

WWE Vault: Best Of Haku – Nice And Steady (Includes Full Video)

Best Of Haku

Commentators: Lord Alfred Hayes, Gorilla Monsoon, Duke Doherty, Jim Duggan, Sean Mooney, Tony Schiavone, Larry Zbyszko, Bobby Heenan, Scott Hudson

I've got a huge list of things from the WWE Vault to look at so I might as well do one of the scariest people in wrestling history. Haku is the definition of a solid career midcard guy and that is something you don't see enough of today. I'm curious about what is going to be included here and that's a nice feeling to have. Let's get to it.

We get the usual quick opening video.

From New York City, New York, June 14, 1986.

King Tonga vs. Big John Studd

Bobby Heenan is here with Studd and Tonga wants his \$15,000 for recently slamming Studd (a running thing for him) but gets knocked away instead. Studd slams him at the bell and stomps away but Tonga is back up rather quickly. Some slam attempts are blocked and Studd drops him again for an elbow. The chinlock goes on as commentary praises the camera looking at Heenan. Tonga fights up and kicks away, including a dropkick to stagger Studd. Another slam attempt sees them both crash out to the floor for the double countout at 3:49.

Rating: C. Not the best start to the collection, but Tonga oddly worked as a good guy. They did have a nice story going with the battle over the slam and Tonga was right there to fight against the monster. Studd wasn't the most active in the

ring but he knew how to wrestle like a big man, which is a difficult skill to use. Better than I was expecting here.

Post match they brawl on the floor for a few minutes, with Heenan not being sure what to do. Tonga gets in the ring and dances at Studd to try and get him back, with Studd getting inside to go at it again. A big headbutt drops Studd and the villains bail.

From New York City, New York, August 22, 1987.

Haku vs. Rick Martel

Off to the better known name now, with Tama (Rikishi's brother, Usos/Solo Sikoa's uncle, Jacob Fatu's father) here in Haku's corner and no partner for Martel. Apparently he realizes that's a problem though and runs to the back to get Tito Santana, with the team being dubbed Strike Force.

Actually hold on as the referee ejects Tama and Santana so this can be a singles match. Haku jumps him to start so they run the ropes, with Martel hitting a crossbody. A headknocker knocks Haku's head but he's back with a cheap shot to drop Martel for a change. Martel hits a dropkick into a flying headscissors for two and a snapmare brings Haku down again.

Back up and Haku knocks him back down, followed by the slam (a theme with him) and a reverse chinlock. Martel fights up and hits the spinning middle rope crossbody for two, only to get launched out to the floor. Back in and Martel sends him into the corner and starts striking away. A monkey flip sends Haku flying again but he knocks Martel right back down. Cue Tama with a chair to Martel to give Haku the easy pin at 8:18.

Rating: C+. The more I see of Martel, the better he seems. He was so talented in pretty much every aspect of wrestling and that was on display here, as he made a heck of a fired up comeback. The teams would wind up having some rather nice matches (shocking I know) but this worked well as a singles

match for a change.

Post match the Islanders beat Martel down but Santana runs in for the save.

From New York City, New York, September 21, 1987.

Islanders vs. Strike Force

Bobby Heenan is here with the Islanders and Strike Force, now with matching gear and Girls In Cars, run in for the brawl to start fast and the fans are rather pleased as the Islanders are knocked outside. A dropkick sends Tama outside and it's time to hide in the ropes rather than go for the fight.

Back in and Santana works on Tama's arm, followed by a clothesline as Heenan is panicking at ringside. The armdrag sets up an armbar, which goes on for a good while. Santana's armdrag means it's another armbar but Haku knocks him up against the ropes for a change. That allows Tama to come back in for an elbow to the face, followed by Haku's front facelock. Tama's nerve hold does about the same but Santana fights up and gets over for the tag to Martel, meaning the comeback can quickly ensue.

A crossbody hits Tama and everything breaks down, with the Islanders being sent into each other. Haku gets in a cheap shot on Martel though and gets to come back in and stomp on the ropes. Well on Martel on the ropes but close enough. Tama misses a middle rope headbutt though and the tag brings in Santana...but the referee doesn't see it. That lets Haku drop a headbutt and steal the pin at 13:59.

Rating: B. Yeah this worked, with Strike Force both knowing how to do the big comeback, which had the fans more than behind them. At the same time, the Islanders were a good heel team who knew how to work this style. The cheating ending makes it even better and I could go for a rematch.

From Wrestlemania VII.

Haku/Barbarian vs. Rockers

Well we're only skipping three and a half years and Bobby Heenan is outside. Michaels and Haku start things off with Haku powering him into the corner. An attempted jump over the top doesn't really work so Michaels has him run the ropes until a flying shoulder can put Haku down for a change. Jannetty comes in for the double elbow but the Barbarian clotheslines both of them down.

That earns him a double superkick (serves him right for coming in without a tag) and Heenan wants to talk for a bit. We settle down to Jannetty trying a sunset flip on Barbarian, who misses a right hand to the mat instead. Back up and Michaels adds a dropkick to the back to knock Barbarian into a hurricanrana.

That just earns Jannetty a double headbutt and another hurricanrana attempt is countered into an assisted hot shot (that looked great). The gorilla press drops Jannetty again and Haku gets in a cheap shot from the apron. Barbarian knocks him down again and grabs a bearhug, leaving Michaels to play cheerleader.

Jannetty fights out and is promptly powerslammed, only for Barbarian's top rope headbutt to miss. That's enough for the tag off to Michaels, who gets to clean house in a hurry. A sunset flip gets two on Haku as everything breaks down. Barbarian gets superkicked/dropkicked to the floor, leaving Jannetty to missile dropkick Haku. Michaels adds a high crossbody (and a nice one at that) for the pin at 10:33.

Rating: B-. The heat on Jannetty went on a bit too long but the Rockers could work that fast paced style comeback as well as anyone. You put an easy to like speed team against an imposing power team. That's about as basic of a wrestling style as you can get and it worked rather well here with a

fast paced opener. Nice stuff, shockingly enough for a match involving four skilled pros.

From WrestleFest 91.

Haku vs. British Bulldog

They take turns backing each other into the ropes to start and then Bulldog flips out of a wristlock. Haku goes to the face and hits a running shoulder, only to get dropkicked out to the floor. This gives us the odd visual of Haku requesting time out before coming back inside, where he is knocked down again.

Bulldog grabs a sleeper of all things before drop toeholding him into an armbar. That's broken up as well and Haku knocks him down, followed by a piledriver for two. The chinlock goes on for a bit, with Bulldog fighting up and hitting a crossbody for two of his own. Haku knocks him right back into the chinlock, with Bulldog breaking out even faster this time. An elbow to the face gives Bulldog two but he's right back with a crucifix for the pin at 7:52.

Rating: C+. I'm not sure why this needed to be on there but at least another singles match got included here. This was the kind of match that kept Haku employed for such a long time, as he was able to feel like enough of a threat to Bulldog, who got a win over a tough opponent. It wasn't the greatest match, but it was basically Haku's bread and butter kind of match.

From Great American Bash 1995.

US Title: Meng vs. Sting

And we skip another three and a half years. For the vacant title and kind of the finals (originally a semifinal, but the other semifinal didn't have a winner and triple threats weren't a big deal yet (thank goodness) so the semifinal is now a final. Meng (who has Colonel Robert Parker in his corner) backs him into the corner to start and unloads with some clubberin.

Sting gets choked down but comes back with a jumping kick to the chest (likely a mistimed dropkick) and a dropkick to send him into the corner for a change. Parker gets Meng outside for a chat, with the advice seemingly being "beat him up some more", with Meng striking away in the corner.

Sting gets knocked out to the floor and sent into the barricade, followed by a sitout powerbomb for two back inside. The nerve hold goes on for a bit before Meng blocks a sunset flip by simply kicking Sting in the head. That means another nerve hold, which brings Sting up for a comeback. That's cut off as well, with Meng hitting a middle rope headbutt for two.

Some running clotheslines put Meng down and the hair grab bulldog does it again. A Cactus Clothesline sends them outside, with Sting going after Parker. The angered Meng misses a charge into the post and it's the Scorpion Deathlock back inside. Meng breaks it up so Sting goes up top for a clothesline. One heck of a top rope splash gives Sting two and a jumping DDT (never seen him use that before) finishes Meng for the title at 13:36.

Rating: B-. This was, again, the exact kind of match that Meng specialized in and probably his most high profile singles match ever. While it would have made more sense as a semifinal before Sting could face a bigger name, it was Sting surviving against a monster and coming from behind to win. It might not have been Vader but it was the Vader formula and that worked well.

From Monday Nitro, February 24, 1997.

Faces Of Fear vs. Eddie Guerrero/Chris Jericho

That would be Meng/Barbarian again (with Jimmy Hart (wearing a Jimmy Hart tie)), as they're kind of a natural pairing. Barbarian chokes Jericho into the corner to start but misses the Kick Of Fear (big boot). Jericho kicks the knee out and brings in Guerrero, who is launched into the air for a nasty

looking crash back down. Meng (who is looking a good bit bigger) comes in and gets taken down with a headscissors.

A double backdrop puts Meng down and Jericho hits a backplash for two. That's fine with Meng, who belly to back suplexes Jericho silly, allowing Barbarian to hit a release overhead belly to belly. Jericho hits a spinning high crossbody to put Meng down and we hit the choking. Meng backdrops Jericho into Barbarian's powerbomb (that always looked great) for two more and the beating continues.

Jericho finally gets in a poisonrana and it's back to Guerrero to pick up the pace. A pop up dropkick hits Barbarian and a double suplex puts him down again. Jericho tries a Lionsault but gets pulled outside. That leaves Guerrero to go up top but cue Dean Malenko to shove him into Barbarian's big boot for the pin at 7:42 (a big deal as Guerrero is US Champion).

Rating: B. I for one am shocked that Guerrero and Jericho could get together and have a good match against a regular team. The Faces Of Fear were a great choice for a pair of monsters, which is why they were put in this spot in both major promotions. It worked well here and while the opponents helped, those power moves were rather awesome.

From Monday Nitro, March 15, 1999.

Meng vs. Jerry Flynn

Meng jumps him to start but misses a charge into the corner. Flynn strikes away and a clothesline...just makes Meng mad. A powerslam puts Flynn down but he grabs a quickly broken ankle lock (Meng grabbing the ropes doesn't feel right). Back up and Meng knocks him down again but Flynn pulls on a cross armbreaker. That's broken up as well and they strike it out again, with Flynn hitting a Thesz press of all things. The spinning kick misses for Flynn though and the Tongan Death Grip finishes for Meng at 4:10.

