

# The VP of Aces and 8's Is.....

I kid you not, D'lo Brown. I'm literally laughing out loud at how stupid this company is.

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## WWE Posts Tribute To Paul Bearer

That's nice of them.

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## NXT – March 6, 2013: The Wyatt Family Hour

### NXT

Date: March 6, 2013

Location: Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida

Commentators: Tony Dawson, William Regal

We're back in Florida for more NXT where the Shield made their presence known again last week, breaking up a #1 contender's match between Conor O'Brian and Corey Graves after presumably attacking Bo Dallas. Other than that we had the Wyatt Family get even stronger than usual by having Bray himself get in the ring for some destruction. Let's get to it.

Here's Commissioner Dusty Rhodes to open things up. He announces the main event for tonight as Graves vs. O'Brian vs. Dallas for the next shot at

the title with extra security to keep the Shield from interfering.

Welcome Home.

### Adrian Neville/Oliver Grey vs. Judas Devlin/Scott Dawson

Neville and Grey are tag champions but this is non-title. There's no Grey though and Neville doesn't know where he is. He was here earlier but somewhere in between there he disappeared. Neville agrees to fight them on his own and starts against Dawson. A quick arm wringer puts Dawson down and it's off to an armbar. It's off to Judas who is a big tattooed man with long hair. Judas doesn't do much of note before it's back to Dawson.

Devlin comes back in for a chinlock as the numbers game is starting to catch up with Neville. As the hold is on, the Wyatt Family drags Grey out to the stage. Grey is barely conscious and is reaching towards the ring. Neville fights out of the hold but is distracted by Grey, allowing the team to take over again. Dawson puts Adrian on the top but gets knocked down, allowing Neville to hit the corkscrew shooting star press for the pin at 3:21.

**Rating:** D+. Not much to see here but it's about the story rather than the match. The Wyatt Family wanting revenge for losing in the title match is the right idea and it sets up a good dynamic of the much smaller champions having to fight the monsters with an even bigger disadvantage. That shooting star is absolutely stunning too.

Neville checks on his partner post match.

### Leo Kruger vs. Yoshi Tatsu

The fans cheer for Yoshi as I'm guessing they meant to go to the Nintendo convention instead of this show. Kruger grabs a headlock to start but

gets caught in an atomic drop followed by a second one for good measure. Kruger comes back by sending Yoshi's shoulder into the buckle before cranking on the arm on the mat. Yoshi finally makes a rope and fights up but a shot to the arm stops him cold. Kruger hits a big clothesline and finishes Tatsu with a seated armbar at 2:59. Total squash.

#### Sasha Banks/Cameron/Naomi vs. Audrey Marie/Alicia Fox/Aksana

Cameron and Naomi dance a lot before the match. Fox and Banks start things off with Sasha taking over with a headscissors. Off to Aksana who has just as much luck as her partner before it's off to Cameron. Oh wait we need a dance break. Back to the wrestling now with Audrey getting in a kick to Cameron's back from the apron to take over. Aksana puts her in the corner and does that crawl of hers, only to get caught by a cross body for two by Cameron.

Back to Fox who gets a quick one count off a northern lights suplex. Off to Audrey now who hooks a body scissors which only lasts for a few seconds before Cameron can tag off to Naomi. Things speed up as Naomi hits a flying clothesline to Audrey and an enziguri for two on Aksana. A leg lariat is enough to pin Audrey at 4:25.

**Rating:** C-. As usual, the Divas of NXT are far more interesting and talented than those of Raw and Smackdown. Cameron isn't much in the ring but Naomi has good athleticism and energy. Unfortunately here the focus was on the main show girls instead of the more talented NXT girls because they're the "stars".

Bo Dallas talks about how his career is skyrocketing right now due to winning the NXT Tournament and beating Wade Barrett on Raw. Bray Wyatt comes up and talks about laying out Dallas a few weeks ago. If Dallas had accepted Wyatt's offer to join the Family, he would have been protected against the Shield last week. Bo says stay away from him because he isn't interested. Wyatt calls him a foolish young man.

Alberto Del Rio will be here next week.

Summer Rae insists on being called the First Lady of NXT and insists on the interviewer introducing her again. Rae talks about putting Paige on the shelf for good and taking away her popularity. If Rebecca, the interviewer, ever introduces her improperly again, she'll be taken out like trash.

Shield reassures us that they're still here to shield us from injustice. The injustice from last week was O'Brian, Dallas and Graves believing they deserved a title shot. Ambrose talks about putting a crack in the foundation of WWE. They've done it on Raw and Smackdown so it's time to do it here on NXT. It should be Rollins getting the title shot, not any of those three.

#### Corey Graves vs. Conor O'Brian vs. Bo Dallas

The winner gets the title shot at Langston at some point in the future. O'Brian runs over Dallas to start and Graves stomps away. Conor doesn't seem interested in helping him so instead he beats up Corey for a bit. Graves manages to send him to the floor and puts Bo in a chinlock as we take a break. Back with Dallas sending Graves to the floor but as he follows, Conor pops up to clothesline Dallas down. With Conor on the apron, Corey fires some shoulder to his ribs. That gets him nowhere though as O'Brian knocks him away and gets two off a top rope clothesline.

