he would get that Nana was using him and makes his living off of Swerve's back. Then that night, Nana uses that money to buy weed from some high school kid. Page threatens to beat Nana up and steal his weed, which gets a

rather amusing “NO YOU’RE NOT” from Nana.

Page calls Swerve a child, and like the children he has taught, Page is going to teach Swerve a lesson. He threatens to send Swerve to his house at the bottom of h***. For tonight though, Swerve and Page can’t touch, but there’s no rule about Nana. Page decks Nana, as well as some of the security who come in to break it up. Swerve never actually talked. This was a VERY fired up promo from Page, who continues to be at his best when he’s serious and ticked off.

Roderick Strong and the Kingdom call Adam Cole and insist that MJF is the Devil. Cole thinks Strong might be and hangs up.

Red Velvet vs. Skye Blue

The winner is in the TBS Title match on Saturday. They grapple off to start with neither being able to get very far. Velvet blocks an armdrag and pulls her down for two. Blue is sent outside but cuts off a dive and hits a DDT onto the apron as we take a break. Back with Velvet countering a powerbomb into a hurricanrana to set off a pinfall reversal sequence.

Velvet hits a wheelbarrow bulldog for two but the spinning kick misses. Code Blue misses as well but Skyfall gives Blue two. Velvet counters a running knee into a powerbomb for two and they trade superkicks. Blue gets in another shot though and Code Blue is good for the pin at 10:32.

Rating: C+. That’s the only way this should have gone, as Blue has been in and around the title picture for a few months now while Velvet has only been back for a week after a nine month layoff. While Velvet has looked solid in her return, she shouldn’t be winning here and AEW got that. They did have a nice match though and that is a good sign for the future.

Miro is mad at Daniel Garcia for trying to work for CJ Perry. Destruction is promised.

Mariah May goes to the dressing room of "Not Toni Storm" and goes inside, where everything goes black and white. May is a huge fan but Storm gets annoyed and throws her out. Storm wants a tune up match for Rampage.

Samoa Joe vs. Jon Cruz

Joe knocks him into the corner to start and hits the enziguri. Cruz misses a dive off the top (with Joe walking away of course), setting up the Koquina Clutch for the tap at 1:33.

Post match Joe offers his friendship to MJF again, but reminds MJF that he is inevitable.

We get the announcement of the Continental Classic with Bryan Danielson as the first entrant.

Penta El Zero Miedo/Komander vs. Young Bucks

Nick and Komander start things off with Komander snapping off an armdrag and hitting a quick dropkick. Everything breaks down and they all miss a shot of their own until the Bucks superkick them to the floor. Back in and Penta hits a superkick to Matt in the corner but the Bucks hit the slingshot X Factor to Komander.

We take a break and come back with Komander fighting out of the corner and hitting a springboard hurricanrana to Matt. Penta comes back in for the slingshot dive onto the Bucks, followed by the Sling Blades. Made In Japan hits Matt but he's back up with the rolling northern lights suplexes.

The Meltzer Driver is broken up and a Fear Factor on the apron knocks Nick silly. Komander hurricanranas Matt for two but Nick is back in...so there's a rope walk Canadian Destroyer to drop him again. Matt is up for the slugout with Penta until Nick is back in for a distraction. Some low blows cut Penta and Komander off, setting up the BTE Trigger to finish Komander at 11:57.

Rating: B-. It's nice to see the Bucks embracing the heel turn as there is little reason for them not to be. I'm not sure who would look at them and think they were anything but villains and it's good to have it happen again. They had another entertaining match here and that's good to see, especially with the Bucks ready for a big match at Full Gear.

Post break the Bucks say they don't care about cheating anymore when Kenny Omega comes in. The Bucks aren't mad at Omega, but rather Chris Jericho. Cue Jericho and the brawl is on.

Gunns vs. Pete Avalon/???

3:10 to Yuma finishes at 33 seconds.

Post match the Gunns say that was 2-2, so imagine what it's like when they're 2-1 against MJF.

Video on Wardlow, who is ready to wreck MJF. Wardlow accuses MJF of being the Devil, who pops up at the end.

Don Callis Family/Brian Cage vs. Chris Jericho/Kenny Omega/Kota Ibushi/Paul Wight

Street fight and sponsored by a video game so we have some themed gear/objects (I don't play the game so I'm not going to pretend to know what any of it is). The brawl is on in the aisle, with Wight brawling with Hobbs and chokeslamming Fletcher off the ramp. That leaves Omega and Ibushi to take over in the ring, setting up the moonsaults out to the floor. We cut to the back where Wight is beating up Hobbs near a car and then back to ringside where the good guys are cleaning house.

Cage manages to send Jericho through a table...but Ibushi rides down the ramp on a bicycle and decks people with a pipe. Cage breaks that up with a nasty clothesline and we cut to Hobbs dropping Wight onto the hood of a car. Takeshita brainbusters

Ibushi onto the bicycle and we take a break.

Back with the villains setting up tables at ringside as Fletcher is back in. Omega gets suplexed onto a pallet for two as we get very brief flashes of Jericho and Takeshita fighting in the back. Omega grabs a bottle but gets it knocked away so Cage can hit a clothesline. In the back, Takeshita dives into a fire extinguisher blast from Jericho.

Omega and Ibushi load up the double knee but Hobbs is back in to run then over. Cage apron superplexes Omega through the tables at ringside and we take a break. Back with Fletcher taking over and hitting a jumping Tombstone to Ibushi off the apron through a table onto chairs. If Ibushi is up again during this match...well I won't be a bit surprised, but he shouldn't be.

Back in and Jericho and Omega beat up Hobbs before taping him to the ropes. They even tape up his mouth and it's time to use a variety of weapons on him. Cage is back in to clean house but Omega hits him with a V Trigger. The One Winged Angel finally finishes Cage at 21:01.

Rating: B. This was a wild brawl but the cuts to the back were holding it down, as they were so fast that they were more distracting than anything else. This match was begging for a split screen, which would have solved the problem immediately. Other than that though, they did their street fighting well here and if AEW got a nice check for the sponsorship, good for them.

For those of you keeping track: Ibushi was back on his feet three minutes and thirty nine seconds after being Tombstoned off the apron through a table and onto steel chairs.

Here is MJF for the grand finale. After last week's attack, it has become clear to him that he is never going to be able to outrun his past. He is sorry to the Acclaimed for getting caught in the crossfire that is his life and he hopes they get

better. All he ever wanted to be was World Champion and now that is what he has done.