Rating: C+. As usual, I was disappointed when I read the name wrong as Flynn is...I have no idea why he was around so often. This was more about Meng being the big bulldozer kind of unstoppable monster and it fit him rather well. Having him shrug off everything else and win with the Tongan Death Grip was fine, but it just wasn't that thrilling of a match.

From Sin.

Hardcore Title: Meng vs. Crowbar vs. Terry Funk

Funk is defending. We're joined in progress (I think) with Funk knocking Crowbar through the backstage hallways and into the women's room (of course). Funk hits him with every stall door and Daffney screams a lot, only for Meng to pop up and wreck Funk with a trashcan. They go back into the arena, where Funk and Crowbar get smart and double team Meng.

They take turns ramming each other into a metal door until a bunch of tables are knocked onto Meng. Funk throws a chair at Crowbar's head and gets blasted with a fire extinguisher. Crowbar rams him into a table and climbs a balcony to legdrop him through said table. Meng is back with trashcan shots so Crowbar bails up to the stage. A chop off goes badly for Crowbar, who gets knocked down the ramp, only for Funk to blast Meng in the back with a shovel.

Funk sets up a piece of barricade on the regular barricade and then hits Meng with the shovel again. Funk slams Crowbar through the barricade but Crowbar is right back up to Pillmanize Funk's legs. A running dropkick takes out Funk's leg and Crowbar puts on a Figure Four, even with Meng hammering on him at the time. Meng goes up top with a splash to Crowbar for the save, followed by a piledriver.

Funk makes the save (that can't be smart), earning himself a middle rope splash from Meng. Crowbar makes the save and he and Funk unload on Meng with chair shots to FINALLY put him down for two. A DDT puts Meng down again and Crowbar chairs

Funk in the head. Meng knocks Crowbar silly and Tongan Death Grips Funk for the win at 11:24.

Rating: B-. The point here was “Meng is an unstoppable monster and can’t be hurt”, with the other two there to be all over the top and insane. It worked, as usual, as this was kind of the final evolution of Meng. He had a reputation of being the toughest wrestler ever and then he was turned into an even more unstoppable monster. It would take something special to screws him up and...yeah of course WCW managed to do so.

How? Well just after this he would jump back to the WWF, with the title, because why make sure you have an active champion under contract?

Overall Rating: B-. Haku is not someone who was going to have all kinds of classic matches or memorable moments or all that jazz. He was never a main eventer or really anything more than a midcard monster. What he was though is a great example of a role player. You know EXACTLY what you’re getting with Meng and he does that kind of work very, very well. That was on full display here, as he mainly stayed around the same area of the card (save for the hardcore stuff) and was incredibly consistent. That’s a hard thing to find in wrestling and Haku did it rather well.

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NXT – April 28, 2026: Nice To Meet You And You And You And You

NXT

Date: April 28, 2026

Location: Capitol Wrestling Center, Orlando, Florida

Commentators: Vic Joseph, Booker T.

We're in a big period of transition around here as a bunch of stars have either been released or promoted up to the main roster. That's going to require a lot of switching around and there is a chance that some stars will be moved over to NXT on a regular basis. Either way, they're going to need the help so let's get to it.

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

We open with a Revenge recap, featuring a bunch of stars who are now gone.

The bosses (Shawn Michaels, Robert Stone and Matt Bloom) go over the stars who have left, with Stone saying we need some fresh names involved. Michaels says this is what NXT does and Stone is told he can take his time and pick someone...or throw a stick of dynamite in the locker room and see what happens. Stone gets the idea.

North American Title: Saquon Shugars vs. Myles Borne

Shugars, with the rest of Darkstate, is challenging. We get the Big Match Intros and Shugars sends him into the corner. Borne is back up with a release suplex and Shugars bails to the floor, where Borne hits a big running flip dive. Back in and they fight over a backslide, with Shugars flipping him

over onto the top rope. Borne gets pulled throat first into the turnbuckle (which has been exposed), followed by a dropkick through the ropes.

We take a break and come back with Shugars dropping a leg and grabbing a chinlock. That's broken up and Shugars kicks him in the back before taking him up top. The belly to back superplex is reversed into a crossbody to give Borne two and they get back up. Borne gets two off a backslide, plus an Eye Of The Hurricane for the same. Darkstate gets on the apron so Lennox grabs a chair, but Shugars waves him off, saying he wants to win. Borne sends them into each other and a slingshot Borne Again retains the title at 10:02.

Rating: B-. Darkstate's days seem to be numbered and that's a good thing, as there doesn't seem to be much to them these days. Shugars got to have a good match here before dealing with the Borne stuff in the end. At the same time, Borne gets to beat Darkstate in back to back weeks, which is a nice way to make him look like a star.

Post match Borne celebrates but Tristan Angels (from Evolve) pops up in the crowd to say he'll be around more often. Cue Kam Hendrix (also from Evolve) to jump Borne and lay him out.

Kendal Grey and Wren Sinclair are in the back, talking about all of the incoming talents. Kelani Jordan come in to say she's not impressed and gets mocked for her recent losses. Jordan says Grey is going to turn on Sinclair, with Sinclair issuing the challenge for tonight.

Video on Tony D'Angelo.

Here is Tony D'Angelo for a chat. He says he has been the constant around here and no one on the roster is tough enough to take the title from him. That includes whomever sent him that box last week. You have people from all over jumping stars, Europeans stepping up and Keanu Carver staring him down. He knows the box was a warning...and the lights go out.

It's...a guy in a rather big robe with his face covered. He gets in the ring and the fans seem to think he's (very nice, very) EVIL. The man hands him a rolled up something (appears to be a shirt) and unmask as Evil (the former IWGP World Champion, rumored to have signed with WWE). D'Angelo unwraps the shirt, which has the same symbol as the box from last week. The unnamed Evil leaves and cue Tavion Heights to suplex D'Angelo. An unnamed (looked to be Progress' Will Kroos) man runs in to moonsault D'Angelo.

Shiloh Hill and Tatum Paxley bury Blake Monroe, apparently ignoring that she's due to debut on Smackdown? Paxley talks about her issues with attachments and Hill says he's set up a simulation to find out how Ricky Saints does his moves. They seem to get along well, but he needs to go get ready. She's going to enjoy the scenery. In the graveyard.

Here is Birthright, who show a clip of the team attacking Dorian Van Dux. Apparently he can't be in their scheduled match, so here is EK Prosper (Van Dux's partner) to run in on his own. That earns him a beatdown but Sean Legacy runs in for the save.

Birthright vs. Sean Legacy/EK Prosper

They start fast with Legacy kicking Connors in the back for two and it's off to Prosper for a double dropkick. A cheap shot knocks Prosper to the floor though and Birthright hit dives as we take a break. We come back with Legacy fighting out of trouble and hitting a reverse implant sitout DDT. It's back to Prosper as everything breaks down. Connors hits a Swanton but it's Legacy coming back in to hit Shambles for the pin at 9:24.

Rating: B-. Another nice match here, with Legacy actually managing to get a pin for a change. I'm hoping Van Dux isn't seriously hurt though, as I was digging what I had seen from him thus far. The same is true for Prosper, who is quite the

athlete, though I'm not overly sold on Legacy. As for Birthright...well you pretty much know what you're getting with them.

Post match the beatdown is on again but Evolve's Tate Wilder (he's a cowboy) runs in for the save. Wilder tries a shooting star off the apron but lands on his feet and has to settle for a double clothesline.

Jaida Parker and a bunch of the other women talk about the incoming women when Kali Armstrong comes in to say they're all scared. She's the difference maker around here and if that starts with Parker, so be it. Parker is not taking that sitting down and they're held apart.

Shawn Michaels announces that the NXT Premium Live Events will be airing on the CW, starting this summer.

We look at Izzi Dame taking out Lola Vice last week.

Robert Stone welcomes Tate Wilder to NXT. Lola Vice pops in to say she's going to call out Izzi dame.

Here is Vice in the ring and she gets straight to the point by calling out Izzi Dame. Shawn Spears pops up on the screen for a distraction as the Culling appears behind Vice. She says they got her...and Mr. Iguana (her partner in AAA) pops up for the save.

Saquon Shugars and Dion Lennox are arguing again but are calmed down with talk of getting the Tag Team Titles.

Lizzy Rain vs. Nikkita Lyons

Rain is here to make sure that heavy metal never dies. Before the match, Lyons says Rain is too loud so it's time to quiet her down. Lyons shoves her down to start but Rain is back up with a springboard elbow. Back up and Lyons kicks her in the head, followed by some forearms. The splits splash connects and Lyons grabs a cobra clutch. Rain fights up and makes the

clothesline comeback, followed by a cutter. Lyons is sent into the corner for the chops (fans: "MAKE IT RAIN!") and a pop up kick to the head (Thunderstruck) finishes for Rain at 4:20.

Rating: C. Oh...yeah I'm not sure about Rain. Thunderstruck is a great name for a finisher but the whole Heavy Metal thing feels like a weird blast from the past and not in a good way. Maybe she'll have it tweaked a bit, but this wasn't the best debut. Then again it's not like Lyons has anything going for her either.

Tavion Heights comes up to Myles Borne, who wants to know what was up with Heights attacking Tony D'Angelo. That's not the Heights he knows, but Heights asks how it's different than Borne attacking Ethan Page. Borne backs off a bit and talks about the stars who are coming in. Heights says you can add his name to the dangerous ones. Heights leaves and Keanu Carver comes in to say there are a lot of sharks around here, but he's the Great White.

The Vanity Project talk about how things are changing around here and Jackson Drake says he feels like he's on top of the world thanks to Micah (the woman he met last week). Jasper Troy isn't impressed and wants a match next week.

Wren Sinclair vs. Kelani Jordan

Non-title and Kendal Grey is here with Sinclair. They go to the mat to start with Sinclair grabbing an early leglock. Jordan has to nip her way out of a headscissors, only to get pulled into a headlock. Back up and Sinclair runs her over again, with Jordan heading into the corner. Sinclair misses a charge and gets tied in the ropes, where she avoids a springboard legdrop. Sinclair's dropkick off the apron connects but Sinclair comes up favoring her knee.

We take a break and come back with Jordan working on the bad leg but Sinclair rolls her up for two. Sinclair fires off some rather loud chops and another rollup gets another two. Jordan

is sent to the apron, where she comes back with a spinning springboard cutter. A frog splash hits raised knees though and the Final Wrench goes on, only for Sinclair's knee to give out. Jordan puts her down and hits One Of A Kind for the pin at 10:58.

Rating: B-. This was a pretty standard story and it worked well, with Jordan working on Sinclair's bad knee to set up her usual stuff for the ending. Sinclair was doing everything she needed to in there and it made for a good match. Jordan isn't the most interesting star, but she's a heck of an athlete and has the in-ring side of things well in hand.