Dallas is back in now but O'Brian keeps full control of the match. Conor wraps his legs around Graves' head for a neck crank, getting two as a result. The attention shifts to Dallas now with O'Brian throwing him into Graves in the corner which gets another two count. Graves gets a boot up in the corner to stagger O'Brian, allowing Dallas and Corey to double team Conor with a double suplex.

The alliance is short lived though as they start fighting each other

again, resulting in a belly to back suplex by Bo. Dallas pounds away in the corner but stops when he sees Bray Wyatt on the apron. We take another break and come back with Graves pounding away on both guys. A gordbuster gets two on Bo and there's a half crab for good measure. Conor breaks it up but Graves beats him down as a result. Dallas is sent to the apron but goes up and gets crotched right back down. Corey loads up a superplex but O'Brian pulls him off the ropes and slams him face first into the mat.

Bo hits a quick missile dropkick on Conor for two as Bray is coming closer to the ring. O'Brian is sent face first into the buckle and has Dallas use his body as a springboard for a tornado bulldog on Graves, getting two. A DDT gets two on O'Brian but Graves kicks out Dallas' leg. There's the 13<sup>th</sup> Step leg lock on Bo but O'Brian comes in and puts Corey in a Koji Clutch to break the hold.

Bo breaks up that hold and is all fired up now. O'Brian is dropkicked to the floor and the belly to belly puts Graves down, but Wyatt pulls Corey to the floor. Bo breaks his concentration and yells at Wyatt, allowing O'Brian to hit him with a full nelson slam for the pin at 12:11 shown of 19:11.

**Rating:** B. Good stuff here as they had a lot of time to work with. Wyatt and Dallas building their story was a good idea and it makes the most sense to have O'Brian win, as he and Langston have unfinished business to get to. This was a solid main event and it sets up more for future shows, so what else can you ask of it?

**Overall Rating:** B. There was a lot of angle advancement here with a good match to top it off. The Wyatt Family getting a renewed push is a good thing to see and hopefully we'll get some more of the awesome promos to back it up. NXT continues to be an entertaining week to week show as they make you want to come back for more. So few shows get that concept anymore and it's nice to see for a change.

## Results

Adrian Neville b. Scott Dawson/Judas Devlin – Corkscrew Shooting Star Press to Dawson

Leo Kruger b. Yoshi Tatsu – Seated Armbar

Sasha Banks/Cameron/Naomi b. Audrey Marie/Alicia Fox/Aksana – Leg lariat to Marie

Conor O'Brian b. Bo Dallas and Corey Graves – Full Nelson Slam to Dallas

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# Five By Five: KB's Five Favorite Moments In Wrestling

Part of a double shot today due to me being busy yesterday. Honorable Mention: Edge Cashes In (New Year's Revolution 2006). A girl I knew was a Cena fan and bragged about him winning the Chamber. She went to bed and then Edge came out. Oh the great time I had the next day over that. This is still the gold standard for MITB cash-ins.

Honorable Mention: Goldberg Wins WCW Title (Monday Nitro – July 6, 1998). When I was ten years old, Goldberg was AWESOME. I wasn't the biggest fan of his in the world, but a monster vs. Hogan for free on Nitro? You know I was going to be all over that. Goldberg destroyed Hogan, in one of the biggest jobs Hogan ever did.

5. Jeff Hardy Wins WWE Championship (Armageddon 2008). I'm not a big Jeff Hardy fan, but I TOTALLY bought into the Hardy

Chases the Brass Ring story from 2008. I fell asleep earlier in the night and missed most of the show but turned it on just in time to see Hardy dive off the top and hit the Swanton on HHH before pinning Edge, FINALLY winning the championship he had spent all year chasing. We'll get back to a similar story in a bit.

4. Backlash 2006. I was there. Not much else to say about this one.

3. Hogan Slams Andre (Wrestlemania 3). It's the most famous scene from the biggest match ever at the biggest show ever. Hogan slamming Andre is the moment that made him immortal and cemented him as the biggest star of all time. You can hear the crowd gasp when Hogan picks him up and then explode when Andre hits the mat. There's a reason this makes every highlight reel ever in the history of WWE. It's never going to be topped no matter what happens in the future, period.

2. Randy Savage and Miss Elizabeth Reunite (Wrestlemania 7). This is the only moment ever in wrestling that actually brings a tear to my eye. Savage had turned monster heel on February 3, 1989 and dumped Liz in the process. He hooked up with Sensational Sherri somewhere along the line while becoming the Macho Man. Liz had barely been seen since but was spotted in the crowd for Savage's career ending match at Wrestlemania 7.

After Savage lost an amazing match where he gave it everything he had, Sherri turned on him, screaming about how he had cost her her career too. This prompted Liz to come out of the crowd and save Randy, who was shocked to see her there. With nothing left to lose, Savage realized the error of his ways and embraced Liz, finally going back to where he belonged. He then opened the ropes for her as opposed to her doing it for him as she had for years, showing that he was a changed man. If you're an old fan, this will still work wonders.

