

Wrestlemania #28: Randy Orton vs. Kane

Because of a handshake from last summer. This is the only match that I think isn't as predictable as the rest. I don't think this feud ends here and I think the match ends with Orton taking the chokeslam for the pin. The rest of the show looks like it's very easy to call out each match but there needs to be a heel that wins a match on here other than Team Johnny. Kane vs. Orton is a feud that doesn't make a lot of sense so therefore the feud needs to go on longer than most of this show right?

Thoughts/Predictions?

Wrestlemania #28: Team Teddy vs. Team Johnny

Thuggin N Buggin vs. REALLY FREAKING BORING In case you can't remember, it's Teddy with Santino (Captain)/Kofi/R-Truth/Booker T/Ryder/Khali vs. Johnny with Otunga (Captain)/Christian/McIntyre/Henry/Swagger/Miz.

This has basically been the fun team vs. the serious team. The winner gets to control both shows and for the life of me I can't imagine that Johnny's boys go down here. The talk on the shows would imply that Eve costs Ryder's team the match. On the other hand there's a possibility that someone is going to turn (no idea who) and cost his team the match. I'm

surprised Alberto isn't involved in this match but maybe he'll interfere or something. Either way though, I can't imagine Teddy wins because Raw isn't made for tag matches.

Thoughts/Predictions?

Wrestlemania #28: Divas Tag Match – Maria Menunos/Kelly Kelly vs. Beth Phoenix/Eve Torres

Can Maria wear the Giants bikini? So this is the celebrity match this year and it's with the girls. The Divas Title hasn't meant anything, even though Beth has held it for what, six months now? The story that's going on from Smackdown would suggest that AJ is the next champion but that's months in the future. Here though, I can't imagine the celebrity loses. Has one of them ever lost at a PPV? On second thought, does it matter either way? This is there for a chance to give people a breather between the major matches.

Thoughts/Predictions?

Wrestlemania #28: Tag Title Match – Primo/Epico (C) vs. The Usos vs. Justin Gabriel/Tyson Kidd

For the tag titles and likely a dark match. This was announced the week of the show and is going to be streamed for free on the WWE's Youtube channel and WWE.com. The champions have had the belts now for about two and a half months but were actually being used as jobbers on Raw for Big Show earlier this week. I love the Usos but for the life of me I don't get why they added in Gabriel and Kidd. Apparently the team was formed on Superstars with the question from Kidd of "hey, wanna be a team" and a reply of "sure". That gets you in the title match at Mania now I guess.

As for a prediction, I'll go with the champions retaining, but if this gets the title picture moving a bit it'll be great.

Thoughts/Predictions?

Wrestlemania #27: Worst

Ending Ever?

It has to be up there. At the end of the day, I think it has to be. You have a double countout, Rock having the power to restart matches all of a sudden, and the whole thing winds up being a setup for the next year's main event.

Thoughts?

Wrestlemania Count-Up – #27: They Really Did This

Wrestlemania 27

Date: April 3, 2011

Location: Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Georgia

Attendance: 71,617

Commentators: Michael Cole, Josh Matthews, Jerry Lawler, Booker T, Jim Ross

America the Beautiful: Keri Hilson

Well here we are. It's the biggest night of the year and we're heading to Georgia for the first time in Mania history. The main events are John Cena vs. The Miz for the Raw Title, Edge vs. Alberto Del Rio for the SD Title and HHH vs. Undertaker (not II of course). This is the night we've all looked forward to, and there's that Rock guy here too. Let's get to it.

The dark match was the US Title match but it turned into a non-title battle royal with Khali eliminating Sheamus to end it. I'm assuming the US Title match will be later.

Note that this is being written live so please excuse any marking out moments.

Keri Hilson, some singer I don't know, sings America the Beautiful.

The voiceover guy here is like an old vaudeville voice which is kind of cool. Up first: here's THE ROCK! The Great One looks...well great. The arena looks awesome too. Actually it's a stadium but whatever. After posing forever he teases the FINALLY before hitting it. Bunch of Fruity Pebbles signs in the crowd. Rock promises this will be electrifying. Time for a little game: the Rock says Yabba, the people say Dabba. This somehow takes up FIFTEEN MINUTES overall and he does a huge IF YA SMELL to end it.

Video about the major moments in Mania history and the big ones tonight. Standard awesome intro video. I know they were cutting out the wrestling but this is ridiculous.