Video on Zaria, who has ended Sol Ruca once and for all. Now she is ready to destroy everything in her way.

Video on Ricky Saints vs. Shiloh Hill.

Here's what's coming next week.

Shiloh Hill vs. Ricky Saints

Saints jumps him from behind to start and chokes in the corner, followed by some stomping as well. Hill ducks an enziguri though and drapes him over the top to hammer away. Saints 619s him from the apron and Hill bails underneath the ring. He gets pulled out by the boot...and it's a dummy, allowing Hill to get in a flip dive off the steps. Hill dances with the dummy (who wears a hockey mask) and we take a break.

We come back with Saints hitting a tornado DDT for two and mocking Hill. Back up and another tornado DDT is countered into a tilt-a-whirl slam but Saints pulls him into a choke. With that broken up, Saints spears him down for two and it's time to slug it out. Hill gets the better of things and goes up but Saints kicks the referee into the ropes for the crotching.

Something like a super Jackhammer gives Saints two so he slaps

the tooth out of Hill's mouth. That just wakes Hill up so he crotches Saints down to break up the dancing Old School. Saints is knocked to the floor, where he hits a Roshambo...and goes after a chair. The referee takes that away and Hill sends him into the chair. Whisper To The Beast finishes for Hill at 12:05.

Rating: B. That's easily the biggest win of Hill's career and it might be the kind of step up to the next level. I'm not sure he's ready to be a main eventer, but at least he got a win over a former NXT Champion. That's what they need around here and it's certainly better than nothing. Sure Saints has already been announced for Smackdown but still.

Post match Hill, with the dummy, celebrates in the crowd.

Tony D'Angelo goes to see the bosses and says he loves the chaos. Shawn Michaels says it's time for him to prove it. Hill: "LET'S F***** GO!" I was expecting a big debut to end the show but this week was already packed.

Overall Rating: C+. Oh boy this was something else. They had A LOT of rebuilding to do and in this case they seemed to want to do it all in one night. That only works so well, but they seemed to be going with the theory of "get people on the show so fast and figure the rest out later". That's certainly an idea, but it's only so interesting of a way to go for two hours. We're absolutely resetting things around here again and as Michaels said, that's kind of how this place works. We just need to see where it goes from here, though it was quite the all over the place start.

Results

Myles Borne b. Saquon Shugars – Slingshot Borne Again
Sean Legacy/EK Prosper b. Birthright – Shambles to Stacks
Lizzy Rain b. Nikkita Lyons – Thunderstruck
Kelani Jordan b. Wren Sinclair – One Of A Kind
Shiloh Hill b. Ricky Saints – Whisper To The Beast

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Monday Night Raw – October 11, 1999: As 1999 As You Can Get

Monday Night Raw

Date: October 11, 1999

Location: Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Georgia

Attendance: 33,375

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

Well this is an upgrade. We're in a huge stadium and it happens to be the last Raw before No Mercy, where HHH will defend the WWF Title against Steve Austin. Other than that, the Terri Invitational Tournament continues with Edge and Christian facing the Hardy Boyz in one cool match after another. Let's get to it.

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

We open with a tribute to Gorilla Monsoon, who passed away last week. That's a big one, especially for people who grew up in the Golden Era.

Opening sequence.

Here is Vince McMahon, who is very happy to be here in Atlanta (WCW's hometown of course) and wastes no time in bringing out Steve Austin for a chat. Austin says he's been gone for a few months and it's because of HHH and that's all changing tonight. For the last few months, HHH has been attacking Jim Ross and a rattlesnake in a bag.

Neither of those are Austin though and he isn't scared of anything HHH is doing. Austin wants HHH out here right now so here he is, with the fans not being happy to see him. They argue over the fans getting on HHH, who says that Austin knows he can't win at No Mercy. No one here can beat HHH...and yeah sure he'll fight Austin right now.

Or instead he'll go outside and shove JR's hat off. This time JR actually gets up and hits him with a fan, allowing Austin to come outside for the real fight. They get back inside, with JR hammering on HHH some more until Chyna makes the save. Austin lays Chyna out so HHH issues the challenge for the tag match tonight. And of course Austin and JR are in.

There are a bunch of bulldogs in the back. Georgia bulldogs?

An annoyed Mankind is pacing in the back.

We look at Mankind and the Rock getting into a fight/argument on Smackdown.

Billy Gunn vs. Crash Holly

Road Dogg and Hardcore Holly are here too, with Dogg calling out the Hollys for not being real super heavyweights. Gunn hammers away in the corner to start and grabs a Jackhammer (or Jackknife according to JR) for two. The other two get in a fight on the floor and Gunn hits a Fameasser for the pin at 50 seconds. I don't think Crash got in a single bit of offense.

Post match Hardcore brings in the scales to hit the Outlaws in

the face.

Mankind is rather proud of his guest appearance on G vs. E last night but he wants to talk about the Rock on Smackdown. Maybe he wanted to hit the Rock with a chair because one of them isn't a team player. There is no I in team, Rock or Sock and he needs a commitment from the Rock before he can move forward with the team's endorsement deals.

Mae Young vs. Ivory

Non-title. Before the match, Ivory complains about how annoying Young and Fabulous Moolah have been, even threatening to beat the regularity out of her. Ivory hits her in the back with a belt before the bell, right in front of the referee, who says the bell can ring anyway. Moolah runs in and jumps Ivory for...well I guess a no contest at about 30 seconds as the bell didn't ring.

Post match Moolah beats Ivory up until she runs off.

Jim Ross calls the Rock and tells him about Mankind's issues from Smackdown. Rock doesn't really care and he's on his way to the show, where he'll turn the Georgia Dome upside down. Wouldn't that make it a Georgia Pit?

British Bulldog has no idea why those dogs are here and doesn't care about the Rock and Mankind tonight. At No Mercy, he's beating the Rock to get closer to the WWF Title.

We look at Stephanie McMahon getting hit in the head at Rebellion and seemingly losing her memory.

Earlier today, Stephanie (with Shane McMahon) sat down and said she can't remember anything happening to her in the short term. She can't remember any of the feelings she has for Test and Shane has to calm her down.

Val Venis and the British Bulldog jump Mankind and leave him laying.

Mark Henry and a woman arrive in a limo.

Edge & Christian vs. New Brood

This is the fourth match in the Terri Invitational Tournament (Edge & Christian are up 2-1) and Lilian Garcia describes this as a “non....tag team match.” Also can we please just get to them being the Hardys already and drop the New Brood stuff? It’s a brawl to start with the Hardys getting sent into the corners for some running shots.

Matt fights back and stomps Christian down in the corner, with Jeff hitting a springboard moonsault. The flipping splash/falling punch combination hits Christian, with Jeff adding a legdrop in the ropes. Jeff: “DID YOU SEE ME???” Uh yeah, yeah we did Jeff. Back in and both Hardys miss something off the top, allowing the tag off to Edge. Matt grabs a rollup with feet on the ropes for two but Edge gives Matt a Downward Spiral.

It just happens to be right in front of Jeff, who comes off the top with a Swanton for the save. Christian Unprettiers Jeff (Lawler: “Can you do that JR?”) and Matt dives off the top to take Edge out. Jeff dives onto the two of them and Edge’s running flip dive hits both Hardys. They all brawl on the floor and it’s a double DQ at 4:56. Kind of odd to see that instead of a countout but it’s the same thing for all intent and purpose.

Rating: B-. That’s probably going to be the match of the night and that shouldn’t be a surprise. These guys are clearly giving everything they have now that they are getting the chance. As it turns out, it’s working very well, which is saying a lot when this was one of the lesser of their series.

X-Pac demands Kane not come out to the ring during his match no matter what.

The Rock finally arrives and post break, says he doesn’t care

Mankind feels about the team. As for the British Bulldog, Rock isn't just another nobody and no one cares about Bulldog anyway. Bulldog is nothing and apparently Rock has brought those dogs to the show for whatever reason.

He can't seem to remember his catchphrase, going through some Flair, Savage and Hogan before getting it right. Cue Mankind who wants an answer right now. Rock tells him what to do with his gear and where to put it but here is Vince McMahon to give them a match against Val Venis and the British Bulldog. Rock says tonight is about winning one for the scooper, which has Mankind confused.

X-Pac vs. Faarooq

During the entrances, we get a statement from the Drozdov family, thanking the fans for wishing Droz well. That's kind of random but it's still nice to hear. There's no Kane here but Bradshaw is here with Faarooq, who gets kicked in the corner to start things fast. Faarooq is right back up with a whip into the corner and gets two off a backbreaker.

The powerslam gives Faarooq two and we hit the bearhug as Kane is watching backstage. X-Pac gets out and kicks away before avoiding an elbow in the corner. Bradshaw gets up for a distraction but X-Pac escapes the Dominator and sends them into each other. The X-Factor finishes Faarooq at 3:20.

Rating: C+. This is about as far as I can go with X-Pac hanging in there against a powerhouse, with Faarooq being someone who can lose to him without it going too far. The good thing is that X-Pac is a rather talented star and someone who could get fans behind him. At the same time, the X Factor still doesn't feel like a great finisher and that isn't helping things here.

Post match the beatdown is on but Kane comes out...to stay on the stage, even as X-Pac is double powerbombed. Bradshaw puts X-Pac on top but Kane finally runs in for the save. The

ungrateful X-Pac is mad at Kane for helping him out. You know, Kane has a match on Sunday too so stop being a selfish jerk.

We look at the setup for the tag match and JR heads to the back to get ready.

We look at Mark Henry's second sex therapy session, with the therapist (the woman from earlier) saying we need to go extreme to make it work, even starting tonight. Henry likes the idea and busts out some handcuffs, but the therapist isn't happy.

Michael Cole replaces JR on commentary.

Chris Jericho/Curtis Hughes vs. Headbangers

This is the Headbangers' reunion after a pretty horrible attempt at a solo run for Mosh. Jericho and Mosh start things off, with Mosh launching him into a hot shot. Jericho gets hung up in the ropes for a jumping splash from Thrasher. Back up and a butterfly backbreaker plants Thrasher to put him in trouble for a change.

It's off to Hughes, who gets clotheslined by Mosh, followed by a double clothesline for a double down. Mosh comes back in and has to be saved from the Walls. Hughes runs Jericho over by mistake so Jericho hits him right back and walks out. The Stage Dive (and a bad one at that) finishes Hughes at 3:21.

Rating: C. So that's it for the Hughes/Jericho partnership and that's about how it should have gone. Hughes felt like he was dragging things down for Jericho and it's good to see Jericho getting away from him to be free. The Headbangers being back was nice to see as well, but it's not like they were ever a great team in the first place.