Now he looks down from the top of the mountain and sees people coming for him. He's afraid he'll let the people down like he did to Adam Cole and the Acclaimed, which gives us a HE'S OUR SCUMBAG chant. He's on top of the mountain, but you're going to have to send an army to bring him down (MJF's nostril is flaring as he talks).

MJF promises to find out who stole his Devil mask...and here is Jay White to interrupt. White knows that MJF knows that his days as champ are numbered. White has two words for MJF: "Get him." Cue Bullet Club Gold to beat MJF down, including the Blade Runner for a Club counted three...as Samoa Joe is watching in the back to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. Pretty good show here, as they didn't rock the boat too much on the way to Full Gear. That's the biggest worry of a show like this and they managed to make it work out. The street fight and the main event interview were the big focal points and they did well enough. The rest of the show wasn't anything noteworthy, but they got the important parts right and the show could have been much worse.

Results

Jon Moxley/Wheeler Yuta b. Orange Cassidy/Hook – Seatbelt to Hook

Skye Blue b. Red Velvet – Code Blue

Samoa Joe b. Jon Cruz – Koquina Clutch

Young Bucks b. Penta El Zero Miedo/Komander – BTE Trigger to Komander

Gunns b. Peter Avalon/??? – 3:10 To Yuma

Kenny Omega/Paul Wight/Chris Jericho/Kota Ibushi b. Don Callis Family/Brian Cage – One Winged Angel to Cage

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NXT – November 14, 2023: Efficient, But Lacking

NXT

Date November 14, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Booker T., Vic Joseph

We're getting closer to Deadline and that means we have another week of Iron Survivor Challenge Qualifying matches. In this case, Lita has chosen the matches which should make for some good showdowns. Other than that, Chase U is defending the Tag Team Titles against the D'Angelo Family again so let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Chase U arrives with Andre Chase acknowledging the scandal involving the school (with details we still don't know). He is cooperating fully, but they have a title match.

Tag Team Titles: Chase U vs. Tony D'Angelo/Stacks

Chase U, with Jacy Jayne and Thea Hail is defending but the student section isn't happy and Chase looks a bit disheveled. Stacks works on Chase's arm to start until Chase rolls him up for two. Stacks' rollup is countered into a cradle to give Chase two more as commentary talks about the student section not being interested. Hudson comes in and hammers away on D'Angelo before it's back to Chase. Everything breaks down and the champs are sent outside for a big lip dive from Stacks as we take a break.

Back with Hudson hitting the release Rock Bottom out of the

corner as we see some of the student section walking out. The fans chant WALK OUT as Chase comes back in to pick up the pace. Chase suplexes Stacks into D'Angelo in the corner and a high crossbody gets two. A middle rope elbow into a German suplex gives Stacks two more as more students walk out.

Everything breaks down again and Hudson gets sent knees first into the steps. A PowerPlex hits Chase, with Hudson diving back in for the save. Chase hits the Russian legsweep into the Spelling Stomps but the fans chant WALK OUT instead. That leaves D'Angelo to come back in for Bada Bing Bada Boom to get the titles back at 13:54.

Rating: B-. The match had good action, but the focus was more on the fans than anything else. I'm not wild on seeing Chase U go from chasing the big win for the better part of ever to losing the titles back three weeks later over what feels like it could be a rather dumb angle. The fans wanted to buy into Chase U and they got over despite how ridiculous the story was, but now it's going in a completely different direction just a few weeks into their success? It's still early in this part of the story, but I'm not feeling this so far.

Lita has picked her Iron Survivor Challenge qualifying matches for tonight: Roxanne Perez vs. Lash Legend and Trick Williams vs. Joe Coffey.

Dominik Mysterio runs into Baron Corbin in the back. They seem to get along with each other and like the idea of getting rid of Wes Lee.

It's time for Supernova Sessions with the Alpha Academy as the guests and the rest of the Meta Four here as well. They talk about the Heritage Cup, with Chad Gable saying Noam Dar is lucky to still have it. Tozawa blames the loss on Meta Four but Lash Legend doesn't want to hear it. Otis hits on Lash but Dar shuts that down as fast as possible. Dar is flustered and brags about his greatness, but Gable announces himself as the

next Heritage Cup challenger.

Women's Iron Survivor Qualifying Match: Lash Legend vs. Roxanne Perez

Meta Four is here too. Legend powers her down to start and Perez slugs away, setting up an armdrag out to the floor. Meta Four offers a distraction though and that's good for an ejection. Perez's right hands are countered into an over the shoulder backbreaker. Legend drives it into the corner but gets sent outside for a slingshot dive. Back in and a faceplant gives Perez two but cue Jakara Jackson. The distraction lets Kiana James come in to grab Perez so Legend can hit a pump kick. A chokebomb finishes for Legend at 5:05.

Rating: C. As usual, Legend does not feel like she is ready for this level but she's tall and loud so she gets on television a lot. While I can't imagine she gets the title shot, it means she's going to get to talk more and that has rarely proven to be a good thing. Perez vs. James is apparently continuing despite Perez winning at Halloween Havoc, though James qualifying for the Iron Survivor Challenge might not be a sure thing.

A bunch of tag teams argue over who should get a title shot. Stacks and Tony D'Angelo come in to say it's a celebration next week.

Xia Li has invited Lyra Valkyria to a Warrior Tea ceremony and yes she's in. Given that we were told about this on Raw, it's not the biggest surprise.

We go to the tea ceremony where Valkyria has to put the title on the table. Li talks about the meaning of a deep bow and how the tea leaves will tell what is coming. Valkyria isn't impressed so Li will have to fight next week. That's fine with Valkyria, who says may the strongest person win next week. Valkyria bows before leaving.

Carmelo Hayes, with Trick Williams, again says he isn't the attacker and it's all behind them. Hayes will be at ringside to deal with Gallus tonight.

Kiana James comes into the women's locker room to give this big speech about how impressive she is. This turns into Gigi Dolin getting annoyed at Arianna Grace and setting up a match between the two.

Bron Breakker doesn't feel bad about what happened to Von Wagner but Dijak comes in to say Breakker can't break him. Breakker tells him to stay out of his way or he will be begging for retribution. Burn?

Men's Iron Survivor Qualifying Match: Joe Coffey vs. Trick Williams

Carmelo Hayes and Gallus are here too. They fight over a test of strength to start but neither can get very far. Back up and Trick jumps over him in the corner, setting up a slam to take over. A pop up uppercut sends Coffey outside and they're right back in with Coffey grabbing an armbar. Williams fights up but gets clotheslined to the floor as we take a break.