There's the traditional big fireworks display and we get a match!

Smackdown World Title: Edge vs. Alberto Del Rio

WHAT THE HECK??? THIS IS THE OPENING MATCH??? The intro is great for Alberto as the video where the car comes from is designed to look like his driveway at his estate so he's driving out of it. That's awesome. Clay is here with Alberto. Here's Christian to back up Edge. I think shenanigans may be afoot. This gets the big match intros because it's a big match. Can't fault their logic there.

I'm watching on a stream so I'll do my best on the times but I make no guarantees on their accuracy other than in general. Edge fires away early on as Cole talks about the arm.

Naturally that triggers an attack on said arm which is in trouble early. The arm work continues as is intelligent. Alberto goes to the floor so Edge flips forward over the ropes and lands mostly on Del Rio in a cool spot.

As the champion comes back in though Del Rio pulls him off the top in an armbar. The Cross Armbreaker is countered into the Edge-O-Matic as Edge gets two. Out of nowhere the armbreaker goes on but Edge rolls through to escape. Dueling chants begin. Edge goes up again but Del Rio gets the running enziguri to take him down for two. Christian and Clay get into it and Christian goes flying via a suplex.

Edgecution sets up the attempted spear but Alberto avoids. He stops in the corner and Clay grabs the arm and rams it into the post. The armbreaker goes on full force after a bit of a block. Edge reverses into a rollup/cradle move that makes Alberto break it up to escape. Edge gets the Edgecator and Alberto is in trouble. Clay tries to come in but Christian gets the tornado DDT off the apron to the floor to take him down. Del Rio escapes but walks into the spear to end this at approximately 11:00. Wow that was abrupt.

Rating: C+. This wasn't terrible but dude, 11 minutes for this? That's in the level of Cena/JBL at Mania 21. Not a bad match but it felt like a match that could have easily been on Smackdown as a regular main event. Alberto didn't need to get the title yet so at least the right man won. Still though, 11 minutes?

Edge beats up the Rolls Royce post match. By that I mean he destroys it with a crowbar. Why Alberto doesn't go after it is beyond me. Alberto yells for Christian for some reason. Oh ok Christian was helping with a ball bat. I need to pay more attention.

Cole talks about being in the main event and is in a suit, as is Jerry. They....they couldn't really be putting that on last

could they?

Rey Mysterio vs. Cody Rhodes

As Rhodes comes to the ring we get the video recap of this. In short, Rey hit Cody with a 619 with a metal knee brace that Cody exposed earlier in the match, injuring the Dashing features of Cody. If this is a few years later, look up Dashing Cody Rhodes for an awesome heel in 2010. Rey's character this year: Captain America. Ok that's not bad.

Rey "helps" Cody take the jacket off as Cody is all afraid of being seen. Rana takes Cody down but a shoulder block shifts the momentum immediately. Cody immediately goes for the knee which is a bit odd but whatever. Beautiful Disaster leaves Rey seemingly dead but it only gets two. I could definitely see this being the modern Bob Orton injury angle which could work for months if played up right.

A rana is eventually countered into the Alabama Slam for two. That's one of the things I like about Cody: he incorporates things from his past into his offense, which is a sign of him growing. Also he stopped having the big Triforces on his boots which was definitely a face thing. Cody gives Rey a neck massage which I'd assume is to get his arms tingling right?

Mysterio tries to speed things up a bit but gets caught on top and it's a delayed vertical suplex from the middle rope which is pretty awesome. That only gets two though. The crowd is mostly into this but is kind of quiet. Granted that's what a superhero comeback is all about. Cross Rhodes is avoided and we hit the floor for a bit with Cody's face being sent into the apron.

Back in the ring and a seated senton means we speed things up a little. Rey kind of looks like something you would see in a Captain America cosplay contest. Wheelbarrow suplex by Cody

gets two. Rey finally gets him in 619 position but it gets caught and Cody hits a slingshot to send Rey's throat/chest into the middle rope for two. Cody tries to take the knee brace off and manages to get it, meaning Rey's knees are about to snap like a Kit Kat.