Big Show is upset in the back when D'Lo Brown comes up to check on him. Show's father has terminal cancer and Brown says he's there for him anytime. Well that got a lot more serious.

Rock has Mankind sweep up the dogs' waste and put it on a big tray.

Godfather vs. Mark Henry

Godfather has about thirty women with him this time...because this is a Ho Jack match. Apparently this is the sex therapist's idea of extreme measures to cure Henry of his addictions. Sweet goodness how 1999 can a show be? Henry is sent outside where he seems to enjoy the women's company. Back in and Henry gets beaten up, only to be distracted by the women again. The Ho Train sets up a rollup to pin Henry at 1:28.

Post match Henry is jumped by the women and Henry couldn't seem happier.

HHH, with Chyna, says Steve Austin should always be worried about him and it's going to be a good piece of business for JR. HHH doing a JR impression is a rather disturbing thing.

Big Boss Man vs. Big Show

Before the match, Boss Man says he doesn't care about Show's problems because Boss Man is the real problem. Even Lawler thinks that's too far and here is a rather emotional Show. A superkick drops Boss Man in the aisle and the bell rings, with Show hitting a flying shoulder inside. Boss Man hits him with the nightstick for the DQ at 36 seconds.

Post match the beatdown is on until Al Snow runs in for the save but gets beaten down as well.

Mankind has collected quite a bit of waste.

HHH/Chyna vs. Jim Ross/Steve Austin

Lawler loses it over JR having his wrists taped. Austin, in street clothes, finally bothers coming to help and brawls on the stage with HHH. They fight back to ringside, where Chyna

and JR are nowhere to be seen. HHH gets whipped into the steps and Austin even dives off the steps with a right hand. They fight out into the crowd as Chyna is beating JR up back in the ring. Austin and HHH brawl out of the back of the building as Lawler loves JR getting stomped by Chyna (Lawler: "He always had a foot fetish!").

Chyna gives JR a Pedigree but here is Jeff Jarrett to hit her with a toaster. Miss Kitty wheels down a laundry cart and Jarrett throws Chyna inside before wheeling her away. Austin and HHH brawl back into the arena, with Austin throwing him into a beer stand. Naturally Austin stops to have a beer and then goes to celebrate at ringside as I guess the match just ended. I'm not sure it ever started but when has that ever stopped them?

Rating: C-. I guess there was a match in there? Maybe? Somewhere? This felt like a way to get Austin officially on the card for a stadium show without having him have to really wrestle. That's about all you can do if he's that banged up and you don't want to risk him getting hurt even worse. JR was barely a factor here, with Chyna's weird status as a hero at some points and a villain at other times is still weird.

In the back, Jarrett shoves the laundry cart off a ledge and into the parking lot. Post break, Chyna is helped by medics.

Oh and I guess Jim Ross was eaten by rabid ferrets or something.

Val Venis/British Bulldog vs. Rock N Sock Connection

Naturally Mankind brings out the dog waste and I think you know where this is going. Cole: "This should be a good one." Based on what? Nothing about this seems good, and Mankind almost being knocked onto the tray to start isn't changing my mind. They get inside where Venis hammers away in the corner with Bulldog getting in his shots as well. A running faceplant

puts Venis down for two and it's off to Rock to hammer away in the corner.

Rock hits his big clothesline to cut Venis off again and it's already back to Mankind. The general clubbering continues until Rock comes back in and gets elbowed by Venis. Rock fights back on Bulldog in the corner but the Rock Bottom is broken up. That means Venis' fisherman's suplex gets two so Rock gives him the Samoan drop to even things back up.

Mankind comes back in with a double arm DDT to Venis as everything breaks down. The brawl heads out to the floor and Mankind loads up Mr. Socko to chase Venis up the ramp. That leaves Rock to grab the tray and throw it inside, where Bulldog is Rock Bottomed onto said tray. Well onto what is on the tray. The People's Elbow is loaded up...but Rock just stops and poses instead as I guess we're done at around 8:15.

Rating: C-. Well, it was in fact a match and they had more time than any other match on the card, but how good was this going to be? They were mainly focusing on the tray and teasing the big spot with the thing. It's also another match without an actual fall, because Venis is getting a singles match on pay per view in six days so he can't take a pin here.

HHH jumps Austin in the back but Austin has a rattlesnake waiting on him.

We get some Extra Attitude, meaning a clip from after the show, which is Austin coming out to drink beer (and pour some of it on the dog waste). JR comes out and drinks some as well. The only thing I get out of this: Austin's ability to catch beers with one hand is still incredibly impressive. This really didn't do much whatsoever and didn't need to be included.

Overall Rating: D+. There were some ok matches on here, but the focal points were two tag matches which didn't end with an actual fall and the big deals at the end were dog waste and a

snake. That's in addition to a Ho Jack match and Ivory feuding with Moolah and Mae Young. While Vince Russo is officially gone, there are still a lot of remnants of him hanging around (though the dog thing had to be a Vince McMahon idea) and this show was a rough watch as a result.

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Monday Night Raw – April 27, 2026: It Has To Be Done

Monday Night Raw

Date: April 27, 2026

Location: Sames Auto Arena, Laredo, Texas

Commentators: Michael Cole, Corey Graves

We're rapidly approaching Backlash and that means it is time to start building up the show. That is likely going to be taking place this week, including Roman Reigns giving Jacob Fatu an answer after last week's challenge for a title shot. A lot of things could come together for Backlash so let's get to it.

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

We open with a recap of Jacob Fatu challenging Roman Reigns

last week.

Reigns and the Usos sit down in a dark room, with Reigns not being sure what to do about Fatu. Jimmy thinks it's better to avoid Fatu while Jey wants to teach Fatu a lesson in respect for the family. Reigns says he'll handle this tonight and they put their hands together, with Reigns suggesting that the team is called the First Family. It's been used before in wrestling but it fits here.

Here is Seth Rollins to get things going. Rollins has a lot to get to tonight, starting with Roman Reigns holding his World Title because of Bron Breaker. That's why he wants Breaker out here right now, which is what he gets, plus a side of Paul Heyman. Rollins says Breaker took everything away from him this year and Rollins wants to know why. Breaker wants to know what Rollins ever gave him.

For months, Breaker and Bronson Reed had to stand there while Rollins said his same thing and then they had to fight his battles. Rollins talks about going down to NXT and wanting to face Shawn Michaels' best, which is why he fought Breaker in the first place. Then he agreed to take Breaker under his win because he knew the potential. Rollins knows what it means to be a 28 year old star with all over the potential in the world.

The difference is that Breaker is trying to take over but Rollins already did it. The reality is that Breaker isn't ready, but Breaker says he lost to the best in the world, which is better than someone who just says it. Rollins: "That was pretty good Baby Steiner." Rollins issues the challenge for Backlash but "Steiner" needs to understand he isn't even the second best in his own family.

Judgment Day jumps Stephanie Vaquer in the back and crush her with an anvil case.

Penta vs. Rusev

Non-title and Ethan Page is here too. Rusev sends him flying with a fall away slam to start but Penta hits a dropkick to the floor, setting up the running flip dive. Page mocks Penta, who has to cut Rusev off with a superkick. Back in and Rusev superkicks him out of the air as we take a break. We come back with Penta kicking away and hitting the reverse Sling Blade. The running slingshot dropkick in the corner gets one but Rusev kicks him down. A release Rock Bottom sets up the Machka Kick but the Accolade is escaped. Penta teases a springboard but hangs on to headfake Rusev, setting up a rollup for the pin at 7:28.

Rating: C+. This was a quick match with Penta getting a win, with Ethan Page continuing to feel like the next challenger in line. That should be enough to carry the title picture going forward as Penta is doing well in his role as the fighting champion. It wasn't a match that had a chance to go very far but they got the details right.

Post match Page runs in to help beat on Penta, with Rusev and Page stomping away. Je'Von Evans runs in for the save, including the OG Cutter to Rusev, and has a nice moment with Penta.

El Grande Americano, with Los Americanos, is ready to face the Original El Grande Americano in a mask vs. mask match. That's as big as it gets for him and he needs to be ready, which is why he wants to face Rey Mysterio tonight.

Here is Becky Lynch for a chat. She's very pleased to have gotten the Women's Intercontinental Title back because it means she has won four different women's titles at Wrestlemania and have more wins there than any other woman in history. The best thing thing was looking out and seeing her daughter, who needs to learn that there is more to being a champion than just the money and five star hotels. It's also

about facing the best, which is why it's open challenge time.

Cue Iyo Sky to interrupt and Lynch isn't sure about this one. Sky issues the challenge but Lynch says she wanted someone challenging and exciting, but Sky is neither challenging nor exciting. Lynch thinks this must be Sky accepting on behalf of Rhea Ripley because she wanted to face Shawn Michaels, not Marty Jannetty. Sky knocks her down and here is Adam Pearce to say let's do the match right now. Lynch jumps her from behind as the referee comes in.

Women's Intercontinental Title: Becky Lynch vs. Iyo Sky

Sky is challenging and we're joined in progress with Lynch knocking her down. The middle rope legdrop connects for two but Sky is back up for the exchange of forearms. Sky German suplexes her for two and hits the missile dropkick. Back up and Lynch gets in a shot of her own before having to block a suicide dive.

Instead Sky hits a sunset bomb out to the floor and we take a break. We come back with the two of them knocking each other down again. Sky is up with a superkick and tornado DDT but Lynch is back with a Manhandle Slam for two. Back up and Sky knocks her outside for an Asai moonsault, only to lose a shoe. Sky loads up a dive but cue Asuka to cut off a springboard, allowing Lynch to hit the Manhandle Slam and retain at 13:12.

Rating: B-. Of course these two were capable of having a solid match and they did so here, with the focus being on Asuka's interference. That's perfectly fine, as it was more about setting up Sky vs. Asuka than anything else. Lynch is getting ready for her next challenger and that could be more than a few people, which is nice to see from the women's division.

Post match Asuka lays Sky out with the Asuka Lock.

El Grande Americano asks Rey Mysterio if he has to worry about

Mysterio in the mask vs. mask match on May 30. Mysterio says no and speaks Spanish, which the Original doesn't understand. The other El Grande Americano and Los Americanos come in and aren't happy with Mysterio, who says he's not on anyone's side. That isn't good enough and the three of them leave.

LA Knight interrupts the Usos and tries to talk them out of this reunion with Roman Reigns. Jimmy says it isn't Knight's business but Knight says the power will eventually corrupt things and that makes it Knight's business.