Back with Coffey hitting a backbreaker but Williams scores with a jumping neckbreaker. They slug it out with Coffey getting the better of things and grabbing another armbar. That's broken up as well and Williams hits a running clothesline into a Rock Bottom for two. Hayes cuts off a Gallus distraction but Williams is sent outside and taken out by a dive. Back in and Coffey gets two off a German suplex. Not that it matters as Williams is right back with a flash knee for the pin at 11:56.

Rating: B-. Coffey can be a useful mammal in a situation like this as he has enough of a reputation to put someone like Lee over. What matters here though is Williams getting a win, as he is in the middle of a big story and needs to be in an important match. For now, Williams and Hayes are ok, but I

can't imagine that lasts very long.

Wes Lee runs into Ilja Dragunov, who will be watching Lee vs. Baron Corbin tonight. Dragunov wants Lee to save him a piece, but Lee has other things on his mind besides getting the NXT Title.

Lexis King comes up to Baron Corbin, who is impressed by the attack on Trick Williams. King still won't say how he did it, but he wishes Corbin luck.

Brawling Brutes vs. OTM

It's a brawl to start with a quick standoff on the apron. OTM takes over on Butch and a rake to the eyes into a clothesline keeps him in trouble. Butch gets away and brings in Holland to pick up the pace. Holland's swinging Rock Bottom gets two but it's back to Butch, who is dropped onto Holland in a big crash. Holland is right back up to take over on Price, setting up an assisted DDT from Butch for the pin at 5:50.

Rating: C+. That's how the match should have gone as the Brutes are the established team. OTM got in a bit of offense here and looked good enough in defeat. I'm sure their time will come, but they have some more effort to be built up. For now though, this is the right way for this match to go and they had a pretty nice fight.

Joe Gacy is on the roof, looking for water that doesn't exist. No one knows who it is and maybe this is where he lets go but maybe it isn't.

Gigi Dolin vs. Arianna Grace

Dolin grabs the arm to start before a backslide and small package get two each. Grace gets in a shot of her own though and we're in the chinlock. With that broken up, Dolin hits a clothesline but get caught in a backslide...with the referee catching Grace's feet on the ropes. That's enough of a

distraction for Dolin to kick her in the head and grab the abdominal stretch rollup for the pin at 3:47.

Rating: C. Neither of these two are exactly doing much at the moment but Grace is firmly in the “she’s not great but she’s annoying enough to feature” mold. That is a common place in NXT (see also Joe Gacy) and Grace seems to be the latest on the list. At the same time you have Dolin, who has all kinds of charisma but needs something more important to do.

We get a narrated video of Von Wagner vs. Bron Breakker.

Mr. Stone invites Wagner to his house for dinner. That’s cool Wagner, as long as there’s no asparagus.

Eddy Thorpe is back after a recharge and hopes to get a spot in an Iron Survivor Challenge qualifying match. Charlie Dempsey and company come in, with Dempsey threatening to stretch him.

Andre Chase has no comment on the scandal and leaves with Jacy Jayne to escape a bunch of reporters.

We go over the Iron Survivor Challenge, which is a weird five way Iron Man match with a penalty box.

Wes Lee vs. Baron Corbin

Lee strikes away to start but Corbin cuts him off with one right hand. Back up and Lee scores with some kicks to the head but they head to the floor, where Deep Six puts Lee down. We take a break and come back with Lee fighting out of a chinlock as commentary talks about Lexis King.

One heck of a clothesline cuts Lee off and Corbin hammers away on the mat. Corbin misses a charge into the post though and Lee strikes away, including a dropkick out to the floor. A 619 around the post sets up a dropkick for two but they trade kicks to the head for a double knockdown. Lee sends him outside again and dives...onto Dominik Mysterio. The

distraction lets Corbin hit End Of Days for the pin at 10:30.

Rating: B-. These two had a nice power vs. speed match going and the screwy finish lets Corbin get closer to the likely NXT Title match at Deadline while keeping the returning Lee strong. That's about all you could do here, as Lee is now pretty much an established name around here. I could see him going into the title picture himself sooner than later, but for now, it's Corbin's time.

Post match the beatdown is on until Ilja Dragunov runs in for the save. Corbin cuts him down with End Of Days and poses, but Dragunov issues the challenge for the title shot at Deadline.

Overall Rating: C+. The wrestling here wasn't all that great but what mattered here was having Deadline getting a nice boost. We had some Iron Survivor Challenge spots taken up and the Deadline main event was set as well. The title change wasn't quite my thing, though I'm more worried about where the story might be going. Not a great show, but an efficient enough one this week.

Results

Tony D'Angelo/Stacks b. Chase U – Bada Bing Bada Boom to Chase
Lash Legend b. Roxanne Perez – Chokebomb
Trick Williams b. Joe Coffey – Flash knee
Brawling Brutes b. OTM – Assisted DDT to Price
Gigi Dolin b. Arianna Grace – Abdominal stretch rollup

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Monday Night Raw – November 13, 2023: The WarGames Show

Monday Night Raw

Date: November 13, 2023

Location: Capital One Arena, Washington DC

Commentators: Michael Cole, Wade Barrett

We are just over a week away from Survivor Series and the big story on the Raw side is a WarGames match between Judgment Day/JD McDonagh vs. Cody Rhodes and Pals. There is always the chance of having another person added on either side and we very well could be getting another match or two thrown onto the card. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a recap of the setup for WarGames and last week's announcement.

Opening sequence.

Here is Cody Rhodes to get things going. Rhodes wants to talk about getting the Tag Team Titles back tonight, but we also have WarGames at Survivor Series. He brings out the rest of his team, with Jey Uso, Sami Zayn and Seth Rollins joining us. Cody greets all of them, but brings up some past issues with Rollins. Cue Judgment Day to interrupt, with Finn Balor bringing up that Rollins can't beat Rhodes. Oh and Uso can never win anything on his own and Zayn is a loser.

Dominik Mysterio tries to bring up Uso's time with the Bloodline but Zayn says the truth is no one likes Mysterio. Zayn asks how the team got out here without Rhea Ripley, with Cody poking fun about the team not having a leader. Priest: "I AM THE LEADER!" Rollins wants a fight so a tag match is made.

Seth Rollins/Sami Zayn vs. JD McDonagh/Dominik Mysterio

An early cheap shot to Rollins slows him down but he's right back up to take Dominik into the corner. Rollins gets stomped back down but reverses Three Amigos to put Dominik down. The villains try to leave but get cut off, allowing Zayn to exploder suplex Dominik into the corner.

Stereo dives put McDonagh and Mysterio down and we take a break. Back with Zayn catapulting McDonagh into the corner,

allowing stereo catapults to bring in Rollins and Mysterio. The Pedigree is blocked so Rollins settles for a superkick and Buckle Bomb. Cue the rest of Judgment Day for the DQ at 10:35.