1. Mick Foley Wins WWF Title (Monday Night Raw – January 4,

1999). This is the ultimate feel good moment for me as a fan. As someone who was overweight for a good portion of my teenage years (I walked into 6th grade standing 5'11 and weighing 230lbs), seeing someone else who was told he wasn't the right size or didn't have the right look win the world title and become the top man in the company always makes me smile. He spent his entire career scrapping and clawing and FINALLY he got what he had earned. That's a perfect story and the moment never gets old.

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## On This Day: March 7, 1992 – WCW Pro: This Is For You Chicago

### WCW Pro

Date: March 7, 1992

Location: Civic Center, Columbus, Georgia

Attendance: 3,000

Commentator: Tony Schiavone

This is another show I've never looked at before but it's the equivalent of probably Main Event today, not to be confused with WCW Main Event which is an entirely different show. We're a few days past SuperBrawl which means Sting finally won the world title back from Lex Luger, who is on his way out of the company now, not be to be seen again for over three years. I'm not sure what to expect from this one so let's get to it.

We open with Rude talking about how he's beaten Sting before and he can do it again.



## P.N. News vs. Fred Avery

News is a 400lb white rapper who is as stupid as he sounds. Avery weighs about 300lb himself and is from Wyoming of all places. News pounds away and dropkicks (kind of) Avery down. A clothesline puts Avery down again as does a fireman's carry/Samoan Drop. News pounds away very slowly and hits a side slam before strolling around even more. Off to a reverse chinlock for a bit as this is dragging already. A belly to belly puts Avery down and a top rope splash ends this. News' music was playing before the splash even hit.

**Rating:** D. News was as fat a fat slob that ever entered the ring this side of say Loch Ness. This was slow and plodding with News walking around the ring, likely in search of a Twinkie to prevent collapsing. He feuded with Steve Austin of all people at this time because when you have Austin, you put him in a feud with a fat tub of goo like News who can barely move an inch.

The new World Champion Sting talks about a title defense against Rude in Chicago.

## Terry Taylor vs. Larry Santo

Taylor gets things going by sending Santo into the corner and dropping him with a jawbreaker. Santo is sent to the floor as we hear about Taylor taking Marcus Bagwell under his wing, only to turn on him in an attempt to destroy him. Taylor drops some knees on the back of the head and puts on a Boston Crab which goes nowhere. Taylor won't even cover off a sitout powerbomb or a powerslam. The Five Arm (a forearm with a semi-clever name) puts Santo out of his misery.

**Rating:** D+. Not that this was good but it was better than the drek we sat through before this. Taylor though is one of the guys that I never have cared for no matter what he did, primarily because of his lame gimmicks. At this point he was the Taylor Made Man which meant he wore nice

clothes. Seriously, that's it.

### Danny Wilson vs. Abdullah the Butcher

Butch is a guy who will run over everyone in sight and doesn't care about rules at all, making this a more intense than usual squash. That's what I can't stand about these old shows: there's nothing to say about them because it's the same stuff over and over again. It's the same destruction over and over again and there's nothing to say here. Wilson is thrown to the floor and run over with a shoulder block back inside. Two big running 400lb elbows end this.

**Rating:** F+. Again, what do you want me to say here? Thankfully Butcher didn't stab anyone in the head or main Wilson this time which is a step in the right direction for him. I've never been a fan of the guy as he's in that camp that thinks bleeding everywhere and dropping an elbow or two makes you a wrestler. Now granted he's done different stuff before, but his WCW stuff was dreadful.

We get a video from Jesse Ventura at the post-SuperBrawl party. Sting shows up for an impromptu press conference. He says he'll face anyone who wants to face him and he'd love to defend it in Japan. Sting talks about how strong Luger (the guy he beat) was before Jesse asks what the trash talk was about. Apparently they were saying this is it and they were asking each other if they were ready. Sting doesn't know who his next opponent will be but here's the Dangerous Alliance, headed by Rick Rude.

He's very happy about Sting being champion and offers Sting a drink. Sting says he has no reason to drink with Sting so there's a drink to the face. Sting is ready to fight right now and it's on with Rude getting a front facelock and riding Sting down with ease. The rest of the Alliance shows up and Sting is WAY outnumbered until security makes the save.

We get a segment called the Brickhouse Bonus which is an editorial from Jack Brickhouse, a legendary Chicago sportscaster. This is the Chicago

version of WCW Pro, which is the same from a content perspective, but has stuff like that thrown in, along with ads for Chicago shows.

### Young Pistol Steve vs. Ricky Steamboat

Steve is Steve Armstrong of the Armstrong Family. Feeling out process to start with Ricky carefully taking him into the corner. Steve heads to the apron as we're over two minutes into this with barely any contact so far. A few shoulders put Steve down before Steamboat slaps him for no apparent reason. Ricky wants a test of strength but Armstrong stays in the corner. Armstrong grabs a headlock takeover out of the corner as they've got a lot of time to use here.