Rey fights him off to a bit and gets a moonsault press for two. Cody's mask comes off and he gets sent into the 619 position. You can see Rey's not moving the same without the knee brace. Rey goes up but the splash meets knees. Big kick to the head gets only two as this is a good match. Rey puts Cody's mask on and I'm not sure if Cody knows it or not. Rey gets some running headbutts to send Cody reeling and a swan dive gets...two. Wow I would have thought that was the finish. The referee throws the knee brace out and Cody hits Cross Rhodes for the shocking (but good) pin at approximately 12:15.

Rating: B. I was into this and it was a rather fine match. Also, thank goodness Cody won here so he can continue his Phantom of the Opera kind of thing. I'm very pleased with this as Cody continues to be one of the best guys in the company at this point. I'd love to see him get a quick title feud with Edge but I doubt it'll happen.

Snoop Dogg is with Teddy Long and Snoop is looking for talent for a tour he's got coming up. Teddy has some WWE talent to audition for him. Regal does a rap and it's again hilarious. Khali and Beth Phoenix do a song from Grease and get hooked more or less. Zach Ryder sings something that is apparently from a chick named Rebecca Black and Roddy Piper hits him with what might have been a coconut. Piper looks good.

Tatsu and Masters do We Will Rock You with Masters doing the pec dance to the drums. Horny is going to do a rap apparently but he can't talk. Teddy and Snoop leave and Horny raps while the Bellas dance. At least we got the good looking twins.

Corre vs. Santino Marella/Kofi Kingston/Big Show/Kane

The change of Kozlov to Kingston was kind of a surprise but I'm pretty sure it was officially announced. I can't complain a bit there either as Kofi should be on the card. Santino vs. Slater to start us off here. Big kick by Santino misses so it's off to Show who cleans a few rooms. You can't really say cleans house for one guy.

Show rams into Slater in the corner but Jackson runs him over. Everything breaks down almost immediately and Barrett takes Trouble in Paradise. This is moving around too fast to call. Cobra time and it hits Santino. The Knockout Punch ends Slater and the match in about 1:40. Yeah there was a point to this. No rating of course. That punch was SICK in the replay.

Rock hits on Eve in his first appearance in 45 minutes. He talks about making magical moments. For instance whoever comes around the corner next (without Rock looking) is going to get a magical moment with Rock. And it's Mae Young. I was thinking it would be her. She wants the People's Strudel. Rock says that Mae should be after Moses' strudel. Rock have Eve escort Mae to her seat. Mae spansks Rock.

Rock does the around the corner thing again and IT'S AUSTIN!!!! I was hoping this would happen as it flat out needed to be done. This is like an old western. They're both retired and it's an incredible moment to say the least. They shake hands and say it was good to see each other. Totally AWESOME moment here and something that absolutely had to happen.

We recap Punk vs. Orton. In short, Orton punted Punk in the head two years earlier and cost Punk the title. Punk waited two years to get his revenge and sent the New Nexus after him. This more or less crippled the entire feud as it just died when Orton ran through Nexus the entire time. Oh and Orton had a bus for some reason and Punk hit him in the knee with a pipe

or something so the leg is bad.

CM Punk vs. Randy Orton

Punk goes for the knee early but that gets him clotheslined. Out to the floor and Punk is sent into the steps but he jumps/steps over them which I don't remember seeing before. He kicks the steps into the knee of Orton to take over. The fans chant for Orton as Punk hits a top rope cross body for two.

Orton fires back with the backbreaker and Punk is down a bit. He tries to fight out of the corner but Punk gets something like a jawbreaker onto the knee. That's a new one. Orton gets caught in the Tree of Woe and Punk hammers away. Punk gives the sign for the GTS which of course doesn't work as Punk does what any idiot villain does and walks around before he tries anything.

Randy escapes over the back and tries the RK0 but gets kicked in the head for two instead. Punk goes to the outside but gets crotched. His reaction is awesome to say the least. The fans want a DDT off the top so Orton goes up. And the fans get something similar in the form of a superplex for two in a NICE callback to Orton's papa (that was Bob's finisher).

Punk fights back and actually gets the figure four around the post and does it to the correct leg! Leg lock back in the ring and it's almost an Indian Deathlock. Orton fights out and gets the Angle Slam. Finally Cole doesn't call it something stupid. Orton goes insane again and hits the Thesz Press to ZERO reaction. Punk fires back with kicks and a leg sweep and there's the Anaconda Vice! The hold makes no sense given the knee work but it's not going to be the finish anyway.

Orton is in trouble but he manages to roll out of it and into the ropes in a nice little counter. Punk goes to the apron and stands on the bottom rope because he's not that intelligent.