Rating: C+. With WarGames coming up, the DQ was all but a guarantee here as you don't want either side taking a clean loss. Rollins and Zayn beat them up pretty well here, which makes sense as they were fighting the lower level Judgment Day contingent. This was how the match should have gone and they didn't bother wasting time with this one.

Post match the beatdown is on until Uso and Rhodes run in for the save. Adam Pearce comes out to say everyone involved in WarGames has to be out of the building by tonight's Tag Team Title match.

Post break Rhea Ripley yells at Pearce, who says get over it. Ripley is...well he can't get to saying she's banned but here is Zoey Stark to interrupt. Stark talks about how many things Ripley has to worry about, but Ripley talks about her success and how she can handle all of this. She is always on top and can handle herself, Dominik and the fans because she is RHEA BLOODY RIPLEY! The fight is teased with Zoey sending her outside but not being able to launch the dive.

Shinsuke Nakamura is tired of someone having so much handed to him and how he is willing to wait on someone. Whomever that may be.

Seth Rollins runs into Cody Rhodes, who says they can hate each other 364 days a year but he needs Rollins for one night. Works for Rollins.

Otis vs. Shinsuke Nakamura

The rest of the Alpha Academy is here too. Nakamura strikes away to start but Otis easily slams him down. The running splash in the corner sends Nakamura outside, where Otis clotheslines him down. We take a break and come back with Otis

fighting out of trouble and hitting a running elbow in the corner. A hard clothesline drops Nakamura and the Caterpillar gets two. Kinshasa is countered into a World's Strongest Slam for two more. Nakamura strikes away and hits a middle rope knee. Two more Kinshasas finish Otis at 8:58.

Rating: C+. They kept Otis looking strong here but ultimately Nakamura is looking like he is in for a big showdown with whomever he is talking about this time. A match with Chad Gable wouldn't be surprising either as that could do both of them some good. For now though, Nakamura gets an impressive enough win and he could use a few more of them.

Nakamura glares at Chad Gable post match.

Video on WarGames.

Seth Rollins runs into Drew McIntyre in the back, who shakes his hand after the loss at Crown Jewel. Rollins limps off.

Video on Tegan Nox returning from injury and her career taking off on the main roster.

Piper Niven vs. Tegan Nox

Chelsea Green and Natalya are here too. Nox strikes away to start but gets knocked down, setting up a backsplash for two. The chinlock keeps Nox in trouble and there's a clothesline to put her back down. A shoulderbreaker gets two (and a Papa Shango reference from Barrett) but Nox kicks her in the head for the same.

The basement crossbody misses for Niven and Nox hits the Shiniest Wizard for two, thanks to a leg on the rope. Niven misses a sitdown splash and Nox crucifixes her for the pin at 4:48. I'm wondering if that Shiniest Wizard was supposed to be the pin but they were too close to the ropes and had to improvise.

Rating: C. It seems like WWE has been wanting to push Nox for

a long time now and maybe they are trying again here. If she can stay healthy, it wouldn't be shocking to see her move up the ladder a bit. Other than that, it's almost strange to see Niven lose, though Green has lost enough already.

We look at Miz becoming #1 contender to the Intercontinental Title but getting decked by Ivar after the match.

Miz mocks Gunther but Ivar and Bronson Reed come in to threaten violence. Reed and Ivar threaten each other and Ivar walks off.

Tommaso Ciampa vs. Ludwig Kaiser

Johnny Gargano and Giovanni Vinci are here too. Ciampa knees him outside to start but Kaiser stomps away back inside. A clothesline gives Ciampa two, only to have Vinci grab the leg for a distraction. That's good for an ejection as we take a break. Back with Ciampa fighting out of a chinlock and blocking the wind up DDT. They strike it out until Kaiser goes up, only to get kneed out of the air. Cue Vinci to jump Gargano and the distraction lets Kaiser grab a rollup (with tights) for the pin at 10:00.

Rating: C+. DIY is in a weird place here as they're freshly on Raw but keep losing. Even though there was some interference here, it is more than a little annoying to see them lose time after time. Ciampa is more than good hand, though it would be nice to see he and Gargano move on from this Imperium feud already.

Damian Priest apologizes for the leader comment but is appointed leader for WarGames. As for JD McDonagh, he's on the team.

Xia Li vs. Indi Hartwell

Candice LeRae is here with Hartwell. Li kicks her into the corner to start and hammers away, followed by a running knee.

Hartwell hits a clothesline into a spinebuster but Li kicks her silly for the stoppage at 2:38.

Post match here is Becky Lynch (who Li kicked out last week) to say we'll do this on her time. She's looking for a fight but Li bails from the threat of a Manhandle Slam. Lynch says Li has seven days to run because their match is official for next week.

Gunther comes up to Miz and says it's time for the beating. Miz tells Gunther to watch his match tonight to see what he can do. At Survivor Series, Gunther is learning the difference between longest reigning and greatest of all time. Gunther says good luck for tonight, but it won't be anything like Survivor Series.

We look back at Zoey Stark winning a battle royal to become #1 contender.

Shayna Baszler praises Stark, as does Raquel Rodriguez. Nia Jax comes in to mock all of them but Rodriguez challenges her for a fight.

Ivar vs. Miz

Valhalla is here with Ivar, who elbows him into the corner to start. A middle rope hurricanrana takes Ivar down but he runs Miz over on the floor. Back in and Miz strikes away but it's too early for the Skull Crushing Finale. Cue Bronson Reed as Miz hits a bulldog out of the corner. The ans are actually behind Miz, even as Ivar hits a sitdown splash out of the corner. Reed grabs a chair as we take a break.

We come back with Ivar slamming Miz out of the corner for two but missing a Bronco Buster. The YES Kicks hit Ivar but he counters a super Skull Crushing Finale into a World's Strongest Slam for two. Ivar loads up the moonsault but Reed offers a distraction, allowing Miz to grab a rollup (with feet on the ropes) for the pin at 11:11.

Rating: C+. This was similar to Lex Luger (as Miz so often is) fighting one giant/monster after another on his way to a match against the Giant in WCW back in the day. That being said, he needed help to beat Ivar and that isn't going to bode well for him against a real monster like Gunther. For now though, they're at least setting things up well, even if Miz couldn't feel much more like an underdog.

Post match Reed drops Ivar and hits the Tsunami.

Another video on WarGames.

Damian Priest goes up to JD McDonagh (It took him that long to find him?) and officially puts him on the team. Finn Balor comes in and tells McDonagh to find Dominik Mysterio and get out (as per Adam Pearce's orders).