Another headlock takeover puts Ricky down again but Steamboat counters into a top wristlock. They go to the mat for some chain wrestling until Armstrong goes to the hair to keep him down. They get back up again with Steamboat taking over via a clothesline and a chop. Out to the floor now for nothing of note so we head back in for Steamboat to keep control. Armstrong goes into the corner a few times but he sends Ricky's head into it instead to take over again.

Some punches to the face keep Steamboat down as Tony rambles about someone slapping someone else in the face. I would have more details about that but listening to Tony Schiavone makes my head hurt. A suplex puts Armstrong down but Armstrong hits one of his own on the Dragon. Ricky pops back up though and pounds away on Steve in the corner. Steamboat misses a clothesline and it's off to a surfboard by Armstrong. A sunset flip gets one for Armstrong but Ricky rams him face first into the mat. Armstrong misses a charge and hits the ropes, allowing Ricky to go up top and finish with the cross body.

**Rating:** D+. This is one of those matches that was long for the sake of being long which doesn't make it entertaining. At the end of the day, this was a former world champion against a lower midcard tag guy. This would be like Orton taking ten minutes to beat Epico. At the end of the

day, it's really hard to stay with a match that long when it's just ok. Nothing to see here.

We run down the house show card again.

Rude says he's going to show Chicago who the better man is between he and Sting.

Brian Pillman says don't do steroids.

**Overall Rating:** D. This was your basic show from this era: a bunch of squashes and a feature match which didn't work all that well. 1992 was decent at times, but you need more than this for a show to work. To be fair though this was the lower level show of the era which didn't do it any favors. This was boring stuff, but at least it was relatively short.

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## Thought of the Day: King Of The Big Shows

Do you know who has never lost on the biggest PPV of the year for whatever company he was in? Rob Van Dam:

3-0 at November to Remember

4-0 at Wrestlemania

3-0 at Bound For Glory

Is anyone else undefeated at all the major shows they've wrestled at other than the MMA Cowboy of Death?

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# Monday Night Raw – November 20, 2006: A Thirty Man Opening Segment

## Monday Night Raw

Date: November 20, 2006

Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Mariner Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Attendance: 6,500

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

Back to the land of requests here which means I have no idea why I'm watching this. We're at the go home show for Survivor Series which means things are pretty boring right now. There are some Survivor Series matches at the PPV with the main one being Team Cena vs. Team Big Show, even though Big Show is an ECW guy at this point. As usual I have no idea what to expect here so let's get to it.

Here's Team Cena for Sunday to open the show. That would be captain Cena, RVD, Sabu, Lashley and Kane which is hit and miss to say the least. Cena cuts to the chase and says that he wants to get Survivor Series going tonight, so get out here Big Show and company. Instead it's Rated RKO along with Johnny Nitro (Morrison), Gregory Helms and Mike Knox with the captains bragging about beating Flair/Piper for the titles recently. You know, like any good heels would do.

As Orton brags about Morriso winning the IC Title from Jeff Hardy later tonight, here are Flair and his fellow legends (minus Piper, who thankfully had a concussion last week. When he was in the hospital getting checked out, they found cancer in him, which was previously

undetected. He was saved in time because of said concussion) to say that beating up some legends doesn't mean much. Uh....Ric.....

Thankfully before Naitch can say anything else that stupid, here's the Spirit Squad (giving us about 20 people in this segment) to make fun of the old guys even more. This coming from a bunch of male cheerleaders in bright green uniforms. Team DX (Shawn, HHH, Punk, Hardys) interrupt now as this is getting ridiculous.

They want to fight, so here's Team Big Show (Show, Umaga, Finlay, MVP and Test, bringing the head count to twenty nine people) to say they're better than anyone else out here. Cena is like screw it let's do it right now, but Vince pops up to reach the Royal Rumble level. Tonight it's an eight man tag which is the only logical move here.

#### Sabu vs. Umaga

This is a Survivor Series preview for Team Cena vs. Team Big Show. Umaga is an undefeated monster at this point and takes over quickly to start. He throws Sabu around to start and pounds away in the corner before scaring the referee away. Sabu is knocked to the floor and sent into the barricade for good measure. Back in and Sabu gets in some right hands but gets superkicked down for his troubles. Umaga misses a charge in the corner and a springboard leg lariat staggers the monster. A springboard tornado DDT has limited effect though and the Samoan Spike ends Sabu quick. Total squash.

Here's Torrie in the ring to throw out some shirts but Chris Masters interrupts. He makes some unwanted advances on her until Carlito makes the save. That goes badly for the guy with the insane hair (Carlito) as he's put in the Masterlock. Jerry Lawler makes the save, presumably setting up a future match in Memphis.

Nitro says he'll win the title tonight.

Flair is making out with Candace Michelle when the Spirit Squad comes up. Ron Simmons is the punchline as expected.

Jeff gives the referee the title for the ladder match.