He gets sent into the post and the elevated DDT takes him down. Orton slams the mat and doesn't break his arm this time. The face is awesome to say the least. He takes FOREVER though and you know it's not hitting here.

Instead he backs up for the one legged punt because you know he can get a running start after not being able to stand a few minutes ago. Thank goodness Orton falls down on the approach. Punk looks all psycho and his hair is even freakier. He goes over to Punk and gets....not caught in the RK0 as Punk shot out of the back. I thought it was a botch but that was intentional. Here's your big RK0 spot as Punk tries the springboard clothesline but jumps into a nice RK0 to end it at 14:40.

Rating: B-. I'm not a fan of Orton but this was pretty good stuff. They gave it some time and the knee worked pretty well as Punk went into the air rather than having to jump. Pretty good here but you kind of have to wonder where this goes from here as well as where Punk goes. Granted that's the point of watching tomorrow I guess.

Rock is with Gene Okerlund (do your own caps) who says that Cena's #1 fan is coming here to confront Rock tonight. And it's Pee Wee Herman. Gene wears Cena gear and Herman does the Rock's line. I don't care for Herman so this was nothing at all.

Hall of Fame time. Abdullah can barely walk.

Sunny looks good for the most part. She needs to just flash the crowd and get it over with.

Animal in a tux looks weird. Ellering is there too, complete with sunglasses.

Drew Carey is murdered by the crowd and rightfully so.

Armstrong gets no reaction at all, probably because no one

knows who he is.

Duggan gets a nice ovation and there's a bowtie on his 2x4.

And now for the one that matters. Yep the roof is gone.

We get a Wrestlemania Recall...which is from Raw. It's Cole throwing soda in Lawler's face. I hope this is next and it is.

Jerry Lawler vs. Michael Cole

Booker T and JR are on commentary with Josh. They both get intros, I guess to buy the guys time. As JR is coming to the ring, Cole interrupts him, complete with an orange hoodie and headgear and shorts. I give up. Cole runs his mouth about Lawler being old and all that jazz. Oh and he runs down the barbecue sauce. Well at least this isn't the main event like they hinted at. Cole keeps stalling for time for Lawler which is fine.

Swagger comes out to no reaction at all. We get the pushups but in mid push the glass shatters and Austin is here with ATV and I think a new shirt. Cole took off the hoodie and is in a singlet. For no apparent reason Cole jumps off the apron when Austin is charging around it and has to hide in the box. Lawler comes out to his regular music thank goodness. He looks a bit like Shawn with his attire.

Somehow this is the best built match of the night. Lawler is in his usual attire in the ring as Cole stands on his desk in the Cole Mine to warm up. Austin says ring the bell and sends Lawler after Cole. Swagger charges and gets sent into the post and then the barrier. Cole begs off and is close enough to a mic for us to hear him. He offers a handshake through a hole in the box. Is that like a glory hole for idiots?

Lawler pulls on Cole's hand and rams his head into the box. Jerry finally climbs into the box and beats the tar out of

Cole. This is awesome. Jerry destroys him and gets him out of the box. Into the GM podium he goes and Jerry tosses him into the ring. Swagger gets up and drills Jerry to put him down. Cole gets something close to a baseball slide to the send Jerry down.

Ankle lock by Swagger when Austin is distracted. The comeback for this is going to be awesome. Austin counts incredibly slowly and Cole works on the knee. Cole might have a 3 Stooges tattoo on his back. That's something I really didn't want to know. The fans say Cole can't wrestle. Well he's not a wrestler so I think that's ok. The fans think this is nonsense. Such an impatient generation.

Cole tries a Vader Bomb (screw that Swagger Bomb stuff) from the bottom rope and Jerry powers out of it. Jerry gets some punches in but Cole goes back to the leg. The fans say boring so Cole pulls a strap down and puts on the AnCole Lock. Jerry doesn't seem to mind and kicks Cole off to wake up the crowd. He walks it off and Cole is caught.

A mudhole is stomped...kind of. Swagger throws in the towel and Austin is like WHAT? There's a Stunner for Swagger as the fans are way into it now. And now it is time to pay. Austin looks at his watch and Cole slaps his hand away and SHOVES AUSTIN. Big right hand by Lawler and the beating is on.