Here is the debuting Joe Hendry for a concert. He sings about officially signing with Raw and he's fine with Oba Femi and acknowledges the OTC, but can we fire Logan Paul? Cue a ticked off Paul and Austin Theory to say he cannot be fired and declares everyone fired. Hendry laughs off the idea of the Vision being winners because all he saw on ESPN was a couple of prime time losers. They clear Hendry's concert equipment out of the ring and the fight is on, with the Street Profits running in for the save. Hendry hits a running dive over the top onto the Vision and poses with the Profits. That's pretty standard Hendry.

Grayson Waller is annoyed at not getting an opportunity of his own and insults Oba Femi, who pops up behind him. Femi says if Waller wants an opportunity, he can have one tonight. Adam Pearce is in.

Joe Hendry thanks the Street Profits again, with the Profits suggesting he gets a new shirt to replace the blue one since he's a Raw star now. Hendry seems to agree and leaves, with the Profits running into Seth Rollins. They aren't impressed because Rollins isn't special and last week was about the Vision, not him.

El Grande Americano vs. Rey Mysterio

Los Americanos are here with Americano, who takes Mysterio down off a test of strength to start. Mysterio gets his

shoulders up at two and sends him into the ropes but the 619 attempt is cut off with a clothesline. We take a break and come back with Americano knocking him into the corner. Mysterio jumps up for a moonsault into a tornado DDT though and Americano is rocked again. Rayo tries to load up the mas but gets taken down with a 619. Americano picks up the plate but here is the Original El Grande Americano to cut it off. Mysterio hits the 619 into the slingshot splash for the pin at 9:15.

Rating: B-. I was a bit surprised to see Americano lose here though the ending feels like it could be a step towards him dropping the loaded up headbutt. That is all but guaranteed to play into the mask vs. mask match, as will Americano being unhappy with Original interfering here. This feud continues to be a lot bigger in Mexico and that's fine, as it's better than not getting any heat for it whatsoever.

Post match Mysterio takes the foreign object and puts it in his tights, because Americano isn't using it anymore. Since it's impossible to find another metal plate? Anyway Mysterio leaves and the two Grande Americanos brawl.

We look at Jacob Fatu wrecking Solo Sikoa and the MFTs on Smackdown.

Backlash rundown, with Rollins vs. Breakker and Sky vs. Asuka officially set.

Asuka says she has blamed herself for Iyo Sky's mistakes for so long but now she realizes that Sky is the real problem. Sky is her biggest failure because Sky failed her family. Now they're both alone because Asuka thought they could be a family again. Nothing will stop her from destroying Sky at Backlash.

Oba Femi vs. Grayson Waller

Femi runs him over to start and sends him into the corner for

a running uppercut. Waller gets in a neck snap across the top but the rolling Stunner is tossed away. The Fall From Grace finishes Waller at 1:06. That's our Femi.

Post match Femi says he and the people are feeling good around here. Waller isn't, but Femi did hear Waller say something that got his attention. He wanted a chance, so Femi will take it on himself with an open challenge to anyone who wants to try and climb the mountain. Just be ready.

Liv Morgan talks to Roxanne Perez and apologizes for what she thought of Perez while she was gone. She was watching Raw and Finn Balor put himself before the family. Morgan wants to support Perez in what she's doing so she'll be in the corner tonight. Perez trusts her...but needs one second backstage, where she doesn't look happy. Balor pops up and tells Perez to be quiet, but she can't trust Judgment Day. Perez asks if she can't trust them or him. Perez throws him out, with Balor saying he hopes she knows what she's doing.

Bayley/Lyra Valkyria vs. Judgment Day

It's Raquel Rodriguez/Roxanne Perez with Liv Morgan for the team here. Rodriguez powers Bayley into the corner to start and it's off to Perez, who gets quite the hometown reaction. Perez smiles her head off as she stomps Bayley down but gets powered over for the tag off to Valkyria.

Perez fights out of trouble but gets backbreaker down, only for Perez to kick away before Bayley can drop an elbow. That's fine with Valkyria, who kicks Perez down again so the elbow can connect. Everything breaks down and Rodriguez posts Bayley as we take a break.

We come back with Valkyria firing off the clotheslines and rolling some suplexes on Perez. A fireman's carry is loaded up but Perez escapes and rams Valkyria into Bayley to crotch her on top. Rodriguez comes back in for a big boot into Perez's Russian legsweep for two but Bayley counters Pop Rox. The

Bayley To Belly gets two on Perez and the other two fall out to the floor. Morgan offers a distraction and Bayley gets her throat snapped across the top. A Shining Wizard and Pop Rox finish for Perez at 9:21.

Rating: B. They had a lot going on in this match but Perez's reception and reaction to that reception push it to a higher level. She was clearly so happy out there and it was a special moment to see. Other than that, you had Bayley and Valkyria having some miscommunication issues before their loss. That's on top of Judgment Day having issues of their own, which is quite a bit to have in one single match.

Video on Sol Ruca, who has signed with Raw and will be here next week.

Here is Roman Reigns and the fans seem rather pleased to see him. Reigns even makes mention of the reaction before saying this title was made in spite of him. The reality is that the man makes the title, which is what he has done again. He has made this title relevant and now you can respect this title, or even ACKNOWLEDGE it. Let's demonstrate, and he hits the catchphrase.

This brings out Jacob Fatu to interrupt, with Reigns saying Fatu is right on cue because Reigns was "just getting to you". Reigns hopes Fatu has made the right decision but Fatu says he didn't need a week, or even an hour to know what to do. Fatu still needs the title because Reigns still doesn't know what it means to be like him. While the Bloodline was running things, Fatu was foaming at the mouth and he didn't get a phone call from his family. You know who did call him? Solo Siko.

That doesn't sit well with Reigns, who says Fatu is either completely confused or dumber than he thought. Siko couldn't even get a cup of coffee delivered to the building. Who does Fatu think runs this place? The fans chant for Reigns and he

says the fans aren't lying. Reigns never forgot about him and he's the one who signed off on Fatu.

The reality is Fatu has never earned it and he isn't going to just give Reigns a shot because that's nepotism, which Reigns isn't allowing. Fatu grabs a TONGAN DEATH GRIP and Reigns goes down, with Fatu promising to take everything from him. That leaves Reigns laying so Fatu leaves, with Reigns accepting the challenge for Backlash. Fatu isn't waiting for Backlash and he'll see Reigns next week. The Death Grip was a surprise and makes Fatu feel that much more dangerous, which is great to see going into the title match.

Overall Rating: B-. The wrestling wasn't the best here but this show was more about setting up Backlash. It wasn't exactly a hard card to set up as you could guess a lot of the matches from at least a week ago, but you still have to get the work done. That's what they covered this week, which makes sense as the pay per view is somehow a week from Saturday. Either way, not a must see show here, but it did what was necessary.

Results

Penta b. Rusev – Rollup

Becky Lynch b. Iyo Sky – Manhandle Slam

Rey Mysterio b. El Grande Americano – Slingshot splash

Oba Femi b. Grayson Waller – Fall From Grace

Judgment Day b. Bayley/Lyra Valkyria – Pop Rox to Bayley

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AAA On FOX – April 25, 2026: I've Got A Feeling (Includes Full Show)

AAA On FOX

Date: April 25, 2026

Location: Gimnasio Olimpico Juan de la Barrera, Mexico City, Mexico

Commentators: Corey Graves, John Bradshaw Layfield, Rey Mysterio

We're still in Mexico City and this time we have the English commentary back. The big question coming out of last week is who is attacking the Psycho Circus, with Pagano looking like a suspect. That also might be a ruse and maybe we'll find out something about it here. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Money Machine vs. La Parka/Rey Fenix

The Machine jumps them from behind to start but get sent outside for stereo dives. Back in and Parka hits a top rope splash for two on Plata with Oro making the save. Parka suplexes both of them at once and it's off to Fenix, who gets double superkicked for two more. Plata's powerbomb is broken up but Oro breaks up a diving tag attempt.

A top rope splash gives Oro two and Plata drives in some elbows to the head. Fenix fights up and fires off some kicks, allowing the needed tag off to Parka. Everything breaks down and Plata misses a Swanton, as does Parka's springboard dropkick, which grazes Oro's leg. Oro gets caught with a better connecting kick on top and Parka adds a big dive. That means the Mexican Muscle Buster can finish Oro at 6:27.

Rating: B-. They had a fast paced tag match between the perfectly acceptable Money Machine and the makeshift good guys. I'm not sure I can imagine this being a meaningful tag team going forward but there are worse uses for Parka and Fenix. It made for a fine opener though and sometimes that's all it needs to be.

Video on Texano Jr. vs. El Mesias, who started fighting back in 2011 and they'll be in the main event tag match tonight.

We look at AAA's involvement in Wrestlemania Week.

We see the recently debuted Catalina at Wrestlemania, where she met John Cena (who of course spoke to her in Spanish) and Dominik Mysterio, who wasn't impressed. She was in WWE a few years ago but it didn't work out, so she has reinvented herself and is back for the Reina de Reinas Title. Pretty basic stuff here without much being added.

Laredo Kid vs. El Hijo del Dr. Wagner Jr.

Non-title. Wagner blocks a whip to start and avoids a charge into the corner. Kid gets in a superkick on the floor, setting up the big flip dive to send him into the barricade. Back in and Kid stomps away, with Wagner having to get over to the rope. A corkscrew moonsault misses though and Wagner grabs a quick Death Valley Driver for two.

They head outside again with Kid superkicking him again and hitting a 450 from the apron to the floor. Wagner is right back up with a slam from the apron to the floor, with Kid somehow getting up at two. A quadruple jump moonsault gives Wagner two and the Wagner Driver finishes Kid at 6:57.

Rating: B. I was a bit surprised at the result as I wasn't expecting one of the champions to actually take a fall. The good thing is they had a heck of a match with Kid giving everything he had to try and slow Wagner down. This was a rather nice surprise and I'll take that any week.

Post match respect is eventually shown.

We look at more of Texano vs. Mesias, this time in 2016. They're making this feel big.

Rey Fenix offers support to Laredo Kid, who says Fenix is just jealous that he doesn't have a title like his brother. Ouch.

The new General Manager will be announced on May 23. That likely won't end well.

El Mesias/Mecha Wolf vs. El Grande Americano/Texano Jr.

Americano and Wolf start things off as we have to wait for the legends to clash. A leg lariat puts Wolf down early and he gets pulled into a hammerlock. Americano grabs a handstand hammerlock before it's off to Texano to stay on the arm. That's enough to bring in Mesias for the slugout and

everything breaks down. Texano and Americano clear the ring but Wolf goes after Texano's bullrope.