Gunther praises Giovanni Vinci for getting Imperium a win, making sure to ignore Ludwig Kaiser in the process. Indus Sher (egads they're back) pop in to tell Kaiser to pick his next move wisely.

Otis is upset by his loss but the Creeds come in to say maybe he needs a new training method. Chad Gable isn't impressed but the Creeds say they want the Tag Team Titles. New Day pops in and arguing ensues while Ivy Nile and Maxxine Dupri chat. Akira Tozawa comes in to dance with one of the NFL titles and everyone approves.

Here's what's coming next week.

Tag Team Titles: Judgment Day vs. Cody Rhodes/Jey Uso

Rhodes and Uso are challenging. Jey knocks Balor down to start and it's a big slugout with Rhodes and Priest fighting to the floor. Cody comes in to work on Balor's arm before it's back to Uso, who gets kicked down by the champs. The fight heads outside again and we take a break.

Back with Balor raking the eyes to escape a fireman's carry so

Priest can slug away. Balor pulls Cody into an abdominal stretch before handing it back to Priest for something similar to Matt Riddle's Bro Derek. Cody is right back up and handing it off to Uso to clean house. Balor cuts Uso off though and a clothesline puts him on the floor as we take another break.

Back again with Uso enziguring his way to freedom and handing it back to Cody. For some reason it's already off to Uso again, meaning it's a Superfly Splash for two on Priest. South Of Heaven is broken up and Cody gives Priest Cross Rhodes. The spear hits Balor and the Cody 1D connects with Priest making the save. Uso dives onto Priest but here is Drew McIntyre to hit Uso with a Claymore. Balor gets the pin to retain at 22:41.

Rating: B-. This got a lot of time, though McIntyre's segment earlier felt like a bit of a warning sign for the ending. That isn't a bad thing at all as there is a good chance that he will be added to WarGames in one way or another. For now though, they had the best match on the show and teased a title change before going with the more logical ending.

Rhea Ripley comes out to shake McIntyre's hand to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. To say this show was only focused on a few things would be an understatement as this was mainly about WarGames and a few other things (the Women's Title match and Gunther vs. Miz). There were other stories being touched on, but they were nothing compared to what really got the focus here. WarGames is pretty much all that matters for Raw on Survivor Series though and that's what this show focused on. Next week can look at some other things, but for now, this was the WarGames' show and not much else.

Results

Seth Rollins/Sami Zayn b. JD McDonagh/Dominik Mysterio via DQ when Judgment Day interfered

Shinsuke Nakamura b. Otis – Kinshasa
Tegan Nox b. Piper Niven – Crucifix
Ludwig Kaiser b. Tommaso Ciampa – Rollup with tights
Xia Li b. Indi Hartwell via referee stoppage
Miz b. Ivar – Rollup with feet on the ropes
Judgment Day b. Cody Rhodes/Jey Uso – Claymore to Uso from
Drew McIntyre

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<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/keep-coming-wwe-reportedly-considering-changes-announced-wargames-match/>

Him Too? Two Names Reportedly Set To Be Added To Survivor Series WarGames Match.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/two-names-reportedly-set-added-survivor-series-wargames-match/>

YES: Very Positive Update On Bryan Danielson's Return To The Ring.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/yes-positive-update-bryan-danielsons-return-ring/>

Not Like Most Girls: Nia Jax's WWE Return Reportedly Causes Interesting Backstage Reaction.

<https://wrestlingrumors.net/tommyhall/not-like-girls-interesting-reported-details-wwe-locker-room-reaction-nia-jaxs-return/>

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Ring Of Honor – November 9, 2023: It Has A Main Event

Ring Of Honor

Date: November 9, 2023

Location: InTrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kansas

Commentators: Ian Riccaboni, Caprice Coleman

Another week, another Ring Of Honor title change taking place on AEW TV. This time around that would be Samoa Joe vacating the TV Title after more than a year and a half as champion. Odds are we'll hear a quick mention of it this week, though we won't be seeing much else about it for a little while. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

We open with a recap of Billie Starkz helping Athena defeat Mercedes Martinez last week to retain the Women's Title.

Lexi Nair calms Starkz down before Athena comes in. Starkz tells Athena that she is trying but Athena says if she has to beat Starkz up to get some violence out of her, so be it. Athena is impressed though and for now, Starkz is no longer a Minion In Training.

Opening sequence.

Here's what's coming on the show.

Tony Nese vs. Serpentino

Mark Starling is here with Nese, who mixed it up a bit by saying the group training will be AFTER the match. Nese drives him into the corner to start and gets in some much needed

jumping jacks. Some slams and a hard whip into the corner have Serpentico in more trouble, followed by the situp kicks to the ribs. Nese loads up a pumphandle slam but cue Ethan Page (in some rather flashy workout gear) to say he'll do his own group training. That's enough for Serpentico to grab a rollup pin at 3:32.

Rating: C. This was a squash until the ending, as Page's feud with Sterling and company continues. Serpentico isn't likely to become a major part of the story and is little more than someone who beat Nese so Page can laugh at him about it. Again though, the best thing here is that the story is actually moving, which is more than can be said for several feuds around here.

Post match Page and Serpentico say group training is canceled.

Darius Martin and Action Andretti are ready for their eight man tag with the Infantry.

Athena vs. Heidi Howitzer

Non-title Proving Ground match, meaning if Howitzer wins or survives the ten minute time limit, she gets a future title shot. Howitzer shoves her down to start and Athena needs a breather on the floor. Athena manages a whip into the steps though and the beating is on back inside. There's a German suplex for two and the big right hand finishes for Athena at 3:33.

Rating: C. Remember when Athena has done this about twenty times before? Well this is the latest version. At some point they really could go with having one of the challengers survive the time limit to give these things at least a little drama. Then again why do that when you could do the exact same thing over and over?

Post match Athena beats Howitzer up even more.

Kyle Fletcher vs. Lee Johnson

Fletcher pulls a posing Johnson off the ropes and we start fast. They fight over a lockup with Johnson driving him into the corner until a small package sends Fletcher bailing to the floor. Back in and Johnson dropkicks him right back outside, where Fletcher wants a timeout. Fletcher comes back inside and takes over for a change, with stomping and a slam putting Johnson down.

A shot to the face rocks Fletcher so commentary talks about how bad a broken nose can be. Johnson hits some running clotheslines and a Blue Thunder Bomb gets two. Some running chops in the corner have Fletcher in more trouble but he's back with a Michinoku Driver for two of his own. Fletcher gets caught on top and superplexed back down, setting up a frog splash for another near fall. Back up and Fletcher scores with a kick, setting up the jumping tombstone for the pin at 11:32.