## Intercontinental Title: Jeff Hardy vs. Johnny Nitro

Ladder match with Jeff defending in case you're stupid like that. The fans are all behind Hardy as they lock up to start. Johnny bails to the floor but comes back in with some uppercuts to take over. The Whisper in the Wind puts Nitro back down but Nitro comes back with a facebuster. There's the screech from Melina and Nitro gets the ladder. Before it can be put inside though Jeff hits a baseball slide to take him out. A big dive takes out Nitro and the ladder as we take a break.

Back with Jeff loading up the ladder in the ring, only to have Nitro shoving him down and into the ropes. Jeff gets back up and rams Nitro face first into the ladder before going up and blocking a superplex off the ladder. Jeff loads up something off the top of the ladder but gets crotched on the top rope instead. Nitro loads up the ladder but Jeff comes off the top with a missile dropkick to take the ladder and Nitro down at the same time.

Nitro comes back with a catapult but launches Jeff onto the ladder for no apparent reason, causing a fight on top of said ladder. In a pretty awesome move, Johnny jumps off the ladder and dropkicks Jeff on the way down, sending both guys crashing down to the mat. With nothing else to do, Nitro throws the ladder at Hardy in the corner to crush him again. Johnny goes a climbing but Jeff makes an easy stop. A slam on the ladder keeps Nitro down but Jeff's Swanton attempt only hits ladder.

Johnny throws the ladder at Jeff's head and dropkicks him down but can't follow up. Jeff's back is whipped hard into the corner, allowing Nitro to bring in the big ladder. It gets driven into the champion's ribs before being set up in the middle of the ring. Actually never mind as Nitro moves it over to the corner instead. Hardy comes back and sends him into the big ladder before climbing up the regular one. They both climb up, resulting in a sunset bomb to knock Nitro silly. A legdrop off the ladder keeps Nitro down and Hardy puts the ladder over him before climbing up to retain the title.

**Rating:** B. This was more about the brutality of the spots instead of the drama and that's definitely an acceptable way to go. It's not on the,

pardon the pun, highest rung of the ladder match ladder, but for a free one on TV, there isn't much to complain about on this one. Hardy doing his stunt show was a tried and true idea and it worked here fine.

Dusty Rhodes is ready for the Spirit Squad on Sunday as well as tonight. The liver quiver line is good most of the time.

#### Dusty Rhodes vs. Nicky

That would be Dolph Ziggler for you new people. Nicky is on his own here without the Squad. They lock up to start and Dusty takes him into the corner for the ultra rare clean break. They do the same thing with the roles reversed but Nicky tries to fire off a right hand in the corner. Dusty loads up the Bionic Elbow but the future showoff runs away. Nothing of note happens for a bit as they stare at each other to fill in time for the old man. Nicky pokes him in the eye a few times and goes after the knee, only to get sent out to the floor with ease. Back in and Nicky jumps into some right hands before the Elbow ends him.

**Rating:** F. What in the world are you expecting here? Dusty was 61 here and still the better of the two out there.

Rated RK0 is in the back with Lita when Maria pops in. Lita leaves as Maria is all bubbly while asking if Rated RK0 can win tonight and on Sunday. Before Edge can answer we hear commotion which the champions go to investigate. Cryme Tyme is making noise for some reason and an argument ensues. Edge says he knows black people because he's Canadian. The champs leave so Maria gets to watch See No Evil with Cryme Tyme. Sweet goodness she was gorgeous. Total waste of three minutes.

#### Lita vs. Mickie James

Lita is Women's Champion but this is non-title. Apparently Lita has asked for a stipulation for this, so Mickie is blindfolded. Apparently last week Mickie was shackled and the week before that she had an arm tied behind her back. Total squash here with Lita hitting a fast DDT and the moonsault for the pin. Ok then.

Post match Lita goes on a rant about how important she is to the division



and how awesome she is. She says she's (legitimately) retiring on Sunday after the title match between these two which wasn't that well known coming into this.

Video on Batista vs. Booker T which would be one of the worst PPV main events ever.

### John Cena/D-Generation X/Ric Flair vs. Rated-RKO/Big Show/Kenny

All captains here which isn't a bad idea. During the heel entrance we get the PPV run down. Rated-RKO are tag champions, Show is ECW Champion and Cena is WWE Champion. Everyone jumps on Cena to start and is triple teamed before DX is out here. Here comes the cavalry though and house is cleaned. Edge is left alone against all four good guys and it's time for a lot of shots to his Canadian head. Shawn adds a top rope elbow for good measure.

Big Show pulls Edge away from Sweet Chin Music before running over all of the guys guys with headbutts. Show loads up a double chokeslam on DX but Flair hits him low. DX hits him low too and we take a break. Apparently the match officially started during the break so all of that was pre-match stuff. We come back with Shawn in trouble due to Edge stomping away before it's off to Kenny.