The distraction leaves Texano to get caught in a Hart Attack for two and we hit the chinlock. Texano's tilt-a-whirl backbreaker drops Mesias though and it's back to Americano to take over on Wolf. A middle rope clothesline gives Americano two with Mesias making the save. Everything breaks down and we get some dives to the floor, with Americano getting the better of things. Wolf loads up the mist but Americano knocks it out of his mouth. The running headbutt and La Cavernaria finishes for Americano at 8:20.

Rating: B-. Another perfectly nice tag match here as Americano continues to be the hottest thing in the promotion. It's awesome to see him having this kind of success as the whole gimmick was little more than a joke that took off. Mesias vs. Texano certainly felt big as well as they tapped into the pre-WWE history and it worked as planned.

Post match Americano lets Texano have the ring but the Original El Grande Americano runs in to give Texano an ankle lock. The other Americano makes the save.

Overall Rating: B. The best thing I can say about this show is one of the most important aspect to any series: it's easy to follow. At no point do I feel lost, confused or anything else and that's a great sign. They aren't exactly doing revolutionary stuff but it all makes sense and ties together, with stories getting to rotate in and out every few weeks to keep them fresh. That was the case again here and it made for a rather good show, as usual.

Results

La Parka/Rey Fenix b. Money Machine – Mexican Muscle Buster to Oro

El Hijo del Dr. Wagner Jr. b. Laredo Kid – Wagner Driver

El Grande Americano/Texano Jr. b. El Mesias/Mecha Wolf – La

Cavernaria to Wolf

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AEW Collision – April 25, 2026: They're It

Collision

Date: April 25, 2026

Location: Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland, Oregon

Commentators: Nigel McGuinness, Tony Schiavone, Excalibur

We're back on Saturday nights and hopefully that doesn't mean we're back to the usual less than important shows. There are two title matches tonight and naturally the Don Callis Family is challenging in both of them. Other than that, we get to hear from FTR so let's get to it.

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

The Conglomeration is ready to go but FTR and Stokely interrupt because they have something to say to Adam Copeland and Christian Cage.

Here are FTR and Stokely to do just that. They get right to the point by accepting Copeland and Cage's challenge for

Double Or Nothing but they want this to be definitive. It can be a street fight, but they want it to be an I Quit match (Harwood: "Five letters, two words.") so the nostalgia run can end for good. Ball's in your court.

Trios Titles: Conglomeration vs. Don Callis Family

Lance Archer/Hechicero/Andrade El Idolo are challenging for the Family. The Conglomeration run into FTR on their way to the ring and shove FTR down. That's rather unpleasant. Hechicero and O'Reilly go technical to start with Hechicero going after the leg. Strong comes in and backbreakers Hechicero so Cassidy can...eventually...drop an elbow.

Archer comes in and Cassidy changes his mind by bringing Strong back in. That doesn't last long either so it's off to Andrade vs. Cassidy. The lazy kicks don't do much to Andrade so Cassidy steals his belt and rips the pants down, leaving Andrade staggering. Strong comes back in to hammer away in the corner but Andrade clotheslines Cassidy and steals his shirt as we take a break.

We come back with Cassidy fighting out of the corner, including a double hurricanrana to Andrade and Hechicero. O'Reilly gets the big tag and everything breaks down, with Strong tossing Cassidy into various Family members. Andrade fights back and hits Two Amigos on O'Reilly, who breaks up the third. Archer is back in to clean house, with a spinning Boss Man Slam getting two on Cassidy. The chokeslam is countered with an Orange Punch and a high/low gives Cassidy the pin at 13:25.

Rating: B-. This was a good opener with the Family being fine as the designated losers to make the new champs look strong in their first defense. It helps that the titles have changed hands on this show before so the result wasn't entirely a formality. At the same time, Archer taking the fall doesn't seem to be a great idea, as that isn't how a monster tends to

be treated.

After Dynamite, the Death Riders sat down with Will Ospreay, with Marina Shafir apparently wrenching his neck to fix it. Jon Moxley asks what Ospreay is trying to do. They met seven years ago and at some point, Ospreay needs to realize that his body will break down. There is a door he can walk through and they can settle up, with Moxley sliding him a chair. Moxley says Ospreay can be anything he wants to be, or be like everyone else. With that, Moxley lays face down on the floor and Ospreay picks up the chair...and shoves the camera away.

Death Riders/The Dogs vs. Young Bucks/Rascalz

Moxley, apparently not dead, is on commentary. Xavier and Yuta start things off and everything breaks down, with Yuta getting caught in the wrong corner. Matt gets crushed in another corner but the Rascalz fight back to knock Castagnoli down. That doesn't last long as Garcia and Castagnoli grab Sharpshooters, only for the Bucks to sunset flip in for Sharpshooters on the Dogs (rather than, you know, saving their partners).

Xavier DDTs Yuta in the middle and small packages him for two, which breaks the four holds. Yuta suplexes Xavier out of the corner and the bad guys are in control as we take a break. We come back with Reed cleaning house, including a rather bouncy cutter to Yuta. Moxley: "This is what we live for!" There is something to be said for seeing Yuta get beaten up. Matt comes back in to roll the northern lights suplexes and Connors is knocked down.

The good guys hit a string of dives and shots from the top, only for Castagnoli to cut off Xavier's. The Swing sends Xavier into Yuta's dropkick but the Bucks are back in for the save. Reed does his big running cutter to drop Castagnoli onto the pile at ringside, leaving Wentz to hit a top rope cutter on Finlay. A suplex is loaded up but reversed, with Wentz

being lifted up so Connors' top rope spear can finish him at 14:09.

Rating: B. The match was the usual insane collection of spots and dives...and my goodness I cannot bring myself to care. I feel like I've seen this match about 100 times this year alone and this one just happened to be a ten man version. It's certainly not bad and the athleticism is great, but it came and went and I'm sure we'll see something that is basically the same at least twice in the next week.

Mina Shirakawa and Harley Cameron want Hikaru Shida to apologize, but she stands by what she said: Cameron will never be on their level. Arguing ensues.

Kris Statlander vs. B3cca

B3cca jumps her to start and gets sent into the corner to start. Statlander actually gets tied up in the ropes for some stomps and a top rope dropkick. Back in and Saturday Night Fever is broken up, with B3cca grabbing Carmella's Code Of Silence. That's easily reversed into Saturday Night Fever to give Statlander the pin at 1:48. B3cca got in a lot here.

Post match Statlander walks past Hikaru Shida.

Megan Bayne and Lena Kross are ready for Statlander and Shida.

Rush vs. Adam Priest

Priest takes him down by the arm to start and mocks the horns pose, meaning it's time to chop it out. Rush isn't having that and knocks him into the corner to stomp away. The running slap in the corner connects for Rush and we take a break. We come back with Priest hitting an Alabama Jam for two but Rush sends him outside. Stomping against the barricade has Priest in more trouble and the Bull's Horns finish for Rush at 8:12.

Rating: C. The match was just a step above a squash, with Rush running through Priest and shrugging off his offense, as he

should have. On one hand that's how this should have gone, but it would be nice to see Rush actually do something that matters. I haven't seen it happen in a long time and it doesn't feel like it's changing anytime soon.

Konosuke Takeshita is ready to face Kazuchika Okada.

Kazuchika Okada is ready to face Konosuke Takeshita.

Skye Blue/Thekla vs. Persephone/Alex Windsor

Thekla quickly hands it off to Blue, who pulls Windsor down by the hair to start. They slug it out until Windsor hits a clothesline as everything breaks down. We settle down to Persephone taking over on Blue but Thekla trips Windsor from the floor. Thekla's double stomp off the apron connects and we take a break.

We come back with Windsor still in trouble but managing a running clothesline. Persephone comes in to send Thekla flying off a fall away slam. Everything breaks down and Persephone hits a double high crossbody. Code Blue is broken up but Persephone misses a charge in the corner. Windsor and Thekla brawl out to the floor and Persephone loads up a Razor's Edge. Cue Julia Hart to spit mist in Persephone's eyes though, meaning Code Blue can finish for Blue at 10:29.

Rating: C+. This was another fine match, with Hart's run in being timed well enough. The odds can even up when Jamie Hayter comes back from injury so there is at least a logical final step with the six woman tag. I'm a bit surprised that Persephone took the fall, but it's better than Windsor getting pinned again.

We look at MJF and Kevin Knight on Dynamite.

National Title: Jack Perry vs. El Clon

Perry, who has shaved, is defending. They run the ropes to start and sends Clon to the floor, allowing Perry to untie his

hair. A dive is cut off by a raised knee and Clon sends him into the steps. That earns Clon a posting into a 619 around the post, followed by a sitout powerbomb for two. Clon gets in a quick clothesline to take over again and we take a break.

We come back with Perry getting up to trade chops, followed by Sliced Bread for two. A spinning Canadian Destroyer gives Perry two more but Clon knees him in the face for the same. Clon's step up Lionsault is blocked though and Perry's running knee finishes at 9:51.

Rating: B-. It's another "here's a title match even though you probably don't buy that the title is in jeopardy". That's a good way to use the rather large roster and something that has been done with the TV Title equivalent for the better part of ever in wrestling. This worked out well enough, with Perry getting a win while we wait for him to get a better challenger.

Willow Nightingale wants new competition.

Anthony Bowens asks the Opps if he's on the team or not. Sure. Then the Opps leave him there.

Chris Jericho/Hurt Syndicate vs. The Demand

MVP is here with Jericho and the Syndicate and sits in on commentary. Jericho and Ricochet start things off with Ricochet tagging out before doing anything. Eh it was better when Thekla did it. Everything breaks down and the six way brawl is on. Ricochet is backdropped out to the floor and Kaun is sent outside as well, leaving Jericho to look at a fan's shirt. Jericho's big dive to the floor connects and we take a break.

We come back with Ricochet holding Jericho in a seated abdominal stretch. Jericho gives him a backdrop but Kaun is right there to cut off the tag, which is given up a few seconds later. Lashley comes in to clean house and it's off to

Benjamin to fire off the suplexes. It's back to Jericho to hammer Ricochet on top, setting up the super hurricanrana.

Kaun drops Jericho with a right hand though and everything breaks down again. A Codebreaker gets two on Ricochet and it's a spear to Kaun. Jericho gets the Walls on Ricochet, with Liona pulling them over to the rope. Ricochet gets in a low blow and the Ricosault finishes Jericho at 11:28.

Rating: B-. That's a surprising result, as I would have expected Jericho to get his revenge here to set up a bigger match with Ricochet down the line. We will still likely get that, but there is a good chance that it happens at Double Or Nothing with Jericho putting something up. Like his AEW career. Or maybe something of value.