Rating: B-. This was starting to roll near the end as Johnson got to showcase some of his talents for a change. Other than that though, it was another Fletcher match, meaning the wrestling was good but it wasn't so interesting. There is only so much you can get out of a guy in tights doing good enough moves and that was on display here.

Final Battle ad.

Charlette Renegade vs. Leyla Hirsch

Robyn Renegade is here with Charlette. Hirsch powers her into the corner to start but Charlette takes it over to the ropes for a cheap shot from Robyn. A fisherman's suplex gives Charlette two but Hirsch is back with a German suplex. Robyn's distraction lets Charlette get in a right hand and it's time for a chair. Cue Rachael Ellering for the save though, allowing Hirsch to grab the cross armbreaker for the win at 3:45.

Rating: C. This didn't have time to go very far but they did manage to get in two people interfering and a teased chair shot in less than four minutes. The Renegades being featured a bit more often is a good thing, but as usual, it would be nice if they actually won something. Otherwise, these wins over them don't have nearly the impact.

Athena demotes Lexi Nair from Bestie status and gives Billie Starkz a pep talk.

Iron Savages vs. Cole Karter/Griff Garrison

Maria Kanellis-Bennett is here with Karter and Garrison. Bronson shrugs off some running shoulders from Garrison but it's too early for the Nasty Boys' Pit Stop. Boulder comes in to flapjack both villains at the same time. Everything breaks down and Bronson hits a dive to take both of them out, meaning it's time for some Savage Sauce. Bronson gets dropped onto the ramp, which has Ian trying for a Ghostbusters reference but he can't quite pull it off.

We settle down to Karter suplexing Bronson for two and Garrison hammers away. The abdominal stretch goes on but the referee catches the cheating. Bronson fights away and brings Boulder back in to clean house. A powerbomb/World's Strongest Slam combination gets two on the villains but Boulder misses a middle rope moonsault. Karter's 450 gets two so he and Garrison strike away at Boulder, who crossbodies them down. The electric chair splash finishes Karter off at 9:50.

Rating: C+. If there is a point coming to this Garrison/Karter team coming anytime soon, I'd be delighted to see it. These two have been doing the same mediocre stuff for months now, with the only changes being whether or not they're getting along that week. I'm still not sure what the point is in wasting Maria on them, but it would be nice for this story to go somewhere sooner than later.

We look at Samoa Joe retaining the ROH TV Title on Dynamite

and then vacating the title after his win. Tony Khan will have an announcement about the title next week. If this is another Final Battle ladder match, I will not be even the slightest bit surprised.

Rachael Ellering vs. Billie Starkz

Athena (fourth appearance tonight) is here with Starkz. Ellering powers her into the corner to start before cranking on the wrist. Starkz comes back with a running sunset flip for two but Ellering takes her down without much trouble. A suplex into a backsplash has Starkz crawling into the corner, followed by a brainbuster for two.

Starkz strikes back but gets dropped with a single right hand. Some German suplexes have Ellering in trouble for a change but she catches Starkz going up. A TKO gives Ellering two, only to have Starkz send her outside for a not great looking suicide dive. Back in and a Swanton gives Starkz the pin at 7:49.

Rating: C+. Starkz continues to look more and more polished in the ring and we should be in for an interesting showdown with Athena, likely at Final Battle. On the other hand, I'm a bit surprised that Ellering lost here. She's been on a bit of a roll as of late but losses clean here. I'm fine with Starkz getting a win, but Ellering was the only option for an opponent?

Post match Athena demands and gets violence from Starkz but Leyla Hirsch runs in for the save.

Full Gear ad.

Josh Woods vs. SK Bishop

Mark Sterling is here with Woods. Bishop knees his way out of a suplex to start but Woods unloads with knees in the corner. A jumping knee knocks Bishop out of the air and rolling Chaos Theory finishes for Woods at 1:18.

Infantry/Action Andretti/Darius Martin vs. Shane Taylor Promotions/Wingmen

The villains jump them to start but get sent outside for quadruple dives. Back in and Bravo slugs away at Taylor, who sends him face first into the corner for a nasty crash. The Wingmen come in for a double fist drop and a near fall. Bravo fights out of trouble though and hands it off to Andretti for a double handspring elbow. Everything breaks down and Boot Camp finishes Avalon at 4:38.

Rating: C+. Much like the recent four way tag matches, there is only so much that can be done with so many people and so little time. The Wingmen taking the fall was the only good option as the other three teams are either doing something or just not the Wingmen. There was good action here, but they need more time and less people.

Rachael Ellering didn't have a good night but she hopes she getting through the Leyla Hirsch. Cue Hirsch to say they're even and not friends. Maria Kanellis-Bennett comes in to suggest they should both join her team.

Dralistico vs. Gravity

Dralistico (who looks a lot like a mini 2002 Kane) flips him off to start and they trade some rapid fire armdrags. Gravity is sent outside and taken down with a dive, followed by a ram into the barricade for two. A dropkick knocks Dralistico outside and there's a no hands dive to take him down again. Dralistico is back up with a sitout powerbomb for two before winning a strike off. Gravity fights back but gets caught with a springboard spinning Canadian Destroyer for the pin at 8:52.

Rating: B-. Dralistico recently signed with AEW so it makes sense that he would get a nice first win here. This was your normal lucha match with a bunch of dives and a crazy big move for the finish. It's nothing that hasn't been done before, but for a match that went just shy of ten minutes and popped the

crowd, it could have been much worse.

Ring Of Honor World Title: Eddie Kingston vs. Angelico

Kingston is defending with his suspension lasting one week. So they did a suspension angle to explain why someone who is almost never here in the first place was gone for one week before his title match? They go with the grappling to start until Kingston is allowed to chop away. Angelico gets the better of things and they go to the mat for an exchange of kicks to the head.

Kingston actually manages to out kick him and strikes away in the corner to put Angelico down. The chinlock goes on but Angelico reverses into a choke to slow him back down. Angelico kicks him to the floor and hits the big flip dive. Back in and a high crossbody gives Angelico two and a rolling cradle gets the same. Kingston's spinning backfist gets two, followed by another backfist and the Northern Lights Bomb to retain at 10:04.

Rating: B-. The most important thing about this match is that it felt like a main event. It was very nice to have a show that hyped a traditional main event match and then delivered on said match. It wasn't a great one or anything but Kingston's charisma shined through and Angelico has been built up (not overly well but he has been built up) in the last few weeks. In other words, it was nice to do this like other shows do it for once and that was a rare treat.

Respect is shown post match.