Orton comes in for the still boring Garvin Stomp and it's back to Big Show. The giant kicks him down and drops a leg for two as HHH makes the save. Back to Kenny for a shot off the top for two before Edge gets another tag. After a quick bow and arrow hold it's back to Orton who takes forever loading up the RKO. Shawn uses the long delay to counter and it's hot tag to Cena who gets to beat up Kenny. There's the Shuffle but Big Show breaks up the FU. Show beats up everyone in sight but Cena gets out of a chokeslam. A superkick puts Show on the floor and the FU ends Kenny for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. Pretty dull match here but the point of it was to preview the matches on Sunday. That being said, it's pretty hard to get excited over something like Kenny vs. John Cena, despite the roll that Cena was on at this point. This was also pretty short and not long enough to get anywhere, but that's the norm for a match with this many people involved.

Post match all thirty people in the elimination matches on Sunday run in for the huge brawl to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** D+. Other than the ladder match, this was a dull show. None of the guys seemed particularly interested in the show tonight and Survivor Series wound up sucking just the same. None of the matches they built up tonight are of any interest to me and I don't think many other people cared either. Nothing to see here but the ladder match was good stuff.

Here's Survivor Series if you're interested:

<http://kbwrestlingreviews.com/2012/11/12/survivor-series-count-up-2012-re-do-2006-man-this-year-sucked/>

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## Thought of the Day Again: People Complain About Cena's Title Reigns

But look at the tag division from WM 16 to WM 17. Coming into Wrestlemania 16 (April 2, 2000), Edge and Christian had never won the tag titles. Going into Wrestlemania 17 (April 1, 2001), they were record 6 time tag champions and would win their 7th titles that night. In the same year, five other teams (Dudleyz, Hardy, RTC, Too Cool and Rock/Undertaker) all won tag titles. That's about one title change every month, yet people complain when it changes every three months today. This was a golden era of tag wrestling though right?

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# Thought of the Day: You Know Who Else Was Really Good At Wrestlemania?

Yet he never gets the credit for it... Randy Savage. Let's look at his Mania career.

Wrestlemania 2: retains the IC Title.

Wrestlemania 3: greatest match of all time.

Wrestlemania 4: wins the World Title.

Wrestlemania 5: main event, Hogan's second best match ever

Wrestlemania 7: second biggest and by far best match on the card, Warrior's best match ever

Wrestlemania 8: wins world title, match of the night

Why doesn't Savage get credit for such a career at Wrestlemania? That's a fine career, let alone just at Wrestlemania.

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## On This Day: March 6, 2000 –

# Monday Night Raw: Is Russo Still In Charge?

## Monday Night Raw

Date: March 6, 2000

Location: Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, Massachusetts

Commentators: Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler

This is another On This Day as we approach Wrestlemania. I did the show before this and you can check that out in the On This Day section for February 27. Anyway the main story is that Rock wants to be in the main event of Wrestlemania but Shane screwed him out of his chance last week. Wrestlemania is in less than a month so Rock has to hurry to get there on time. Let's get to it.

We open with what else but a recap of the battle of the McMahon siblings. On Smackdown it was Rock/Rikishi vs. Big Show/HHH but Show accidentally hit HHH with a chair, allowing Rock to pin the world champion. Shane and Stephanie started arguing post match but HHH saved his wife from any potential danger.

Here are Shane and Big Show to open things up. Shane shows us a clip of Show hitting HHH, asking us to figure out if it was an accident or not. Shane seems to think it's accidental but HHH shoving him down certainly wasn't an accident. Shane goes on a rant about how HHH made it personal by running Vince off and turning his sister into a cheap sl\*\*. McMahon makes HHH vs. Rikishi in a Wrestlemania warm up match, but that brings out the Game himself along with his wife.

HHH says that he and Shane are brothers so they need to get along. He has to pause for a SL\*\* chant at Stephanie before talking about how Wrestlemania is the Biggest Show of the year. At Wrestlemania, HHH is going to prove that Big Show isn't in his league. Stephanie, in her eternally high pitched voice, makes Kane vs. Big Show to open the show. As for the mean comment, Stephanie slaps the tar out of Shane. Well that sums it up well enough I guess.

Earlier today the Mean Street Posse delivered room service to Crash Holly and brought referee Tim White with him. A Hardcore Title broke out in the hotel room but the Posse couldn't pin Crash down on a bed against his will and take something from him. The Posse hit each other with lamps by mistake, allowing Crash to escape.

### Kane vs. Big Show

It's a brawl to start with Kane winning a brief slugout before hitting an enziguri to stagger Big Show. Shane low bridges Kane but the masked man lands on his feet of course. The distraction lets Show send Kane HARD into the steps though as HHH is watching in the back. Back in and Show pounds away in the corner but Kane comes back with an uppercut. HHH and Stephanie are still watching. A side slam puts Kane down but Show misses an elbow drop. Kane hits a DDT to drop Show and there's the top rope clothesline for no cover. They both load up chokeslams but here's Rock for a Rock Bottom on Big Show for the DQ.

**Rating:** D+. This wasn't bad but again the right move was to keep things moving fast. Big Show and Kane just do not work well together and they never have. The match was there for Rock to run in though and that Rock Bottom looked good. Rock always has had surprising strength. Decent enough all things considered.