The fans get behind Lawler as the punches come in hard and there's a dropkick. With a point to the sign and the strap coming down it's a jumping punch from the middle rope. That gets two as Jerry pulls him up. This has to end with the Piledriver. Jerry grabs the ankle lock and Cole taps. Austin makes sure it's really a tap in a funny bit. Cole insists he gives up and there's the bell. Dang it that should have been the Piledriver but the ankle lock ends it at approximately 14:00.

Rating: C. This was a letdown for me. First of all the ankle

lock was a pretty weak finisher and Cole was on offense too long. It wasn't bad but they needed to change a few things out there to really make it awesome. This needed a Piledriver but I can understand Cole being afraid to take it or whatever.

Post match it's time for a beer bash and Booker gets in the ring. Jerry takes a beer but doesn't drink it (he's a known non-drinker). There's a spinarooni for Mania and why is this about Booker T again? Stunner to Booker and more beer is consumed. Jerry hasn't drank any it seems. We get an E-Mail of all things to interrupt this. The referee overstepped his boundaries and the winner is Michael Cole by DQ. Please let this be a late April Fool's joke. Amazingly it's not and Matthews gets a Stunner. And the show is officially killed.

This should have been screwupable and they screwed it up. I'm in awe of their utter stupidity here.

We get a video of Wrestlemania Week and I do not care. I'm still stunned at the utter stupidity of what they just did.

Lawler and Ross are on commentary now which is cool but they couldn't do that without the whole stupidity thing there? Yes I'm harping on it but man that was idiotic.

We recap HHH vs. Undertaker with a package we've seen a dozen or so times now. In short, HHH wants to break the Streak because there's nothing else for him to do.

Undertaker vs. HHH

There's a rock version of Taker's theme which is WAY too up tempo for him. Oh wait that's for HHH. Oh my it's For Whom the Bell Tolls by Metallica. That's cool but dude, it's HHH. Ah there's All About the Game. That's more like it. He has an army and a crown and yeah you get where this is going. Still cool though. Taker does his usual awesome entrance to Johnny

Cash.

The song loops as the entrance takes too long. Or maybe that was just the second verse. The lightning goes off when Taker removes his hat. The crowd is surprisingly quiet. This is no holds barred and they slug it out immediately. Taker grabs him by the head and fires him over the top with ease. We go to the floor and HHH actually wins a fistfight. His reward is being thrown into the steps.

We set up the announce table (Spanish of course) but HHH spears Taker into the Cole Mine to destroy it and put Taker down. Taker looks up at HHH and is all ticked off. Back in the ring and they slug it out again. Taker works on the shoulder and here comes Old School. That of course doesn't work but this time you can't blame it on him shouting OLD SCHOOL at least. Another clothesline sends Taker to the floor as HHH is favoring his left arm.

Now they set up the American announce table as Lawler is in an Austin shirt. Pedigree is countered as is the chokeslam but there's a backdrop off the table to the floor and he's holding that arm and wrist again. Oh yeah that thing slammed into the ground HARD. The fans chant 19-0 as the match more or less stops. Taker busts out the Taker Dive which at least cleared the ropes and hit HHH. It wasn't great but at least he hit a person and not the floor.

We start using the steps and someone shouts about Shawn either being here or not being here to save HHH. Taker sets for a tombstone I think but gets countered and hit with a headbutt. Taker tries a running charge but gets caught by a spinebuster into the table/through the table, whichever you prefer. This has been big spot, lay down, big spot, lay down for about 8 minutes now.

Back in the ring and a chokeslam gets two. Taker loads up the Last Ride but gets rammed into the corner. More dueling chants

begin and HHH fires away with punches in the corner. Taker tries the Last Ride but HHH counters in a nice callback to Mania X7 (which had nothing to do with these two facing each other. That's never happened at Mania. Silly people) Pedigree is reversed as is a big boot to the face, the latter being via a spinebuster for two.

HHH goes to the floor and grabs a chair which of course goes across the Game's back. Pedigree out of nowhere gets two. Last Ride gets a long two as we're in that same formula from earlier. Taker gives the throat slit but the Tombstone is of course...not reversed for two. HHH kicked out of the tongue sticking out thing! I know they're wanting this to be epic and while it's good they feel like they're trying to be epic rather than actually being epic.