Overall Rating: B-. There were a lot of tag matches on this show and they started to get repetitive after a bit. The main event and a few other things felt like they advanced some stories, but this show combined to feel like quite a bit of filler. It's not a bad show by any means and if you watch it, you'll have a good enough time. It's just not a show you really need to prioritize in the slightest. In other words, it's what you get out of Collision a lot of the time.

Results

Conglomeration b. Don Callis Family – High/low to Archer

Death Riders/The Dogs b. Rascalz/Young Bucks – Suplex/top rope spear combination to Wentz

Kris Statlander b. B3cca – Saturday Night Fever

Rush b. Adam Priest – Bull's Horns

Skye Blue/Thekla b. Persephone/Alex Windsor – Code Blue to Persephone

Jack Perry b. El Clon – Running knee

The Demand b. Chris Jericho/Hurt Syndicate – Ricosault to Jericho

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411mania.com Exclusive Review: In Your House XVI: Canadian Stampede

One of the best shows ever, with an all time crowd.

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Smackdown – April 24, 2026: Well, It's Better

Smackdown

Date: April 24, 2026

Location: Dickies Arena, Fort Worth, Texas

Commentators: Wade Barrett, Joe Tessitore

It's the first Smackdown after Wrestlemania and that means

it's time to deal with both the fallout and the start of the new season. That probably means some debuts, some big twists and hopefully a new challenger for Cody Rhodes, who retained the World Title over Randy Orton on Saturday. Let's get to it.

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

Long Wrestlemania recap.

Danhausen arrives in the Danhausenmobile and scares Trick Williams off.

Here is Jacob Fatu to get things going. Fatu talks about how he told Roman Reigns how much he needs the World Title, with Reigns saying Fatu isn't ready. That's what he's heard his whole life, but Reigns needs to get in the ring with him and prove it. Cue the Usos to interrupt, with Jimmy liking the idea of Fatu wanting to make his family better.

Fatu can do all that...by beating Cody Rhodes, who is already banged up. Run the play with the family. These people out here aren't going to help him make it happen so don't listen to them. Jey on the other hand says it's gone too far already and Fatu is going to have to face Reigns. Cue Solo Sikoa and the MFT's, with Sikoa saying he brought Fatu to WWE. What did the Usos ever teach him? How to Yeet?

Fatu is going to need an army to beat Reigns and that's what Sikoa has...but Tama Tonga grabs the mic. He asks why they're wasting time on a lost cause like Fatu? Tama: "You think he's going to beat Roman? He can't even beat you." Fatu superkicks Tama, who is held back as Fatu wants to talk to Reigns. Oh and he wants to face Sikoa tonight.

Giulia knows there is pressure when she is ready to defend the Women's US Title against Tiffany Stratton and feels pressure. Kiana James does NOT like these questions though.

Women's United States Title: Tiffany Stratton vs. Giulia

Giulia, with Kiana James, is defending. Stratton flips around to start and hits a discus lariat, followed by a pinfall reversal sequence. Giulia headbutts her into the corner and breaks up a quick Prettiest Moonsault Ever. A neckbreaker onto the floor drops Stratton and we take a break. We come back with Stratton hitting a handspring elbow into the corner but Giulia catches her up top.

A butterfly superplex gives Giulia two but Stratton is back with a kick to the chest. James' distraction doesn't work as Stratton grabs a Regal Roll but the Prettiest Moonsault Ever is countered into a double arm neck crank. With that broken up, Giulia hits a running knee to the face, only to get Alabama Slammed. Now the Prettiest Moonsault Ever gives Stratton the title at 8:58.

Rating: B-. As usual, Giulia can look incredibly smooth in the ring, but there is only so much to her in the charisma/interest department. That's where WWE has dropped the ball with her, as she basically just came in, became a champion and...that's it. Now she's lost the title and I have no idea what is next for her. If she's going to be a bigger star, WWE has to find a way to make the fans care about her because it hasn't happened yet.

We look back at Danhausen, and the Mini Hausens, beating up Kit Wilson and the Miz at Wrestlemania as John Cena thought "I got out of this stuff just in time."

Earlier this week, Danhausen snuck in Miz's house and then vanished inside of it, somehow winding up in Miz's pool. Miz insisted that there was no course and then wound up flying into the pool as well.

We look at Paige and Brie Bella of all people winning the Women's Tag Team Titles at Wrestlemania.

Tiffany Stratton is happy to not be the runner up for a change but here are Brie Bella and Paige to interrupt. Stratton leaves as the other two head to the ring for a chat. Brie talks about how great it is to be here as a champion and while she was sad to not be there with Nikki, she's here with someone she sees as a sister. Paige: "I'm back." It's been a long road to get back here but this is Paige's house. They aren't going anywhere and cue Charlotte/Alexa Bliss to interrupt. The two of them reluctantly welcome the champs back and then get right to the challenge. It's on so get a referee out here.

Women's Tag Team Titles: Paige/Brie Bella vs. Alexa Bliss/Charlotte

Paige and Bella are defending and we're joined in progress with Bliss taking Bella down. It's off to Charlotte to work on the leg but Bella kicks her away. The tag is loaded up...and NXT's Jacy Jayne debuts to send Paige into the steps for the DQ at 1:57 shown.

Post match Fallon Henley and Lainey Reid (the rest of Jayne's Fatal Influence faction) run in to beat down Bliss and Charlotte. This is hardly a surprising callup for Jayne, though I wasn't sure if the other two were coming up with her. Jayne has been in NXT for the better part of ever so it was time to try it or let her go, which would feel like a huge waste.

We look at Cody Rhodes retaining over Randy Orton, only for Orton to lay him out after the match.

We look at Royce Keys returning to his hometown in an effort to inspire kids.

Here is Cody Rhodes, complete with a black eye, for a chat. Rhodes talks about leaving the stadium at Wrestlemania because that's what he was supposed to do as champion. He wanted to leave through the entrance because he wanted to send a message

that he wasn't done. It was a message to Randy Orton, because he wasn't done after the Punt.

It was a message to Sami Zayn, who called him the Golden Boy and nothing bad ever happens to him. And it was a message to those outside forces who want to take him out because you are 0-3 so MIND YOUR D*** BUSINESS! It is the Smackdown after Wrestlemania and he is easy to find but hard to beat. Kind of nothing here, but if he's not physically cleared, this was all they could do.

We look back at Fatal Influence's debut.

Solo Sikoa sends the MFT's to get the Tag Team Titles back. He'll take care of Jacob Fatu.

Tag Team Titles: Damian Priest/R-Truth vs. MFT's

JC Mateo/Tama Tonga, with Tonga Loa, are challenging. R-Truth and Tama start things off with Tama knocking him down but missing a dancing elbow. Priest comes in but gets pulled down to the floor for the crash as we take a break. We come back with Priest fighting out of trouble and hitting a rebound lariat, allowing the tag off to R-Truth. That means the John Cena sequence is initiated but Tama gets in a cheap shot and Mateo grabs a German suplex. Tama misses a charge into the post though and Mateo goes into a lifting Little Jimmy to retain the titles at 8:18.

Rating: C+. Priest and R-Truth continue to play with the house's money as they have no business being a long term team but are having a perfectly nice title reign. It's not like the other teams on the show were doing anything in the first place so see what you can get out of them. If nothing else, anyone who takes a title from R-Truth is going to feel like a big time heel so it's hardly the worst idea.

Back at Miz's house, Miz gets out of the pool and Danhausen (who is changing clothes between appearances) plays with Miz's

golf simulator and accidentally hits Miz low with the club. Then he steals and breaks a Slammy and has some chocolate on the way out. Danhausen opens the door and sees Maryse...and Miz accidentally throws chocolate on her. Danhausen escapes by stealing their daughter's bicycle. This is so stupid that it's hilarious.

Here is Trick Williams, with Lil Yachty and a person in a gingerbread man costume, for a championship celebration. The fans seem happy to see him and Yachty says he's here to stay. Williams makes it clear that he's not doing the US Title Open Challenge anymore...but the gingerbread man jumps both of them. It's Sami Zayn, who hits a gingerbread Helluva Kick and does a bit of dancing as the fans boo this out of the building.

Royce Keys is happy with winning the Andre Battle Royal last week but he's just getting started. Solo Sikoa comes in and says it's a good win. There's always room for Keys in Sikoa's family. Sikoa leaves without getting a yes or a no.

We get a Tale Of The Tape for Miz vs. Danhausen, with each getting some special stats.

Danhausen has a curse success rate of 100%, is a personal friend of John Cena and very strong merchandise sales.

Miz has an active curse status, his last win is under review and he has never been on a blimp. I love these goofy things.

Danhausen vs. The Miz

Danhausen has the Danhausenmobile, which has Tessitore surprised even though it was shown earlier tonight. Kit Wilson is here with Miz as Barrett lists off Danhausen's crimes thus far. Wilson steals Miz's Slammy back from Danhausen's car, even as Danhausen snaps off a middle rope hurricanrana. That's enough for Miz to bail out to the floor but he comes back in to stomp away. Miz and Wilson pose but Danhausen curses them. Pyro goes off and Miz gets rolled up for the pin at 1:43.

Post match Danhausen tries to use the flash paper to escape but Miz is waiting on him. Miz and Wilson collide and Danhausen escapes. This was goofy slapstick stuff, which is Danhausen's thing.

Blake Monroe is coming. Yeah that's another expected callup but I'm not sure where she fits in.

Here is new Women's Champion Rhea Ripley for a chat. She's champion again and she's a fighting champion so let's do an open challenge. Cue Fatal Influence, but the fans don't want to hear from Jacy Jayne. She welcomes the booing because she loves it and goes on to introduce the team. Ripley says the attack earlier was impressive, but stop while you're ahead. Fallon Henley threatens Ripley, who says take your shot. Jayne says they're always ready to throw hands so here is Nick Aldis to make Jayne vs. Ripley for right now.

Jacy Jayne vs. Rhea Ripley

Non-title. Jayne chills on the ropes to start and gets sent face first into the mat. Back up and Jayne grinds away on a headlock but Ripley gives her a running shoulder into the corner. Ripley sends her to the apron for a forearm to the floor, and it's an electric chair onto the apron. The rest of Fatal Influence offers a distraction though and Jayne gets in a kick from the apron as we take a break.

We come back with Ripley fighting out of a chinlock and firing off some clotheslines. Jayne fires off a superkick though and a pump kick puts Ripley down for two. The Rolling Encore (discus forearm) misses for Jayne though and Ripley goes up, only to get crotched down. Ripley is right back with a Razor's Edge and running knee for two in a pretty impressive kickout from Jayne. The Riptide is loaded up but Fatal Influence runs in for the DQ at 10:55.