Kane chokeslams Show post match.

Mae Young insists that she's coming out with Henry tonight despite having a hand last week.

The APA do a Pulp Fiction driving scene parody to establish that they're open for business now. Why? "Because we need beer money."

### Mark Henry vs. D-Von Dudley

D-Von charges in but gets beaten down by Henry for his efforts. Mae and Bubba get on the apron as D-Von takes over, only to have Mark pull Bubba in. There's a Bronco Buster to Bubba and a powerslam for D-Von for the pin. Short and seemingly worthless.

Post match the Dudleys hit a good looking 3D on Henry before looking at

Mae. In a scene that would get them thrown off TV in a heartbeat today, Mae is powerbombed off the middle rope through a table. Bubba's trance is still cool looking.

#### Road Dogg/X-Pac vs. Too Cool

Scotty and Pac get things going and the fans think X-Pac sucks. Scotty is flipped around and winds up dancing as a result. Off to Grandmaster for more dancing followed by a hip toss to send Pac to the floor. Roadie comes in and is sent down as well before Sexay hits a middle rope dropkick for two. Too Cool hits a double elbow on Roadie but he pops back up and throws Scotty to the floor.

X-Pac sends him into the steps and there's a spin kick to take Scotty down again. Back in and Hotty rams DX's heads together before it's back to Grandmaster. Everything breaks down and Grandmaster hits what we would call the Skull Crushing Finale on Road Dogg to set up the Worm. A flapjack puts X-Pac down but Tori crotches Sexay to break up the Hip Hop Drop. Not that it matters though as here's Kane for a piece of X-Pac and the DQ.

**Rating:** C. Better match than I was expecting here as Too Cool was on one heck of a roll at this point. The tag division was showing signs of actually being alive at this point as there were several decent to good teams running around. The division got hot as a result, but it reached unthinkable heights with the advent of triple ladder matches with tables and chairs on the side.

Post match Kane beats up Roadie as well.

#### Intercontinental Title: Kurt Angle vs. Chris Jericho

Angle is defending here but doesn't like the idea of facing a has been like Jericho. Cue the Canadian who makes fun of Angle for living with his mom and tells said mom to put down the whiskey and watch her son get a beating. I believe this is the debut of the Kirk Angel moniker. They speed things up to start while I believe botching a leapfrog spot with Jericho hitting an elbow instead of ducking underneath but it looked ok.

The champion comes back with a hot shot before pounding away in the corner, only to have Jericho do the exact same thing. Well if you're going to copy someone, copy an Olympian. Angle gets up a boot in the corner to stop a charging Jericho. Chris tries the flying forearm but hits the referee by mistake. There's the Lionsault but there's no referee meaning no new champion. Angle loads up a title belt shot but gets caught in the Walls for his efforts. Jericho pulls it to the middle of the ring but....BOB BACKLUND comes in for a crossface chickenwing on Jericho for the DQ.

**Rating:** C+. It's Angle vs. Jericho so you know it's going to be good. This was unfortunately short but they would get a lot more time and a lot more Benoit at Wrestlemania, making for an awesome match. These guys would dominate the midcard for over a year and then move up to the main event soon after that. Good stuff here but short.

#### HHH vs. Rikishi

Non-title of course. Rikishi has a bad ankle coming into this. A quick Pedigree attempt is countered but Rikishi can't sit on HHH's chest just yet. Instead is an avalanche in the corner to put HHH down and there's the Stinkface. A Stephanie distraction allows for a low blow to stop Rikishi dead. Rikishi is sent shoulder first into the post so HHH can stomp and choke away back inside. A facebuster puts Rikishi down because HHH doesn't follow his racial stereotypes. HHH finally wakes up and goes after the BIG FREAKING CAST on Rikishi's leg. He pounds away in the corner but walks into a Samoan Drop to give the fat man a breather. Rikishi knocks him into the corner but Stephanie slides in a chair. A blast to the fat man's back is good for the DQ and we're done.

**Rating:** D+. Not much here as yet again it's to set up the post match stuff. Rikishi would go on to solid success over the rest of the year, but at the end of the day he was a dancing Samoan in a thong and there's a limit on how far you can take that. The match was ok enough but the ankle stuff took way too long to get to. Also what is with all the DQ's tonight?

Post match the Rock comes out and hits a Rock Bottom on HHH to set up the

Banzai from Rikishi. Too Cool and Rikishi do some dancing.

Promo for Rock being on Saturday Night Live in a few weeks to promote Wrestlemania.

Big Show and Shane go to talk to HHH about something.

#### Matt Hardy vs. Steve Blackman

This would still be the Head Cheese period for Blackman so Snow wants an army of midgets carrying platters of cheese during the entrance. Blackman threatens the production guy with violence if any of that happens. To show you how confusing the Hardys were back in the day, Jeff is announced as the guy in the match but it's Matt in there instead. I couldn't remember which was which either at this point. Blackman kicks Matt down to start and blocks the tornado DDT out of the corner.