Taker sets for another Tombstone, this time on the chair. Instead it's a DDT mostly on the chair to put both guys down. Somehow this has been going almost 20 minutes. They both struggle to their feet and there's a decent Pedigree for a long two. If Scott Armstrong didn't have the biggest hitch in his count this side of something with a very large hitch in his count, this would have been over a long time ago.

A third Pedigree is kicked out of as this is bordering on stupid here. We get it: you can kick out of the Pedigree now DO SOMETHING ELSE! Both guys are down and HHH gets the chair. BIG chair shot to the head of Taker and he's in big trouble. Taker does his best Terry Funk shaking impression as HHH shouts what's wrong with you. He gets grabbed by the throat for his troubles but Taker can't hold it.

Taker says bring it on so HHH does a throat slit. Tombstone hits Taker and of course it gets two. They try to play this off as some huge thing but dude, no one thought that was going to end it. HHH goes to the floor and it's sledgehammer time. HHH holds up the hammer but Taker pulls him down into the Hell's Gate and HHH is in trouble. He drops the hammer and is

in big trouble. HHH tries to stand but is fading fast. He gets the hammer again but can't get a shot to the head. HHH TAPS OUT to end this at approximately 29:10 but I had some stream issues so I'm not sure how accurate that is to the second.

Rating: B. Well it was brutal, but at the same time did anyone really believe this was ending with anything other than a big sign that said 19-0? The whole big spot rest big spot rest got really annoying and it made the match feel a lot longer than it should have. Good stuff, don't get me wrong, but at the same time it ran too long and that hurt it in my eyes.

Taker gets checked out by a trainer post match and they do the big exit with both of them leaving at the same time. Taker can barely walk and keeps falling down. He falls down next to the ring and they have to get a cart to take him out. I'm not sure if this is legit or not but I'm leaning towards it being so.

Good time for a Don't Try This at Home no?

Wrestlemania 28 will be in Miami as we all knew.

Laycool/Dolph Ziggler vs. John Morrison/Trish Stratus/Snooki

Please...make it short. Dolph is officially the business associate. Not sure if they had covered that before but it's official here. At least Laycool looks incredible. Trish should never be allowed to not wear leather. And here's the draw, Snooki. Oh dear. Well I guess she's an improvement over Bieber. I can't wait for like three years from now when this is totally dated.

The girls go at it early and the guys pull them off. Trish and Michelle start us off officially. Trish tries to tag in Snooki early but I think the small one doesn't want in. Matrish leads to an attempt at a Faithbreaker but Trish counters into a facejam. McCool counters the Stratusphere and they fight on

the buckle with both crashing to the floor. Everything breaks down and Morrison hits Starship Pain to the floor to take out Zigler.

Off to Snooki and let the booing begin. She does a handspring elbow into the corner which is still a stupid move. A cartwheel into the WORST SPLASH EVER ends McCool at 3:15. Snooki was in the match for a total of 12 seconds. Note to future girls wanting to be a Diva: don't bother marrying Undertaker or working to become awesome. Get on a bad reality show and get in fights in bars. You'll get wins at Mania. No rating due to it being short and it ticking me off. Match was nothing special to say the absolute least. Perhaps the worst celebrity match ever.

There's a new attendance record for the Georgia Dome of 71,617. That's always cool to hear.

It's time for the main event of Cena vs. Miz. Yes, the Miz is wrestling in the main event of Wrestlemania. BE JEALOUS! No recap at all and it's time to go. I guess we're running behind. Ah ok here's a package as we see Miz's rise to the top and interspersed with various world title wins at Mania. Miz is looking at a screen watching all this. We get the DEMON CHILD and clips of him on Real World and Tough Enough and doing all kinds of stupid things before he got serious and AWESOME as a result.

This gets the music video treatment about how everyone hates Miz but he keeps winning. Miz having his back to the camera the entire time is great. This transitions into a video about the feud with Miz constantly getting the better of Cena.

Raw World Title: The Miz vs. John Cena

Miz runs through some things that look like balloons saying AWESOME. This is Miz's moment and it's working. Riley has the

varsity jacket with him here and Miz has his coat also. Must be chilly in Atlanta. Cena's big entrance this year: a full on gospel choir. We actually have a prayer with clips of Cena growing up and being awesome I guess. They actually say Jesus here which is a bit different. This takes a long time also, as has everything else tonight. After the prayer the choir actually sings Cena's theme in full on gospel style. And then he sprints to the ring in a new shirt.