Dalton Castle (with a taped up nose because he headbutted the window at a fondue restaurant (Castle: "I WANTED SOME CHEESE!")) wants Kingston for the title. Kingston is giving the fans too much ordinary and that is NOT cool with Castle.

Overall Rating: C+. Say it with me: Athena is great, the show runs too long, we've seen these people before, you don't need

to have everyone on the show every week, wrestlers who weren't interesting last time aren't interesting this time. That should cover the usual issues with this show, though Castle vs. Kingston is interesting. We have five shows left before Final Battle, which makes me think at least three of them will have nothing to do with hyping up the show. Look for the match announcements on AEW, like almost everything else important around here (save for Athena oddly enough).

Results

Serpentico b. Tony Nese – Rollup

Athena b. Heidi Howitzer – Right hand

Kyle Fletcher b. Lee Johnson – Jumping Tombstone

Leyla Hirsch b. Charlette Renegade – Cross armbreaker

Iron Savages b. Cole Karter/Griff Garrison – Electric chair splash to Karter

Billie Starkz b. Rachael Ellering – Swanton

Josh Woods b. SK Bishop – Rolling Chaos Theory

Infantry/Action Andretti/Darius Martin b. Shane Taylor Promotions/Wingmen – Boot Camp to Avalon

Dralistico b. Gravity – Springboard spinning Canadian Destroyer

Eddie Kingston b. Angelico – Northern Lights Bomb

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NXT LVL Up – November 10, 2023: Keep Doing What Works

NXT LVL Up

Date: November 10, 2023

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Blake Howard, Vic Joseph

Last week saw the short form changes to the show seemingly get reversed as it was back to the usual three match format. That wasn't overly interesting for months and it wasn't again last week so hopefully things pick up this time. This show can be rather good and it would be nice to see it happen again. Let's get to it.

[Here are last week's results if you need a recap.](#)

Opening sequence.

Gigi Dolin vs. Stevie Turner

Oh yeah Turner is a thing and apparently she has been taunting Dolin online to set this up. Eh I'll take it. Dolin grabs a headlock to start and hits a running dropkick to the back. Turner gets in a shot of her own and we hit the double arm crank. That's broken up and Dolin strikes away, setting up a Bronco Buster. The Gigi Driver finishes at 4:47.

Rating: C. I guess Dolin counts as a bigger name around here, but I do like them doing even the tiniest something to set this up. Just hype the match up in the slightest bit or something as it shouldn't be much to ask. For now though, it's

nice to have Turner back, as she's something different, though she needs to be built up before having a chance in a match like this.

Tyson DuPont and Tyriek Igwe are ready to bring power against Gallus.

Tyson DuPont/Tyriek Igwe vs. Gallus

Joe Coffey is here with Gallus and there's a story here as well, as Gallus refused to train with DuPont/Igwe. Mark headlocks DuPont to start but gets thrown down with straight power. Wolfgang comes in so Igwe elbows him in the face. A double elbow puts Mark on the floor and a splash hits Mark. A blind tag hands it back to Mark though and he low bridges DuPont to the floor.

Back in and an assisted splash hits DuPont, setting up Wolfgang's chinlock. DuPont backdrops his way to freedom though and it's back to Igwe to clean house. A spinebuster gets two on Wolfgang and everything breaks down. DuPont is knocked outside and a quick Gallow Gate finishes Igwe at 6:13.

Rating: C+. This was a pretty nice power match but the important thing is it felt like NXT was trying to do something with the rookies. At some point these new stars need to get a few victories, even moral victories, under their belt. They shouldn't have beaten Gallus, but at least they did well in defeat.

Overall Rating: C+. They went with the short format again here and it really does make that much of a difference. I could go for more like this in the future, as it gives the show a better feeling and we get to see a bit more of a showcase for everyone involved. Nice show here, and hopefully DuPont and Igwe get another chance in the near future.

Results

Gigi Dolin b. Stevie Turner – Gigi Driver

Gallus b. Tyson DuPont/Tyriek Igwe – Gallow Gate to Igwe

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Collision – November 11, 2023: This Show Was Boring And Long

Collision

Date: November 11, 2023

Location: Oakland Arena, Oakland, California

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Tony Schiavone

We're taped for a rare situation this week with only seven days to go before Full Gear. In theory that should mean we get a few things built up towards the pay per view, which could make things interesting. You never know what you're going to get around here but an in-ring focus tends to be the case. Let's get to it.

[Here is Dynamite if you need a recap.](#)

Sting, Darby Allin, Adam Copeland, the Righteous, Lance Archer, Jake Roberts, La Faccion Ingovernabile, Powerhouse Hobbs, Daniel Garcia and Andrade El Idolo are ready to fight.

Opening sequence.

Andrade El Idolo vs. Daniel Garcia

CJ Perry is here with Andrade. Feeling out process to start with Andrade getting the better of things. Garcia sends him into the ropes for the Tranquilo pose, meaning it's time for the slugout. The frustrated Garcia is sat on top for a dropkick out to the floor as things get worse. Back in and Andrade strikes away until Garcia gets in a knee snap over the ropes.

Garcia knees him off the apron and out to the floor but it's time to stare at Perry. That means some dancing from Garcia, though Perry actually dances back a bit. Garcia takes it back inside for a German suplex and we take a break. Back with Garcia putting on the ankle lock and Andrade pounding the mat.

With that broken up, Andrade hits some running clotheslines and nips up. The running knees in the corner give Andrade two, followed by Garcia hitting a brainbuster for the same. Andrade runs him over again and hits the double moonsault for two more. Another shot to the knee sets up the Figure Eight to give Andrade the win at 15:41.

Rating: C+. This was longer than it needed to be and there was only so much that you can get out of these two going for almost sixteen minutes. It was a good enough match, but it was feeling long and came off more like they were trying to fill in time. Andrade winning does at least boost him up though and now we should be in for a big Miro vs. Andrade match in the near future.

In the back, Miro is not pleased.

We look at the end of Dynamite, with the Acclaimed and Billy Gunn being taken out by masked men. MJF was upset but Samoa Joe seemed amused.

Nick Wayne vs. Dalton Castle

Christian Cage and Luchasaurus are here with Wayne while the Boys are here with Castle. Feeling out process to start with Wayne taking over and stopping for a pose. Castle wrestles him down without much trouble and grabs a gutwrench to send Wayne flying. Wayne gets in a shot of his own to set up more posing though and we hit the face ripping.

That's broken up and Castle snaps off some suplexes but the Bang A Rang is blocked. Wayne's World is blocked as well so Luchasaurus gets on the apron. The Boys make the save and get double chokeslammed, allowing Wayne to send Castle into the corner. Wayne's World finishes Castle at 6:47.