A quick legdrop by Matt gets two as the fans are dead for this. Blackman gets sent to the floor and there's a big dive to take him out. Matt heads to the apron, only to get caught in a kind of gutbuster, sending him face first into the steps. Back inside Blackman poses some more and hits a backbreaker, only to jump into a boot to the face. A DDT gets two for Matt but the Twist of Fate is countered into a German suplex by Blackman for two. Jeff and Snow get in a fight on the floor as Blackman goes up for a kick to the chest for the pin.

**Rating:** D. I have no idea why this match got five minutes but it didn't work at all. This kept going and going before it ever got anywhere close to going anywhere. The Hardys were a good bit away from being what they would become yet while Head Cheese never quite got anything going. The fans were into them though so I guess there's that.

Shane and Big Show convince HHH to make Rock vs. Benoit in a cage match. Didn't Shane have match making powers an hour and a half ago? Why did he need HHH and Stephanie?

#### Dean Malenko/Perry Saturn vs. Edge and Christian

This was during the brief period where Terri managed Edge and Christian so she's on commentary here. Edge gets double teamed to start but he



fires off a faceplant to stop Saturn. Off to Christian for a double hiptoss by the Canadians. It's back to Edge who has his knee taken out by Saturn with a chop block. Saturn works over the knees as Terri rambles on about how awesome she is. Dean comes in to crank on the leg a bit before cannonballing down onto it.

Edge comes back with an enziguri to take Malenko down and there's the double tag to bring in Christian vs. Saturn. JR is getting sick of Terri and I can't blame him a bit. Thankfully she gets up to watch as everything breaks down, only to get knocked down by Edge as Dean punches him. An Eddie Guerrero distraction lets the Radicalz go High/Low on Christian for the pin.

**Rating:** D+. The match was acceptable but DEAR GOODNESS was Terri annoying. Thankfully Edge and Christian got away from her soon after this once the brass figured out the truth about Terri: no one cared about her at all. Besides, Trish Stratus would be debuting in less than two weeks and she blew Terri out of the water in the looks department so there was no real need for Terri to be around anymore.

#### Hardcore Title: Crash Holly vs. Viscera

The challenging Viscera throws Crash around to start and we head into the crowd very quickly. Crash runs to the back but gets caught again and whipped into whatever Viscera can find. They wind up at the APA office where Crash gets in a low blow. Viscera stumbles into the card table so the APA lays him out, giving Crash the fluke pin. Surprisingly enough, Viscera's only Hardcore Title reign came in the battle royal at Wrestlemania. You would think he would be a natural fit for that belt.

We look at Mae getting beaten up earlier.

Rock thinks HHH and Stephanie are nuts if they think the cage match tonight gets rid of their problems.

Mark Henry goes after the Dudleys but gets beaten down.

#### The Rock vs. Chris Benoit

Cage match here and I think it's escape only for a change. They slug it

out to start with Benoit pounding away into the corner. A big clothesline puts Benoit down but Rock can't escape. Benoit suplexes Rock down but there's a hard elbow from Rock to come back. Benoit comes back as Shane and Big Show come out for a closer look. Chris pounds away in the corner but gets backdropped into the cage to shift the momentum again.

Rock gets crotched as he tries to get out and here are HHH and Stephanie. Another suplex puts Rock down but he comes back with right hands and choking. Benoit suplexes him again to put Rock down but he crotches himself trying to get down. Rocky's problem becomes apparent: Rock can't escape because of who is waiting outside. Benoit fights back with chops, tying Rock up in the ropes in the process.

Rock escapes the ropes and avoids a charge before sending Benoit into the cage. Benoit goes up top for the Swan Dive but it knocks Benoit silly again. Rock stops him from escaping and hits the spinebuster, only to get caught in Rolling Germans from the Canadian. Rock escapes the third and grabs a Rock Bottom out of nowhere to put both guys down. The climb has to be slow though because of HHH and Benoit. They both climb the cage but Rock sits down and hits a wicked powerbomb to take him out. HHH tries to climb up and stop Rock but is punched down onto Big Show, allowing Rock to escape for the win.

**Rating:** C-. This didn't work all that well for me. As is the case with almost everything else associated with the main event at this point, this was overdone. I get the idea they were going for, but the match became all about Rock having to deal with HHH and Big Show instead of Benoit, who was made to look like an afterthought here.

Post match it's a 3-1 beatdown and they get him back inside the cage. HHH gets a chair and the fans want Rikishi. Rock gets sent into the cage but HHH's chair shot hits Big Show instead. HHH gets punched down as Shane runs out of the cage to escape. Rock stands on the stage to end the show.

**Overall Rating:** C. This didn't do it for me all that well. I'll give them this though: the reaction when Rock gets into the main event of Wrestlemania is going to be through the moon. Other than that though, the show isn't really clicking all that well. That would be the case at

Wrestlemania as well, with only the main event and two other matches having any kind of interest whatsoever. This didn't work all that well but with the amount of wrestling on it, there isn't much to complain about.

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