Cena is of course mostly booed out of the building. This is listed as Cena's 8th straight Mania main event which is a relative term as some of them were in the middle of the card. The bell rings twice for no apparent reason and they lock up. Miz controls early but Cena gets a hip block to get us back to even. Cena with some nice technique to get a headlock but that doesn't last long.

They're in a long feeling out period here and Miz stomps away to end that. Miz takes over with basic stuff but gets caught in a gutwrench suplex for two. Miz misses his running clothesline in the corner which hit earlier. Top rope Fameasser hits for two. Big boot to the head of Cena gets two. They botch something so Miz gets a dropkick to the ribs to send Cena to the floor.

Back in the ring and Cena starts his finishing sequence but can't get the FU. Short DDT gets two for the champion. A Let's Go Miz chant starts up as he escapes the STFU and gets caught in a neckbreaker for two. Miz unhooks the buckle which gets him nowhere. Cena gets the STF but Miz grabs the rope. Riley sends Cena into the exposed buckle and Miz gets the Skull Crushing Finale for a long two.

Down goes the referee and wouldn't you know it that it hits just a second before the FU. Riley comes in with the briefcase and down goes Cena again. Naturally that only gets two as the fans are finally back into this. Miz goes for the case but hits Riley and walks into a HUGE Attitude Adjustment for TW0!

Wow I would have bet on that being the ending there.

Out to the floor and Cena kills him with a running clothesline to send him over the barricade. Big spear onto the concrete by the fans and that looked sick. They're both dead and this is going to be a freaking double count out. ARE YOU FREAKING KIDDING ME??? This can't be. That had better be a legit injury or we're not done yet.

And here's Rock to make sure this doesn't suck. There's an e-mail and Rock says that it doesn't matter what the GM thinks so this is restarting, no DQ, no countout, no time limit. Cena goes for the FU immediately but walks into the Rock Bottom and MIZ RETAINS!!! The pin was at 19:30 overall, counting the big stoppage.

Rating: C-. Even with the ending this was still pretty boring. They're not hurt which is always a good thing but dude, did we need a false finish in something like this? It's the main event of Wrestlemania for crying out loud. I get that you needed Rock out there, but make something better than that. I'm not impressed here at all which is hard to do with me at Mania

Miz holds up the title post match and Rock looks at him. The beatdown is on and it's a People's Elbow for Miz.

Overall Rating: C-. This was a VERY hit or miss Mania and it's going to have a very mixed reaction I think. A lot of the booking is just kind of out there, namely Cole/Lawler. I get that they're setting up for future shows but at the same time this is WRESTLEMANIA! There's some good stuff but nowhere near enough to make this really work.

There are times when you just do certain things and this is one of them. Not impressed here at all and this is a huge fall down from last year. Rock helped, but there's only so much he can do. Summerslam and Raw tomorrow better be AMAZING. The ending helps this but certainly doesn't save it. WAY too

rushed of a show and that's the downfall of it. I'll probably have more to say on it later but that's my initial reaction.

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Smackdown – March 30, 2012: Axxess Looks Awesome

Smackdown

Date: March 30, 2012

Location: Phillips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia

Commentators: Josh Matthews, Matt Striker

This is going to be a different kind of show. There were only a few matches taped on Monday and if this show is like last year's, the majority of this show will be partially taped from Miami and Axxess. It'll mostly be a big commercial for Wrestlemania with some wrestling thrown in on the side. That's the same thing the shows all week have done and it's really all they can do this week. Let's get to it.

Do You Know Your Enemy? Mine is the Louisville Cardinals. They're evil and need to be destroyed.

As some of you probably know, usually I watch this show online on Friday afternoon so I can save time in the reviews. Well I did that today, and the show had no new matches and was a collection of old Mania matches. Apparently that's totally different than what the US broadcast had so this is the second Smackdown I've done tonight.

Zack Ryder vs. Drew McIntyre

Drew starts off with a slam but Zack comes back with some speed and a dropkick. They go to the corner where Drew gets punched in the face. He manages to throw Zack up in the air and brings up a knee to take over. Off to an armbar now and Ryder is in trouble. A gutbuster puts Ryder down and Drew hooks a combination camel clutch/armbar. Ryder escapes but charges into a boot to put him right back down.