Rating: B-. That ending was a relief as it was the way out of the match. I was worried that they were going to have Jayne

get pinned here but instead they went with the logical result instead. At the same time, it's rather awesome to see Fatal Influence being thrown into the deep end. They've been built up in NXT and it's not crazy to think that they're ready for this. Let's see how good they can be.

Post match the beatdown leaves Ripley laying.

We look at Roman Reigns and Jacob Fatu on Raw.

The Usos tell Jacob Fatu that they have his back in the main event. Fatu doesn't want it, which doesn't surprise Jey.

Charlotte and Alexa Bliss are in the trainer's room when Rhea Ripley comes in. Ripley and Charlotte have a staredown and Charlotte doesn't like Jacy Jayne. She'll get her hands on Jayne next week, unlike Ripley this week.

We get the Brock Lesnar tribute video from Raw.

Ricky Saints is coming next week. He didn't have much else to do in NXT so why not.

Solo Sikoa vs. Jacob Fatu

The MFT's are here with Sikoa. Fatu shrugs off a headlock and they trade shoulders for a standoff. Sikoa hammers away in the corner but Fatu is right back with a running elbow. Back up and Sikoa sends him outside, where the MFT's get in a cheap shot to take over. Cue the Usos, but Fatu is not happy because he doesn't want them here.

Sikoa gets in a cheap shot and we take a break. We come back with Sikoa snapping off a suplex but Fatu is right back up for a slugout. Fatu gets the better of things and hits a running backsplash to put Sikoa in trouble for a change. The headbutts in the corner have Sikoa in more trouble and the running Umaga Attack connects.

Fatu superkicks him down and goes up, which has the MFT's up

for a distraction/interference. Sikoa's rollup gets two but Fatu is back up with a dive onto the MFT's. Spinning Solo and the Superfly Splash give Sikoa two each but the Samoan Spike misses. Fatu gives him the pop up Samoan drop and the triple jump moonsault finishes Sikoa at 10:59.

Rating: B. This was about making Fatu look like a killer who smashed through Sikoa and his goons to make him feel like more of a threat for Reigns. That worked well here, as Fatu had some trouble but came out on top in the end. It's a good way to go, with Fatu clearing out the lower parts of the family on his way to the bigger members. Good main event here, with bigger ramifications.

Post match the MFT's run in and beat Fatu down so the Usos come to the ring, only for Fatu to beat the MFT's down on his own. Fatu hits running Umaga Attacks into chairs in the corner and puts Tonga Loa through the announcers' table. Back in and Fatu glares at the Usos, saying he'll see Roman Reigns on Raw to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. I'd call this an upgrade over most recent Smackdowns, which granted isn't the highest bar to clear. What matters the most is that they kept my interest and focused on the biggest story, with Fatu vs. Reigns being advanced. Rhodes didn't do much, though Fatal Influence's debut went well and more new recruits are on the way. It's not a classic, but I'll take it over what we've been getting in recent weeks.

Results

Tiffany Stratton b. Giulia – Prettiest Moonsault Ever

Paige/Brie Bella b. Alexa Bliss/Charlotte via DQ when Jacy Jayne interfered

Damian Priest/R-Truth b. MFT's – Lifting Little Jimmy to Mateo Danhausen b. The Miz – Rollup

Rhea Ripley b. Jacy Jayne via DQ when Fatal Influence interfered

Jacob Fatu b. Solo Sikoa – Triple jump moonsault

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Impact Wrestling – April 23, 2026: Carry It Guys

Impact Wrestling

Date: April 23, 2026

Location: Upstate Medical University Arena At The Oncenter War Memorial, Syracuse, New York

Commentators: Tom Hannifan, Matthew Rehwoldt

It's World Title time, as Rich Swann is getting a shot at Mike Santana and the gold. That should be enough to carry the show but we still have a bit of fallout from Rebellion to deal with this week. If nothing else, the Hardys still want revenge on the Righteous, as their feud is somehow still going. Let's get to it.

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

Opening sequence.

Bear Bronson vs. Nic Nemeth

The rest of the System is here and Ryan Nemeth is on commentary. Bronson chokes in the corner to start and gives him a rather enthusiastic slam. Nic fights back but Bronson

sits down on his chest, allowing Alisha Edwards to get in a cheap shot from the floor. The side slam gives Bronson two but Nic fights up and hits a quick Fameasser.

Bronson chokebombs him for two more, only to get sent into the post. The running DDT and superkick give Nic two more but Bronson knocks him outside. The System surrounds him but KC Navarro comes out to offer a distraction. Nic hits the superkick into the Danger Zone for the pin at 8:27.

Rating: B-. This actually wound up being pretty decent, which isn't a surprise as Bronson has completely exceeded his expectations in his time around here. The interference likely sets up another tag match down the line and I'm digging Nic as a good guy. You could put him into the World Title scene rather easily and that will likely be the case down the line, though going after the System is a good way to start.

Rich Swann, with BDE, is very excited for the main event and wants to do this alone. BDE doesn't seem to mind.

Here is...well it's supposed to be Elijah for a concert but it's obviously Frankie Kazarian with a fake beard (which commentary does recognize). He has a bad case of the blues because he can't beat Kazarian and he has written a song called Kaz Is My Daddy. Cue the real Elijah to choke Kazarian out and announce a guitar strap match. Then he sings about how horrible Kazarian is. I've heard worse ideas for a gimmick match.

EC3 has a chair and is ready to end Eric Young.

Tessa Blanchard, Victoria Crawford and Mila Moore are back from the Undead Realm and next week, they're fighting Rosemary and company in their world. Sidenote: I know it's (probably) not intentional but Moore's "Hotter Than Her" shirt with an arrow pointing at Crawford is hilarious.

Dutch vs. Matt Hardy

Their partners are banned from ringside. Hardy wastes no time in setting up a table at ringside and spray paints SACRIFICE on top. Dutch jumps him inside for the opening bell and blocks an early Twist Of Fate attempt. The Side Effect connects and they go outside, with Hardy ramming Dutch's head into the steps over and over.

We take a break and come back with Dutch charging into a side slam and grabbing a chinlock. That's broken up and Dutch misses an elbow, allowing Hardy to hit a DDT. Dutch is sent outside for a middle rope elbow...which breaks one of the table's legs but not the table itself. Hardy suplexes him through the table but since it was set up before the match, it's not a DQ. As I try to get my head around THAT logic, Vincent pops out from underneath the ring and slides a chair inside. The distraction lets Vincent shove Hardy off the top into Death Walks to give Dutch the pin at 10:15.

Rating: C. The idea here was that Hardy wanted revenge, but at the same time the stuff with the table didn't exactly work. This feud feels like it should have ended a few times now and odds are we're going to the Hardy Compound sooner than later. Dutch getting a win is a surprise, though it was only an ok match.

Post match Vincent sits in a chair as Dutch beats on Matt. Jeff Hardy runs in for the save, which is treated as a surprise because...well because villains in wrestling are dumb.

The Elegance Brand have Mr. Elegance show off his physique to convince Daria Rae to give him a match next week. Yeah sure. She's rather confused as the team leaves. This could be funny, which might be due to Rae not using her terrible catchphrase.

Here is a rather upset looking Lei Ying Lee for a chat. After apologizing for her English not being great, she says she loves her friends and TNA but doesn't know why Xia Brookside

did that to her. Cue Brookside, now in a leather jacket, to say they aren't best friends because if they were, they would have stood together at Rebellion. Lee is in tears as Brookside says she has the pressure of being a second generation star and being all alone.

Lee talks about being alone out here but then she met Brookside and tried to help her. She apologizes to Brookside and promises to be right by her side. Brookside says she made a mistake and that Lee has been by her side. She knows Lee will be champion again and they make up with a big hug. Then Brookside glares at the camera and lays her out. Perfectly fine stuff here, though Brookside as a heel might be hard to make work.

Elayna Black vs. Katie Arquette

Black knocks her down to start and then trips her onto the apron. Back in and Black knocks her into the corner, setting up the Blackout for the fast pin at 2:29. Total squash.

Mustafa Ali, with Order 4, welcomes us to the International Title summit, where a random country is selected to have a representative get a title shot. The lucky country is Australia and the challenger is...Chris Brookes! He's thankful for the chance and calls Ali a "bloke", which Ali doesn't understand.

Bear Bronson is ticked off about his loss and Cedric Alexander wants Leon Slater and the X-Division Title. Eddie Edwards says the System will fix this.

TNA World Title: Rich Swann vs. Mike Santana

Santana is defending and Swann is in remarkable shape as that has never been his thing before. They shake hands to start and we're ready to go. Santana goes after the arm to start and wrestles him down, with Swann popping up for a standoff. They go to the test of strength and head to the mat with neither

being able to get the advantage.

Back up and they both miss dropkicks, followed by Swann catching Santana with a dropkick to send him into the ropes. That has Santana rethinking things and hitting a dropkick of his own. A belly to back faceplant drops Swann and Santana hits a backsplash for two. They go outside, where Santana sends him face first into the floor (ow) as we take a break. We come back with Swann hitting a running kick from the apron and putting Santana in a chair next to the barricade.

Some running kicks to the face have Santana rocked but he comes back with a superkick. They get back inside, where Swann superkicks him out of the air and goes up as well. That earns Swann a top rope superplex, though he might have countered in some way as they both stay down. Santana fights up and strikes away, setting up the Rolling Buck Fifty. The Cannonball and a sitout powerbomb give Santana two but Swann scores with a rolling clothesline.

Swann misses a middle rope 450 but connects with the handspring cutter. A super hurricanrana into a frog splash gives Swann two and they need a breather. Back up and Santana tries a sitout powerbomb but gets reversed into a Canadian Destroyer for a rather near fall. Swann hits a superkick but Santana pops up with a heck of a Spin The Block to retain at 19:06.

Rating: B+. Yeah this worked, as they beat the fire out of each other and Swann looks like he's back after a weird few years. That's great to see and he has clearly put in the work. At the same time, Santana continues to be the man and it's great to see that he is feeling like the A-list star of this promotion. TNA has been needing that as even Joe Hendry felt like he was a rental before he could get to WWE. Santana doesn't feel that way (though WWE would snatch him up as soon as they could if possible) and that's good to see for the promotion.

Respect is shown to end the show.

Overall Rating: B-. The main event is rather good, though there was only so much worthwhile on the rest of the show. Right now there isn't a big show set up so until we start building towards whatever is next, we're in something of a holding pattern. Granted having that good of a main event helps, but it's the only thing really worth your time this week.

Results

Nic Nemeth b. Bear Bronson – Danger Zone

Dutch b. Matt Hardy – Death Walks

Elayna Black b. Katie Arquette – Blackout

Mike Santana b. Rich Swann – Spin The Block

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