Rating: C+. And there's your next challenger to the Ring Of Honor World Title, as he loses to Christian Cage's lackey two days after issuing the challenge. AEW has that big of a roster but apparently here was no one else to take this loss than Castle. Other than that, it was nice to see Castle on television again, as that star power and charisma are always worth a look.

Hangman Page is livid at Swerve Strickland for invading his home, so it's time for a Texas Death Match at Full Gear. He's ready to kill Strickland and then take his son to his grave every year for a visit. Heck of a promo from Page here, as he continues to do well when he's serious.

La Faccion Ingovernabile vs. Workhorsesmen

Dralistico gets taken into the wrong corner to start and the alternating beatdown is on. A quick shot allows the tag to Rush though and Drake is quickly struck down. The fight heads outside and we take a break. Back with Rush slapping Drake in

the face and posing before forearming Henry down. Back up and Drake runs Rush over, setting up a missed moonsault. Dralastico hits a top rope Codebreaker, setting up a running flip dive to Henry. The Bull's Horns finishes Drake at 8:25.

Rating: C. This was another match that felt a bit longer than it needed to be, though at least La Faccion never really felt like they were in any serious trouble. The Workhorsesmen have been around Ring Of Honor for a long time without much success and now they seem to be moving into the same jobbers to the stars roles around here. There are worse spots for them, but they're not exactly must see TV.

Post match the House Of Black pops up to say they're coming for the Tag Team Titles at Full Gear. As for Julia Hart, she'll beat Willow Nightingale tonight and then gets a rematch for the TBS Title at Full Gear.

Kris Statlander thinks Willow Nightingale should get a title shot and has no comment on Red Velvet vs. Skye Blue next week. Apparently the winners of Hart vs. Nightingale and Velvet vs. Blue get into a triple threat title match at Full Gear. Velvet has wrestled twice since returning and is 1-1 but is a win away from a title shot?

Roderick Strong vs. Darius Martin

Strong, with the Kingdom, is wheeled to the ring. They start fast with Strong hammering away in the corner before hitting a half nelson backbreaker. One heck of a chop in the corner lets Strong drop him in the corner again. A dropkick cuts off Martin's comeback and we hit the seated abdominal stretch. With that broken up, Martin flips out of the corner for a kick to the head, followed by a bulldog onto the middle rope. Back in and Strong hits the Sick Kick, setting up the End of Heartache for the pin at 5:50.

Rating: C+. Strong's story continues, though I'm not sure where it is supposed to go. The ans are getting behind Strong

and that might create some issues for everyone involved. For now though, at least Strong is getting back in the ring so there are some more options available. Maybe just tone down the comedy stuff if Strong is supposed to stay a heel?

Post match the beatdown is on until Action Andretti makes the save.

Tony Khan is with Bryan Danielson and announces that Danielson will be at next year's All In. Also, we'll be getting the Continental Classic, a 12 man round robin tournament over the next month and a half, with the finals taking place at World's End. The first entrant: Bryan Danielson. Round robins haven't gone so well in America and a month and a half is a lot, but the talent should be there.

Willow Nightingale vs. Julia Hart

They start slowly with Hart not knowing what to do with Willow's power. Hart slugs away but gets slammed down without much trouble. With that not working, they head outside where Willow hits a suplex to plant Hart as we take a break. Back with Hart working on the arm, meaning Nightingale can't pick her up for the gutwrench powerbomb. Hart hits some running shots in the corner and a running forearm to the back of the head.

Hartless is blocked so they head outside where Nightingale misses a charge into the steps. Back in and Willow pulls her off the top for a full nelson slam and another near fall. The Babe With The Powerbomb...doesn't quite work as Hart lands sitting down. Another running forearm drops Willow and the moonsault gives Hart the pin at 12:01.

Rating: C+. And so, Nightingale loses again, as tends to be her custom. That being said, Hart seems all but destined to win the title at Full Gear, as Kris Statlander hasn't had much of note or a bit now. Hart's moonsault still looks great too as she has come a long way in a short amount of time. Just

give her the title while not having Nightingale lose as much and they'll get somewhere.

Big Bill and Ricky Starks won't fight the House Of Black at Full Gear. That's true, because they'll be fighting the House of Black, La Faccion Ingovernable and FTR. Starks isn't worried.

Powerhouse Hobbs vs. ???

Paul Wight is on commentary. Spinebuster and World's Strongest Slam finish for Hobbs at 53 seconds.

Post match, Don Callis mocks Chris Jericho and calls Wight Jericho's last friend in wrestling. Callis praises Wight but says he's scared of Hobbs. The fight is teased but nothing happens.

FTR wants the Tag Team Titles back.

Lance Archer/The Righteous vs. Sting/Darby Allin/Adam Copeland

Copeland strikes away at Dutch to start and finally clotheslines him down. Allin (with a taped up shoulder) comes in to headlock Vincent before it's off to Archer vs. Sting. After a WOO off, Sting knocks him to the floor as we take a break. Back with Sting in trouble as Archer gets to stomp him down in the corner. Sting fights away and, after a clothesline to Archer, brings Allin back in.

What looks to be the Code Red is blocked and Dutch hits a running clothesline as we take another break. Back again with Allin fighting out of trouble and bringing Copeland back in to clean house. Allin dives onto Archer on the floor but Dutch takes Copeland down. Sting makes the save and it's a Death Drop/middle rope elbow combination to drop Dutch. The spear finishes Dutch at 16:21.

Rating: B-. Copeland was looking like a star in here and was moving better than he did during some of his time in WWE. At

the same time, Sting continues to look good on the way towards retirement and if he can keep it going for a few more months, we should be in for a nice run. I could have gone with the Righteous not losing so soon into their teaming up with Roberts, but at least it was to a team with much higher star power.

Christian Cage and company come out for the staredown to end the show.

Overall Rating: C+. While it wasn't a bad show, I couldn't get into things this week. It felt like there wasn't a ton of effort put into this show and very little involving the top stories took place. I can go with a show focused more on the midcard feuds, but nothing n here really stood out for the most part. It's far from terrible, but I was bored more than once and that makes for a long show.

Results

Andrade El Idolo b. Daniel Garcia – Figure 8

Nick Wayne b. Dalton Castle – Wayne's World

La Faccion Ingovernable b. Workhorsesmen – Bull's Horns to Drake

Roderick Strong b. Darius Martin – End Of Heartache

Julia Hart b. Willow Nightingale – Moonsault

Powerhouse Hobbs b. ??? – World's Strongest Slam

Sting/Darby Allin/Adam Copeland b. Righteous/Lance Archer – Spear to Dutch

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