McIntyre does the go to the middle rope and jump off with the clear intention of jumping into the other guy's raised boot spot. Ryder makes his comeback and hits the Broski Boot but walks into ANOTHER big boot for two. Zack escapes a powerbomb and Drew chases him into the corner but runs into a pair of knees. The Rough Ryder gets the pin at 5:38.

Rating: C. This was all you needed it to be. It covered both teams and hyped up the match a little bit. Not a great match or anything but it's good to see Ryder getting clean wins, even over someone like McIntyre. I'm thinking Eve is going to play a role in the Mania match though, which isn't a good thing.

We go to Miami where Lawler and Cole are on a set at Axxess. We see some of the stuff there, such as Undertaker's Graveyard and the entrance you could walk down.

Video on Taker vs. HHH for the End of an Era.

Video on the Divas tag. I have no issue with looking at Maria Menunos. We're never going to talk about Beth and Eve's teased feud over Ryder again are we?

We see some of the art auction which goes to a children's cancer center. Nothing wrong with that.

Recap of Punk vs. Jericho, I believe the same one from NXT.

Cole and King get in a flag waving contest.

We go back to Raw for the segment on Teddy vs. Johnny with the end of Otunga vs. Santino (they can't show a full 90 second match?) which resulted in Miz joining Team Ace. We also get the Christian beatdown where he was put out of the match, and finally the Henry vs. Khali bit where Booker made the save for Teddy and joined the team.

Here's Big Show in the ring to talk about his match on Sunday. He's had some good success in this business. He won the world title in his first match and he's won more since, but he doesn't have a Wrestlemania moment. Wrestling in the main event for the world title isn't a Wrestlemania moment? He says this is a bit different than most times he's been at Mania. He can feel it in his mind, his gut and his heart. Cody is going to lose. Cody's career isn't going to get made. It's going to get broken.

Video on Bryan vs. Sheamus.

Some legends weigh in on the Cell match.

Kofi Kingston vs. Chris Jericho

Jericho grabs the arm to start and works a hammerlock. Kofi speeds things up and hits a jumping back elbow followed by a clothesline to send Jericho to the outside. Back inside Kofi tries a springboard but Jericho takes out the ropes to knock him down and we go to a break. Back with Jericho in control but Kofi grabs a rollup for two.

A knee to the head gets two for Jericho. Jericho misses the crotch to the back of Kofi's head while Kofi is in 619 position (that really needs a name) and Kofi hits the SOS for two. Boom Drop hits but Chris avoids Trouble in Paradise. The top rope cross body gets two. Lionsault eats knees but Kofi's kick is countered into the Lioneater for the tap at 11:12.

Rating: B. Pretty solid TV match here but the ending was never in doubt. There was no way Jericho was going to lose two days

before a world title match at Wrestlemania. I wish Kofi didn't have to do the job, especially when he's in a big match on Sunday but when you have 12 people in one match, that's hard to avoid. Good match though.

We get the Rock vs. Cena segment from Raw to end the show.

Overall Rating: B. This was a very good final push for Wrestlemania. I get that a lot of people aren't going to be fans of this and that's ok. The wrestling we got was limited but fine, as there was no way they were going to run the risk of a bunch of injuries. I'm really surprised Jericho performed at all. Good final push for the show, as this was more about getting us fired up for Mania than a regular show.

Results

Zack Ryder b. Drew McIntyre – Rough Ryder

Chris Jericho b. Kofi Kingston – Walls of Jericho

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Wrestlemania Dark Match Set: Triple Threat Tag Title Match

Source

It's Epico/Primo defending against Gabriel/Kidd vs. The Usos. I won't be giving my thoughts on this yet because I'm planning on a major WM Preview later tonight with thoughts on all the matches

Thoughts on this?

Brock Lesnar At Mania?

Brock Lesnar is in negotiations with WWE to appear at Sunday's WrestleMania XXVIII pay-per-view event at Sun Life Stadium in Miami, Florida. The odds of the three-time WWE Champion appearing at show are 'more than 50/50.'

Source: Pwinsider.com

Hokey smoke. Now this could be awesome, IF it happens. Brock coming back to set up Rock vs. Lesnar at Mania 29 would certainly work for me.

Thoughts?

Wrestlemania #26: Best Exit Ever?

Short question: is Shawn's final match the best ending to an in ring career ever? If there's a better one I can't think of it. He went out having a classic in the main event of Wrestlemania with some awesome storytelling involved. I can't think of a better way to go out.

Thoughts?